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Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 2771 M

DATED 11-12-97

INDEXED. CR

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract:].

Bubonic Plague

Recording letter from the Govt. of
Bombay, forwarding for information,
copy of letter addressed by the Plague
Comm^{rs} to the Agent to the Governor
of Hyderabad relating to the preven-
tion of the spread of — from Bombay
to other Presidencies.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 4248m

From

The Secy. to Government,
General Department,
Bombay.

No. 4661
P.

Dated 7-12-1897

Received 9-12-1897

Registered 9-12-1897

Enclosures 3

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of letter addressed by the Plague Commissioner Bombay Presidency to the Agent to the Governor-General Rajputana relating to the prevention of the spread of plague from the Bombay to other Presidencies and also a list of Ry. stations in that Precy. where disinfection and detention of Ry. Passengers are being carried out with a view to prevent the spread of plague in and beyond that Presidency.

Copy to the P. W. D. (Rail. Branch)
- - - - - Surg. Genl.
- - - - - Sanit. Commr.
10/12/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

x Printed in
page 4 of G.O.
No 2608 m
24.11.97

No 9 of 1897.

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The Agent, Governor General
in Rajputana.

Luxat, 2nd November 1897.

Sir,

I venture to send you a copy of my Circular
of 27th October with reference to para: 1 of it.

2. I believe that you have already got a
very carefully organised Camp at Abu Road
Station, but I am not aware if you have
Carriage doors locked from the Station before
your frontier is reached. If this is not done
I would submit for your consideration your
following the plan adopted by the Punjab
Government and having the carriages locked
till arrival of the train at Abu Road.

The few passengers for Stations between
who wish to return can be sent back after
inspection and disinfection free of charge
by a train going South.

3. I would further venture to suggest
if you have not already done so, that
observation

Observation Camps for the observation of all passengers from Bombay should be arranged for, at all your large towns, Ajmere, Jodhpur, Jeypur, &c. If passengers from Bombay are thus detained for a few days after inspection and disinfection at Abu Road, it will deter travelling by persons who are only moving to get into a less strongly protected area. If you think it better not to have such Camps at these Stations I suggest as an alternative the detention at Abu Road Camp of all persons whom the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to detain as possibly dangerous.

4. I have addressed you because the Government of India have urged the necessity of our protecting Rajputana and the officers of the Bombay Presidency are so fully engaged in suppressing Plague and preventing the sick leaving that it is necessary to request neighbouring Provinces to protect themselves as far as possible.

I have, &c.
Signed A. Wingate,
Plague Commissioner

Memorandum by A. Wingate, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Plague Commissioner,
Bombay Presidency, dated 27th October 1897.

The first point is to prevent any sick person leaving an infected town. Railway individual inspection of departing as well as of arriving passengers should be rigorous, and no one with any suspicion of fever should be allowed to leave. Next, no one should be allowed to go or come by railway without disinfection of themselves and clothes and bundles. The railway can probably supply a strong boiler with a sufficiently large hole to take a traveller's bundle; steam pressure not less than 20 lbs. and temperature about 250°. The bundle to be opened out and then loosely tied together and steamed for 20 minutes. An old locomotive can be connected with this boiler to supply steam. There should be a long shed within screened enclosure divided into compartments near the steam disinfector—one for women and another, quite apart, for men. In each compartment is a bathing tub with Jeye's Fluid or carbolic acid of weak strength, say, about 1 in 100, also a coarse sheet for women. The woman divests herself of garments and wraps herself after her bath in the sheet. Her garments are meanwhile taken by the female attendant and dipped for 10 minutes in Jeye's Fluid or crude carbolic acid, strength not less than 1 in 20, dried and given back to the woman. The man generally bathes and then dips his own garments, or the garments can be steamed. A European or Eurasian male and female must be always present, for everything depends on the work being thorough. No one should be allowed to take a ticket without the disinfection pass of that day's date. Bundles can also be stamped with a "D" and figure for date.

The next point is, as far as practicable, to guard the main roads leading from the town at convenient places so as to prevent sick being carried away in carts, &c., recollecting that the object is to stop only sick people.

To induce the sick to stay it is also necessary to have the best possible arrangements for treating them—good hospitals, good attendance, nurses, comforts, &c.—and the citizens should be encouraged to have a private hospital as alternative to the Government hospital, if there is any reluctance to seek the latter. Such hospital to be under the supervision of the officer so appointed by the Collector. Within the town the backbone of successful plague management is sub-division of the town into as many sub-divisions as there are European officers or Native officers of sufficient rank available either on the spot or called in from the district or sent by the Commissioner of the Division or by Government. Every possible volunteer should be enlisted. These officers are hereafter called Superintendents. The sub-division, if plague is bad, should not be larger than an officer feels he can, after a few days' experience, easily manage. Under this officer or Superintendent of the quarter should be placed a sufficient number of supervisors of streets or sections. These supervisors may be Mamlatdars' karkuns, called in, say, one from each taluka, school-masters, Public Works employes, Judicial employes—in fact, anybody on whom the Collector can lay hands who is vigorous, capable and seeks distinction. The very best subordinates in the district should be the supervisors. Municipal officers are generally fully occupied. The supervisor makes a list of his houses and their inhabitants, arranges to get immediate information of any case of sickness and death, and under the Superintendent's orders is provided with coolies, masons, disinfectants, &c. An empty house or public building is selected in each quarter for the Superintendent's head-quarters, where the registers, disinfectants, &c., are kept, and where a clerk or writer is always present to despatch a peon with information to the Superintendent. The Superintendent, except for an hour or two in the day, should be about his quarter from sunrise to sunset. The Superintendent must personally train each of his supervisors how to disinfect houses, and the house disinfection must follow immediately on removal of the sick or discovery of the death. The gangs must be daily increased and every effort made, because till disinfection is, so to say, instantaneous, plague is in advance of the remedy. For example, instantaneous disinfection ensures quick segregation. A good supervisor soon knows his beat and can follow up a run-away family. As soon as the disinfection is level with the daily cases, systematic house to house cleaning begins. It is often

impossible to say where the early cases occurred. Thereupon every house must be treated as infected in a town where a severe epidemic occurs. Any particular suburb in which no case has occurred may of course be excluded. The house from basement to roof must be sprinkled carefully with perchloride of mercury—ceilings, cupboards, woodwork, walls, floor, stairs, privies and out-houses. Then the whole must be as carefully limewashed with limewash in which chloride of lime has been mixed. The owners will generally do this limewashing rather than pay. The Superintendent visits daily and gives a pass for a house done to his satisfaction. The spraying is always done in the supervisor's presence and never otherwise. On the thoroughness of this work the future immunity on return of the population depends. All rubbish is at the same time burnt or carted away. Backyards, corners, &c., should all be emptied and the premises left absolutely clean. The Superintendent controls the municipal sweepers allotted to his quarter and disinfects daily all public privies and as many private privies as he thinks necessary. Public privies in time of epidemic are a great danger.

To avoid any panic no one should enter a plague-infected house till the perchloride of mercury has been sprayed. The sprayer, wearing a pair of shoes, first sprays doorway, threshold and floor and then steps on the saturated portion and so finishes the room, always wearing his shoes, and so on throughout the house. The coolies enter and remove the things which have all been sprayed, and under the supervisor's orders things are listed in a counterfoil book, before the owner if possible, and infected things of no value like bedding, cots, &c., of the sick person are burnt. All else is reserved in the street under guard till the Superintendent comes round. Meanwhile, masons are busy with the limewashing. Every one of the gang must always wear shoes: no bare feet allowed. If any mortality shows among the coolies, the clothing of the gang should be dipped at coming in Jeye's Fluid or carbolic acid, 1 in 20. If possible, the gangs are better segregated in a camp, but this is not necessary if they keep healthy.

The Superintendent and supervisors ought to know every house and practically most inmates, so that concealment is out of the question and prosecution is, if necessary, prompt.

If disinfection cannot be done owing to nightfall, the house should be locked up and the key handed to the Superintendent, who can also, if he please, seal it. On no account should any one be allowed to pass the night there.

If plague is persistent or bad, the whole street or the entire quarter should be cleared, the people being taken *en masse* to a selected place and there carefully disinfected, all that will bear dipping being dipped in 1 in 20 as above, and what will spoil, as silks, &c., being exposed first one side and then the other side for 8 hours in a strong sun.

In causing the evacuation of a quarter or of a village, it should be recollected that the sick must be taken to one place, the necessary attendants on them being accommodated close by, but not with the sick. Sun is a good disinfectant, and the attendants should spread out garments or bedding daily in the sun. Secondly, the suspicious, that is, the family or persons in close vicinity to any plague case, should be segregated by themselves, if possible under guard. Lastly, the healthy should be taken to large camps, or, if villagers, should camp under trees in their fields, but not near the sick or the segregated. Every house in the quarter or village is then disinfected and, as far as necessary, opened to air and light in all its dark rooms, and after a month return is usually safe. It generally takes a month to do the disinfection and cleansing of every house. One or two skilled hands soon teach the villagers how to clean. Infected villages should be allotted to a special inspector, who acts as the supervisor, and an officer of rank superintends a group of villages. If a Hospital Assistant is available, he is most useful to the Superintendent.

Wherever there is plague, all available establishment should be concentrated in the infected locality, and all ordinary work must, as far as possible, give way to plague, and all Departments must assist; for example, railway quarters are worked by Railway Superintendents, Supervisors, &c.

List of Railway Stations
in the Bombay Presidency where
disinfection and detention are being
carried out as distinct from mere
examination of passengers:—

Anand.
Rhusawal.
Hotgi.
Kudchi.
Mannad.
Sholapur.
Kubli.

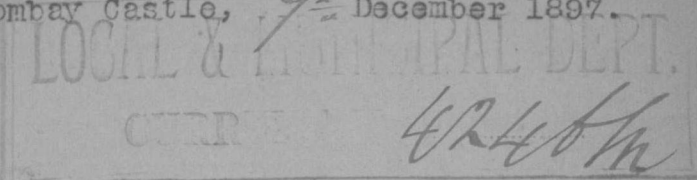
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No. 4661 of 1897.

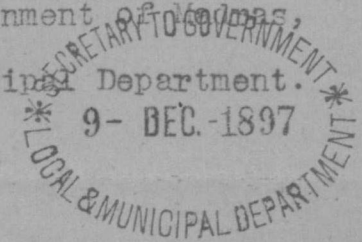
General Department.

Bombay Castle, 7th December 1897.



To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Municipal Department.



Sir,

I am directed to forward for such action as the Government of Madras may consider necessary the accompanying copy of a letter No. 9, dated the 2nd ultimo, addressed by the Plague Commissioner, Bombay Presidency, to the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana, and of its accompaniment relative to the prevention of the spread of plague from the Bombay to other Presidencies.

2. I am also to forward herewith a list of Railway stations in this Presidency where disinfection and detention of Railway passengers are being carried out with a view to prevent the spread of plague in and beyond this Presidency.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Acting Secretary to Government.

3
4246 Nov 1897

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7/10/97

When given for copying
When copied 13-12-97
When examined 13/12
When signed 13/12

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. Ho.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
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