

(1) Number of pages 70

(2) Date of repair 7-10-48

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1020.M

Press
Mis.

Dated

7-10-1886

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Inspection Notes of the Sanitary Commis-
sioner on Coonoor Municipality.

Coonoor.

Population 4,778.

Inspected 13 and 14 September 1886.

Drainage. Beginning with masonry hill, this part of the town consists of several long rows of houses nearly all touching each other at the ends. The hill is very steep and is deeply terraced so that the basement of one row overlooks the roofs of the houses in the lower row and much of the liquid sewage, descends into the back-
yards of the houses below, and then passes
east to the base of the hill. There is little
of disease
A few stones

003e in front of his house, asked appealingly whether he could not have the benefit of a stone drain there.

Except for the main drain, the bazaar part of the town is also without any proper drains.

All the liquid sewage both of mission hill and of the bazaar that does not soak into the soil goes to pollute the stream that courses the valley between them, and which also receives the drainage of several large public latrines.

There is the same overcrowding and overlapping of houses here as on mission hill.

Sweepers' Village. This tenchery which is close to the stream running between

-sion.

ya.

Could a

The water supply is another weak point here, being open to all kinds of pollution. It passes through some plantations where it is defiled by rain draining into it from over manure deposits. There is also great potholing at the several branches leading into houses.

Conservancy. No change in the establishment since last report.

Latrines. There has been no change either in the number of latrines. The public latrines are nearly all about the valley between the two hills one which the houses of both parts of the town are close and are therefore at inconvenient distances from the majority

of the

people

live

insignificant.

Davidson's Hotel Latrine. This though a private matter, has come to be a public nuisance. The accommodation for three males and three females is totally inadequate for the greatly increased numbers of servants and horse-keepers that ~~are~~ ^{come} now ~~here~~ in the season, and who form a camp of about 150 followers. The scanty accommodation necessarily gives rise to fouling; and the overflow of liquid sewage and washings falls upon the bank immediately overhanging Barlow's road, causing there an intolerable stench, nearly at all times.

accommodation

cre.

what doubt,

5
down through Mr Benson's plantation to the bottom of the hill for the purposes of nature. I understand that this gentleman is willing to grant a site here in exchange for a small plot of barren rocky ground at present part of the forest reserve, but which would enable him to have an even line of demarcation for his property. This matter, I gather, was lately before Government, but possibly without some of the facts of the case, as now related. Should this be so and Government see any reason in the present statement, for a reconsideration of this subject and for permitting such an exchange

above, a great nuisance

be abolished

unity.

suitable

let are

is a quagmire and is greatly in want of drain-
ing and of macadamizing.

Slaughterhouses. On the 13th of July, with the ap-
-proval of Government I inspected the site
for the proposed new slaughter-houses approved of
by my predecessor Dr Bioré, but strongly objected
to by several residents. The site is on the hill
overhanging the ghaut road; and looking from
the spot itself, only one house can be seen, the
nearest point of which - the stables - is 86 yards
distant. Two other houses, next in proximity,
are respectively one hundred, and one hundred
and fifty yards beyond it. The site is bounded

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to the site, as, from a properly constructed and
conserved slaughter-house there should be
nothing that could be called a nuisance to even
the nearest house. Considering however these
objections, I asked the Municipal Chairman
whether it was not possible to find some spot
free from objections of any kind. Although a
good deal of trouble was taken, it was necessary
to reject one site after another for various rea-
-sons. At last a place was pointed out, that for
locality and surroundings appeared at
first sight all that was desirable. This is at
the bottom of the hill on which the Sapper hies
is located. It abuts house No. 1 (about

age from
the river.

Assuming for a moment that this is an idea
that can be acted upon, drainage from a
slaughter house causes, as I have seen, a red de-
posit on all places where water runs slowly,
as unfortunately is the case in many places
here and it further develops a long filiform
worm by millions, masses of which can be
lifted up by a stick like bundles of hay. On
enquiry too, at the market next morning
in company with the Sanitary Inspector, it
was found that the stream is actually used for
drinking purposes by people from the plains
whose stalls are near it. ~~was seen~~
seen ea
and
that

98
site have been fully and graphically described by my
predecessor and to the horrors of the situation as described
by him, must be added another, only incidentally
found out; viz., that the small plot of ground, 30 paces
long, between the two buildings has been used as the
burial place of carcasses for the last ten years and that
eight or ten dead animals have been buried there every
year. Altogether this is as foul a spot as it is possible to im-
agine, and its existence as a place for depositing food that
is perishable or easily tainted is a flagrant evil. The night-
soil depot too, which is only 80 yards from the rear end
of one slaughter house, is in hot close days, also, a great
nuisance to pass by, that there are often animated
discussions as to which is the greater cause of the stench.
from the 1. Court is no
things out
approved by

the sick. There were 8 native inpatients and
22 out-patients on the day of visit. Three of
these were cases of Cataract operation—
that do credit to the skill of the medical officer as an
oculist. The great want of the place—a ward for
native women and a lying-in ward—is now,
thanks to the strenuous exertions of Dr Walker, being
supplied, and the new building is half way
towards completion.

Consider^{ing} the bad condition of the
water supply and the fact of clean sand for the
ordinary filter not being easily procurable, Dr.
Commend that a Europe pump be got for use.
"Spongy" d be got for use.

11
has been no arm to arm vaccination. I learnt
on enquiry that a number of children in the
schools here were unvaccinated. The rules
laid down for grant-in-aid schools, should
at once be applied. There has been for
some years here a remarkable immunity
from any Small-pox epidemic, but when
this goes along with a large accumulation
of unprotected persons and children, an out-
break is what may be looked for at any
time, and it would doubtless be severe
enough to ruin the reputation of the place

a Considerable number
I have houses

hence
his
the need

Registration. Just as backward as vaccination
From the beginning of the year to now, forty eight
deaths and thirty nine births have been re-
gistered.

Vaccination and registration are both
done by one man who does not itinerate for
the latter purpose, and as a matter of course
only a fraction of the events is reported.

Remarks. From the above, it is clear that this otherwise
charming Sanitarium stands in need of
very many things. Of all requirements
a scheme of drainage comes first. The Muni-
cipality is so poor as to be able to contribute
nothing - the Government be expected
to furnish the necessary
outlay.

people.

The water-supply, even without being
piped, might be vastly improved by
simple measures of conservation on the
estates traversed by the supply channel.

13
H. Fargnhar. M.D.
Deputy Surgeon General.

Ag Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

Office of Sanitary Commr.
Madras 23rd September 1886

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 23rd September 1886

No 1146

From

Deputy Surgeon General W Hargreaves
M.D.

Mg. Sanitary Commissioner, Madras

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

Fort St. George

Sir

I have the honor to forward
the information to you

Office of Sanitary Commissioner
Madras 23rd September 1886

No 1146

From

Deputy Surgeon General W. Hargreaves
M.D.
Ag. Sanitary Commissioner, Madras

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort St. George

Sir

I have the honor to forward
the information to Government

Z

inspection sanctioned in G. O. No. 1427
dated 10th July 1886 Public, will
soon be undertaken in the cases
of some of the towns in the South
where systematic sanitary measures
seem most urgently required.

I have the honor to be

Sir

your most obdt. Servant

H. Asquith M.D.

Ag. Sanitary Commissioner

Refd 24/9

(1886) Public Department
Financial Department
CURRENT No. 1604/a

From
THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER
FOR MADRAS,
To
THE

*Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department*

W. M. S.

Order of 7th Oct. /86 No. 1020

*Communicated to the
Chairman, Municipal Council Coonoor
who has submitted a full report on the
subject to the
Sanitary Commissioner.*

Dated 23
Despatched -
Received 24
September 1886.

*2. The portion of the report regard-
ing land required for a latrine
near Davidson's Hotel, with a view
to be communicated to the Revenue
Dept. for consideration.*

No. 1146

ENCLOSE

*1/8
24/9*

Miscellaneous.

FINANCIAL DEPT.	
G.O., DATED	7 th Octy/86
No. 1020 M	MIS.

When given for copying

[*Despatch Abstract.*]

*Sanitation. Comy to the

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 the Sanitary
 the portion
 required*