

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 538

Dated 27. 2. 99

Despatched 28. 2. 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Measures for the Suppression of Plague

Informing the Commr of Chingleput that
no report is required from non-infected
district regarding the adoption in
this Presidency of certain ——— which
are ^{being} carried out in the Bombay Pres.

H.C.

Please send a
list of non-infected
districts in the Presidency

H.S.
27.5.99

PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PAPERS.

No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 2396

Progs.

Letter

Ref.

No 538827-239
C. No 2396 of 1899

The Collector's query is answered
in the magazine

The C.M. is informed that
no report is required from non-
infected districts

From

The ag Collector,
Chingleput

Ref No. 440 of 1899.
Gml

Dated 24 February 1899.
Received 23 FEB. 1899

Registered 23-1-99

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Requesting to be informed whether
the Collectors of non-infected districts
should also submit the report called
for in his Pro. No. 405 dated
10 February 1899. 33

To the Collector Chingleput.
Copy to the C.M. for other
non-infected districts

Dispt 28-2-99
H.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Plague report

Refon No. $\frac{440}{3rd}$ of 1899.

Chin gelpat District
Collector's Office,
Saisapat 22nd Feb 1899.

FROM

W. W. G. Conie Esq.,
As Collector of Chin gelpat.

TO

THE Plague Commissioner,
Marsat.

SIR,

With reference to your Proceedings W. $\frac{405}{33}$
dated 10th Instant, I have the honor to enquire wh.
ther the Collectors of non. infected districts should
also submit the report called for therein

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

your most obedient servant

for ^{Inspector} A. G. Fletcher

22/2/99

64 copies ✓

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner, MADRAS—1899.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

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Proceedings, No. $\frac{405}{33}$, 10th February 1899.

FEBRUARY.

Measures for the suppression of Plague.

Communicating to Collectors of infected districts papers relating to the — in the Bombay Presidency; and inviting their opinions as to whether some of those measures may be adopted in this Presidency.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

Read—the following paper:—

G.O., Mis. No. 206 P., dated 8th February 1899.

Read—the following paper:—

CIRCULAR No. 6977—7068-P.

With reference to Government Resolution, No. 6013—6105-P., dated the 1st November 1898, General Department (Plague), Government are aware that a large number of villages have now been vacated. The next step is to ensure that proper effect is given to clause (g), the separation of the sick from the healthy.

2. Officers on plague duty when visiting a village should first endeavour to make the people understand the meaning of what they enjoin and the reason for the separation of the sick and for prohibiting visits to infected families, houses and sites. Unless the people understand, their intelligent co-operation cannot be secured and without their good-will no effective organization is possible.

3. Next, the infected families should be completely separated from the rest of the population; and the sick person in an infected family should have a hut apart from that occupied by the as yet healthy members of his family. That is, the healthy should not be suffered to live in the same hut with the sick person. On any case occurring in a healthy family the family should be immediately removed from the neighbourhood of other healthy families.

4. In the towns and larger villages a proper organization can be established with means for treating the sick. But in all villages the danger of infection must be taught and guarded against or plague will linger on. Wherever cases are occurring in the fields, the officer on plague duty should give his earnest attention to these points, and endeavour to get at and remove the cause of infection continuing.

5. Collectors will be held responsible for the efficient working of these instructions and that officers on plague duty understand what they have to do. His Excellency the Governor in Council feels confident that no efforts will be spared during this favourable season and coming hot weather to free the districts from the disease. As cases diminish, the establishment should be massed on the place remaining infected and the last cases should be sought for and segregated with ever-increasing vigilance.

BOMBAY CASTLE,
21st December 1898.

(Signed) A. WINGATE,
Ag. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay,
General Department (Plague).

ENCLOSURE.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the General Department (Plague), No. 6013—6105-P., dated Bombay Castle, the 1st November 1898.

Resolution.—His Excellency the Governor in Council has watched with grave concern the recent increase in the number of villages attacked by plague, specially in the Southern Maratha Country. So long as the rains continued, Government recognised the extreme difficulty of doing anything to check the rising mortality and to

prevent the disease spreading from village to village. Now, however, that the drier weather is approaching, His Excellency the Governor in Council desires to impress upon all officers that Government continue to attach the highest importance to the following measures:—

(a) Early and accurate information of the appearance of any suspicious cases of sickness and death.

(b) Prompt and complete evacuation of a village on the occurrence of the first well ascertained local cases or where mortality among rats is apparent.

N.B.—The people should receive sufficient notice and all their reasonable requests be met as far as possible.

(c) A sufficiently accurate census of the population of the infected village to prevent people leaving the village lands and entering other villages.

(d) Well-organised arrangements to prevent surreptitious access to the houses vacated and to permit access when necessary, under due precautions.

N.B.—The cases occur among the evacuated population, the reason may in almost every case be traced to surreptitious communication with the vacated village.

(e) Thorough and careful disinfection under responsible supervision of infected houses and clothing and admission of light and air.

N.B.—In small villages where the entire effects of the people can be exposed to the sun and the houses can be easily opened out to sun and air and two or three months can elapse before re-occupation is permitted, it may be left to the discretion of the Collector, advised by medical opinion, whether disinfection is necessary. Unless disinfection is conducted by a trusted officer, it is no use.

(f) Maintenance of the prohibition that no one from a village which has been vacated must be allowed to take up his residence in another village, except with the written permission of the Plague Authority. This prohibition must be enforced by a Circle Inspector or other authority (according to the extent of infection) systematically moving in the villages round the infected area. As soon as any population is pronounced to be healthy, the prohibition should be cancelled and the population be free to move about.

N.B.—As a rule no passes should be given to leave an infected village till the population have been ten days in the open. The Circle Inspector's work must be carefully supervised.

(g) The separation of the sick and infected families from the healthy.

N.B.—The healthy families should first be moved into the open. Then the sick with their families should be moved to a separate spot, for example, the opposite side of the village site.

2. For the effective supervision of these measures, the plague-infected area must be sub-divided under responsible officers, Staff Corps officers being employed where necessary. These officers should enlist to the utmost possible extent volunteer agency to assist in carrying out the measures. The measures are new to the people, particularly in fresh areas of infection and, if injudiciously or overzealously pressed, must defeat themselves by exciting opposition instead of gradually winning the co-operation of the people, or by scattering the people instead of inducing each village as soon as it is infected to settle down quietly on its own lands. His Excellency in Council trusts that every officer on plague duty will continue to make it his special aim to train his subordinates to work with sympathy and consideration. Complaints should be encouraged and, where possible, the objection should be removed. The importance of these considerations cannot be overrated.

3. To enable officers to afford necessary relief where measures in the case of the poor press too harshly, and so to convince the people that the measures are undertaken for their benefit, a sum of money for discretionary relief as described in a separate Resolution of Government will be available. Collectors should from time to time apply to the Plague Commissioner for an allotment, but should, as far as possible, enlist private benevolence to assist.

No. $\frac{405}{33}$, 10TH FEBRUARY 1899.

4. The progress of evacuation should be particularly described in the weekly plague progress report.

Order—Mis. No. 206 P., dated 8th February 1899.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Plague Commissioner.
" " Sanitary Commissioner.
" " Surgeon-General.
" " President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

PROCEEDINGS—No. $\frac{405}{33}$, dated 10th February 1899.

The above Proceedings will be communicated to Collectors of infected districts. Clause (b) of the Resolution is already being generally acted upon in agricultural villages. Collectors are requested to give their opinions whether clauses (c), (d) and (f) can be adopted.

L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

To all Collectors (A—L).
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

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When copied
When examined
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