

[7]

I

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT
G.O., DATED 22-0-91
No. 7181

INDEXED.

~~When given for copying~~

[Despatch Abstract.]

Receiving a No from
the Surgeon General
receiving a report from
the Dr Surgeon Col-
ent on a peculiar
spiral complaint
that occurred in
some of the villages

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

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A

LETTER 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.
- F = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.

CURRENT No. 512

DEPARTMENT.

[9]

Hon: Mr: Stokes C.S.D.
Hon: Mr: Garstin C.S.D.

From

D. W. J. de Falck

Circulated.

$\frac{70B}{3/8}$ Was not in London General
Commission to report on
in this matter? $\frac{70B}{3/8}$

file
4/10/18

See
3/10/18

Note for Hon.

The reply to the Hon:
Member's question
is in the negative.
G.O. Indt: 8.7.91, No.
1252, shows that a
copy of the Asst. Supt.
of Police's report was
sent to the Surgeon
General by the Insp.
General.

$\frac{70B}{3/8}$ 19 Aug 91

22nd Aug. 91 No. 718

Running
10/10/18

No.

Dated 1st August 91.

Received 3rd — do —

Enclosures one.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding letter received
from Dr. Beech Dist Surgeon
Calicut re fatal
Complaint that occurred
one of the Village —

what does this
mean? were they
murdered? W
—
Ang.

rather frequently, and that many of these people ate of the meat, and no doubt many more did so, but through shame, would not allow it, and as soon did some of those acknowledge to have done so, they disappeared.

4. In conclusion I beg to state that the disease is dying out, as the people in the affected localities can now get sufficient bhama (a kind of grass) to support them and the cattle are also in a better condition as there is now enough fodder.

Have you

S. of L. Beech.

Surgeon Major.

District Medical & Sanitary Officer Malabar.

True Copy.

Wm. L. G. & J. L. G. & J. L. G.

Surgeon-General

with the Government of. State

Diarrhoea but more frequently very severe constipation were urgent symptoms. In fact nearly all those who died suffered from constipation of long duration.

Sweating contrary to my expectation occurred in only one case.

Swelling of affected arm, side of chest, abdomen, head or leg always appeared. It generally accompanied the advent of papule and with it either preceded the fever, or followed it. This swelling was in some cases, enormous, putting on pressure, or otherwise; strict accuracy being very difficult to obtain. The swelling generally came on with the appearance of papule and was rapidly followed by enormous enlargement of axillary (or other) glands. These in no case suppurated, although sometimes they were as large as a peeled coconut.

Mortality: - Of the 56 cases reported 21 died; the average duration of disease in these cases being six days. No 45 died the same day that he was attacked, whilst No 44 did not succumb until the 12th day. So far as I could gather there was no history of contagion.

Nature of disease: - From the above I think it may be fairly concluded that this disease was caused by a specific poison due to the eating of diseased meat, on impoverished frames. It is a fact, that cattle die of a "swelling of neck and abdomen"

N^o 1764.

(Copy)

Calicut 25th July 1891.

From

Surgeon-Major L. Berch
District Medical & Sanitary Officer.
Malabar

To.

The Secretary to the Surgeon-General
with the Govt. of Madras.
Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that on receipt of your office memo N^o 3513 dated 1st Instant (herewith returned), forwarding to me for immediate and careful enquiry and report, copy of extract from the report of the Assistant Superintendent of Police Koda-puram, for the week ending 13th Ultimo, (as nothing was known on the subject in the Collector's office,) directed the Civil Apothecary at Muzeri to visit the villages of Paudihad, Thyaad and Moodikote in which the disease ("Plague"?) was said to be prevalent and to report to me by wire the result of his enquiry.

He (after a summary enquiry) reported that there was a disease resembling Plague prevalent; when I at once proceeded to investigate the matter myself & herewith enclose the notes of 56 cases.

2. The history, as obtainable from those very illiterate and bigoted people, cannot for accuracy

be implicitly relied on; but the main points in the case are somewhat as follows:—

That those who were attacked were in a very impoverished condition, from long standing want of sufficient nourishment; the best off of them having had rice congee three times a day; whilst a few could only obtain it once a day, or still less frequently.

It is to be noted, that the people who were attacked are the only native inhabitants of this Coast who will eat beef; viz, Maplaks and Cherumas and that many of them did so (cf^{to} 32-33-34-38-40-41-44-45-49-50-51-52-53-54-55 and 56) and acknowledged to have done so, even, although the cattle were on the point of death, from swelling of neck and belly, when their throats were cut. Others, whilst acknowledging that their cattle had died of a similar disease, altogether disclaimed having partaken of the meat, which I think is significant.

3. The symptoms as exhibited varied considerably, but consisted in the eruption of a papule, fever, and swelling. To enter more into detail, the Papule was generally of size of a pea, hard and irritable; and which in the course of a few days burst & discharged serous, or purulent matter, leaving a white scar

in the centre with hardened, raised edges, and a dark areole. The duration of this sore varied; the average time being about 10 to 15 days. After its appearance for a short time in two or three cases, it suddenly disappeared. The papule most frequently appeared on the fingers, but other parts of the body were not exempt; for it appeared on the eyelids, arm, chest, abdomen, and leg. Generally there was only one papule; but two or more also appeared, and in no case did death take place, when more than one papule occurred, and taking all things into consideration, these were the milder cases.

Fever: — The occurrence of papule was either preceded by fever for two or three days, or the fever did not set in for three days after the appearance of the papule. In either case it was generally ushered in by rigors, vomiting, and intense head-ache, and was continuous; the duration being most difficult to ascertain, as the people in one case said there was no fever, when in fact the thermometer showed that there was. The most urgent symptom was head-ache; but only in one case was there delirium for any length of time. Difficulty in passing urine or even suppression or retention of urine were common symptoms and in one case there was a discharge of blood from nose and mouth when on point of death.

Basement Aug. 21

My Dear Mr. Rees.

I have just received
a letter from Dr. Beech -
District Surgeon (Colonel) -
reporting, as directed by
me - upon a peculiar
& fatal complaint that
occurred in some of the
villages. As I know
His Excellency, the Governor
is greatly interested with
regard

to the disease, Dr. Beech has
done myself the honor detail of 56 cases.
To forward General Order should send Wrenlock
Beech, a copy of the wish to see the Report
letter, in which Dr. on these cases, I shall
Beech describes the be very glad to send them
characters of the complaint to you. I have directed
its cause. There can Dr. Beech be kept if any
be no doubt that the other cases occur, or
affection is not Plague if the complaint has
but is due to eating disappeared.
diseased meat, which
resulted in blood poisoning.

Yours sincerely
W. J. Beech

Seen - with many thanks W
1/8/91