

Office of the
Secretary to the
Government of Madras
M.B.O. 1-82 400-92-11-80

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated 5. 8. 18 67	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th August 1869.*

No. 44. Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 3rd August 1869, No. 2727.

The Government are aware that the "Instructions for conducting an inquiry into Cholera in India" provide, amongst other subjects, for the systematic registration of the varying levels of the sub-soil waters with the view of testing the theory advanced by Professor Pettenkofer, of Munich, of the relation of outbreaks of cholera to permeability of soils, and rise and fall of sub-soil waters.

2. The theory advanced is, that when porous impregnated soil has been unusually saturated with water so that the air has been pressed out of it for an unusual time and to an unusual height by water, the rapid subsidence of the water favours the epidemic development of cholera, and that, the more the surface-layers are impregnated with decaying organic matters, the more dangerous will be the recession of the surface-waters.

3. Professor Pettenkofer lately addressed Dr. Cunningham, one of the Medical Officers sent to Calcutta by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State to undertake the special inquiry referred to in Sections 6 and 7 of the "Instructions," expressing a great desire to have his theory "put to a practical proof in Madras," and Dr. Cunningham has sent me a drawing of the simple apparatus required, a copy of which I append to this.

4. You will note that a well must be specially set apart for the experiment, and I would ask the sanction of Government to sink a "pot" well in the compound of my office and erect the apparatus over it, with a view to systematic registration of the varying levels of the sub-soil water in association with the prevalence of cholera.

5. A "pot" well of small diameter can, I find, be sunk at a cost of about Rupees 23. The apparatus need not exceed Rupees 50. But if the Government will be pleased to sanction an advance of (say) Rupees 100 subject to future adjustment, I will immediately take the subject up and commence a series of registrations at my office.

6. Similar experiments will have to be instituted by the officer recommended by the Committee which recently reported upon the subject to undertake the sanitary inquiries in special districts, and it is desirable that the apparatus should be first put up and tested at Madras.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, 5th August 1869, No. 1097.
Sanctioned.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner, with the drawing and a Treasury Order.
" Accountant General.
" Examiner of Claims.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

No. 2727-

3
OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
Madras, 3rd August 1869.

From

To

The Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Department,
Fort Saint George.

The Government are aware that the "Instructions for conducting an enquiry into Cholera in India" provide amongst other subjects, for the systematic registration of the varying levels of the subsoil waters with the view of testing the theory advanced by Professor Pettenkofer of Brunswick, of the relation of outbreaks of cholera to permeability of soils, and rise and fall of subsoil waters.

2. The theory advanced is, that when, during impregnated, soil has been unusually saturated with water, so that the rain has been pressed out of it for an unusual time, and to an unusual height by water; the rapid subsidence of the waters favors the epidemic development of cholera, and that the more the surface layers are impregnated with decaying organic matters, the more dangerous will be the recession of the surface waters.

3. Professor Pettenkofer lately addressed

Govt. of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER

Dated August, 1869.

Recd

11. 11. 1869. 1869. 1869.

AUGUST.
Nos. 44-45.

Containing an abstract of Pages 100 to 101 of the Sanitary Commissioner's report to the Government, and of the report of Professor Pettenkofer, of Brunswick, of the relation of outbreaks of cholera to permeability of soils, and rise and fall of subsoil waters.

Dr. Cunningham, one of the Medical officers sent to Calcutta by the Right Honble. the Secretary of State, to undertake the special enquiry referred to in sections VI and VII of the "Instructions", expressing a great desire to have his theory "put to its practical proof in Madras" and Dr. Cunningham has sent me a drawing of the simple apparatus required, a copy of which I append to this.

4. You will note that a well must be specially set apart for the experiment, and I would ask the sanction of Government to sink a "pot" well in the compound of my office, and erect the apparatus over it, with a view to systematic registration of the varying levels of the subsoil water in association with the prevalence of cholera.

5. A "pot" well of small diameter can, I find, be sunk at a cost of about Rs 23/-. The apparatus need not exceed Rupees 50/- But if the Government will be pleased to sanction an advance of say Rupees 100/- subject to future adjustment, I will immediately take the subject up and commence a series of registrations at my office.

6. Similar experiments will have to be instituted by the Officer recommended by the Committee, which recently reported upon the subject.

enquiries in special districts, and it is desirable that the apparatus should be first put up and tested at Madras.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,

J. Hankin.

Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

Enc. 2

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Recd 17 Aug 1869

No 1097 - 5 Aug 1869.
Sanctioned

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Govt. of 1869: Madras.

Public

The Sanitary Commr.

Dated Aug 5

Revised

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Nos. 44, 45.

7 Aug 1869

Sanctioning an advance
of Rs. 100 to enable the Sa-
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ceed but the theory advanced
by Professor Pettenkofer of
Munich of the relation of
outbreaks of Cholera to perme-
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