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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 392 Press
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Dated 9— 3— 1874.

8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 11.

Coimbatore Collectorate
Office 31st January 1874.

From,

A. Maddenburn Esquire,
Collector of Coimbatore.

To

The Honorable H. Hudleston,
Chief Secretary to Government
through Inspector General of Hospitals,
Madras.

Sir,

Enclosures 4.
1. Report with
2. Statements 4
3. Plan.

Copy of the Annual Report of the Civil Dispensary at Coimbatore for 1873 having been forwarded to me, I have the honor to make the following remarks thereon.

2. Though the Mortuary report gives a larger mortality than in previous years, the increase appears to be owing to improved registration, and even now, the registered mortality seems to me to be somewhat below even a healthy average. It seems extraordinary how former Mortuary Returns were ever received with any credence.

3.

3. There is no doubt that the attention paid to surface drainage, conservancy, and water supply should ensure a more healthy condition of life in the Towns.

4. The accommodation and appliances of the Civil Dispensary have been greatly increased. No expense is ever grudged by the local authorities which conduces to that object.

5. The subject of the private latrines is one of very considerable difficulty, and was mooted, when I was absent from the Station. The expense of iron vessels, as suggested, to every house, would be enormous. It would necessitate an army of Coolies, and I believe that the public latrines employ the whole available number of this caste; the daily removal from a cess pit into an iron box, and thence to a cart, could not be done, if the day had as many hours as the week. The females could not be forced to use the boxes. And this domiciliary invasion might arouse a considerable

amount

amount of complaint. The Civil Surgeon states namely that there are several thousand houses which have their private privies.

The possessor of private latrines or cess pits will be urged to use the dry earth system, and the house ashes deposited in the cess pits will tend to obviate decomposition.

6. As regards the efficient reclamation of the tank, I have asked the District Engineer to prepare a plan for having by a sluice gate the water of the large upper tank in which alone, there is any depth of water, and so preventing the great water spread over a shallow area, in the lower tank. This plan when carried out, will diminish the loss of water by evaporation, owing to the extensive, and useless water spread. And likewise, minimise the malarious effluvium from dried mud and weeds, which has a sickening and depressing influence, and may doubtless, be much the cause of some part of the fever, though hot days and cold nights

Seem

seem to have a good share in producing the fever so noticable in the months of December and January.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obed.t Servant.

Mundlander

Collector.

Municipal No. 7.
24-1-74.

Annual Medical Report of the Civil Dispensary Coimbatore for the Year 1873.

	In. Patients	Out. Patients
Remaining 31st. December 1872	12	16
Admitted since	247	8320
Discharged	213	8305
Died	34	1
Remaining 31st. December 1873	15	30

I Lep rain fell during the past year than in the preceding one by two inches. The average temperature in the shade was 78.85, & the prevailing winds southerly. The crops suffered in March for want of rain, but the ant. turn on the whole was very fair. A Meteorological Return is appended.

From the Mortuary returns for 11 months, ending November 73, it would appear that there was more mortality in the District, during that year, than the previous one; but the higher death rate is attributable rather to the more careful and reliable mortuary returns, than to any increase of sickness and mortality amongst the people, - since the death rather is only 1.10 per thousand.

There was no fatal case of Cholera. Small-pox showed itself during the first months of the Year, and was Epidemic in the Town of Coimbatore, in the month of February, and to a less extent in March. The Mortality from this cause alone was 60 in the former month, and 23 in the latter. Thirty one cases in all were treated at the Dispensary, - 20 as ant. patients & 3 as In. patients. Of the latter 2 died, - 1 on the 12th day after admission, and the other on the 22nd

The following improvements have been effected during the Year:-

in the Town of Coimbatore.

A road, adding much to public convenience, has been constructed East of the Fort.

The N Bridge on the Trichinopoly road has been widened six feet, where it is croped by the channel running North of the Railway line.

The whole of the Town drains has been widened, and many culverts added.

A new suburb has been opened, and named by request of the inhabitants "Wedderburn Pettah". It forms a clean, neat, and well laid out little village. Its drainage is very fair, but the water supply is insufficient. This defect is being remedied.

At a Municipal meeting held 11th September '73. I suggested for the better conservancy of the town, that the private cesp. pits should be closed, and iron vessels substituted which might be emptied daily into Municipal Scavenger carts. The cesp. pits in their present state are rife elements of disease. They are filled with putrescent filth, and in many instances swarm with maggots, and offensive gases the result of decomposition, are constantly emanating from them. There are many thousands of these pits. No action has been taken in the matter.

In his annual report for 1870, my predecessor makes mention of the reclamation of that portion of the tank bed which becomes for a part of the year a fetid swamp". His remarks on the foulness of the Tank bed apply as much now as then.

I have no hesitation in ascribing to the emanations from this swampy tract, much of the fever which prevails in the Town at the close of the Year. I would urge the reclamation of at least that portion of the tank which from its situation exercises so pernicious an influence over the public health of this town.

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11. In August a report was made to me, thro' the Acting Collector of the District, that Cholera in an Epidemic form had broken out in the hamlet of Mevdelly polliem, in Palladum Taluq, and that it had proved fatal to 16 persons. 2nd class Asstt. Apoth: M. Francis No. 457 was dispatched at once to the spot, with a supply of Medicines. Three deaths occurred in the hamlet after his arrival. The disease however proved to be Dysentery diarrhœa, induced in all probability by bad food; the crops in the neighborhood having failed, & the inhabitants brought to the verge of starvation.

Cholera was also reported to have attacked, on the 23rd October, a pillager of Summandy polliem, in the Avenashy Pirka of Palladum Taluq. The Tahsildhar immediately dispatched a native doctor with a supply of Cholera pills. The man recovered.

111. An increase of 2047 Ext. patients, and 73 In patients into the Dispensary shows itself over the Year 1872. × × × × × × × × A financial statement showing the income & expenditure of the Civil Dispensary is appended, & shows that there is excess of expenditure over receipts of Rs 1312. 11. 4, but a sum of Rs 450 interest on Government paper, and Rs 600, interest by Municipality not drawn up to 31st December 1873, will have to be deducted from this sum, which leaves only an excess of Rs 262. 11. 4. being Rs 1632. 13. 8. less than that of the Year 1872.

The number of admissions into the Lying in ward during the Year was 22 – 23 were attended at their own quarters. Of the former 7 were delivered in the New ward, which was opened for admission to the public on 1st September 1873.

In my last annual Report, I drew attention to the general female ward, & the Lying in ward being under the same roof

roof, probably acting as a deterrent to many females seeking relief.

The present ward is a detached building, the privacy of which has been in a great measure secured by a stone wall running round its rear. The ward is well ventilated by ridge & ground ventilations as well as by upper ventilations. It has accommodation for 4 beds.

The floor of the European ward was repaired, and panes of glass supplied where needed. The Out patients waiting room has been furnished with extra benches. & a board notifying the hours of attendance for patients affixed to the entrance of the room.

The old Lying-in ward has been converted into a general female ward. & the female ward into a venereal ward. A stone wall with honey combed work at top now divides them; and separate flights of steps lead to each ward.

By the removal of a superfluous door in the general female ward, space has been made for another bed.

A wire fence has been put up between the male and female wards to make the latter more private.

The store room for medicines being too crowded, additional space has been obtained by walling in the end of the verandah on which the room opened.

The want of a dead house was much felt, and one has been erected in stone, behind the Contagious disease ward.

A cook house to replace the present thatched one, is being constructed of stone. & adjoining it, & of similar dimensions, a new store house.

Trees have been planted in the Hospital Compound and fresh portions turfed.

The wall surrounding the Hospital on the South Western side has been raised 3 feet of which the upper two are

of honey comb pattern.

1st class Hospl: Apth: M. Veerasawmy Naidu No. 176 was recommended to be pensioned. He was relieved by Mr St. Pfeiffer on the 7th August '73. who has devoted himself to the duties of the Dispensary, in a very zealous manner. He is a very intelligent man, & will prove I believe, of great service to the institution.

A 3rd class Hospl: Apth: is much needed at the Dispensary as during the compulsory absence of the Apothecary there is no one to attend the patients or dispense the Medicines & but for the willing help of 2nd class Hospl: Apth: C. Maun Singh No. 633 attached to Revenue Survey, this need would have been very much felt.

Only 10 successful cases vaccinated in the Town are recorded during the Year.

Twenty In patients died themselves while under treatment in the Dispensary.

A ground plan of the Civil Dispensary is herewith attached showing the improvements that have been made.

Coimbatore
18th January 1874

L. L. Rogers
Surgeon Major
Civil Surgeon of
Coimbatore.

Rec'd 26 Mar/74 L. 182

Fin. 263/74

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Financial Department 11 9

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore dated 31st January 1874 No 11.

Order thereon, 9 March 74 No 392

Recorded.

2. The Collector's attention will be drawn to G.O. dated 2nd March 1872 No 209 directing that the operations of the Dispensaries be noticed in the annual reports of Local Fund Boards & Municipalities which should be accompanied by copies of the Medical officers report. Three copies of the Returns drawn up as per the appendix will be sent with the Calendar year. The Surgeon Genl. will be called upon to recommend such changes in the Returns as may appear to him desirable.

J. D. S.

To

The Collector of Coimbatore with 3 Statements
Surgeon Genl I.M.Dept. ret'd
Dept 7/3

40/1840

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

Financial.

To
The Collr. of Coimbatore
Sea

Dated Mar. 9
Recd. } 1874, No. 392

Nos. 82. 83.

Dispensaries. Letter from the Collr. of Coimbatore remarking on the annual report for 73 of the Coimbatore Civil Dispy. recorded & his attention drawn to the G.O. of March 73 requiring the operations of Dispensaries to be noticed in the annual reports of Revenue & L.F. Depts. The Dispy. reports ordered

in future to be drawn up for the official instead of the Calendar year.