

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 1024

Dated 24.12.98

Despatched 3-1-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Contacts.

Declining^{with remark} to recommend to Govt. the proposal of the San'y. Commr. to extend the system of observation to certain class of ———.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.
Sp 878P 998			
CN 1993 P 998			

1000-18-2 98.]

No. 2931
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C to 1837
OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
Camp Kammalapuram
Fort St. George, 30th Nov 1898.

From

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

SANITARY COMMISSIONER FOR MADRAS,

To

THE *Plague Commissioner*
Madras.

Enclosure.

SIR,

Government having in its Notification, embodied in G.O. No 1423 A.P., dated 8th November 1898, sanctioned certain far-reaching concessions to the "muculato," I have the honor to invite attention to para 17 of my letter No 1000/5 dated 10th May 1898, which ran as follows:-

*Sp. No 774
9.2.98
in Capt's Chamber*

"My opinion, therefore, is that
"muculation should have no
"more defined place assigned
"to it than has already been de-
"termined by Government, namely
"by, that every facility should
"be offered to those willing to
"use it, that is, it should not
"be quoted as an alternative to
any

"any legal measure. I believe
"that the marked diminution
"of mortality which inoculation
"secures, will undoubtedly bring
"about the wide adoption of
"the operation by the population,
"without the special inducement
"of relaxing imperative sanitary
"measures. I would, consequently,
"not make inoculation the alter-
"native of segregation; but, I would
"decide the necessity for se-
"gregation by the opinion of the
"local authority, aided by the
"Vigilance Committee of the
"area as to whether an indi-
"vidual of the limited class
"of persons to whom the rules
"would be applicable in this
"Presidency, can be trusted to
"present himself for examination,
"or allow himself to be inspected
"during the necessary ten days.
"This would simply imply the
"extension of the system of "obser-
"vation," which has, hitherto, thanks
"to the educated condition of the
"people of this Presidency - been
"found

"found applicable. Removal of the
"sick from the infected house to a
"suitable locality is essential; but,
"if this be arranged so that re-
"laxing be retained in atten-
"dance with the right to use
"their own medicines and food
"coupled with due care to caste
"rules and modesty of the female
"sex, I believe all reasonable
"sanitary requirements and all
"reasonable demands for personal
"liberty will be met"

2. It seems to me that if Govern-
ment is prepared to accept the
very decided risk attending
the concessions made in regard
to the inoculated, there can be
no reason why a very obvious
cause^{for} dissent with the existing
Plague Regulations should not
be swept away, in giving
greater freedom to "contacts" by
extending to them the system
of "observation," where the local
authorities are of opinion the per-
sons concerned can be trusted to re-
port themselves or allow them-
selves to be inspected, daily,
coupled with the promise of not
leaving

leaving the locality without giving information. The provision would vastly improve the position of the better and educated classes of the public with respect to the Regulations, and is calculated to enlist their active sympathy, by securing their co-operation in respect to measures which, subsequent to its adoption, would be ~~now~~ likely to affect solely the lower and uneducated classes, who could not be so readily trusted to fulfil promises. In this proposal, there is doubtless entailed the risk that trust afforded to "contacts" may at times be misplaced, and that such cases may prove foci for spread of the disease, but if the mass of risks represented by the Notification be accepted by Government solely with the object of encouraging inoculation, it seems to me that these will not be materially added to by my suggestion, and may well be faced with the object of arresting discontent. It must be remembered, in this connection, that whereas in the case of the inoculated subject to rulings under

under the Notification, all trace may be lost after entry to the Presidency, whilst yet undergoing incubation of the disease, in the class of contacts considered trustworthy that may have broken parole, there is at least some probability of their being traced.

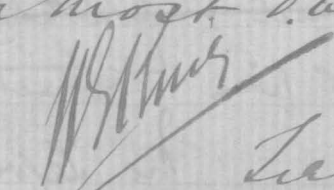
3. In making this proposal, I assume that the determination of Government to abide by the Notification is final and, consequently, advise that to the Original Mafassal (Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897) Regulation^{No. 13} and Regulation^{No. 11} under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, for the City of Madras^{No. 11}, be added a third sub-section as follows:—"By persons who have been in contact with plague cases and present no symptoms of plague or such as warrant suspicion of plague, shall not be segregated, unless the officer appointed in that behalf considers them untrustworthy; provided that after submitting to disinfection of their persons, clothing and property to the satisfaction of

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of such officer they agree, in writing, not to leave any locality without written permission by the officer empowered in that behalf, to reside in a dwelling approved by him, and to present themselves daily for observation and examination as to their state of health before a local authority, named in a document given them for the purpose.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedt servant


Lieut Col. S. S. S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

P. C. S. Procs 110

Letter No 1027 d 27.12.98

At Madras

Th. t. L. G. acknowledge receipt of 3-
in 2831. 2. 30th Nov. 1898.

2. If I understand you aright, your proposal comes to this — At first, with a view to popularise inoculation, which is generally admitted to ^{give} a high percentage of protection, is prepared to accept certain risks, which are not great, by granting concessions to those who are inoculated. Concessions, ^{also involving risks} ~~which are not great~~ ^{for the greater} risks, may be given to contacts, to remove causes of discontent. The segregation of contacts no doubt does cause considerable discontent, but I am inclined to think that pressure upon this measure is diminishing. Instances have come to my notice in which the neighbors have insisted upon it. The risks attending the ~~adoption~~ grant of the concession you propose appear to me so enormously greater than the risks involved by the concessions granted to inoculated persons that I am ^{unwilling} ~~unwilling~~ to recommend to go the notification of his adoption of such a policy. The only concession is granted ~~to encourage~~ ^{to encourage} protection; the only result of the proposed concessions ^{can only} will be to increase the chance of disseminating the disease. L.B. 24/11

S.C.
24/11/98

From

To

No. $\frac{2931}{8}$

Subject

Furnishing his opinion
with regard to notification of Govt.
embodied in C.O. No 1423 A.P.
dated 8th November 1898 Sanctioning
certain concessions to the in-
oculated.

When given for copying

When Spied

When examined

When signed

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