PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

26 221
& 222

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 354
Dated 8-2-99
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Wednesday's diary desp on 9/2/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection Notes

Plague Commissioner's notes on ~~the~~ inspection of Tiruvannamalai, Vellore & Arcot.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

~~NOTE FOR THE~~ Thursday ~~Friday~~
2-2-99
~~3-2-~~99. ~~Thursday~~

I left Madras by the evening mail train for Thiruvannamalai to discuss ~~matters~~ camp arrangements connected with the Inspection station recently started, with Mr Leggich there ~~[illegible]~~. I met him at Villupuram & we reached Thiruvannamalai the next morning.

3-2-99. Friday

The staff employed consist of a Doctor, an Inspectoress & a Hospital Asstt; while in the Municipal Camp close by there is another Hospital Asstt & nurse. Two Hospital Assts are at present unnecessary as one of them can be found only by closing a dispensary at Ulundurpet ~~within the~~ ~~taluk~~. I have arranged with Mr Leggich that ~~one~~ the Hospital Asstt shall return to his dispensary. Dr ~~[illegible]~~ will then have one Hospital Asstt & this will be quite sufficient for the work to ~~be done~~. I consider it very

of inspection

unlikely that any cases of plague will be discovered among passengers. The number of passengers is said to have decreased noticeably since the inspection was commenced, & there can be no doubt that a knowledge that inspection is made will deter any person who is not in a good state of health from travelling by rail. Further if a case is found the Hospital Asstt on duty at the station will immediately go to the Hospital camp. The Civil apothecary attached to the local Hospital will temporarily assist Mr Cameron in the examination of trains and the Hospital Asstt at Arni will be called in to take the vacant place at the Ry station. He can be brought in within 24 hours. This will obviate the necessity of closing one dispensary unnecessarily. The attendance of the Civil apothecary at the Ry station for a day can be arranged without serious detriment to his ordinary duties. This inspection station is not, I consider, on the same footing as Hospet & Tungabhadra where people coming from infected areas are detained for disinfection. The object of it, I consider, is, to catch people who are actually sick while travelling, to send forward intimation to passengers from infected areas, & to leave other places to be guarded by the passport rules. There is no arrangement for

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~~NOTE FOR THE~~

disinfection here as there is at Hos & Tungabhadra & ~~the~~ satisfactory disinfection ~~will~~ can not be carried out unless boiler is erected. I think the matters should go on here as at Pakala and Podanur. I was present at the examination of the morning train & this was satisfactorily done. During the day a special train arrived; to this was attached a passenger carriage, no notice having been given to Mr ~~Cameron~~ [illegible] of the arrival of this train; however, I inspected it myself & found there were no passengers. I spoke to the station master & asked him always to give notice of special trains to Mr Cameron which he says he can easily do as he gets more than 4 hours' notice of its arrival. I have asked Mr Lingesh to write officially to the Traffic Manager S.I.R. to issue orders to that effect to the station masters. The camp now in existence at Tiruvannamalai is one built by the Municipality. It is divided into suspect camp and hospital camp. The building in the suspect camp are as follows:

~~the~~ European shed 40' × 20, two sheds for natives 2 × 9, two kitchens, two rough latrines; and ~~the~~ a shed which is now used by the Hospital Asstt, but was intended for ~~the~~ an observation ward in which persons ~~can~~ could be placed who are rather more than suspected, but not declared to be suffering from plague. I am of opinion that no accommodation for Europeans to be need furnished, for it is quite unlikely that any will be detained. Mr [illegible] has an old tent which he says he never uses + this he is prepared to keep in the camp in case of emergency. He will have it valued by the Engineer or some other officer in Cuddalore + send it to Tiruvannamalai at once. The European shed we agreed might be turned into a store room + Police guard. It is as a matter of fact occupied by the nurse attached to the camp, but if she is to be of any use at all she should live in Hospital camp. Two more native sheds of suspects should be added; the latrines should be built with cement flooring + proper arrangements for disposing of the excreta; two washing platforms should be constructed + two disinfecting sheds. The so-called observation ward will be turned into Compounder's quarters. There is a good drinking water well situated at a

the passport rules. There is no arrangement for

~~NOTE FOR THE~~

little distance from the suspect camp; a waterman will be engaged for the camp + ~~huts~~ chatty platform will be put up close to the well. Tubs if possible + cisterns with taps will be provided for the use of the camps. In the Hospital camp there is a shed for Europeans 40 × 20, one kitchen + two latrines. The European shed is for the reasons I have already given not required.

The tent will meet all requirements, the sheds will be turned into quarters for the Hospital Asstt, a portion of ~~which~~ it being set apart as a store for dispensary. ~~The~~ Two latrines must be constructed with cemented floors. Quarters are necessary for the rest of the staff i.e. one nurse, 2 sweepers, 1 shed for men's servants + 1 shed for women's servants, one for cook, one for dhobi; + a dead house + an incinerator should also be constructed. ~~Six~~ Two Hospital sheds are necessary for natives. R sheds should be constructed one

we pr

for women & one for men. The wards should be 12×12 in a line, with of 4 ft verandah. It will be sufficient for the present to construct two wards for men & two for women. The building will be made so as to be capable of immediate extension. They will have cement floors sloped with drains to carry off fluids into a ~~place~~ bucket. ~~& should have verandah.~~ Four sheds for the friends will be sufficient for the present. I consider that any further expenditure at present ~~may~~ be uncalled for.

I leave by the afternoon train ~~for~~ Vellore.

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the passport rules. There is no arrangement for

4-2-99 Saturday **Vellore**

I met Dr Edwards & Capt Ffrench early this morning. I also saw Mr Magie who has been appointed assistant to Capt Ffrench. Mr Magie has lived for many years with his father in Vellore & is well known to the people of all castes & classes with whom he mingles freely and I sanctioned his appointment so that he might use his knowledge to assist us. The Circle Inspectors who are appointed by the Collector have with one exception turned out to be of not much use. If it were not for Mr Magie we should not know as much as we do now. I went first with Dr Edwards to the camp on the glacis. ~~The arrange-ments are very satisfactory.~~ We first ~~went to see~~ visited one of the sepoys who ~~was~~ has taken ill the day before yesterday. It is very doubtful of what he is suffering from. To be safe he was put in one of the outlying sheds in the camp which has not yet been used. He is better this morning, temperature being sub-normal, so that there is good reason to believe that he is not suffering from plague. There are three patients in the camp, one is a boy who has been put into one of the huts with all his people. They refused to let him come to the camp or to also be segregated apart from him, as they all are went together. They ~~have~~ by him been treated by a native physician, ~~and the~~ & boy is in ~~the~~ a fair way to recovery. An old man who has undoubtedly suffered from plague is mending and a small ~~[illegible]~~ child who is attended by his mother seems likely to recover. ~~&~~ The Hospital sheds newly built are on the whole satisfactory, especially as regards the flooring & the drainage arrangements. The walls require some looking into, but this can be easily done. The buildings were ~~done~~ run up in hurry & the ~~[illegible]~~ keels are not fastened to so securely as they should have been ~~so~~ done

From the camp we bicycled to the Saidapet ward, where we met Capt Ffrench, Mr Magie Miss ~~Blunice~~ Barry & Mrs Turner. Only one case was reported this morning. Mrs Turner reported that woman in one of the houses in which there had been a case of plague applied for permission to leave Vellore. On enquiry it was found that the period of segregation expired several days ago & that the house had been fully disinfected & there was Consequently no objection to people ~~living~~ leaving. I put this to ~~say~~ show that the people on the whole are ready to help us in some ways assail ~~if only that they are asked~~.

The Collector has been granting ~~p~~ Compensation to the owners of houses in which disinfection has been carried out. This was done in order to induce the people ~~to evacuate~~ not to object so much to for our methods of disinfection. It is not quite clear

X

X is in accordance with Mr Hammick's Circular L. 352.

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under what section the Compensation is given; ~~but~~ presumably it is given ~~based~~ under Original Provisional Regulation No. 6, ~~but this provides~~ says that no owner~~s~~ is entitled to any Compensation on a/c of anything done ~~to~~ in disinfecting the house. I think it is a matter of serious consideration whether the present practice should continue. No doubt very considerable damage is done to the roofs & floors, to the roofs especially. The houses which are to be disinfected have up to now had, we ~~houses~~, mostly been of a superior sort. In removing tiles a large number are broken while as a rule repairs

Compensation might given under Regn I there a hut or shed is destroyed which are removed in order to let in light + air are unfit to be used again. Compensation bills for a single house have risen as high as Rs 80 or 90. + when several houses of a superior kind have to be disinfected the amount to be paid as compensation runs to a large sum. The opening of the roofs is even now, I believe, objected to. If this is not done disinfection work cannot be thorough. I am ~~glad~~ of opinion that no more compensation ~~is to~~ shd be given for damage caused to houses during disinfection. It has not been given, as far as I know in other places, though under original Mufassal Regulation No 9 compensation has been given where huts or houses have been burnt down. Compensation should be given only if movable property is destroyed. From Saidapet ward I went to Aualcara street where a death occurred recently in a goldsmith's house. Plague cannot be looked upon as indigenous in this ward as the case was undoubtedly imported from Saidapet ward. Deceased enter ~~It~~ seized in the house of a goldsmith in Saidapet ward where a death from plague had occurred. I find that as ~~the people wholly refuse to~~ go ~~to the segregation camp should prefer to be segregated in their houses. It is now~~ the practice in Vellore to keep inmates home segregated for 10 days & not to

Home segregation is being enforced

attempt to disinfect the house until 10 days are up. This seems to me to be wrong, for by so doing we give every help ~~hope~~ to the increase of the disease. Segregation is ~~no doubt~~ necessary & if there is an objection to seeing them home segregation must be resorted to but it is scarcely fair) to insist that the members of a family in which one has died from plague to ~~have been~~ become confined for 10 days, in a house which must contain the germs of the infection. I am of opinion that the houses should be disinfected as soon as possible after a death from plague has occurred in them. No ~~danger of the contacts becoming infected~~ of the contacts infected, unless evidently ~~if they plague~~ it is possible develop plague they must have had it with them from an

and have issued instructions accordingly.

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earlier stage. If during the 10 days of segregation no further cases occur the contacts may be disinfected & set free; but if a further case should occur in any of the contacts, disinfection & segregation should commence all over again.

One of an indigenous case has been discovered on the side of the Saidape ward in the portion of the town known as "Kasbha". I visit the spot this evening & I shall try to find out the history of the case. At my suggestion the Collector has establish Tannahs on the road to Arcot & at the entrance of the bridge over the Pala so as to prevent persons actually sick from pla leaving the town. The inspection is an exper

We have no trained medical men except the Sanitary Inspector. They feel the pulse of everybody leaving the town & on the Arcot road also of anybody entering the town. Nurses being having been not provided yet the inspection of women is not carried out. Nurses are, however, promised [illegible] & after a while we shall see whether there is any good in continuing the system. We cannot well carry out this to the other side of the town as there are many roads leading from it & they cannot well be guarded. Last night an attack was made upon the Tank on the Arcot road. Stones were thrown on the Inspectors of the Camp, & Police.

& the Inspector was [illegible] by the police [illegible]

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Near this Tana there lived ~~a~~ good many Mahamadens ~~round them~~ and it is suspected they were at the bottom of the attack. The police on duty are ~~now~~ not armed & ~~it is said too weak to do any good~~ The horse [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

In the evening I went with Capt ffrench & Dr Edwards to the hut in Kaislah in which there is a suspected case. Dr Edwards examined the girl but found no swellings in the neck or under the arms. Miss Blissay eam who saw her says ~~they~~ there are inguinal buboes. There are reasons to suspect that the case is not plague, but it is not certain and all precautions are taken that is required. as if it were the people are

have segregated

I saw the house in Accalcarapo street in which the contacts are segregated. Capt ffrench has been segregating the people for 10 days & then if no case occurs disinfecting the house. This seems to be altogether wrong, for it means that he is shutting up contacts in highly infected place & it is no wonder if they develop ~~plague~~ disease. I have told him to carry out ~~the~~ disinfection as soon as possible after death even when the people choose to remain in the house for segregation. No doubt disinfection & the unroofing of houses will cause them much annoyance, but this cannot be helped. They have the option of going to the camp & if they refuse that, they must submit a certain amount of inconvenience. X

® but we cannot get them here everywhere.

X This home segregation of the sick, cannot go on for very long, for we have not enough police or persons to act as guards, & the question ~~[illegible]~~ remains, to which I have as yet not found a satisfactory solution, but we are at the end our grounds, are exhausted, the only solution I can see is to give up segregation, & this is what [illegible] for the [illegible] who be kept up. the persons who are not members of an infected house. Continued [illegible] with [illegible] better [illegible]

We next went to the grass market, in another portion of the Sandapur [illegible] where there is a ~~patient~~ pensioned sepoy & his family.

Ashton A girl is suspected of having plague. Dr Edwards did not examine her thoroughly but as she has limp there is reason to suspect that she has an inguinal bubo. Her left eye is swollen up to an enormous size, it was this that attracted the attention. One of the nursing sisters who have had experience in Bombay & Dr Edwards both considered that the congestion of the eye is a sure sign of the existence of plague. The ~~woman~~ man lies in ~~the~~ a hut in a more or less open space, but there are a few other huts round and the whole place is used more or less as wood yard. The man of the family is himself a fire-wood contractor. Numbers of coolies are daily engaged in cutting & stacking wood all round his shed. There is no doubt that this is a very bad situation for the case. Capt. J French told me he talked with the man for 3 or 4 hours on 2 or 3 occasions in the hope of introducing him to the camp. This he refused to do for one reason or another. ~~He~~ We ~~[illegible]~~ induced him to come away & see the camp. He was not at all dissatisfied with what he saw, but said his wom~~an~~en would never come & she would die of fright; he ~~himself~~ has no objection to leave for his own house his hut ~~wood~~ yard, but as he has several men under advances ~~he used~~ he is afraid of loosing his stock of wood if he goes away. Eventually we found out that he has another house in Saidapet ward close to ~~the~~ an infected house. He ~~was~~ agreed to send his wife, mother & Children to ~~top~~ live up there provided he

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he remains in the hut ~~quarters~~
[illegible] ~~of the wood~~. This will be,
reduce the chance
~~of the source~~ of infection
~~being carried~~, but it is
only ^ compromise; however,
I am not ~~all~~ at all
dissatisfied with the
result of my two hours
argument with him.
With these people carried
away to the [illegible] Saidapet
ward & this only man left
behind & with the case
in the Kasbah (very doubt-
ful), it means that we
have practically only
one infected house out
of the Saidapet ward. The
~~grass market is really in~~
~~the Saidapet ward & at~~
~~the extremity of it.~~ In
~~more~~ cases were repo
during the ~~day~~ night

5-2-99. Sunday.

I met Capt. Ffrench
on the Palar bridge
the arrangements re

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have been made for examining
~~the~~ people passing out of the
town. I doubt if what we
are doing is really of much
use except in so far any
that a
mere knowledge of examina
~~[illegible]~~ so is
tion ~~&~~ carried out is likely
to deter ~~people~~ who are
actually sick from attempting
to pass the inspection station.
We went from there up
to the Saidapet ward
where we met a Station
pensioned Subedar Kasim
Hussain. No fresh cases
were reported during the
morning & I left by
bicycle for Ranipet
(18 miles)
via Arcot. At Arcot I
met Mr Lent & Dr
Lubeck the new doctor.
Two cases have been reported
in the morning but the
reports for the last few
days show that things are
serious here.X I was not
able to do very much
in the morning as was

The letter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the
man for the post, [illegible]
must do the best with
the material available — My

Give figures

X

S D
1 - 3 3
, 4
2 - 7 5
3 - 1 1
4 4 3
5 2 2
6

was getting late. I subsequently met the Collector, Col. Lancaster & Major Bannerman & after discussing matters with them for a short time crossed to Ranipet with Mr Batten.

Wallajanagar has become very bad during the last few days; attacks & deaths being as follows:-

	S	D
	2	"
1	2	2
2	1	1
3	"	1
4	2	1
~~5~~ 6	3	2

Check Stokes here figures are wrong

A special medical officer seems to be required & a Special plague officer too.

[illegible] possible that cases are being concealed

In the afternoon Mr Batten, Mr Ashe & myself rode ~~and~~ bicycled to Wallajanagar to see what is going on.

The town contains about 10, or 15 ~~22~~,000 people usually, but many ~~many~~ of them had left on account of the plague. It is probably one of the best laid out towns in the South of India, the streets are broad & at right angles to one another & the majority of the houses are well built. The place has a general air of cleanliness, but there is no doubt the plague has got hold of it. It seems to have been imported by Komattees coming from Vellore. the disinfection work that I saw have been carried out by coolies under the supervision of a Sanitary Inspector. The roofs had not been sufficiently opened, but owing to ~~the~~ the solid construction this was probably a difficult matter in many of the houses. Labour appears to be available at present at 3 annas a day, but there

is some difficulty in
getting men. It seems
better to take men
permanently on monthly
pay & it has been determined
that these men are to be [illegible]
paid Rs 8- a month.
nearly all the houses in the
portion which is most
Severely really affected are
deserted, but cases have
appeared all over the
town. It was reported
that an unpleasant smell
was observed in a
bazaar belonging to a
man who had left gone locked.
he broke it open ~~the doors~~
& dead rats were discovered.
many dead rats have been
discovered in all parts of
the town. A good many
have been killed & brought
for reward at 2 pies.
The Collr proposes to raise
the reward to 6 pies in
order to stimulate

destruction. More supervision in [illegible] seems to be necessary & the Collector will see to this. ~~The present staff is necessary~~ to keep watch ~~over these~~. The people are all home segregated, here as at Vellore & it is difficulty ~~arises~~ to find sufficient guards.

We went to see what is called the plague camp, but it appears to consist of Vettian watchmen's huts &c. Arrangements are being put in hand for providing 10 houses for patients & 10 houses for contacts as soon as possible.

Difficulty is found who is to go there, but accommodation may be increased to meet requirements.

On arrival home we received information that there are many concealed cases in

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in ~~Pin~~ Pinjé a small village lying between Ranipet & Wallajanagar. Mr Rutter is writing to Mr Cash to make enquiry tomorrow morning while we go to Arcot.

Depo 8/2/89

W/ 6-2-99 Monday

In the morning I went with Mr. Patten to Circol. We found that the sepoys were just recovering from inoculation & 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 ~~how the~~ what houses ~~are~~ were to be disinfected, the locality & 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 certain number of coolies and ~~with the~~ in consultation with of the Collector it was agreed that these men who are more ~~useful~~ 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 operation 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 the Mahamadan Soucar of Visharam a village nearly midway between ~~Vishar~~ Vellore & Arcot. The village is a rich one & composed almost entirely of Mahammadans and the same difficulty is arising there as is arising at

Colacanmd. The Muhammadans appear to set apart month after month certain sums to be distributed in charity in the month of Ramzan which shortly commences & the knowledge of this distribution gathers the poor & ~~menial~~ needy Muhammadans from all parts. It is needless to say that ~~a era~~ in a year like this & especially in a locality like Visharam the risk attending on such distribution is enormous. Yet these people will do nothing to protect ~~this~~ themselves & the surrounding country. They can easily notify that in consequence ~~of~~ of the plague, charity will not be disbursed this year, but will be dispensed in April or May when it is hoped the plage ~~might~~ may be temporarily arrested. But this they say will not do. They say if the people come we must

Give our Charity". As at Ootacamund this gathering together of people was not brought to notice until really too late, for no effective measures to be taken to prevent it. The Collr will do his best to get rid of the pilgrims as soon as possible, & to keep the place in a sanitary condition to watch over the pilgrims, but this is all that can be done ~~by~~ with the present short notice. In the afternoon I went with Mr Ashe the Hd Asstt Collr to Walajanagar. A permanent disinfecting staff has been taken on & by the offer of liberal rates men are freely available. There was no house ready for disinfection on our arrival as the in~~a~~ffected houses still contain sick people. However in order to teach coolies their duties I had the bazaar in which we found dead rats yesterday disinfected properly & they now know how the work should be done. The bazaars

adjoining the south have been vacated & locked up, the one in the north still is in use. With the consent of the shop-keeper 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 ~~coolies~~ 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 ~~written~~ 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 & 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 causes of deaths. Mr. Ashe is, however, anxious that the principle of Addl. Regulⁿ 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 ~~were~~ are not examined the authorities ~~who doubt & would~~ may regard & treat the case as ~~due to~~ plague. I very much doubt if this ~~can~~ shd be carried out

I am applying for a special officer for Kalyan & when he arrives he should be able to ~~make~~ exercise greater supervision over this matter. As in other places ~~where~~ home segregation threatens to become impossible owing to the difficulties experienced in finding sepoys to watch the infected houses.

Dep. 9/2/99

hen given for copying ______
en copied ______
en examined ______
hen signed ______

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