

Marine (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 86 Marine

DATED 30th Jan-1899.

R

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague infection

Pass: L Mr Dept Comm in King to the
Hague, Sanitary Commissioner taken from the
Case of Bombay forwarding copy of resolution on
Monsieur Haffkine's report on the conveyance of
by monkeys & squirrels, communicated
to the Mr. Dalphin.

Government { 1899 } of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

G.O., No. 97 P., 18th January 1899.

JANUARY
L.S.
Presidency Post officer.
ACK
27-1-99.
To
The P.R.O. with copy

JANUARY

Plague infection.

Communicating to the Plague and Sanitary Commissioners letter from the Government of Bombay forwarding copy of its resolution on Monsieur Haffkine's report on the conveyance of — by monkeys and squirrels.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Hon'ble Sir A. WINGATE, I.C.S., K.C.I.E., Acting Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local and Municipal Department, dated Bombay Castle, 11th January 1899, No. 160-P.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, a copy * of this Government Resolution No. 128-P., dated the 9th January 1899, on the subject of Monsieur Haffkine's report on the conveyance of plague infection from place to place by monkeys and squirrels.

* With ten spare copies.

ENCLOSURE.

Plague—Reports.

[Conveyance of plague infection from place to place by monkeys and squirrels.]

General Department (Plague).
No. 128-P.

BOMBAY CASTLE,
9th January 1899.

Memorandum from the Plague Commissioner, No. 27, dated the 7th January 1899—
Submits the following letter from Monsieur W. M. Haffkine, C.I.E., No. 1165, dated the 6th idem:—

"I have the honour to report that Dr. (Miss) Corthorn, on plague duty at Gadag, Dhárwār District (Bombay), has forwarded to this Laboratory cultivation tubes inoculated with the organs of two brown monkeys (apparently "Macacus Tinicus," the Bonnet monkey family), out of a total of seven which were observed in Gadag to drop dead from trees; and with the organs of a grey striped squirrel ("Sciurus Palmarum") found dead in the same town.

"In both cases plague microbes were isolated by Captain Milne of this Laboratory from the samples received; and when subjected to cultivation tests and to inoculation into rats, showed themselves identical with the microbes of human plague patients.

"2. At the time of the outbreak in Kankal, Hardwār Municipal Union, in November 1897, microscopic specimens made with the organs of six out of a couple of dozen monkeys found dead in the streets there, showed bacilli corresponding in their outward form to plague microbes; but as no living cultures of those microbes were secured at the time, the authentic nature of the disease could not be further defined. The present is, therefore, the first instance of the fact of natural plague in monkeys being unmistakably established.

"3. As regards squirrels, it appears that Dr. Simond, of the Pasteur Institute, Saigon, during his visit to Karáchi, about a year ago, has stated to have found plague microbes in those animals. But as the manner in which he diagnosed the plague bacilli was not known to me to be decisive, I was not prepared to accept the statement as final.

"4. Apart from hydrophobia, glanders, anthrax, a few skin and hair diseases, &c., which do not exist in men in epidemic form, plague is the only disease with regard to which it is known now for certain that it affects epidemically both human communities and animals. Up to this date, however, the rat was the only animal representative of this kind known. It is to be accepted at present that, apart from the rat, the monkey and the squirrel can get naturally

affected by that disease also, though, as observation shows, in far not such a widespread form as is the case in man and rats. The monkey and the squirrel represent, therefore, two further factors capable of carrying the germs of plague from place to place, apart from the travelling man and the rats."

Resolution.—The report should be printed and circulated to all officers and Departments concerned and placed on the Editors' Tables. A copy should also be furnished to the Government of India and all other Governments for information.

(Signed) A. WINGATE,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

ORDER—No. 97 P., dated 18th January 1899.

Communicated to the Plague and the Sanitary Commissioners.

(True Extract.)

A. Edgington
for Secretary to Government.

To the Plague Commissioner.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Surgeon-General.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Departments of the Secretariat.
" all Collectors (A—L).
Editors' Table.

Plague

"Plague"

Marine Dept.

Government (1899) of Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd.

1899.

Enclosures

Regd.

Spare copies

Sc
13/1/99

G.O., No. 97 P., 18th January 1899.

No. 86 Mar 230.1.99.
Communicated to the

JANUARY. Presidency Port Officer
(2d) Adm.

27.1.99

To the P.O.O.

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H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Plague Commissioner.
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" the Surgeon-General.
" the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" the Departments of the Secretariat.
" all Collectors (A—L).
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Exd. A. F. Eccleston.