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G.O., DATED 12-9-93.

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28-9-93

[Despatch Abstract.]

Cholera & other Epidemic diseases

Communicating to the  
Revenue, Military, Local & Municipal  
Departments letter for & to the  
Surgeon General, letter from the  
Govt of India containing instruc-  
tions for investigating & reporting  
on outbreaks of \_\_\_\_\_.

17-8-11 B.II

31-10-32 B.II

14/78 SI  
DBR.

2096/RH

6184/RH/82

FURTHER PAPER, No.

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17-12-94

9-3-94

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1896 of 94 from Surgeon

814 of 95

2305 of 95

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT NO.

2400 - - a

STATEMENT WITH DUTY.

ORDER, &c., OF GOVERNMENT--A.

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A = Print in full.  
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P = Print abstract only.  
Q = Print heading only.  
R = Print, but not for monthly volume

5. Aug.  
No. 14

CHIEF SECRETARY  
4 SEP 93  
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

FROM

C. J. LYALL, ESQ., C.S.I., C.I.E.,  
Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Home Department.  
Sanitary.

Simla, the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1893.

SIR,

I AM directed to bring the following facts to the notice of the Government of Madras in connection with an outbreak of cholera which recently occurred at a certain station, and to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council the instructions suggested in this letter for investigating and reporting on similar outbreaks of epidemic disease may be communicated to all district and medical officers in the Madras Presidency.

2. In the case to which reference is made above, cholera broke out in a severe form at the station. The District officers and the Civil Surgeon, who appear to have been on the spot at the time and should have had the best means of verifying what they reported, did not hesitate to state without any kind of qualification that it had been established that troops from a certain locality had brought the cholera with them, and had not only disseminated it along the road, but were indirectly the cause of starting it in the Cantonment, Bazaar, and Civil Station. Further enquiry proved these facts to have been totally misrepresented, and showed that the troops in question, far from having brought the cholera into the district and station, were themselves the sufferers from an infection already existing there. The statements thus rashly made, and afterwards conclusively proved to be erroneous, attracted much attention both in England and in this country, and led to questions being asked in Parliament, and to comments in the public journals which had no foundation whatever in the facts of the case.

3. The Governor General in Council therefore considers it advisable to request that instructions may be issued to all civil and medical officers whose position renders them liable to be called upon to make enquiry into the prevalence and causes of epidemic diseases, impressing on them the necessity for exercising the greatest care in the investigation of the facts connected with the outbreak and progress of such diseases, for scrutinizing most carefully the evidence on which these facts rest, and for refraining from giving expression to opinions not warranted by the facts established by the evidence.

4. In Home Department letter No. 199-202, dated the 19th September 1881, to the address of the Special Committee on Cholera in the Punjab, definite instructions were given for ascertaining the facts connected with the recent prevalence of cholera in that Province. These instructions (with one or two very slight modifications) are reproduced below:—

"The following points may be noted as deserving of special attention:—

"(a) The history of cholera in the locality—district, province, or other area affected—during the last few years.

"(b) The date on which the first case appeared during the period preceding the outbreak under investigation; the circumstances connected with the appearance of the first case and with the subsequent progress of the disease; the

"(c) The circumstances connected with the rise, subsidence, and disappearance of the disease in any place, or in different parts of the same place; and also those connected with the escape or comparative exemption of other places in the neighbourhood. Under this head the sanitary or other local conditions of the places which suffered, and especially of those which suffered conditions of most careful investigation. Among the more important of these conditions may be mentioned drainage, conservancy, water-supply, food, clothing, and the degree of overcrowding, if any existed. Where a severe outbreak was clearly associated with marked unsanitary conditions, the state of such places should be compared with the state of those which either suffered little or altogether escaped; the differences should be noted, and an endeavour made to ascertain what degree of correspondence existed between unsanitary conditions and the relative intensity of the disease.

"(d) Endeavour should also be made

"(d) Endeavour should also be made to ascertain what were the exact meteorological phenomena of the year,—whether they presented any peculiarity, and whether this peculiarity appears to have had any relation to the outbreak."

5. The above instructions were given with special reference to the prevalence of cholera, but the Governor General in Council is advised that investigations into other epidemic diseases might also with advantage be made on similar lines. His Excellency in Council further desires that in the instructions which the Government of Madras are now requested to issue it may be directed that such enquiries should always be of a purely practical character; that theoretical discussions should be avoided as far as possible; that whatever conclusions are advanced should be based on the facts established; and that it should invariably be stated in the investigating officer's report on what evidence the facts accepted as established rest. It is hardly necessary to add that general statements made by villagers and subordinate officials, especially if much time has elapsed since the outbreak, should only be accepted after careful scrutiny.

6. It is a matter of considerable importance that enquiries regarding epidemic diseases should be instituted with the least possible delay after the outbreak is reported. It has been suggested to the Government of India that civil medical officers should be directed to keep ready prepared and distribute beforehand a printed form of instructions in the vernacular (following the instructions given in this letter) for the use of all persons whose duty it would be to report the occurrence of cases of cholera.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Chall

*Secretary to the Government of India.*

From

The Govt of India  
Home Dept

No. 5 Sany  
148

Dated 28 August 1893  
Recd. 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1893  
S.C.7.

Requesting that instructions  
contained in this letter  
for investigating and reporting  
on similar outbreaks of  
epidemic diseases may be  
communicated to all District  
and Medical Officers in the Madras  
Presidency

Hon. Mr. H. Stokes. K.C.S.J.  
Hon. Mr. G. S. S.

Order 11943 12<sup>th</sup> Sep 1893.  
N: 757

Send. to the Revenue  
Dept and the Surgeon  
General for the requisite  
action; also to the  
Military and Local &  
Municipal Depts.

2. The attention of  
the Surgeon General  
will be specially directed  
to the instructions in  
para. 5 of the foregoing  
letter.

2.5.13.  
5/9.

28/8/93

14/9/93

To the Secy to Govt. Rev. Dept  
for favor of counter initials.

To the Rev. Dept. 7  
- Mily. Dept. 6  
- Local Dept. 6  
- Surg. Genl. 6  
- Sany. Comr. 6

Depd  
23/9/93

12TH SEPTEMBER 1893, No. 757, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. J. LYALL, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India,  
Home Department (Sanitary), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of  
Madras, dated Simla, the 28th August 1893, No. 148—5—Sany.

I am directed to bring the following facts to the notice of the Government of  
Madras in connection with an outbreak of cholera which recently occurred at a certain  
station, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in  
Council, the instructions suggested in this letter for investigating and reporting on  
similar outbreaks of epidemic disease may be communicated to all district and medical  
officers in the Madras Presidency.

2. In the case to which reference is made above, cholera broke out in a severe  
form at the station. The District officers and the Civil Surgeon, who appear to have  
been on the spot at the time and should have had the best means of verifying what  
they reported, did not hesitate to state without any kind of qualification that it had  
been established that troops from a certain locality had brought the cholera with them,  
and had not only disseminated it along the road, but were indirectly the cause of  
starting it in the cantonment, bazaar and civil station. Further inquiry proved  
these facts to have been totally misrepresented, and showed that the troops in question,  
far from having brought the cholera into the district and station, were themselves the  
sufferers from an infection already existing there. The statements thus rashly made,  
and afterwards conclusively proved to be erroneous, attracted much attention both in  
England and in this country, and led to questions being asked in Parliament and to  
comments in the public journals which had no foundation whatever in the facts of  
the case.

3. The Governor-General in Council therefore considers it advisable to request  
that instructions may be issued to all civil and medical officers whose position renders  
them liable to be called upon to make inquiry into the prevalence and causes of  
epidemic diseases, impressing on them the necessity for exercising the greatest care  
in the investigation of the facts connected with the outbreak and progress of such  
diseases, for scrutinizing most carefully the evidence on which these facts rest, and  
for refraining from giving expression to opinions not warranted by the facts estab-  
lished by the evidence.

4. In Home Department letter, No. 199-202, dated the 19th September 1881,  
to the address of the Special Committee on Cholera in the Punjab, definite instruc-  
tions were given for ascertaining the facts connected with the recent prevalence of  
cholera in that province. These instructions (with one or two very slight modifica-  
tions) are reproduced below:—

"The following points may be noted as deserving of special attention:—

"(a) The history of cholera in the locality—district, province, or other area affected—  
during the last few years.

"(b) The date on which the first case appeared during the period preceding the outbreak  
under investigation; the circumstances connected with the appearance of the first  
case and with the subsequent progress of the disease; the number of towns and  
villages attacked; the number that escaped and the relative proportion between  
the two; the distribution of the disease by localities and by time as shown by the  
daily number of attacks; the relation which existed between the rise and fall of  
the outbreak in adjoining places, particularly in municipalities and cantonments.

"(c) The circumstances connected with the rise, subsidence and disappearance of the disease in any place, or in different parts of the same place; and also those connected with the escape or comparative exemption of other places in the neighbourhood. Under this head the sanitary or other local conditions of the places which suffered, and especially of those which suffered much, call for most careful investigation. Among the more important of these conditions may be mentioned drainage, conservancy, water-supply, food, clothing and the degree of overcrowding, if any existed. Where a severe outbreak was clearly associated with marked unsanitary conditions, the state of such places should be compared with the state of those which either suffered little or altogether escaped; the differences should be noted, and an endeavour made to ascertain what degree of correspondence existed between unsanitary conditions and the relative intensity of the disease.

"(d) Endeavour should also be made to ascertain what were the exact meteorological phenomena of the year,—whether they presented any peculiarity, and whether this peculiarity appears to have had any relation to the outbreak."

5. The above instructions were given with special reference to the prevalence of cholera, but the Governor-General in Council is advised that investigations into other epidemic diseases might also with advantage be made on similar lines. His Excellency in Council further desires that in the instructions which the Government of Madras are now requested to issue it may be directed that such inquiries should always be of a purely practical character; that theoretical discussions should be avoided as far as possible; that whatever conclusions are advanced should be based on the facts established; and that it should invariably be stated in the investigating officer's report on what evidence the facts accepted as established rest. It is hardly necessary to add that general statements made by villagers and subordinate officials, especially if much time has elapsed since the outbreak, should only be accepted after careful scrutiny.

6. It is a matter of considerable importance that inquiries regarding epidemic diseases should be instituted with the least possible delay after the outbreak is reported. It has been suggested to the Government of India that civil medical officers should be directed to keep ready prepared and distribute beforehand a printed form of instructions in the vernacular (following the instructions given in this letter) for the use of all persons whose duty it would be to report the occurrence of cases of cholera.

ORDER—dated 12th September 1893, No. 757, Public.

Communicated to the Revenue Department and the Surgeon-General for the requisite action; also to the Military and Local and Municipal Departments.

2. The attention of the Surgeon-General will be specially directed to the instructions in paragraph 5 of the foregoing letter.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,  
*Chief Secretary.*

To the Revenue Department.

„ Military „  
„ Local and Municipal Department.  
„ Surgeon-General.  
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Gobt. of {1893} Madras.  
PUBLIC.

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*Issued*

*Recd.*

*Encl.*

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G.O., 12th Sept. 1893, No. 757.

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SEPTEMBER.

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**Cholera and other Epidemic Diseases.**

Communicating to the Revenue, Military, Local and Municipal Departments, and to the Surgeon-General, letter from the Government of India containing instructions for investigating and reporting on outbreaks of —.