

[L. & M.]

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 545-Paris

DATED 10/4/99.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Commissioner's diary.

Recording the ——— of the work done
during his tour to Hospet on the 21st March '99.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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Local & Munl. (189 9) Department.

CURRENT No. 6659

From

The Plague Commissioner.

Order

No. 859

Dated 28. }
Received 29. } March 199
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Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Sub 9 his diary for the 21st Inst,
of the work done during his tour
to Hospital.

BACK PAPERS

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N. 859 of 28.3.99

6657

DIARY OF PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

21-3-99. Tuesday. Hospet.



H.M.

Recorded

at 7/4/99

Price of Plague
clay in
Hospet

Price in person

It is indeed refreshing to come back to the Deccan after camping in the Palar valley. For the people here not only realise what ought to be done but are willing to help and not obstruct. I have today visited the village of Chittawadigi where there have recently been indigenous cases. The town consists of about 3000 inhabitants with a large proportion of Muhammadans and with many rich merchants. It was expected that there would be considerable trouble and there were difficulties to begin with, I believe, but recently everything had gone smoothly. Every one has gone to camp in the fields. The camps are built in an orderly fashion and the houses are as a rule well built. Their willingness to go out has, I fancy, been due to a great extent to the tact and energy of the Tahsildar, but there is no doubt that he could not have done what he has, if it had not been for the help which has been given him by an influential Muhammadan, Mulla Saiyyid Ali-ud-din. This gentleman owns a fair amount of property in the neighbourhood and keeps a free school in which he instructs all who wish to know Hindustani, Persian and Arabic. He has a very great local influence and fortunately he is willing to exert it on our side. He has only to say to a Muhammadan, "do this" and he does it; and consequently here in Chittawadigi, and in Hospet too, things are going more smoothly perhaps than in any town in which plague has become indigenous. A general disinfection is being made at both places. The work done in Chittawadigi is now very satisfactory, a new supervisor Mr. Eames having recently been placed in charge. The majority of the houses are of the usual solid flat roofed Deccan type, but there is a fair number of thatched huts. The latter are invariably treated with fire and the people do not object or.

The more valuable timbers are taken

out to be disinfected and then the thatch is burnt within the 4 walls. This is a splendid way of disinfecting and if carefully supervised can be done without danger. The people do not object, for the thatch is in almost in all cases sugar-cane leaves and these had to be renewed every year. They know that in any case they will have to renew their roof this year, so burning is not a matter of loss to them, and they are looking forward to being supplied free, with jungle grass, which if properly put on lasts not one but four or five years. We come across strange things in the course of disinfection. One house stank most abominably and dead rats were of course suspected. The floor was a stone one and rat holes were not to be discovered, however one of the stone slabs was lifted up and a cellar about 4 ft. in depth was discovered below the ordinary floor. In this were found about 40 dead rats. The cellar communicated by a passage - with an opening in the neighbouring house, and from the - materials found in it, must evidently have been used as a secret place where men gathered to gamble. A pleasant time they must have had of it, crawling in on their hands and knees and sitting in a cellar, ⁴barely 4 ft. high to gamble by lamp light! A list is being made for every house in fields of the people living in it. Men are appointed to go round every day and to obtain an account of every individual on the list. This course was suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner to be adopted ^{for} ~~from~~ Molagavalli and Guntakal and other evacuated villages in Bellary and in Anantapur Districts. But both Mr. Elwin and Mr. Macleod were of opinion that any attempt to take a daily cens^us would result in driving the people away and I was very strongly of the same opinion; consequently, no attempt at a cens^us was made in these villages. The present cens^us does not alarm the people and they do not run away, but I do not think that the circumstances of the case are similar. In the one, we had an agricultural population squatting at long intervals in their own fields in poorly constructed sheds. In the other, we have a population

more or less mercantile living practically in a new village well laid out and well built and they have every inducement not to wander. Hindus and Muhammadans together have combined to build huts for the sick and contacts. They have an aversion for going to the Government plague camp which is perhaps understandable. If the camp is built by themselves their prejudices disappear. The new camp is being built in a way which I consider far the most satisfactory for any but a large town; that is to say instead of large more or less pukka hospitals and sheds being built, movable sheds of a fairly solid description, each to hold one patient or one family of contacts, are made ready for use. They can if necessary be burnt as the cost is trifling and new sheds can be put up in a new place. We owe this action very much, I believe, to the Mulla I have spoken of before, and partly to the fact that the people have the greatest confidence ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ the local civil apothecary Mr. Stocking ^{who} ~~has~~ been 19 years in the place.

J. S. Makarand
28/3/89
for Plague Commissioner.

H.S.
28.3.89
R.C.

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