

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 331 P. 2nd

DATED 2/3/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Naque Commissioners' Diary.

Recording of the work done from
the 19th to 21st February 1899.

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BACK PAPERS.

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

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Local & Munl. (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 422 P

From The Hague Comm.

Order

No. 531

Dated 27-2-99.

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isolated cases. the other attacks have occurred among those

Diary of the Plague Commissioner.

19-2-1899. Sunday.

On Sunday morning I ran up by the morning train to Maddikera in Kurnool District to meet the Collector and inspect the village. The number of attacks up to date had been 64 with 52 deaths. The majority of them had taken place among people who lived in the fort and have occurred either in the fort itself or in the huts in the fields to which they have removed themselves. There have been only 4 isolated cases in the pettah of which 2 occurred a long time back. The fort is nearly evacuated, there being only 20 houses left with people in them. I have discussed the matter with the Collector and he has arranged to get the remainder of the people out of the fort in the course of the week and to keep the people from returning at present. A considerable camp is erected near the railway station. This was done when the trains from Guntakal were inspected at the station, before Dhone was made an inspection station and was completed when it was found that the village itself was infected. Up to date, however, none of the sick people or their contacts are willing to go in and the buildings are therefore a waste. The material is generally good. When the time comes for repairing the Tungabhadra or Hospet camps, if such a course is necessary, the huts at Maddikera may be dismantled and the material sent to one of those stations for use. They have in any case to be imported into Tungabhadra. I returned by train to Guntakal in the evening and arranged to meet the Collector next day at Pattikonda.

20-2-1899. Monday.

I left Guntakal again by the morning train, met Mr. Mahammad Raja Khan at Maddikera, went on with him to Tuggali station and drove in ~~the~~ to Pattikonda. The town of Pattikonda like Maddikera is divided into parts-the pettah and the fort. In the fort there have been only 2 or 3 isolated



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isolated cases; the other attacks have occurred among those who lived in the pettah. A very considerable portion of the pettah is evacuated, there being only 24 houses in the vicinity of infected quarter in which people still reside. The disease seems to have been first brought by Malas from Alardinne and has since spread to other castes. There have been 21 attacks and 17 deaths. Of the attacks 13 have occurred in the town, 8 in the fields. There have been no attacks since the 17th. I visited some of the infected houses which have been disinfected and also some of the camps around the village. In the afternoon we went to see how disinfection of the floors was carried out.

21-2-1899. Tuesday.

Mr. Mahammad Raja Khan drove me 12 miles to Vanimukur and from there we walked about 3 miles across the fields to Alardinne. The village is a small one and is completely evacuated. The village was evacuated a long time ago and as there were no cases between 10th and 18th January the villagers went back. On the 20th a second outbreak took place and they immediately left the village again. Since then there have been 22 seizures and 18 deaths. Of these seizures no less than 17 occurred in the first ten days after the second evacuation. Since then the disease has practically come to an end. There have been no more cases reported since 14th; that is, for the past 7 days. The experience of this village teaches us a lesson; that is, that where a village has been evacuated re-inhabitation should not be allowed for a considerable time and if possible all houses in the infected village should be to a certain extent disinfected. The disinfection work in the village as far as I can see has been satisfactorily carried out, except that the holes in the roofs are not sufficiently large. The supervisor's attention has been drawn to this. He has disinfected all the houses belonging to persons in whose families cases of plague have occurred and will make a thorough disinfection of houses in which dead rats have

3

been found. I have also directed him to treat all the other houses in the village with perchloride of mercury. He has not time nor labour to make a thorough disinfection of all the houses. In the same circle lies the village of Dadadadi-kotakonda. Cases have been reported by telegram from this village. This is a mistake. The main village is clean. Cases have occurred in two hamlets, namely Dudekonda and Togalakallu. Both these hamlets are small and have been completely evacuated. There have been 12 attacks and 10 deaths in Dudekonda, the last attack being on the 17th. There have been 11 attacks and 10 deaths in Togalakallu, the last attack being on the 8th. I have directed the supervisor to treat the houses in the same way as Alardinne. I have not visited these two villages. They would involve at least another day's stay. The steps taken to combat the disease appear to be satisfactory, for it may be taken for granted that what has been done in the village I have seen, has been ~~has~~ ~~been~~ done in these villages and the disease seems to have come to an end. The other villages from which cases have been reported in the Pattikonda Taluk are not indigenously affected. The experience I have recently gained in the Hosur Taluk of the Salem District, in Hindupur Taluk of the Anantapur District and in Pattikonda Taluk of the Kurnool District combined with my previous experience of the Gooty Taluk in the Anantapur District, leads me to think that the only effective way of grappling with plague is by evacuation. It is not necessary that the people should all go to Government camps. They don't like it and it is less expensive to let them build their own sheds. It is true that the supervision that we can then exercise over them is reduced, but I am inclined to think that the mere fact of their being free gives them less reason to wish to run away; for agriculturists as a rule settle in their own fields and there is the strongest bond for them to remain there. In Hosur and in Pattikonda Taluks the people undoubtedly seem to grasp the necessity for the segregation of the sick.

They have an idea of it in Hindupur Taluk, but they act up to it so very readily. Inoculation is nowhere lar and the amount of work which can be done in this tion, except in a big town, can give very little protect It is not much good if ²⁰~~20~~ people are inoculated in one village, 30 in the next and 10 in the next. To be of re use, inoculation must be general and with the present and the attitude of the people it is impossible to make so. Evacuation is a very different matter, when we come to consider towns like Vellore and Arcot which are not ~~highly~~ ly agricultural. It is in such places that our real diffi- culties commence. I have hopes in our agricultural villages the disease will never cause any really terrible loss pro- vided the people in the parts attacked realise, as they do men now in Hosur, and in Hindupur and in the Pattikonda, the necessity for early evacuation. As to the question of towns I should like to discuss the question with the Honorable Member.

0 It can't be general until for some time it has been (so to say) educational H.J.

The Taluk of

I have discussed matters with the P.C. who with everybody his conclusions in a note.

HA

1.3.99

I may add the dead rats have been found in the fort of - Pattikonda, and in a hitherto uninfected village in the neighbourhood called Billekallu. It has not been thought necessary to compulsorily evacuate the places, but the Collector is having a warning issued to all people of the risks they run by remaining in the huts where rats begin to die of plague. The people generally understand this and are usually ready to evacuate of their own accord.

Isma Khan
27/2/99

For Plague Commissioner.

HS
27/2/99

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A.M.]

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