M.R.O. 14—13,000—57-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2937 Press Mis.

524-526

Dated 28—11. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th November 1865.

No. 544. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th November 1865, No. 7,257.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 17th October 1865, No. 215:—

1. I beg to transmit copy of a letter addressed by me; I fear, erroneously to the Acting Secretary to Government, instead of to the Board of Revenue, informing him that Mr. Thacker's Report on the Cattle disease on these Hills was expected in a day or two, and requesting instructions as to the future disposal of his services.

2. I have now the honor to forward, in original, Mr. Thacker's Report on the disease, which appears to have been of a malignant type, but to have yielded at once to the treatment followed. This treatment, it is to be observed, was in accordance with the course indicated by Mr. Thacker, and which was published, by order of Government some time ago, in the District Gazette, for general information.

3. In the present instance, the disease was evidently introduced from the low country, and it is probable, that had it not been at once checked, it would have been communicated to other cattle on the Hills. Since Mr. Thacker's arrival on the Hills, personal inquiries amongst the Burghers lead to the conclusion, that there is now no "Murrain" on them, and that there has been none for some nine or ten months; but it appears that within the last few months, a good many cattle have died from the effects of sore throat. This type of disease has now entirely disappeared.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 11th October 1865, No. 127.

I beg to inform you that Mr. Thacker has completed his inquiries with regard to the Cattle disease on these Hills. His report on the subject, I expect to receive within a day or two; but, as I am to-day to start in company with His Excellency the Governor to Melkoondah, some days must elapse ere I can forward it. I, therefore, write at once to ask whether Mr. Thacker's services are to be dispensed with, or whether they may still be taken advantage of, in view to his making inquiries about a disease which has of late prevailed to some extent amongst the sheep in the low country.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) P. GRANT,
Collector.

From Veterinary Surgeon, to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ootacamund, — October 1865.

1. I have the honor to forward you a report of disease occurring amongst the public cattle employed at the Lawrence Asylum works.

2. From the symptoms, and the post-mortem appearances therein described, I believe the cases to be "Murrain," such as witnessed by me in Kurnool during last year.

3. The preventive measures adopted in the removal of the sick animals to an isolated shed, immediately the attack was observed, appears to have been most effectual in preventing its further ravages.

4. Of the sixteen bullocks sent to Coimbatore all were not attacked, but five of the others became affected either by contagion or infection, thereby shewing its malignant character, and the importance of isolation.

5. I am informed that the five cases occurring at the outbreak were so rapid in their course that four of them terminated fatally before the nature of the disease was apprehended, and the remedies published in the Gazette could be applied.

6. The thirteen cases subsequently treated were successful, with only one exception : a very old and debilitated animal.

7. The only variation of treatment, in the substitution of Hog's lard for sulphur as a laxative, I consider of no moment ; the latter is more generally used, and has not the objection of the other on account of caste prejudice.

8. I consider these cases afford the greatest satisfaction in showing—*First*, the malignant character of the disease ; *secondly*, the effectual prevention of its extension by the simple plan of removing the sick from the healthly : a point not universally concurred in last year ; and *thirdly*, by its amenability to the plan of treatment suggested by me.

9. An interesting fact in connection with this outbreak of disease, is that the native cattle owners immediately drove away their cattle many miles distant.

Report of Cattle disease occurring at the Lawrence Asylum Works, Neilgherries.

Statement shewing the number of cattle attacked with "Murrain" with the deaths and recoveries.

Strength of Cattle employed on the works.	Number attacked.	Number of deaths.	Number recovered.
38	18	5	13

The disease broke out amongst the cattle on the 29th of July last, and continued for a period of about five weeks.

Within the first fortnight of the outbreak five were attacked, and four fell victims to the disease in a short time, and one recovered. From the 18th to the 31st August, thirteen cases occurred in which Dr. Thacker's remedy was had recourse to ; in four, the disease was happily checked in its early stage, and of the remaining nine, one died and eight recovered ; the period of recovery from commencement of the attack, varied from one to three weeks.

The disease was generally known to have set in by the animal losing its appetite, which was soon followed by a heavy fit of shivering, the ears began to droop, and there was constantly an acrid discharge from eyes and nostrils ; in some the white membrane (conjunctiva) of the eyes were very much injected, and the animal looked dull ; in a few cases the bowels were relaxed from the commencement of the disease, while in others constipation was present, for which three drachms of Hog's lard was given night and morning mixed with some ragi gruel ; two or three doses of which were found to be sufficient in producing free action of the bowels, after which a strict attention to diet that consisted of ragi gruel night and morning, perfect rest, and a careful exclusion from the cold air, were the means adopted, which had a good effect in checking the disease in its early stage in four of the above cases, and the animals soon began to gain their strength, and were quite well in seven days. When the disease had advanced to that stage in which diarrhœa had set in, accompanied with much griping and straining, the motions consisted chiefly of mucus and blood, and highly offensive, the animal was found lying down from exhaustion with a very weak pulse. Dr. Thacker's powders, which were made up of camphor two drachms, datura one drachm, nitre and cherayatta of each two drachms, were mixed up with four ounces of arrack, and given along with two quarts of ragi gruel twice a day, which was attended with marked good effect. In two cases the diarrhœa was completely checked after the fourth dose, and the animals regained their former strength in about nine days. In the other six, the period of treatment somewhat varied, from five to eight days elapsed before any improvement had taken place, but when it had once set in they steadily progressed, and in only two of the above have I noticed the diarrhœa to have

advanced to such an extent as to call for the additional use of the opium and catechu powders, which were administered in doses of one drachm of the former to three of the latter night and morning ; four doses of each of these proved sufficiently effectual, but their recovery was very tardy, about two weeks having elapsed before they showed any signs of returning health.

The death recorded under treatment took place in an animal that was previously in low condition from age, and it had no stamina whatever to contend with the disease.

Post-mortem.—The liver was invariably found congested, the gall bladder considerably distended with dark colored bile ; the alimentary mucous membrane throughout its whole course was highly vascular, and in two cases the rectum was studded with ulceration.

During the attack the cattle were kept from work ; the healthy were separated from the diseased, and they were shut up in a separate shed at night, the walls and flooring of which were regularly cow-dunged.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON,
Assistant Apothecary.

LAWRENCE ASYLUM WORKS,
LOVEDALE,
2nd October 1865.

As to the probable cause of the outbreak, it would be as well to mention, that on the 11th July, six pairs of bullocks were sent down to Coimbatore to fetch up some machinery, and two more left on the 19th to assist them ; on their return on the 21st, they were certainly looking jaded, though not actually ill. One of them was attacked on the 29th, and died on the 31st, and from this period to the end of August cases occurred ; thirteen of those attacked were amongst the cattle that had been down, four of which died. It is evident from this fact that the disease was contracted and brought up from the plains.

(Signed) J. ANDERSON.

Mr. Thacker's Report will be submitted for the information of Government. The Board congratulate Mr. Thacker on the success which attended the treatment adopted by him.

No. 545.

ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1865, No. 2,937.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government learn that disease of a virulent type has recently appeared among cattle on the Hills, and await Mr. Thacker's further report.

2. The Board will circulate the present papers extensively.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

R Bulwell
Acting Secretary.

To W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.
" to Veterinary Surgeon J. Thacker.

Exd. J. Wright.

Reported to Govt 23rd January 1866 No 1 Mun
Reported again 24 April 66
No 18 Mun

Madras, 1865. Department.
Rec: of Govt for Nov

No. 3283.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

dated 13th November 1865.
despatched 15 Nov
received 17th

No. 7,257.

Submitting, for the information of Govern-ment, Mr. Thacker's report on the Cattle disease on the Neilgherry Hills, Coimbatore District.

No 2937-28 Nov
Mill order

No 5444 & 5445

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No. 2937.

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28th Nov 65.

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I want to send them to England to different people

Dr Thacker & the apothecary Anderson reports ought to be forwarded circulated.

87 Folio Boards Nov
Des Nov