

# Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

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453

G.O., No. 453

Dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 1896

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

12-2-10-11

DR. MUELLER'S STRYCHNINE TREATMENT FOR  
SNAKE-BITE.

Forwarding, with remarks, to the Government of India an  
abstract of the reports received by the Surgeon-General on the results  
of the experimental treatment of snake-bite by strychnine.

| G.O.          | No.  | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. |
|---------------|------|-------------|-------|------|-----|
|               |      |             |       |      |     |
| FURTHER PAPER |      |             |       |      |     |
| G.O.          | No.  | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. |
| C             | 3747 |             | 1896  |      |     |

பாதுகாப்பு பிரதி-1

செய்துள்ள பணிகள் 21.12.1896

செய்துள்ள பணிகள் 12/07

செய்துள்ள பணிகள் 31/08

செய்துள்ள பணிகள் 21.12.1896

(1896.)

*Public*

DEPARTMENT.

From

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

No. 239

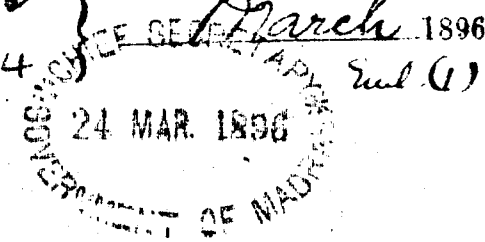
Dated

23<sup>rd</sup>

March

1896.

Received 24



Subject.

*Arriving an Abstract  
of the reports of the case of  
Snake-bite a treatment  
by Strychnine.*

Abstract of the Reports on the results of  
Experimental treatment of Snake bite by  
Strychnine.

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No. 1. By Hospital Assistant Somp  
Ganyam District.

Aged 56 Hindu, male was  
bitten by a carpet snake

15 August 1895 11 P.M. in  
little finger of left hand,  
two punctures on each.

Symptoms. Drowsy,  
injected with feeling of  
heaviness and giddiness,  
perspiration and loss  
in the lower extremities.

Treatment. A ligature  
applied at the wrist  
native treatment resorted  
at first. Was seen by  
Hospital Assistant  
the following day.

injections of  $\frac{1}{8}$  gr.  
Strychnine every 6  
9 A.M. native treatment  
at 4 P.M. been  
with hurried resuscitative  
dermic injections  
Strychnine were  
every 15 minutes  
Died at 4.

2. Surgeon Lieut. Col. ~~W. J.~~ <sup>W. J.</sup> Swinburn,  
in 4 District Madras - Aged 20. Hindu  
male bitten 7.30 P.M. on 21<sup>st</sup>  
August 1895 brought into hos-  
pital 10.20 P.M. Two minute  
funtures on left foot.

Symptoms - Drooping of both upper eyelids, giddiness, husky voice, difficulty of deglutition, pulse slow, temperature  $97^{\circ}2$ , Extremities cold and bluish, drowsy, staggering gait.

Treatment. Washed with carbolic lotion 1 in 100; wounds freely excised and touched with carbolic acid; carbolic oil dressing; 10.30 P.M. 15 minims of liq. Strychnine (B.P.) hypodermically injected; 10.55 P.M. 10 minims repeated. Sp. Common. Arc:  $\frac{1}{2}$  drachm aqua ad 1 oz. Physiological effects of the injections were noticed 1 hour after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose - Recovered 24 hours after - Was kept awake whole night. Stimulants and hot coffee being given.

Almar No - No evidence as

that the man was bitten by a  
snake and was seriously ill is  
indisputable  $\frac{4}{453}$

45  
27. Local apothecary Indipe South Canara.  
Hindu girl was bitten  
above the left ankle on 1<sup>st</sup>  
September 1894. a distinct semi-  
linear wound.

Symptoms when seen 4 hours  
after bite - Swell-  
ing and burning pain in the  
bitten region. Insensible and  
semi-comatose state, muscles  
of limb contracting spasmodi-  
cally.

Treatment - Wound was opened and allowed to bleed freely - a tight bandage was applied above seat of bite; 15 minims of Liq. Strychnine (B.P.) in 3 minutes fits ceased and within 2 hours after re-covered.

2. Remarks - Said to have been  
23. ~~a cobra~~ but it was neither seen  
nor identified

civil & Co. & Co. Bantwal South  
Banara - Inoplah  
was effie

Burning pain in  
part with swelling  
inflammation, & im-  
muration on the legs; bladder &  
bowels failed to act.

Treatment - caustic p.  
was applied locally; 10 m.  
of strychnine hypod.  
cally injected at intervals  
half an hour. 4 doses - fa-  
of heart's action pointing  
repetition of injection. Max.  
of sp. ammonia aromat.  
dig. Strychnine was given in-  
ternally and injection repeated  
the following morning. Recovered.

Remarks - The snake was  
not identified as a poisonous  
one. In all 80 minims of liq.  
Strychnine (B.P.) were ad-  
ministered hypodermically  
and by the stomach.

No. 5. Civil apothecary Manguneri  
Tinnivelly. Aged 25 years  
Hindu female was bitten  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
at 10 P.M. and became  
10

not remain in hospital.

Remarks The snake  
not identified. The man  
was bitten said it was a v.

No. 8 By the Hospital Assistant Amalapur  
Godavara - Aged 25 years. Hindu  
female was efficiently bitten on

the left leg on 26 February 1894  
by a poisonous snake (Cobra)

Two punctures  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch long

Symptoms - Those of snake bite

Treatment - Hypodermic in-

jection of 1 per cent solution of

strychnine - 50 drops were ad-

ministered in 2 hours. Ten

minutes after the last injection

the physiological effects of the drug

were manifest, respiration

and pulse regained normality.

Consciousness returned and

the woman gradually recovered.

Remarks by District Medical  
and Sanitary Officer. No evidence

that the snake was in full

venom, nor was it identified.

No. 9 By the Hospital Assistant Chintalapudi Godavara.

Aged 25 years Hindu male

was bitten by a snake (Pijara

(Viper) on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1894

at 7 P.M. Native remedies

resorted to.

Symptoms when

seen on 20 Dec.

6 P.M. - Senseless, extremities cold, breathing hard, restless, the whole left leg swollen very much, no pulse and gradually sinking.

Treatment Hypodermic injection of 10 minims strychnine 1 per cent strength - Expired within 20 minutes after.

Remarks by District Medical and Sanitary Officer Godavery. The patient was seen in moribund state 23 hours after being bitten.

No. 10 By the Hospital Staff. Lowl Bazar. Bellary - aged 24 years. Hindu male was bitten by a snake said to be Cobra on 7 September 1895 at 7 P.M. on right foot 4 punctures.

Symptoms when seen at 8.3

P.M. - Comatose, eyes fixed and injected; eyelids closed; pupils dilated and insensible to light; pulse 75 respiration per minute shallow and sigh whole body rigid and immovable teeth clenched firmly and

007

in a recumbent pose

Swelling at the seat of p.

Treatment At 9 P.M.

23. ed one syringe full of

Strychnine into right up

arm - No improvement. An

syringe full was injected 1

minutes after. In 10 minutes

after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose tossing of

the head from side to side was

observed. Still comatose him

more rigid, but body warm

convulsive movements of 2<sup>nd</sup>

arms about 20 minutes after

2<sup>nd</sup> dose, tossing of the head

constant, clenching of the

teeth ceased and eyes were

opened and rigidity of arms

and legs disappeared; re-

gained consciousness; pulse

gradually regaining norma-

lity; respiration 20 per

minute. A third injection

was made 15 minutes after

the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 minims only. 15

minutes after tossing of

head ceased, face became

flushed and patient tried

to sit up but was left in

the recumbent position -

Recovered

Recovered

was not identified. The  
 man was going  
 down a well to bathe  
 He was bitten and saw  
 a snake getting into the  
 garden from the well.  
 The occupants of the garden  
 say that there are many  
 Cobras in the garden  
 where the man was bitten  
 and some were killed.  
 By the Dept. Health, Kanakal. Bellary  
 District - Aged 43 years  
 Mahomedan female was  
 bitten by a snake said to  
 be a Cobra on 27 January  
 1895 at 6.30 P.M. on  
 middle of left foot; bite  
 not efficient.  
Symptoms when seen  
 at 7 P.M. - Very much  
 exhausted; pulse quick  
 and fluttering; pupils  
 dilated and body covered  
 with cold clammy pers.  
 operation.  
Treatment 10 grain of  
 Strychnine

seat of injury; mustard  
 was applied near the  
 cardiac region, turpentine and  
 compound liniment of camphor  
 rubbed all over the body and  
 extremities. Showed signs of  
 animation within 20 minutes  
 and gradually recovered.  
Remarks - The Snake  
 was not identified.

Officer of the Surgeon General  
 with the Govt of Madras  
 Madras 23 March 1895  
 [Signature]

[Signature]  
 Surgeon-Major General  
 Surgeon-General  
 with the Govt. of Madras.

No. 209

8/193

1089 Tab  
OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERALWITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,  
Madras, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1896.

From

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With reference to G.O. No. 700, Public, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1894, I have the honor to state that it was circulated to all medical officers in November 1894.

I attach an abstract giving the reports of the cases treated -

I consider these cases valueless, as evidence either for or against the Strychnine treatment.

(1) In not one single case was the snake presented for identification.

(2) That with the exception of Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Sturmer's doubtful case, the symptoms described were not those of snake poisoning.

(3) That in no case is any mention made of local sloughing attending the recoveries.

(4) That in the two cases ending in death, it is impossible on the evidence afforded to come to any definite conclusion.

3. In the correspondence ending with G.O. No. 205 Public dated the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1895 I have clearly stated the danger of a hasty conclusion.

tain Elliot which are detailed in that  
correspondence clearly show that strychnine  
not the wonderful effect claimed for it  
Dr. Mueller.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. Sibthorpe

Surgeon-Major-General

Surgeon-General

with the Govt. of Madras

Dr. Mueller

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453

Fort St George,

27 March 1896

Dr. Mueller  
27/3/96

My dear Sibthorpe,

In your letter of  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant No 239 on the  
strychnine treatment of snake  
bite you state para. 2(2) that  
except in one doubtful case,  
the symptoms of the cases  
reported "were not those of  
snake poisoning". Do you mean  
that the symptoms were not  
necessarily or exclusively or  
unmistakably those of snake  
bite, or that that they were  
not those of snake bite at all?  
I am not quite clear which  
you mean, and would be  
obliged if you will kindly  
let me know.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd/-) G. P. Forbes

1052



March 10

7/10/1031

My dear Forbes. 453

From D.O. 5729 - regarding

para 2 (4) of my No 239

23.3.95 on the subject of

the symptoms described

under No 239 of snake

poisoning at all.

Yours sincerely

Chittappa

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453

11/2/96

Public Dept

11  
453

G.No. 1089.

LETTER No 453 d/7 April 96

To

The Secy: to the Govt. of India,

Home dept: (Medical)

note Mr. J. Roberts  
Despatch 10/4/96

Sir,

In continuation of my No. 294, d/ 13th instant, I am directed to forward an abstract of the reports received up to date by the S.G. on the results of the experimental treatment of snake bite by Strychnine.

2. The S.G. considers these cases valueless, <sup>as evidence</sup> either for or against the <sup>correct</sup> ~~effect~~ treatment in Strychnine as <sup>in a</sup> single case was the snake presented for identification; <sup>in no case, which is doubtful</sup> except <sup>in one case</sup> the symptoms described ~~were not~~ those of snake poisoning; ~~that~~ in no case is any mention made of local sloughing attending the recoveries; <sup>quite finally</sup> ~~and that~~ in the two cases which resulted in death it is not possible on the evidence <sup>furnished</sup> ~~afforded~~ to come to any definite conclusion.

3. Surgeon-Major-General ~~Mac~~ Sibthorpe again refers to his letter No 79, d/ 29-1-95, a copy of which was communicated with my <sup>letter</sup> No. 116 of the 13th February 1895, in which he <sup>expressed</sup> ~~stated~~ his <sup>as to</sup> ~~view~~ opinion <sup>now</sup> of the danger of using the so-called antidote, and he <sup>now</sup> reiterates his ~~opinion~~

See D.O. reference to  
Sf 60-100

11/2/96

~~Prosa~~  
~~Prosa~~ *Prosa*

that the experiments of Surgeon  
Captain Elliot clearly show that  
strychnine has not the <sup>curative</sup> wonderful effect  
claimed for it by Dr: Muller.

5013.  
25/2/6

S.H.  
27/ for Cl.  
20/2/6

Issue now

S.H.  
21/8/6

Dr: <sup>2</sup> Muller's Strychnine tre  
for Snake-bite.

N<sup>o</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 12 see before mine

S.H.  
31. 5-6