

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 247

Dated 26-1-99

Despatched

[Despatch Abstract.]

Infection through the Medium of Water

Recording endorsement of the Surg.
Commr. forwarding letter from Dr. Bannerman
Stating that he has no personal experience
of infection being borne by water.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No.

992

Choo 2641/998
1438
992/999

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

Long Provo 247826-1-99
25/1/88

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

No. 22/
5

Dated 19th January 1899.

Received

Registered 24-1-1899

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding with remarks
letter from Major Bannerman
Deputy Sanitary Commissioner
stating that he has no personal
experience in the matter of
infection being borne by water.

No.

63
V.

Camp, Vellore

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

~~Fort St. George,~~ 14th Jan'y. 1897.

From

SURGEON MAJOR W. B. BANNERMAN, M.D., B.Sc.,

INSPECTOR OF VACCINATION

AND DEPUTY SANITARY COMMISSIONER FOR MADRAS,

To

THE Sanitary Commissioner for Madras
Park Town, Madras.

Enclosure.

SIR,

With reference to your endorsement on letter No 143 of 6th January, from the Plague Commissioner, enquiring whether I have any experience in the matter of infection being borne by water, I have the honour to say that I have no personal experience of plague being thus borne.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
W. B. Bannerman M.D.
Major I.M.S.

Inspector of Vaccination, &
Deputy Sanitary Commissioner

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C No 992
Camp Bellary

No. $\frac{221}{5}$

NOTE by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, dated 19 Jan 1899
Depd 23—

Reference.—

Ref: on C No 143 dated 6 January
1899 from the Plague Commissioner.

Forwarded to the Plague Com-
missioner.

It is understood from his refer-
ence for examples of infection of
water by the plague microbe, that
the Plague Commissioner is in-
clined to doubt the possibility of
plague being conveyed by this
mode. It is, therefore, desirable
that undersigned adds to the
grounds upon which he gave this
opinion. If it be found by bacteri-
ological enquiry that the microbe
is viable in water, it can but
be a matter of what sanitary
neglect is encountered to occa-
sion the entrance in water of
the microbe, whether it can be
conveyed by this medium and
thus spread infection. In this
case not only is (1) bacteriological
evidence

1/992 of 1899

evidence available, but knowledge of
native habits, in relation to water
contamination, shows clearly, (2) that the
chances of water being contaminated
with the viable microbe are in-
dubitable. Mr. Hankin showed
that the microbe survived from
a few hours to three days in Bombay
tap water (unsterilized): the Ger-
man Commission gave the same
verdict. In sterilized water,
Wilhelms and Abel declared it
survived over three weeks: the
German Commission eight days.

As to practical evidence, there is
on record the case of Sewree re-
ported by Mr. Hankin and Mr. Wright.
In this village, the inhabitants
resorted to the side of a brackish
pool for abkhis. Plague was
most persistent and was not
finally eradicated till Mr. Hankin
found the microbe in large
numbers, & caused the pool to
be disinfected with the result
that plague stopped. This seems
to undersigned good enough practi-
cal evidence - even if the two
facts stated in the opening of
this Note be forgotten. He would
add

add that no reason has been
found to ignore the following warn-
ing of the Venice Convention:

"D'autre part, il n'a pas été dé-
montré jusqu'ici que les canyons
"les aient servi à la dissémination
"du germe de la maladie. La
"Commission juge néanmoins pru-
"dent de recommander une
"surveillance rigoureuse sur l'eau
"potable, puisque la longue per-
"sistance du bacille y semble
"provenir par certaines expériences."

W. H. S.

Lieut Col. Surg.
Sanitary Commission
for Madras

PLAQUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 14/3

From The Sanitary Commissioner
Madras

Ref. on C. No. 143 dt 6.1.99

Order

For orders.

No. 23

5.1.88

With ref. to you

Dated 4-1-1899

Received 5-1-1899

Registered 5-1-1899

Enclosures

Spare copies

~~Let~~ L. t. l. to request
that you will kindly
enquire of Major Benson
the Deputy San. Commr. if
he had any experience in
the matter of infection being
borne by water run here
in Bangalore.

by LB

SUBJECT.

Subj his opinion on the
question whether infection
can be carried by
water.

Desp 5.6.1.99

B-5/1

BACK PAPERS.

No.	L. p.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

[500-5-11-98.]

PLAGUE.

No. 23
S

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,
Madras, 4th January 1898.

From

Lieut. Colonel W. G. King, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

To

The

Plague Commissioner
Madras.

Enclosure.

Sir,

With reference to your
Ref. no. C 2541 dated 22nd December
1897, I have the honor to state
that experiments by Mr. Hankin
show that in Bombay tap water
(unsterilized) the plague
microbe survived for periods
varying from part of the day
of infection to three days.
When the water is brackish
from presence of common salt,
the plague microbe has been
found to propagate freely.
2. I am of opinion that whilst
these laboratory experiments
show that survival of the
plague microbe in water is
possible, the chances are that

that, as time advances, proof
of infection of human beings
by medium of infected water
will be forthcoming. So far, prac-
tically, all ^{detailed} records at disposal
are of epidemics in cities, where
piped water supplies were in
use and, therefore, not affording
suitable fields for enquiries on
the point raised. It is unlikely
that village wells of the un-
protected type in use in
rural areas can escape being
infected, having regard to
native habits. I may state
for your information that Mr
Lever, Deputy Collector on
Plague duty at Kolagavalli
informs me that the persons
in ^{the} plague camp round Kola-
gavalli eat with the attacked
persons at Peddahotus at a
certain well, at a distance from
either village. Of course, here,
infection may have been by
clothing, and not by water; but
it can only be by continual
record and enquiry as to such
facts

U
facts that the question of the
position of infected water can
be definitely settled.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedt servant

W. H. R. Nair

First Col. Ins.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

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of infection of human beings
by medium of infected water
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that village wells of the un-
protected type in use in
rural areas can escape being
infected, having regard to
native habits. I may state
for your information that Mr
Leaver, Deputy Collector on
Plague duty at Kolagavalli
informs me that the persons
in ^{the} plague camp round Kola-
gavalli eat with the attacked
persons at Peddahotus at a
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either village. Of course, here,
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U
facts that the question of the
position of infected water can
be definitely settled.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedt servt

W. H. R. S.

Sanitary Commissioner

for Madras

Reference 2541 of 88

Dated

From

L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., I.C.S.,

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER,

To

The San. Commr.

SIR,

I have the honor to request your opinion whether it is possible for plague to be carried by rats, i.e. are rats known to become infected & to convey infection to those who use them for drinking purposes. 2/3 2/8

Depd. 24/12/98
AEB

Depd. 24/12/98
AEB

When given for copying

When copied

When examin-

When signed

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