

Marine (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 324 Marine

DATED 11 April '99

R.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague

For: Lm Dept. embodying the revised
rules framed by the Govt of Bengal for the
inspection of vessels ~~passing~~ leaving the
port of Calcutta, communicated to the nearest
departments concerned; and the Notification
of the Govt of Bengal ordered to be republished
in Mysore &c. Gazette.

Recd. &

13/4/99

Proceedings, Local and Municipal Department, embodying the revised rules framed by the Government of Bengal for the inspection of vessels leaving the port of Calcutta, communicated to the officers and departments concerned; and the notification of the Government of Bengal ordered to be republished in Maritime District Gazettes.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

G.O., Mis. No. 491 P., dated 29th March 1899.

Notification of the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department (Medical), dated Calcutta, 1st March 1899, Plague Regulation No. 14.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act III of 1897, and by the Notification of the Government of India, in the Home Department, No. 302, dated the 4th February, and in supersession of Plague Regulation No. 14, dated the 10th October 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased to declare that all vessels and persons leaving the port of Calcutta for ports out of India or for the ports of Rangoon and Aden or any of the ports of the Madras Presidency shall be subjected to the rules in the Regulation hereinafter set forth:—

RULES.

1. *Medical inspection and bill of health.*—No vessel shall leave the port of Calcutta for any port out of India or for the ports of Rangoon and Aden or any of the ports of the Madras Presidency until she has been inspected by the Health Officer, and the Master or person in charge of such vessel has obtained from such officer a bill of health in the form given below, stating that the Master or person in charge, officers, crew and passengers (if any) of such vessel have been inspected by him by day on shore at the time of embarkation, and are free from infectious disease dangerous to life and from the bubonic plague.

2. *Removal of infected persons.*—Should the Health Officer be of opinion that any person so inspected is suffering from the bubonic plague or is not free from the infection of the plague, such person shall be removed to a plague hospital or place of observation appointed by Government.

3. *Disinfection.*—All contaminated or suspected articles shall be thoroughly disinfected on shore, under the supervision of the Health Officer in the manner prescribed in appendix I.

4. *Fresh bill of health when necessary.*—After the Master or person in charge of the vessel has obtained a bill of health under the provisions of these rules, no person shall be admitted on board such vessel before she leaves the port, unless such vessel is again inspected by the Health Officer of the port, and another bill of health obtained from such officer by the Master or person in charge of such vessel.

5. *Port Clearance.*—(a) Except as provided for in clauses (b) and (c) of this rule, no port clearance shall be delivered to any vessel bound from Calcutta to any port out of India, or to the ports of Rangoon and Aden, or any of the ports of the Madras Presidency, unless and until the Master or person in charge thereof shall produce the bill of health so to be obtained as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of the Collector of Customs to refuse delivery of the port clearance without the production of such bill of health.

(b) Provided that the Collector of Customs may grant port clearance to any vessel on the Agent giving a guarantee that he will, within 48 hours after the departure of the vessel, produce to the Collector a duplicate copy of the bill of health, as finally granted, signed by the Health Officer.

(c) If any Agent of a vessel who has given a guarantee under clause (b) fails to produce a duplicate copy of the bill of health as aforesaid, he shall be bound to cause the vessel to be removed in the port of Calcutta within 48 hours after her departure.

6. *Health Officers.*—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.

E. N. BAKER,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

ENCLOSURE.

BILL OF HEALTH.

This is to certify that the ship (or steamer) sailing under the flag and as Master, under the command of _____, of _____ tons, bound for _____ with a crew of _____ persons* and passengers, is at the time of leaving this port in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and that no case of infectious disease dangerous to life, or of bubonic plague, exists among her officers, passengers, or crew, all of whom have been inspected by me by day on shore at the time of embarkation. It is further certified that the town and port of Calcutta are at present free from plague, epidemic cholera, yellow fever and all other dangerous epidemic disease.

* Including officers and able-bodied seamen.
† Or as the case may be.

APPENDIX I.

Under clothing, bedding, wearing apparel, mattresses, carpets, &c., which are contaminated or suspected, and other articles to be disinfected should be exposed for fifteen minutes to saturated steam—under pressure, if possible—at a temperature of not less than 100° C. (212°F.), care being taken that the steam shall reach all parts of each article to be disinfected.

Disinfecting solutions—

(a) 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.

(b) A 5 per cent. solution of pure crystallized carbolic acid, or 5 per cent. of crude commercial carbolic acid free from tar oils in a warm solution of soft soap.

The carbolic solutions will be useful, more particularly for disinfecting articles, such as metals, instruments, &c., which can neither be subjected to a temperature of 100° centigrade nor placed in contact with corrosive sublimate. They may also be used at ports not provided with a disinfecting stove of the prescribed pattern.

Nos. 1356-70 Med.

- (1) The Bengal Chamber of Commerce
- (2) Vice-Chairman of the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta
- (3) Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation
- (4) Judicial, Political, Appointment, General, Revenue, Financial, Marine and Public Works Departments
- (5) Port Officer of Calcutta
- (6) Collector of Customs
- (7) Board of Revenue
- (8) Bengal National Chamber of Commerce

Copy forwarded to

for information.

No. 1371/Med.

Copy forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for information. He is requested to report the arrangements made for giving effect to the Regulation.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.)

(Signed) B. FOLEY,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
3rd March 1899.

No. 324, MARINE, 11TH APRIL 1899.

ORDER—No. 324, Marine, dated 11th April 1899.

Communicated to the officers and departments concerned in supersession of the notifications contained in G.Os., No. 567, Marine, dated 1st July 1898, and No. 786, Marine, dated 13th September 1898.

2. The notification will also be republished in Maritime District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. W. SMART, Colonel, R.E.,
Ag. Secy. to Government.

To the Presidency Port Officer.
„ Collectors of Maritime Districts.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Political Department.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.
„ the Superintendent, Government Press.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

Public

(1899)

Department.

Plague

CURRENT No. 472

38

Quote C.M. 472 and
print Reg. No. 14.

From

Lt. Col. Deptt.

Order

No. 324 dated 11.4.99

Communicated to the

officers and departments concerned

in supersession of the notifications

contained in G.O. No. 567 Marine

of 1st July, 1898, and 786 Mar. 13th Sept. 1898.

2. The notification will also be
republished in the Maritime District
Gazettes.

Dated

29th March 1899.

Received

Registered

10.4.99

Enclosures 3

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

The P.O.

„ Collectors of Maritime Districts

„ Public Department

„ Political Deptt.

„ Lt. Col. Deptt.

„ Supdt. Govt. Press

Note: The notification being one
appertaining to the Maritime District, the
Lt. Col. should have transferred
the notification to his Deptt. instead
of itself ordering its republishing.

R.R.

According letter from the
Govt. of India Bengal
forwarding copy of a
notification re the reappearance
of plague in Calcutta.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
786	Mar 7	13-7-98	
567	" 8	1-7-98	
416	" 8	23-5-98	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT (MEDICAL).

PLAGUE REGULATION NO. 14.

Calcutta, the 1st March 1899.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, III of 1897, and by the Notification of the Government of India, in the Home Department, No. 302, dated the 4th February, and in supersession of Plague Regulation No. 14, dated the 10th October 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased to declare that all vessels and persons leaving the port of Calcutta for ports out of India or for the ports of Rangoon and Aden or any of the ports of the Madras Presidency shall be subjected to the rules in the Regulation hereinafter set forth:—

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2. *Removal of infected persons.*—Should the Health Officer be of opinion that any person so inspected is suffering from the bubonic plague or is not free from the infection of the plague, such person shall be removed to a plague hospital or place of observation appointed by Government.

3. *Disinfection.*—All contaminated or suspected articles shall be thoroughly disinfected on shore, under the supervision of the Health Officer in the manner prescribed in Appendix I.

4. *Fresh bill of health when necessary.*—After the Master or person in charge of the vessel has obtained a bill of health under the provisions of these rules, no person shall be admitted on board such vessel before she leaves the port, unless such vessel is again inspected by the Health Officer of the port, and another bill of health obtained from such officer by the Master or person in charge of such vessel.

5. *Port Clearance.*—(a) Except as provided for in clauses (b) and (c) of this rule, no port clearance shall be delivered to any vessel bound from Calcutta to any port out of India, or to the ports of Rangoon and Aden, or any of the ports of the Madras Presidency, unless and until the Master or person in charge thereof shall produce the bill of health so to be obtained as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of the Collector of Customs to refuse delivery of the port clearance without the production of such bill of health.

(b) Provided that the Collector of Customs may grant port clearance to any vessel on the Agent giving a guarantee that he will, within 48 hours after the departure of the vessel, produce to the Collector a duplicate copy of the bill of health, as finally granted, signed by the Health Officer.

(c) If any Agent of a vessel who has given a guarantee under clause (b) fails to produce a duplicate copy of the bill of health as aforesaid, he shall be bound to cause the vessel to be remoored in the port of Calcutta within 48 hours after her departure.

6. *Health Officers.*—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.

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

5 d.c. official
10 d.c. copy
cno 556 Poff

BILL OF HEALTH.

This is to certify that the ship (or steamer) sailing under the flag and under the command of _____ as Master, of _____ tons, bound for _____ with a crew of _____ persons* and _____ passengers, is at the time of leaving this port in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and that no case of infectious disease dangerous to life, or of bubonic plague, exists among her officers, passengers, or crew, all of whom have been inspected by me by day on shore at the time of embarkation.

It is further certified that the town and port of Calcutta are at present free from plague, epidemic cholera, yellow fever and all other dangerous epidemic disease.

* Including officers and able-bodied seamen.

† Or as the case may be.

APPENDIX I.

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The solution should be coloured with aniline dye or indigo. It should not be placed in metal vessels.

(b) A 5 per cent. solution of pure crystallized carbolic acid, or 5 per cent. of crude commercial carbolic acid free from tar oils in a warm solution of soft soap.

The carbolic solutions will be useful, more particularly for disinfecting articles, such as metals, instruments, &c., which can neither be subjected to a temperature of 100° centigrade nor placed in contact with corrosive sublimate. They may also be used at ports not provided with a disinfecting stove of the prescribed pattern.

Nos. 1356-70Med.

- (1) The Bengal Chamber of Commerce
(2) Vice-Chairman of the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta
(3) Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation
(4) Judicial, Political, Appointment, General, Revenue, Financial, Marine, and Public Works Departments
(5) Port Officer of Calcutta
(6) Collector of Customs
(7) Board of Revenue
(8) Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

Copy forwarded to

for information.

No. 1371Med.

Copy forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for information. He is requested to report the arrangements made for giving effect to the Regulation.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

B. FOLEY,

Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA;

The 3rd March 1899.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,—(MEDICAL).

Calcutta, the 24th February 1899.

RESOLUTION—No. 1145Med.

By a Notification No. 6026 issued by the Municipal (Medical) Department of this Government on the 10th October 1898, it was announced that Calcutta was free from plague, no fresh case of, or death from, the disease having occurred since the 28th September. In a Resolution published on the same date, the Lieutenant-Governor drew attention to the danger of a possible re-appearance of plague, and expressed his desire that the ward family and caste hospitals which had been opened under private management should be maintained in working order, and that the precautions which had been taken to stave off an outbreak, and to deal with it if it should arise, should not be relaxed.

2. Since these announcements were made, dropping cases of a suspicious character have been reported from time to time, some of which were of such a character as to leave little room for doubt as to their having been genuine plague. Until recently, these have been so few in number, so isolated, and for the most part so far open to doubt that it has not been found necessary to re-impose the restrictions which were withdrawn in October; and the Lieutenant-Governor, while fully cognizant of their significance, has thought it sufficient to report their occurrence from time to time to the Government of India, and to the various Foreign Governments, as required by the terms of the Venice Convention, still entertaining the hope that with the passing of the cold season they would disappear.

3. This hope has unhappily not been realised. During January 15 cases with 13 deaths were reported. During the present month, up to the 23rd instant, there have been 27 cases with 24 deaths, and the numbers reported during the latter part of the month are greater than in the beginning. In some wards of the town also, and notably in Ward No. V, the total registered mortality from all causes has lately risen in a marked manner above the normal rate, and though there is no direct evidence that this is due to plague, the absence of any other known cause is at least a ground for suspicion. Reports have also reached Government which point to the possibility that attempts may be made to conceal the occurrence of cases, the sufferers being turned out of their houses by the landlords or the other inmates, through fear of infection or for other reasons, and forced to seek shelter elsewhere. Intimation has been received that the authorities in Egypt have decided to apply the plague rules against arrivals from Calcutta: and orders have been issued by the Government of India that the regulations of the Venice Convention shall be enforced against Calcutta at the ports of Aden, Madras, and Rangoon.

4. In these circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor is compelled, with much regret, to re-impose the restrictions which were withdrawn in October 1898. A Resolution is under issue prescribing that the inspection of the passengers and crews of vessels leaving Calcutta for ports out of India shall again be conducted by day on shore at the time of embarkation, and the fact that this has been done will be endorsed on the bill of health to be granted before any such vessel leaves the port. Correspondence has recently passed regarding a proposal that the clothing of the crews and deck passengers of vessels proceeding on long voyages shall be disinfected before departure. The Lieutenant-Governor was at first in hopes that this measure might not be necessary, but in view of the altered condition of things this is no longer possible. In communication with the Liners' Conference and the late President of the Chamber of Commerce, he has drawn up a scheme to give effect to the proposal, and arrangements will be made to bring it into force as soon as the apparatus can be procured. Orders are also under issue to provide for the inspection of passengers by train in the same manner as was done prior to October 1898.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor has also had under consideration the question of revising the regulations for dealing with plague in Calcutta itself. Those now in force are contained in Plague Regulation No. 9, dated 10th November 1897, and were drawn up with reference to the experience which

had been gained in Bombay and elsewhere, before any case of plague had occurred in Calcutta. In substance, the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to doubt their propriety and efficacy. In some points of detail, however, later experience has suggested improvements. In order that effective measures may be taken to prevent the spread of infection, it is of the first importance that every case which occurs shall be promptly brought to the notice of the authorities. Foreign Governments would have just cause for complaint if the measures adopted locally were such as to lead to the concealment of cases; nor can the Local Government hope to cope successfully with an outbreak if the regulations in force are so repugnant to the sense of the people affected as to drive them to withhold information and hide away their sick instead of bringing them forward for treatment. Experience has shown that success has attended the system prescribed in Rule 46 of Plague Regulation No. 9, by which persons found to be suffering from plague are, at their discretion, permitted to resort to ward, caste, or family hospitals, maintained by private contributions, instead of being removed for segregation to the special plague hospitals at Maniktala, Marcus Square, and the Budge-Budge Road. Still more satisfactory has been the arrangement frequently resorted to by which persons are permitted to set apart portions of their dwelling or garden houses, under due restrictions, for use as private hospitals for themselves and their families. In the case of the poorer classes, however, the arrangements have not worked so well. It is amongst the poor that the majority of the patients has usually been found: and any system is defective which leads these ignorant and superstitious people to resort to any shift rather than expose themselves to the chances of compulsory removal to a plague hospital or segregation camp.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore of opinion that measures must be taken to apply in the case of the poorer classes also the system which has so far worked well in respect of classes higher in the social scale. In future no person shall be removed to a public hospital under Rule 46 of Plague Regulation No. 9, without his consent, provided that suitable arrangements are made for the treatment of the case at home. If there is any ward, caste, or family hospital for admission to which he is eligible, and to which he is willing to go, he may be moved thither. If there is no such hospital available, an endeavour should be made to explain to the patient or his friends the advantages which he would obtain in a public hospital in respect of treatment, attendance, and surroundings. But if, notwithstanding this, he still prefers to be treated at his own home, arrangements shall be made to adapt the latter for the purposes of a private isolation hospital. The other inmates, except such as are in attendance on the patient, should be induced to remove elsewhere. Medicines and medical attendance should be provided free of cost, and on the recovery of the patient (or after his death, if the case should terminate fatally) the premises should be either thoroughly disinfected, or, if necessary, demolished, compensation being paid to the owner. All clothing or bedding which is likely to have become contaminated should also be at once disinfected in the Equifex disinfectant or destroyed on payment of compensation. If any structural or internal alterations in the house or hut appear necessary in order to render it suitable for its purpose, these shall be carried out by the Chairman and the Health Officer at the public expense.

7. By these measures, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes to secure the active co-operation of the public in the reporting of cases promptly as they occur. There is at present no serious ground for alarm. Such cases as have occurred are undoubtedly sporadic. The season of greatest danger is nearly passed. Much has been done during the past two years to improve the conservancy of the town, and to introduce a higher standard of cleanliness. The municipal establishments have been strengthened, and a strong staff of competent medical and sanitary officers is at hand. The course which the disease has so far taken in Calcutta is such as to warrant the hope that the town may yet escape a serious outbreak. And the Lieutenant-Governor is confident that all classes of the community will unite with the authorities in their efforts to ward it off.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

E. N. BAKER,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No.

FROM

R. NATHAN, Esq.,

Under Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,
MUNICIPAL (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT.

Home Department.
Sanitary (Plague).

Calcutta, the March 1899.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 1174 (Medical), dated the 25th February 1899, regarding the re-imposition of plague precautions in Calcutta, I am directed to state, for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, that orders are about to issue with reference to the suggestion of the Government of Bengal that tickets issued at Calcutta to railway stations beyond Chausa, Mairwa, Chakradharpur and Khurda Road shall be punched with a distinctive mark.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. NATHAN,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No.

COPY, with copy of the letter (and enclosure) replied to, forwarded to

Government of Madras
the North-Western Provinces and Oudh
the Punjab
Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces
Resident at Hyderabad
Resident in Mysore
Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana

for information.

By order,

R. NATHAN,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Local and Municipal Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following paper: - *dated 1st March*

Quote
From the Government of Bengal No. 1240 Medical, forwarding copy of Resolution issued by the Government of Bengal relating to the reappearance of plague in Calcutta and framing rules as regards the inspection of persons leaving Calcutta both by rail and steamer

From the Government of Bengal No. 1318 Medical dated 2nd March 1899 forwarding copy of the Regulation No. 14 dated 1st March 1899 which has been issued by the Government of Bengal in supersession of the Regulation of the 10th October 1898 for the inspection of vessels leaving the port of Calcutta.

From the Government of India, No. 950 forwarding copy of letter to the Government of Bengal stating that orders are about to issue with reference to the suggestion to the Government of Bengal that tickets issued at Calcutta to Railway stations beyond Chansa, Mairwa, Chakaradharapur, and Khurda Road, shall be punched with a distinctive mark.

quote no date
Order No. 491-P Misc. dated 29th March 1899.

Recorded.

2. The notification received from the Government of Bengal with the second letter read above, will be republished in the Fort St. George Gazette.

(True Extract.)

A. Edington
For Secretary to Government

To the Plague Commissioner,
Marine Department
P. W. Department, Railway Branch
Sanitary Commissioner
Surgeon-General
President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
Gazette.

28
4/6/99

2/3
4/7/99