

[7]

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 28. 11. 90
No. 819.

When given for copying 25/11

[Despatch Abstract].

*Re De Muller's
candidate for snake bite*

465 of 93

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.VICTORIA,
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Melbourne, 21st July 1890.His Excellency the Most Honourable the MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.M.S.I.,
G.C.M.G., &C., &C.MY LORD,—I have been requested to transmit a communication which
has been received by this Government from Dr. A. Mueller, an old resident of
this colony, enclosing a communication addressed to Your Excellency by
that gentleman with reference to an antidote for snake-bite which he is desir-
ous of bringing under the notice of Your Lordship's Government.I have the honour to be,
MY LORD,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,
HOPETOUN.

Dated Yackandandah, 28th June 1890.

From—A. MUELLER, Esq., M.D.,

To—The HON'BLE ALFRED DEAKIN, M.L.A., Chief Secretary of Victoria, Melbourne.

REFERRING you to the interview you kindly granted to me on the 18th
instant, I have now the honour to forward to you, for transmission to Calcutta
and London, a letter to His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, G.M.S.I., and
also one to the Right Honourable Viscount Cross, G.C.B., Secretary of State
for India, the subject of both letters being my discovery of a physiological
antidote for snake poison.In compliance with your suggestion I likewise submit a concise
statement of my theory of the action of snake poison, with the proofs of
its correctness. This theory sets forth that snake poison is a specific nerve
poison, depressing and in fatal cases completely suspending the function of
the motor and vaso-motor nerve-centres, and that this action is purely dyna-
mic, that it suspends force, but does not destroy tissue, except by this suspen-
sion of nerve force, and that with the removal of this force-suspension
the injurious effects on the human organism of snake poison are likewise
removed. As proofs of the correctness of this theory I beg to submit the
following:1. The theory explains satisfactorily all the symptoms observable on
persons suffering from snake poison, and according to the rules of scientific
induction a theory must be accepted as correct if it accounts for all the phenom-
ena it deals with.2. The exhaustive experiments of Dr. Feoktistow with snake poison on
the lower animals, which were published at St. Petersburg in 1888, have com-
pletely confirmed in every particular the correctness of my theory which
I published in 1887.3. The deductive proofs of its correctness are furnished by its successful
application in medical practice. It follows as a matter of necessity, that if
snake poison depresses the function of the above-named nerve centres, the
successful antidote must be a remedy that stimulates these centres to increased
functional activity. This remedy is Strychnine. Among the numerous cases

For Press

Miscellaneous but
print send 150 copies.

C.N. 2665-4 order—a

Rur
10/12

2/12/1890

(C.N. 8198 28/11/90)

Depd 28/11/90

A A

48 — 20-12-90-

of its use as an antidote reported by medical men from all parts of Australia there is not a single failure. I herewith submit twelve of them:

1. John Bullock, November 25th, 1888.—Bitten by a tiger snake on right hand; came under treatment five hours after occurrence; was then completely collapsed and comatose; rallied after each injection, but collapsed again three times within six hours, until 65 minims of Liquor Strychnine (containing over half a grain of the drug) had been injected. Recovery complete.

Treated by Dr. Thwaites of Tallangatta.

2. Annie Duncan, aged 13 years, December 14th, 1888.—Bitten by tiger snake above right ankle; had to be conveyed 30 miles in a waggonette at night; was quite cold like a corpse, pulseless and without perceptible respiration when carried into Dr. Thwaites' surgery; roused by one injection of 17 minims within two minutes into respiration, within ten minutes into consciousness, and perfectly restored within four hours.

Treated by Drs. Thwaites and Flanagan at Tallangatta.

3. Priscilly A. Evans, aged 19 years, February 14th, 1889.—Bitten by brown snake on wrist; symptoms moderate but typical; only 10 minims of Liquor Strychnine required. Recovery complete.

Treated by Dr. Mahoney at Albany.

4. William Thiplin, September 25th, 1889.—Bitten by brown snake on index finger of right hand. Restored in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours by four injections of $\frac{7}{5}$ grain each.

Treated by Dr. C. Baird, Jemlesville.

5. A powerful young man, name not given.—Bitten by black snake on right leg at 3-30 P.M. in January 1890; came under treatment at 7-30 P.M. totally collapsed and cyanosed; roused by one injection of 15 minims, but collapsed three times at 8-15, 9 and 10 P.M., each time roused by three successive injections and dismissed cured at 1 A.M.

Treated by Mr. Francis Pain, M.R.C.S., of Allora, Queensland.

6. Case of Thomas Corey at Mentone, and

7. Case of Mrs. Skinner at Carrum.

In both cases no particulars are to hand, except that they were treated with strychnine injections by Dr. Verity of Cheltenham.

8. Case of Mr. Weeks' child of Myrtleford, aged 3 years.—No particulars except the strychnine treatment by Dr. Degner, Myrtleford.

9. Case of Mr. R. Johnstone, Police Magistrate at Maryborough, Queensland, known as a successful explorer of Northern Australia and having great experience with snakes, especially the deadly brown one with black head. Had seen twelve cases of poisoning by it all end fatally. In November 1889 was bitten by one of these whilst out for a walk; had Ammonia injected into many veins and was finally given up by three medical men. When he had already ceased to breathe, a fourth one, H. C. Garde, F.R.C.S., whilst ill in bed, suggested strychnine injections and at the very last moments thus saved this valuable life.

Dr. Bowe, Gympie, Queensland.

10. Case of Miss H., aged 13 years, January 26th, 1889.—Bitten by a large brown snake on the right ankle at 7 A.M.; arrived at Maryborough Hospital at 9 A.M.; had two injections of 15 and 10 minims of Liquor Strychnine, and returned home at 1 P.M. perfectly restored.

Reported in Australian Medical Gazette by H. C. Garde, F.R.C.S., and Surgeon to Maryborough Hospital, Queensland.

(Miscellaneous.)

Snake-bite.—
Communicating to the Surgeon
General for information certain
papers on the subject of Dr. A.
Mueller's antidote for —

G.O., 28th November 1890, No. 819.

Snake-bite.—Communicating to the Surgeon-General, for information, certain papers on the subject of Dr. A. Mueller's antidote for —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST HONORABLE THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE,
G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., &C., &C.

MY LORD,—I have been requested to transmit a communication which has been received by this Government from Dr. A. Mueller, an old resident of this colony, enclosing a communication addressed to Your Excellency by that gentleman with reference to an antidote for snake-bite which he is desirous of bringing under the notice of Your Lordship's Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HOPETOUN.

VICTORIA, GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MELBOURNE, 21st July 1890.

ENCLOSURES.

From A. MUELLER, Esq., M.D., to the Honorable ALFRED DEAKIN, M.L.A., Chief Secretary of Victoria, Melbourne, dated Yackandandah, 28th June 1890.

Referring you to the interview you kindly granted to me on the 18th instant, I have now the honor to forward to you, for transmission to Calcutta and London, a letter to His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, G.M.S.I., and also one to the Right Honorable Viscount Cross, G.C.B., Secretary of State for India, the subject of both letters being my discovery of a physiological antidote for snake poison.

In compliance with your suggestion I likewise submit a concise statement of my theory of the action of snake poison, with the proofs of its correctness. This theory sets forth that snake poison is a specific nerve poison, depressing and in fatal cases completely suspending the function of the motor and vaso-motor nerve-centres, and that this action is purely dynamic, that it suspends force, but does not destroy tissue, except by this suspension of nerve force, and that with the removal of this force-suspension the injurious effects on the human organism of snake poison are likewise removed. As proofs of the correctness of this theory I beg to submit the following:

1. The theory explains satisfactorily all the symptoms observable on persons suffering from snake poison, and according to the rules of scientific induction a theory must be accepted as correct if it accounts for all the phenomena it deals with.

2. The exhaustive experiments of Dr. Feoktistow with snake poison on the lower animals, which were published at St. Petersburg in 1888, have completely confirmed in every particular the correctness of my theory which I published in 1887.

3. The deductive proofs of its correctness are furnished by its successful application in medical practice. It follows as a matter of necessity that, if snake poison depresses the function of the above-named nerve centres, the successful antidote must be a remedy that stimulates these centres to increased functional activity. This remedy is strychnine. Among the numerous cases of its use as an antidote reported by medical men from all parts of Australia there is not a single failure. I herewith submit twelve of them—

(1) John Bullock, November 25th, 1888.—Bitten by a tiger snake on right hand; came under treatment five hours after occurrence; was then completely collapsed and comatose; rallied after each injection, but collapsed again three times within six hours, until 65 minims of Liquor Strychnine (containing over half a grain of the drug) had been injected. Recovery complete.

Treated by Dr. Thwaites of Tallangatta,

Public Depart.

Gram

The Home Department—
(Medical)

10 Med. 541

Dated 5th 9th September 1890
Received 13th
E.S.C.

Informing that—

Dr. A. Mueller is very anxious
to have his method of treating
snake-poisoning adopted in India.

For orders.

2. The G. of I. communicate
this "for information".
It is submitted that
it will be best to
communicate "record the
correspondence with the
remark that the inter-
ference of the State
in matters of the
kind would be in-
expedient. Or else
to record it without
remark.

3. It is of course absurd
to suppose that pro-
fessional jealousy is
having the way of road
to discovery of a
infallible (or nearly
fallible) cure for the
bite of any poisonous
snake. If such a
cure could be found,
no amount of pro-
fessional jealousy
would be able to
prevent its general
acceptance.

4. With regard to Dr.
Mueller's specific,
he acknowledges

For

have struck people, who were saved by Dr. M.'s specific. It is not an atom of proof that the snakes were properly identified - that the poison was injected - that the recovery was in consequence of, & did not merely follow, the administration of strychnine. It is not intended to discuss the theory of Dr. M. but as he tests his case on supposed facts, it is reasonable to require some proofs. Let Dr. M. conduct a proper series of experiments, conduct them so as to establish some facts, & repeat them until the possibilities of error are to some extent eliminated, & even if his conclusions aren't accepted, at least they will be given attention to by the Indian School. Who could expect to convert others by such vague generalities as the two cases sent are composed of? Lastly: if Dr. M.'s is an antidote, it is at least one which won't save any lives in India. Sub-cutaneous injections of strychnine are all very well if you have the antidote at hand on every occasion.

in London & at Calcutta. Naturally enough, the experiments there will have been conducted in a scientific manner, & hearsay evidence will have been excluded. It is certain that if Dr. Mueller's specific is an unfailing physiological antidote, it must answer in the case of animals - yet there is direct proof to the contrary, in the experience above referred to, & the only evidence (to misapply the word) which Dr. M. can bring forward is a farmer's story - stating that the farmer spoke the truth (& why should he not?) The case reduces itself to one in which a snake of a poisonous kind struck a bullock, & was given the injections of strychnine & recovered. There is no proof that any venom was injected, & the probability has been shown the other way. When there are twelve cases in which "deadly brown" snakes "with black heads" & "deadly black" snakes "with red lower parts" (&c.), & other snakes, are reported

and only occur in rare instances, where from ignorance, neglect or the impossibility of procuring the antidote in time, it is not applied.

As I am most anxious to have my method of treating snake-poisoning adopted in India, and as my efforts in this direction have hitherto met with no response, I now appeal to Your Excellency, feeling assured that in a work of philanthropy, involving the lives of thousands of Her Majesty's subjects now under your charge, Your Excellency will not refuse me your powerful aid.

I have taken care to keep Sir Joseph Fayrer informed of the results of my labours in this hitherto so barren field of research, and I have also tried my best to make Mr. Vincent Richards a convert to my views and method of treatment in a friendly controversy I had with him some time ago, but alas! prejudice founded on preconceived though erroneous notions dies very hard.

I have also written privately to many Indian medical men, mostly Hindoos, who most frequently come in contact with the natives. With the exception of one, however, they have not even replied to my letters.

Trusting that Your Excellency will take such steps as in your wisdom you may deem most conducive to the attainment of the object I have in view.

I have the honour to be,
 Your Excellency's most humble Servant,
 A. MUELLER, M.D.

10 Dec
 No. 577

Copy forwarded to all Local Governments and Administrations, except Bengal, for information.

HOME DEPARTMENT
 (MEDICAL);
 Simla, the 5th September 1890.

By order,
 J. P. Hewitt,
 Under-Secretary to the Govt. of India.

For The Govt. of Madras.

Gp. 28. no. 90. no. 879.
 Case 2 of the
 Surgeon General for
 information.
 Surgeon General.

3 8/1
3
11. Case of a Kanaka, aged 22 years.—Bitten on leg; unable to name snake; treated in the same way and recovered in two hours.

Reported as case 10 by H. C. Garde.

12. Case of J. P., aged 19 years.—Bitten by the deadly black snake with red lower half; completely collapsed and cyanosed when brought under treatment two hours after occurrence; required 65 minims of Liquor Strychnine in four injections, the last one producing slight muscular spasms; next morning completely restored and able to ride home, sixteen miles.

Reported in Australian Medical Gazette by Dr. E. St. George Queely, late Government Medical Officer, Maytown District, Queensland.

It would be useless repetition to report more cases in proof of the unfailing efficacy of the antidote, the benefits of which are even extended to domestic animals. Thus a farmer at Tallandoon, Mitta Mitta (C. Harper), whilst ploughing with a team of bullocks, saw a tiger snake bite one of them. He had to ride 30 miles to procure the antidote; returned with it when the animal was apparently dying, but by a free use of it saved the animal. It was quickly roused from stupor, got on its legs again in a comparatively short time and recovered completely.

YACKANDANDAH (VICTORIA);

28th June 1890.

To His Excellency the MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.M.S.I., Viceroy of India, Calcutta.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The great mortality of Her Majesty's Indian subjects from the bite of venomous snakes emboldens me to address Your Excellency on the subject, with the certain assurance that it is within Your Excellency's power to check this appalling loss of human life to a very great extent. Careful researches namely and a practical experience in Australia extending over 35 years have enabled me to formulate a scientific theory of the action of snake poison that explains all the symptoms attending the poisoning process, and I have been guided by this theory to devise an unfailing physiological antidote for snake poison.

This antidote is Strychnine applied by subcutaneous injections of 10 to 20 minims of the Liquor Strychnine and continued every 15 minutes until the paralyzing effects of the snake venom on the motor and vaso-motor nerve cells are removed and slight strychnia symptoms supervene. The quantity of the drug required for this purpose depends on the amount of venom imparted by the snake and may after the bite of a vigorous cobra amount to a grain or more, since more than half a grain has been found necessary to neutralise the effects of the bite of the tiger snake, much resembling the cobra in appearance but not nearly imparting as much venom. Strychnine and snake poison being antagonistic in their action, I have found invariably that large doses of strychnine produce no toxic effects in the presence of snake poison, until the action of the latter is completely suspended. These effects in their initial stage, manifested by slight muscular spasms, are patent to any ordinary observer and perfectly harmless. They pass off quickly and are an unfailing signal that the antidote is no longer required and the patient out of danger.

Though fully aware of the unfavourable results of experiments with the drug on dogs made at Calcutta and London as well as in Australia, I was nevertheless so fully convinced of the correctness of my theory that I administered the antidote fearlessly to persons suffering from snake-bite, to a few at the very point of death with pulse at wrists and respiration already suspended, and in every instance with the most gratifying success.

This success has been equally marked in the practice of other medical men in nearly all parts of Australia, more especially in Queensland, where the most venomous of our snakes are met with. Owing to the general adoption of my method, deaths from snake-bite are now events of the past in Australia