

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1124 P

DATED 21. 9. 98

✓
[Despatch Abstract.]

Bacteriological experiments in the Madras
Medical College Laboratory.

Forwarding to the Savy. Commr. for Genl.
Memorandum from the Health Officer, Madras
Municipality, re. the undertaking of certain
— by the Professor of Hygiene.

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. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2944 Mo

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Order 1127P mis 421-9-98

G. No. 327

Forwarded to the Sanitary
Comm. for remarks through
the Engineer General.

Dated 17 September 1898

Received

Registered

Enclosures Three.

Spare copies

To the Sanitary Comm. through
the Engineer General

21/9/98

Recd
23-9-1898

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Memorandum of 14th Sep
1898. From Engineer General
J. R. Forswall Health Officer,
of the Madras Municipality,
with Enclosures re the undertaking
of some experiments in the Medical
College Laboratory by the Professor
of Hygiene.

21/9/98

19/9

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	974	hkh	26-7-94
	1719	h/98	

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Rel(1) to 8.110.327

H.No. 1320

Health Department,
Municipal Office,
Madras, 5th September 98.

From

Surgeon-Lieut. J.W. Cornwall,
Health Officer,
Madras Municipality.

To

The Professor of Hygiene,
Madras Medical College.

Sir,

I have the honor to enquire whether you would undertake some experiments in your laboratory with the object of ascertaining the bactericidal properties of certain disinfectants on ordinary mud taken from the floor of a hut. This mud might be primed with cultures of wellknown bacilli in addition to its inherent flora.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) J.W. Cornwall, Surgn.- Lt.,
Health Officer.

[Signature]
17/9/98

/True Copy/

[Signature]

Ag. President. m. m. c.

NOTE FOR THE Second Assistant.

This is a paper which should be dealt with in the Plague Branch as the point on which orders are requested is whether the Govt. intends to make any provision for bacteriological work during the existence of the plague - Vide the last sentence of the Health Officer's memorandum. Flapped A.

V.R.
17/1/98

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2944/m/98

No. 98.

The Laboratory of Hygiene,
Medical College, Madras, 12th Sep. 98.

From

Surgeon Captain A.E. Grant, M.B.,

Professor of Hygiene, Medical College.

TO

The Health Officer,

Madras Municipality.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1320 dated 5th Instant, I have the honour to reply as follows:-

It is, I regret to say, not so much a question of 'would' as of 'could' with regard to this and kindred matters. If my duties were confined to those of the professorship of Hygiene only, there would be no difficulty in the matter and I would undertake to make the desired experiments with the care and exactitude such work demands. As matters stand, I am unable to do this. My Assistant Mr. Chandrasekhar B.A.M.B. is quite willing to undertake a series of simple experiments relative to the sterilisation of different soils by different means of disinfection. When, however, it comes to the question of using G cultures of well known bacilli, I regret to say that we have no cultures of well known bacilli in the proper sense of the term. That is to say, we have not got suitable incubators, &c. containing stock cultures of all well known organisms carried on from generation to generation, and we never can have this until this laboratory is established upon a proper basis. I have again and again urged upon the authorities the pressing necessity for at least one working bacteriological and hygienic laboratory in the Presidency town, but so far without success. The experiments you refer to are exactly those which this laboratory should be in a position to undertake without demur or delay. It is probable, I am afraid, that nothing but an appalling out-break of disease will bring about the institution of a working laboratory to which I can devote - in association with teaching, practical and theoretical Hygiene - my entire time.

You are aware, I suppose, that the entire laboratory is at your disposal for work, as it is for mine, but I fear that, as

in my case, you are likely to get nothing more tangible than a distant view of the Promised Land of practical work, the value of which latter G. it is so difficult to impress upon those who have the power to initiate it.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Sd) A.E. Grant,

Professor of Hygiene,
Medical College.

(True copy)

R. S. M.
Ag. President, M. M. C.

17/9/98

2944/m/98

H. No.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
Health Department,

Madras, 14th September 1898

From

SURGEON-LIEUT. J. W. CORNWALL, I. M. S.

Health Officer,

Madras Municipality.

To

The Ag. President,

Sir,

M. M. C.

Enclosure.

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I submit my request to the Professor of Hygiene and his answer for your information. What can I do under these circumstances. I want certain experiments carried out to obtain necessary information. I am both willing to do the work and capable of carrying it out myself, and have also by a G.O. the right to use the Hygiene Laboratory, yet I am entirely prohibited from even starting it by press of work. The Professor of Hygiene though in no way found to do it for me would be willing if he also had time. There are but few people in Madras capable of performing experiments of this nature and none of them owing to routine duties can spare the time. Plague is imminent; exact bacteriological experiments for the purpose of diagnosis and general information must be conducted if work is to be carried out on scientific and rational lines. If therefore we cannot have this done we shall be working as much in the dark as we were at the beginning of the epidemic early in 1897 when I was in Sind. Much has been discovered since then but more remains still unknown and it is a duty owed to mankind in general that no opportunity should be lost of forwarding our knowledge of disease, especially in the preventive direction. I hope that before many years are past there will be a Municipal Laboratory where the Health Officer with one or two trained Assistants will be able to analyse foods, water, soils,

air, drugs, &c. &c. with a bacteriological branch such as is to be found in hundreds of lesser Municipalities. Until this good time comes we must be patient but I beg that at the present crisis you will address Government to ascertain whether they have made or intend to make any provision for bacteriological work during the plague.

J. W. Cornwall

17/9/98

Genl. Dept.

G. No. 327

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS,

General Department,

Madras, 17th September 1898.

From

R. E. Ellis, Esq, M. Inst. C. E.

Lieut. Col. SIR GEORGE MOORE, Kt., C. I. E.,

Ag: President, Municipal Commission

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL

CURRENT No. 2944m

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

Enclosures

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I have the honor to forward herewith a Memorandum dated 14th September 1898 from Surgeon Lieutenant J. W. Cornwall, Health Officer of this Municipality, with enclosures-- for the information and early orders of Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. E. Ellis

Ag: President, M. M. C.

17/9/98