

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1871.*

No. 181. Read the following endorsement of the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, (Public,) dated Fort William, 6th February 1871, No. 704:—

Read the following letter from the Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department, dated Fort William, 6th January 1871, No. 1,128.

In returning the enclosures of your docket, No. 2,484, dated the 20th July last, I have the honour to submit a report*

* With memorandum, No. 3,237, dated 2nd January 1871, from the Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals, Presidency Circle, of the result of the experiments instituted in the Presidency General Hospital and the Medical College Hospital for the purpose of testing the value of the oil extracted from the nut of the Lata plant.

2. The trial has not been so complete and thorough as a larger supply of the oil would have ensured, but so far as it was carried out, the result cannot be considered satisfactory.

Memorandum from the Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals, Presidency Circle, to the Secretary, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, dated Fort William, 2nd January 1871, No. 3,237.

THE undersigned has the honour to forward a report by Dr. Chevers on the Lata oil supplied to the College Hospital on the 27th of July 1870. Dr. Ewart also submits a report, and this is forwarded with Dr. Chevers's letter.

Dr. Chuckerbutty's letter can scarcely be considered a report.

(Signed) G. SAUNDERS, M.D.,
Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals,
Presidency Circle.

From NORMAN CHEVERS, Esq., M.D., First Physician and Principal, Medical College, to the Deputy-Inspector-General of Hospitals, Presidency Circle, dated Fort William, 27th December 1870, No. 479.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in the letters noted in the margin, received

Bengal Government letter, No. 4,064, dated 7th December 1870. under your office docket, No. 3,096, of the 19th instant, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Inspector-General and of Government, that at about the time when I

despatched to your address this office letter, No. 342, of the 28th September last, in which I stated that I had not yet had sufficient opportunity of testing the value of the Lata oil, our supply of the drug became exhausted. Although I have repeatedly indented for more, I have not been able to obtain any, and it appears that none is procurable in Calcutta.

I have obtained reports from Drs. Ewart and Chuckerbutty which I submit in original.

The class of cases treated in the medical wards of this hospital is ill-adapted for the trial of new therapeutic agents, our object being to admit the most severe and complicated cases, whereas the results of experiment are best displayed in those of a simple and lighter character. I, however, after a time succeeded in obtaining five patients in whom I considered that the oil might be fairly tried. The results were briefly as follow:—

Case 1.—Sobraty, coachman, ætat 35 years. Eight days in hospital. Admitted with quotidian intermittent fever of eight days' standing. There were also bronchitis, with congestion of the base of the right lung, and some tenderness in the hepatic region. He had an aperient, a diaphoretic fever mixture, sinapism, and three drops of the Lata oil in pills thrice in the 24 hours

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1871.*

during the interval. The oil was continued steadily without any such rapid effect upon the fever as quinine exerts. Paroxysms recurred for seven days, but with gradually decreasing severity. The reports of the last four days were: "fever less strong," "slight fever," "fever not entirely gone," and "scarcely any fever." On the eighth day he appeared to be well, and, being urgent for his discharge, was allowed to leave the hospital.

Case 2.—Peter Hudson, a Danish sailor, *ætat* 20 years. Twelve days in hospital. Admitted for quotidian intermittent fever of two days' standing. A strong plethoric young man. Had fever upon him when admitted, and complained of a "fearful headache." Had a cathartic and fever mixture. Four three-drop doses of Lata oil, one dose to be taken at the onset and defervescence of each attack, and two doses during the interval. On the second and third day the reports were "fever" and "rather feverish." There being no paroxysms on the two following days, the oil was discontinued. He needed some treatment subsequently for pain at the epigastrium, probably due to constipation and some portal congestion. This may be regarded as a tolerably successful case, but I believe it to have been one in which the immediate employment of quinine would at once have prevented the recurrence of the paroxysms.

Case 3.—Sreokant Dey, Bengali, *ætat* 27 years. Admitted with intermittent fever of double quotidian type of three months' standing. Emaciated, spleen enlarged, some jaundice. He took the Lata oil, in doses as above, for seven days. The fever recurred daily. On the 7th day an additional dose of the oil was given. On the 8th the fever was unabated, and ulcerated spots made their appearance on the gums. Recognizing in these the commencement of gangrenous phagedena, I discontinued the oil, and gave quinine freely. He lingered for a fortnight, and died exhausted by the spread of disease in the month.

This was one of a class of cases of chronic malarious poisoning, in which, *cancerum oris* attacking the patient, all febrifuges generally fail to do more than delay the fatal issue.

Case 4.—Nemoy, *ætat* 21 years. *Bhow*. Admitted with intermittent quotidian fever recently contracted on his journey from Moorshedabad to Calcutta. Had the Lata oil, four doses in the 24 hours, for four days. There were paroxysms only on the first and second day. On the 5th day the Lata was discontinued. On the 6th he had a strong paroxysm of fever. The supply of oil being exhausted, quinine was prescribed. Recovery was rapid. Here, while the Lata evidently had the power of checking the paroxysms, its effect upon the system was very transitory.

Case 5.—The Lata oil was used for a week in the rather complicated case of a native boy, *ætat* 10, suffering from intermittent quotidian fever of seven days' standing, with enlarged spleen, congestion of the lungs, and some jaundice. The fever was mitigated but recurred daily. The supply of oil having failed, quinine was employed. It acted slowly but removed the fever in a week. As the fever is generally obstinate in these splenic cases, it is not improbable that paroxysms would have continued to recur for a fortnight had quinine been given from the first.

When at Chittagong, 22 years ago, I frequently employed this indigenous drug in doses of twelve to fifteen grains of the powder. I then became convinced that the Bunduc seed is a very useful febrifuge and antiperiodic in ordinary uncomplicated cases of malarious fever. My slight experience of the oil, as detailed above, confirms this opinion, but evidently tends to the conclusion that the remedy is very inferior to quinine, especially in old and complicated cases.

The original papers are herewith returned.

From J. EWART, Esq., M.D., to N. CHEVERS, Esq., M.D., Principal of the Medical College, dated Calcutta, 27th December 1870.

In reply to your memorandum, No. 469, of the 20th instant, I have the honour to submit the following case of malarious fever treated by me with Lata oil:—

John Renny, *ætat* 21, Roman Catholic, a seaman temporarily residing in Flag Street. Three weeks in India. Admitted under me at the General Hospital on the 7th September 1870. He had been attending my out-door dispensary at the College Hospital for five days, and as there was no room for him in this hospital, I advised him to solicit admission into the General Hospital. The case was one of pure malarious fever of the quotidian type. During the time he had been attending

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1871.*

as an out-patient he had been taking the diaphoretic and quinine mixtures assisted by purgatives. He had had five paroxysms of *ague*. He arrived at the General Hospital in the evening of the 7th, when some diaphoretic mixture was given and milk diet was ordered.

I saw him early in the morning.

8th.—His pulse was 86; respirations 24; skin of normal temperature; tongue furred but moist; bowels open and free; urine rather high coloured, sandy, and depositing lithates and purpurine, and containing an excess of biliary colouring matter. There was slight muscular pain over the right loin. He was ordered three minims of Lata oil in three pills made up with crumb of bread three times a-day, and to continue the milk diet.

9th.—The *ague* paroxysm returned at 5 p.m. yesterday, and passed through the regular cold, hot, and sweating stages, the intermission becoming pronounced about midnight. This morning the intermission is well marked, the skin cool, and pulse only 72. Other symptoms much the same, with this exception that the malarious aspect of the face is more developed, from which it is inferred that another paroxysm is impending. Continue medicine and diet.

10th.—The paroxysm returned at 10 a.m. yesterday, characterized by a well-marked cold stage, whilst the hot stage was prolonged throughout the greater portion of the day, without much sweating towards the close of the exacerbation. When I again saw him in the evening there was a remission rather than an intermission. At 8 p.m. an exacerbation of the fever supervened which continued throughout the night. Continue the medicine and diet.

11th.—The fever is still present; pulse 110; respiration 23; skin dry, harsh, and hot; the tongue loaded with yellow brown fur; thirst considerable; bowels open; urine high-coloured, and depositing lithates in great abundance. The spleen is tumid and tender; there is also slight increase of dullness over the region of the liver without however any tenderness on pressure. Continue medicine and diet.

12th.—The fever still persists with the same collateral symptoms as before. As it is apparent that the oil, though steadily administered, has no control over the fever, and as this threatens to become a confirmed remittent, if unchecked in its progress, I resolved to have recourse to our sovereign antiperiodic, whenever an abatement of the fever or tendency to defervescence became manifest. I therefore ordered the administration of a scruple of the disulphate of quinine the moment a remission occurred. The fever remained, however, in full and unmitigated force during the whole of to-day, and an opportunity for the exhibition of the quinine did not present itself. Diet as before.

13th.—There was a remission at 7 a.m. when a scruple of quinine was given, and ten grains was ordered to be exhibited at 12 noon and 4 p.m. This succeeded in effectually putting a stop to the fever. Diet as before.

14th.—Defervescence complete, ordered a solution of quinine (five grains to the dose) three times a-day. Chicken diet.

Sinapism over the spleen.

15th.—Doing well in all respects. Medicine and diet as ordered yesterday.

16th.—Doing well. Ordered 15 minims of dilute nitro muriatic acid in an ounce of infusion of *chiretta*, three times a-day. Diet as before.

17th.—Repeat.

18th.—Repeat.

19th.—Repeat. Full diet.

20th.—Repeat.

21st.—Discharged cured.

From S. G. CHUCKERBUTTY, Esq., M.D., Second Physician, Medical College, to the Principal, Medical College, dated the 22nd December 1870.

I beg to report that the Bunduc oil was given in my wards to eight patients, in three of which it seemed to do good; in three it completely failed to cure the intermittent fever; and in the other two there was no fever since their admission.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th February 1871.*

No. 165.

COPY submitted to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department for information, in continuation of this office letter No. 3,473, dated the 14th October last.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

FORT WILLIAM,
JUDL. DEPT.—Medical,
The 16th January 1871.

(Signed) W. H. RYLAND,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

COPY forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George, with reference to communication thence, No. 868, dated 13th June last.

(By Order,)

(Signed) A. HOWELL,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 182.

ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1871, No. 294.

Forests, No. 8.

COMMUNICATED to the Government
Quinologist for his information with
reference to G. O., dated 19th June
1870, No. 867, Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Government Quinologist.
,, the Commissioner of the Neilgherries.

Home {1871} Dept.

FROM GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

D. 16th Jan.

No. 165.

R.

Enclosures
Spare copies.

D. No.

Progs. { D.
No.

L. No.

#294-
Comm. & Report
Quinologists. from
his information & report
of 13. June 70 No 807.
L.H.

17th Feb 1871.

To the Govt. Quinologists & to the
Comm. & Report of 13. June 70.

In continuation of their No. 3473 dated the 14th October
1870, submits a report of the result of the experiments
instituted in the presidency general hospital and the medical
college hospital for the purpose of testing the value of the
oil extracted from the nut of the lata plant.

4-013 June 1870. No 1562160

Revenue 1871 Sept

A503

From
The Under Secy. to the
Govt of India B.L.

Dated 6th Feb. 1871
Recd 15th Feb. 1871
A. 503.

Forwarding copy
of report recd from the
Govt of Bengal on the result
of the experiments instituted
in the presidency general
hospital & the medical
college hospital for the
purpose of testing the value
of the oil extracted from
the nut of the lata plant.

W. H. Over

No 2917. 17 February 1871

No 17 Feb 1871 B. No 181

Copy forwarded to the Government of India, with reference
to communication thereof, No 868, dated 13th June last.
To the Department
Public, etc
For Williams, etc
6 January 1871.
By order,
W. H. Over
The Under Secy. to the Govt of India.

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE GOVERNMENT QUINOLOGIST,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated February 17th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 17th February 1871. No. 294.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 181-182.

Lata plant nut oil.—Letter from Government of India on the result of the experiments instituted in connection with it, communicated to Mr. Broughton for information.