

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 60 (36)
 (2) புதிக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் _____
 (3) ஆதாரங் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் _____

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

யென்டி துறை

அரசாணை எண். மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	370	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள்:	25-04-1889	499

மடிக்கவோ சுண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது.

Recd 25/6

[1]

469 31-5-89

ORDINARY, PRINTED,

Public	DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 25-4-89	
No. 370.	

First copy sent to Press. 1/5

Returned for signature. 17/5

Despatched in print. 18/5

[Despatch Abstract.]

Emigrants.

Recording with remarks,
~~certain papers~~ the reports
regarding the death of
certain emigrants on board
the barque "Quathamba"
which sailed from Madras
in Nov/88 with emigrants
for Natal.

Recd 26/4/89

[1]

700 31-5-89

ORDINARY, PRINTED,

	DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED	
No.	

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

READ AGAIN Order of Government, dated
188 ., No.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 168

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DIITO.

ORDER, &c. OF GOVERNMENT—A.

PAPERS KEPT OUT OF FILE FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.
(not paged.)

NUMBER OF COPIES
REQUIRED.

Order complete. 70
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.
R = Print, but not for monthly volume.

25TH APRIL 1889, No. 370, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From A. H. HIME, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary, Natal, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 18th February 1889, No. 416.

With reference to an outbreak of cholera which occurred on board the barque "Quathlamba" which sailed from Madras on the 7th November last with Indian immigrants for Natal, I have the honor, by direction of Governor Sir A. E. Have-lock, to transmit, for the information of your Government, a copy of the reports * of the Medical officer in charge of the ship, and of the Medical Board of this Colony, respecting this outbreak, together with a copy of the letter † of the Protector of Immigrants reporting the matter to the Protector of Emigrants at Madras.

2. I am to invite special attention to the remarks of the Medical Board regarding the water-supply at Madras.

3. Dr. Ingram, the Medical officer of the ship, has been asked for a report upon the alleged issue of diseased meat and of a shark to the immigrants.

ENCLOSURES.

From E. F. INGRAM, Esq., M.R.C.S., Surgeon-Superintendent, to the Protector of Emigrants, Durban, dated Port Natal, 25th December 1888, No. 99-I.

I beg to report an outbreak of cholera on the voyage home from Madras. We embarked coolies on 6th November, and weighed anchor early next morning. The coolies were, I was told at Madras, an exceptionally good lot and had almost all of them been in depôt longer than usual. One or two families were shipped at the last moment to make up complement of women.

Five lascars were also shipped at Madras. All went very well till 1st December, when after about ten days incessant wet weather, I was sent for at 6 A.M. to Garriki at 5, No. 222, who had been seized suddenly with diarrhoea and vomiting. I could not learn that there had been any indiscretion in diet. She died suddenly at 9 A.M. I felt uneasy in my mind about it, but from previous experience I knew that sudden deaths were very common amongst them. I attributed the death to syncope. Though surprised that such slight diarrhoea should produce such rapidly fatal results. Also we were just having our first rough weather and many were sea-sick.

I had just got back to my room from seeing last case when I was sent for to Latchmi F. 181. I found her suffering in somewhat like manner. She died at 4-30 P.M. the same day. Made P.M. Result unsatisfactory. At 2 A.M. of the following morning one of the lascars, an old man, died suffering from slight diarrhoea but intense shock.

On the 3rd, a man Delagadoo at 30, No. 219, was taken ill with diarrhoea. He was ill three days. The diarrhoea was not excessive, but shock was severe. I twice saved him from a dead faint, but he died at 4 A.M. on the 6th.

The next case was that of my interpreter Mr. W. R. Aldridge, which is fully reported and which of itself proves beyond all doubt that the disease prevailing was the much-dreaded "Asiatic cholera." On the 12th an infant died from "bronchitis." The 2nd Mate was also seized and laid up. On 13th, Paravathy, at 25, No. 104, died after 3 hours' illness.

On 15th, Kindersamy, at 25, No. 178, died after 10 hours.

On 17th, Mr. E. Milne, 1st Mate, died after five days' illness.

On the 19th, Villeamall, at 18, F. 93, died after 12 hours' illness.

There have been no deaths since and minor cases have been getting lighter and lighter.

The water in use for first 25 days was Madras. We have since been using Natal water.

The extra precautions taken were very considerably increased vigilance on my own part in carrying out myself and seeing others carry out my orders specially with regard to soiled linen.

Buckets containing solutions of Condyl's and carbolic were placed in the tweendecks into which all soiled rags were ordered to be placed at once. All dirty clothes found, stowed away were at once thrown overboard and all bedding and blankets used by the sick.

The tweendecks had been thoroughly disinfected throughout the voyage, being fumigated with sulphur every week. Holystoned almost every day. Swept down every day, every corner being scraped out and Calvert's disinfecting powder freely sprinkled all over. No coolies allowed below during daytime except during bad weather. Taf also was burnt in the tweendecks. The latrines were washed down about every two or three hours and any mess made on deck removed immediately.

The forepart of the tweendecks was screened off with canvas with separate hatchway for the sick and cases, as they occurred, moved there. I doubt if isolation in an epidemic of this kind is of much use except that it is more convenient for myself having them together; but difficulties of caste arise.

The disease broke out in various places in tweendecks and forecabin and was not confined to contiguous berths; saloon also was invaded.

I was myself laid up for three days with a light attack. I think it is matter for congratulation that with 271 souls confined within a small space, only 23 were seriously attacked and only 9 deaths. That the epidemic was no mild one is shown by the rapid mortality during the early part of the onset.

Whilst in Calcutta and Madras, I consulted several medical men with regard to causation and treatment, but they seem to have made little or no progress during the last 20 years or more.

I cannot conclude my report without testifying to the admirable conduct of Mr. Larsen, the Issuing officer, who never seemed weary of doing all he could to assist and by his cheerful manner encouraging the others.

At one period after the two Mates were in hospital, the Captain, 3rd Officer and myself used to take furtive glances at each other to see whose turn it was next.

You can tell by the expression of the face directly a man is struck.

The meals throughout were never 10 minutes late. I am glad to state that the 2nd Mate, Mr. Yates, is now well and on duty again. He was very ill. It is worthy of note how rapidly convalescence takes place when once it sets in.

As to how the epidemic first started, is matter for conjecture. The easiest cause to ascribe is the water, but that was drawn in the usual manner and is under Municipal control.

The first case that actually occurred, had been in depot nearly three months. The lascars might have brought it, but he was not the first case nor in much contact with the coolies.

The Captain and Mr. Wells (whom I have taken on as interpreter) have rendered me every assistance in their power.

I think the topasses ought to be rewarded for the willing manner in which they have performed very unexpected extra hard work.

REPORT of Case of Mr. W. R. ALDRIDGE, "Compounder," who died from Cholera on board Barque, "Quathlamba," on 10th December 1888, during the voyage from Madras to Port Natal with coolies.

9th December 1888.—At 10-30 last night he was in apparent good health and helping me with the sick return; seemed lively and cheerful.

10th December 1888.—At 3 A.M. he was suddenly seized with vomiting and diarrhoea; he took some Dover's powders himself and said it was not worth while calling me.

At 6 A.M.—Was called to this patient; found him on the night-stool looking very anæmic and exhausted; eyes somewhat protruding, but quite conscious.

Treatment.

Rest in horizontal position.

Vin Gallici . . . 3ii

Tr. Opii . . . m xxv

Aq. ad. . . 3ii

3 Statim.

Sleep in 1 hour.

Friction with brandy.

Ethery subcutaneously

Treatment.

6-30 A.M.—Medicine given was vomited; complaining of cramps in legs up to knees; quite sensible. 7 A.M. T. 96; P. imperceptible at wrist; surface of body cool; cramps in thighs; no motions; vomiting stopped.

8 A.M.—Says he feels easier but cannot draw a long breath. Was sick vomiting rice-water looking stuff; afterwards very faint.

8-30 A.M.—Expresses himself feeling easier; cramps not so bad, but now creeping up into abdominal regions; great pain in epigastrium.

9 A.M.—About the same; inclined to doze; quite sensible.

9-30 A.M.—Woke up feeling as if he could not draw a long breath T 96; P. nil.

10-20 A.M.—Cramps again higher up body; told him to keep quiet and pass every thing under him.

10-40 A.M.—Called to patient who had insisted on getting up to stool. Rice-water motion not very copious; on laying down the signs of collapse.

11 A.M.—Faint again.

1 P.M.—About same condition complaining of not being able to pass water.

2 P.M.—Seems quieter; cramps at longer intervals; vomiting and purging ceased.

4 P.M.—Sweating; all vomiting ceased; pulse still imperceptible at wrist T. nil.

4-45 P.M.—One stool rice-water.

5-5 P.M.—Sent for; patient has had another motion; no color as yet; expresses himself as comfortable; surface cool T. nil; no urine.

6-49 P.M.—Slight cramps in left leg relieved by rubbing; had a bit of dry toast and tea. Stomach somewhat distended with gas; quite conscious.

8 P.M.—Slightly delirious; can just feel pulse at wrist; no vomiting, but troubled with flatulency.

8-50 P.M.—Very restless; slightly delirious, but conscious when spoken to.

9-30 P.M.—Still restless but seemed easier whilst I was with him talking.

10 P.M.—Sleeping quietly.

11 P.M.—Just in time to see last few gasps. Death.

(Signed) E. F. INGRAM.

Copy of Report of Natal Medical Board on papers No. 416.

The Board having met and read the documents referring to the deaths which occurred on board the "Quathlamba" on the passage with Indian immigrants from Madras in the month of December 1888, which documents consisted of report of Dr. Ingram on the arrival of the ship at Port Natal on the 25th December, diary kept by Dr. Ingram containing entries made upon the condition of the immigrants, their dietary, and discipline, and also upon the state of the weather, book showing admission to medical treatment on account of indisposition or illness of some kind,

Weak brandy and water teaspoonful at a time every five minutes. Arrowroot one teaspoonful every 10 minutes.

Ammonia inhalations. Brandy subcutaneously. Whole body bathed with vinegar and water and well dried.

Morphia grs. 1/2 subcutaneously.

Inhalations ammonia; rearranged pillows; chatted to him a bit; seemed easier.

Morphia grs. 1/2 subcutaneously. Hot salt bags to spine and epigastrium.

Brandy to be rubbed in over inner side of thighs and epigastrium.

Brandy subcutaneously. Hot salt bags continued and to pericardiac region; ammonia inhalations and diet as before.

Ry. Tr. Catechu mxxv
Tr. Opii mxx.
Spt. am. ar. 3 grs. statim.
Continue hot salt.

Shall give another injection later on. I think it may enable the nourishment taken to be absorbed if the brain is kept quiet.

Given 8-50; grs. 1/2.

and the case book in which notes of the most serious attacks are duly made as they occurred together with the treatment, found a record of 78 cases admitted during the passage for treatment. Bowel affections began to prevail on the 9th of November being the third day after the ship cleared out at Madras, in the forms of dysentery, choleraic and simple diarrhoea, and more severe attacks which are entered as cholera. These bowel complaints embrace 50 per cent. of the total admissions entered for treatment. On the 1st of December after the prevalence of wet and stormy weather which confined the Indians for the most part to the tween decks, the disease assumed all the characteristics of true Asiatic cholera and proved fatal in seven cases as shown by the records kept by the Surgeon. The Board notice that the live stock (fowls and sheep) were affected with great mortality, which began within a week of leaving Madras in spite of the precautionary measures taken to save them. The Board find that the water in use during the first 25 days of the return passage had been supplied at Madras. From all that the Board can learn the supply at the latter place depends upon sluggish rivers and still more sluggish canals and upon tanks of several miles area whence the distribution takes place by an open conduit for some miles, the pipe system of distribution applying only to the city itself, conditions which are certain to be open to suspicion, more especially as cholera is well known to be endemic at Madras. Under the use of water from another source and perhaps in some measure under other conditions of climate of which we are unable to appreciate, the disease abated and disappeared within little more than three weeks.

The Board desire to state in their opinion Dr. Ingram acted with zeal and discretion under very difficult circumstances.

31st January 1889.

(Signed) P. C. SUTHERLAND,
(„) J. ROBINSON,
Brigade Surgeon.

The Honorable The Colonial Secretary,

From L. H. MASON, Esq., Protector of Immigrants, Natal, to the Protector of Emigrants, Madras, dated 13th February 1889, No. 99.

I have the honor to report to you the arrival at this port on 25th December 1888 (Christmas day) of the barque "Quathlamba" from Madras, 7th November 1888.

2. On arrival the Health officer went alongside in the Government tug and the Master reported that there had been an outbreak of cholera during the voyage. The ship and all on board were therefore at once placed in quarantine and the yellow flag hoisted.

3. Further inquiries elicited from the Surgeon-Superintendent that 27 cases of cholera had occurred on the passage and that there had been ten deaths from the disease including the 1st Mate, the Compounder (at first understood as carpenter), and one of the native crew.

The last case was reported as having occurred on December 19th (six days prior to arrival), and the 2nd Mate was then convalescent from an attack.

4. Meetings of the Harbour Board Quarantine Committee followed, and there was manifested considerable public apprehension lest the disease should be introduced on shore, so much so that a public meeting was held in Durban on the subject at which expression was given to the hope that the most stringent precautions should be taken to prevent such a thing happening.

5. The Harbour Board called to its assistance a Board of Medical men who advised that there should be a lapse of 28 days from the last convalescence prior to any communication being held with the ship. This action was decided upon and a supply of food and disinfectants, &c., having been placed on board, the ship was ordered to go to sea, it being considered safer for her to be in the open than lying in our somewhat boisterous roadstead.

6. The "Quathlamba" accordingly put to sea on 5th January, all being well on board up to that time, and, pending her return, I had the quarantine station on the Bluff put in order.

7. The vessel returned to the anchorage at 3-30 P.M. on 15th January and reported "all well" as regards the cholera epidemic. There had been however one death, a woman having fallen down the hatchway and fatally injured her spinal system.

8. On the 19th January the Indians were landed on the Bluff, in charge of Dr. Ingram, the Surgeon-Superintendent, and a Mr. Wells who, being a passenger to Natal, had been employed as compounder and interpreter by Dr. Ingram after the death of Mr. Aldridge who was shipped in that capacity. The sea was heavy at the time, but fortunately there was no mishap.

9. All went well in the quarantine station, the cases of sickness being limited to such ordinary ailments as ophthalmia, scabies, &c.

Annexure A.

10. From the quarantine station the Surgeon-Superintendent sent me a report on the outbreak of cholera on the voyage, copy of which I enclose.

11. On the 4th instant the clothing and effects of the Indians were destroyed and new supplied to them; they were individually passed through a carbolic bath and brought over to the depôt whence they have now been allotted to their employers.

12. It will be seen from the dates given that the emigrants were kept in quarantine for 41 (forty-one) days after arrival, 16 (sixteen) of which were spent in the quarantine station.

13. The number of emigrants shipped at Madras and landed is as follows:—

		Shipped.	Deaths.	Births.	Landed.
Men	..	154	2	..	152
Women	..	64	4	..	60
Boys	..	10	..	..	10
Girls	..	8	1	..	7
Infants	{ Boys	4	1	..	3
	{ Girls	3	..	2	5
Total		243	8	2	237 souls.

Of the deaths, six were from cholera (2 men, 3 women, 1 girl), one was from bronchitis (infant boy), and one from accident (woman). In addition to these there were, as I have already stated, three other deaths all from cholera, viz., of the first officer, compounder and one of the native crew.

14. Dr. Ingram's report does not give, nor does he assume to be able to give, any adequate reason for the outbreak. There was mortality amongst sheep and fowls prior to the first case, and there was exceptional weather. Those two conditions are remarked upon as unusual. It was at first thought here that the germs of disease had probably been introduced by the use of water shipped at Madras, but the theory has received no confirmation.

15. The whole of the records of the voyage were, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, submitted for consideration to the Natal Medical Board, and I enclose copy of their report.

Annexure B.

16. Personally I would remark, speaking without full information or records of other cholera outbreaks, that this instance appears to me to be exceptional, inasmuch as for true Asiatic cholera of (as reported by Dr. Ingram) a virulent form the mortality has been almost insignificant, the cases few and the disease in some instances (as when the Surgeon-Superintendent and Captain were attacked) of a comparatively mild type, while in others death is said to have occurred in three hours from the commencement of the attack.

17. It may not be unworthy of remark that the emigrants themselves as a body say that the disease was not cholera at all; but whatever it was, was caused by the eating of a shark which was caught and served out to them as food and by the issue of meat from two sheep that died about that time from a disease which was accompanied by purging. I enclose copies of two depositions on the subject taken by me which may be said to express the opinions of all the Indians who came in the vessel. No mention is made in Dr. Ingram's journal or records of the issue of either shark or dead sheep; in fact his records generally, as will be seen, are very insufficiently kept, a circumstance he has been called upon to account for.

Annexure C and D.

18. I have but to add that the emigrants on being placed under my charge had no complaints to make and appear to be a fine body of people.

19. I return herewith the following documents connected with the voyage:—

Form 46 Ration issue.	Form 50 Register of births and deaths.
" 47 Surgeon-Superintendent's Journal.	" 51 Do. of cholera cases.
" 48 Admission and discharge book.	" 52 Do. of diseased.
" 49 Case book.	" 53 Abstract report.
	" 21 Ship's list.

ANNEXURE C.

No. 99-I.

DEPOT DURBAN,
11th February 1889.

Veerasami Pillay 37,299 cautioned, states: I was one of the cooks on board the "Quathlamba." Twenty-one or two days after leaving Madras a large shark was caught and a portion cooked and given to the Indians. Two days after eating this fish all those who partook of it

suffered from severe vomiting and purging. Four days after the fish was eaten, two sheep died from purging; these were cooked and served out to the Indians. Two days after this another sheep got sick, also purging; this was also cooked (this sheep was killed). Before the fish and sheep were eaten by the Indians, we had no sickness on board. A child died first from vomiting and purging—that child had some of the fish and sheep; the same day a woman died, she also had some of the fish and sheep. A lascar died next; then the father of the child. The compounder also died; he had vomiting and purging. I believe he had some of the fish; many of the Indians did not take the fish and mutton diet. They were not ill. I was a cook and prepared and served out the meals. I have seen cholera in India; we had no cholera on board. I believe the deaths on board resulted from eating a portion of the shark and dead sheep. If it was cholera we had on board, it was not the cholera we have in India.

(Signed) VEERASAMI PILLAY,
× His mark.

Witness and Interpreter.

(Signed) A. R. DUNNING.

Before me.

L. H. MASON,
Protector of Immigrants.

ANNEXURE D.

No. 99-I.

DEPOT DURBAN,
11th February 1889.

Mooneesamy 37,185 cautioned, states: I am one of the immigrants by the "Quathlamba." About twenty-two or three days after leaving Madras a large shark was caught; a portion of which was cooked and served out to the immigrants, and all those who partook of this fish diet were shortly afterwards attacked with severe purging. Four days after this fish diet, two sheep died; they were cooked and given to the Indians. Shortly after eating these sheep a large number of the Indians were attacked with vomiting and purging. No deaths occurred until after the fish and sheep had been eaten. About four days after eating these sheep, the first death took place that of a child; this child was ill for eight or ten days before it died. Several deaths took place after this. The compounder also died. I was ill for five days after eating the fish and sheep. We had wet weather about this time also. I was a topaz on board and before I took ill, I attended to the compounder in his illness. The shark that was caught was full of young ones; these were taken for the cabin use. The crew also had some of the shark and one man died. I have seen cholera in India. What we had on board was not cholera. If it had been Indian cholera, many if not all the Indians must have died.

(Signed) MOONEESAMY,
× His mark.

Witness and Interpreter.

(Signed) A. R. DUNNING.

Before me.

(Signed) L. H. MASON,
Protector of Immigrants.

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Protector of Emigrants, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 11th April 1889, No. 267.

I have the honor to report that there were 11 deaths on board the Barque *Quathlamba* which left this with 243 emigrants on the 7th of November last, arriving at Natal on the 25th of December following. Of the casualties, 8 deaths occurred amongst the emigrants, 2 among the crew including the Chief Officer, and the 11th was the compounder, Mr. Aldridge.

2. From the papers received, and from the report of the Protector of Immigrants, Natal, there seems doubt as to the exact nature of the disease, the Protector reporting that "it may not be unworthy of remark that the emigrants themselves as a body say that the disease was not cholera at all, but, whatever it was, was caused by the eating of a shark which was caught and served out to them as food and by the issue of meat from two sheep that died about that time from a disease which was accompanied by purging." Explanation is awaited from the Surgeon-Superintendent, and

if the meat of sheep that had died of disease was really issued to the emigrants, such course was most reprehensible. The Medical Board at Natal, however, seems to suspect that the disease was cholera, but if so, it must have been of a sporadic type, as the vessel had been 22 days out from Madras, and the provisions and water were of excellent quality. It is possible, however, that if diseased meat was really eaten, this may have caused choleraic diarrhoea, though I do not believe myself, that fresh caught shark, though coarse, is unwholesome. I should add that there was no cholera either in the depôt, or in its vicinity, when the vessel sailed from Madras.

3. I submit, herewith, all original papers received from Natal, and request that they may be returned when done with.

ORDER—dated 25th April 1889, No. 370, Public.

Recorded.

2. The further report in regard to the alleged serving out of diseased sheep for food, which the Protector has called for from the Surgeon-Superintendent, is awaited.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Protector of Emigrants, Madras.
„ Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
„ Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

Govt. of {1889} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th April 1889, No. 370.

APRIL.

Emigration.

Recording, with remarks, the reports regarding the death of certain emigrants on board the Barque "Quathlamba" which sailed from Madras in November 1888, with emigrants for Natal.

Cd 993/89
3/12/88 20995 R

Public (1889) Department.

(EMIGRATION.)

Cd 1177

From

THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,
Madras,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. George.

No.

CHIEF SECRETARY
15 APR 89
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Dated

11

Despatched

13

Received

ENCLOSURES. 3

No. 267

Subject.

Submitting with original papers, report on the death of certain emigrants on board the Barque "Quathlamba" which left Madras in November 1888 with emigrants for Natal.

106

20995 R

No. 267

238
OFFICE OF THE PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,

Madras, 11 April 1889.

From

C. N. 1177
P. W. Barlow Esq.

PROTECTOR OF EMIGRANTS,

Madras,

To

The Honorable J. Price

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that there were 11 deaths on board the Barque Quathlambe which left this with 243 Emigrants on the 7th of November last, arriving at Natal on the 25th of December following. Of the casualties 8 deaths occurred amongst the Emigrants, 2 among the crew, including the Chief Officer; and the 11th was the Compounder Mr. Mairidge.

2. From the papers received, and from the report of the Protector of Immigrants Natal, there seems doubt as to the exact nature of the disease, the Protector reporting that it may not be unworthy of remark that the

the Emigrants themselves as a body say
"that the disease was not Cholera at all
"but whatever it was, was caused by the
"eating of a shark which was caught and
"served out to them as food and by the issue
"of meat from two sheep that died about
"that time from a disease which was
"accompanied by purging" Explanation
is awaited from the Surgeon Superintendent,
and if the meat of sheep that had died
of disease was really issued to the Emigrants,
such course was most reprehensible.
The Medical Board at Natal, however,
seems to suspect that the disease was
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I do not believe myself, that fresh
caught shark, though coarse, is
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24
unwholesome. I should add that there
was no Cholera either in the Depot,
or in its vicinity, when the vessel
sailed from Madras.
3 I submit herewith all original
papers received from Natal and
request that they may be turned
when done with.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most alid servant
W. Moorson
Protector of Emigrants

pe

Copy of Report of Natal Medical Board
on papers 416
1889.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

The Board having met and read the documents referring to the deaths which occurred on board the Quathlamba on the passage with Indian Immigrants from Madras in the month of December 1888, which documents consisted of Report of Dr Ingram on the arrival of the ship at Port Natal on the 25th December, Diary kept by Dr Ingram containing entries made upon the condition of the Immigrants, their dietary, and discipline, and also upon the state of the weather, Book showing admissions to Medical treatment on account of indisposition or illness of some kind, and the Case Book in which notes of the most serious attacks is duly made as they occurred together with the treatment, found a record of 78 cases admitted during the passage for treatment. Bowel affections began to prevail on the 9th of November being the third day after the ship cleared out at Madras, in the forms of Dysentery, Choleraic and simple Diarrhoea, and more severe attacks which are entered as Cholera. These bowel complaints embrace fifty per cent of the total admissions entered for

119
for treatment. On the 1st of December
after the prevalence of wet and stormy
weather which confined the Indians
for the most part to the town docks,
the disease assumed all the
characteristics of our Asiatic Cholera
and proved fatal in seven cases as shown
by the records kept by the Surgeon.

The Board notice that the live stock
(fowls & sheep) were affected with great
mortality which began within a
week of leaving Madras in spite of the
precautionary measures taken to
save them. The Board find that the
water in use during the first 25 days
of the return passage had been supplied
at Madras. From all that the Board
can learn the supply at the latter
place depends upon sluggish rivers
and still more sluggish canals and
upon tanks of several miles area
whence the distribution takes place
by an open conduit for some miles, the
pipe system of distribution applying
only to the City itself, conditions
which are certain to be open to sus-
picion, more especially as Cholera is
well known to be endemic at Madras.
Under the use of water from another
source and perhaps in some measure
under other conditions of climate of
which we are unable to appreciate,
the disease abated and disappeared
within little more than three weeks.

The

128/

The Board desire to state in the
opinion Dr. Ingram acted with zeal
and discretion under very difficult
circumstances

(S) J. C. Sutherland
(S) J. Robinson
Brigade Surgeon

Medical Board
Jan 31st 1889.

A true copy
(S) J. C. Sutherland
Chairman Medical Board

Copy

Letter from Protector of
Emigrants held to Protector
of Emigrants' wishes29
8913th February 1889.

Sir,

I have the honour to report to you the arrival at this port on December 25th 1888 (Christmas day) of the barque Quathlauba from Madras 7th November 1888.

2. On arrival the Health Officer went alongside in the Government tug and the Master reported that there had been an outbreak of Cholera during the voyage. The ship and all on board were therefore at once placed in quarantine and the yellow flag hoisted.

3. Further enquiries elicited from the Surgeon Superintendent that 27 cases of Cholera had occurred on the passage and that there had been ten deaths from the disease including the first mate, the joiner (at first understood as carpenter) and one of the native crew.

The last case was reported as having occurred on December 19th (six days prior to arrival) and the second mate was then convalescent from an attack.

4. Meetings of the Harbour Board — Quarantine Committee followed and there was manifested considerable public apprehension lest the disease should be introduced on shore, so much so that a public

The Hon: Protector of Emigrants
Madras Meeting

Public Meeting

99/89

meeting was held in Durban on the subject at which expression was given to the hope that the most stringent precautions should be taken to prevent such a thing happening.

5. The Harbour Board called to its assistance a Board of Medical men who advised that there should be a lapse of 28 days from the last convalescence prior to any communication being held with the ship. This action was decided upon and a supply of food and disinfectants &c having been placed on board the ship was ordered to go to sea, it being considered safer for her to be in the open than lying in our somewhat boisterous roadstead.

6. The "Quaklauba" accordingly put to sea on 5th January, all being well on board up to that time, and pending her return I had the Quarantine Station on the Bluff put in order.

7. The vessel returned to the anchorage at 3.30 p.m. on 15th January and reports "all well" as regards the Cholera epidemic. There had been however one death, a woman having fallen down the hatchway and fatally injured her spinal system.

8. On the 19th January the Indians were landed on the Bluff, in charge of Dr. Ingram the Surgeon Superintendent and a Mr. Wells who, being a passenger to Natal, had been employed as compounder and Interpreter by Dr. Ingram after the death

death of Mr. Aldridge who was shipped in that capacity. The sea was heavy at the time but fortunately there was no mishap.

9. All went well in the Quarantine Station, the cases of sickness being limited to such ordinary ailments as Ophthalmia, Scabies &c.

10. From the Quarantine Station the Surgeon Superintendent sent me a report on the outbreak of Cholera on the voyage, copy of which I enclose.

11. On the 4th Inst. the clothing and effects of the Indians were destroyed and new supplies to them, they were individually passed through a carbolic bath and brought over to the depot whence they have now been allotted to their employers.

12. It will be seen from the dates given that the emigrants were kept in Quarantine for 41 (forty one) days after arrival, 16 (sixteen) of which were spent in the Quarantine Station.

13. The number of emigrants shipped at Madras and landed is as follows:-

	Shipped	Deaths	Births	Landed
Men	154	2		152
Women	64	4		60
Boys	10			10
Girls	8	1		7
Infants (Boys)	4	1		3
Girls	3		2	5
	243	8	2	237 souls

14.

of the deaths six were from Cholera (2 men, 3 women, 1 girl) one was from Bronchitis (infant boy) and one from accident (woman). In addition to these there were as I have already stated three other deaths all from Cholera viz. of the first officer, fowpounder and one of the native crew.

14. Dr. Ingram's report does not give, nor does he assume to be able to give, any adequate reason for the outbreak. There was mortality amongst sheep and fowls prior to the first case and there was exceptional weather. Those two conditions are remarked upon as unusual. It was at first thought here that the germ of disease had probably been introduced by the use of water shipped at Madras but the theory has received no confirmation.

15. The whole of the records of the voyage were by direction of His Excellency the Governor submitted for consideration to the Naval Medical Board and I enclose copy of their report.

Amicus B.

16. Personally I would remark, speaking without full information or records of other Cholera outbreaks, that this instance appears to me to be exceptional inasmuch as for true Asiatic Cholera of (as reported by Dr. Ingram) a virulent form the mortality has been almost insignificant, the cases few and the disease

disease in some instances (as when the Surgeon Superintendent and Captain were attacked) of a comparatively mild type while in others death is said to have occurred in three hours from the commencement of the attack.

17. It may not be unworthy of remark that the emigrants themselves as a body say that the disease was not cholera at all but whatever it was, was caused by the eating of a shark which was caught and served out to them as food and by the issue of meat from two sheep that died about that time from a disease which was accompanied by purging. I enclose copies of two depositions on the subject taken by me which may be said to express the opinions of all the Indians who came in the vessel. No mention is made in Dr. Ingram's journal or records of the issue of either shark or dead sheep in fact his records generally as will be seen are very insufficiently kept, a circumstance he has been called upon to account for.

18 I have but to add that the emigrants on being placed under my charge had no complaints to make and appear to be a fine body of people.

19. I return herewith the following documents connected with the voyage.

Form 46 Ration Issue

47 Surg. Sup's Journal

(over.)

Annexure C.D.

6.

18 8/2

- Form 48 Admission & Discharge Bk
- 49 Case Book
- 50 Register Births and Deaths
- 51 " Cholera cases
- 52 " Diseases
- 53 Abstract Report
- 21 Ship's list

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sd) L. H. Mason
Protector of Immigrants

Copy

Annexure. C.

198/2

199
89.

Depot Durban
February 11th 1889.

Kerasami Pillay 37.299 cautioned states.
I was one of the Cooks on board the
Qualklauba. Twenty one or two days after
leaving Madras a large shark was
caught and a portion cooked and given
to the Indians. Two days after eating
this fish all those who partook of it
suffered from severe vomiting and purging.
Four days after the fish was eaten two
sheep died from purging, these were cooked
and served out to the Indians. Two days
after this another sheep got sick also
purging this was also cooked (this sheep
was killed) before the fish and sheep were
eaten by the Indians we had no sickness
on board. A child died first from vomiting
and purging, that child had some of the
fish and sheep. The same day a woman
died she also had some of the fish and
sheep. A lascar died next, then the
father of the child. The compounder also
died he had vomiting and purging, I
believe he had some of the fish, many
of the Indians did not take the fish and
mutton diet. They were not ill. I was a
Cook and prepared and served out
the meals. I have seen cholera in India
we had no cholera on Board. I believe
the deaths onboard resulted from
eating

208p

eating a portion of the shark and
dead sheep, if it was cholera we had
on board it was not the cholera we
have in India

Witnessed (S) Kurasami Pillay His.
Interpreter X
(S) A. R. Dunning mark.

Before me
L. H. Mason
Protector of Immigrants

Copy

199
1889.

218p

Annexure D Depot Durban
Feb'y 11th 1889.

Moonsammy 37185 cautioned states:—
I am one of the Immigrants by the
"Quathlamba" About twenty two or
thirty days after leaving Madras a large
shark was caught, a portion of which was
cooked and served out to the Immigrants
and all those who partook of this fish
died very shortly afterwards attacked
with severe purging. Four days after
this fish died two sheep died they were
cooked and given to the Indians, shortly
after eating these sheep a large number
of the Indians were attacked with vomiting
and purging. No deaths occurred until
after the fish and sheep had been
eaten. About four days after eating
these sheep the first death took place
that of a child, this child was ill for
eight or ten days before it died. Several
deaths took place after this. The
Sampowder also died. I was ill for
five days after eating the fish and
sheep. We had wet weather about this
time also. I was a Copay on board and
before I took ill I attended to the Sampowder
in his illness. The shark that was
caught was full of young ones these
were taken for the cabin use. The crew
also had some of the shark and one
man died. I have seen Cholera in India
what we had on board was not Cholera,
if

228

if it had been Indian Cholera many
if not all the Indians must have
died

(S^d) Moonisamy His
mark

Witness & Interpreter
(S^d) A. R. Downing

Before me
(S^d) L. H. Mason
Protector of Immigrants

18 C/993.



18th February 1889.

Sir,



With reference to an outbreak of Cholera which occurred on board the barge "Quatlamba" which sailed from Madras on the 7th November last with Indian Immigrants for Natal, I have the honour, by direction of Governor Sir A. E. Havelock, to transmit for the information of your Government a copy of the reports of the Medical Officers in charge of the Ship, and of the Medical Board of this Colony respecting this outbreak, together with a copy.

The Honorable

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Madras.

Dec. 25. 1888

Jan. 31. 1889

Recd 470 8 25/9/89

416
1889

414
1881

3
Published 993/8

copy of the letter of the Protector of Immigrants
reporting the matter to the Protector of
Immigrants at Madras. ^{Feb. 13th 1889}

² I am to invite special attention to the
remarks of the Medical Board regarding
the water supply at Madras.

³ Dr. Ingram, the Medical Officer of the
Ship, has been asked for a report upon
the alleged issue of diseased meat and of
^a ~~the~~ shark to the Immigrants.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. W. W.
Acting Colonial Secretary.

(25)

Public

C No 993.

Recd
+ I 26/4

H M
25/4

25/4

From,

The Hy Col^y Secy
Natal.
No 416

Dated 18/2/89.
Recd 27/3/89

Encs 3.

Forwarding copy
of Medical officers reports
respecting the outbreak
of cholera on board the
brig "Luathamba"
which sailed from Maudry
with Emigrants to Natal.

25 April/89 No 370.

Recd
23 Apr
21 Apr
The further report
of the death of the
sheep in regard to the
alleged eating of diseased sheep for
food, which the Protector has called for
from the Surgeon-Genl. is awaited.

It is no further action seems to
be necessary on this paper. The
Protector of Emigrants at Maudry has
already reported the facts to the
Protector of Maudry & his letter
mentions the eating of a sheep
& of two sheep that died from
natural causes or being in the
opinion of the survey party themselves
the cause of the disease, incidents
in which the medical reports are
clear. The medical report is of
course not over-precise but the human
eye doing that they can be
improved. *Case*

To the Protector of Emigrants Maudry
with enclos. ret'd.
The Surgeon-Genl.
The L. & A. Dept.
25/4/89

Since writing the above I have
received C 1177 which states a
piece of the sheep with signs thereof.
The under will then be
disposed of with the carcass.

Note for despatches
24/4/89
These enclos. are in the file.

The diseased sheep is quite
enough without the shank.

Recd

23 Apr.

It seems useless to do any more than
from the order suggested.
There appears to be very considerable
doubt whether there was any disease
at all. The case looks much more
like one of poisoning rather than being
the shank about the time of which
there is no denial or from eating diseased
meat. As for the idea of the water
being in fault that is nonsense. It
is just the same as that taken by
other ships without any bad results
and was no doubt from the
Red Hills. Nothing is ever likely to
be made out of the matter.

X

21 Apr.

(1)
Copy

Enclosure No. 1

199
189

28
Burgos Quathlaumba
Outer Anchorage
Port Natal
25. 12. 88.

The Protector of Emigrants
Durban.

Sir, I beg to report an outbreak
of cholera on the voyage home from
Madras.

We embarked Coolies on Nov. 6th and
weighed anchor early next morning.
The coolies were, I was told at Madras,
an exceptionally good lot and had
almost all of them been in Depot
longer than usual. One or two
families were shipped at the last
moment to make up complement of
women.

5 Lascars were also shipped at Madras.

All went very well till Dec. 1st when
after about 10 days incessant wet
weather, I was sent for at 6 am. to Farrick
at 5 No 222, who had been seized suddenly
with diarrhoea and vomiting. I could not
learn that there had been any
indiscretion in diet. She died suddenly
at 9 am. I felt uneasy in my mind
about it but from previous experience
I knew that sudden deaths were very
common amongst them. I attributed the
death

Pak. 8. 570
25/12/89

c. 22/4

(2)

38

death to Syucop. Though surprised that such slight diarrhoea should produce such rapidly fatal results. Also we were just having our first rough weather and many were seasick.

I had just got back to my room from seeing last case when I was sent for to Latchini #181. I found her suffering in somewhat like manner. She died 4.30 P.M. the same day. Made P.M. Results unsatisfactory. At 2 am. of the following morning one of the Lascars, an old man, died suffering from slight diarrhoea but intense shock.

On the 3rd a man Delapadoo at 30 #219, was taken ill with diarrhoea. He was ill three days. The diarrhoea was not excessive but shock was severe. I twice saved him from a dead faint, but he died at 4 am. on the 6th.

The next case was that of my interpreter Mr. W. R. Allbridge, which is fully reported & which of itself proves beyond all doubt that the disease prevailing was the much dreaded "Asiatic Cholera".

On the 12 an infant died from "Bronchitis". The 2nd Mate was also seized & laid up.

On 13th Paravathy at 25 #104 died after 3 hours illness.

On 15th Kindersamy at 25 #178 died after 10 hours.

On 17th Mr. E. Milne 1st Mate died after 5 days illness.

On 19th Killiamall at 18.7.93 died after 12 hours illness.

There have been no deaths since & minor cases have been getting lighter & lighter.

(3)

48h

The Water in use for first 25 days was Madras. We have since been using Natal water.

The extra precautions taken were —
Very considerably increased vigilance on my own part in carrying out myself and seeing others carry out my orders specially with regard to soiled linen.

Buckets containing solutions of Condy's & carbolic were placed in the two decks into which all soiled rags were ordered to be placed at once. All dirty clothes found stowed away were at once thrown overboard & all bedding & blankets used by the sick.

The two decks had been thoroughly disinfected throughout the voyage being fumigated with sulphur ^{every week} & kolyptone almost every day. Swept down every day, every corner being scraped out & Calvert's disinfecting powder freely sprinkled all over. No coolies allowed below during daylight except during bad weather. Tar also was burnt in the two decks. The latrines were washed down about every 2 or 3 hours & any mess made on deck removed ~~at once~~ immediately.

The forepart of the two decks, was screened off with canvas with separate hatchway for the sick and cases as they occurred moved there. I doubt if isolation in an epidemic of this kind is of much use.

(4)

582

use except that it is more convenient for myself having them together; but difficulties of cash arise.

The disease broke out in various places in the fore-cabin & fore-castle & was not confined to contiguous berths, Saloons also was invaded.

I was myself laid up for 3 days with a light attack. I think it is matter for congratulation that with 271 souls confined within a small space only 23 were seriously attacked & only 9 deaths.

That the epidemic was no mild one is shown by the rapid mortality during the early part of the onset.

Whilst in Calcutta & Madras I consulted several medical men with regard to causation & treatment but they seem to have made little or no progress during the last 20 years or more.

I cannot conclude my report without testifying to the admirable conduct of Mr. Larsen the Issuing Officer who never seemed weary of doing all he could to assist & by his cheerful manner encouraging the others.

At one period after the 2 males were in hospital the Captain, 3rd Officer and myself used to take further flannels at each other to see whose turn it was next.

You can tell by the expression of the face directly a man is struck.

The meals throughout were served 10 minutes late.

(5.)

682
I am glad to state that the 2nd mate
Mr. Epato is now well & on duty again.
He was very ill. It is worthy of note how
rapidly convalescence takes place when
once it sets in.

As to how the epidemic first started
started is matter for conjecture. The
easiest cause to ascribe is the water, but
that was drawn in the usual manner
& is under Municipal control.

The first case that actually occurred
had been in Depot nearly 3 months.

The Lascara might have brought it but
he was not the first case nor in much
contact with the coolies.

The Captain & Mr. Wells (whom I have
taken on as interpreter) have rendered me
every assistance in their power.

I think the Topasses ought to be
rewarded for the willing manner
in which they have performed very
unsuspected extra hard work.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently
(Sd) E. Fortescue Ingram, M.D.C.
Surgeon-Supt.

Report of case of Mr. W. R. Alldridge
"Simpson" who died from Cholera on board
Barque "Guathlauba" on 10th December 1888
during the voyage from Madras to Port
Natal with the coolies.

7. 12. 88 At 10.30 last night he was in *Stratium*
apparent good health & helping me
with the sick returns seemed
lively & cheerful
10. 12. 88 At 3 am. he was suddenly seized
with vomiting & diarrhoea he took first in horizontal
some Dover's powder himself & said *position*
it was not worth while calling me. *Via Gallici 3 n*
- 6 am At 6 am. was called to this patient; *S^c Opium m xxv*
found him on the night-stool looking as *ad 3 n*
very anemic & exhausted eyes *3 Stratium*
somewhat protruding but quite conscious *thep in 1/2 hour*
- 6.30 am 6.30 am. Medicine given was vomited friction with Brandy
complaining of cramps in legs up to Eltherry & subcutaneously
knees quite sensible. 7 am. 196 P.
imperceptible at wrist surface
of all body cool; cramps in thighs
no motions vomiting stopped *Weak brandy & water
teaspoonful at a time
every five minutes.
arrowroot one teaspoonful
every 10 minutes*
- 8 am 8 am. Says he feels easier but
cannot draw a long breath. Was sick ammonia inhalation
vomiting rice water looking stiff. Brandy subcutaneously
afterwards very faint. *whole body bathed*
- 8.30 am 8.30 am. Expresses himself as with vinegar & water
feeling easier, cramps not so *& well dried.*
bad but now creeping up into *Morphia 1/2 subcutly.*
abdominal regions great pain in
epigastrium
- 9 am 9 am. About the same, inclined
to *doze* quite sensible.

6 5/2

- 9.30am Woke up feeling as if he could not draw a long breath Tq6 P.O. ^{Inhalation Armonia arranged pillows called to him a bit around easier.}
- 10.20am Cramps again higher up body, told him to keep quiet & pass every thing under him. ^{Morphine pro & subcutly. Hot salt baps to spine & epigastrium Brandy to be rubbed in on inner side of thighs & epigastrium.}
- 10.40am Falled to patient who had insisted on getting up to stool. Rice waterly. ^{Brandy subcutaneous. Hot salt baps continued & to pericardiac region Armonia inha. lations & dirt as before.} motion not very copious, on laying down the signs of collapse.
- 11am Faint again
- 1pm About same condition complaining of not being able to pass water.
- 2pm Seems quieter, cramps at longer intervals, vomiting & purging ceased
- 4pm Swatting. All vomiting ceased, pulse still imperceptible at wrist T. n.
- 4.45pm One stool, rice water
- 5.5pm Sent for, patient has had another ^{R. L. Caliche M. XV} motion no color as yet expresses S. ^{Office m x} himself as comfortable surface ^{4pm Ar 3pm} cool T. n. no urine. ^{Station}
- 6.49pm Slight cramps in left leg rr. ^{Continues hot salt} relieved by rubbing had a bit of dry toast & tra. stomach some what distended with gas. Quite conscious.
- 8p.m Slightly delirious, can just feel pulse ^{shall give another} at wrist, no vomiting but troubled with flatul. ^{inspection later as} I think it may enable the nourish.
- 8.50pm Very restless slightly delirious but ^{must taken to be} conscious when spoken to. ^{absorbed if the brain is kept quiet.}
- 9.30pm Still restless but seemed easier ^{given 8.50pm 1/4} whilst I was with him talking.

9 3/4
10 p.m. Sleeping quietly
11 p.m. Just in time to see last few
gasps. Death.

(Sgt) E. J. Ingram.

107
1

No. 10

25/9/89

9.93

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Public 10993/89