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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	499	Press
		Mis.
Dated	16.4.	19/869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th April 1869.

Read the following papers :—

No. 156. Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated India Office, London, 11th March 1869, No. 2, (Sanitary).

I have had under my consideration in Council a report on the sanitary condition of Ootacamund by the Sanitary Commissioner at your Presidency.

2. This report was forwarded to the Sanitary Commission at the War Office, for any remarks they might wish to offer, and I now forward, for the consideration of your Excellency in Council, and for transmission to the Sanitary Department of your Government, copy of a Memorandum which has been received in reply, as the suggestions therein contained may be usefully applied in the survey of other stations.

Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the " Report upon the Sanitary condition of Ootacamund by the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

This report shows how much more difficult it is to remedy sanitary evils than to prevent them. Ootacamund occupies a healthy locality specially selected on this account as a sanitarium, at an elevation of 6000 feet above the level of the sea.

It has nevertheless become so far used up that fatal typhoid fever has appeared among the residents as an endemic disease.

Medical Officers assert that the conditions have progressed from bad to worse culminating in a state of matters which threatens not only to rob the station of the character it has so many years enjoyed as the leading sanitarium of India, but " to make it dangerous for invalids to resort to it at all."

The causes of this rapid deterioration are clearly stated in the report, and they are—

Absence of healthy plan and construction, as also of proper arrangement of houses.

Absence of efficient drainage and cleansing so that the ground has become sodden with filth. Pollution of water sources.

The report is too restricted in details to enable us to form an opinion in regard to the engineering works required for the station, but so far as we are enabled to judge, the only course to be adopted at present (unless the houses were removed to a new site) is the course proposed in the report, viz.,

To organize an efficient sanitary service for the daily removal of all filth and offal.

To protect the lake from pollution; and

To improve the surface drainage.

(Signed) J. H. GRANT, Quarter Master General.

" D. GALTON.

" J. SUTHERLAND.

" H. H. MASSY.

" T. A. L. MURRAY.

" W. E. BAKER.

" J. R. MARTIN.

" R. RAWLINSON,

" J. J. FREDERICK, *Secretary.*

WAR OFFICE,
11th February 1869.

No. 157. Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated India Office, London, 11th March 1869, No. 3, (Sanitary.)

I have had under my consideration in Council your Despatch in the Public Department. No. 28. dated the 30th November 1868, forwarding the report of the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th April 1869.

Cholera Committee appointed to report on the arrangements to be made to give practical effect, in the Madras Presidency, to the recommendations and suggestions of the International Sanitary Conference.

2. This report was submitted for consideration to the Army Sanitary Commission, and I now forward, for the information of your Excellency in Council, copy of a Memorandum which has been received in reply, as the remarks therein contained appear to be of general utility. I would attract your Excellency's especial attention to the suggestions made in the concluding part of the paper, for carrying out in certain marked endemic localities in each Presidency, the measures and inquiries which were so successfully adopted at the Conjeveram pilgrimage.

Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the Report of the Madras Cholera Committee.

In this report is opened up the whole question of cholera as it occurs in India in relation to opinions set forth authoritatively by the late Constantinople Conference.

There is much in the report that is true, and which can be safely assumed as a basis for preventive measures. None of the views or practices enumerated by the Conference are novel. All have been long before the public.

They naturally divide themselves into two classes —

1st.—Those which are more or less hypothetical.

2nd.—Those which are strictly practical.

The hypothetical views on which the Conference propose to rest one branch of a sanitary procedure have not met with universal acceptance; they belong to points still under discussion and inquiry, such for instance as the relation which cholera excreta bears to the spread of cholera, and the part which movement of the population plays in spreading the disease.

This department of the inquiry must be followed out to a much greater extent before all the questions connected with it are settled, and it will be included in our instructions for investigating cholera in India.

The practical measures have been more or less in successful use ever since cholera was known as an epidemic, and just in proportion as these measures have been carried out has cholera become less prevalent and fatal; but to the present time experience has shown that the disease can be best prevented by cleanliness, fresh air, pure water, and wholesome personal regimen. The Madras Commission places due value on these methods of prevention, and they have not been undervalued by the Constantinople Conference.

In the present state of the question no greater service could be rendered than by the Madras and other Commissions being allowed to carry out in well-marked endemic localities, measures of a similar class to those so successfully adopted at the Conjeveram pilgrimage.

For instance, let a well-marked endemic locality be selected in each Presidency, and let a thorough inquiry be made into its sanitary state, including

- (a.) Surface and subsoil drainage, marshes, malaria.
- (b.) Surface cleanliness and cleanliness of compounds and houses.
- (c.) State of adjacent country and underwood nuisances.
- (d.) Habits of the natives especially as regards food, disposing of excrementitious matter, and the like.
- (e.) State of the water used for drinking and cooking.
- (f.) Amount of cholera.

Then let a rigid system of Sanitary Police be adopted to ensure that the people have the use of pure air and pure water by removing everything which interferes with these requisites, and let the results to health be recorded.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th April 1869.

Points of this kind are included in our instructions referred to; but if special cases be selected and dealt with many of the questions would be at once put in the way of being solved.

(Signed) J. H. GRANT, Quarter Master General.

(„) D. GALTON.

(„) J. SUTHERLAND.

(„) H. H. MASSY.

(„) T. A. L. MURRAY.

(„) W. E. BAKER.

(„) J. R. MARTIN.

(„) R. RAWLINSON.

(„) J. J. FREDERICK, Secretary.

WAR OFFICE,
11th February 1869.

No. 158. Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated India Office, London, 11th March 1869, No. 4, (Sanitary).

I have received and considered in Council the report and order of your Excellency's Government regarding the control of pilgrimages in the Madras Presidency. This report has been forwarded for the consideration of the Army Sanitary Commission, and I now forward to your Excellency in Council copy of a Memorandum which has been received in reply. I fully concur in the opinion therein expressed of the value of the experience gained at the festivals of Conjeveram and Humpi, and of the efficiency of the measures carried out at those places of pilgrimage for conservancy and police.

Memorandum by the Army Sanitary Commission on the "Report and Order of the Madras Government, regarding the control of Pilgrimages in the Madras Presidency."

This report contains facts of great interest and importance regarding cholera in India. It shows not only that breathing foul air and drinking foul water lead to a development of cholera among bodies of pilgrims apparently in good health, but that with very moderate care in preventing the atmosphere being fouled by human excreta spread over the country or by other nuisances; by providing free ventilation, and by protecting water sources from impurity, large bodies of people may come together, hold their fairs or pilgrimages, and return home without taking cholera.

The experience of Conjeveram and Humpi is most important to the future management of pilgrimages, as well as to the future prevention of cholera everywhere, for it indicates the direction in which efforts for the prevention of cholera should be made in India. On comparing the experience at Conjeveram and Humpi with that at Hurdwar the necessity of removing all excrementitious and other noxious matters away from camp and towns instead of burying them among or near the population is clearly shown.

It is most satisfactory to know that an arrest can be put on cholera by these simple and easy measures of prevention, which have moreover the experience of all past epidemics in Europe to sustain them.

(Signed) J. H. GRANT, Quarter Master General.

„ D. GALTON.

„ J. SUTHERLAND.

„ H. H. MASSY.

„ T. A. L. MURRAY.

„ W. E. BAKER.

„ J. R. MARTIN.

„ R. RAWLINSON.

„ J. J. FREDERICK, Secretary.

WAR OFFICE,
11th February 1869.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th April 1869.

No. 159. ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1869, No. 499.

Copies of the Despatches above recorded, and of their enclosures, will be communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, with a request that he will state what steps he would propose for carrying out the suggestions of the Army Sanitary Commission, contained at the close of their Memorandum which formed the enclosure of Despatch No. 3.

2. Despatch No. 2, and its enclosure, will be also communicated to the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund, and Despatch No. 4 to the Collectors of Madras and Bellary.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

To the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

- „ President of the Municipal Commission, Ootacamund.
- „ Collector of Madras.
- „ Do. of Bellary.
- „ Board of Revenue.

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE SANITARY COMMISSIONER,

Madras.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 16th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 16th April 1869, No. 499.

APRIL.

Nos. 156—159.

Passing orders with reference to the Despatches received from the Home Government, forwarding certain Memoranda by the Army Sanitary Commission.

St. John

It is suggested that
copies of this proposal
be sent to the Pres. of
the house. Comm. has been
+ to the President of
the Senate Municipal
in the hospital.

Meade

75
Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following ~~letter~~ Despatches
from the Secretary of State for India
(Recd. enter 11th March 1869 Nos. 2, 3, & 4.)

Order thereon No 499 - 16 April/69.

Copies of the Despatches
above recorded and of their enclosures
will be communicated to the
Sanitary Commissioner for
Madras, with a request that
he will state what steps he would
propose for carrying out the sug-
gestions of the Army Sanitary
Commission, contained at the
close of their Memorandum
which formed the enclosure
of Despatch No 3.

2 Despatch No 2 and
its enclosure will be, also, com-
municated to the Municipal
Commission, Ootacamund,
and Despatch No 4 to the

Collectors

Collectors of Madras and
Bellary. *AM*

to the Sanitary Commⁿ for Madras
Pres^t Imm. Commⁿ, Ptacamm
Collector of Madras
Collector of Bellary
President of the Council
Commissioners in all
other districts. d^y 28/4
Board of Revenue
d^y 26/4

Recd of 4 May.

Govt. of 186 } 20th July.

Public

To
The Sanitary Commission
London
for

Dated 20th July 1865 }
Recd. } 1865, No 497

Nos. 156, 157.

Having orders with re-
ference to the Sanitary
Commission from the Home
Govt. forwarding cer-
tain bills and a copy
of the Sanitary Com-
mission