

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	846	Press ~~Mis.~~
¹⁻² Dated	1-4-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

846

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st April 1868.*

No. 1. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd March 1868, No. 2,084.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kundapur, 9th December 1867, No. 225 :—

* In Procs. of Govt., 21st Sept. 1867, No. 1,173.

1. At the date of the report* submitted by the Zillah Surgeon there were no fresh cases of fever, but in view to the alleviation of the suffering and mortality that still resulted from old cases, the medical aid sent out into the villages was, with the permission of Government, continued till the middle of October, when with the concurrence of the Zillah Surgeon I withdrew the Dressers, as their services were no longer specially called for.

2. The enclosed statement shews that by the instrumentality of the Dressers employed, direct relief, and in many cases life itself, has been carried to nearly 2,000 people, and many others have experienced indirect benefit from advice given as to the use of medicines which they had themselves purchased. The generosity of the Government has, I am assured, been duly appreciated.

3. At first there was a strong prejudice against the use of European medicines, many of the ignorant declining to resort to them; but a better confidence was subsequently established by cures effected even after the sufferers had become insensible.

4. The Dressers had to face the fever themselves, and the two of them placed at my disposal by the Zillah Surgeon behaved very well.

5. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Order of Government, No. 1,173-184, dated 21st September 1867, I have the honor to report that the objectionable practice of collecting decaying vegetation in the neighbourhood of their houses had been remarked, and the prejudicial results to be naturally expected therefrom impressed on the ryots previous to the date of the Zillah Surgeon's visit to Mijar, but to no purpose, which accounts for his finding the practice still prevailing. The villagers ridiculed the theory, and attached to the urgent remonstrances of an active and intelligent Subordinate Magistrate, backed by the Dresser, as much weight as the farmers of England did twenty years ago to the practical arguments in favor of the protection of rooks and small birds for the benefit of their crops. The ruthless destruction of useful small birds was nevertheless as systematically carried on in enlightened England, as is the annual collection of malarious matter in Canara. It is a regular institution of the district, which I am powerless to prevent. Every year before the monsoon and in the early part of it, every available man, woman, and child on a farm is busily employed gathering fallen leaves and pollarding trees, with the view to collect for manure all the vegetable matter they possibly can. So essential is this vegetable manure conceived to be, that in this district there is granted to the cultivator the special concession of Kumaki, which is a space of one hundred yards all round each farm, for the chief purpose of a

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reliable supply of leaves and grass. The vegetable matter thus collected is as much as possible so placed as to catch the droppings of the cattle permanently stalled on it; the rest is heaped close by, so as to rot before use. When ready, it is spread all over the fields and ploughed in. I had hoped to induce the cultivators to attach to their cattle sheds large covered pits, in which the vegetable manure might be stored, and the exhalations reduced to a minimum by being confined as well as protected from the influence of the sun. The liquid and solid manure being run in by rude connecting channels, the vegetable matter would be thoroughly decomposed more rapidly, and thereby rendered, in a sanitary point of view, comparatively harmless when it required to be lifted and spread. But I have reluctantly abandoned the hope as utopian, and altogether in advance of the people. With increasing intelligence it may be gradually worked out in future generations. Till then, I fear, there must be allowed to ignorance the liberty which it claims, of systematically magnifying and bringing home to its own doors the annual fever of the district.

6. Fever there always is more or less in this district every year at and just before the commencement of the monsoon; but this year it has been unusually severe, in consequence, I conceive, of the peculiarity of the rain-fall as explained in my former letter. This year 7,157 deaths in five months, from June to October, have been reported; this is an average, during the worst and better months, of 1,431 per mensem from this one cause alone.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Statement shewing the mortality from fever in South Canara during the last six months, as compared with the same period in last year, and the number of cases treated by the Dressers.

Statement shewing the mortality from fever in South Canara during the six months from April to September, as compared with the same period in last year, and the number of cases treated by the Dressers.

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Months.	DEATHS IN 1866.					DEATHS IN 1867.					CASES TREATED BY DRESSERS.							
	Mangalore Talook.	Uppinangadi Talook.	Udipi Talook.	Kasserode Talook.	Kundapur Talook.	Total.	Mangalore Talook.	Uppinangadi Talook.	Udipi Talook.	Kasserode Talook.	Kundapur Talook.	Total.	Nallaya Naidu.	Ponumbalum.	Davood Beg.	Total.	Other cases.	Fever cases.
April ...	60	40	33	26	34	193	182	139	202	66	123	712	...	...	...	...	...	...
May ...	70	78	18	37	37	240	209	169	224	71	128	801	...	...	...	...	...	...
June ...	83	120	37	71	50	361	306	300	290	183	186	1,265	...	...	...	...	...	...
July ...	111	203	50	174	75	613	524	532	528	377	232	2,193	227	...	...	...	...	227
August ...	119	254	38	186	56	653	393	557	394	335	197	1,876	1,029	295	52	8	1,376	8
September	71	118	42	86	65	382	219	269	211	219	157	1,075	34	53	132	45	219	53
Total...	514	813	218	580	317	2,442	1,833	1,966	1,849	1,231	1,023	7,922	1,290	348	184	53	1,822	61

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Acting Collector.

KUNDAPUR,
9th December 1867.

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1st April 1868.*

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1868, No. 846.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner, and to the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.
„ the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

[21st September 1867.]

No. 183. Read the following letter from the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 18th September 1867, No. 368.

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, a report received this morning from the Zillah Surgeon, Mangalore, on the subject of the fever prevalent in South Canara.

Dated 13th instant.

2. I am glad to see by this report that the disease appears to be fast subsiding; and no further measures seem to me now requisite, except a few directions regarding the treatment of the fever in its early stage, which will be communicated to the Zillah Surgeon.

3. I would suggest that the Dressers should remain for some time yet in the feverish districts.

From the Acting Zillah Surgeon, Mangalore, to the Officiating Secretary to the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, Madras; dated Mangalore, 13th September 1867.

With reference to your letter, dated 28th August, I have the honor to inform you that, as early as possible, I proceeded to the village of Karkal, about 35 miles distant from Mangalore, having been informed by Mr. Thomas, the Collector, that fever had been raging very severely in that place. Previous to my setting out, I had word sent out to the Collector's Dresser, who was in that neighbourhood, to meet me at Karkal, and to get together, for my inspection, as many fever patients as possible. On my arrival at the village, I was met by the Dresser and the Sub-Magistrate; by them I was informed that, compared with previous months, fever had almost disappeared in the District, and that nearly all the cases were of long standing. During the day I examined upwards of sixteen cases, and found the fever to be intermittent, of the quotidian type, the attack commencing with a short cold stage, usually about sun-rise, and lasting till sun-set. In about three-fourths of the cases the spleen was enlarged, and in a good many the liver.

2. The following day, I went to the village of Mijar. In this village alone, with a population of 1300, since the commencement of the fever, there have been upwards of 130 deaths.

3. Here I examined upwards of 20 cases, and found the prevailing type to be the same as in Karkal, and in almost all the cases the spleen was enlarged.

4. Both at Karkal and Mijar, nearly all the cases examined by me were of long standing; no new cases having been reported at either place for some time.

5. From inquiries that I have instituted, it appears that intermittent quotidian has been all along the prevailing type of fever.

6. The attack at first commencement is generally preceded by pains in the limbs, loss of appetite, head-ache, intolerance of light, hot dry skin, &c., with well marked exacerbations and remissions; these generally last for about a week, when a well marked fit of ague sets in and returns every day, the cold stage being of short duration and in some cases wanting—the spleen enlarges, the legs and feet become swollen and pit on pressure, death generally happening from Asthenia.

7. Two Dressers, besides the Collector's Dresser, have been sent to the District. Quinine has been sent by the Collector to all the Sub-Magistrates and Tahsildars in the District, for distribution among the poorer classes, with plain directions how it is to be used. I have been informed by Mr. Thomas, the Collector, who receives regular reports from his Sub-Magistrates and Tahsildars, that the fever is rapidly disappearing—so much so, that in some parts of the District the Quinine sent for distribution has been returned as unnecessary.

8. I am of opinion that the fever has been in a great measure caused by the nature of this year's monsoon. At the commencement there was no regular fall of rain, as is usually the case, but slight showers alternating with sunshine. Since the rain regularly set in, the returns show a decrease in the number of deaths.

9. I also observed a great want of conservancy in the village of Mijar. The cultivators there are in the habit of collecting large quantities of leaves for manure, and allowing them to decay in front of their houses.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
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10. The following statistics from the month of April show the mortality from fever in South Canara, as compared with last year, and also the number of cases treated by the Dressers.

Months.	Deaths in 1866.					Deaths in 1867.					Cases treated by Dressers.			
	Mangalore.	Uppinangadi.	Udipi.	Cassergode.	Cundapur.	Mangalore.	Uppinangadi.	Udipi.	Cassergode.	Cundapur.	Total.	Nallaya Naidoo.	Ponumbalum.	Dayood Beg.
April.....	60	40	33	26	34	193	182	139	202	66	123	712	...	...
May.....	70	78	18	37	37	240	209	169	224	71	128	801	...	...
June.....	83	120	37	71	50	361	306	300	290	183	186	1,265	...	...
July.....	111	203	50	174	75	613	524	532	528	377	232	2,193	227	...
August.....	119	254	38	186	56	653	393	557	394	335	197	1,876	1,029	295
						2,060						6,847		52
														1,376
														*1,603

* These are all fever cases; the Dressers may have also treated a few other ailments.

Among the cases treated, only two deaths are reported. Although no new cases of fever have lately been reported, there is still much suffering, and some mortality from old cases. The Dressers still remain in the District, and the Quinine and Alkaloids sent by the Medical Store-keeper, Madras, have been forwarded to them for trial.

No. 184. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1867, No. 1173.

The Governor in Council is glad to learn that the fever which has been so prevalent in the District of South Canara has considerably abated. The Inspector General's suggestion that the Dressers should remain for some time longer in the feverish localities is approved.

2. It is desirable that the Acting Collector should take steps for impressing upon the inhabitants of Mijar, and of any other villages in which the practice of placing heaps of decaying leaves in the immediate vicinity of their houses may obtain, the prejudicial effects of such a practice in a sanitary point of view.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Medical Department.

„ Acting Collector, South Canara.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

*Comm. to the Sanitary Commissioner
to the District. Sanitary Medical
Department. L.A.
1867-846. 1st April
1 Copy to the Sanitary Commissioner
2 Copies to the District Sanitary Commissioner
14*

*Pen. 1868. Department
Pro. of Govt. for April
No. 1027.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 23rd March 1868.

*Recd 28-4-68
E. L. O. R. E.*

No. 2,034.

*Forwarded 24 September/68
C. 2062.*

Submitting for information letter from Acting Collector of South Canara reporting on the fever prevalent in District and measures adopted for its prevention.

*1866. 1st April
L.A. 1173.*