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Initials of Reference
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT

GO. No.	<i>1255</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>12-1-37</i>	19 <i>37</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 2781.

FROM A. MACKENZIE, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,
General Department,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 4th August 1869.

Statistics.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 282, dated 30th June, calling for an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion on the feasibility of introducing into the Lower Provinces certain forms for the collection of vital statistics proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

2. In reply I am to say that, before this communication reached the Lieutenant-Governor, he had had under consideration the forms to be prescribed for the Mortuary Returns which are to be furnished to the Government of India under the orders of the 5th August 1867 (No. 3083); and the Lieutenant-Governor has adopted the Forms A., B., C., which accompany this letter, and has directed the Sanitary Commissioner and the Officers concerned, which it is intended to circulate throughout the Lower Provinces. It is desirable that, if possible, the system should be in operation by the 1st October next, and, therefore, unless any intimation to the contrary should be received from the Government of India, the necessary instructions will be issued on the 1st proximo.

3. It will be seen that Forms B. and C. agree in all essential particulars with those drawn up by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India. Form A. embodies the particulars relative to mortality which are included in the Forms A. and No. IV. of the Sanitary Commissioner, with the exception of the classification of ages. These Doctor Cunningham has proposed to tabulate in periods increasing by ten years. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion there is not the slightest probability, in the Lower Provinces at any rate, of obtaining even a remote approximation to truth if periods of ten years are taken.

The arrangement of columns shown in the Form A. accompanying this letter appears to His Honor to be far more likely to obtain accurate results.

4. The age of twelve has been assumed as the period of distinction between children and adults, it being understood that the Statistical Committee have definitely fixed upon that age in the form proposed by them for the census of 1871.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor has resolved that Form A. shall not include returns of mortality among Europeans or East Indians, for whom separate and simultaneous returns will be prescribed.

Rules for the Registration of Deaths in the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

1. It shall be the duty of the Village Chowkeedars to report all deaths occurring within their respective beats at the Police Station at which they make their periodical reports, and at the time of making these reports.

2. In Towns and Municipalities similar reports shall be made daily by the members of the Town Police, whether known as Constables or as Chowkeedars.

3. In Districts where there are no Village Chowkeedars, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to determine, in communication with the District Officer, the local agency by which such reports shall regularly be made, reporting the result for the information of Government.

4. The Officer in charge of the Police Station or Out-post shall enter each death reported to him in a Register to be kept in Form A.

5. Each Police Officer who shall have charge of a Register as above described shall send to the Medical Officer of the District on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 1st day of each month, that portion of the Register containing all entries of deaths reported to him up to the evening next preceding.

6. From the materials thus furnished the Medical Officer shall compile a Monthly Statement in Form B., and send one copy to the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal as soon as possible after the close of the month; and another copy for information to the Magistrate of the District.

7. The Sanitary Commissioner shall then prepare a Return in Form C. monthly for the whole province, and submit it to Government as soon as possible with his remarks.

8. The District Medical Officer shall exhibit separately in his Monthly Return (B.) the results for each town in the District having more than 5,000 inhabitants; that is to say, the Returns from each Registering Station within such town shall be grouped together and totalled and not shown separately for the several Registering Stations. Such entries will be distinguished by the capital

(2)

6. In regard to the agency to be employed in the preparation of the returns, the Lieutenant-Governor has resolved that the Chowkeedar, Rural or Municipal, is to be held responsible for giving information of all deaths within his beat at the Police Station, where they will be entered by the Officer in charge in the Form A. This Officer will send the Form A., filled up regularly every week, to the Medical Officer of the District, by whom the Form B. will be compiled and forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, who will compile the monthly Form C.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor will, with the permission of the Government of India, defer, for the present, the consideration of the Sanitary Commissioner's Annual Forms (I. to X.) It may be found necessary to revise them during the year which must elapse after the system of registration now proposed is fairly introduced.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. MACKENZIE,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

(2)

letter T being prefixed to each. It will probably be more convenient if the information regarding each such town be given on a separate sheet.

9. The estimated population and area of towns and of the rural circles subordinate to each Registering Police Station must on no account be omitted from Form B. The source from which the figures are derived should be stated.*

10. The Registering Stations or Circles shall be shown not in alphabetical but in geographical order, that is to say, the Magistrate shall once for all settle, in communication with the Medical Officer, the order in which the several stations shall be entered in Form B., with reference to their proximity to the Sudder Station and to one another. It is obvious that an important check upon the accuracy of the Station Returns will be the exhibition of corresponding results in places adjacent to one another.

11. It is to be observed that Europeans and East Indians are not to be registered in these Forms, the column regarding "Christians" having reference to Native Christians only.

12. In towns, in addition to the system of Station registration above prescribed, a check should be kept of burying places and burning ghats. The returns so obtained should tally exactly with the Station Mortuary Returns.

13. When cholera breaks out in a District within or near to which any European Military Cantonment is situated, the Medical Officer shall forward to the Officer Commanding such Cantonment a daily report in the form given on the margin: and it shall be the duty of the District Superintendents of Police in all such Districts to see that daily returns of the nature indicated are forwarded from each Police Station to the Medical Officer, whenever the latter shall call upon him so to do. These returns will contain no details and are not intended to supersede Form A.

Name of place.	Date.	Number of deaths from cholera reported.

A. MACKENZIE,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

* Note.—Some care will be necessary in fixing and ascertaining this information at first, but when once known there will be no further trouble. Magistrates will assist the Medical Officer in obtaining a complete and correct schedule of Stations, with their approximate area and population.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th October 1869.*

No. 47. Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort William, 4th August 1869, No. 2781.

[Statistics.]

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 282, dated 30th June, calling for an expression of the Lieutenant Governor's opinion on the feasibility of introducing into the Lower Provinces certain forms for the collection of vital statistics proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

2. In reply I am to say that, before this communication reached the Lieutenant Governor, he had had under consideration the forms to be prescribed for the Mortuary Returns which are to be furnished to the Government of India under the orders of the 5th August 1867, (No. 3083); and the Lieutenant Governor has adopted the Forms A., B., C., which accompany this letter, and has laid down rules for the guidance of the Officers concerned, which it is intended to circulate throughout the Lower Provinces. It is desirable that, if possible, the system should be in operation by the 1st October next, and, therefore, unless any intimation to the contrary should be received from the Government of India, the necessary instructions will be issued on the 1st proximo.

3. It will be seen that Forms B. and C. agree in all essential particulars with those drawn up by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India. Form A. embodies the particulars relative to mortality which are included in the Forms A. and No. IV. of the Sanitary Commissioner, with the exception of the classification of ages. These Dr. Cunningham has proposed to tabulate in periods increasing by ten years. In the Lieutenant Governor's opinion there is not the slightest probability, in the Lower Provinces at any rate, of obtaining even a remote approximation to truth if periods of ten years are taken.

The arrangement of columns, shown in the Form A. accompanying this letter appears to his Honour to be far more likely to obtain accurate results.

4. The age of twelve has been assumed as the period of distinction between children and adults, it being understood that the Statistical Committee have definitely fixed upon that age in the form proposed by them for the census of 1871.

5. The Lieutenant Governor has resolved that Form A. shall not include returns of mortality among Europeans or East Indians, for whom separate and simultaneous returns will be prescribed.

6. In regard to the agency to be employed in the preparation of the returns, the Lieutenant Governor has resolved that the Chowkeedar, rural or municipal, is to be held responsible for giving information of all deaths within his beat at the Police Station, where they will be entered by the Officer in charge in the Form A. This Officer will send the Form A., filled up regularly every week, to the Medical Officer of the District, by whom the Form B. will be compiled and forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, who will compile the monthly Form C.

7. The Lieutenant Governor will, with the permission of the Government of India, defer for the present, the consideration of the Sanitary Commissioner's

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th October 1869.*

Annual Forms (I. to X.) It may be found necessary to revise them during the year which must elapse after the system of registration now proposed is fairly introduced.

Rules for the Registration of Deaths in the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

1. It shall be the duty of the Village Chowkeedars to report all deaths occurring within their respective beats at the Police Station at which they make their periodical reports, and at the time of making these reports.

2. In Towns and Municipalities similar reports shall be made daily by the members of the Town Police, whether known as Constables or as Chowkeedars.

3. In districts where there are no Village Chowkeedars, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to determine, in communication with the District Officer, the local agency by which such reports shall regularly be made, reporting the result for the information of Government.

4. The Officer in charge of the Police Station or Out-post shall enter each death reported to him in a Register to be kept in Form A.

5. Each Police Officer who shall have charge of a Register as above described shall send to the Medical Officer of the district on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 1st day of each month, that portion of the Register containing all entries of deaths reported to him up to the evening next preceding.

6. From the materials thus furnished the Medical Officer shall compile a Monthly Statement in Form B., and send one copy to the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal as soon as possible after the close of the month, and another copy for information to the Magistrate of the district.

7. The Sanitary Commissioner shall then prepare a Return in Form C. monthly for the whole province, and submit it to Government as soon as possible with his remarks.

8. The District Medical Officer shall exhibit separately in his Monthly Return (B.) the results for each town in the district having more than 5000 inhabitants; that is to say, the Returns from each Registering Station within such town shall be grouped together and totalled and not shown separately for the several Registering Stations. Such entries will be distinguished by the capital letter T being prefixed to each. It will probably be more convenient if the information regarding each such town be given on a separate sheet.

9. The estimated population and area of towns and of the rural circles subordinate to each Registering Police Station must on no account be omitted from Form B. The source from which the figures are derived should be stated.*

10. The Registering Stations or Circles shall be shown, not in alphabetical, but in geographical order, that is to say, the Magistrate shall once for all settle, in communication with the Medical Officer, the order in which the several stations shall be entered in Form B., with reference to their proximity to the Sudder Station and to one another. It is obvious that an important check upon the accuracy of the Station Returns will be the exhibition of corresponding results in places adjacent to one another.

11. It is to be observed that Europeans and East Indians are not to be registered in these Forms, the column regarding "Christians" having reference to native Christians only.

12. In towns, in addition to the system of Station registration above prescribed, a check should be kept up at burying-places and burning-ghauts. The returns so obtained should tally exactly with the Station Mortuary Returns.

* Some care will be necessary in fixing and ascertaining this information at first, but when once known there will be no further trouble. Magistrates will assist the Medical Officer in obtaining a complete and correct schedule of stations, with their approximate area and population.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th October 1869.*

13. When cholera breaks out in a district within or near to which any European Military Cantonment is situated, the Medical Officer shall forward to the Officer Commanding such Cantonment a daily report in the form given on the margin; and it shall be the duty of the District Superintendents of Police in all such Districts to see that daily returns of the nature indicated are forwarded from each Police Station to the Medical Officer, whenever the latter shall call upon him so to do. These returns will contain no details, and are not intended to supersede Form A.		
Name of place.	Date.	Number of deaths from cholera reported.

(Signed) A. MACKENZIE,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, (Sanitary), to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, dated Simla, 18th September 1869, No. 416.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2781, dated the 4th ultimo, relative to the forms for the collection of vital statistics proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, and in reply to communicate the following observations:—

2. Nothing is said in that letter about either births or marriages, which were included in the forms sent with the circular of the 30th June last; and I am desired to inquire whether the Lieutenant Governor considers that the registration of births and marriages is not feasible in Bengal.

3. The only point on which there is any substantial difference in the Mortuary Returns submitted by the Lieutenant Governor is the classification and record of the age. His Honour thinks that even approximate accuracy cannot be obtained, if the decennial periods proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner be adopted. It may be admitted that a very large majority of the natives of India cannot state their age correctly; but still the difference would not usually be greater than ten years one way or the other, except in cases of very old age in which greater inaccuracy may be expected. The Governor General in Council thinks it worthy of consideration whether, in most cases, the friends of a person deceased might not be able to give his age with sufficient approximation to accuracy, or in the case of one who died with no friends near him, whether the Police, and those who dispose of the body, might not make an approximation to the age of the deceased within ten or fifteen years.

4. It is certainly quite as easy, when recording a death, to record the probable age in the figures given by friends, or conjectured from the appearance of the body, as to enter the age under columns of arbitrary periods, whether of ten years or longer terms; and it seems questionable, therefore, whether the form of Register A. should not contain an entry for age as given by friends of the deceased, or obtained by inspection of the corpse, rather than an entry in the manner proposed by the Government of Bengal, or the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

5. In the returns prepared from Register A., it would not be desirable to attempt to exact an enumeration. For the purposes of these returns the columns proposed by the Government of Bengal for ages up to twelve years seem appropriate. But it is considered very desirable that columns should be added for the following periods:—

From 12 to 20, inclusive.

" 21 " 30 "

" 31 " 40 "

" 41 " 50 "

" 51 " 60 "

Above 60.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th October 1869.

6. I am accordingly directed to request that the Government of Bengal will try, for the three months preceding the 1st January 1870, the forms suggested in paragraphs 4 and 5. Should the Lieutenant Governor, after this experiment, still be of opinion that the sub-division is too minute, I am to request that the following classification may be adopted:—

1. Born dead.
2. Under 1 year.
3. Above 1 „ and under 6 years.
4. „ 6 years „ „ 12 „
5. From 12 „ to 20, inclusive.
6. „ 21 „ „ 40 „
7. „ 41 „ „ 60 „
8. Above 60.

These columns should be given, whether or not it is found practicable to record the age in the original Register, in accordance with the above suggestions in paragraph 4.

7. It is possible that, in some outlying districts inhabited by wild tribes, the necessary information will not be attainable; nor will the less detailed information proposed by the Government of Bengal be procurable in such cases. In these exceptional districts, the statistics must in any case be imperfect.

8. The Governor General in Council does not think it necessary to make any remarks in regard to the instructions to be issued for the guidance of Registering Officers, as the Local Government must be the best judge of the machinery to be employed, and of the mode in which that machinery is to be worked.

No. 419.

Copy of the correspondence forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information.

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1869, No. 1408.

Forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner for information.

(True Extract.)

Actg. Secy. to Govt.

To the Sanitary Commissioner, with Forms A., B., and C.

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4x

No. 410

FROM

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secretary to the Govt. of India,

TO

THE OFFG. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL,
GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Home Dept.

Sanitary.

SIMLA, 18 September 1869.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2781, dated the 4th ultimo, relative to the forms for the collection of vital statistics proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, and in reply to communicate the following observations.

2. Nothing is said in that letter about either births or marriages, which were included in the forms sent with the circular of the 30th June last; and I am desired to enquire whether the Lieutenant-Governor considers that the registration of births and marriages is not feasible in Bengal.

3. The only point on which there is any substantial difference in the mortuary returns submitted by the Lieutenant-Governor is the classification and record of the age. His Honor thinks that even approximate accuracy cannot be obtained, if the decennial periods proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner be adopted. It may be admitted that a very large majority of the Natives of India cannot state their age correctly; but still the difference would not usually be greater than 10 years one way or the other, except in cases of very old age in which greater inaccuracy may be expected. The Governor General in Council thinks it worthy of consideration whether in most cases the friends of a person deceased might not be able to give his age with sufficient approximation to accuracy, or in the case of one who died with no friends near him, whether the Police, and those who dispose of the body might not make an approximation to the age of the deceased within 10 or 15 years.

4. It is certainly quite as easy, when recording a death, to record the probable age in the figures given by friends, or conjectured from the appearance of the body, as to enter the age under columns of arbitrary periods, whether of 10 years or longer terms; and it seems questionable, therefore, whether the form of Register A. should not contain an entry for age as given by friends of the deceased, or obtained by inspection of the corpse, rather than an entry in the manner proposed by the Government of Bengal, or the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

5. In the returns prepared from Register A., it would not be desirable to attempt too exact an enumeration. For the purposes of these returns the columns proposed by the Government of Bengal for ages up to 12 years seem appropriate. But it is considered very desirable that columns should be added for the following periods:—

From 12 to 20, inclusive.
" 21 " 30 "
" 31 " 40 "
" 41 " 50 "
" 51 " 60 "
Above 60.

Govt. of 1869 24th Nov.

PUBLIC.

To

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER,
Madras.

Dated October, 12th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 12th October 1869, No. 1408.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 47-48.

Forwarding, for information, copy of corrected returns received from the Government of India, relative to the forms for the collection of Vital Statistics.

6. I am accordingly directed to request that the Government of Bengal will try, for the three months preceding the 1st January 1870, the forms suggested in paragraphs 4 and 5. Should the Lieutenant-Governor, after this experiment, still be of opinion that the sub-division is too minute, I am to request that the following classification may be adopted :—

1. Born dead.
2. Under 1 year.
3. Above 1 „ and under 6 years.
4. „ 6 years „ „ 12 „
5. From 12 „ to 20, inclusive.
6. „ 21 „ „ 40 „
7. „ 41 „ „ 60 „
8. Above 60.

These columns should be given, whether or not it is found practicable to record the age in the original Register, in accordance with the above suggestions in paragraph 4.

7. It is possible that in some outlying Districts inhabited by wild tribes, the necessary information will not be attainable; nor will the less detailed information proposed by the Government of Bengal be procurable in such cases. In these exceptional Districts, the statistics must in any case be imperfect.

8. The Governor General in Council does not think it necessary to make any remarks in regard to the instructions to be issued for the guidance of Registering Officers, as the Local Government must be the best judge of the machinery to be employed, and of the mode in which that machinery is to be worked.

I have the honor to be,

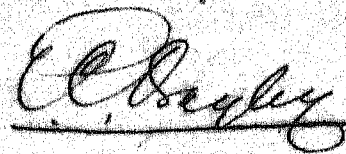
Your most obedient Servant,

E. C. BAYLEY,

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No. 419.

Copy of the correspondence forwarded to the Govt. of Madras, for information.



Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Pro 5 August/69 No 38 C 41 -
" " " " " 195-196.

To the Secy Comm -
with Encl. 4 B C 2

Recd 26 Oct 1899

10/11/00 - 12. Oct 1899
Forwarded to the Secy
Commissioner for Information

Public - 1869 - Dept

Turn

The Secy to the Govt of India

Home Dept
Sanitary

No 419

of 18th September
By 2nd October

No 2221

5 Enc: 4
6 P.C.

Forwards for information copy
of correspondence relative
to the forms for the collection
of vital statistics.

With an order

47 44

Dept. of (1869)

Public -

To
Es. Secretary General,
Madras.

Dated Oct. 12

1869.

1869.

12 Oct.

1869, 1869, 1869

No. 4748.

Forwarding, for informa-
tion, copy of correspondence
received from the Govt.
of India relative to the
forms for the collection
of vital statistics.