M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1257 Press ~~Mis.~~

153-154

Dated 15 8 ~~19~~ 1866

7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th August 1866.

Read again letter from the Acting Civil and Session Judge of Nundial, dated 6th, and recorded in Proceedings, dated 16th July 1866, No. 1108.

No. 153. Read also the following letter from the Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 14th July 1866, No. 254.

Dated 9th July 1866.

I have the honor to forward to Government a communication from Dr. Keess, upon the late outbreak of Cholera at Kurnool. Dr. Keess was Civil Surgeon there for four years, but is now on special duty.

2. The report is interesting, as giving the experience of one who is a good observer, and whose recommendations for preventive measures are worthy of consideration.

From Assistant Surgeon J. KEESS, M. D., on special duty in the Wynaad, to the Secretary to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department; dated Gudaloor, 9th July 1866.

I have heard, with great regret, of the lamentable loss of life during the recent outbreak of Cholera at Kurnool.

2. Cholera has prevailed yearly at Kurnool, during the last four years, under the following circumstances.

Epidemic of 1863.

3. In 1863, the epidemic gradually travelled in a North-West direction to Kurnool, along the high road, from the town of Cumbum, *in face of a strong westerly wind*, thus showing that a Choleraic stream can advance, with travellers, against a strong and steady opposing breeze. When the disease appeared at Khaderabad, a village about six miles from Kurnool, on the Cumbum road, I called on the Collector and begged that communication between Kurnool and Khaderabad might be stopped; but, as Mr. Minchin said he had no power to enforce quarantine, my recommendation was not attended to, and the disease shortly afterwards broke out in the town of Kurnool. It prevailed in September and part of October, during which period rain fell, and a high westerly wind was blowing, showing that rain and wind are not sufficient to drive this disease out of a town, when other circumstances are favorable to its propagation. Mr. Frederick Morris, of the Civil Service, a valuable public servant, and a cousin of the Collector, fell a victim to the disease during the epidemic of 1863.

Epidemic of 1864.

4. In the year 1864, the disease broke out in June, immediately after the Mohorum. I then represented that the excessive crowding of an already over-crowded town, during the festival, and the filth resulting therefrom, had originated the disease. From the town, the disease spread to the surrounding villages.

Epidemic of 1865.

5. In the year 1865, the disease entered the Town and District of Kurnool from the Bellary District, as shown in the Annual Report of the Dispensary for 1865. It is probable that the town of Humpi was the focus on this occasion. Two cases of the disease had previously come in from the Cuddapah high road, *with a period of incubation of about a fortnight*; but as the dejections were carefully buried, and other precautions were adopted, the disease did not then spread. In this year, Mr. Enbly, of the Revenue Survey, and Mr. Taylor, a gentleman from Bombay, died at Kurnool of Cholera, and Mr. Gregory, Engineer M. I. C. Co., died in the District.

Epidemic of 1866.

6. I now hear that the epidemic, this year, originated under circumstances precisely similar to those of 1864. My report on the subject, in 1864, led to an order from Government that precautionary measures should be adopted, on

all future occasions of Native festivals, to prevent an outbreak of Cholera; but from what I know of Kurnool, and the great influx of visitors during the Mohorum, I doubt much if mere municipal supervision will ever be enough to prevent dangerous accumulations of filth during the Mohorum, and consequent outbreaks of Cholera.

Sanitary precautions warded off Cholera at Humpi.

7. At Humpi, Dr. Jackson, Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Ceded Districts, by various well-devised sanitary precautions, succeeded in keeping off Cholera during the last festival, he having had the advantage of a *carte blanche* in all sanitary matters, and having been provided with the necessary funds. I have no doubt that Dr. Jackson, with similar powers and command of money, will be able to do as much for Kurnool, should he take special sanitary charge of this large and over-crowded town, which lies within his circle of supervision.

Impolicy of interfering too much with local usages during the Mohorum.
The desirability of holding the festival *without* the town.

8. It would, perhaps, be impolitic, in a large Mahomedan town, containing a bigoted and an ignorant population, to interfere too much with local usages during the Mohorum; but if the processions, Tabooth Khanas, Toddy Shops, and visitors could be kept *out* of the town, and accommodation be provided for the latter on the plains beyond its limits, we might hope, with proper sanitary precautions and close supervision, to prevent an outbreak of Cholera; but so long as the festivities are allowed to go on *in* the town, and visitors, by thousands, are permitted to enter and do as they please, we must expect to hear of outbreaks of Cholera, caused by the filth that is engendered on such occasions, and the predisposition to the disease produced by the exceptional mode of living and acting, on the part of both visitors and residents. If the festival were held beyond the limits of the town, the residents also would be tempted to leave it, in order to participate in the revelries that are customary, and we might then hope to prevent both air and water from receiving an excrementitious (Choleraic) taint, and thus save the valuable lives that now form an annual sacrifice to the ignorance and filth of a mongrel multitude.

Epidemics of 1863 and 1865 would not have occurred had quarantine been enforced on the highways leading to Kurnool.

9. It is probable that cholera would not have entered the town of Kurnool in 1863 and 1865, had quarantine been enforced on the highways along which the disease travelled. The importance of quarantine is admitted in the case of cattle disease, and an Act enforcing it has lately received the Governor General's sanction. It would be a boon to all large towns, if they could be similarly protected against the importation of Cholera by travellers, and it behoves the legislature, in the interests of humanity, to devise some measures, by which large communities could be duly protected.

Epidemics of 1864 and 1866 attributed to the Mohorum.

10. It is also probable that Cholera would not have broken out in the town of Kurnool, in 1864 and the present year, if it had not become so dangerously over-crowded during the Mohorum, by thousands of visitors, whose legacy constitutes the source of Cholera.

Insanitary condition of the Town a reason for abandoning it.

11. I have been four years Civil Surgeon of Kurnool, and I despair of ever seeing it free from Cholera, knowing as I do the extreme difficulty of keeping it free from the sources of Cholera, especially during the Mohorum. It would require the entire time of an enthusiastic sanitarian, invested with Magisterial power in sanitary matters, a large staff of sweepers, and an unlimited supply of money, to lessen the predisposition of Kurnool to epidemic visitations. It is an over-crowded town, situated on a tongue of low land lying between the rivers Toombadra and Hindry, which prevent its extension. It is built on lime stone, the superlying black cotton soil being scarcely more than a foot deep in many places. Sanitary measures will do no more than maintain surface cleanliness. The soil is impregnated with excrementitious matter, and perhaps with the germs of the Choleraic poison. Until lately, intramural burials were allowed, and they still are *when the grave yard is private property and*

enclosed. The number of old burial places, in the midst of houses, well entitles Kurnool to be called a huge grave-yard. All these circumstances induced a late Commander-in-Chief to recommend the abandonment of Kurnool as a Military station, and it was the intention of the Government to place the chief Civil Station in some central part of the District, at or near Nundial. This now seems a fitting time to urge upon Government the desirability of reconsidering proposals that have been allowed to fall through. The Court-house, Jail, Barracks, and other public buildings are not of much value, and even if they were, a humane Government will not, I trust, allow a mere matter of money to outweigh considerations affecting the lives of its valuable European and Native Servants.

Other suitable places pointed out for the chief Civil Station and for a Military Cantonment.

12. As the chief Civil Station, Kurnool is most inconveniently situated, being at one end of the District. Some place near Nundial would be central, and easily reached by people, from all eight Taluqs, requiring to transact business at the Hoozoor Cutcherry, or to appear at the Civil and Session Court. Some spot near Yernachellum, on the Nullamallay hills, would be central, and the Hoozoor Cutcherry, Court-house, and Jail would form a Nucleus, around which a town would soon spring up, in the healthiest and coolest part of the Kurnool District. Should this proposal be favorably received, I would venture a step further and suggest that the Native Regiment be removed to the left or north bank of the Toombadra, where the Government possess a strip of land, of sufficient length and breadth, well raised and open, and the soil of which is well suited for a permanent Military Encampment. The Troops will still hold the key to the Nizam's territory on the south, and they will be quite near enough to keep in check the large Mahomedan population of Kurnool. They will further possess the great advantage of being sufficiently removed from a town so favorably circumstanced for the development and spread of epidemics. The removal of the Regiment to the opposite bank of the Toombadra will probably relieve the town of about 10,000 persons, including families, followers, shop-keepers, bazaarmen, &c.

13. The present population of Kurnool is estimated at 30,000, and the removal of the Civil and Military will relieve it of more than one half. With smaller numbers, it may be possible, hereafter, by strict enforcement of the provisions of the Towns' Improvement Act, to keep down sickness in this hot-bed of Cholera, and the grave of so many valuable public servants and their families.

No. 154. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1866, No. 1257.

The Governor in Council resolves to refer to the Sanitary Commissioner the papers recorded above, relating to the recent outbreak of Cholera at Kurnool, and to request that, as soon as Mr. Ellis' duties will permit, he will proceed to Kurnool, and, in communication with the Collector and the Major General Commanding the Centre Division, report upon the suggestions made by Dr. Keess.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
,, Collector of Kurnool.
,, Military Department, with Proceedings, No. 1108.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

hole. Would it not be
-ink that the Allies should
-ust have to stand their loss.
other States will advance
and upon it or their
suppositions in communica-
with the Latin [illegible]
& with Kaiser [illegible]
2nd Lead ?
& this is it — by it.
a good idea
&c.
W.H.

J Pro: 16th July 1866 No 153 — 154
Pub: 20th March — No 72 — 73.
— 23d May — No 133 — 134.
— 11th June — No 63 — 64.
— 27th Do — No 140 — 141.
Madras Act II of 1866 151 — 152
Report of Civil Hospitals &
Dispensaries for 1864 —
M. 5th Sept 1867 No 55 — 56

1866

No Judicial Depart

From

The Offg: Dy Insp: Genl
Medl Departt

To

The Chief Secy to Govt
Public Deptt

Dated 14th July
Recd 14th —

Pro 1528 No 354

Forwards Communication from Dr Ross upon the late outbreak of Cholera at Kurnool.

C 31 July
R 2 Aug

153.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again letter from the A/S Civil and Session Judge of Kurnool d/6 and recorded in Proceedings d/16 July 66 No 1103

Read also the following letter from the Offg Principal Inspector General Medl Deptt d/14 July 66 No 754

Order thereon, 15 August 1866 No 125

The Governor in Council resolves to refer to the Sanitary Commissioner the papers recorded above relating to the recent outbreak of cholera at Kurnool and to request that as soon as Mr. Ellis' duties will permit, he will proceed

to

to Kurnool, and in communication with the Collector and the Major General Commanding the Centre Division report upon the suggestions made by Dr. Rees.

Sanitary Commissioner
Prin. Inspector Genl Med. Dept.
Collector of Kurnool
Military Dept. – with Pr. No. 108

desp/d 20/8

Indian (1865) Department.

No. 1254

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Feb. 27/81

Dated 15th August 1864

153. 154