

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 465P

DATED 13. 5. 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Examination of dust for plague microbe

Recommending the opinion of Dr King
and Bannerman on Dr Lawrie's method
of detecting the plague microbe in the dust
of floors &c

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.

D.O.
CURRENT No. 64

From *The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras*

L.M.

for Orders

The notes of ^{the} medical authorities printed in pages 3-8 of Volume II of India Plague Report seem to indicate that the detection of plague bacillus is not an easy matter & can be satisfactorily done only by experts in proper laboratories

Dated 22-4-1898

Received 25-4-1898

Registered 25-4-1898

Enclosures 1 plan

Spare copies.

No.

SUBJECT.

That is a different matter altogether; viz. detection of the bacillus in the blood.

~~Regarding the examination of the suspected earth for plague bacillus~~

Still, who shall decide when doctors disagree? Perhaps nothing more of detecting plague need be done at present, beyond remarking upon Dr. Lawrie's bacillus.

asking Dr. H. by D.O. to consult Dr. Baumann on Dr. Lawrie's method.

Before sending the paper to H.M., send Dr. H. the D.O. attached.

Dep. Secy 198

A.T. 28 4 98

22/4/98

low

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

S.O. No 4 P

Dear Dr. King

I am directed to request
you to draw up a set of instructions
for detecting ^{in the dust of floors etc} plague bacillus.
The instructions must be of such a
simple nature that they can be
easily understood and carried out by
the ordinary person. ~~the ordinary person~~ ^{the ordinary person} ~~with~~ ^{with}
an ordinary microscope and a couple of
slides. ~~with~~ ^{with} 18 4 98

Dr Henry Bliss awaits
your reply to my S.O. regarding
the detection of inoculation for
segregation.

(From his verbal orders)

King
10/4/98

Seep
19-4-98

Office of Sanitary Commissioner

Madras,

No.

Dear Mr Tremenhare ,

Your D. O. No 4P of the 19th April---- I presume

Government has desired the rules stated, owing to the

supposed success which has attended Dr Lawrie's

efforts at ~~find~~ finding the plague bacillus on

the slightest provocation . You must excuse my

stating plainly that I believe the facility that

has

attended this officer's scientific efforts is

the offspring of his imagination solely . The

method employed would be to grow a cultivation

on "plates " from the earth suspected, and select

colonies giving the characteristic greasy appearance

for examination after staining ; or, using the sus-

pected earth solution direct upon rats ; judging of

the post-mortem appearances in these animals as to

22-4-98
D.O. No. 28
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
25-APR-1898
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

* I see Lawrie dispenses with
even his preliminary and preliminary
Mr. Lawrie does not wonder!
Lup. you so wonderful!

(spleen &c
glandular enlargement and subjecting the gland con-
tents to microscopical examination after staining.
Having got thus far, it would be necessary to have
something considerably better than an ordinary micros-
cope by which I suppose is meant one with a one-fourth
inch objective. Nothing short of an oil immersion
one-twelfth inch would be of any real value. Even
when this is procured, some idea of the difficulty
owing to possible contamination - even where labora-
tories are available - may be gathered by
you by perusing page 2 Vol II R. Nathan's "Plague in
India". I would remind you that Dr Lawrie is the
man who, after a few off-hand microscopical investi-
gations, came to the conclusion that there was no
such thing as the plasmodium malariae - and electri-
fied European savants accordingly!

Of course if Government will provide each Medical
Officer as I suggested re Jails - Municipalities and
District Bds sharing the cost - with a reliable one-
twelfth objective, there is no reason why the attempt
should not be made, and if this preliminary is con-
ceded, and the cost of a few simple instruments be
also allowed, I will draw up the rules accordingly.
I return the ferro-type of the Hospett disin-

fecting apparatus; it apparently got mixed with the
plan from the Gun Carriage Factory. The Hospett
machine will be a very crude affair compared to
that for Toongabudra.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. Miles

D.O. 12 P. despt 28/4/98

Copy of D.O

Ootacamund

28. 4. 98.

Dear Dr King,
Your note of 22nd
on Lawrie's methods.
Kindly Consult Banner-
man and forward his
opinion.
(Signed) H. Tremenhare

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

D.O.
CURRENT No. 68

From

*The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras*

No.

Dated 6-5-1898

Received 7-5-1898

Registered 7-5-1898

Enclosures /

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

*Forwarding opinion of the Deputy
Sanitary Commissioner on the
feasibility of drawing up rules
for the detection of the plague
microbe in the dust of floors*

H.M.

For Order information.

*Dr. Lawrie's reports on the plague
campaign in Hyderabad & his
experiments are printed in*

S.O. No. 329 P. dt 14-4-98.

*H.T.
10-5-98*

*Long
9/5/98*

*Dr. Hammerman's opinion
seems to be conclusive*

H.M.

Order No. 465 P. dt 13-5-98

Recorded

*H.T.
12-5-98*

*Long
12/5/98*

*Better made to
be done in
the last of 1898*

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,
Madras, 1st May, 1898.

Dr. King, With reference to your D.O. yesterday's date, just received, informing me that Government desires an opinion on the feasibility of drawing up rules for the detection of the plague microbe in the dust of floors, such as could be carried out by "the ordinary medical Officers with an ordinary microscope", I would state that in my opinion this is not yet practicable. I believe I am correct in stating, that the only person of any special training who has maintained that he has been able to detect the plague microbe in earth, is Yersin, who reported his success in this direction from China, in the same place in which Kitasato, the co-discoverer with him of the bacterium, failed to detect it, though he specially searched for it. This statement of Yersin's has not been confirmed by subsequent observers, owing probably, to extreme difficulty of separating any one bacillus required, from the mill of other similar microbes, which sw

D.O. No 68

6-4-98.

Dear Mr Tremenhare,

As ordered, I send herewith the opinion of my Deputy.

Lest Government in making its request as to working with an "ordinary microscope", may have been in possession of certain recent results by Klein-

The English official bacteriologist - I may state that owing to gelatine and not agar being used (as necessary in this country on account of temperature) I do not think his mode applicable;

Yours faithfully,

W. King

No. 1-1-97.
Office of Sanitary Commissioner,
Madras, 1898.

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189 .

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189 ,

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BRING WANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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