PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 927

Dated 17-12-98

Despatched 17-12-98

Despd to Collr Kea 5-1-99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Diary

Submitting to Govt. copy of the —— of the Plague Commr for the period, 10th to 15th Dec 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

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Chs 3618			

No 9278 17-12-98

~~[illegible]~~

I went with Mr Edwards to

[illegible]

the village for inoculation. ~~33~~ Ninety three persons ~~with little~~ mostly children presented themselves. In the afternoon we heard that a girl who had been inoculated day before had died of plague. Last night Mr Edwards & myself left for Tungabhadra where we arrived ~~in the~~ at midn night.

Saturday ~~the~~ Dec 10th Camp [illegible]

[illegible]

2 Sunday ~~the~~ Dec 11th. Camp Tungabhadra

We went ~~down~~ round to the Camp with Major Hakim. The first thing that strikes one is the large area it covers. This is more to be regretted as had the ~~large~~ buildings been built closer together, the hospital camp ~~will probably~~ might possibly not have had to be ~~been~~ built on ~~great~~ black Cotton ~~land~~ soil as it now is.

Major Hakim says that in the wet weather the hospital Camp is almost unapproachable being a quagmire. Buildings: all the buildings leak badly in the rains; the thatching seems to have been very poorly ~~laid down~~ done for the same

I have read this diary with much interest.
(Intd) A.T.A
18.12.98

* P.C can do this or shift the hospital.

Certainly, but I hope the disease will be stamped out before that

If the event in the next few months shd show that it will be necessary for the present precautions to be continued over the next monsoon * arrangement shd be made for the paths to the hospital camp being covered with sand before the rains set in, say between 10th & 25th May.

[a regular

material has been used at Hospet with some success. The sheds are lofty ~~high & elevating~~ & as many of them are built with the ends facing South-west & North-east ~~with the result that~~ the wind beats into them ~~is~~ badly. White ants give a great deal ~~good amount~~ of trouble and ~~makes~~ woodwork is much infested with borers. The cost of repairs is likely to be high but considerable repairs must be carried out. If the buildings are likely to be required during the monsoon estimates for repairs should be prepared for each structure, but the work ~~need~~ should not be taken in hand ~~until circumstances make~~ without the sanction of the Plague Commissioner, which may be applied for when the necessity for the continuance of these present precautions is more clearly demonstrated, say March 31st.

~~The~~ Floors of the sick sheds are cemented; they are flat without ridges or drains so that if they are flushed with disinfecting fluids the ground beyond the edge of the ~~&~~ cement must become soaked. I am told that they were made ~~doing~~ according to personal directions of the Sanitary Commissioner. He will be asked to see if they are in accordance with his wishes. Perchloride of Mercury will of course kill any germ at once, but there remains the objection that the ground ~~wall~~ becomes soaked. The Mortuary had not ~~yet~~ been erected ~~completed~~.

4. Furniture

The sick sheds & quarters are at present unfurnished. The Surgeon-General considers they should be furnished; Mr Hammick thought this was an unnecessary expense at present.

No cases of plague have yet been discovered at Tungabhadra, & the nearest affected area is at a considerable distance.

I fancy most things could be supplied from the observation camps if required; but it may be necessary to supply some articles.

5. Population

There were 172 people in the camp of whom 27 had been detained on ~~the plague~~ the previous ~~this~~ evening. The majority of them were pilgrims going to Rameswaram or travelling merchants. They ~~all~~ appear contented as a rule ~~except~~ but some ~~that~~ raise ~~a few~~ objections.

6. Attempts to evade observation

There is a good deal of ~~rebooking~~ observation going on among passengers. It may be ~~that~~ much of this is customary, but a great deal is done for the purpose of avoiding observation.

~~There are many attempts to escape detention by rebooking.~~ For instance there was one man in the camp, a ryot of ~~arrived from~~ Proddatur in Cuddapah District. He was in Bombay & wished to return speedily to his home. He seems to have consulted the Station Master of Bombay who advised him to take a first class ticket so that he might escape inspection. He accordingly took a first class ticket from Bombay to Madras. At Raichur he took another 1st class ticket from Raichur to Tirumancherla. He was discovered at Tungabhadra hiding with all his things in the ~~bar~~ bathroom. There ~~is~~ can be no doubt that this man wd. ordinarily travel ~~in the~~ 3rd class. At present many of the people go down to the banks of Tungabhadra to cook their food & take their meals there. This is not objectionable ~~as~~ at present the river is in flood & impassable, but ~~only~~ when the river goes down ~~they~~ as it will in a few weeks should be made to keep within the limits of the Camp. At present there is no fear that they will run away as there is no ~~way~~ there for them to ~~to go on either side~~ of the river. The nurses ~~have been~~ were taken on for observation purposes only. ~~It was not known whether~~ they ~~are willing to~~ attend plague cases. I have since found from Major Hakim that they are willing to attend plague cases ~~will do so~~. During the

6. Cooking arrangements & water-supply.

The well in the Hospital Camp is said to give water unfit for drinking. This has been found not [illegible] before it was [illegible]. The water is certainly [illegible]. It would be a good thing if a sample were sent to the Chemical Examiner for analysis.

P.C. can do so.
(Intd.) A.T.A.

7th Nursing.

8. Stores.

A Madras resident told me he had obtained his supply of butter from Bombay all through the worst plague period.
(Intd.) ATA.1

from an

9. Train Inspection.

3

actual time they are in attendance ~~of~~ on plague cases they will ~~of course~~ get the extra plague allowance. Major Hakim has obtained a small quantity of stores for issue to persons detained on payment. This I think is right, as there is no place close by where anything can be obtained. Amongst ~~them~~ stores were 2 tins of fresh butter from the Bombay Dairy Coy. I ~~doubt~~ do not know if it is wise to obtain such things ~~should~~ in future ~~be kept in store~~ produced in infected area, specially for ~~could be kept in store~~ in an observation camp. In the afternoon we attended the inspection of the Mail train from Bombay. The names & destinations of all passengers ~~who~~ are not detained are taken and all tickets are punched with the plague mark whether the people have arrived from an infected area or not. This I am told is in accordance with the existing orders. It is not however what, I believe, is required; all that is wanted is that the tickets of those who come from infected area shall be punched with the plague mark so that it may be known that the ~~The holders of such~~ tickets are ~~only~~ bound to take out passports when they alight; other persons who ~~are~~ do not come from an infected locality are not bound to take passports. At present passengers are put to no little inconvenience by the number of examinations they have to undergo. First they are examined at Gulbarga, then at Raichur; again at Tungabhadra where their names & addresses are taken, and a fourth time at Guntakal all this within a few hours. [I will see if it can be arranged if only those who leave train at Raichur are examined. It is not an infected district and there seems ______ in the examining all the passengers in the train. Again the examination at Tungabhadra is a close one. The examination at Guntakal takes place only a few hours later and the train is stopped at only one station in the infected area, that is Hospet.

I [illegible] there tickets need not be punched. The matter is being enquired into, & orders shortly will issue.

we ought to try & minimize the inconveniences as much as possible (Intd) ATA.

I will see if some better arrangement cannot be made. I fancy that no general inspection of the mail train need be made between Tungabhadra & Arkonam; for arrangements have been, or can be, made for the inspection by medical officers of passengers entering the train at all stations at which the train stops from Kosigi to Gooty inclusive, except Timmancherla. The latter station is less than 2 miles from Guntakal & the [illegible] there might be abandoned.—

Del:

to - [illegible]

11.

It seems it would be sufficient if the Hospital Assistants there were to examine all persons getting into the train; the examination at Guntakal might then be dispensed with. Minor points were brought to ~~my~~ notice & ~~was~~ were settled on the spot.

Mr Elwin & I left by the Bombay train & reached Hospet about midnight. At Bellary we heard that a Ry subordinate named ~~Hig~~ Flynn, on transfer from Bangalore to Hubli with his wife & 4 children, had spent the previous day in the waiting room at Bellary. He was at the time suffering from pneumonia. News had ~~just~~ been received during the day of his death, ~~and that~~ [illegible] from plague. Unfortunately the station officials had done nothing. ~~The waiting room was however immediately~~ We had it evacuated & locked, and the Chairman of the Municipal Council was directed to disinfect it as the first thing ~~in~~ the next morning. On arriving at Hospet we heard

& the room was occupied when we arrived.

Of that the death of a child of ~~the [illegible] that has come the Station~~ Station Master ~~from plague~~. from plague

She had been inoculated by the Sanitary Commr. about 8 days previously. She had slight fever for a few days & subsequently high fever with swelling of ~~axillary~~ glands. There have been no cases of plague in Hospet for a long time past & accordingly the people all assert that the child ~~had~~ died of inoculation. This seems to be impossible, ~~for~~ from that we learnt the dose the child should have received according to the rules was 1/2 cubic centimetre; whereas it appears she received only $\frac{.62}{5}$ c. m, or less than 1/2 dose. It seems more probable that the half dose was an insufficient protection and that the child accordingly must have come in contact with some person or thing infected. However the full history of the case has not yet been discovered. Mr Elwin & I passed the remainder of the night in the sheds for Europeans in the observation Camp.

12\.

Note Tungabhadra camp was constructed of the L. F. Engineer, Hospet camp was done by the Tahsildar with the help of a man on Rs 35. who was temporarily employed last year during the famine.

Both are in Bellary Dist. Materials are more easily obtained at Hospet.

(Initd) A.T.F.

Still it says little for the L. F. Engineer & much for the Tahsildar

(Initd.) A.T.A.

13. Disinfection.

Dec. Monday ~~the~~ 12th. Camp Hospet

In the morning we went round the camp with Captain Pereira. The whole camp compares very favourably with Tungabhadra. & The observation & Hospital camps are at some distance apart but they are well situated & more compact than at Tungabhadra. Buildings, especially the thatching, are very superior). Disinfection of the persons detained is carried out more thoroughly than at Tungabhadra. At Tungabhadra a solution of phenyl is poured over them, for ~~a short time~~ say about half a minute and the people are supposed to rub their bodies well ~~over~~ with their ~~there~~ hands. Some do it thoroughly, but others ~~would~~ who object to the process, do very little; The phenyl is immediately washed off with ~~in~~ hot water. During the process the men wear ordinary man's clothes. provided in the camp — At Hospet they are given no water to wash off the phenyl. ~~and~~ every person is made to put on a ~~Lungotti~~ Langoti and this

the articles ~~supplied~~ —

all that he has on when he is washed. The Sanitary Commissioner will be asked which method is the better. I found that the valuable clothes which are not put through the disinfector are not properly laid out in the sun at Hospet, as they are not fully unfolded. Attention is drawn to this. There is a well in the observation camp which gives very good water, ~~but probably~~ the top ~~it~~ is closed with ~~the~~ stones and the water is raised by a pump. The pointing ~~mortar~~ between the stones has come away ~~at~~ in some places ~~moved away and which are~~ & the object in ~~of~~ closing the well is missed, as the dirt off the coolies' feet is likely to fall in & ~~[illegible]~~ contaminate the water. The pointing should be repaired ~~when it wrecks~~. The cistern into which the water is pumped stands on ~~the~~ a cement platform. This ~~is~~ has given way in places beneath taps and the water consequently soaks in there. The waste water is carried away to a ditch close by. This ditch is by no means clean & it requires attention. At the time of

14. ~~Drinking~~ water supply

M

6

inspection ~~the~~ men in the camp were allowed to bathe too close to the well and the European Quarters. ~~A~~ bathing place has been selected in ~~the~~ a suitable site. ~~All castes are made to cook~~ The waste water from the bath rooms ~~of the European sheds~~ should be caught in cesspools and not allowed to run over & soak into ground as at present. ×

All castes are made to cook in places appointed within the limits of the camp. There has been a good deal of fever among the camp staff. This, I learn, is because they will insist on sleeping at the station between the times for inspecting trains instead of returning to the camp. The station is ~~much~~ well known to be ~~very~~ extremely feverish, while ~~in~~ the camp which is not more than half a mile distant, is free. Captn Pereira makes the following suggestions.

(1) That ~~sheets should be burnt~~ ~~the~~ articles ~~supplied~~

× The beds provided are only about 4 1/2 not 5 ft. long. They should have been sent back as soon as received, for they are useless except for children. Two cots of decent size should be provided at once.

15. ~~Drainage of~~ The European Quarters.

These are quite sufficient for their purpose, as Mr. Elwin & I can testify after 24 hours use of them.

16. Cooking arrangements.

The ~~[illegible]~~ open places used for this purpose sh^d be kept cleaner.

17. Health of Staff.

18. Suggestions of Asst. Medical Officer.

may be purchased without the previous sanction of the Plague Commissioner ~~at~~ upto the value of Rs 5/- There should be little necessity for any ~~other~~ such expenditure & in practically all cases there should be time to obtain sanction of the Collector. ~~The~~ Ry parcels may be paid for from the permanent advance.

(2) That sheds should be built for toties.

I doubt if sheds are necessary for the toties will probably refuse to live in them. they will have to be in the open some way from the camp. It is the duty of the camp officials that ~~they are~~ the toties are present at the proper hours. ~~hours and they are not very urgently required~~

(3) That a maistry should be appointed to supervise the work of the sweepers & to look after the cleanliness of the camp — Which is unnecessary. One of the Hospital Assistants may be detailed every week to supervise these ~~men~~ matters. (4) That a mortuary should be constructed near the observation camp, as ~~this~~ it is a ~~large~~ long distance to convey

Convey a dead body in the night to the mortuary in the hospital camp and it is undesirable to allow any dead body to remain for ~~any normal~~ long period in the observation camp. It is true that ~~2~~ a death did occur in the observation camp, but it is scarcely likely to recur & I think a mortuary is unnecessary in the observation camp. (5) That printed sign boards should be prepared for the various sheds, kitchens, latrines etc. The number of ~~such~~ sign boards ~~is~~ required is small & ~~the names~~ the purpose for which ~~and~~ the various sheds are to be used may be written ~~ahead~~ by hand. (6) That separate sheds for the treatment of cases other than plague should be provided in ~~the observation~~ camps. The camp is ample for the present requirements. It may be arranged that one shed shall not be occupied except for people suffering from diseases other than plague. If ~~such shed is found insufficient~~ the case is [illegible] the patient can removed to ~~Municipal~~ the local Hospital.

9. Tuesday ~~the~~ Dec 13th ~~12.98~~ Travelling

Mr Elenie & I left Hospet at about 1-30 in the morning after having been present at the inspection of the train. I proceeded straight through to Dhone where I saw Mr Mahomed Razakhan the Collector of Kurnool. ~~We had a little discourse.~~ I discussed the situation with him. As this district is scarcely threatened except in the ~~border~~ neighbourhood of Guntakal & Molagavalli, he has already written recommending the abolition of the three frontier observation circles farthest to the East & suggesting that a part of this establishment may be utilized in ~~detecting~~ pro. the country round Molagavalli & Guntakal. His official letter ~~had not~~ yet reached me & it will be disposed of in due course. I think the recommendation may be accepted; one additional circle will probably be found sufficient. If so the establishment of large vis—

other two circles ~~may~~ be placed at the disposal of the Collector of Bellary. I ~~have~~ returned to Guntakal in the evening. Here I heard that ~~the~~ a Madiga of Timmancherla of whose attack I had heard in the morning had died during the day. It was also reported that the people of Kotala ~~at~~ near Guntakal ~~camp~~ were suffering ~~really~~ severely. 14 attacks & 3 deaths were discovered during the day. The people were ready to leave their villages; & most of them having already done so, tents, as far as possible, having been provided for them.

It is reassuring to see that the people are growing reconciled to this in various places. If plague spreads the difficulties in combating it will found to be pro tanto the less.
(Intd.) ATA:

10. Wednesday ~~the 14.12.98~~ Dec 14th. Camp Guntakal

I went to Kotala this morning with Dr Charlesworth & Mr Marshall the special plague Deputy Collector. We found practically all the people had left the village for the fields. The Greater part of them are living in one encampment but ~~[illegible]~~ Some owners have gone to their own fields. One good thing is that they have realized the necessity for separating the sick from the healthy. As soon as any body is attacked the people run up ~~to~~ a small sheds ~~part of~~ at a little distance from the encampment & put the sick person in it. A boy whose seizure was reported yesterday had died during the night. Arrangements were made for his burial & the disinfection of the spot where he lay and the burning of the small shed made of Chollam stalk in which he was lying. Four other cases were discovered. We went through the whole village which was nearly deserted. In one or two houses I found that the people had come back to carry away their property into their fields. They were taking away everything, bundles of rags, baskets etc. I asked them why they were doing this and they told me because they ~~would~~ were afraid everything wd be ~~be~~ burnt. I ~~said~~ told them that nothing

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~~will~~ would be burnt except such things as baskets the rags. On hearing this they were quite satisfied & immediately left the village for the fields. The village for the most part consists of thatched houses and I should have liked if possible to burn all the ~~houses~~ roofs, but this, would, I ~~think~~ am sure, frighten the people & there ~~will~~ would be a heavy bill to pay for compensation. I have therefore directed the roofs shall not be burnt.

Sepoys will be turned on shortly to disinfect this village. I had intended to ~~Tonight~~ I leave this for Molagavalli with Mr Edmonds tonight, but have just heard that the Plague Commr: will be here on Saturday, so I stay.

Thursday Dec: 13th.

Visited ~~Molagavalli~~ Kotala with Dr Charlesworth & Mr Kindersley. Three more cases; three deaths. In this recent outbreak it is strange that out of ~~8~~ 26 seizures, only ~~9~~ 10 have died, ~~nearly~~ most of them are children. Several of the adults have now lost their fever

At present the people are inclined to look with us. — at any rate not against us. They allow Dr Charles-worth to take their temperatures, but appear to distrust medicines & food.

21.

It is a hopeful sign when this happens with cholera it means that the epidemic is beginning to die out (Dutt) A.T.A.

verify figures by reference to Deputy Collr: Office.

& are likely to recover, if properly dieted & treated carefully. When questioned this morning, they expressed their willingness to take medicine & food. A portion of the ambulance staff, which is at present doing practically nothing at Guntakal, has been ordered to the village at once. ~~with~~ From Kotala I visited Guntakal to see how the disinfection work is getting on. I found that it is not so satisfactory as I at first thought. The ladies either cannot, or will not, use the Girsdale pumps properly. I must confess I was an unbeliever myself to begin with, but I find that with proper care the pumps work well. More are wanted & will be obtained. The houses have been disinfected only as high as a man can reach, & the roofs have not been touched. The roofs should be disinfected as well as the walls, I consider. The San. Comr. will be here in a day or two & his ~~direction~~ advice will be asked. Four ^[illegible]^ deaths were found to have occurred in the fields, most of them some [illegible] back.

15/12

They probably meant to be shown how, for the P.C. himself was at first sceptical.

(Initd) A.T.A.

Office

Commn copy of orders abt 2 frontier camps to Collrs S. G. & S. C.

24/12/98

Paras 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 to Collrs of Bellary ✓

~~Para 19 to Collr of Kurnool~~

Copy of all ^above^ paras to S. C.

" S. G. ✓

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1898)

CURRENT No. 2597

File with No 927 / 17-12-98

[illegible] 3/1/99

Order

~~Dr. H. M. Hakim is requested to quote the no & date of this office reference to which this is a reply~~

~~Plague Commissioner~~

To Dr. H. M. Hakim

Tungabhadra

From Dr. H. M. Hakim
Tungabhadra

No.

Dated 13-12-1898
Received 24-12-1898
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SUBJECT.

Stating that Mrs. Williams and Mrs Whitlock are agreeable to undertake the nursing of plague patients admitted into the camp on the additional allowance of Rupee 1-8-0 per diem.

BACK PAPERS

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

No.	Date.

When given for copying
When copied

6.

Camp: [illegible]
13-XII-98.

Dear Mr Buckley.

Inspectresses Mrs Williams & Mrs Whitlock are both agreeable to undertake the nursing of Plague patients admitted to their Camp - on the additional allowance of ~~Rs~~ 1-8- per diem.

Yours sincerely