

1. Name of Officer
2. Date of Issue
3. Initials of Officer

M.R.O. 1-30,000-16-10-29

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	549	Press Mis.
Dated	4-5-	19/869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

165

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th May 1869.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 23. From the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 15th April 1869, No. 1017.

I have the honour to state, for the information of Government, that it has been brought to my notice that several cases of diphtheria, a highly contagious and most fatal disease, have been imported into Madras by the Madras Railway during the past few weeks from Bangalore, where the disease is, I understand, widely prevalent.

2. I should have hesitated to write upon this subject to Government had not the inquiries I have instituted satisfied me that the health of the community travelling by the Madras Railway is being exposed to a most imminent peril, which should be at once arrested.

3. For obvious reasons I am unable, *not* being in practice, to specify, for the information of Government, *all* the cases of diphtheria imported into Madras; but I believe the following statements to be accurate and reliable:—

4. 1st.—On — day of — the child of the Reverend S — W — was brought by rail from Bangalore labouring under the disease. It reached Madras at 8.45 A.M., and died on the same day at — P.M. (*This death was not reported to the Municipality Mortuary Department*).

2nd.—On 23rd February, the son of Lieutenant W — W —, permanently resident in Madras, died of diphtheria after an illness of ten days. Immediately on the receipt of the report of this death, I had prepared in my office the following statement, computed so as to show if the disease had ever previously assumed an epidemic form, as indicated by previous mortality from this cause. I was glad to find that it had not apparently spread on former occasions of its occurrence. It has, however, assumed an epidemic form in England and elsewhere.

Deaths from Diphtheria from 1859 to 1868.

	Europeans.	East Indians.	Hindoos.	Mahomedans.	Total.
Diphtheria, 1859 ...	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Do. 1860 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. 1861 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. 1862 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. 1863 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. 1864 ...	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Do. 1865 ...	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Do. 1866 ...	2	.....	.....	.....	2
Do. 1867 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. 1868 ...	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Total...	5	1	.....	.....	6

3rd.—No further reports of death from diphtheria were received until the 2nd, when the death of the child of Major G — was reported. This death was not brought to my Secretary's notice until the 9th April, and it was only on his inquiry that he discovered that it had been imported from Bangalore by the Railway, and that the death had occurred on the 27th ultimo.

under

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

Fort Saint George, 20th April 1869

From

The Inspector General, Indian Medical Department,

Fort Saint George,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Public Dept.

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

The Surgeon of the General Hospital having brought to my notice the recent transfer from Bangalore to Madras, by rail, of several patients in the last stage of Diphtheria, - and the danger to the community occasioned by such patients travelling in the carriages provided for ordinary passengers, - I have the honor to recommend that the Railway authorities be called on to take measures for the isolation of all travellers suffering from contagious diseases, - and for the thorough cleansing and disinfecting of the carriages in which such travellers have been conveyed.

2 In anticipation of the concurrence of Government Deputy Inspectors General Indian

Indian Medical Department will
be requested to instruct all Executive
Medical Officers in their respective
ranges, that whenever patients
under their care, suffering from
any communicable disease, are
about to travel by rail, sufficient
notice is to be previously given
to Station Masters, to admit of the
necessary arrangements being
made.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obed^t Serv^t

N. MacKenzie M.D.

Inspector General

Indian Med^l Depart^t

Recd of 11 May.

577
69

No. 186
From
Dept.

The Inspector General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To
Chief
The Secretary to Government,
Puducherry Department,

Fort Saint George.

Dated 20th April

Received 22nd April

No. 152

Co. 116

To 836.

To command that the
Railway authorities be
called on to take certain
measures in cases when
over patients suffering
from any communicable
diseases about to
travel by Rail

22/4
M. 116
24.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th May 1869.*

4th.—While prosecuting inquiries on the subject, Dr. Montgomery learned that two children of Captain W. R. A—— had been sent from Bangalore labouring under the same disease. One of these children died *in the Railway carriage* at the Vellore station on the morning of the 8th April, and the body was carried on in the train and buried on the same day at St. Mary's Burial Ground, Madras. But no intimation reached this office until yesterday (14th), six days after the funeral. Regarding the state of the other child I have no information.

5th.—I have learned privately that a child of Lieutenant L——, stationed at Bangalore, died of diphtheria a few days since at the Jollarett Junction, *en route* to Madras from Bangalore.

6th.—I am further informed that a case doubtfully reported as *fever* (?), but actually one of diphtheria, is now under treatment by a private practitioner in this city. This case also came from Bangalore.

5. I have thus fully entered into details, because it is, in my opinion, essentially necessary that Government should interpose to prevent this wholesale importation into Madras of contagious disease.

6. It is beyond my province, nor would this be a fitting opportunity, to discuss the propriety, upon professional grounds, of subjecting young children, labouring under a mortal disease to the fatigue, discomfort, exposure, and loss of medical aid involved in a journey of two hundred miles by rail. But in the interests of the public, I must most respectfully but strongly beg the interference of Government to prevent the contamination of vehicles of public carriage by the conveyance of cases of contagious disease, and of the bodies of those who have died from them.

7. It is with great regret that I have to note that the existence of this disease in, or its introduction into, Madras, has not been brought to my notice by the Medical Officers under whose charge the patients came, although the head of the Medical Department has issued a positive order to this effect. On this subject I shall communicate with Dr. Mackenzie.

8. I may recal to the attention of Government that at the close of 1867 this subject had been finally disposed of, as noted in the following observations of my Secretary in his report on the mortality in Madras in the fourth quarter of that year* :—

* Vide also my Proceedings for November and December 1867, paragraphs 437 to 444, and paragraph 541.

"I have been able, since submitting my last quarterly report, to extend the arrangements therein alluded to for bringing, under the notice of the Medical and Marine authorities, the casualties arising from, and the existence of, contagious disease. The Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department has issued instructions that all Medical Officers at the Presidency should submit a daily return showing the number of cases admitted under their care labouring under contagious diseases. These returns, addressed to the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, at the Presidency, are by that officer transferred to this office, where they are tabulated in a single return, copies of which are forwarded in the afternoon to the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Surgeons of the several districts in which contagious diseases may have occurred, to the Port and Marine Surgeon, and to the Municipal Commissioners, for their information."

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th May 1869.*

9. Act XVIII. of 1854 (an Act relating to Railways in India) contains no provision against the transmission of persons labouring under contagious or infectious diseases, or of corpses dead of such diseases in ordinary carriages; but the more recent Sanitary Act, 29 and 30 Vic., Cap. 90, "An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Public Health, 1866," embodies distinct provisions and penalties. I take the liberty to quote a few of the sections:—

"Nuisance Authorities may provide carriages for conveyance of infected persons."

"24. It shall be lawful at all times for the nuisance authority to provide and maintain a carriage or carriages suitable for the conveyance of persons suffering under any contagious or infectious disease, and to pay the expense of conveying any person therein to a hospital or place for the reception of the sick, or to his own home."

"Penalty on persons suffering from infectious disorder entering public conveyance without notifying to driver that he is so suffering."

"25. If any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder shall enter any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner or driver thereof that he is so suffering, he shall, on conviction thereof before any Justice, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5, and shall also be ordered by such Justice to pay to such owner and driver all the losses and expenses they may suffer in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act; and no owner or driver of any public conveyance shall be required to convey any person so suffering until they shall have been first paid a sum sufficient to cover all such losses and expenses."

"Penalty on any person with infectious disorder exposing himself, or on any person in charge of such sufferer causing such exposure."

"38. Any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder who wilfully exposes himself without proper precaution against spreading the disorder in any street, public place, or public conveyance, and any person in charge of one so suffering who so exposes the sufferer, and any owner or driver of a public conveyance who does not immediately provide for the disinfection of his conveyance after it has, with the knowledge of such owner or driver, conveyed any such sufferer * * * shall, on conviction of such offence before any Justice, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5 * * *."

10. In a prior Act, 23 and 24 Vic., Cap. 77 of 1860, (an Act to amend the Acts for the removal of nuisances and the prevention of diseases,) the following clause occurs:—

"Local Authorities may provide carriages for conveyance of infected persons."

"12. It shall be lawful for the local authority for executing the said 'Diseases' Prevention Act' to provide and maintain a carriage or carriages suitable for the conveyance of persons suffering under any contagious or infectious disease, and to convey such sick and diseased persons as may be residing within such locality to any hospital or other place of destination, and the expense thereof shall be deemed to be an expense incurred in executing the said Act."

11. In England, special carriages are now, I believe, assigned for the conveyance of sick suffering from contagious diseases, and I respectfully submit, for the consideration of Government, the desirability of some legal enactment in connexion

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th May 1869.*

with Act XVIII. of 1856, embodying similar precautions against the spread of contagious diseases in this country.

No. 24. From the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 20th April 1869, No. 152.

The Surgeon of the General Hospital having brought to my notice the recent transfer from Bangalore to Madras, by rail, of several patients in the last stage of diphtheria, and the danger to the community occasioned by such patients travelling in the carriages provided for ordinary passengers, I have the honour to recommend that the Railway authorities be called on to take measures for the isolation of all travellers suffering from contagious diseases, and for the thorough cleansing and disinfecting of the carriages in which such travellers have been conveyed.

2. In anticipation of the concurrence of Government, the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, will be requested to instruct all executive Medical Officers in their respective ranges, that whenever patients under their care, suffering from any communicable disease, are about to travel by rail, sufficient notice is to be previously given to Station Masters to admit of the necessary arrangements being made.

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1869, No. 577.

The letters above recorded will be referred to the Department Public Works with a view to the Consulting Engineer for Railways being instructed to place himself in communication with the Railway Managers (of both lines) on the subject of taking such measures as will, for the future, guard against the danger to the public health described by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

2. It should also be inquired what steps have been taken to disinfect the carriages in which children suffering from diphtheria have travelled.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,

To the Public Works Department.

„ Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Office of Sanitary Commissioner

N^o 1017

Madras 15th April 1869.

From

The Sanitary Commissioner
for Madras

To

The Honorable R. S. Ellis C. B.

Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Santh Merga

Sir

I have the honor to state for the information of Government that it has been brought to my notice that several cases of Diphtheria, a highly contagious and most fatal disease, have been imported into Madras by the Madras Railway during the past few weeks from Bangalore, where the disease is, I understand, widely prevalent.

2. I should have hesitated to write upon this subject to Government had not the inquiries I have instituted satisfied me that the health of the community travelling by the Madras Railway is being exposed to a most imminent peril which should be at once averted.

3. For obvious reasons I am unable, not being in practice, to specify for the information of Government all the cases of Diphtheria imported into Madras; but I believe the following statements to be accurate and reliable:-

4. (1) On — day of — the child of Brod S. W. was brought by rail from Bangalore labouring under

RECEIVED
MAY 11 1869

PUBLIC.

70

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Secy, Secy, Secy.

Chief Secy, Secy.

Secy.

Secy.

G. O., 4th May 1869, No. 577.

MAY

Nos. 28-28.

Communicating letters from the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, regarding the prevalence of diphtheria on the Railway lines, in view to measures being taken for guarding against such danger to the public health.

under the disease. It reached Madras at 8-45 AM
 And died on the same day at — P.M. (This death
 was not reported to the Municipality Mortuary
 Department)

(2) On 23rd February the son of Lieutenant
 to — — —, permanently resident in Madras,
 died of Diphtheria after an illness of ten days. Imme-
 diately on the receipt of the report of this death I
 had prepared in my Office the following statement
 computed so as to show if the disease had ever pre-
 viously assumed an epidemic form as indicated
 by previous mortality from this cause. I was glad to
 find that it had not apparently spread on former
 occasions of its occurrence. It has however assum-
 ed an epidemic form in England and elsewhere.
 — Deaths from Diphtheria from 1859 to 1868.

	Europeans	East Indians	Naidos	Mahomedans	Total
Diphtheria — 1859	1	"	"	"	1
" — 1860	"	"	"	"	"
" — 1861	"	"	"	"	"
" — 1862	"	"	"	"	"
" — 1863	"	"	"	"	"
" — 1864	1	"	"	"	1
" — 1865	1	"	"	"	1
" — 1866	2	"	"	"	2
" — 1867	"	"	"	"	"
" — 1868	"	1	"	"	1
Total	5	1	"	"	6

(3) No further reports of death from Diph-
 theria were received until 2nd when the death of the
 child of Major G — was reported. This death was not
 brought to my Secretary's notice until 9th April
 and it was only on his inquiry that he discovered
 that it had been imported from Bangalore by the

Railway, and that the death had occurred on the 27th
 ultimo.

(4) While prosecuting inquiries on the
 subject Dr Montgomery learned that two children
 of Captain W. R. A — had been sent from Banga-
 lor, labouring under the same disease. One of these
 children died in the Railway carriage at the Bellary
 station on the morning of the 8th April and the
 body was carried on the train and buried on the same
 day at St. Mary's burial-ground, Madras. But no infor-
 mation reached this Office until yesterday (14th) 6
 days after the funeral. Regarding the state of the other
 child I have no information.

(5) I have learned privately that a child
 of Lieutenant E — stationed at Bangalore died
 of Diphtheria a few days since at the Jolampatti
 Junction, enroute to Madras from Bangalore.

(6) I am further informed that a case
 doubtfully reported as Scarlatina (?) but actually one
 of Diphtheria is now under treatment by a private
 practitioner in this city. This case also came from
 Bangalore.

5. I have thus fully entered into details
 because it is, in my opinion, essentially necessary
 that Government should interfere to prevent this
 wholesale importation into Madras of contagious
 diseases.

6. It is beyond my province, nor would
 this be a fitting opportunity, to discuss the propriety
 upon professional grounds, of subjecting young child-
 ren labouring under a mortal disease to the fatigue,
 discomfort

discomfort, exposure and loss of medical aid involved in a journey of 200 miles by rail. But in the interests of the public I must most respectfully but strongly beg the interference of Government to prevent the contamination of articles of public carriage by the conveyance of cases of contagious diseases and of the bodies of those who have died from them.

7. It is with great regret that I have to note that the existence of this disease in, or its introduction into, Madras has not been brought to my notice by the Medical Officers under whose charge the patients came; although the Head of the Medical Department has issued a positive order to this effect. On this subject I shall communicate with Dr. Macdonald.

8. I may recall to the attention of Government that at the close of 1867 this subject had been finally disposed of, as noted in the following observations of my Secretary in his report:—
"I have been able, since submitting my last quarterly report, to extend the arrangements therein alluded to for bringing under the notice of the Medical and Marine authorities the casualties arising from, and the existence of, contagious diseases. The Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department has issued instructions that all Medical Officers at the Presidency should submit a daily return showing the number of cases admitted under their care, 'laboring under contagious diseases. These returns, addressed

according to forms
sent and received
1867 p. 147 to 148
and p. 149.

"I have been able, since submitting my last quarterly report, to extend the arrangements therein alluded to for bringing under the notice of the Medical and Marine authorities the casualties arising from, and the existence of, contagious diseases. The Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department has issued instructions that all Medical Officers at the Presidency should submit a daily return showing the number of cases admitted under their care, 'laboring under contagious diseases. These returns, addressed

"addressed to the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department at the Presidency, are by that officer transferred to this Office, where they are tabulated in a single return, copies of which are forwarded in the afternoon to the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Surgeons of the several Districts in which contagious diseases may have occurred, to the Port and Marine Surgeon and to the Municipal Commissioners, for their information."

9. Act XVIII of 1856—An Act relating to Railways in India—contains no provision against the transmission of persons laboring under contagious or infectious diseases, or of corpses dead of such diseases in ordinary carriages; but the more recent Sanitary Act 32 and 33 Vic. Cap. 90 "an Act to amend the laws relating to the public health, 1866" embodies distinct provisions and penalties. I take the liberty to quote a few of the sections:—

"Municipal Authorities may provide carriages for conveyance of infected persons—

"21. It shall be lawful at all times for the municipal authority to provide and maintain carriages or carriages suitable for the conveyance of persons suffering under any contagious or infectious disease, and to pay the expense of conveying any person so therein to a hospital or place for the reception of the sick, or to his own home.

"Penalty on persons suffering from infectious disorders entering public conveyances without notifying

notifying to driver that he is so suffering.

"25. If any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder shall enter any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner or driver thereof that he is so suffering, he shall on conviction thereof before any justice be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5; and shall also be ordered by such justice to pay to such owner and driver all the losses and expenses they may suffer in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act; and no owner or driver of any public conveyance shall be required to convey any person so suffering until they shall have been first paid a sum sufficient to cover all such losses and expenses.

"Penalty on any person with infectious disorder exposing himself, or on any person in charge of such sufferer causing such exposure."

"38. Any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder who wilfully exposes himself without proper precaution against spreading the disorder, in any street, public place, or public conveyance, and any person in charge of one so suffering who so exposes the sufferer, and any owner or driver of a public conveyance who does not immediately provide for the disinfection of his conveyance after it has with the knowledge of such owner or driver conveyed any such sufferer x x x shall, on conviction of such offence before any justice, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5: x x x"

10. In a prior Act 23 and 24 Vic: Chap: 116 of 1860 - an act to amend the acts for the removal

removal of nuisances and the prevention of diseases the following clause occurs:-

"Local Authorities may provide carriages for conveyance of infected persons."

"12 It shall be lawful for the local authority for executing the said Diseases Prevention Act to provide and maintain a carriage or carriages suitable for the conveyance of persons suffering with any contagious or infectious disorder, and to convey such sick and diseased persons as may be residing within such locality to any hospital or other place of destination, and the expenses thereof shall be deemed to be an expense incurred in executing the said Act."

11. In England special carriages are now I believe assigned for the conveyance of sick, suffering from contagious diseases, and I suspect fully suitable for the consideration of Government the desirability of some legal enactment in connection with Act XVIII of 1856, embodying similar precautions against the spread of contagious diseases in this country.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours most obedient servant

J. H. M. J. H. M.

Sanitary Commissioner

for London

Public Health

Memorandum for Orders

65
15

From the Sanitary Comm.

Madras D. 15 April 1869 No 1017

— Inspr Genl. San. Dept.

Deptt { — 20 — — —

The Inspector General and the Sanitary Comm. missioners bring to the notice of Govt. the danger to the Public Health caused by the number of children suffering from Diphtheria in its later stage who have lately been sent from Bangalore to Madras by the Railway. They point out the necessity of some special means being provided by the Railway Company for segregating passengers

Unknown

hist of 11 May.

Public Health

From

The Sanitary Commission
for Madras

To the Chief Secretary
to Government

For 1st 1869

Outd 15th

Sept 16th

April 1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

1869

227/4
18/6/69

23.

known to be suffering from contagious diseases.

There is no provision to this effect in the Indian Railway Act 18 of '54, but there can be little doubt that the managers will agree to provide a special carriage for such sick persons.

It will be necessary that medical officers should in the manner suggested by Dr Mackenzie give due notice of their intention of sending such patients by rail.

I submit that these papers be sent to the Consulting Engineer with a view to his conferring with the Railway Managers of both our lines and preparing in communication

should not also measures be taken to disinfect all the carriages in which the children suffer from diphtheria have travelled?

N. A. J.
W. H.

Yr.
A. J.
W. H.

communication with them such a measure as will guard against the danger to the Public Health described by the Sanitary Commissioners and Inspect. Genl. Ind. Medical Dept.

Should they not be willing to ^{comply with this} ~~take the necessary~~ requisition ~~station~~ it will be necessary to consult the Advocate General whether there is a remedy at Law, or whether legislation is necessary.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter

From the Sanitary Commissioner } Resenter 15th April/69 No 1017
for Madras }
Inspector General,
Indian Med. Dept. 20th April/69 No 152

Order thereon 4th May 1869 No 577.

The letters
above recorded will be
referred to the Depart-
ment Public Works with
a view to the Consulting
Engineer for Railways
being instructed to place
himself in communication
with the Railway Managers
(of both lines) on the subject
of taking such measures
as will for the future
guard against the danger
to

14
21

to the Public Health
described by the Sanitary
Commissioner and the
Inspector General, Indian
Medical Department.

2. It should also be
enquired what steps
have been taken to
disinfect the carriages
in which children
suffering from Diphtheria
have travelled.

Public Works Deptt
Inspector Genl. I. M. Deptt }
Sanitary Commissioner }
Sept 1/15

Recd of H. May.

Cont. of 11869? *Endure.*

Public

To

The J. H. Bryant.

of

Dated *May 4th*

Recd.

1869, No. 577

49th 1388-1396-

Nos. 23-25-

*Comm. letter from the
Jury Comm. of the Sup. Ct.
about Feb 24th, regarding
the purchase of typewriter
in the building house,
in view of measures being
taken for guarding
against such things -
to the public health -*