

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1899)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 726

Dated 16-3-99

Despatched 16-3-99

Indexed ~~17~~ 17-3-99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague Commissioner's Diary dated 8.3.99
being his notes on the inspection of
Kanipect, Punji, Malaja & Arcot.

BACK PAPERS.

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CM 3573473			

Pro no 776 of 16-3-99
NOTE FOR THE Diary
8.3.99. Tuesday Ramipet

I have spent the last 2 days in inspecting Ramipet, Puyji, Malaja + Arcol. Capt Allenby of the 13th Madras Infantry + Mr ^{Hanna} Haller are in charge of the operations in the first three named places; Capt Pearce + Mr Lubeck are at Arcol. The latter officer is doing far better work than I expected him at the beginning. I think that all the 4 officers are good men and are doing their best. The state of affairs in all the places is, I think, not worse than it was + possibly better. The great thing we had to contend with is, the concealment of cases especially among Muhammas^{deus}. I made careful enquiries in Malaja. The number of Muhammas there according to the Census is about 800; the Chairman delegate is himself a Muhammas + he tells me that about half the Muhammas have left the town. Considering

26/15/3

Check

in my opinion

9th 3/12

the number of Muhammadans in the town the
number of deaths reported & from an inspection
of one of the burial ground in the town, I am
inclined to think that we are getting a fair
return among Muhammadans in localities.
As for the Hindus the deaths are registered.
As before they continue to dispose of the
corpses before we have an opportunity of
deciding whether it is a case of plague
or not. At Arcot & Ranipet we have,
I can say, a fair record of the attacks
among Hindus, but about Muhammadans
we know very little. There ^{are} over 300 burial
grounds in Arcot alone & there is a very large
number also in Ranipet. Considering that
the greater part of Ranipet consists of Muhammadans
mostly of lowest type & that there have been
no cases of plague recorded among them, I have
not the slightest doubt that concealment is freely
practised ~~among~~ among them. Now to catch them
is the difficulty without house to house
visitation. It is impossible to guard every
burial ground & a night patrol ^{is} always
evaded. They are inclined, I can say, to
bury in the night at the head of palay, ~~even~~
on the Arcot side & this makes matters
very difficult. They tom tom all night
& every night. They say that is done to keep
away the plague. It is possible that is done

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NOTE FOR THE

to draw attention while
corpses are being disposed of
after elsewhere. In Arcot
we have discovered cases among
Muhammadans & things there
are generally going very well
under Capt. Pearce. He has
had experience in Bangalore & he
is a man of method & energy and
he is I am sure doing all that
can be done in a very difficult
place. He complains of the
numbers of houses that have been
vacated & locked up & he cares
that when the disease abates &
people come back, there will
be a fresh outbreak when these
empty houses (which in all
probability had been infected by
rats & have not been disinfected)
are once again tenanted. He is
anxious that in certain streets
at all events a general dis-
infection should be carried out.
The Colbr unfortunately was
unable to be here with me.
I have suggested to Capt. Pearce

~~Handwritten notes and calculations:~~

A	S	W
22	-	27
R 33	-	37
O 43	-	47
W 53	-	57

~~Signature: 15/12/99~~

~~NOTE FOR THE~~

advances they hold are large, but they are quite insufficient on occasions, & the round about methods of all bills going through 2 or 3 officers for signature involves a delay which should be avoided at all costs. We are employing officers on high pay & I think if the Accountant General has no objection from the A.C. point of view they may be trusted to pay monies on their own responsibility without free audit.

The attacks & deaths during the past fortnight in the places I have visited are noted here.

Office put up attacks &
deaths for the past fortnight
in the 4 places named:

over 10/200

without free audit. The permanent

I will not interfere with the P. C's discretion, but unless the whole town is tainted, the measure seems superfluous. Quarters of the town- if there are such -where no plague case has occurred would seem to be quite safe without the annoyance to the people and expense to the public funds of disinfection.

Initialled. A. T. A.

27-3-99.

To P. C. U. O.

Initialled. H. T.

28-3-99.

There is reason to believe that every part of the town is infected. It is not proposed in the case of Arcot, to disinfect all the houses in the town but to carry out a general disinfection of houses in particular quarters where the number of outbreaks gives reason to believe that a whole block or lane is infected. I think this is very necessary. In the Deccan and Salem we have been able to carry out evacuation without the use of force, even in such large towns as Hindupur(10,000 inhabitants) and Hospet(with Chitwadigi 16,000). If a town is evacuated I consider a general disinfection is necessary. Experience tells us that in villages which have been evacuated the disease continues as long as people go back to their disinfected houses(even though no case may have occurred in them) and ceases only when coming and going is prohibited till disinfection is complete. A general disinfection has been made in indigenously affected villages in Deccan and Salem. Recently when at Hospet I sanctioned the entertainment of an increased staff of coolies to complete disinfection(subsequently formally sanctioned the papers put up) In towns not evacuated, it may, nevertheless, be necessary to disinfect blocks. It costs a lot no doubt, but I hold the opinion that it is likely to be cheaper in the long run.

Initialled.

L. E. B.

31-3-99.

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