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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	549	Press Mis.
Dated	26-4-	19 18/1

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/10/37

26th April 1871.

No. 109. Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 12th April 1871, No. 458 :—

I have the honour to mention, for the information of Government, that the subject of medical aid for travellers suddenly attacked by cholera in railway journeys has come up for consideration in connexion with a case lately occurring on the South-West Line of Railway at Coimbatore, and I would respectfully solicit the orders of Government on the subject.

2. In the case referred to (a man travelling from Erode to Coimbatore, and found to be suffering from cholera on arrival at the latter station), it has been pointed out that no convenient buildings exist at any of the railway stations in which persons suddenly seized with illness might find temporary shelter, and I have addressed the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway on the subject of providing an inexpensive hut for the immediate treatment of such cases at stations where Apothecaries may be located.

3. The primary object of the Railway Authorities in keeping up a Medical Staff is, I infer, to afford aid to their own servants, but the existence of such a staff might very properly be utilized in this country for attendance also on travellers who may be seized with sudden illness. In the case in question, the Railway Apothecary very properly afforded all the aid in his power, but I am not aware whether the regulations require this as a matter of course in regard to travellers.

4. Natives who travel by railway are, in the event of sudden illness, very disadvantageously placed. The stations are usually far away from towns and villages, and, if the unhappy sufferer has no friend with him, he can do nothing but lie down by the road-side until death or recovery relieves him of his misery. The subject I am sure only requires to be brought specially to notice to ensure that, in future, no traveller by railway shall be left destitute of needful aid in the event of his being afflicted by unforeseen illness on the way.

5. With the view of providing for the difficulty, I have the honour to suggest that, at each station where a Railway Apothecary resides, a simple hut or shed should be kept for the purpose of housing any one attacked by cholera or other sudden illness, and that it should be a recognized duty of the Railway Apothecaries to afford all necessary aid to such cases.

6. As cases of cholera require constant watching and attendance, as well as suitable food and drink, the Railway Apothecaries should be allowed to provide, without delay, all absolute necessities, reporting the same to the Civil Surgeon and Collector of the District, the latter of whom might be authorized to disburse whatever trifling charges had been incurred by the Apothecary in the treatment of the case. Provision has already been made, I believe, for the disbursement by Collectors of expenses incurred on account of pauper travellers admitted into Civil Dispensaries, and probably the funds available for this purpose would be sufficient to meet any small charge incurred on account of railway travellers. Probably, not more than a dozen cases in a year may occur requiring such aid, but in a country like India, where cholera prevails so commonly, it is of importance to make provision for the risks which travellers incur, and at the same time it is

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th April 1871.

undesirable that persons suffering from cholera should be taken to towns or villages exempt from the disease, because such movement is not only bad for the patients themselves, but exposes unaffected communities to a needless risk.

No. 110. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1871, No. 549.

The Government direct that the letter above recorded be communicated, through the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Managers of the Railways in this Presidency, with a view to the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner being carried into effect.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department.
.. Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
.. Sanitary Commissioner.

Count of 118711 30 miles

PUBLIC.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
d. c., d. c., d. c.

Dated April 20th.

Encl. No. 519.

47711
NO. 18-110

Communicating letter from the Secretary of the
Board, making certain suggestions for the treatment
of persons travelling by rail who are afflicted with
cholera or any other sickness requiring immediate
attention.

No 458.

Office of Sanitary Commission
Madras 12th April 1871

From

The Sanitary Commissioners
for Madras.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to mention for the information of Government that the subject of medical aid for travellers suddenly attacked by cholera in railway journeys, has come up for consideration, in connection with a case lately occurring on the S. W. Line of Railway at Coimbatore, and I would respectfully solicit the orders of Government on the subject.

2. For the case referred to (a man travelling from Erode to Coimbatore, and found to be suffering from cholera on arrival at the latter station) it has been pointed out that no convenient buildings exist at any of the railway stations in which persons suddenly seized with illness might find temporary shelter, and I have addressed the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway on the subject of providing an inexpensive hut, for the immediate treatment of such cases at stations where

Apothecaries may be located.

3. The primary object of the railway authorities in keeping up a medical staff is to afford aid to their own servants, but the existence of such a staff might very properly be utilised in this country for attendance also on travellers who may be seized with sudden illness. In the case in question the Railway Apothecary, very properly afforded all the aid in his power, but I am not aware whether the regulations require this, as a matter of course, in regard to travellers.

4. Natives who travel by railway are in the event of sudden illness, very disadvantageously placed. The stations are usually far away from towns and villages, and if the unhappy sufferer has no friends with him, he can do nothing but lie down by the roadside, until death or recovery relieves him of his misery. The subject I am sure only requires to be brought specially to notice, to ensure that in future, no traveller by railway shall be left destitute of needful aid, in the event of his being afflicted by unforeseen illness on the way.

5. With the view of providing for the difficulty, I have the honor to suggest, that at each station where a Railway Apothecary resides, a simple hut or shed

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should be kept for the purpose of housing any one attacked by cholera, or other sudden illness, and that it should be a recognised duty of the Railway Apothecaries to afford all necessary aid to such cases.

6. As cases of cholera require constant watching and attendance, as well as suitable food and drink, the Railway Apothecaries should be allowed to provide, without delay, all absolute necessities, reporting the same to the Civil Surgeon and Collector of the District, the latter of whom might be authorised to disburse whatever trifling charges had been incurred by the Apothecary in the treatment

of the case. Provision has already been made for the disbursement of expenses incurred on account of pauper travellers admitted into Civil Hospitals, and probably the funds available for this purpose would be sufficient to meet any small charge incurred on account of railway travellers. Probably not more than a few hundred rupees may be required, which, when put in a treasury like the one at the station, would be sufficient to meet the expenses incurred by the travellers in the treatment of the cases which travellers incur, and at the

same time it is undesirable that persons suffering from cholera should be taken into towns or villages exempt from the disease, because such movement is not only bad for the patients themselves, but exposes unaffected communities to a needless risk.

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your most obedt. Servt.

Wm. Morris. F. R. S.
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras

Public (1870) Sept.
The Sanitary Com.
for Madras.
No. 458

2/22 April.
No. 14
No. 678

making a suggestion
for the treatment of
persons who have been
by various means
attacked by cholera
or any other sickness
requiring immediate
attention.

With an Order

1879-26 April 21
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the suggestion of the Sanitary Commission for Madras, with a view to the treatment of persons suffering from cholera or any other sickness requiring immediate attention. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant, Wm. Morris, F. R. S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

Court. of 1871 Madras.

Public
To The Public Works Dept
Secy

April
Recd.

G. O. at April 1 1871

Nos. 107. 108.

*Commng. letter from the Sanitary
Committee making certain sug-
gestions for the treatment of
persons travelling by Rail who
are attacked with Cholera or
any other sickness requiring
immediate attention.*