

Local & Munl. (1899) Department

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 2879 mis ✓

DATED 24/2/99

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Plaque Commissionero's Diary.

Recording the ——— of the work done at  
Mattigiri, Salem District on the 12<sup>th</sup> Febr. 1899.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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Local & Muni. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 373P

From

The Plague Commission

Order No. 287 Pms 24.2.99

HT

23.2.99

Recorded

HT

21.2.99

No. 446

Dated 20.

Received 21.

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## SUBJECT.

Submitting ~~copy~~ his diary for the 12th Feb showing the work done during his visit to Matigiri in the Salem Dt.

# BACK PAPERS.

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N<sup>o</sup>. 446  
20.2.99

enc. 373P

Diary of the Plague Commissioner for  
18<sup>th</sup> February 1899.

Sunday 12.2.99 Mattigiri.



It is not clear how plague got into Hosur. There is no doubt that people have all along been making the most strenuous efforts to keep it out and have themselves maintained guards for the purpose. There is no doubt their work has been very effective so far as regards strangers; but it would be expecting them to be more than human not to allow their own relations backwards and forwards; but I am inclined to think they have not permitted this to any great extent. As far as can be made out the history of infection is as follows:- A byragi died under circumstances which at that time <sup>aroused</sup> ~~arose~~ no suspicion. A few days later, dead rats were discovered in a house two or three doors off. Two or three days later again a girl died in the house adjoining the house in which dead rats were found. The father of the girl had assisted to carry the body of the byragi to the grave. Two days later, the son of the byragi left Hosur for a neighbouring village and died there of plague. It is probable he was sick when he went. How the byragi fell sick is not clear. The only clue to be obtained is that his wife had received some clothes from Mattigiri. These houses are all at one end of the brahmin street. Subsequently a brahmin clerk in the Sub-Registrar's office living far away right at the other end of the brahmin street died of plague. It is possible that he

y have been infected from a different  
 urce, for he had staying in his house a  
 relation who had been on plague duty in  
 Bangalore. Next a (golla) died under suspi-  
 cious circumstances right at the other  
 end of the town. The doctor pronounced ~~to~~  
 this case to be plague. There is no doubt  
 he had a bubo, but all the people round  
 about assert he had been sick for 6 months.  
 However, subsequent events will probably  
 tell us if the doctor's diagnosis was  
 correct. Two days ago a weaver family fell  
 sick and at once proceeded to the fields,  
 and we found a woman dead this morning,  
 while a man and a child of the same family  
 were also sick. How they got the infection  
 is not clear. They have lived at <sup>a</sup> distance  
 from the brahmin street and from the golla's  
 house. I believe the man used to go to  
 various places for cooly and it is possible  
 he contracted the disease in this way. The  
 town is being rapidly evacuated; most of  
 the brahmins have left it and are living  
 in the camp out on the Malur road, which  
 they have constructed for themselves. The  
 Tahsildar led the way partly to save his  
 own skin and partly as an example. Other  
 castes are building up sheds in all direc-  
 tions. The poorer people find considerable  
 difficulty in building huts and many of  
 them are utilising the biggest rocks that  
 are to be found. I saw one case in which a  
 man had dug a regular hole under a rock  
 and in several other cases big rocks had  
 been joined by a mud wall and everything  
 was ready except the roof. It is impos-  
 sible to build camps for the whole town.

*menial  
 employment of the treasury*

When we do not build or contribute it is  
 difficult to compel the people to camp  
 in an *orderly* way. The Collector proposes to  
 give bamboos free from the jungle and  
 mats from Salem to help the really poor  
 to build huts for themselves. In this case  
 where we give materials we should be able  
 to insist that the people build their huts  
 where we want them. It is also proposed  
 to have bamboos and mats ready for sale  
 for those who are able to buy. The whole  
 of the brahmin quarter is already evacuated  
 and over a quarter of the people have  
 already left. The block of houses in which  
 the first case appeared has been unroofed  
 and disinfected and similar precautions  
 have been taken in case of other infected  
 houses. The part of Mattigiri which was  
 previously infected has been clear for the  
 last 14 days. The village consists of a  
 number of hamlets, and in the last few ~~few~~  
 days the hamlet inhabited by the syces of  
 the Remount Depot has become infected for  
 the first time. The history is not clear;  
 but it was possibly introduced <sup>by an</sup> ~~from~~ old  
*Mattigiri by them.*

*Krishnaswamy  
 20/2/29  
 For Plague Commission*

*H.P.  
 20/2/29*

*To Mr Secy to Government  
 L & M Dept.*

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189

READ AGAIN G.O. No.

189

DATE

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DEITY

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