

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1299	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis.~~
323-324	
Dated	29-6-1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th June 1861.*

No. 343. Read the following letter from W. DESMIDT, Esq., Under Colonial Secretary, to the Secretary to Government of Madras, dated Cape Town, 16th April 1861, No. 30:—

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge your letter of the 25th January last, enclosing copy of one from the Conservator of Forests in the Madras Presidency, dated the 22nd December previous, having reference to a remedy against fever believed to be in the possession of Dr. Livingstone, and to forward to you the enclosed copies of communications on the subject from Sir Thomas Maclear and Mr. Schmieterlow, which is all the information respecting this remedy which this Government possesses.

From Sir THOMAS MACLEAR, to W. DESMIDT, Esq., Under Colonial Secretary, dated Cape of Good Hope, February 5th 1861.

SIR,

In compliance with the request of His Excellency the Governor, conveyed in your letter of the 3rd instant, received this morning, I examined the several letters which I have received from time to time from Dr. Livingstone during several years, wherein I find the notices which I have extracted, and herewith annex, touching his remedy for jungle fever.

*Extract of a letter from Dr. Livingstone, dated Lingaute on the Chobe River,
September 12th 1855.*

* * * Near this I had a terribly severe attack of fever got by sleeping in the wet. There was no help for it. Every part of the plain was flooded ankle deep; we got waked by going on, and sodden if we stood still.

The fever kept me down twenty-five days in a most disagreeable plight, and left me nearly deaf, half-blind, and miserably weak, I could not observe for a long time.

I have had the fever in severe forms twenty-seven times. I believe it is the same which cut off so many Boers near Moguliesberg a few years ago. It is easily cured if the patient can be moved away from the spot where he was attacked to a higher locality, though only a few miles off.

A pill composed of three or four grains of Resin of Jalap, three or four of Calomel, an equal number of Quinine, a drop or two of Tincture of Cardamoms to dissolve the Resin, and Ginger or Cinnamon to form the bolus. It is not a strictly scientific combination, but this is a failing of several very useful medicines.

I have had a great many cases in hand, and never met a single case of failure.

It ought not to purge; the quantity of Resin must be regulated to produce only a gentle movement, which when felt is accompanied by perspiration and sound sleep. A check to this perspiration has, in my own experience, given rise to vomiting of large quantities of pure blood. If you see any traveller coming this way I shall be glad if he makes a trial of it.

Extract of a letter from Port Louis, Mauritius, August 14th 1856.

* * * There are forests of Cinchona trees at Linna where fever prevails, there the remedy abounds, and you may tell your Caffre hating friends that these "Slecht good" were using Quinine for ages before we, yellow skins, knew any thing about it.

Extract of a letter Fette, dated February 16th 1859.

* * * This is the most unhealthy period of the year, many are ill, but here people rarely die of fever. Three of our party have suffered, but move about again.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) T. MACLEAR.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th June 1861.*

From Mr. C. SCHMIETERLOW, Chemist, to E. SAYNED, Esq., Colonial Office, dated
Cape Town, Adderley Street, 27th March 1861.

DEAR SIR,

All the information I can give you respecting Dr. Livingstone's infallible cure for jungle fever is contained in the following copy of a letter from Mrs. L. to a party here, from which I have made already two or three copies, one for Bishop Mackenzie included, which is his only guide as far as I know.

Copy of Mrs. Livingstone's letter.

We make a pill of equal parts of Resin of Jalap and Calomel, Rhubarb and Quinine, say, for a powerful man, eight grains of Resin of Jalap, eight grains of Calomel, four or six grains of Rhubarb and four or six grains of Quinine, make the whole into pills with Tincture of Cardamoms. This relieves the very worst cases in a few hours. We then give Quinine till the system is affected with Cinchonism. The Calomel removed at once from the system, and curiously enough, decreasing doses serve. In some of us half a grain of the mass produces as much effect as twenty-four grains did at first.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) SPENCER TODD.

COLONIAL OFFICE, CAPE TOWN,
April 1861.

No. 344. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1861, No. 1,299.

1. Ordered that copies of this letter and of its enclosure be forwarded to the Acting Conservator of Forests, with reference to his letter, dated 22nd December 1860, No. 301.
2. These papers will also be communicated to the Public Department.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

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Forest with reference to this letter
dated 22nd December 1860 and 1861.

Major James
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