

L. & M.
5,000-12-8

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 237 P^{ms}

DATED 14-2-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Commissioner's diary.

Recording the — for the 6th Feby. 99
— during his tour to Avert and Wallajanagar.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Diary of the Plague Commissioner

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 2997

From The Plague Commissioner

Order

No. 354

Dated 8-
Received 10- } Feb 1899
Registered 10-

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Submitting his diary for the 6th
Feb 1899 during his tour to Arcot
and Wallajanagar.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Handwritten notes:
 This is a list of
 the names of the
 persons who were
 present at the
 meeting on 14-2-99.
 The names are
 given in the
 order in which
 they were present.

Diary of the Plague Commission.

6-2-99. Monday. Cno 2998

Handwritten:
 No. 354
 8-2-99

Handwritten:
 J. M.

Handwritten:
 #1

Handwritten:
 10-2-99



Handwritten:
 An illustration of the
 value of the P.C.'s
 presence.

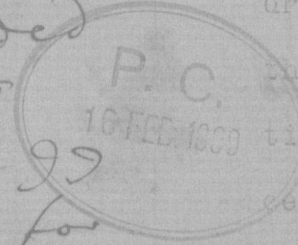
Handwritten:
 No. 237 P.D. of 14-2-99

Handwritten:
 Recorded

Handwritten:
 #1

Handwritten:
 14-2-99

Handwritten:
 To P.C. for
 General.



Handwritten:
 Returned with
 thanks.
 20/2 LB.

Handwritten:
 L.M.

In the morning I went with Mr. Batten to Arcot. We found that the sepoys were just recovering from inoculation and the majority of the first batch were announced to be fit for duty. We then had to instruct them in what they had to do. The first thing it struck me was the absence of organisation. There was no man ready to give instructions as to what houses were to be disinfected, the locality, or the number of men required for the purpose. The consequence was, we had to march round the town from house to house, dropping squads according to the size of the house. This meant considerable waste of time. It has been found possible to engage a certain number of coolies and in consultation with the Collector it was agreed that these men who are more used to the work should be employed wholly in removing tiles from infected houses, the sepoys being kept for the actual disinfection. When the Special Officer is appointed for Arcot these difficulties in organisation should disappear. Chinese pumps were wanted, but were expected to arrive that day. The setting of the sepoys to work occupied all our morning. While we were inspecting the sepoys before starting for work we had a talk with a Muhammadan Sowcar of Visharam, a village nearly midway between Vellore & Arcot. The village is a rich one and composed almost entirely of Muhammadans and the same difficulty is arising there as is arising at Otacamund. The Muhammadans appear to set apart month after month certain days to be

have been vacated and locked up; the one in the north still was in use. With the consent of the shopkeepers we disinfected that also. It was suggested that as the people are unlikely to be willing to go to camp, it might be possible to find houses on the outskirts of the town which might be used for segregation & hospitals. I saw the houses spoken of, but they won't do. A chutram outside the town would do very well for a hospital, but ~~the~~ accommodation will have to be provided for friends who attend on patients. I examined the Municipal Death Registers. From the 1st to 5th there have been 29 deaths registered, the number on one day being 14. Of these 6 are reported as due to plague, the others being ascribed to various causes. I think it is not improbable that the registration of death may be fairly correct though it is quite possible cases of concealment do occur. But under the Municipal rule deaths need not be registered before 24 hours, and now the plague is about, the people as a rule take care to dispose of the body before they register a death so that it is impossible to verify their statements as to the cases of deaths. Mr. Ashe is, however, anxious that the principle of Additional Regulation No. 16 might be introduced; that is to say that inspection of corpses should not be compulsory, but that the people should be given to understand that if corpses are not examined the authorities may ^{regard} refuse & treat the case as plague. I very much doubt if this should be carried out. I am applying for a special officer for Walajanager and when he arrives he should be able to exercise

This might have been compared with the ~~an~~ ordinary death rate. *MA*

11.2.99

greater supervision over this matter. As in
other places home segregation threatens
to become impossible owing to the difficul-
ties experienced in finding guards to watch
the infected houses.

H. S. 9/2

Plague Commissioner.

Plague Commissioner's Office,
Madras 8th February 1899.

H. S.
9-2-99

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189

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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 IN ORIGINAL.

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