

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

Plague.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1033

DATED 5-7-98

Spd. 6.7.99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Haffkine's prophylactic

Recording Major Bannerman's views
on Col. Laurie's method of reducing the dose of
——— by concentration from ⁷⁵ 5 C.C. to 2½ minims

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	760	P	4-22-5-98				

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1066



desp
97

Order No 1033

Recorded.

From
Surgeon General Sibthorne,
C.B., F.R.C.P.
Surgeon General with the
Govt of Madras.
No. 18/305

Dated the 22nd June

Received at 23-6-99

Registered 26-6-99

Enclosures /

Spare copies.

27/6/99

26/6/99

29.6.99

To. H. M. for
personal.

To

The S. G. (P+O)
Copy to S. C. (P, incl + O)

6.7.99

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Major M. D.
Dunsmuir's views on the
Lawrie's report about the success
in reducing by concentration
the dose of M. Raffin's pro-
tective fluid against from
5 cc. to 2 1/2 cc.

3/7/99

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Enclosure No. 1 to Letter No. 8/305 of 12/6/99

No. 3093 of 1899.

FROM

MAJOR W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D.,
INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE,
IN CHARGE PLAGUE RESEARCH LABORATORY;

TO

The Secretary to the Surgeon-General
With the Government of Madras

Mungumbaukam, M A D R A S.

PLAGUE RESEARCH LABORATORY, MAZGAON:

Bombay, 13th. June, 1899.

SIR,

In returning herewith the correspondence forwarded with your R.C.No.918/1 of 7th. instant, I have the honour to observe as follows.

2. Colonel Lawrie's report refers to laboratory experiments conducted on animals only, and therefore concerns the profession and not the general body of the people, who have no means of judging of their applicability or otherwise to human communities.

3. The process of prolonged heating, at 65 C. = 149 Fah., for some hours, to which the fluid is subjected by Colonel Lawrie, is one to which M. Haffkine would most certainly object for the following reasons. M. Haffkine has repeatedly given it as his opinion that the supernatant fluid contains the material to which is due the power possessed by inoculated persons, of recovering after an attack of plague. This material is probably of the nature of a highly complex body, the chemical composition of which would, - judging by analogy, - be easily decomposed by heat. It is for this very reason that the temperature used for killing the plague microbe during the process of manufacturing the prophylactic, is kept so low as it is, viz.- 65 C.. It is quite possible therefore that the prolonged heating to which the fluid is subjected during the process of concentration may destroy this valuable property.

4. The other property of Haffkine's fluid, viz., its power of immunising people so that they no longer take plague, is

believed

[1]

believed to reside in the bacterial bodies themselves, which compose the bulk of the sediment to be seen in bottles of the material. This property does not seem to have been interfered with by the heating, at least so far as animals are concerned, but the experiments described leave quite untouched the problem, "Would the rabbits have recovered if they had developed natural plague at some time after such inoculation?" This problem is one which probably can only be worked out by observations on human communities, similar to those by which M. Haffkine established so certainly the success of his prophylactic.

5. Colonel Lawrie's method may be successful, but till he has proved this by an extended trial among plague-stricken villages, such communications had better be kept confidential, in view of the disasters that have, in Europe, followed the premature publication of similar laboratory experiments.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. Bannerman M.D.
Major, I.M.S.

In charge Plague Research Laboratory.

No. 18/305

From

SURGEON-~~MAJOR~~ GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

THE ~~HON. THE CHIEF~~ SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Local and Municipal DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With reference to G.O. No. 760 P. Mis dated the 22nd May 1899 forwarding copy of a letter of the 10th idem from Lieutenant Colonel E. Lawrie, M.D., D.M.S., Plague Commissioner, Hyderabad to the Home Secretary, Vizian's Government, reporting upon the success in reducing, by concentration, the dose of Haffkine's protective fluid against plague from 5 cubic centimeters to 2½ minims, I have the honor to forward herewith, as desired, letter No. 3093 dated the 13th June 1899 from Major W. B. Bannerman, D.M.S., in charge Plague Research Laboratory, Bombay, containing his views upon the subject, in which I concur.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. Sibthorpe

Surgeon General with the Govt of Madras

18/305 of 1899