

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 664

Dated 14-11-98

Despatched 16-11-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Letters from patients in Plague Hospitals

*Requesting the Resident in Mysore
to point out to the Hospital authorities in
Bangalore the danger of sending — to
addressees in non-infected parts.*

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.
No. 1832			

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1898)

CURRENT No. 1224

*Subydes
no 1068/98*

From
The Postmaster
General, Madras

Order
Letter no 6648/14-11-98
(Cautionary receipt)

No. 28/92

Dated 7-11-1898

Received 11-11-1898

Registered 11-11-1898

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating that he does not
see his way to any action
being taken regarding
the disinfection of mails
from Bangalore &c.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Post Office Department.

From

The Postmaster General,

Madras.

To

The Plague Commissioner,

Madras.

Sir,

No: M.S. 18-576 dated Madras, 10 November 1898.

28/92

Your No: Ref: on C.No: 1068 of 98
dated the 7th November 1898.

I have the honor to inform you that the question

has already received very careful consideration and that, as
at present advised, I do not see my way to any action such as

you suggest.

To be of any use the disinfection would have to be

thorough. That the letters would have to be taken out of

the bags and subjected to treatment either by heat or some

liquid substance, i.e. carbolic or perchloride of mercury.

This treatment must injure the articles of the letter mail,

many of which, as you are aware, contain valuables such as

gold, silver, precious stones or bills of exchange and the

like, and would expose the Postal Department to claims for

To Rendou Bengal

In view of the fact that
it has been brought to my notice
a letter reached Madras a few
days ago which by the
hand side of a paper packet in
the mail from Bangalore
that the mail from Bangalore
disinfects. This I find to
be unpractical. I have no
if you will kindly find out
whether the letters to persons in
non-infected areas

To be of any use the disinfection would have to be
thorough. That the letters would have to be taken out of
the bags and subjected to treatment either by heat or some
liquid substance, i.e. carbolic or perchloride of mercury.
This treatment must injure the articles of the letter mail,
many of which, as you are aware, contain valuables such as
gold, silver, precious stones or bills of exchange and the
like, and would expose the Postal Department to claims for

compensation for damage, besides of course very greatly delaying

delivery.

3. In any case disinfection at Bangalore would be impractica-

ble. Besides the Head Office there are six Sub Offices all of

which make up direct bags for the Railway Mail Service and it

would be obviously impossible to establish disinfecting stations

at each of these places.

4. As far as my information goes no disinfection of mails

takes place at any place in India. A proposal made by the Health

Officer, Madras, in 1896 to disinfect the Bombay mails was condemned

by the Director General of the Post Office as impracticable and

unnecessary.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. C. Currie

Offg: Postmaster General.

Ref. no. 10684/9877-11-98

To Post Master Genl.

Sir,

I have the honor to say that

the President of the Madras Municipality

has addressed me with regard

to the conveyance of infection

by letters & parcels received from

Bangalore. It appears that on

the 6th November a letter was

received in Madras from

Bangalore which was written

at a hospital there by the

bedside of a patient suffering

from Plague. Such a letter

obviously might be the cause of

introducing Plague into the City.

The health officer of the City of

Madras considers that letters

from Bangalore should be disinfected.

22-11-1898
for them without much
difficulty if an apparatus
was provided for the purpose.
I am not aware if any step of
the kind has been taken any
where else in India.

7. xi 98

Recd 7/11/98

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1898)

CURRENT No. 1068

Order

From

The President
Municipal Commission
Madras

H. No. 713

Dated 7-11-1898

Received 7-11-1898

Registered 7-11-1898

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding correspondence
about the necessity
of the disinfection of
letters from plague
infested parts.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Reg. No.

189 -9 .
Municipality of Madras.

From

Dated

Received

Answered

H. No.

Enc.

Reference No.

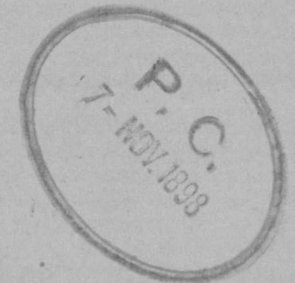
Subject.

The President
Sir

I quite agree with Mr. Smith
that the letters are a possible
source of danger and
should be disinfected.

W. G. 7.11.98.

Forwarded to Marine Commission
The Portuguese Consul was advised
on this subject once before - but the
message was not to great there
7.11.98
P. 7.11.98 The Mayor of Madras
President



Corner not to be used.

W. E. SMITH & CO.,
DISPENSING
AND
PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS
AND
AERATED WATERS MANUFACTURERS.

By Special Appointment to their Excellencies
THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA
AND THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

CODE USED A.B.C. 4TH EDITION.

BRANCHES.—Esplanade Road and Vepery.

Mount Road,

Madras, 7th Novr 1898.

Dr. J.W. Cornwall D.M.S.

Health Officer

Madras Municipality

Dear Sir,

You no doubt recollect my speaking to you a few days ago regarding disinfection of postal communications coming from plague infected districts. To show you the extreme necessity for taking precautions to disinfect letters etc, I quote the following case which will no doubt show you how necessary disinfection is:—

"A letter was received from Bangalore yesterday morning by a friend of mine, who, was written at the Hospital by the bedside of a plague patient who is seriously attacked."

I think a case of this sort is quite sufficient to introduce the disease into Madras

Disinfection of letters will no doubt cause a little delay and inconvenience in their delivery, but I do not think the public would mind this when they consider how near the plague is to Madras—

Yours faithfully,

W. Donald Smith

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

189