Prcoeedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 21st October 1871.

No. 223. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th October 1871, No. 4,318 :—

Read the following letter from the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st September 1871, No. 1,327.

I HAVE the honour to solicit the attention of the Board of Revenue to the remarks of the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, as contained in the accompanying letter on the subject of dirt and cholera.

2. While the majority of Local Funds Boards are making but inadequate provision for the sanitary wants of their districts, I feel that it is almost hopeless to expect any marked change in the characteristics of the great epidemic diseases peculiar to the country; but I should be glad to be informed whether, under existing regulation in regard to village communities, the duty of maintaining a village-site in a cleanly condition is not incumbent on the village-officials; and, if so, whether the Board can adopt any measures to compel attention to simple regulations for the conservancy of villages in rural districts.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Superintendent of Police, Godavery District, to the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, dated Juggumpati, 12th September 1871, No. 277.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that having received from the Police several reports of cholera I at once directed inquiries to be made as to how and where the disease began, how it travelled, and how far it had extended; and the results of my inquiries are as follow :—

Cholera broke out in the town of Ellore (this place, although a *Municipality*, is reported as one of the dirtiest places in the district). On the 11th of July four persons were attacked with violent purging; in every case mercury was resorted to as a remedy, and brought on vomiting. One person died within five hours of being attacked, and the other three next day.

On the 2nd August a man travelling by canal-boat from Amlapur to Bezwarah was attacked by cholera at Goondagole (this place is between Ellore and Prackaisrowpolum). He was taken to a friend's house in Ellore, where he died next day.

There were five deaths between 26th and 28th August in Ellore town. These were reported by the Police and townspeople as deaths by cholera; but the Hospital Assistant at Ellore is of opinion that these cases were only cases of choleraic diarrhœa at most, in which death resulted from ignorant and injudicious treatment. Ordinary diarrhœa is very prevalent in Ellore town, owing to the people eating a great deal of a green vegetable called tota kura and cucumbers, which are very cheap.

There are no even apparent cases of cholera elsewhere in the Ellore Talook.

2. Cholera next broke out in the village of Prackaisrowpolum in the Yernagooden Talook. The first appearance of the disease in this village was noticed after the arrival of a man who came (ill) from Ellore on the 16th July. He died, and seven others were attacked in this village between the 16th and the 27th July, and all died. After the 27th July there were no more cases. The village is reported to have been in a most filthy state when disease broke out, and was cleaned under the directions of the Police.

3. The disease was next taken to Kotha Sodawaram by a villager of that place, who went to Prackaisrowpolum (when cholera existed there), and came back ill to his own village. He and ten others of his village were attacked. Seven died and four recovered. This was between the 2nd and the 10th August, after which no more cases appeared.

4. In Rajahmundry there are several nasty cases of diarrhœa, but no cases of cholera.

5. There is no cholera about any other part of this district. I have given strict injunctions to the Police to report at once its appearance and to watch its course.

6. I think that the appearance and existence of cholera in many places must be principally attributed to the atrociously filthy state of the villages generally; many of them are hotbeds of disease.

7. I am now detained here (Juggumpati) inquiring into a murder case. At this place, when cholera was raging in 1866, Captain Robertson (the then Superintendent of Police) remarked on the extremely filthy state of the village, and adopted measures to have it cleaned; but nothing can be worse than its present state. In and around the village, dirt, human ordure, carrion, and decayed matter of every imaginable sort combine to create a state of filth beyond description. If it was allowed to continue as it now is, or if it returns to its present state, the reappearance of cholera in it must be only a question of a very short time. I am having it cleaned now, and have written to the Magistrate regarding it. It is a Zemindary village. Being on the high road between Vizagapatam and Rajahmundry, if cholera were to break out here it would certainly travel to both the above places among many others.

8. The filthy state of the villages generally is, I think, a matter requiring the notice of Government. Much might be done, in a sanitary point of view, by Magistrates receiving directions to issue strict injunctions to Sub-Magistrates and Village Magistrates that villages everywhere *must* be kept clean.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of the Godavery, whose attention is directed to the provisions of Standing Order No. XXVII. of 1866.

2. He will be good enough to call the Tahsildars concerned to account for the disgraceful condition of the villages in their charge, and submit their explanations (and those of the divisional officers) with his own remarks.

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1871, No. 1,830.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board will submit to Government the information they have called for.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 3356
Rev. 1871. Dept

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH OCTOBER 1871, No. 4,318.

Dep. 18 Oct. 71 Encl.
Received 20 Oct.

OCTOBER.
No. 4,318.

14 Encls 689 of 18 Oct

r Cholera—which broke out in Ellore and Yernagoodem Taluqs of Godavery District,—Letter from Sanitary Commissioner forwarding one from Superintendent of Police in that District reporting on, and attributing appearance of this disease to filthy state of villages, communicated to Collector with certain instructions. —His attention drawn to provisions of Board's Standing Order No. XXVII of 1866.

No 223-224

No 1830.
The Govt Order thereon
Govt. have called for.

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Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October 21st.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 21st October 1871, No. 1,830.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 223-224.

Cholera in Godavery District.—The information called for by Board relative to the outbreak of —, to be submitted to Government.