Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

INDEXED. Ch
PRINTED.

G.O., No. 220/M.

DATED 11—10—97

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commn.

Passing orders on the remarks of the Army Sanitary Commrs. in their memorandum on the administration Report of the Mul. Commr. of Madras for 1894-95.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ccw		2900	h/98				

Government (1897) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 2201 M., 11th October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission.

Passing orders on the remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission in their memorandum on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894-95.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897.

From the Secretary of State for India, dated London, 12th November 1896, Statistics No. 1.

Abstract.—Forwarding 70 copies of a Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894-95.

Order—Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897.

Communicated to the Municipal Commissioners of Madras.

2. The President is requested to state whether any explanation can be given of the striking difference between the proportion of still-births to every hundred children born alive in Madras (3·4) and in Bombay (10·21) during 1894. He should also state on what evidence he was assured that only three births and five deaths were left unregistered during the year under review.

3. For the future vaccination statistics should be supplied in the form of standard statement No. I prescribed by the Government of India.

4. The statement in paragraph 19 of the review of this Government on the administration report, that there were but few unprotected children in the city to which exception is taken by the Army Sanitary Commission, appears to have been based on the assumption that the number of children who having been registered as born in Madras left the town before the vaccination age might fairly be taken as equal to the number of children born in the mufassal but vaccinated in Madras. The President is requested to state whether this surmise is well founded. He will also report on the observations in the memorandum throwing doubt on the accuracy of the high percentage of successful re-vaccinations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Sanitary Board.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Read—also the following papers:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. MOORE, c.i.e., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 11th February 1897, H. No. 2363.

With reference to G.O., Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897, I have the honour to forward the accompanying report from the Health Officer.

Enclosure.

From J. NIELD COOK, Esq., d.p.h., Health Officer, Madras Municipality, to the President, Municipal Commission, dated 11th February 1897.

With reference to order Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897, I beg to offer the following remarks.

2. The proportion of still-births to every hundred children born alive in Madras, 3·4, appears to me to require but little explanation. There is no registration of still-births in England, but Dr. Farr, the late Registrar-General, estimated them at about 4 per cent. of the live-births. I should have expected the percentage to be higher in Madras in consequence of bad midwifery. But taking 4 per cent. as the average to be expected in any place, it would appear that 0·6 per cent. fail to be registered at all. This is not much considering the difficulty that always occurs of making people understand the difference between a miscarriage and a still-birth. Generally speaking, I have directed the registrars to take a birth at seven months or more—*i.e.*, when a child is viable—as a still-birth, but not to register anything born at an earlier period of pregnancy. As I am not acquainted with the rules and conditions under which the Bombay statistics of still-birth were recorded, I am not in a position to explain the high percentage there.

The five deaths unregistered referred to the deaths known in the office. The burial-ground peons report every cremation and burial that occurs in the municipal burial and burning grounds, and of these five were not registered by the relatives in the registrar's books. In the same way the three unregistered births referred to births of which we had received information through inquiries made by the kanakapillais.

3. This will be done.

4. The opinion expressed in the administration report, that there were but few unprotected children in the municipality, was based on my personal observation. Parcherry children wear very little clothing, and often when I have been in a parcherry full of children I have looked at their arms and found it quite the exception to see a child without good vaccination marks. Though this is a rough test, I consider it more reliable than the statistics about which there is the difficulty alluded to and occasioned by people coming and going.

The high percentage of re-vaccination has always puzzled me, and I can only surmise that a considerable number of the re-vaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations, the previous inoculations having been inefficient and consequently not conferred the immunity expected of them.

No. 512.

Referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for early remarks.

Fort St. George,
14th April 1897.

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP,
for *Secretary to Government.*

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, m.b., c.m., d.p.h., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Fort St. George, 13th May 1897, No. 1030-S.

With reference to endorsement No. 512, dated 14th April 1897, I have the honour to state that I agree with the Health Officer, Madras, in considering that if explanation be requisite as to the difference between the number of infants "born dead" in Madras and Bombay respectively, this should be sought from the latter city—the evidence of a wide departure from the normal not being applicable to the former.

2. It was undesirable that the Madras Municipality should have attempted to prove accuracy of registration upon the slender grounds afforded. The instances quoted would have been better utilized as illustrations of the obstinacy with which registration is avoided by certain persons, seeing that the parties responsible for registration failed to effect it notwithstanding the knowledge that the municipal authorities were acquainted with the facts. The clauses of Act No. I of 1884 affecting registration in this town are interpreted by the Commissioners in a very lenient spirit. The kanakapillai searches for cases, finds them and warns them to attend at the office for registration; whereas if the law were strictly interpreted the fact of a case being discovered and yet not registered—always presuming the time proviso has been disregarded—the responsible person should be prosecuted. Apparently the cases quoted, therefore, are simply those where, notwithstanding the friendly notice

of the kanakapillais, registration was ultimately not effected. It would have been satisfactory for the Municipal Commissioners to have stated what proceedings were taken to punish the delinquents.

3. The explanation as to the "few unprotected children" shows that statements dealing with statistical facts should be so dealt with on that basis or where mere personal impression is relied upon—a perfectly legitimate form of argument—this should be clearly stated.

4. As regards the high rate of success of re-vaccinations, I think the Health Officer should be required to elucidate correctly the facts in connection with what must be regarded as a rate that is phenomenal. This could readily be accomplished by his personally inspecting 1,000 cases of re-vaccination. Pending the completion of what must be a lengthy task, I would advise that his attention be required to ascertaining whether the modes of classification of cases of re-vaccination are correct and fully understood by his staff, and whether the system of inspection adopted, or possible, under the special circumstances is such as would ensure trustworthy results being secured. No power to enforce attendance to exhibit results of re-vaccination is available, and in consideration of the fact that this operation would otherwise than during epidemics be confined to children over ten years of age and adults in the popular acceptation of the term, it seems likely that difficulties as to ascertaining actual results exist. From what I ascertained at my inspection some time back, it seemed to me advisable that the difference between primary and secondary vaccinations should be distinctly set forth in the forms employed. Possibly were this accomplished there might occur a change in the percentage of successful re-vaccinations.

Order—No. 2201 M., dated 11th October 1897.

In their memorandum on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894–95, the Army Sanitary Commission observed that in Madras the still-births numbered 541 or only 3·4 per cent. of the number of children born alive, while in Bombay the percentage was 10·2, and that this difference was striking and required explanation. From the remarks of the Health Officer in his letter to the President read above, it is evident that, assuming Dr. Farr's ratio of still-births in England, namely, 4 per cent. of the live-births, to represent the normal rate, the abnormal divergence occurs in Bombay, the rate recorded in Madras being very nearly the normal rate. An explanation of the divergence should therefore apparently be sought for by the Army Sanitary Commission rather in Bombay than in Madras.

2. With reference to the remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission as to the extraordinary accuracy of registration in Madras, if only three births and five deaths were left unregistered in 1894–95, the Health Officer explains that the unregistered births and deaths referred to were merely cases in which the relatives failed to report these occurrences, information regarding which had already been obtained by the municipal subordinates. Every precaution is being taken to ensure the accuracy of registration. Under section 397 of Act I of 1884, as amended by Acts VII of 1884 and II of 1892, the registrar of each district of the town receives from the burning ground peons and the kanakapillais information as to every burial and cremation in public burial and burning grounds and as to every birth, and checks these returns with the registers. On the whole, therefore, the returns of vital statistics, especially those of deaths, may be regarded as fairly accurate. It is not clear, however, whether there exists the same check over the private burial-grounds in the city, and the President is requested to report on the point.

3. The statement made in the administration report of the municipality that there were but few unprotected children in the city was understood by the Government to be based on the assumption that the number of children who, having been registered as born in Madras left the town before the vaccination age, might fairly be taken as equal to the number of children born in the mufassal and vaccinated in Madras. It is, however, now explained that the Health Officer's inference was rather the result of his own personal observations, and that he stated it as such rather than as a satistical fact. As the Sanitary Commissioner remarks, "where mere personal impression is relied on—a perfectly legitimate form of argument—this should be clearly stated."

4. In regard to the high percentage of successful re-vaccinations, the Health Officer thinks that a considerable number of the re-vaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations in which the previous inoculations had been ineffective. The attention of the Municipal Commissioners is drawn to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner on this subject in paragraph 4 of his letter read above. The Health Officer should be instructed to inquire carefully into the various points suggested by Dr. King and to report thereon.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Sanitary Board.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

501

Proof 4/11

To be [illegible]

Government {1897} of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Very Urgent

Revised proof for approval.

Shd the proof be sent to the Secy please?

Not necessary

Press

Struck off as revised

4/11/97

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 2201 M., 11th October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission.

Passing orders on the remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission in their memorandum on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894–95.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper :—

G.O., Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897.

From the Secretary of State for India, dated London, 12th November 1896, Statistics No. 1.

Abstract.—Forwarding 70 copies of a Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894–95.

Order—Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897.

Communicated to the Municipal Commissioners of Madras.

2. The President is requested to state whether any explanation can be given of the striking difference between the proportion of still-births to every hundred children born alive in Madras (3·4) and in Bombay (10·21) during 1894. He should also state on what evidence he was assured that only three births and five deaths were left unregistered during the year under review.

3. For the future vaccination statistics should be supplied in the form of standard statement No. I prescribed by the Government of India.

4. The statement in paragraph 19 of the review of this Government on the administration report, that there were but few unprotected children in the city to which exception is taken by the Army Sanitary Commission, appears to have been based on the assumption that the number of children who having been registered as born in Madras left the town before the vaccination age might fairly be taken as equal to the number of children born in the mufassal but vaccinated in Madras. The President is requested to state whether this surmise is well founded. He will also report on the observations in the memorandum throwing doubt on the accuracy of the high percentage of successful re-vaccinations.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
„ Sanitary Board.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Read—also the following papers :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. J. MOORE, C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 11th February 1897, H. No. 2363.

With reference to G.O., Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897, I have the honour to forward the accompanying report from the Health Officer.

Enclosure.

From J. NIELD COOK, Esq., D.P.H., Health Officer, Madras Municipality, to the President, Municipal Commission, dated 11th February 1897.

With reference to order Mis. No. 82 M., dated 25th January 1897, I beg to offer the following remarks.

2. The proportion of still-births to every hundred children born alive in Madras, 3·4, appears to me to require but little explanation. There is no registration of still-births in England, but Dr. Farr, the late Registrar-General, estimated them at about 4 per cent. of the live-births. I should have expected the percentage to be higher in Madras in consequence of bad midwifery. But taking 4 per cent. as the average to be expected in any place, it would appear that 0·6 per cent. fail to be registered at all. This is not much considering the difficulty that always occurs of making people understand the difference between a miscarriage and a still-birth. Generally speaking, I have directed the registrars to take a birth at seven months or more—*i.e.*, when a child is viable—as a still-birth, but not to register anything born at an earlier period of pregnancy. As I am not acquainted with the rules and conditions under which the Bombay statistics of still-birth were recorded, I am not in a position to explain the high percentage there.

The five deaths unregistered referred to the deaths known in the office. The burial-ground peons report every cremation and burial that occurs in the municipal burial and burning grounds, and of these five were not registered by the relatives in the registrar's books. In the same way the three unregistered births referred to births of which we had received information through inquiries made by the kanakapillais.

3. This will be done.

4. The opinion expressed in the administration report, that there were but few unprotected children in the municipality, was based on my personal observation. Parcherry children wear very little clothing, and often when I have been in a parcherry full of children I have looked at their arms and found it quite the exception to see a child without good vaccination marks. Though this is a rough test, I consider it more reliable than the statistics about which there is the difficulty alluded to and occasioned by people coming and going.

The high percentage of re-vaccination has always puzzled me, and I can only surmise that a considerable number of the re-vaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations, the previous inoculations having been inefficient and consequently not conferred the immunity expected of them.

No. 512.

Referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for early remarks.

Fort St. George,
14th April 1897.

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP,
for *Secretary to Government.*

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Fort St. George, 13th May 1897, No. 1030-S.

With reference to endorsement No. 512, dated 14th April 1897, I have the honour to state that I agree with the Health Officer, Madras, in considering that if explanation be requisite as to the difference between the number of infants "born dead" in Madras and Bombay respectively, this should be sought from the latter city—the evidence of a wide departure from the normal not being applicable to the former.

2. It was undesirable that the Madras Municipality should have attempted to prove accuracy of registration upon the slender grounds afforded. The instances quoted would have been better utilized as illustrations of the obstinacy with which registration is avoided by certain persons, seeing that the parties responsible for registration failed to effect it notwithstanding the knowledge that the municipal authorities were acquainted with the facts. The clauses of Act No. I of 1884 affecting registration in this town are interpreted by the Commissioners in a very lenient spirit. The kanakapillai searches for cases, finds them and warns them to attend at the office for registration; whereas if the law were strictly interpreted the fact of a case being discovered and yet not registered—always presuming the time proviso has been disregarded—the responsible person should be prosecuted. Apparently the cases quoted, therefore, are simply those where, notwithstanding the friendly notice

of the kanakapillais, registration was ultimately not effected. It would have been satisfactory for the Municipal Commissioners to have stated what proceedings were taken to punish the delinquents.

3. The explanation as to the "few unprotected children" shows that statements dealing with statistical facts should be so dealt with on that basis or where mere personal impression is relied upon—a perfectly legitimate form of argument—this should be clearly stated.

4. As regards the high rate of success of re-vaccinations, I think the Health Officer should be required to elucidate correctly the facts in connection with what must be regarded as a rate that is phenomenal. This could readily be accomplished by his personally inspecting 1,000 cases of re-vaccination. Pending the completion of what must be a lengthy task, I would advise that his attention be required to ascertaining whether the modes of classification of cases of re-vaccination are correct and fully understood by his staff, and whether the system of inspection adopted, or possible, under the special circumstances is such as would ensure trustworthy results being secured. No power to enforce attendance to exhibit results of re-vaccination is available, and in consideration of the fact that this operation would otherwise than during epidemics be confined to children over ten years of age and adults in the popular acceptation of the term, it seems likely that difficulties as to ascertaining actual results exist. From what I ascertained at my inspection some time back, it seemed to me advisable that the difference between primary and secondary vaccinations should be distinctly set forth in the forms employed. Possibly were this accomplished there might occur a change in the percentage of successful re-vaccinations.

ORDER—No. 2201 M., dated 11th October 1897.

In their memorandum on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894–95, the Army Sanitary Commission observed that in Madras the still-births numbered 541, or only 3·4 per cent. of the number of children born alive, while in Bombay the percentage was 10·2, and that this difference was striking and required explanation. From the remarks of the Health Officer in his letter to the President read above, it is evident that, assuming Dr. Farr's ratio of still-births in England, namely, 4 per cent. of the live-births, to represent the normal rate, the abnormal divergence occurs in Bombay, the rate recorded in Madras being very nearly the normal rate. An explanation of the divergence should therefore apparently be sought for by the Army Sanitary Commission rather in Bombay than in Madras.

2. With reference to the remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission as to the extraordinary accuracy of registration in Madras, if only three births and five deaths were left unregistered in 1894–95, the Health Officer explains that the unregistered births and deaths referred to were merely cases in which the relatives failed to report these occurrences, information regarding which had already been obtained by the municipal subordinates. Every precaution is being taken to ensure the accuracy of registration. Under section 397 of Act I of 1884, as amended by Acts VII of 1884 and II of 1892, the registrar of each district of the town receives from the burning ground peons and the kanakapillais information as to every burial and cremation in public burial and burning grounds and as to every birth, and checks these returns with the registers. On the whole, therefore, the returns of vital statistics, especially those of deaths, may be regarded as fairly accurate. It is not clear, however, whether there exists the same check over the private burial-grounds in the city, and the President is requested to report on the point.

3. The statement made in the administration report of the municipality that there were but few unprotected children in the city was understood by the Government to be based on the assumption that the number of children who, having been registered as born in Madras left the town before the vaccination age, might fairly be taken as equal to the number of children born in the mufassal and vaccinated in Madras. It is, however, now explained that the Health Officer's inference was rather the result of his own personal observations, and that he stated it as such rather than as a statistical fact. As the Sanitary Commissioner remarks, "where mere personal impression is relied on—a perfectly legitimate form of argument—this should be clearly stated."

4. In regard to the high percentage of successful re-vaccinations, the Health Officer thinks that a considerable number of the re-vaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations in which the previous inoculations had been ineffective. The attention of the Municipal Commissioners is drawn to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner on this subject in paragraph 4 of his letter read above. The Health Officer should be instructed to inquire carefully into the various points suggested by Dr. King and to report thereon.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Sanitary Board.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.

Local and Municipal Department.

Memorandum of the Army Sanitary Commn. on the Madras municipal for 1894-95

78

P Again G.O.No.82 M,dated 25th January 1897 and Current Nos.653 M,& 1944 M,of 97.

H.M.
Drafts for approval
S.R. 8/10/97

8/x

H.L. 9.9.97

Order No. 2201 M., dt. 11.10.97.

In ~~its~~ this memorandum on the administration report of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras for 1894-95, the Army Sanitary Commission observed that, in Madras, the still-births numbered 541, or only 3.4 percent of the number of children born alive, ~~against 10.21 percent~~ while the percentage was 10.2 in Bombay, and that this difference was striking and required explanation. From the remarks of the Health Officer in his letter to the President read above, it is evident that assuming ~~the~~ Dr Farr's ratio of still-births, in England, namely ~~which was estimated by Dr. Farr, late Registrar General in England~~ ~~to be~~ ~~at~~ 4 percent of the live births, to represent the normal rate, ~~an~~ the abnormal divergence occurs in Bombay, ~~while~~ the rate recorded in Madras being very nearly ~~approaches~~ the normal rate. An explanation of the divergence should therefore apparent be sought for by the Army Sanitary Commission ~~from the former City~~ rather in Bombay than in Madras.

2. With reference to the remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission as to the extraordinary accuracy of registration in Madras, ~~if only 3 births~~ and 5 deaths were left unregiste[illegible]d in 1894-95, the Health Officer expla[illegible] that the unregistered births and de[illegible]s referred to were merely cases in whi[illegible] the relatives failed to report these occurrences, information regarding

regarding which had already been obtained by the municipal subordinates. ~~It is observed, however, that~~ Every precaution is being taken to ensure the accuracy of registration. Under section 397 of Act I of 1884, as amended by Acts VII of 1884 and II of 1892, the Registrar of each District of the town, receives from the burning ground peons and the Kanakapillais information as to every burial and cremation in public burial and burning grounds and as to every birth, and checks these returns with the registers. On the whole therefore, the returns of vital statistics, especially those of deaths may be regarded as ~~must be~~ fairly accurate. ~~There are, however, it is believed, numerous~~ It is not clear however whether there exists the same check over ~~[illegible]~~ the private burial grounds in the city, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~owned especially by Mussulmans, and~~ and the President is requested to report on the point. ~~how the registration of deaths is checked with reference to the burials in these places~~.

3. The statement made in the administration report of the Municipality that there were but few unprotected children in the city was ~~and~~ ~~it was believed,~~ understood by the Govt to be ~~[illegible]~~ based on the assumption that the number of children who, having been registered as born in Madras left the town before the vaccination age, might fairly be taken as equal to the number of children born in the mufassal, ~~but~~ and vaccinated in Madras. ~~The Health Officer, however, states that the statement was made as the result of his~~ ~~of the note~~ It is however now explained that the H.O.'s inference ~~[illegible]~~ was ~~also~~ rather the result of his own personal observations ~~[illegible]~~ & that he ~~[illegible]~~ stated it as such rather than ~~own personal observation and not~~ as a statistical fact. As the San^y. Com^r. remarks "where "mere personal impression is relied "on — a perfectly legitimate form of "argument — this sh^d be clearly "stated". ~~He will now be informed that when he makes a statement which is based upon mere personal impression a perfectly perfectly legitimate form of argument, he should be careful for the future to indicate clearly at the same time the grounds of his conclusions.~~

4. In regard to the high percentage of successful revaccinations, the Health Officer thinks that a considerable number of the revaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations ~~the~~ in which the previous inoculations ha~~ving~~d been ineffective ~~cient~~. The attention of the Municipal Commissioners is ~~however~~ drawn to the remarks of the San^y Com^r ~~Dr. King~~ on this subject in paragraph 4 of his letter read above. ~~with the request that they should direct~~ The Health Officer sh^d be instructed to inquire carefully into ~~and report on~~ the various points ~~therein referred to~~ suggested by Dr King & to report thereon.

V.R.
27/9/97

To

The President, Municiapl Commissioner, Madras. ✓
,, Sanitary Commissioner. ✓
— Round ✓

Desp- 8/11/97

The President,

Sir,

With reference to Order No.82 M.Mis., dated 25" January 1897, I beg to offer the following remarks:-

2. The proportion of still births to every hundred children born alive in Madras, 3.4, appears to me to require but little explanation. There is no registration of still births in England, but Dr. Farr, the late Registrar General estimated them at about 4 p.c of the live births. I should have expected the percentage to be higher in Madras in ------- consequence of bad midwifery. But taking 4 p.c. as the average to be -- expected in any place it would appear that 0.6 p.c fail to be registered at all. This is ~~too~~ not much considering the difficulty that always occurs of making people understand the difference between a miscarriage and a still birth. Generally speaking I have directed the Registrars to take a birth at 7 months or more,-i.e when a child is viable, as a still birth, but not to register anything born at an earlier period of pregnancy. As I am not acquainted with the rules and conditions under which the Bombay ~~sttis~~ statistics of still birth were recorded I am not in a position to explain the high percentage there.

The 5 deaths unregistered referred to the deaths known in the office. The burial ground peons report every cremation and burial that occurs in the Municipal burial and burning grounds and of these 5 were not registered by the relatives in the Registrar's books. In the same way the 3 unregistered births referred to births of which we had received -- information through inquiries made by the Conicopillays.

3. This will be done.

4. The opinion expressed in the Administration Report, that there - were but few unprotected children in the Municipality, was based on my -- personal observation. Parcherry children wear very little clothing and often when I have been in a parcherry full of children I have looked at their arms and found it quite the exception to see a child without good vaccination marks. Though this is a rough test, I consider it more ----- reliable than the statistics about which there is the difficulty alluded to and occasioned by people coming and going.

The high percentage of revaccination has always puzzled me and I can only surmise that a considerable number of the revaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations, the previous inoculations having been inefficient and consequently not conferred the ------- immunity expected of them.

11-2-97.

J. Niel Cook. D.P.H.

Health Officer.

11/2/97

1

653 m of 1897

Again G.O. No 82 M. dated 25th January 1897.
and Current No 653 m of 1897.

Memorandum of the Army Sanitary Commn on the Madras Muni Report for 1894-95 -

For Orders

Flag A

In the Government order read above, the President Municipal Commission, Madras, was requested to report on certain observations made by the Army Sanitary Commission in its memorandum on the administration report of the Madras Municipality for 1894-95.

2. With his letter read above, the President forwards a report from the Health officer replying to the several points raised. The remarks of the Army Sanitary Commission and the replies thereto are dealt with below seriatim.

I really cannot spare time to go through this – It will make a fourth time of going through the Army San. Commn's report, if I do – Let the necessary remarks be embodied for approval in the draft despatch with such explanations in the margin as may seem to be required

H.S.
31/8/97

I. (1) Para.2 of the memorandum. (1)"The still-births in Madras numbered 541 or in the proportion of 3.4 to every 100 children born alive, while in Bombay the proportion was 10.21. The difference is striking and needs explanation".

The Health officer states that taking the average number of still-births to be expected in any place at 4 per cent of the live births --the rate at which Dr. Farr, the late Registrar-General estimated it in England, only 0.6 per cent appears to have escaped registration in Madras in 1894-95 and that this is not much considering the difficulty of making people understand the difference between a miscarriage and a still-birth. He points out that under his instructions a birth in

Madras at seven months or more, i.e, when the child is viable, is generally treated as a still-birth, that births at an earlier stage of pregnancy are not registered at all, and that as he is not acquainted with the practice followed in Bombay in this respect he is not able to explain the high percentage of still births there. The President may therefore ~~may~~ be asked to ascertain and report to Government if there is any thing in the practice obtaining in Bombay which will account for the striking difference in the percentages in these two cities.

This is not necessary. The Health officer gives a sound explanation. It is for the San. Commission to find out the abnormality of Bombay

10/4/7

I. (ii) " During the year, writes the President, 3 births and 5 deaths were left unregistered against 1 and 5 in the previous year + + + + both births and deaths appear to be registered with an accuracy attained in no other city in India, if it be a fact that only three of the former and five of the latter failed to be registered during the year."

The Health officer reports that the five unregistered deaths referred to the deaths known in the Municipal office, but which were not reported by the relatives of the deceased. The burial ground peons report every cremation and burial that occurs in the municipal burial and burning grounds, and of these five were not registered by the relatives in the registrar's books. Similarly the three unregistered births referred to births which were not reported by the parents, but of which information was obtained through enquiries made by Kanakapillays. It is however observed that, besides the Municipal burial and burning grounds, there

are

are in Madras numerous private burial grounds owned especially by Mussulmans, and it is not stated what steps are being taken to check the registration of deaths with reference to the burials in these grave yards. The President may therefore be requested to report on this point.

III. (2) Para. 7 of the memorandum. The Army Sanitary Commission takes exception to the statement in para 19 of the review of the administration report that there were but few unprotected children in the city. This remark, it was thought, was based on the assumption that the number of children who having been registered as born in Madras left the town before the vaccination age might fairly be taken as equal to the number of children born in the mufassal but vaccinated in Madras, and the President was requested to state whether this surmise was well founded.

Page 42 of the report

The Health officer reports that the opinion expressed in the administration Report (apparently in para 147) that there were but few unprotected children in the municipality was based on his personal observation. He adds that when he had been in a Parcherri full of children, he found it an exception to ~~find~~ meet a child — without good vaccination marks and that this test, although a rough one — is more reliable than the statistics above referred to.

If

If the opinion expressed in the Administration Report was arrived at only from the Health officer's observation at the Parcherry, it cannot be considered accurate. The President may be asked to report whether it will not be possible to substantiate by statistics the remark of Government in the review.

IV. (3) Para 8 of the memorandum. The only other point the noticed is the observation of the army Sanitary Commission throwing doubt on the accuracy of the high percentage of successful revaccinations.

The Health officer states that the high percentage has always puzzled him and considers that a considerable number of the revaccinations are to all intents and purposes primary vaccinations, the previous inoculations having been inefficient.

This view however does not appear to be tenable if any reliance is to be placed on the high percentage (99.63) of success obtained in primary vaccination. The President may be requested to fully investigate into the matter and report the result.

Vide statement in para. 142 of the report. (Page 41)

V.R.
7/4/97

Refer the papers to the San. Commr. for remarks

10/4/97

(Dr Farr's figures giving the normal)

The points taken by the Army Sanitary Commsn. dealt with in the above note & on which we have Dr King's remarks in curr^t no. 19441 are numbered I, II, &c.

I. As to the registration of still-births, & the great discrepancy between the rate registered in Madras & in Bombay.

Dr King agrees with the Madras Health Officer that the abnormal^x divergence is in Bombay – and that the explanation shd be sought for in Bombay by the Army San. Commn.

II As to the extraordinary accuracy of registration, if only 3 births & 5 deaths were left unregistered.

The Madras Health Officer explained that these were merely cases which came to notice.

The remark put as it was in the Madras report was ~~[illegible]~~ unfortunate, as Dr King remarks ~~that~~ "the instances "quoted wd. have been better "utilized as illustrations of the "obstinacy with wh. regn. is avoided "by certain persons seeing that "the parties responsible for regn. "failed to effect it, notwithstanding "that the Mun. authies. were "acquainted with the facts". Dr King thinks that the regn. clauses of Act I of 1884 are interpreted by the Commrs. leniently, & that it wd. have been satisfactory if it had been stated what proceedings were taken to punish the delinquents.

On the other hand under Sec. 397 of the Act the regr. of each district of the town ~~sh~~ receives from the burial ground peons and from the Kanakapillais information as to every burial & cremation & birth, & checks these returns with the registrations. On the whole therefore the death returns at any rate ought to be fairly accurate, although ~~[illegible]~~ the birth returns may be open more suspicion — vide para 183 of Mun. Report for 84/85.

All gravediggers & vettiyans at a public burial or burning ground have to be licensed under s. 391, so that they are under control. But besides these public places ~~they~~ there are it is believed numerous private burial grounds, owned especially by Mussalmans, & it is not known how the regn. of deaths ~~[illegible]~~ is checked with reference to the burials in them. The Pt. might be asked to report upon this.

III. As to the number of children unprotected from smallpox being few, the Health Officer's explanation was that the statt. was made as the result of his own personal observation & not as a statistical fact. Dr King truly remarks that "where "mere personal impression "is relied on — a perfectly "legitimate form of argument "— this shd. be clearly stated".

The Health Officer may be told to be more careful to indicate the grounds of his conclusions.

IV. As to the accuracy of the high percentage of successful re-vaccinations on which the San. Commission cast doubts, the Health Officer admitted the returns puzzled him & attributed the figures to the inclusion of primary vaccinations in wh. the previous inoculations had been inefficient.

Dr. King in agreeing that the rate is "phenomenal" recommends that the Health Officer Shd. test the returns by the inspection of say 1000 cases of reported revaccination. He also recommends that the Health Offr. shd. ascertain whether the modes of classifying revaccinations are correct & fully understood by the staff & whether the system of inspection is such as Wd. ensure trustworthy results. The Mcty have

COMMISSIONER
Register No. 1460-5
18 APR 97
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

recently issued new byelaws about vaccination & the inspection of cases; but Dr King's remarks may as well be commended to the Mcty. — Who Shd. direct their Health Officer to inquire into these points & report

P. J. 26/8/97

COMMISSIONER
Register No. 1460-S.
18 APR 97
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 653 M

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
15. FEB. 1897
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

~~Order~~
No. 512

Referred to the Sanitary missioner for early remarks.

A. L. Knapp.
for Secretary to Government.

R
14/97

Fort St. George }
14th April 1897 }

The Madras Municipal Administration Report for 1894/95 will be sent tomorrow.

18/4/97.

To
The Sanitary Commissioner

From
THE PRESIDENT,
Municipal Commission,
Madras.

H. No. 2363

Dated 11th February 1897
Received 16-2-1897
Registered 16-2-1897
Enclosures one
Spare copies

SUBJECT:

Forwarding a report from the Health Officer with reference to G.O. No. 82 M.-Mis. dy 25th Jany/97.

7

BACK PAPERS.

G. O.	No.	Department.	Date.
GO	82	Mun	25-1-97
GO	1584	Mun	2-10-95

FURTHER PAPERS.

G. O.	No.	Department.	Date.

128

H. No. 2363

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

Municipal Office,

Madras, 11th February 1897.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 653M

From

Lieut. Col. G.M.J. Moore, C.I.E.,
President, Municipal Commission,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department,
Fort Saint George.

Ju 2201 M D 11/2

Recd

Sir,

With reference to G.O,No.82 M.Mis. dated 25th January 1897, I have the honor to forward the accompanying report from the Health Officer.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
G M J Moore Lt.Col.
President, Munl. Commn.

11/2/97

12.2.97

Lieut. Col. [illegible], C.I.E.,

The Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department,
Fort Saint George.

With reference to G.O.No. [illegible] M. [illegible] dated [illegible] January 1897, I have the honour to forward the accompanying report from the Health Officer.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

[illegible]
President, Munl. Commn.

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1944. M

Order

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

No. $\frac{1030}{S}$

Dated 13th May 1897.

Received 13 MAY. 1897

Registered 13 May 1897

Enclosures c. No. 653. M with one enclosure retd.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting remarks with reference to the endorsement of Government No 512 dated 14th April 1897 on letter from the President Municipal Commission Madras forwarding Health Officer's report on the Army Sanitary Commission memo on the Madras Municipal report for 1894-95.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

2,250—1-1-97.

No. 1030/S

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Fort St. George 13th May 1897.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 9944 M

From

SURGEON-LIEUT.-COL. W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,

SANITARY COMMISSIONER FOR MADRAS,

To

THE

Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department,
Fort Saint George.

Enclosure.

SIR,

With reference to Endorsement No. 51 dated 14th April 1897, I have the honour to state that I agree with the Health Officer, Madras, in considering that if explanation be requisite as to the difference between the number of infants "born dead" in Madras and Bombay respectively, this should be sought from the latter city – the evidence of a wide departure from the normal not being applicable to the former.

2. It was undesirable that the Madras Municipality should have attempted to prove accuracy of registration upon the slender grounds afforded. The instances quoted would have been better utilized as illustrations of the obstinacy with which registration is avoided by certain persons, seeing that the parties responsible for registration failed to effect it notwithstanding the knowledge that

the Municipal authorities were acquainted with the facts. The clauses of Act No. 1 of 1884 affecting registration in this town are interpreted by the Commissioners in a very lenient spirit. The Konicopillay searches for cases, finds them and warns them to attend at the office for registration; whereas if the Law were strictly interpreted the fact of a case being discovered and yet not registered – always presuming the time proviso has been disregarded – the responsible person should be prosecuted. Apparently the cases quoted, therefore, are simply those where, notwithstanding the friendly notice of the Konicopillays, registration was ultimately not effected. It would have been satisfactory for the Municipal Commissioners to have stated what proceedings were taken to punish the delinquents.

3. The explanation as to the "few unprotected children" shows that statements dealing with statistical facts should be so dealt with on that basis or where mere personal impression is relied upon – a perfectly legitimate form of argument – this should be clearly stated.

4. As regards the high rate of success

of

of revaccinations, I think the Health Officer should be required to correctly elucidate, the facts in connection with what must be regarded as a rate that is phenomenal. This could readily be accomplished by his personally inspecting 1000 cases of re-vaccination. Pending the completion of what must be a lengthy task, I would advise that his attention be required to ascertaining whether the modes of classification of cases of re-vaccination are correct and fully understood by his staff, and whether the system of inspection adopted, or possible, under the special circumstances is such as would ensure trustworthy results being secured. No power to enforce attendance to exhibit results of re-vaccination is available, and in considera-tion of the fact that this operation would otherwise than during epidemics be confined to children over ten years of age and adults in the popular accepta-tion of the term, it seems likely that difficulties as to ascertaining actual results exist. From what I ascertained at my inspection some time back, it seemed to me advisable that the difference between primary and secondary

vaccinat

vaccinations should be distinctly set forth in the forms employed. Possibly were this accomplished, there might occur a change in the percentage of successful revaccinations.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. G. King
Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

First copy sent to Press. 20-10-97

rned for signature. 5-11-97

tched in print. 8-11-97

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED.
Order complete. ~~40~~ 5
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 82h DATED 5-1-1897 } P. 9

CURRENT No. 653h & 1964m — A

NCLOSURES TO C. No.

RDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

ENT WITH DITTO.

S NOT FILED UP BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.