

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 410P

DATED 28. 4. 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Bubonic Plague Recording Note by the
Sanitary Commissioner Submitting
his opinion regarding the substitution
of inoculation for segregation

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. 5708

Order No 410 P. mis. d. 28.4.98

Received
28 4 98 From The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras
In Order S 27/4/98

In case the efficacy of inoculation becomes fully established, the Govt of India contemplates the possibility of dispensing with segregation in the case of inoculated persons, but at present inoculation is regarded as still being in the experimental stage - vide para 7 of India Res of 3rd Feb 1898 and it would not be safe to take any steps in the direction of substituting inoculation for segregation, especially as the Sanitary Commr is against it.

No.

Dated 14.4.1898

Received 18.4.1898

Registered 18.4.1898

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Submitting his opinion regarding the substitution of inoculation for segregation.

20/4/98
Apparently another communication from India may be expected soon. We had better wait until we get it. H.T. 22 4 98

The meantime, what are we to do about the proposed inoculation of our plague suspects & others, along suspension? Dr. Humerman wants to be seen to it & approved. Can Dr. K. do so?

RS

25/4/98

I think they can get along without inoculation for a month or so; & that Govt. ~~shd~~ not ~~not~~ permit inoculation except under the most favorable circumstances; i.e. Dr. King has not been trained to use this particular ^{preparation} ~~serum~~ & shd not be asked to.

A.T.

25-4-98

Raywell. We can wait until Dr. K. returns, unless plague should break out, in which case he will be recalled by telegraph

RS

26/4/98

Sir

A.T.

27

4 98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Byculla Club

Bombay

27-3-98

Dear Sir George,

I have been here for the last week studying the plague. Of course, the operations of the Plague Committee are practically at a standstill owing to the new rules and hardly any cases are brought to the hospitals. Of course everybody is indignant about it, but I do not think it is likely to make much difference so far as the plague is concerned apart from the loss of prestige, as the usual period of an outbreak is about 7 months and the present one began about October. I am coming to the conclusion that unless you can nip it in the bud as we were lucky enough to do in Madras, harsh repressive measures do more harm than good. The policy I shall advocate on my return will be to help the repressive measures on paper but allow inoculation

The meantime, what time we to do

BACK PAPERS.

Local & Municipal Department



FORT ST. GEORGE,

2-4-98

My dear Bliss

You will be interested in the enclosed letter from Miss Cook. Kindly return it.

Yrs Sincerely
J. T. P. (remember)

My dear Trenchard

I should like to see - India this letter of Miss Cook's pleasure - would you kindly have a copy made & bring it to me. I only so that we may talk it over. Meanwhile, you might see what Dr. King says of the idea of substituting inoculation for segregation.

Yours
J. T. P.
4/4/98
To avoid \$2000 (subsidy) (16-4-98)
16/4/98

breakout, in which case he will be recalled by telegraph

Yrs
27/4/98
27 4 20

[L. & M. Dept.]
500-23-9-97.

NOTE FOR THE Sanitary Com.

Kindly see the accompanying extract from a D.O. from Dr. Cook. Sir Henry Bliss wishes to have your opinion in on his idea to substitute inoculation for segregation.

J. T. P.
4/4/98

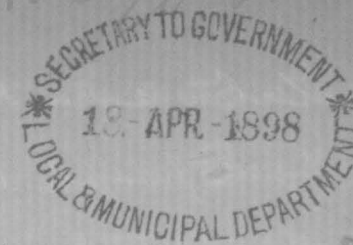
isolation as a substitute,
allowing the people to keep their
patients if they wish and to
remain in their houses and go to
their work if they allow themselves
to be isolated. Of course
Govt cannot insist on isolation
for obvious reasons, but there is
now a large body of evidence to
show that it reduces the fatality
by about 80 per cent. and so far
I can't see that there is much
ground for believing in the efficacy
of any other preventive measure
that has been tried.

I should be obliged if you
would ask Sir Henry Bliss to
have my papers on disinfection
sent to me if he has done with
them. I return to Calcutta in a
day or two.

Yours sincerely
J. Field Cook.

Plague

No.



NOTE by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, dated

14th April 1898.--

The opinion arrived at by Dr Cook is

by no means original. It has been

pressed for sometime past by M. Haffkine

and has been publicly discussed. I

understand Government will receive a

communication on the subject shortly

from the Govt. of India, pressing much

the same opinion - as a result of the

Director - General's late tour. As

conveyed in this Note, the idea is that

of an extremist. It seems to me that

Bombay, having been thoroughly scared

by the late riots, is making a virtue

of a necessity. This late riot cannot

alter the reliability of formerly ob-

served facts. In Bombay, there can

be no doubt the plague got out of con-

trol from the very commencement. In

Poona, it did so to a certain extent;

but, on the whole, matters were

carried through successfully on ordinary

sanitary principles, and it would be

erroneous to doubt that measures taken did actually affect results. Similarly, if the Bombay diagrams be regarded, it will be seen that Gatacre's Committee did really produce an influence on the mortality. The abandoning of all sanitary precautions, in favour of inoculation, would therefore be absurd.

2--- The value of inoculation is indubitable, and it will prove an aid to sanitary measures of the first value; but, it must be kept in its proper place.

In considering what that place should be certain facts should be held in memory.

Fever follows inoculation sufficiently to incapacitate for a couple of days

from labour. That although, as I

have already advised, it is worth

trying to start inoculation in the

threatened districts, the chances

are, of course, that this fact would

tell strongly against its being readily

taken to; indeed, without the scare

of plague amongst them, persons are

not likely to take to it sufficiently

extensively; that is, on plague appearing, there would be found, at the best, a but partially protected population. Thus, taking the analagous case of vaccination, which has been pursued for so many years, an epidemic of small-pox finds to this day a large proportion of the population unprotected.

It is true that gallant efforts may be made subsequent to the appearance of plague to get the population to adopt inoculation widely; but it is certain that the population cannot be thus fully overtaken.

Therefore, granted, for the sake of argument, inoculation affords complete protection - and that without limit of time - both unproved factors - it is evident that circumstances are such that reliance upon its full adoption cannot be looked for.

3----- Under such circumstances, would

it be wise to leave a patient sick of

plague, on first introduction of the

malady in the Presidency, within an inhabited area - even if surrounded by ~~inoculated~~ inoculated persons - knowing that although all sanitary precautions be taken to prevent transfer from one human being to the other, rats could still distribute the poison to unprotected human beings, who might form the majority of the general population.

4-- The correct way of considering the whole subject is how far the people dealt with can be reckoned upon tolerating the necessary sanitary measures, and this will differ with each Presidency and District. What is wanted in a matter of this sort is a constant feeling of the pulse of the people, and tact in meeting reasonable complaints. It is ~~xxx~~ for this reason,

I advised, in the first Regulations suggested to Government in Feb 1897, the method but lately excogitated in Bombay of using Vigilance Committees, composed of representative natives in

The S.C. map has been examined but reference to Vigilance Committees cannot be traced.

each part of a town; but the Bombay Committee apparently lead, whereas, had they been appointed from the first, they would have been easily led. The average human being of all races is selfish. This simple fact should be fully recognized in dealing with epidemics. So long as the cases are far between, and affect but a few of the people - especially if they happen to be of the lower classes - it is certain that full repressive measures will secure the approval of the majority, so long as caste and religious ideas are not openly run against. The shoe will begin to pinch only as the epidemic becomes widespread, and the inconvenience of operations against it are felt by all classes. The last straw in Bombay was probably the senseless attempt at quarantine - which worried all classes.

5-- Taking the whole of the above facts into consideration, I hold that a very great mistake would be committed by

Government diverging from the present policy, by allowing itself to be carried away by the tide setting in for inoculation being the sole measure against plague. I see utility in this useful procedure solely as an important aid to other sanitary endeavours; and not as a sole substitute. What its place should be, I would describe according to three stages. Before arrival of the epidemic, tentative means to adopt it should be pursued. As I have already reported, the fact of having a Sanitary Inspector taught the value of the operation at every ten miles along the border of the threatened Districts, means that the people will be gradually led to believe in it, and that it will be started on a favourable popular basis. On introduction of imported cases, spread of inoculation under the influence of the scare should be encouraged, but rigidly all "contacts" and the actually sick should be segregated - inoculation not-

withstanding. In the third stage, when plague has become indigenous, full sanitary measures plus inoculation should be pushed until it is found that the number of persons made to suffer inconvenience is such that the selfish theory of protection of the majority at the inconvenience of the minority has no longer room for recognition; then isolate the actually sick of plague only, and desist from segregating persons - provided in the opinion of the officer concerned they are of a class that may be trusted to make their appearance for regular daily examinations, or whose address can be safely relied upon, &c

6---- The following is an extract from a D.O. from Surgeon Major Bannerman, in which he quotes an excellent and typical case of inoculation; - "The results are as follows; - Population on 5-1-98----- 1029. From that date to the 14th Feb, 79 deaths occurred leaving 950 inhabitants. Of these, 513 were inoculated by 12-2-98.

From 15th Feb to the 2nd April, there were in 513 inoculated 8 attacks and 3 deaths. In 437 uninoculated, 28 attacks and 26th deaths. Comparing numbers in affected families, the pro

This is a queer result. Apparently all the plague cases were confined to families in which there were 136 persons. What, then, became of the rest of the 900 inhabitants? What I have seen this case reported elsewhere, & I think there is some mistake in this account for

Seen H

portion is as follows:-69 inoculated had 8 attacks and 3 deaths, 67 not inoculated had 28 attacks and 26 deaths; that is, a reduction of 90 % in favour of the inoculated.

These results are excellent, but they disclose the fact that attacks may occur after fairly recent inoculation

So long as this is the case, I conceive the proper course is to use the system with the discretion stated above.

This Presidency has not before it the same task as in Bombay; we have to keep the plague out; if it gets in, to stop it quickly; whereas, in Bombay they have for two years been combating the results of the first folly in letting the disease run on unchecked at

the outset.

W. S. P. King
J. C.

*To The Secretary to Govt.
Local & Municipal
Deps.*

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No. . DATED
189 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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