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N. 2857 W. 11th Oct/13

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Subdi. Rept. Rept.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Extract paragraphs 25 to 28 from a Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for the Central Provinces for 1881, dated 11th June 1883.

Para. 25. It may not be out of place to conclude the present memorandum with a general outline of the sanitary work with which the new district authorities will have to deal, premising that it is absolutely indispensable that steps should be taken to correct the local strength of population already referred to, and to calculate percentages of births and deaths upon the corrected numbers for every district and town. If this is not done, there will be no reliable data on which to rest evidence of improved health, or to show whether local funds have been expended to the best advantage.

In the meanwhile, it would be advantageous to prepare tables showing the causes of death and the death-rates for a series of years past for every town and district, so that the authorities may at once be made acquainted with the sanitary problems with which they have to deal.

26. The great causes of sickness, death, and loss of labor in the provinces are all included under the general head of "Fevers." Cholera epidemics are only of occasional occurrence, although cases may happen at any time.

Small-pox is a more constant visitant, as are also diseases classed as "bowel complaints," but all are of less importance than fevers, while in removing the local causes of "fevers" there will be a reduction in the mortality of other epidemic diseases. Fevers, as is well known, are connected with climatic causes which also influence crops, and hence means should be adopted for making local authorities acquainted with current meteorology. But the local intensity of fevers is mainly connected with purely local defects in drainage, and perhaps still more with local insanitary conditions which influence the mortality of febrile diseases in all countries and climates. In the Central Provinces these local causes may be classed as follows :—

- (1) Filth in houses and compounds (including the results of stalling cattle in them). Surface filth in towns and villages outside houses, arising mainly from native habits.
- (2) Impure well and tank water resulting from human and animal filth being washed into tanks or wells, or finding its way by subsoil drainage from house cess-pits, or from foul ground into which the wells have been sunk.
- (3) Irregular and foul earth surfaces near inhabited dwellings, water holes, old buildings, and the like, harbouring filth and water.

- (4) Absence of surface drainage in towns and villages, and allowing foul house drainage to flow over the surface; and water from higher levels passing into the subsoil under houses.
- (5) General defects in human dwellings, including damp subsoil and damp walls, and sleeping on the ground.

27. Judging from past sanitary reports, these disease causes appear to have presented themselves most frequently to the notice of Inspecting Officers, and no doubt they include the chief disease causes with which the new executives will have to deal. A mere statement of them ought to carry the remedies with it, but we may resume them in the following order:—

- (1) Provision of latrines, or of properly trenched and cultivated ground, should be at once made.
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- (3) Following on these facilities, cleanliness in houses, compounds, streets, lanes, public roads, open spaces in towns and villages, should be rigidly enforced, and all cess-pits at once filled up. First provide facilities for cleanliness, and then enforce the law.
- (4) The water-supply of every population group should be looked to. New wells should be dug in new clean ground. Tanks should be cleansed and protected, or water works laid out, of which several good examples will shortly be found in the provinces; and as soon as these facilities have been afforded, all house wells near house cess-pits should be abolished.
- (5) It is a matter of prime necessity that water for domestic use brought into any population group should be drained away, and not be allowed to sink into the subsoil to increase subsoil malaria. Some provision of drainage should therefore form an integral part of all water-supply schemes.

For small population groups impervious surface drainage, led to an outlet where the drainage could be applied to agriculture, would be the best.

There are several examples of this method in use in the Central Provinces at present.

- (6) Large drainage schemes are mostly applicable to large cities, where they would be less expensive probably than partial measures. It would be worth while, however, to examine the question of drainage works in the populous cities, such as Nagpur and Jubbulpore, where large volumes of water are brought from a distance, which must be removed to a distance after use, and so kept out of the subsoil.
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28. Details on all these improvements will be found in the *revised* suggestions of this Commission for the sanitary improvement of Indian stations and their vicinity (1882).

The principles therein contained will be found applicable to sanitary works of all degrees of importance, but for the great majority of cases very simple measures, such as those we have suggested therein, for small Municipal towns and villages would probably suffice.

No. 7—272.

Endorsement on the above.

Copy of the foregoing forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

(By Order.)

HOME DEPARTMENT (SANITARY),
SIMLA, 25th August 1883.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

ORDER—dated 11th September 1883, No. 1781, Public.

Communicated to the Presidents of all Municipalities, the Board of Revenue, and the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To Presidents of all Municipalities.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

Gobt. of (1883) Madras.

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Issued

Recd.

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G.O., 11th September 1883, No. 1781.

SEPTEMBER.

Sanitary.

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With order

No. 2851 Madras 11th Oct/83

Communicated

*to Supg Supr for information
of CB
RS*

*Des
Ch. G. Forth*

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Gobt. of (1883) Madras.

PUBLIC.

No. 2851 May 11th Oct/83

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Engrs for information
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N^o 2857 Maj^r 11th Oct/83

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H. Attender

No 2857 Maj^r 11th Oct/83

communicated

Supd^r for information

S/C.B.
H.S.

Des
A. B. Govt

S. W. Dept
No. 389 E. only Sept 22/83

Undersigned has honour
to request that Pro: in
Public Dept: dated 11-9-83
No. 1781. may be
communicated to the
P. W. Dept:

lll
21-9-83.

To the Chief Secretary
Public Dept:

The Pro: in question
has now been communicated.

F. W. White

22. 9. 83.

To W.

Communicate to all

S. E. 7

lll

23-9-83.

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„ P. W. Deane

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Dr. M. 358

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27/9/83

Encl.

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No. 2857 W of 11th Oct/83

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OKs. 21-9

P. W. Department.

No. 2857 W

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Proceedings - Subh. Sept (H.E. No 1781 d/Sept 11th 1883)

Communicated to

*Suptg. Engineers for
information.*

24.9.83

per 12/10

*Suptg. Engineers
Cons. Architect to Govt.*

SS