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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	177	Press
		Mis.
Dated	26/1	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1871.*

No. 365. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th January 1871, No. 82:—

Read the following letter from the Magistrate of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vytry, 2nd December 1870, No. 398.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 3rd November a case of cholera occurred in the village of Kollam, close to Quilandy, on the Calicut and Cannanore road.

2. A detachment of Europeans had that day started for Calicut *via* Quilandy, and I accordingly informed the Brigadier, who halted the detachment at Telli-cherry.

3. Further reports showed that the disease had assumed at this place an epidemic form, and I obtained daily reports from my Dresser, whom I had at once despatched to the spot with a supply of medicines. The disease showing a tendency to spread towards the north, additional assistance in the way of Dressers was obtained, and I am now glad to say that its progress appears to have been checked.

4. I forward a report, dated 26th November 1870, No. 1,104, from the Sub-Collector, in whose division the locality is, together with a memorandum drawn up by the Civil Surgeon of Tellicherry, who accompanied him on a tour of inspection of the locality.

5. It will be seen that the origin of the outbreak is doubtful; the fact that pilgrims from the south halt close to the spot, indicating that in this way the disease may have been communicated.

6. It will be observed that the attacks are thought to have been brought on by eating Sardines, and I addressed the Sanitary Commissioner on the subject. I enclose copy of his reply, dated 25th November 1870, No. 1,112. It will be observed that he points out that Travancore and Native Cochin have been for some months visited by epidemic cholera, undoubtedly a continuation of the disease as it affected Madura and Tinnevely, and he is inclined to suspect that this outbreak is a further sweep of the same wave of disease.

7. I am making inquiries as to the mortality of fish along the coast this season, and will communicate with the Sanitary Commissioner on the subject.

8. By some cholera is traced to the manufacture of fish-oil, which is carried on to a great extent, whenever, as in the present season, large takes of Sardines occur.

9. I do not, however, consider that we have established facts before us such as would justify a prohibition of this manufacture in its ordinary form, considering the great loss that would be entailed on a poor section of the community by such a prohibition. Orders have been issued that all care should be taken in disposing of the refuse in such a manner as to cause as little annoyance as possible.

10. In the present case the Sub-Magistrate of Quilandy showed promptitude and judgment, and the village officers acted well, in spite of the panic that prevailed among the villagers.

11. The Collector's Dresser has also done good service, and his presence seems to have been very effectual in re-assuring the people and encouraging them to assist their relatives and combat the disease.

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26th January 1871.*

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Joint Magistrate of Malabar, to the Magistrate of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 26th November 1870, No. 1,104.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1,067, dated 16th instant, regarding the outbreak of cholera in Kurumbranad Taluq, I have the honour to inform you that at my request the Zillah Surgeon accompanied me in a tour through the infected parts on Monday and Tuesday last.

2. I enclose copies of the remarks with which Dr. McAllum has favoured me, also of lists of the houses and of the people who had been attacked by the disease up to the day of our visit to Quilandy, and of a plan showing the position of the houses at Kollam.

3. The disease broke out at Kollam Deshom of the Viyoor Amshom on the 3rd instant. It attacked an old woman, who succumbed to it next day. The lists will show how it spread to neighbouring houses, and to people at a distance related to those living at Kollam. The disease assumed a very virulent and infectious type at Kollam as proved by the number of deaths among those attacked there, and among those who there caught the infection. Out of 23 attacked, 14 died. Elsewhere the disease was not infectious, and seems to have been confined to persons who, it is universally asserted in those parts, brought it on by partaking too freely of "Mathi Meen," (Sardine), the oily fish that is so common on the coast this year, or of "Pullinra nella" (straw paddy). The latter is the refuse paddy collected from the straw when it is threshed a second time. At the first threshing all the good grain is taken out, and the straw is then thrown aside in heaps, and I suppose the pullinra nella (the grain still adhering to the damp straw) undergoes a process of fermentation, which causes it to become unwholesome. The grains are generally quite black, and crumble up into powder without much pressure. This grain is given only to coolies, and the Pulayans who work in the fields, and it is universally considered unwholesome.

4. Dr. McAllum seems to think that the outbreak at Kollam was due to the same cause, viz., the people eating this unwholesome fish and grain; but that, in my opinion, scarcely accounts for the malignant type the disease took. We have procured specimens of water from the wells of the houses at Kollam, and Dr. McAllum is sending them to Madras to be tested. The analysis may disclose something with which we are not yet acquainted. However, it is clear that the disease originated in a house only a few feet off the coast road, and within 200 or 300 yards from a place where pilgrims are in the habit of halting on their way northwards by this route. The survivors in the house will not admit that they ate the "Mathi Meen" or "Pullinra nella," and it was only surmised by the Adigari and others that such food had been eaten. The house and its surroundings are clean and as airy as the generality of houses in the district. I observe that the disease spread at once, the second case occurred on the day the first woman died. Now, if it had been merely a case of indigestion, followed by vomiting and purging as elsewhere, the disease would, I think, have scarcely spread so fast, even supposing that no care whatever was taken to remove the cholera discharges of the first patient. Elsewhere, than at Kollam, the disease does not seem to have spread by infection. On the whole, I am disposed to think, though there is no direct evidence on the point, that the seeds of the disease were brought by pilgrims. Many, as I have already noticed in a previous letter, have lately been passing up north through the district, and it is quite possible that the disease may have been communicated by one of them. It is only a few steps off the road to No. 1 house. It is true no case of cholera has been brought to notice among the pilgrims, but it is well known it can be communicated by a person who is himself quite free from the disease.

5. Only two persons, both in a fair way of recovery, were lying ill when we visited Kollam, and no fresh cases have occurred there since.

6. Cases of what Dr. McAllum calls sporadic cholera have occurred over a wide tract of country, almost from the foot of the ghauts near Kuttiadi (Paleri Amshom) to the sea. Treatment of these cases when taken in time seems to have been successful. Other cases are to-day reported in Maniyur Amshom, north of the Kota river, which runs into the sea south of Badagerra. My orders to the Tahsildars are to move a Dresser at once to any place where the disease tends to

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become local and infectious. The central stations fixed for the four Dressers are at present—1, Kollam; 2, Mowrat bridge on the coast road; 3, Pyolli; and 4, Kottiadi. Nos. 2, 3, and 4, being on the Kota river. If no fresh cases occur at Kollam, the Dresser there is to be moved to Badagerra, near which a case has been reported to-day.

7. Great fear prevailed at Kollam, and this undoubtedly tended to spread the disease. The house No. 5 in which there was most fear, suffered most; the head of the family left, and would not return to it till our arrival. It was the only house we saw where the rules, of which I sent you a copy, had not been properly carried out. The arrival of your Dresser, of whom favourable notice is taken by Dr. McAllum, seemed to have had an excellent effect in the locality. The Quilandy Sub-Magistrate, the Dresser, and the Adigari of Viyoor Amshom all did their duty well; the former by giving timely notice of the outbreak, probably saved the detachment of the 1st Battalion 21st Europeans then on its march down the coast road from an attack. But for the timely warning the detachment would have marched through Kollam within a few yards of the infected houses when the disease was at its worst.

8. The Cherikal Tahsildar has reported three or four deaths on the Cannanore and Coorg road, but his report is very indefinite, and further information has been called for.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Report on the outbreak of Cholera at Kollam in the Viyoor Amshom.

On the 21st instant I accompanied Mr. W. Logan, C.S., Sub-Collector, Malabar, to visit the village of Kollam in the Viyoor Amshom where there had been several cases of cholera. On our way there we visited Mowrat and Pyolli, at each of which places an Hospital Assistant is stationed, as two or three isolated cases had been reported. At our visit no fresh cases had been reported. The place was clean, and attention was paid to the sanitary instructions sent out. The Assistant at the former place, Mowrat, has strict orders to inspect all pilgrims and bandies with families in them, and if necessary, in cases of illness, to detain the people, and have the clothes, etc., washed and fumigated with Sulphuric Acid. The village of Kollam we found clean, and the compounds of the various houses kept in good order. The disease, in my opinion, first broke out in a sporadic form, as the first patient had not been either out of the village, or in contact with any one that had had cholera. The attack is supposed to have originated from the patient having partaken largely of "Mathi meen," as, during the night, she was seized with vomiting, subsequently purging, collapse and death on the following day. From this solitary case the disease seems to have assumed an epidemic character; though, I have no doubt, that all who subsequently were attacked were more or less rendered liable to attack from having partaken of that fish, as also of straw paddy, the latter a fermented rice. From the Nominal Roll of the cases attacked, it will be seen that nearly all, at least the majority of all subsequently attacked, are in some way connected by family ties with No. 1 patient. I think there can be no doubt that in several of the cases, the disease was communicated by infection. The greater number of the infected houses are close to each other, some only being divided by a compound and a road. House No. 6 is in the direct line of the sea-breeze, and not 150 yards from house No. 1. This patient denies having partaken of the "Mathi meen," and also of having had communication with any of the other houses; but I am inclined to doubt the truth of the statement. Case No. 16 had long been in bad health, and had, in my opinion, been suffering from either piles or vomiting of blood. She was attacked with vomiting, and was purged four or five times, and being in a weak state of health, rapidly became collapsed and died. I would scarcely feel inclined to put this down as a death from cholera, as her low state of health was such as would at any time have rapidly succumbed to an acute attack of diarrhoea.

The Hospital Assistant at Kollam has heartily entered into his duty, and I must state that to his energetic carrying out of the orders sent him from the Sub-Collector's office here is mainly due the arrest of the disease at Kollam, as up to this date no fresh cases have been reported. Great

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benefit has been obtained by at once sending Hospital Assistants to the infected districts, as their presence has given confidence to the people, and tended greatly to allay their fears.

TELLICHERRY,
28th November 1870.

(Signed) D. C. McALLUM, M.D.,
Zillah Surgeon, Tellicherry.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Collector and Magistrate of Malabar, dated 25th November 1870, No. 1,112.

In reply to your letter, No. 3,157-E., of 19th current, I have the honour to state that the facts before me, in regard to the late outbreak of cholera at Quilandy, are too scanty to allow me to offer an opinion as to the influence of a Sardine diet in producing the disease. The fresh fish is ordinarily, I believe, quite wholesome; but if it were eaten in a condition of semi-putridity, I have no doubt it would cause considerable derangement of the bowels, and predispose to cholera or a choleraic form of diarrhoea. I have addressed the Civil Surgeon of Tellicherry on the subject of the cholera outbreak, and when I get his reply, I shall be in a position to dispose more fully of your reference.

2. It was the opinion of Dr. Pearse (for some years Civil Surgeon of Calicut), that there was some connection between the mortality of fish along the coast, and the ordinary coast cholera. The cause of the sudden mortality of fish and stench of the sea on the Western Coast is not very clearly made out. It has been supposed to depend on the bulk of fresh water discharged into the sea, but against this theory there is the fact that the death of the fish does not always occur at the time when the rivers are in highest flood. I am not aware if there has been any fish mortality this season, or if so, at what time it showed itself. It would be well to ascertain the facts, and I have asked the question of the Civil Surgeon.

3. But in connection with this sudden development of cholera at Quilandy, it must be noted that the Travancore country, and more lately, places in Native Cochin, have been visited by true epidemic cholera for some months past. The cholera in Travancore was undoubtedly the continuation of the disease as it affected Madura and Tinnevely. It could not cross the mountain barrier between Tinnevely and Travancore, but having passed from north to South to Cape Comorin, it travelled round the rocky barrier, and then progressed up the coast from south to north. I think it not at all unlikely the cholera now in your district is a direct continuation of the cholera which was lately common at Quilon, Alleppy, and Kottayam; but until I get the facts before me, it is not very easy to see their relative importance.

4. Should this cholera be a continuation of the epidemic, it is quite possible that the district will suffer generally; and my reason for giving this opinion is, that the disease has been absent in epidemic form since 1865, and consequently a large number of persons must now be ready to receive and develop the specific poison in their bodies, whenever the epidemic finds its way into the district.

5. If, however, the cholera should be connected with the use of putrid fish, it will probably be a local disease confined mainly to villages on the coast line.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

ABSTRACT.—List of the houses of the people who had been attacked with cholera.

THE Board are glad to learn that the necessary steps for preventing the spread of cholera were taken by the Collector and his subordinates with such promptitude.

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No. 366.

ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1871, No. 177.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department and to the Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The Collector will inform the Quilandy Sub-Magistrate, the Adigari of Viyoor Amishom, and his Dresser, that the Government have noticed with approval the report of their energetic conduct on this occasion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15th day 1871.

Read the following letter *Pro. of the*
Board of Revenue.

Informing Col^l that Board
are glad to learn that necessary
steps for preventing spread of
Cholera which recently broke out
in Kurrumbraod Talook in Ma.
labar Dist^{ts} were taken with
promptitude.

H.E. J. Sanyal 1/1/82

Ordered to be com-
municated to the Inspe-
tor General, Indian Medical
Department, and to the
Sanitary Commissioner.
2. The Collector and
inform the Quilandy
Sub Magistrate. The

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Govt. of 118713

REVENUE.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL, INDIA
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

cc, &c,

Dated January 26th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 26th January 1871, No. 177.

JANUARY.

Nos. 365-666.

Cholera in the Malabar District.—Proce-
dure Board of Revenue, reporting an outbreak
communicated to Inspector-General, Indian Medi-
cal Department, and Sanitary Commissioner. In the
District of the Sub-Magistrate and his District
the occasion noticed with any result.

7. 118713/1/1

Adigari of Vijoor Amehom
and his Officer, that the
Government have noticed
with approval the report
of their energetic conduct
on this occasion.

J. B.

2 To Mr. Inspector General, Indian Medical Dept.

1 — Sanitary Commissioner

14 — By Post with 2 Encls.

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