PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 638

Dated 6.3-99

Despatched

[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspection notes

Regarding the — of the Sanitary Commr., of the Bellary Dt., together with reply from the Collector of Bellary to certain ~~questions~~ points raised therein

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.
Ch 316-9			

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1899)

CURRENT No. 923

Progs.
Letter
Ref.

For orders
[illegible] 22/1/99

From The Collector of
Bellary

Reference No. 30-P

Dated 20th January 1899
Received 22/1/99
Registered 23-1-1899
Enclosures C No 2682 of 1898 retd.
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Returning the notes of inspection of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras with a report touching on the several points noted therein.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Orap No 638 d/ 6.3.88.
6/3

Recorded
13

6/3

It need not be comm. [illegible]

To S. C.
Colls of Bellary
President M.C. Madras
[illegible]
4/2 88

2652
Cur: 923, 872

Communicated to the Sanitary Comsr.

2. Para 1(e) is Communicated ~~Dr. Smith~~ to the President M.C. Madras for favour of obtaining the opinion of the Municipal Engineer upon the point referred to.

3. The G.C. agrees with the Collr that it is premature to employ a person to conduct inoculation among Muhammadan women in Bellary at present.

4. The Collr is authorised to employ a nurse to inspect gosha passport holders at their houses, & he is requested to apply for formal sanction, specifying the salary proposed.

5. The Sanitary Comsr does not appear to have given timely intimation of his tour to the Collr as required by G.O. No 1354 M. d/ 3-6-87.

Curr 923 . 872

Communicated to the Sanitary Commr:

2. Para 1(c) is communicated ~~[illegible]~~ to the President [illegible] for purpose of obtaining the opinion of the [illegible] as [illegible] referred to

3. The P.C. agrees with the Collr. that it is premature to [illegible] a [illegible] with marginal remarks [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for general [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

5. The Sanitary Commr. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Ref. On. C.L.R. 2682

PLAGUE.

CAMP

Dated 189 .

No.

Ref on C.L.R.

From

M. HAMMICK, Esq., I.C.S.,
PLAGUE COMMISSIONER,
Madras,

To

THE Collr. of Bellary

Dft 8000 31/12

SIR,

I h.t.h. to forward for your info. with marginal remarks the ~~inspection~~ notes× of the Sanitary Commr on his inspection of the arrangements made in your District to deal with Plague. Many of the points have been brought to your notice by me before. It is not clear if the S.C. consulted you of this time.

Yr. obt.

× Marginal to be returned

Despd. 2-1-99.

Plague

BELLARY COLLECTOR'S OFFICE.

Dated 20th January 1899.

No.

Chr 923

FROM

E. A. Elwin Esquire
Ag. COLLECTOR OF
BELLARY.

To

THE Plague Commissioner
Madras.

SIR,

In returning herewith the Sanitary Commissioner's notes of inspection received with your letter $\frac{\text{RC } 2682}{29.12.98}$ I have the honour to state as follows:—

(a) Your remarks along with extracts from the notes have been communicated to the various officers in the district concerned.

(b) With reference to your remark against the notes on 'system of detention pursued at the frontier railway station', the Medical Officer in charge of the Hospet inspection station has been instructed that until further orders detention of passengers at this station for

10 days should be the exception and not the rule. The stricter system might be reverted to in June next when the Tungabhadra again becomes unfordable, but your orders on the point will of course be first solicited.

(c) As regards the water supply plague Camp Hospital Hospet, I am in favour of covering the well up and supplying it with a pump and small tank provided that a pump that will not be constantly getting out of order can be procured. The wheel pumps are probably the most serviceable, but on the other hand their cost is comparatively very high. I should be glad if you would settle this question for me, as there are probably persons at Madras who could give valuable advice on the subject. The lift and force pumps supplied by Messrs Richardson and Cruddas, Bombay, to the Tungabhadra camp are continually having to be repaired, and cannot be considered suitable for native coolies to work.

Ask the San. Commr. [illegible]
27 [illegible]

(d) With reference to the Sanitary Commissioner's opinion that a lady doctor is much required to reach the gosha females in Bellary, I have to say that the number of Mahomedans inoculated is very small and that until the leading men of the Community profess themselves willing to be inoculated it would be useless to engage a special person to inoculate the females. The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, whom I have consulted, wishes to have a good nurse to relieve the one attached to the Municipal Hospital of the work of inspecting gosha passport holders at their houses, and I agree with him.

I concur

Do apply for one

2 Adverting to the concluding sentence of your letter, I have the honour to inform you that the Sanitary Commissioner in his letter 2798/S / 21.11.98 reported that he purposed inspecting the district during the week (presumably the week beginning on 21.11.98, a Monday) and would be at Hospet about 24.11.98. His letter reached Bellary on 23.11.98: I was then in the Hadagali

Has he been asked to [illegible] in letter taluk 25 miles west of Hospet, and it was impossible for me to arrange to be present at the inspection.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Collector

Pd
20.1.99

Plague

Copy of letter No 659 from the Medical
17.1.99
Officer in Charge of the inspection Station Hospet to the Collector of Bellary

P. C.
21 JAN 1899

With reference to para 15, of the Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes dated 24th November 1898 communicated to me with your No 30 P dated 14th January 1899, I have the honour to state that the Sanitary Commissioner was misinformed in regard to the fact that the 3 cases detained at Hospet inspection Station were in possession of inoculation Certificates. As a matter of fact the cases referred to were not inoculated.

Communicated to the Plague Commissioner and Sanitary Commissioner

L Gopalasam
for Collector

Pd
18.1.99

C No 872

~~From~~

The Collector of

Bellary

To

The Plague Commissioner

Madras

Ref on C 30 P
18.1.99

~~Forwarding~~ copy of letter ~~from~~ the C. Medical Officer Hospet stating that the 3 persons detained at Hospet inspection station were not inoculated.

Ch No 923 & 872

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for information and return. He is requested to state whether he has any advice to offer on para 1(c) of the Collector's letter of the 20 January

Lmy
27/1/99

Plague Commr

See within

C No 2682

Recd. [illegible] 31/12/98

already noted by [illegible]

Inspection Notes of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

The observation and disinfection Camp - Hospet.

Inspected 24th November 1898

General state. Except that in the neighbouring ditches, there has occurred unauthorized collections of rubbish, the whole area is neat and clean. Discipline is excellent.

2 Buildings. The sheds for observation are of the "under one roof" pattern that does not seem to me so serviceable as where small detached sheds are employed. Sufficient area is allowed per head. Throughout the sheds, no space has been allowed at the eaves for ventilation. No verandahs are provided. These points might reasonably have been attended to. It is not necessary to interfere with the structure on these accounts at present, but if the ~~plague~~ rooms become crowded up to the full numbers for which accommodation is

estimated, ventilation at the eaves should be arranged for

V. LB

3 Water-supply. There is a specially sunk well with an efficient pump. It was not necessary to have raised the parapet to the extent effected, seeing that a pump was to have been placed in position. A loose stone is provided in the well cover, with the idea of aerating the water at intervals. It serves solely to allow drippings from the cover to pass into the well— thus defeating the whole expenditure to secure protection of purity. A movable cover that will allow entrance for repairs only should be supplied. Ideas as to aeration and sunlight for the class of water in question are not applicable.

already noted by me LB

4 Washing and bathing. These are allowed in the neighbourhood of the well. The practice should be stopped. Bathing places exist. Inappropriately they are roofed. The roof should be removed, and it should be +

insisted

There shd be no real objection to using these places. LB.

insisted that the spaces be used

5 Collection of Night-soil. The latrines have been made so as to expose far too much surface to the action of urine. All faecal matter, in consideration of this being practically a "suspect camp", should be received in disinfectants e.g., Carbolic sawdust.

V. LB

6 Rubbish and nightsoil disposal. These are both carted to the depôt of the Union. I think this course is undesirable, in reference to the subsequent disturbance of the rubbish for purposes of manure by purchasers. For destruction of rubbish, an incinerator should be furnished. This should be as per plan enclosed. This exhibits an ordinary mud and stone incinerator, plus a hood that, whilst furnishing protection during rain, will aid considerably the production of effective draught. Night-soil should be buried in special trenches, and layers of quicklime should be added

V. LB

added thereto.

7 Disinfection. The process of disinfection of clothing and persons was conducted carefully, — with due regard to decency and general courtesy to all classes, and with care as to the modesty of the female sex. The steam disinfecting apparatus is of an extremely awkward form, demanding much undesirable handling of the clothing by the men, before either the clothing can be deposited within it, or withdrawn. In actual working, a pressure of thirty pounds is kept for 30 minutes. This in all probability fully suffices for ~~the~~ disinfection, but having regard to the known variability of results with machines more correctly adapted to the end than the makeshift here used, it would be desirable to work with as much more attention to the question of getting rid of the air in the pores of the material to be disinfected. Thus, instead of thrusting the clothing into the disinfecting Chamber

It is most clumsy but possibly cannot be altered now. W.B.

Chamber without previous preparation, it would be well to attempt to get the sides fully heated, so as to moderate the condensation of steam, which must occur in the first place. This would mean the letting in of steam, allowing its rapid egress, and then turning the bottom valve so as to allow of the escape of the condensed water. With the sides of the Chamber thus heated, and least prepared to condense steam, the clothing should be placed in position, and steam be introduced, enter and suddenly let off full bore, at least twice before letting steam to finally collect for disinfection. In disinfecting silks by such action, care should be taken not to place them in spots walked over by the camp inhabitants. A specially clean spot should be selected, and frequently changed. The steam escape pipe should be prolonged so as to discharge above and not below the roof as at present as a matter of convenience to those superintending the work.

8 Plague Camp. Hospital. As regards the flooring of wards, the remarks made as to the Bellary Camp. Hospital described further on apply here.

9 No separate latrine accommodation is provided for relations of the sick: there is no shed for servants of Europeans. Over the hospital doors should be stated the measurement and the accommodation afforded: not less than 2000 cubic feet per head, with 144 square feet of floor space should be provided.

10 A disinfecting space and incinerator should be made.

11 Water-supply. The protection of the water is incomplete: there being hesitation as to whether notwithstanding the admission of three plague cases the camp will be used to an extent to justify the expenditure for a pump and tank. Considering that plague has caused 1703 deaths in the Nizam's Dominions within 22 miles of Hospet, and that no other place

is

The Collector is requested to report his opinion. LB

V. LB

is available nearer than Bellary 40 miles distant, and that it has to serve the purpose of a frontier hospital camp, I think there should be no hesitation in the matter: the camp should be made complete in all details.

12 Hosur Frontier Ghat Station. The accommodation is sufficient. The site is however highly malarious. The Hospital Assistant was sickly, and seemed to have little energy in the conduct of details of his duty. It would be charitable to have him removed, as early as possible. All men in these river stations should be systematically dosed with quinine, as a prophylactic measure. The Hospital Assistant's physical state, I think, sufficiently accounted for his defective ~~care of~~ methods of discipline. Although he had a man under "detention", he as well as the watchman slept in the village, which is one mile distant. The conservancy maistry is stated to live in Hospet six

miles off. The only persons really resident on the spot are the toty and his wife. It may be that the policeman stops there at night; I have no proof to the opposite. Where however the Hospital Assistant seemed to me chiefly to fail in his methods was in arranging for payment of batta to the solitary man under detention. According to his own statement, he advanced money to the police sufficient for three and four days at a time, without taking from him any receipt. The man under detention declared that the result of the system was that he got very decidedly insufficient food. The Hospital Assistant challenged could not prove that he had seen the man's rations either on the day of my visit or that previously. It is rumoured here that plague corpses have been thrown into the river above the site at a village in the Nizam's Dominions. This may be merely a scare, but as Mr Stevens, the Hyderabad Deputy Plague Commissioner, has in a recent report, referred to the habit of the natives of this part burying in the bed of the river, it would be advisable that Reddis of villages on the river bank be required to watch carefully, and report as to the existence of the habit.

13 Jabiarighat Frontier Road Station. This is another station on the river Tungabhadra — guarding approach from the Nizam's Dominions. On arrival at this camp, I found one of the men under detention proceeding alone into the jungle for purposes of nature. Latrines are provided for this purpose, and, in any case, the free departure of the man without observation was not likely to conduce to safe custody. The Hospital Assistant had taken the policeman to the river, unnecessarily. The place was neatly kept. The Hospital Assistant understood

It is wonderful how obedient they are. B and was performing his duties correctly. One point requires attention. So as to subserve economy, unless he happens to have a batch of passports to send off he keeps them till the next morning. I advised him to send them off without delay, on the day of issue.

14 The adjoining Nizam's Dominions. Statements as to the condition of Kopbal about twelve miles from the Tungabhadra were so alarming at Hospet, that I thought it desirable to ascertain facts for myself. I, therefore, proceeded to Kopbal and interviewed the Talugdar there, informing him that I was not deputed by the Madras Government, but had visited him in my private capacity. I found that Kopbal town had not been attacked, but that the condition was sufficiently alarming in the villages surrounding it within three and four miles. The attacked villages had however been recently completely evacuated, and the talugdar assured me that matters were rapidly improving. In a village visited on the way, I ascertained that taliaris were kept posted to prevent entrance of strangers in this and all villages in the taluq; that, under the influence of the Amildar, the people had written to their relations in affected localities saying they would not receive them; so that a voluntary system of quarantine was established.

Similar precautions are not unknown in British territory V.B.

What struck me as most noteworthy was the appreciative manner in which the people spoke of the efforts made by H.H. the Nizam's Government to get rid of the disease from their midst. I found that the Sanskrit text quoted by me in the Convocation Address in March 1897 was being freely circulated, and that under its influence evacuation of villages was readily effected in the case of Hindus.

15 System of detention pursued

at

At the frontier Railway station.

The section in the Plague Rules and Regulations referring to "suspicious persons" undergoes very wide interpretation. The strictness need not be considered bad policy so long as the river Tungabhadra is not fordable, which may be for a further period of one month. But when this occurs, it would be desirable to exercise far more discrimination, otherwise persons will certainly evade inspection. At Hospet, Railway station of 23 third class passengers who were passing through on the day of my inspection, 18 were detained as "suspicious". The clothing of the whole 23 was disinfected. Only two passengers were allowed to proceed on passport. It is noteworthy that the Hospet records of the camp show that three cases of plague have been detained here. In each instance, the patient presented an inoculation certificate. It must be said, in the interests of inoculation

that

[illegible] King is in effect - we must Put our measures to the test ? WB

that it was never proved that these were certificates held by persons actually inoculated; but the fact, with that recently reported from Guntakal as to an arrival from Bangalore goes to show how unsafe it is to trust to inoculation certificates without subjection to observation, more especially within the period required for incubation, and acquisition of protective influence. Mr Eames, the Plague Supervisor of the area, reported that the people do not object to the precautionary measures now being exercised.

16 The town of Kamalapur. Here I met the Assistant Plague Inspector, and ascertained his methods of procedure as to checking passports. He understands his duties and conducts them correctly.

18 Difficulty exists as to rubbish disposal - more especially by the large amount of debris from sugar cane after expression of the juice. I advised the

chairman to erect at convenient and frequent intervals throughout the town mud and stone incinerators, on the pattern of small "Chunam battis".

18 The union possesses a balance of Rs 400. From this sum, I think it essential that, say, Rs 150 should be sanctioned for protection of the only good water possessed by the village — namely, in a "step well". I met troops of women each of whom had entered the well to draw water. On sending for water for my own use, a Mahomedan was found washing his clothes in it. It would be a very simple matter — the cost of which certainly would not exceed the sum stated — to build within the well a platform sloping towards a foul water receptacle, such as a large earthen tub, or, better, an iron tank. This arrangement would prevent the expense of building up to the surface level. It must be remembered that the plague bacillus can survive in water sufficiently long to entail mischief.

19 Bellary Town. The town has been duly placed "under observation" and the staff required under G.O. No. 1985 M. dated 18 November 1896 is employed. On the day preceding my arrival, a case of plague had been detected under the "passport system."

20 The Plague Hospital Camp. The wards are provided with cement plastered flooring. There should be added small drains, leading to a cistern in which should be constantly placed disinfectants. In this manner, all foul washings will reach a definite position instead of being allowed to soak in the surroundings. The latrines are of an evil pattern, prohibiting the possibility of cleanliness. I advised the necessary modifications, which I need not here repeat.

An incinerator and disinfecting space should be provided.

Do. W.B.

21 It would add to the comfort and, certainly would only be in accordance with bare necessities, to provide the Medical Subordinate's quarters with a six foot verandah on one side.

may be done W.B.

22 Observation Camp. These sheds are built on the separate plan. They would fulfil requirements, were provision made for ventilation. This may be secured by opening the eaves, and making windows.

Do. W.B.

23 The latrines here have earthen floors. Accommodation is provided solely for females. As "suspects" will be accommodated here, this policy is unsafe. Latrines for both sexes with impervious floors should be provided. The most suitable would be that shown for caste hospitals — Vide Plague Commissioner's Proceedings No. 220 A. dated 18 October 1898

Do. W.B.

1898.

24 No observation shed is attached either to the Plague Hospital, or to this camp. It is desirable that a shed be built for this purpose, so as to enable segregation to take place of cases suffering from doubtful conditions until the Medical Officers have decided whether the case be of plague or not.

Do., if I understand aright. I believe Col. King to refer to a shed for suspects, i.e. persons who are beyond the observation stage.

25 The Plague Hospital is at present dependent upon an unprotected spring. Later in the season, however, this will not supply sufficient water. The nearest existing well is that attached to the observation camp. This is open and liable to pollution. Probably the cheapest and certainly sanitarily the safest way of combining the water-supply of these two camps is to use a pump lifting from the well to an iron cube tank say of 600 gallons capacity, whence by pipes the water could be taken to both camps, and there be delivered

please see W.B.

by taps. An incinerator, disinfecting platform and bathing places for both sexes are necessary here.

26 At my request, the Chairman assembled an informal meeting of the Council which was attended by all the Councillors. The measures effected up to date were discussed. It was found that the total balance of funds at present at disposal amounted to Rs 910, but that a loan of Rs 5000 for plague purposes had been sought from Government. Under these circumstances, it was not possible to advise radical changes which are obviously necessary if Bellary is to be correctly protected against plague by local improvements. Confining myself, therefore, to simple yet necessary measures I advised (1) The putting in force of Section 217 of the District Municipalities Act, by which a "separate method" for removal of rubbish, abolition of dustbins, and the provision

of

of separate receptacles for night-soil should be arranged for throughout the town, other than in the poorest localities. (2) The appointment of a Vigilance Committee. (3) The holding of further public meetings with the object of again attempting to secure sufficient funds to start Caste Hospitals which up to date – although certain meetings have been held on the subject – do not exist. (4) The increase of the staff of totis by one-fourth – the number now employed being decidedly below minimum requirements. (5) The general whitewashing of houses by private owners. (6) The formation of platforms to all open drinking water sources, and the alteration of drinking water wells, so as to preclude the possibility of contamination, by using the Koch method of filling, with use of pumps. These proposals though simple in themselves will be of great aid in preventing the spread of plague. The meeting unanimously signified its intention of effecting them.

27 In the matter of care as to disinfection of the two houses inhabited by the infected plague patient disinfection of clothing and other matters, I am glad to be able to report, from personal inspection, that Mr Santhiah the lately appointed Secretary displayed an amount of energy that augurs well for Bellary keeping plague at Bay.

28 Inoculation. At Kamalapur, I sounded the Chairman as to willingness of the inhabits to undergo inoculation. He said they believed in its efficacy, but wished to see how it acted upon some one before they yielded their own bodies for the process. The Assistant Sanitary Inspector volunteered to act as the scape-goat. I inoculated him the following day at Hospet with 19 others. These

included

included Mr. Hanumantha Gowd, and other leading people of the locality. The gentleman named promised to secure large numbers. Mr. Stocking, the Civil Apothecary, being now provided with serum and a syringe, will I have no doubt, be able to put this gentleman's promise to the test. The Civil Apothecary informs me that he has already received offers from Reddies of neighbouring villages. I trust, therefore that in this important part of the frontier inoculation is fairly started. In Bellary, I inoculated 60 persons. The proprietor of the Seshana mills promises me the entire mill-hands about 600 if I will return. Large numbers of respectable inhabitants also promised compliance. It seems to me that a lady doctor is much required to reach the Gosha females in Bellary. Inoculation has been

steadily

Will Com. kindly state opinion. I believe inoculation is not popular in Bellary of late. I.B.

steadily pursued for the last three months by Captain Williams I.M.S and Major Evans I.M.S. ~~up to date inoculations have been accomplished~~.

W G King
Lt.-Col. I.M.S
San. Comr for Madras
16/12/98

When given for copying _____ 189
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When signed _____