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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rudie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

219

Press

~~Mis.~~

Dated

27-2-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th February 1867.*

No. 157. Read the following letter from the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 26th February 1867, No. 72.

In forwarding the enclosed letter* from 2nd Apothecary Ross, Acting Civil Surgeon, Chittoor, I have the honor to inform Government that a liberal supply of fever medicines has already been sent

* No. 22, of 21st instant, and enclosure.

by banghy, and a Medical Subordinate will be despatched to Chittoor, with as little delay as possible.

From 2nd Apothecary J. E. ROSS, Acting Civil Surgeon, Chittoor, to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Presidency Division; dated Chittoor, 21st February 1867, No. 22.

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copy of a letter which I addressed to the Collector and Magistrate of North Arcot, relative to the prevalence of fever in the village of Chittapara, and throughout the District generally.

2. Consequent upon this, and to meet the frequent and unusually large demands which are now made for fever remedies from all parts of the Taluq, I beg you will be good enough to sanction the accompanying indent, and cause the same to be supplied without delay. At the same time I would request (and it is very desirable) if possible, that the services of a Second Dresser or Hospital Assistant be temporarily placed at my disposal, for duty in the District, as the Dresser who is at present at Chittapara will be required in a few days to attend the Collector on his tour of Jummahbundy.

From 2nd Apothecary J. E. ROSS, Acting Civil Surgeon, Chittoor, to the Collector of North Arcot; dated Chittoor, 18th February 1867, No. 21.

With reference to your docket, No. 9, of 9th instant (received 14th idem), enclosing an extract from the Diary of the Inspector of Chittoor, relative to the prevalence of a very fatal type of fever at Chittapara, with a request that remedies be supplied, on the application of the Tahsildar, in such quantities as may be required, with directions for use, I have the honor to report, for your information, that considering, from the circumstances of the case and the nature of the accounts received, that the amount of sickness and distress must have been inordinately great, I felt it my duty to visit the place, with the view of ascertaining the precise character of the malady, so as to afford all the relief in my power possible.

2. As already intimated to you, I accordingly visited the village on the morning of the 16th, and found nearly the whole of the inhabitants prostrated with fever, evidently of a severe intermittent type, and in some instances of a remittent character, running an obstinate and protracted course generally for about two or three months. The first cases appeared in November, after cessation of the Monsoon, and in this month five deaths occurred. Since then, it has been on the increase, as, on reference to the Register of deaths, 26 are recorded in December; and for the last two months the rate of mortality has been excessively high, viz., 50 in January, and 69 in February, up to date of visit, from this cause alone.

3. During this period, some have recovered entirely; others partially, who are still subject to slight relapses; while the majority, suffering from excessive debility and sheer nervous prostration, have either succumbed, or resulted in general Anasarca, or Diarrhoea, or complicated with Dysentery—yet, judging carefully from the present condition of the people, the disease having apparently reached its acme, I cannot refrain from observing that, had earlier measures of relief been rendered, the progress of the disease would in all probability have been arrested, and possibly many lives saved.

4. Not only is the disease prevalent here, but it has appeared in almost all the hamlets adjacent, though in a less severe form; and from your note of yesterday's, I learn it is showing itself here and there over the District. Its general character and occurrence in an epidemic form can only be accounted for, partly by the hilly and jungly nature of the District; by the abundant fall

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Fort Saint George, *21st February* 186

From

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The Principal Inspector General, Medical Department,
Fort Saint George

The Chief Secretary to Government, *Public* Dept.,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

On forwarding the enclosed
P22 of 2000 letters from the
and enclosures -
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the Indian, Government, (Liam) which is
a copy of the Indian, Government, (Liam) which is
being sent by the Indian, Government, (Liam) which is
subordinate will be sent to the
Liam with a note saying it
possible.

I have the honor to be
 Sir
 Your most Obedt Servant

Las Vegas
Principal Surgeon General
Medical Department

C. d. F. 26 m

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
27th February 1867.*

of rain after several remarkable seasons of continued drought; by the impregnation of rank and decayed vegetable matter collected and brought down by the mountain streams, which forms the drinking water of the inhabitants—in short, by the people imbibing and being all subject to the same malarious influence which engendered the disease.

Moreover, it has occurred to me that the use of new grain may have had some share in predisposing the attacks.

5. At Chittapara, the people are reduced to a most deplorable condition, and there is scarcely a single hut where three or four of the inmates are not suffering, and few over which the hand of death has not passed—in some cases whole families have been swept away; indeed, it is hard to conceive a more lamentable state of affairs. I entered each house for the purpose expressly of offering sympathy and encouragement, and of affording all the aid I could command.

6. The remedies I took out with me were all discarded, and particular instructions given regarding cleanliness of the horses, which I impressed upon them as a point requiring scrupulous attention, the boiling of water before use, nourishing regimen, and of protection from cold and damp, and other precautions which I deemed essential.

7. The cleanliness of the houses and of the streets generally has been sadly neglected, owing to the people being unable to help themselves, and as the present staff of village toties are insufficient, I would recommend that two extra toties and a Talliar be employed to ensure strict attention to sanitation principally.

8. For several years past, the dead are interred and bodies are burnt in close proximity to the village, and as this must operate very injuriously on health, the Mooniff has been requested to change the place, in future, to a distance of at least a mile, and also that all heaps of rubbish and ditch which are now lying in every direction be removed to a distance and buried in pits or burnt. In order, however, to carry out all this efficiently, additional servants must be engaged.

9. In the meanwhile, I have issued such general instructions to the Moonsiff and other Village Officials, as well as the people themselves, as, in my opinion, would tend greatly to mitigate the evil.

19. In conclusion, I have only to add that, on my return here, as more extended measures of relief were absolutely necessary, and considering that this would be best met by detaching a Military Subordinate for duty on the spot, I applied to you for the services of Dresser Govindraj, attached to your Department, and my thanks are due for the kind and prompt manner he was placed at my disposal.

11. The Presser left last night with a fresh stock of medicines and comforts, with all necessary instructions, so that it is earnestly hoped favorable report may soon follow.

(Countersigned) H. W. PORTEOUS,
Dy. Insp. Genl. of Hospitals,
Presidency Division.

No. 158. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1867, No. 219.
Communicated to the Collector of North Arcot.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

T., the Collector of North Arcot.

Principal Inspector General, Medical Department,

with enclosures returned

References

tail of 19 March

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27 February 1867 8:219-
James A. Cook & Co. Merchants
New York

[illegible]

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James

Wm. De la Roche

Handwritten: *Handwritten*

of the

John A. DePue

Feb 26 February
No. 27

20 267

1911

Paula

John A. & Son

Medicine Lane, New York

L. P. Smith

Admiral of the Mediterranean

the same day