PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(189)

PRINTED

No. 570/40

DATED 1-3-99

Despd with D.C 7/3/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Disinfection

Utility of White washing during plague

Communicating, to all Collectors for information & guidance, ~~a~~ letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, ~~for~~ Madras, stating that the use of lime-wash may well be discontinued if disinfection has been correctly accomplished with the solutions of perchloride of Mercury and Hydrochloric acid. ~~&c~~

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

268
270
8 Spare

Ordy
4/2

Proceedings of the Plague Commissioner,

MADRAS—1899.

Proof for approval

Please correct and strike [illegible]

4/3/99

Recd. } 1899. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

Proceedings, No. $\frac{570}{40}$, 1st March 1899.

MARCH.

Utility of White-washing during plague.

~~Disinfection.~~

Communicating to all Collectors, for information and guidance, letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, stating that the use of lime-wash may well be discontinued if ~~disinfection~~ has been correctly accomplished with the solutions of perchloride of mercury and hydrochloric acid, ~~&c.~~ ~~and that the correct place for lime-wash is~~ ~~[illegible] to [illegible] the sanitary condition of houses.~~

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

READ—the following papers :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, dated Camp Vellore, 14th February 1899, No. 527/S.

With reference to your Ref. on C. Nos. 1391 and 1663, dated 9th February 1899, I have the honour to state that the District Medical Officer, Anantapur, consulted me demi-officially [correspondence not preserved] with reference to reduction of expenditure in disinfecting, and suggested that, instead of whitewashing the whole of the interior of the houses, a distance of a certain number of feet (as far as I remember not exceeding 3 feet) in height only should be completed. In reply, I pointed out to him that if it was difficult to get lime in other than markedly stale condition seen by me in use at Guntakal, the procedure must be merely ornamental, and that, in practice, if the perchloride of mercury solution with hydrochloric acid were efficiently applied, any further attempt with a substance such as lime, which is subject to change of its causticity from exposure, was unnecessary; in short, that beyond giving the rooms a final appearance of brightness and cleanliness, I considered the action of no importance—provided the really efficient mode of disinfecting by the perchloride of mercury had been practised in the first place. I, therefore, suggested that, as a final ornamental act, whitewashing might be retained in houses in which cases had really occurred, but that, in other instances, in "infected areas" the soaking with perchloride solution ought to suffice. The question of whether or not lime placed on walls subsequent to the use of perchloride had inimical influence on the latter was not discussed by me; as I assumed that before lime-washing a house, an interval to allow of complete drying of the walls would have been arranged for—an interval more than sufficient to secure all germicidal action of the perchloride solution.

Ref. on C. No. 2080.

With reference to your No. 527/S, dated 14th February 1899, I have the honour to say that I welcome any suggestion that will lessen the time and trouble expended in disinfection, without lessening ~~its~~ the value of the work done. I have the honour to request that you will inform me whether you consider that a general direction may be issued to discontinue lime-washing.

20*th February* 1899.

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras, dated Camp Tirupati, 25th February 1899, No. 636/S.

With reference to your letter, Ref. on C. No. 2080, dated 20th instant, I have the honour to state that, provided disinfection has been correctly accomplished with the perchloride of mercury solution in combination with hydrochloric acid, the use of lime-wash must be regarded as a work of super-erogation. It might therefore well be discontinued—otherwise than in instances where the local authorities are of opinion that it would be of special advantage to hand over a disinfected house to the tenant, in an attractive condition.

2. It seems to me that the correct place for lime-washing of houses is not as a method of disinfection, but of improving the general sanitary condition of houses *before* the arrival of an epidemic. Lime-washing has an effect upon organic impurities on walls that is of value in decreasing the chances of a favourable nidus for microbes, but the act of white-washing includes a general clean up and airing of a house which is of greater moment. When such action is taken, not with reference to a solitary house here and there, but to a whole town, or large section of it, there can be no doubt of its being possible to look for important sanitary results. Whilst upon this subject, therefore, I would advise your reminding Collectors of the power given under section 186 of the Madras District Municipalities Act. Provided that no farce is enacted—it being frequent for inhabitants to attempt to satisfy an order by splattering a little whitewash on the outside of a house—I believe the enforcement of the order in municipal towns suffering from, or threatened with, plague, would be a most judicious measure.

PROCEEDINGS—No. $\frac{570}{40}$, dated 1st March 1899.

The papers read above are communicated to all Collectors and the President, Madras Municipal Commission, for information and guidance.

Personal Assistant,
for *Plague Commissioner.*

To all Collectors (A—L).
„ the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ Surgeon-General.
„ Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department.

Ext. A. Rangasawmy Iyer.

Plague

C No 1093

B

570
1-3-99

From

The Plague Deputy
Collector
Guntakal.

To, The Plague Commissioner
Madras
E.P.

Dated 25
Despd
Recd
} January 99

No 153

Submitting the Diary
of the Pl. Deputy Collector
for the week ending 21st
January 99

Dpsd 6/11

Act

The Collector is requested to report why the whitewashing of houses is being discontinued.

27/1.

To Collector of Anantapur
P.H.ef.

Disposed 27/1/99

CP 688

C 133/28/4/99.

B

P. C.
26 JAN. 1899

Report of the Deputy Collector on Plague duty at Guntakal for the week ending Saturday the 21st January.

Sunday 15th

I was engaged this day in enquiring into the claim of Guard Archer. I have submitted the records with my report recommending him for a compensation of Rs 200/.

Attended to office work ~~and~~.

Monday 16th

I this morning visited Konakondla. There were no patients in the Ambulance camp. Karapali Sheshayya who took ill on the 9th and was removed to the Camp hospital died on the 14th evening and Obchoogadu, who was admitted into the camp on the 13th died this (16th) morning. There were only four old cases in the fields. No fresh have occurred here for the last two days.

From Konakondla I went on to [illegible] and inspected the three temples and eight houses disinfected by the Military. The

two

tents, Siva Reddi and his brother Verana, who were in the fields are doing well. No more dead rats have been found here.

Tuesday 17th

I visited the Plague Camp at Guntakal this day.

The doors of the sheds put up for the Assistant Surgeon and Apothecary open on the inside and the Assistant Surgeon complained that when they were open there was no room for him to move about. He also asked that ~~as well~~ a small room in the Verandah should be extended so as to allow his writer to work in it. I have asked the overseer to look to these things as I think these are necessary.

I visited the Railway Station in the evening.

Wednesday 18th

I visited Konakondla this afternoon. No fresh cases were reported from here. Rats are being found dead in several of the houses and these houses are being disinfected.

Thursday 19th

I was engaged this day in office routine work and also visited the Guntakal camp Hospital to obtain information regarding the ~~cook of~~ cost of dieting required by the Collector.

Friday 20th

I visited Konakondla again this day. No fresh cases have occurred here. I have handed over to the Reddi one large tent for the use of the Post master and a few small tents for some of the people who were asking for them.

Saturday 21st

I visited Konakondla with the Collector and Captain Robertson this morning. Rats are still dying at this village though we are hearing ~~the~~ no fresh cases among the people who have all gone out into the fields. Several were found in the Madigah quarters. These houses will all have to be disinfected by the military. I have also ordered the contractor to supply the military with 4 hand lanterns to enable them to search for dead rats in dark houses

houses

I understand that the houses disinfected will no longer be whitewashed and I have asked the Overseer of at the Guntakal camp to report if he can utilize the chunam now in stock at Konakondla

In the evening I visited the Railway station at Guntakal

(signed) W. S. Marshall
Plague Collector

(True copy)

W. S. Marshall
Plague Collector

Comp^d
S.
25/1/99

C. No 1391

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

B

CURRENT No. 1391

I think there has been another paper about white washing of late. I think it is a letter from a Doctor in Anantapur

In Progs No 291 / 31-1-99.

P. C.
2 FEB 1899

~~Progs.~~
~~Letter~~
~~Ref.~~

~~Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner for information. If the facts are as the Collector says, it would be advisable to issue a Circular to all officers in the matter~~

O.C.

3/2/99 Ref on Chos 1391 + 1663 of 99

Forwarded to the Sany Commr for remarks.

From The Collector
Anantapur

Reg^d C No. 407/P of 99

Dated 31st January 1899
Received 2-2-1899
Registered 2-2-1899
Enclosures
Spare copies

W 6/2

SUBJECT.

Reporting that white-washing of houses was discontinued on the suggestion on Dr Robertson

1

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C M B91

Anantapur Collector's office
Dated 31st January 1899

Ref. C No. 407/B

B

From

Bannatyne Macleod Esquire
M.A. Bar: at: Law
Collector of
Anantapur

To

The Plague Commissioner
Madras.

Sir,

Adverting to your letter Ref on C No. 1093 dated the 26th instant; I have the honour to state that whitewashing was discontinued on the suggestion of Captain Robertson I.M.S. in consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner that it does not destroy plague germs and as such of no use if the floor and the walls of houses be well soused with perchloride. It also neutralizes the effect of the perchloride.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Macleod
Collector

Collector of
Anantapur

To
The Plague Commissioner,
Madras.

Sir,

Adverting to your letter
Ref on C No 1093 dated the 26th
instant, I have the honour to state
that whitewashing was discontinued
[illegible] 1899 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
plague [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899) B

CURRENT No. 1683

D.O.

From The Collector of Anantapur

Order

No.

Dated 6-2-1899

Received 8-2-1899

Registered 8-2-1899

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating that he consulted Dr Robertson about discontinuing whitewashing over perchloride of mercury in disinfecting plague house and he tells him distinctly that Dr King verbally and in writing declared to him that whitewashing destroyed the effect of the perchloride of mercury and that if P.C. still thinks it necessary whitewashing can be resumed

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

P. C.
8 - FEB. 1899

C. No 1663

R/ Anantapur
6/2/99

He does not seem to have said any thing definitely on the subject anywhere

B

My dear Buckley,

In reply to your ~~D O~~ No 291/31.1.99 as to discontinuing whitewashing over perchloride of mercury in disinfecting plague house I had to consult Robertson he tells me distinctly that King verbally & in writing declared to him that whitewashing destroyed

To the Sany Commr.

1391 } P
1663 }

Desp'd 13/2/99
M

B

~~NOTE FOR THE~~

C. Nos 1391 + 1663 of 1899

The Sanitary Commr is requested to report whether he has issued any instructions to discontinue whitewashing as a means of disinfection.

~~Whitewash, no doubt, neutralises the effect of perchloride of mercury if applied at once, but it is doubtful if it does, if applied a day or two after.~~

13/2

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899.)

~~For orders.~~

CURRENT No. 2080

Please see remarks on page 22 of Plag A. in Progs 1273 P / 8-10-98

12
16/2

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

Long 16/2/99

Ref on Cur 2080

Df 22/2/99

From

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

No. 527/S

Dated 14 February 1899.

Received P. C. 16 FEB. 1899

Registered 16-2-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

Sir, With refce to your no 527/S d. 14.2.99. I h.t.h. to say that I welcome any suggestion that will lessen the time & trouble expended in disinfection, without lessening the value of the work done. I have t.h. to request that you will inform me whether you consider that a general direction may be issued to discontinue limewashing ~~as~~

20/2

SUBJECT.

Submitting report as to whether he has issued any instructions to the Dt. Medl & Sanitary Officer Anantapur to discontinue whitewashing as a means of disinfection.

To the Sany Commr.

Despd 22-2-99

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C No 2081

[500—5-11-98.]

5

No. 527/8

PLAGUE.

Camp Vellore ~~Madras~~, 14 Feby 1899.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,

P

From

Lieut.-Colonel W. G. King, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

To

The Plague Commissioner
Madras

Enclosure.

PC 570/40 of 1/3

Sir,

With reference to your Ref: on C. Nos 1391 & 1663, dated 9th February 1899, I have the honor to state that the District Medical Officer Anantapur consulted me demi-officially [correspondence not preserved] with reference to reduction of expenditure in disinfecting, and suggested that, instead of white-washing the whole of the interior of the houses a distance of a certain number of feet (as far as I remember not exceeding 3 feet) in height only should be completed. In reply I pointed out to him that if it was difficult to get lime in

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other than markedly state condition seen by me in use at Guntakal, the procedure must be merely ornamental, and that, in practice, if the perchloride of mercury solution with hydrochloric acid were efficiently applied, any further attempt with a substance such as lime, which is subject to change of its causticity from exposure, was unnecessary; in short, that beyond giving the rooms a final appearance of brightness and cleanliness, I considered the action of no importance provided the really efficient mode of disinfecting by the perchloride of mercury had been practised in the first place. I, therefore, suggested that, as a final ornamental act, whitewashing might be retained in houses in which cases had really occurred, but that, in other instances, in "infected areas" the soaking with perchloride solution ought to suffice. The question of whether or not lime placed on walls subsequent to the use of

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I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt. Servt.
W G King
Lieut Col: I.M.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madra

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 2540

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

From
The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras.

No. 636/S

Dated 25 February 1899

P. C.
28 FEB. 1899

Received

Registered 28-2-99

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating that in the circumstances stated the use of lime-wash might well be discontinued. ~~in disinfection~~

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

C No 2540

[500—5-11-98.]

PLAGUE.

No. 636/5

Office of Sanitary Commissioner,
Camp Tirupatti ~~Madras~~, 25 February 1899.
Desp 27 "

From

Lieut.-Colonel W. G. King, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,

To

The Plague Commissioner
Madras

Enclosure.

Sir,

With reference to your letter Ref. on C No. 2080 dated 20th instant, I have the honor to state that provided disinfection has been correctly accomplished with the perchloride of mercury solution in combination with hydrochloric acid, the use of lime-wash must be regarded as a work of supererogation. It might therefore well be discontinued — otherwise than in instances where the local authorities are of opinion that it would be of special advantage to hand over a disinfected house to the tenant, in an attractive

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Municipalities

Municipalities Act. Provided that no farce is enacted — it being frequent for inhabitants to attempt to satisfy an order by splattering a little whitewash on the outside of a house — I believe the enforcement of the order in municipal towns suffering from, or threatened with, plague, would be a most judicious measure.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servant
W G King
Lieut Col. I.M.S.
Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

Chos 1093, 1391, 1663, 2080, + 2540 of 1899

Progs (Print)

The last of the papers read above is communicated to all Collectors & the President, Madras Municipal Commission, for information and guidance.

28/2/99

1/3

Instructions for Press

~~(1) Chos 1391 (full)~~

~~(2) Ref on Chos 1391 (full)~~

(3) Chos 2080 (full)

(4) Ref on Chos 2080 (full)

(5) Chos 2540 (full)

Let me see

Submitted

1/3

Secy

1/3

To All Collectors (pt tod)

President M.M.C.

Copy to the Sanitary Commr

" Surgeon Genl.

Copy to Secy to Govt L & M Depts

Despd 7/3/99

28/2

sent to Press. 2. 3. 99

for signature.

d in print.

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED.
- Order complete.
- Letter only.
- Order complete with Letter.

Cho 1093 [illegible]

Sign copies — 26
Spare copies — 840

H.S.
2.3.99

No.
189

DATED

Current No.

(1) Cho 2080 (full
(2) Desp in Cho 2080 (Only)
(3) Cho (2540) full.

order A

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

Press,

Please send proof

H.S.
2.3.99

N.B.—
A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.