

Public (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 499

DATED 19th June 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

CASES OF POISONING.

Requesting the District Magistrate of Cuddapah and the
Chemical Examiner to report on certain----.

(11)

Report on case referred to in para:
9(d) of the Chemical Examiner's Report
for 1894, in para 2 of S.O. No. 328 Public
dated 1st May 1895.

This case was sent by the District
Medical Officer, Cuddapah, under the
orders of the Sub. Magistrate of Kamalapuram.
The Sub. Magistrate's report stated briefly that "the
deceased appears to have taken meals about
8 p.m. of 23rd December 1894 and she is
alleged to have shown the symptoms
of poison at about 10 p.m. She appears
to have expired at about 3 a.m. The
deceased appears to have suffered from
vomiting, purging, thirst, pain in the
stomach and drowsiness. Two ~~other~~ boys
partook of the same food but did
not suffer anything". At the post-
mortem examination, the peritoneum, and
stomach were found congested. The

mucus membrane of the whole intestinal tract was congested, and adherent to the mucus lining were a number of small white gritty substances. The other serous cavities of the body also contained fluid.

The following tabular statement gives a list of the articles which were sent for examination and the result of the analyses:-

1. Vomited matter	60.5 grains As_2O_3
2. Purged matter	8.04 " "
3. Soaked rice and water	} No arsenic
4. Pepper water	
5. Boiled gram	
6. Tamarind Chutney	
7. Boiled rice	
8. Pot in which meals were cooked	} 3.44 grains As_2O_3
9. Three soaked cloths	
A. Stomach and its contents	
B. Portion of Liver & one kidney	
C. Contents of Intestines	
D. Substance found in the Small Intestines at the post-mortem.	} = 17.82 grains As_2O_3
E. Sample of spirit	
	68.54 grains As_2O_3
	No arsenic

From this it is seen that there were

In the vomited matter	60.5 grains	fl ₂ l.
" purged matter & soiled cloths	11.48	" "
Total ejected	<u>71.98</u>	" "

In the stomach and its contents, portion of Liver, one kidney and part of intestinal contents	17.82	" "
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Picked out of intestines alone at the post-mortem examination	68.54	" "
Total retained	<u>86.36</u>	" "

making in all a total of over 158 grains. The whole of the ejected matters were not sent for examination, and so the total quantity which this woman took must have been greater than the amount just stated. The tenacity with which these particles of white arsenic were found imbedded in the mucus lining of the intestines was sufficient to convince any one of the utter hopelessness of attempting to dislodge them and eliminating them by any form of
of

of treatment during life.

The main points in the judgment are set out below viz:-

The deceased was married during her minority to a man, who gave her jewels and lent her father money. When she came of age, the husband refused to receive her unless the jewels and money accompanied her. This difficulty having been compromised, she lived with her husband; but after a time he took her back to her father and said that she was not to return to him without jewels or money. The girl was placed in the unenviable position of an unwelcome guest in her father's house, with strict orders to extract money from him. She seemed however to have been treated considerately, she was in her usual spirits up to bed time and

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and she died early next morning. The father and the stepmother were charged with murder and tried by the Sessions Court of Cuddapah. The judge while negativing the suggestion of suicide remarked that "there has been miscarriage of justice in this case from the idleness and incompetency of the Police".

The 1st Assessor's opinion was "guilty" and the 2nd Assessor's "not guilty". The judge agreeing with the latter — discharged the accused.

K. V. S. S. S. M. B. C. M. F. C. S.
F. S. C.
Surgeon Major
Chemical Examiner

Report on case referred to in para:
9(l) of the Chemical Examiner's Report
for 1894, in para: 2 of G.O. No. 328 Public dated
1st May 1895.

The Civil Surgeon of Lintoor forwarded
the articles, for examination on the orders of 2nd
Class Magistrate Ponnur Division, Kistna, with
a report that the "accused was alleged to
"have adulterated the water with some
"poison in G. Nagappa's well situated in
"the bed of the village tank, west of Punaloor."
It was also reported that 20 persons who
drank the water of this well had the following
symptoms: - "Nausea, they vomited their food,
"felt heaviness in the chest and dryness
"of the tongue. They had spasms in the
"legs and hands, and noise of the bowels.
"Some of them were unable to speak." -
Three persons suffered more severely than
the

the rest. Under treatment they all recovered⁽²⁾
The vomited matters, and the water had been
thrown away before the sub. Magistrate appeared
on the scene to hold an inquest. He
reported that he found "a sort of yellow
powder stuck up to the side of the well
at about a man's height on the western
side of the well". This was the substance
sent for chemical examination and identified
as yellow sulphide of arsenic.

The accused was charged with
attempt to murder by administering
a stupefying drug, (under Sections 307
and 328 I.P.C.). The following are
extracts from the Sub. Magistrate's judgment,
setting out the facts and his conclusions
from the evidence recorded:—

"There is a tank in the village
of Pusalur. It will be dried up in summer
season. The people therefore dig wells
or

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or in other words pits for the sake of water.
As these pits produce a limited quantity
of water, they cover the wells permanently
with wood and mud leaving an opening
of half a yard square in the middle
to draw water. Thus there are several
pits belonging to different individuals.
On the 6th of August as usual the people
of the 1st witness drew out water from their
pit in the morning and drank it in
the afternoon after meals. It may be
said here that some others also baled
out surplus water and drank. All the
people that drank this water of this
well felt giddy and had vomitings.
Some of them fell senseless that day.
The next day the 1st witness who is said
to be the owner of the well came in
and baled out the water in it and
kept the well clean. In baling out
the water they say that a yellow
powder

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powder stuck against the wall of the well was discovered and after the police came in, the stuff was taken out and sent to the Chemical Examiner and certified to contain arsenic and hence the trial."

"The accused denies all knowledge of this. The evidence against the accused is that of the 2nd and 10th ^{witnesses} who say that they saw, in the dark, at a distance of 20 yards, the accused's hand hanging about, which on the face of it is absurd. Even if it is considered to be true and if the accused had left out anything into the well it would have fallen into the water as it was thrown from the centre of the well. The panchayatdars found the substance to have been stuck against the wall and so the evidence of the 2nd and 10th ^{witnesses} is hardly to be relied on. Even supposing that it stuck against the wall as it was thrown in haste

by

(57)
by the accused from the side of the well,
the substance taken out was powder but
not a hard substance as the 4th witness
says. Let me see if yellow powder was
struck against the wall; the witness,
who cleared up the well, and who discovered
something upon the wall, and reported,
states clearly that the substance he
found out is of green color, like the
leaves of a tree, but not yellow. Thus
it is clear that this is all a concoction
and that the substance might have been
struck against the wall by some body
other than the accused. Besides there is
no evidence to say that the effects produced
are the consequences of this powder because
neither the water nor the vomitings were
preserved and subjected to chemical
examination. Though the substance was
declared by the Chemical Examiner to
have contained arsenic yet there is not
the slightest evidence to prove the
case

case against the accused. I am therefore
unable to commit the accused to the
Sessions Court, to take his trial there,
and I accordingly discharge him
under Sec. 209 of C. P. C.

W. V. G. G. G. D. B. C. M. F. G.
Seymour Major
Chemical Examiner

CURRIE No. 120

CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE,

No. 606.

Madras, 7 June 1895.

From Surgeon-Major J. L. Vaugeois M.B.E.M. F.R.S.
CHEMICAL EXAMINER, J.L.V.

Madras,

To

THE Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Colacannu

SIR,

With reference to the concluding
sentence of para 2 of G.O. No. 328, Pub.
dated 1 May 1895, I have the honor
to submit separate reports of the
cases mentioned therein.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. L. Vaugeois M.B.E.M. F.R.S.
J.L.V.

1895
PUBLIC DEPT. NO. 1823

The Chemical Examiner
Madras.

Pub. No. 328-29 d. 1.5-95 on p.

Hon. H. W. Bliss C. S. I.

Submitted with ref.
to the H. W. note at the
end of draft p. O. 1.5.95,
No. 328.

No. 606.

Dated 7th June 1895
Recd. 9
No. 11

Enclosure 2



Subject

Submitting separate reports
of the cases recorded in
the Annual Report for 1894,
para. 9 (d) & (l), as
requested in para 2 of
G.O. No. 328 Pub. dated
1st May 1895.

2.5.13
13/6
As regards the first case the
account sent up by the C. S. I.
asked the D. M. to have no light upon the question
whether there was a miscarriage
or not. This however of justice or not. The case only
cases in which he ascertained by a perusal of
report was to be called for. The record. Should the H. W. be
one in which a report was wanted
was that the D. M. asked for a report?
with which the D. M. apparently the judge admitted
in which the judge admitted
mistakenly the judge admitted
judge. The judge admitted
that case - the judge admitted
the G.O., it will be seen, was
wrongly drafted.

15/6/95

Out of the second case nothing
can be made. The magistrate's
decision was under the circumstances
perfectly right. The case was
apparently a concoction as it
stood through the water had
initially been poisoned in the
getting some obstruction
person into trouble

14/6/95

Public Current 1823.

Order. d/19th June 1895 No. 497

The Dist. Magistrate of
Cuddalore will be re-
quested to submit a
report, without delay,
on a case which was
sent to the Chemical
Examiner under the orders of
the Sub-Magistrate of Karaikal
puram in which a
woman who had taken
poison at 8 p.m.
on the 23rd December
last showed symptoms
of poisoning at 10 p.m.
and died at 3 a.m. the
day. Her father and
stepmother were tried
by the Sessions Court of
Cuddalore & acquitted.
The Judges were of opinion
that there had been a
miscarriage of justice
"from the idleness &
incompetence of the
police".

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18/1/95

Dist Magte
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