

Marine (1897) Department.

20th Sept 1897
1897-98
1897-98
G.O., No. 801 Mar

DATED 11 September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Quarantine: Letter from the Bengal Govt for
warding copies of notifications publishing
rules in supersession of the previous ones, for - against
plague for the port of Calcutta, recorded

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Forwarding copies of
notifications publishing
rules for quarantine against
— for the port of Calcutta
+ cancelling the previous
rules.

FURTHER PAPERS.

The 24th August 1897.

These rules shall take effect from the 26th August 1897 in the Port of Calcutta, and shall supersede all previous rules.

I. Definitions :—

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- (1) *Health Officer*.—In these rules “Health Officer” means the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta, and includes an Assistant Health Officer and any person appointed by name, or in virtue of his office, to perform the duties of an Assistant Health Officer.
 - (2) *Infected ship*.—Any ship with plague on board, or on board which one or more cases have taken place within 12 days before her arrival, will be considered *infected*.
 - (3) *Suspected ship*.—Any ship, on board which there has been a case of plague at the time of departure, or during the voyage, but on which no fresh case has occurred for 12 days before her arrival, will be considered *suspected*.
 - (4) *Healthy ship*.—Any ship, even though coming from an infected port, which has had no death or case of plague on board, either before departure, during the voyage, or on arrival, will be considered *healthy*.
 - (5) *Observation*.—The term “observation” means that the persons subjected to it will be segregated in a lazaretto or isolation camp, till they have obtained free *pratique*.
 - (6) *Surveillance*.—The term “surveillance” means that the persons subjected to it will not be isolated; they will at once obtain free *pratique*, but, on arriving at their destination, they will be kept under medical supervision.

II. *Hoisting of yellow flag*.—The Commander of every vessel, including buggalows or other native craft, (a) arriving from an infected port, or (b) having plague on board, or (c) on board of which one or more cases of plague have taken place within 12 days of her arrival, shall, on arrival at the Sandheads, hoist a yellow flag, and indicate by signal the port from which she has come, and shall keep such flag and signal flying until permitted in writing by the Health Officer to haul it down. The Pilot, on going alongside such vessel, shall direct the flag prescribed above to be hoisted, if that has not already been done.

III. *Prohibition of communication.*—The Commander shall not, without first having obtained permission as hereinafter provided, allow any communication except orally with the shore or any other vessel or boat, excepting only with the boat supplying the Pilots*
*N.B.—Pilots are compulsory for all vessels over 100 tons in the Port of Calcutta.

from the Pilot Brig, and in that case, communication shall be limited to receiving on board the Pilot, his Leadsman, servant and baggage.

IV. *Stoppage at Diamond Harbour.*—If there is any case of sickness on board, and the Pilot has reason to believe that it is plague, he shall telegraph to the Health Officer from Saugor, and not proceed beyond Diamond Harbour without the permission of the Health Officer.

V. *Stoppage at Mateabrooj*.—If the Pilot has no reason to believe that there is any one suffering from plague on board, he shall bring the vessel up the river to Mateabrooj, and shall anchor it there till the Health Officer has visited it.

VI. *Inspection by Health Officer.*—The Health Officer, as soon as he has received information of the stoppage of the vessel at Diamond Harbour, or of its arrival at Mateabrooj, shall visit it and ascertain by enquiry from the Commander or the Medical Officer on board, or from other sources of information, whether any person on board is suffering or has suffered from plague. For this purpose, he may demand a declaration, on oath, from the Doctor of the ship, or, failing him, from the Captain, that there has been no case of plague on the ship since her departure.

VII. *Rules relating to infected ships:—*

- (1) If an infected ship has, under Rule IV, been stopped at Diamond Harbour, she will await the orders of the Health Officer there. If, under Rule V, she has been brought up to Mateabrooj, the Health Officer will direct the Commander to take her to the Sanitary station at Diamond Harbour, or elsewhere as may be appointed by Government, and to await orders there.
- (2) On arrival at the Sanitary station, the sick will be immediately disembarked and isolated under the order of the Health Officer.

- (3) The other persons on board shall also be disembarked and, when necessary, kept under observation at the Sanitary station for a period varying, in the discretion of the Health Officer, according to the sanitary condition of the ship and the date of the last case. Such period must not exceed ten days from the date of the last case, whether that occurred on boardship or during the period of observation on shore. It is also in the discretion of the Health Officer to allow such persons to proceed to their destination on their giving a written undertaking, in the form annexed as Appendix I, to submit themselves to surveillance by the Medical Officer (if any) appointed for the purpose, at their destination, for a period of ten days from the date of the arrival of the ship. The undertaking shall be executed in duplicate, and one copy shall be sent by the Health Officer to the Medical Officer concerned.

No one arriving on the vessel shall be left on board except those persons whose presence is necessary for the care of the vessel.

- (4) The soiled linen and personal effects of the crew and passengers, which, in the opinion of the Health Officer, may be considered as infected, shall be disinfected, in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix II.
- (5) The bilge-water will be pumped out after disinfection, and good drinking-water will be substituted for the water stored on board.
- (6) All parts of the ship, which have been inhabited by plague-patients, will be disinfected; and the other parts of the ship may also be disinfected at the discretion of the Health Officer.
- (7) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.

VIII. Rules relating to suspected ships:—

- (1) If a suspected ship has, under Rule IV, been stopped at Diamond Harbour, she will await the orders of the Health Officer there. If, under Rule V, she has been brought up to Mateabrooj, the Health Officer will go on board of her there.
- (2) The passengers and crew will be medically inspected by the Health Officer.
- (3) The soiled linen and personal effects of the passengers and crew which, in the opinion of the Health Officer, may be considered as infected, will be disinfected in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix II.
- (4) The bilge-water will be pumped out after disinfection, and good drinking-water will be substituted for the water stored on board.
- (5) All parts of the ship, which have been inhabited by plague-patients, will be disinfected; and the other parts of the ship may also be disinfected at the discretion of the Health Officer.
- (6) Passengers who are suspected by the Health Officer to be infected with plague may be detained under observation in an isolation hospital appointed for the purpose, for ten days from arrival of the ship, or if plague occurs among them while under observation, from the date of the last case.
- (7) The crew will not be allowed to land, except on duty, for ten days from the arrival of the ship.
- (8) Passengers who are passed on medical inspection as healthy, will be allowed to proceed to their destination on their giving a written undertaking, in the form annexed, to submit themselves to surveillance by the Medical Officer (if any) appointed for the purpose, at their destination, for a period of ten days from the date of the arrival of the ship. The undertaking shall be executed in duplicate, and one copy shall be sent by the Health Officer to the Medical Officer concerned.
- (9) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.

IX. Rules relating to healthy ships:—

- (1) A healthy ship shall be given free *pratique* at once, whatever may be the nature of her bill of health.
- (2) Such a ship may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be subjected to the measures prescribed in Rules VIII (2), VIII (3) and VIII (4), but the ship itself may not be disinfected as in Rule VIII (5), except with the consent of the Commander or Agent.
- (3) Passengers who, on medical inspection, are suspected by the Health Officer to be infected with plague, may be detained under observation in an isolation hospital appointed for the purpose, for ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port, or, if plague occurs among them while under observation, from the date of the last case.
- (4) The crew will not be allowed to land, except on duty, for ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port.
- (5) The crew and passengers may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be subjected to surveillance in the manner described in Rule VIII (8), for a period of ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port.

- (6) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.
- (7) None of the above measures will be considered necessary when the ship has been given free *pratique* at Colombo or other intermediate port.

X. *Ships carrying a Doctor or a stove.*—In exercising the discretion vested in him by the rules under heads VII, VIII and IX above, the Health Officer should take into consideration the fact of there being a Doctor, or a disinfecting apparatus (stove), on board the ship in question.

XI. *Rules relating to crowded and insanitary ships.*—Crowded ships, ships carrying emigrants or return pilgrims, and ships which appear to be in an insanitary state may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be treated as suspected ships under head VIII.

XII. *Right of ship to put back to sea.*—Any ship objecting to submit to the obligations imposed by these rules will be free to put back to sea. Such objection must be notified on or before arriving at Diamond Harbour.

XIII. *Rules applying to ships claiming right to put back to sea.*—If ships claiming the right to put back to sea desire to disembark passengers or land goods, they must submit to the rules relating to suspected ships.

XIV. *Provisions and stores.*—It will be the duty of the Port Officer to facilitate the conveyance to all vessels in quarantine of such supplies of provisions, stores and other articles as may be required by those on board. Such supplies will be placed on the boats of the vessels in quarantine, to be subsequently removed by members of their crews.

A. D. McARTHUR, Col., R.E.,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDIX I.

I (name) of (place) do hereby declare that it is my intention at once to proceed to (place), and I agree to submit myself to medical supervision by (name or office of Medical Officer appointed for the purpose) for a period of ten days from (date from which period is to be reckoned).

Signed

In the presence of

Health Officer.

APPENDIX II.

Instructions for disinfection.

- Personal effects, rags, infected bandages, papers, and other articles without value should be destroyed by fire.
- Under-clothing, bedding, wearing apparel, mattresses, carpets, &c., which are contaminated or suspected, should be disinfected in stoves at normal pressure, or at a pressure of from one and-a-half to two degrees, with or without the presence of steam. Before a stove is passed as efficient for the purposes of disinfection, it should be subjected to a test, with the aid of a signal thermometer, showing the moment when the temperature in the middle of a mattress rises to, at least, 100° (centigrade). To ensure that the disinfection is effective, this temperature must be maintained for from 10 to 15 minutes.
- Disinfecting solutions—
 - Solution of corrosive sublimate, of 1 part in 1,000, with the addition of 10 parts of chloride of soda. The solution should be coloured with aniline dye or indigo. It should not be placed in metal vessels.
 - A 5 per cent. solution of pure crystallized carbolic acid, or 5 per cent. of crude commercial carbolic acid, in a warm solution of soft soap.
 - Fresh slaked lime (1).
- Special instructions to be observed in the employment of disinfecting solutions. The linen, clothing and articles, soiled by the excreta of patients, should be soaked in the solution of corrosive sublimate. The solution of pure carbolic acid, and the solution of soap and carbolic acid, are equally suited to the purpose. The articles should remain in the solution for at least six hours.

(1) To get very strong slaked-lime, take lime of good quality, slake it, by moistening it gradually, with half its weight of water. When the operation is completed, put the powder in a carefully-corked receptacle, and place it in a dry spot. As each kilogramme of lime absorbs 500 grammes of water in order to become slack, it acquires a volume of 2 litres 200, and it is sufficient to dilute it with double its volume of water, say 4 kilogrammes 400 grammes, to obtain a white-wash, which will be of about 20 per cent. strength of lime.

Articles which cannot be subjected to the temperature of the stove (100° centigrade) without injury, such as leather goods, wooden articles stuck together with glue, felt, velvet, silk, &c., should be washed with the solution of corrosive sublimate; coins can be disinfected with the solution of soap and carbolic acid.

Persons engaged in nursing the sick should wash their hands and faces with the solution of corrosive sublimate, or with one of the carbolic solutions.

The carbolic solutions will be useful, more particularly for disinfecting articles, such as metals, instruments, etc., which can neither be subjected to a temperature of 100° centigrade, nor placed in contact with corrosive sublimate.

Slaked-lime is particularly recommended for disinfecting excreta. Expecterated matter should be burnt.

5. Disinfection of ships with plague-patients on board.

The cabin or cabins, and all parts of the ship occupied by the sick or *suspected*, should be cleared out, and all articles in them should be treated as described above.

The partitions should be disinfected with the solution of corrosive sublimate, with an addition of 10 per cent. of alcohol. The washing should commence from the top, horizontally, and be continued downwards, so that the whole surface of the partition becomes covered with a coating of minute drops.

The boarding should be washed with the same solution.

Two hours after, the walls and flooring should be washed over with plenty of water.

6. Disinfection of the hold of an infected ship.

To disinfect the hold, sulphate of iron, in quantity sufficient to neutralize the sulphuretted hydrogen, should first be thrown in, the bilge-water should be pumped out, and the hold washed with sea-water. Solution of corrosive sublimate should then be thrown in.

The bilge-water should not be pumped out while the ship is in port.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

NOTIFICATION—No. 161 Marine.

The 27th August 1897.

With the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to declare that the rules for quarantine against plague, promulgated in the Notifications issued by this Department, Nos. 126 Marine and 53 Marine, dated, respectively, the 20th October 1896 and 2nd March 1897, are cancelled, with effect from the 26th August 1897, the date on which the revised rules for quarantine, issued under the provisions of Act III of 1897, and published in this Department Notification No. 160 Marine, dated the 24th August 1897, come into operation.

A. D. McARTHUR, Colonel, R.E.,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

1881



Marine Department.

N^o 1613 Marine.

From

Col. A. D. McArthur, R.E.,

Secy to the Government of Bengal.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated Calcutta, the 27th Aug 97.

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Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith copies of this Department Notifications Nos 160 Marine and 161 Marine dated respectively the 24th and 27th instant, publishing rules for quarantine against plague for the port of Calcutta, issued under Act III of 1897 and cancelling the rules for quarantine published in the Notifications, Notification N^o 126 Marine of 20th Oct 96. & noted in Ditto N^o 53 Marine of 2nd March 97. the margin, which were issued by this Department under the provisions of Act I of 1870.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt servt.

Accompaniments
Notifications

Alfred Baker Captain

20. 138
28. 10. 96
X 50216
18. 3. 97

Notification N^o 126 Marine of 20th Oct 96.
Ditto N^o 53 Marine of 2nd March 97.

2nd Genl

Ans
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Secretary to the Government of India

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