

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd March 1871*

No. 58. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th January 1871 No. 399 :—

Read the following letter from the Magistrate of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 21st December 1870, No. 403.

In continuation of my letter of the 2nd instant, No. 398, I have the honour to enclose copy of a communication received from the Sub-Collector on the subject of the prevalence of cholera in his division.

2. It will be observed that a second outbreak has occurred, more serious than the first, but that it has been by energetic measures got under.

3. I have received reports of an outbreak in the vicinity of Chowghaut in the south of the district, and have despatched my Dresser to co-operate with the Dresser attached to Ponany in affording the necessary medical aid and assistance to the Deputy-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Joint Magistrate, to the Magistrate of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 15th December 1870, No. 1,152.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1,104, dated 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that Dr. MacAllum and I paid another visit last week to the cholera infected localities in Kurumbranad Taluq.

2. The disease has taken firm hold of the portion of the Maniyur Amshom, lying immediately opposite to Payolly bazaar on the north side of the Kota river. I enclose a List of the cases classified according to houses, and will forward to you shortly a Nominal Roll with full particulars.

3. We visited several of the houses where the disease had proved most fatal, and instituted inquiries as to the origin of it. The first person attacked was a Moplah woman, whose husband assured me that she had not left the precincts of his house at all for many months previously to the date she was attacked; no possible clue could be obtained as to the origin of the disease in her case, until I asked the man what she had been eating the night before she was attacked, when he replied that she had eaten freely of the Sardine fish (Mathi meen.) The next house attacked was that belonging to people of the Tiyar caste; it was said that one of them had gone to the Moplah's house for betel-nut and seeing the Moplah woman's dead body, had taken fright and been attacked. This statement, however, was not very clearly made out; the family had been eating the Sardine fish too. Two days elapsed before the occurrence of the third case in the house of a Polayam out-caste; the surviving head of the family could give no clear explanation as to the origin of the disease; they had been living as usual and had been eating the Sardine fish too before the disease broke out. The first attacked in this house was a child of six years. On the following day, no less than eight fresh cases occurred in these three houses, one more next day, and two more on the third day. The three houses are all within half a mile of each other, and are in secluded places, far from any roads or much frequented foot-paths. The occurrence of the disease in these three houses belonging to people of different castes points, I think, to the disease having a common origin; it is scarcely probable that a child of six years would be affected by fear; it could not have visited either the Moplah's or Tiyars' houses, and I am disposed to believe that the eating of the oily Sardine fish was provocative of the disease in the third house as in the first one. The eating of this fish has been mentioned as the cause of the disease in many of the sporadic cases. The fish itself may not be poisonous, but it is certain that its exceeding plentifulness in certain years makes it very cheap, and that in these years it contains a large amount of fatty matter. Poor people are, therefore, enabled to buy it and to eat it freely, and the result in very many cases is indigestion, followed by vomiting and purging. It is noteworthy, if true (as I have been

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assured it is), that the last time this Sardine fish was common on the coast was in 1864-65 and 1865-66, when upwards of 40,000 deaths from cholera were reported in the district.

4. I regret to inform you that I have been obliged to suspend the Adigari of Maniyur Amshom for negligence in reporting the outbreak. No less than five deaths had occurred before he discovered that the disease had broken out at all. The Dresser stationed at Payolly heard of one case by accident, and on going over the river discovered that eleven or twelve cases had occurred, and it was not till then that the Adigari reported the matter. The disease had taken such firm hold of the place before it was reported that it has been difficult to get rid of it. I regret also to inform you that, after the discovery of the outbreak, the local officers failed to take the requisite steps for putting the place in a proper state of sanitation. I have been obliged to administer a severe rebuke to the Tahsildar who (though by my orders he visited the locality) seemed to have done nothing towards making the people carry out the instructions issued. He had to be reminded of his duty to visit infected houses and to set a good example to the Adigaries.

5. The Dresser at the spot, Ramaswami Naidu, is an Eastern Coast man, unacquainted with the people of the district. The people don't understand him, and he very foolishly, though perhaps naturally enough, supposes that every Moplah with a pisankatti in his waist would kill him if he only had a chance. He has not been so useful as your Dresser was at Quilandy.

6. The disease has nowhere else become local: sporadic cases have occurred in many Amshoms. The three other Dressers are stationed at present one at Mowrat bridge on the coast road, examining travellers and treating cases in that neighbourhood; one at Badagerra; and the third at Kiyur, near Payolly, where the Cattle Fair is being held. In fact, they, as it were, form a circle round Maniyur ready to go to any place where the disease shows a tendency to become local. I am thoroughly persuaded the disease can be stamped out in a place in a short time by vigorous action on the part of the Sub-Magistrates and Adigaries, the mere visiting of the infected houses gives the people courage.

7. When at Payolly, Dr. MacAllum and myself visited Kiyur, and drew up certain rules for the guidance of the Quilandy Sub-Magistrate, whom I have ordered to remain at that place till the Cattle Fair is over. Notices have been posted at all the bridges and ferries in my division and other places, warning people who intend going to the Fair, that cholera prevails in the neighbourhood.

8. The disease has disappeared from Kollam where it first broke out, as reported in my last letter, and this, I think, is in no small degree due to the sanitary measures taken.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

No. 59.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1871, No. 388.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government highly approve
Mr. Logan's judicious measures.

2. They notice with displeasure the apathy of the Kurumbranad Tahsildar.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. Depy
#388
Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Under date the 3rd March 1871.

Read the following
Proc. of the Bd. of Revenue
Brief letter from Collyer
warning Sub-Collectors
t on prevalence of
in in Sub. Br. of Malabar
t.
M.E. 25 Jan 7 1871,
#399.

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to Mr. Logan's letter 1871

to Mr. Logan's letter 1871

1871

No 58489

Chadwick
Division of Marine
Biology

189

No. 58459

*Chalera in
Halder Sub-division
Karnal District*

Govt. of 1871 Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

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Order No. 10.

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G. O. 34 March 1871, No. 588.

MARCH.

No. 58-59.

Chalera in Halder Sub-division.—Mr. Logan's judicious measures for getting rid of the disease approved, and the apathy of the Kurumban and Talukdar in this case noticed with displeasure.