

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	262	Press Mis.
Dated	6-3	1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

6th March 1871.

Read the following papers :—

No. 16. From the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Chittoor, 3rd February 1871, No. 6.

I have the honour to draw the attention of Government to the unsatisfactory results that are now being attained by the administration of the cholera pills at present supplied from the Medical Stores in Madras for distribution to persons attacked by that disease.

2. There have recently been several outbreaks of the epidemic in this district, and supplies of the cholera pills were at once sent out from the Dispensary here, and distributed to the people through the Local Revenue Officers. I regret to have to inform the Government that the pills appeared to be almost wholly inoperative in their effects. Out of 135 cases that lately occurred in the Bommasamudram and surrounding villages in the Chittoor Taluq, ninety-one were fatal. The pills were administered to twenty-five persons at Arcot, and twenty died. In the village of Visaram, in like manner, eight out of twelve persons who swallowed the pills died.

3. This terribly large percentage of deaths had at last such an effect on the people that nobody could be induced to receive them, and the local officers wrote to me stating that the pills were of no use whatever, and begged that chlorodyne might be sent for distribution, as the people were glad to have it, and its use was always attended with so much success.

4. I could not gather that the outbreak of cholera, owing to which these deaths were taking place, was characterized by any symptoms that showed it to be of unusual virulence. It then occurred to me that the pills had possibly deteriorated by

keeping, or exposure to damp, &c. I accordingly wrote*
*Letter, No. 3, dated 9th January 1871. to the Zillah Surgeon, Doctor Cooke, and requested him to have some of the pills tested, in order to see whether they were good for anything.

5. I beg now to forward, herewith, for the information of Government, copies of the correspondence that thereupon took place between Doctor Cooke and the Chemical Examiner, who, the Government will perceive, has declined to analyze or test the pills sent him for that purpose by the Zillah Surgeon.

6. It is not for me to say whether or not Doctor King would have overstepped the limits of his duties as Chemical Examiner by examining the condition of the pills thus submitted for his inspection. I would merely draw the attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council to the fact that the pills, made up at considerable cost to the State, and which Government are calling on their Officers in the districts to distribute as a remedy for this dangerous disease, are almost useless, and that the people will have nothing to say to them. It would, therefore, appear desirable that steps be taken to test them, and ascertain whether their medical quality has been injured in any way by time or exposure to the weather.

From Surgeon H. KING, M.B., Chemical Examiner, to the Zillah Surgeon, Chittoor, dated Madras, 17th January 1871, No. 21.

In reply to your letter, No. 2, of 11th instant, I have the honour to refer you to the Medical Code, Section IV., paragraphs 141 and 153, and to enclose copy of the Inspector-General's reply to my inquiry whether, in his opinion, the circumstances were such as to justify me in undertaking a quantitative analysis of the cholera pills.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th March 1871.*

From the Secretary to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chemical Examiner, Madras, dated 13th January 1871, No. 183.

Reference.—Your letter, No. 15, of 12th instant.

Subject.—The Inspector-General does not consider it necessary to institute a quantitative analysis of the cholera pills. Their composition can be ascertained from the Principal Medical Store-keeper, and, if they have become inert from deterioration, fresh supplies may be obtained on indent.

Referred to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, for remarks.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
10th February 1871.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON.
Secretary to Government.

No. 17. From the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Fort Saint George, 21st February 1871, No. 51.

I have the honour, with reference to your docket memorandum of the 10th instant, forwarding the letter marginally noted, to express my regret that the use of the cholera pills distributed in the North Arcot District should have proved so unsatisfactory, but as they were made up in the Medical Stores, and their composition well known, it did not seem necessary to subject them to analysis.

2. No similar complaints regarding them have reached me from other quarters, and it is, therefore, possible that their failure in this case may have arisen from inattention to the mode of administration laid down in the printed circulars issued with supplies of the pills.

3. I must, however, remark, that in some other districts the mortality from cholera has of late been unusually great, and I am inclined to attribute this rather to the virulent type of the disease now prevailing than to any inefficiency in the remedies.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1871, No. 262.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 6

North Street,
Collector's Office
Dated 3 February 1871.

From H. S. Whiteside Esquire, (5)
Collector of North Street.

The Honorable J. S. Ellis, C. B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir,
I have the honor to draw the attention of Government to the unsatisfactory results that are now being attained by the administration of the Cholera Pills at present supplied from the Medical stores in Madras for distribution to persons attacked by that disease.

2. There have recently been several outbreaks of the epidemic in this District, and supplies of the Cholera Pills were at once sent out from the Dispensary here, and distributed to the people through the Local Dispensing Officers. I

Vol. of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC.

Dated March, 6th.

Recd.

And.

G. O., 6th March 1871, No. 262.

MARCH.

Nos. 16-18.

Recording letter from the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, submitting his opinion as to the probable causes of the failure of the cholera pill in the North Arcot District.

His Excellency the Governor in Council
to the fact that the Pills made up at
considerable cost to the state, and which
Government are calling on their officers
in the Districts to distribute as a remedy
for this dangerous disease are almost
useless, and that the people will have
nothing to say to them. It would therefore
appear desirable that steps be taken
to test them and ascertain whether their
medical quality has been injured in
any way by ~~time or exposure to the~~
weather.

I have the honor to be,

sir

Your most obed^t servant

B. Whiting
Ag^t Collector

For the Asst
Collector's Office
Peters 3 February
1871

To The Chief Secretary to
Government

Fort Saint George

1251

7

Office of Inspector General I.M.D.
Fort Saint George 21st February 1871

From
The Inspector General
Indian Medical Department
Fort Saint George
To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honour with reference
to your docket memo of the 10th instant forwarding
the letter marginally noted, to express my regret,
that the use of the cholera pills distributed in the
North Arcot District should have proved so un-
satisfactory, but as they were made up in the
medical stores and their composition well known,
it did not seem necessary to subject them to analysis.

No 6 of 3rd Feby from the
Acting Collector N. Arcot
to the Chief Secy to Govt

Recorded 16-

6

Report to the Inspector General
Indian Medical Department
L. Anonaton
Secy to Govt
Indian Medical Department and 1/2

Received 26-11-71
Despatched 1-12-71
To the Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George
The Inspector General
Indian Medical Department
Fort Saint George
North Arcot.

2. No similar complaints regarding them have reached me from other quarters, and it is therefore possible that their failure in this case may have arisen from inattention to the mode of administration, laid down in the printed Circulars issued with supplies of the pills.

3. I must however remark, that in some other districts the mortality from Cholera has of late been unusually great, and I am inclined to attribute this rather to the virulent type of the disease now prevailing, than to any inefficiency in the remedies.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

J. MacKenzie Esq

Inspector General

Indian Medical Department.

Ref 238

Adm. by Adm.

From

Adm. by Adm.

Adm.

Adm. by Adm.

Adm. by Adm.

Adm. by Adm.

Ref 262 - 6-2-1941

Adm.

Adm.

Adm.

Adm. by Adm.

Adm. by Adm.