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INDEXED. 1168

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

Quar.
W.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 649 M.

DATED 22-3-97.

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bombay Plague

Comd^r to the Surg. J. & the Sanitary Comm^r
with remarks, letter from the Govt. of India, for-
warding copy of a letter from the Govt. of the N. W. P. &
Oudh, regarding the undesirability of prosecuting
experiments with the plague virus at Agra &
directing that ^{such} experiments ~~with the~~ now being conducted at
the Madras Medical College & elsewhere should be stopped
and cultures carefully destroyed.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government { 1897 } of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1897.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 649 M., 22nd March 1897.

MARCH.

Bubonic Plague.

Communicating to the Surgeon-General and the Sanitary Commissioner, with remarks, letter from the Government of India forwarding copy of a letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh regarding the undesirability of prosecuting experiments with the plague virus at Agra, and directing that such experiments now being conducted at the Madras Medical College or elsewhere should be stopped and cultures carefully destroyed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Under Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated 9th March 1897, No. 9-Sanitary—869.

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, No. 106, dated the 2nd March 1897, regarding the undesirability of prosecuting experiments with the plague virus at Agra. I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, instructions may be issued that no plague cultures or substances infected, or supposed to be infected, with plague virus should be sent to the Agra laboratory.

ENCLOSURES.

From W. H. L. IMPEY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Lucknow, the 2nd March 1897, No. 106.

In continuation of my telegram of the 22nd February 1897 (copy enclosed) and with reference to the answering telegram, dated 23rd idem from Home Department, I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner to forward herewith an extract from letter No. 612, dated 24th February 1897, received by this Government from the Collector of Agra, and to say that, in view of the opinion of the Government of India as to the undesirability of prosecuting experiments with the plague virus at Agra, His Honour would suggest the issue of instructions to all Governments (other than the Administration of the Central Provinces which is served by the Chemical Examiner, North-Western Provinces and Oudh) that no plague cultures or substances infected, or supposed to be infected with plague virus should be sent to the Agra laboratory. In the case of the Central Provinces, His Honour has no objection to experiments being undertaken which are necessary for the purpose of determining whether a case is one of the bubonic plague or not; the Chemical Examiner has been directed not to undertake the operations of a merely experimental character. In this connection, I am to forward copy of a letter addressed to-day to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.

From the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Sanitation Department, to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, dated the 28th February 1897, No. 105—XVI-484-B.

The Lieutenant-Governor has learnt from demi-official correspondence that Mr. G. H. Hankin, Chemical Examiner of these Provinces, whose services have been placed temporarily at the disposal of the Bombay Government, has recently come to Agra with the intention of making experiments at the Agra laboratory on rats (or otherwise) with the bubonic microbe. Mr. Hankin intimated his intention beforehand to Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Warburton, and, without waiting for a reply from that officer granting him the desired permission, proceeded to Agra.

2. Before, however, Mr. Hankin could commence his experiments at Agra, the preceding facts came to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, who was also advised by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, that it was not desirable that experiments with the plague microbe should be prosecuted at Agra. As, however, certain experiments with that microbe had been made by Mr. Hankin himself before his deputation to Bombay, and subsequently by his *locum tenens* Surgeon-Captain Lumsden, His Honour thought it best to refer to the Government of India the question whether His Excellency in Council desired that the experiments should proceed or not. The matter had clearly an Imperial aspect, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner desired to act in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India.

I am to add that His Honour had received no communication at all from the Government of Bombay in connection with Mr. Hankin's visit to Agra or the experiments he desired to make, and this appeared to him an unusual circumstance accentuating the necessity of ascertaining the wishes of the Government of India.

3. On reference being made to the Government of India, it was ascertained that the Government considered it very objectionable to experiment with plague bacilli where no plague exists, and was of opinion that Mr. Hankin should be prevented from conducting such experiments in Agra. Accordingly Mr. Hankin was not allowed access to the Agra laboratory; the test-tubes containing cultures of plague bacillus which Mr. Hankin had brought from Bombay with him were destroyed. As these cultures could, it was understood, be procured in any quantity desired in Bombay, it was not necessary to preserve them.

I am to say that experiments of this description with the bubonic microbe are not to be made at Agra until further orders, and the materials and rats used in the experiments that had been made have been destroyed. It has been suggested to the Government of India that no plague cultures or substances infected, or supposed to be infected with the plague virus should be sent to the Agra laboratory from Provinces other than those the work of which is undertaken by the Chemical Examiner of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. There is of course no desire to interfere with the ordinary bacteriological inquiries nor with investigations which are necessary to decide whether a case occurring in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh or the Central Provinces is one of bubonic plague or not; but operations which are merely of an experimental character should be avoided. In every case the strictest precautions should be taken in conducting the investigations.

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2. The Surgeon-General is requested to communicate this to all District Medical Officers and the Surgeons of Districts in Madras.

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(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Surgeon-General.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Copy to all Presidents of District Boards.

„ all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.

„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

Ed. C. M. Thambuswamy.

Government {1897} of Madras. LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for approval.

Recd. struck off 24/3/97

Recd.

Enclosures

1897.

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2. The Surgeon-General is requested to communicate this to all District Medical Officers and the Surgeons of Districts in Madras.

No. 649 M., 22ND MARCH 1897.

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(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Surgeon-General.
 „ Sanitary Commissioner.
 Copy to all Presidents of District Boards.
 „ all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
 „ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

L. & M.
1,000-25-1

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT

No.

1150 M

H.H. The report of India, no doubt on the best scientific advice, considers that experiments with the plague bacillus in an unaffected area ~~are a~~ furnish an unnecessary element of danger & have accordingly stopped them at Agra. Similar experiments are under Order stand being prosecuted here both at the Med. Coll. & by field work the health off. of the city; & for the same reasons they shd. also be prohibited. Researches are being actively conducted in Bombay, & that is enough. We From The Govt. of India Home Dept. need not encounter here the unnecessary risk of a bacillus getting loose

Surgeon General and the Sanitary Commissioner

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3. Experiments ^{with the plague virus} being conducted at the Medical College or by the Health Officer of the city, or elsewhere, to be stopped, & all cultures ^{carefully} destroyed

Dated 9-3-1897

Received 15-3-1897

Registered 15-3-1897

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding, with remark, copy of a letter from the Govt. of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh regarding the undesirability of prosecuting experiments with the plague virus at

To the Surgeon General
 „ San. Comm.

Copy to all Pres. of Dist. Bd.

Chairmen of Mun. Councils

The Pres. Mun. Comm. Madras

and there with printed name

Ld. in no 22/3/97

11/3/97

Dispatch
 Please note
 G.M.
 20/3

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
 No. 9 Sanitary 1150M
 869

From

R. Nathan, Esq.,

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
 Local and Municipal Department.

Home Department.

(Sanitary)

Calcutta, the 9th March 1897.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter from the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh No. 106, dated the 2nd March 1897, regarding the undesirability of prosecuting experiments with the plague virus at Agra. I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, instructions may be issued that no plague cultures or substances infected or supposed to be infected with plague virus should be sent to the Agra laboratory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Phelan

Offg. Under Secy. to the Government of India.

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AD. ADMIN. G.O., No.

1897

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