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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

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Dated 30 (20) May	1873 (1967) .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 47. Read the following letter from Inspector-General E. G. BALFOUR, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 28th April 1873, No. 159:—

I have the honour to submit to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, with reference to the Order of Government, No. 615, of 25th February, that I requested the Acting Civil Surgeon, Kurnool, to report as to the state of the people in the several taluqs of the Collectorate, and I attach the communications which he has made to me on the fever epidemic that prevailed there during the past year. It is probable that the epidemic of fever will this year reappear in some of the taluqs of that district, or, if fever do not break out, that some other ailments, even of a more severe form, may occur, and in this belief I have addressed to the Collector of Kurnool a letter of which the following is a copy. I will be prepared to detail any number of additional Medical Officers that may be needed of the Warrant or Hospital Assistant grades, and, in the event of any such being detached, I have the honour to recommend that while so employed their batta allowance be at the rates of Rupees 30 per mensem for a Warrant Medical Officer and Rs. 10 for Hospital Assistant exclusive of mileage, and that their pay and allowances, &c., be borne by the Civil Department.

From P. ANDERSON, Esq., Acting Civil Surgeon, Kurnool, to G. BIDIE, Esq., Secretary to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, dated Kurnool, 27th March 1873, No. 39.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 615, dated 25th February, with your docket, No. 1545, of the 7th instant, I beg to submit the following report regarding the prevalence of fever in the Kurnool District.

2. In the month of October last, on the diminution of the rainfall (south-west monsoons) and the change in the direction of the then prevailing winds from the west to the east and north-east, fever of an intermittent form began to prevail, as indicated by the number of applicants for treatment at the Civil Dispensary in that month having increased, reaching its maximum in December, when no less than 448 sought for relief. Although there has been a decrease since January yet the disease still continues to prevail and to recur amongst those who were first attacked with it, and who have not as yet been able to shake it off even by large doses of quinine.

3. The health reports of the district go to show that fever has never been absent; but it will be observed from Statement No. 1. (appended) of deaths furnished by the Head Assistant Collector in charge that from the month of July it increased in virulence in nearly all the taluqs of the district. Patticondah, Nandikotakur, Ramalcotta, Nundial, and Cumbum seem to have suffered most severely.

4. The symptoms which characterize an attack are those common to intermittents—a disagreeable feeling of cold or chilliness ushering the attack, headache, irritability of stomach, bilious vomiting, scanty and high-coloured urine, general pains followed by the hot and sweating stages. The duration of each paroxysm ranges from six to twenty-four and thirty-six hours, and in a few cases extends to forty-eight hours, leaving the patient quite prostrated with little or no inclination for food or any desire to attend to the duties of life.

5. If happily in the first attack the above state of things became amenable to treatment—which invariably proved the exception—the individuals returned to health after a short period of convalescence and began to feel as well as possible; but, on the contrary, in the majority of cases the frequent and repeated occurrence of the attacks entirely undermined previously good constitutions, with great loss of flesh and strength, rendered them liable to fits of giddiness, headache, and derangement of either the liver or spleen, thereby producing a tardy and lengthened period of convalescence.

6. When the disease advanced notwithstanding all the care and treatment it was followed by an anæmic condition of the system with dropsical swellings, which either terminated in diarrhœa or in a low form of fever accompanied by pectoral symptoms.

7. In all such cases, where the disease had not assumed the quotidian, tertian, or the quartan form, none of those who had suffered from even one attack could confidently assure themselves on leaving their beds of a morning that they would pass the rest of the day without suffering from an attack of fever. Such, then, was the state of mind that not a few were brought to.

8. In some cases where the attacks in the onset were frequent and unexpected, in the later ones as the system became inured to the disease, the paroxysms occurred weekly, fortnightly, or every four weeks or lunar month. The above are the chief features of the fever which has prevailed in Kurnool, and I have no doubt but that it assumed the same character in the district.

9. The fever has not been confined to any particular section of the community, for while prevalent greatly among the native population it has not spared the European residents of the place, who with a very few exceptions have suffered severely from it. Some of them have been seriously ill and still continue to suffer from the fever periodically, and I have urged on them the necessity there is to leave the station for a while.

10. Of the European and Eurasian residents who suffered severely are Captain Taylor, Mrs. Cardozo and her eldest girl, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot, the Telegraph Master, Mr. Wilson, and the whole of his large family. Mrs. Cardozo and children have already left the station for a change.

11. The following table exhibits the number of in and out-patients treated at the Civil Dispensary from the 1st of October 1872 :—

Months	Europeans.				Natives.			
	In-patients.		Out-patients.		In-patients.		Out-	
	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.	A.	D.
October	...	...	17	...	1	...	169	...
November	...	...	28	...	1	...	283	...
December	...	...	38	...	3	...	407	...
January, 1873	...	...	21	...	2	...	282	...
February, ,, ...	...	...	19	...	2	...	202	...
March 20, ,, ...	...	...	13	...	2	...	157	...
Total ...	...	...	136	...	11	...	1,500	...

12. From the above it will be observed that no fatal cases occurred; it is, however, to be presumed that some of the out-patients must have died from the fever though the deaths were not known to me, and it is but right to add that I did hear of cases proving fatal though they did not come under my treatment or notice.

13. The plan of treatment was as follows: Whenever the patients presented themselves in one of the early attacks of the disease an emetic and purgative were administered, after which salines followed by quinine; when the patients were seen in the cold stage, warm tea or hot water was given, and in the hot stage either of the following was used :—

℞. Liq. Ammon. Acet. ʒii.
Tincture of Aconite ♏. ij. to iv. to each dose.
Aquæ ad. ʒiv. M. ft. one ounce every three or four hours.

℞. Liq. Ammon. Acet. ʒii.
Magn. Sulphatis ʒss.
Vin. Antimon. Tart. ʒi.
Aq. ad. ʒvi. M. ft. ʒiss. every three or four hours.

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On the cessation of fever after profuse perspiration a full dose of either eight or ten grains of quinine was at once given and repeated in six or eight hours. If the fever assumed any particular type then the use of the quinine was more regulated to stave off an expected paroxysm. The quinine was continued for two or three such periods of expected fever, when smaller doses were used for three or four more days followed by a Cheritta tonic with diluted nitro-muriatic acid.

When *headache* was persistent a mustard foot-bath, or the application of vinegar and water to the head, soon relieved this symptom. *Irritability of stomach and vomiting*, which often proved troublesome, were combated by the diluted hydrocyanic acid, given with either soda-water or effervescing draughts; at times the application of a sinapism to the pit of the stomach was had recourse to.

Hepatic derangement needed but the use of podophyllin in one-third or half-grain doses with five to seven grains of Rhubarb Powder and a grain or two of the Extract of (Hyoscyani) Henbane to prevent the podophyllin griping. These pills had sometimes to be repeated for some days before the liver regained its natural function, or the extract of dandelion with the diluted nitro-muriatic acid and infusion of quassia with grain doses of quinine appeared sufficient to regulate the action of this organ.

Spleen Affections.—The mere congestion of this organ was invariably relieved by hot turpentine stupes, or the simple hot fomentation; but when the organ was enlarged and painful I found the application of the ointment of the red iodide of mercury of signal benefit with the internal use of the iodide of potassium with quinine, and due attention to the bowels. The ointment invariably produced a blistered surface, which was dressed in the ordinary way. When the patients were in an *anæmic* condition the preparations of iron, especially the citrate of iron and quinine, the citrate of iron and ammonia, the sulphate of iron and the tincture of the perchloride were administered with the infusion of quassia, which in many cases proved highly beneficial.

The *dropsical swellings* were treated by diuretics, viz., the acetate and bitartrate of potash was given with nitric æther and the tincture of digitalis. Gin in ʒss. doses every four or six hours.

The *diarrhœa or bowel affection* was attended to by astringents, and the *chest affections* by the application of large bean poultices to the chest renewed every second, third, or fourth hour. Demulcents with expectorants, with nourishment and due stimulation, and, lastly, change of climate, in not a few instances was sought for eagerly and attended with much benefit.

14. As to the cause of this epidemic, from all I can gather I am of opinion it owes its origin both to the comparatively heavy monsoons experienced as well as to the protracted nature of the rains, which extended even into December, and the consequent heat after the first showers of rain in June acting on decayed and moistened vegetation throughout the district must have caused a great amount of fermentation which impregnated the atmosphere with the malarious poison. Another source of mischief might have originated in the drinking water of the people in the town, which is chiefly supplied by the Irrigation and Canal Company's channels. I have no doubt but that the water keeps good and pure before it reaches the town, where, however, I fear it becomes mixed up in its onward course with impurities arising from decomposing vegetable and animal matter. Besides this the people believe that the water in its course through the channels in the town percolates, rendering all the adjacent ground damp and moist, from which there is always a damp effluvia. Then, again, the natives say that the conversion of dry into wet land in the vicinity of the town is another fruitful source of evil, which they assert will make the country continue feverish for the next two or three years. I have observed that the inmates of those houses situated in the midst of paddy-fields have suffered most severely from the fever. It is very natural to expect this where the ground has been freshly turned up in most places, spread over with manure from all sources, while the water is seen standing oft times in beds instead of being drained away. I have reason to believe also that portion of this water, which is drained into channels after having stood in beds for some time, is used largely by the population for drinking and cooking purposes.

15. In assigning the above causes I would wish it to be understood that they are in a great degree conjectural, for the little experience I have had would not justify me in giving a positive and decided opinion. My knowledge of the district is entirely confined to Kurnool, and I have had no opportunities of travelling into the taluqs. There may be something in the situation in the town of Kurnool to account for this fever as it lies in a hollow and is almost surrounded by water. I have been informed that fever of a similar nature prevailed in the town in 1866-67 soon after the introduction of the irrigation channels into the town.

16. It is not to be inferred from the fact of Mr. Fraser's having brought to the notice of Government the state of affairs in his department that the members of the Department of Public Works alone in this district have suffered from fever, though perhaps they have, in a marked measure, fared worse than others. The following information, which I thought it advisable to obtain from the several heads of departments, will show clearly the severity with which the fever prevailed and to what extent it rendered each establishment more or less inefficient.

Judicial Department.—The following table clearly describes the nature and ill-effects of the fever amongst the members of this department. The statement speaks for itself, needing no further comment :—

List of Public Servants employed in the Nundial District Court and the Courts subordinate thereto who obtained leave, &c., on account of ill-health from fever from 1st October 1872.

Name.	Rank.	Period of leave or date of death.	Remarks.
	District Court.		
P. Venkatareddi ...	Third Goomastah ...	Twelve months' leave.	Three writers, one [illegible] ers, and peons of the District Court also suffered from fever for a few days. These, though they attended the Court, were not quite able to look after their respective duties. The total number of servants in all Courts is sixty-four exclusive of pleaders and batta peons.
Narsoj Row ...	[illegible] ...	[illegible]	
Ramachandryah ...	Moochee	Five ,, ,,	
Lala Chendu Lal ...	Criminal Record-keeper.	Eight days.	
C. Subbaya Sastri ...	Head Writer	Two ,,	
Abdul Karun Khan ...	Criminal Javabnevis ...	Eight ,,	
D. Sashagiri Row ...	Government Pleader ...	Five months.	
Venkataramanaya ...	Pleader	Died 15th Feb. 1873.	
Hemaj	Deloyet	Five days.	
Venkata	Do.	Eight ,,	
Rajamud	Do.	Three ,,	
	Kurnool Munsif's Court.		
O. Lakshmana Row ...	Fifth Goomastah ...	One month.	
Bavani Doss Row ...	Ninth do.	Fifteen days.	
	Nundial Munsif's Court.		
B. Koneri Row	Head Goomastah ...	Twenty-four days.	
N. Pullayah	Ninth Do. ...	Three months.	
	Cumbum Munsif's Court.		
K. S. Narasaya Sastri .	District Munsif	Died on 6th Feb. 1873.	
K. Venkata Subbaya...	Seventh Goomastah ...	Four months.	

I may remark that I was called to see the pleader mentioned in the above who died on the 15th February, when I found him in an advanced stage of phthisis and suffering from colliquative diarrhœa which had resulted from fever.

Jail Department.—I am happy to be able to record that while the fever was prevailing in its severity in the town the inmates of the jail only suffered from it in a comparatively trifling manner, eighteen admissions being recorded from the 1st of October, and all recovered without any ill-effects. The Deputy Jailer, a Mahomedan, suffered from it severely, but is now quite well. I might also here mention that the jailer and his family, the writer, and the warders have not had any fever.

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Revenue Survey Party.—The table given below furnishes a total number of 208 admissions from fever alone during the past six months made up to the 18th of March, or 34⅓rd of sick from a strength of 393, with a monthly percentage of 8·65 sick to strength and a percentage of 1·92 deaths to those treated.

This department continues still to suffer from fever, and of the four deaths recorded two fell under my observation, and of these one died from diarrhœa and anemia and the other from general dropsy ending fatally in pneumonia with low fever. The other two deaths took place in the district :—

Statement showing the Number of Persons that fell Sick in No. 2 Revenue Survey Party during the last six months.

Average Strength.	Number of Men, 393. Fever.	Other diseases.
Admitted on sick list since 1st October 1872	112	97
Reported sick in camp but did not enter sick list	96	63
Total ...	208	160
	191	144
Recovered	4	1
Died	9	12
Still on sick list	4	3
On leave to recover their health		
Total ...	208	160

Educational Department.—From information afforded by the Head Master of the Zillah School I learn that of the eight masters employed in the school four including himself have had frequent and severe attacks of fever during the last six months and are not quite free from it yet ; [illegible] the numerical strength of the school has ranged from 120 to 130, and of this number on an average ten to twelve have been absent every day from fever alone. It would appear that more than half the school has suffered from fever and that most of the boys have a bloodless, sickly, emaciated appearance.

Postal Department.—The Postmaster informed me that although the writers of his establishment did more or less suffer from fever yet they were not so prostrated as to be rendered unequal to the performance of their duties. He himself has stood proof against an attack.

Revenue Department.—The following statement was furnished by the Hospital Assistant attached to the Collectorate :—

Statement showing Number of Fever Cases treated in Collector's Establishment, Kurnool, from 1st October 1872 to 18th March 1873.

Rank.	Number taken ill from fever.	Number cured.	Number sent on sick leave.	Died.	Remaining.
Strength, No. 102.					
1. Translator	1	1	...	...	...
2. Cash-keeper	1	1	...	...	...
3. Dresser	1	1	...	...	...
4. Foremen	2	2	...	...	...
5. Clerks	12	11	1	...	...
6. Accountants	16	12	...	...	4
7. Compositors	4	3	...	...	1
8. Goomastahs	2	2	...	...	...
9. Moochee	1	1	...	...	..
10. Gollas	2	2	...	...	...
11. Attenders	3	3	...	...	...
12. Deloyets	9	9	...	...	...
Total ...	54	48	1	...	5

Police Department.—Of this department there have been a great many suffering from fever, no less than 210 admissions into hospital from October last to the present date, and in several of whom the fever has been recurrent.

The report furnished by the Superintendent of Police gives the following information :—

Average strength of the Police Force during last three months	889
Number of Policemen who have resigned their appointments or obtained leave since 1st December 1872	36
Number who died in the district from 1st December 1872	3

He further mentions, "I would also add that fever has been very prevalent at almost every station, and during the last five months at times two-thirds of the force have been laid up and were treated with medicines supplied for use at stations."

The Assistant Engineer's Establishment.—Captain Taylor's letter, which I have appended to my report, will speak volumes as to the severity of the fever which has prevailed in Kurnool. It will be seen from the report he has so kindly furnished me that his small party, consisting of ten souls, suffered severely with a very high rate of mortality; in fact, a more disastrous state of things could not be revealed. Himself prostrated by repeated attacks of fever, his maistries dying or dead, his overseers rendered inefficient, his private servants all laid up—the serious inconvenience and discomfort to which he must have been put can better be imagined than described. With regard to his own health, he is one of the European residents that has suffered most severely from the fever, and at one time was so ill that I had resolved upon sending him away for a change of air; yet so zealous was this officer in the discharge of his duties that notwithstanding all my remonstrances illness seldom prevented him from attending to work, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could persuade him to seek the relaxation he so greatly needed.

I may, *en passant*, call attention to Captain Taylor's suggestion that native overseers should be employed in this district instead of Europeans, and, although it may be out of my province to touch on such a matter, I may perhaps venture to express my entire concurrence in his opinion. Captain Taylor has been so long in the district and has had so much experience of it that it seems to me that any suggestions coming from him should carry great weight, and it strikes me too very forcibly that in such a malarious district like this a European must have many wants and require many comforts which a small salary is wholly inadequate to provide him with.

17. To complete this report I should very much have liked to have obtained from Mr. Fraser, the District Engineer, detailed information regarding the prevalence of fever among the members of the Department of Public Works in the Cumbum and Nundial Ranges of his department; but unfortunately Mr. Fraser is not in the town at present, and I regret that the information was applied for too late to be incorporated with this report, which I am anxious should be forwarded with as little delay as possible. Mr. Fraser, however, so clearly and prominently brought the matter before the notice of Government in his letter to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, that perhaps scarcely any further information is needed to show the degree to which the fever has affected his department. This officer's health has also suffered from attacks of fever, resulting, in a great measure, from taxing his strength owing to his office establishment being rendered inefficient. To my knowledge he has had to sit up and write till a late hour of the night. It will be observed also that in my report I have confined myself almost entirely to the town of Kurnool, and with regard to its population I have dwelt almost exclusively on those in the service of Government. My observation of necessity has not extended much further than those, but by the appended tables (Nos. I. and II.) it can be clearly seen how severely and to what an extent the fever must have prevailed among the masses of the people in the town of Kurnool as well as in the taluqs, where no less than 13,511 deaths have been recorded in 1872 and in January and February of 1873. Where deaths have occurred I cannot help but think that in the majority of instances they must have resulted from the unwise treatment of native Charlatans, for though the fever might ruin the constitution by repeated attacks yet there is nothing in it of a malignant character to end fatally. Although the people are quite alive to the benefits of quinine, yet so long as

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ignorance and superstition prevail among them, so long will they adhere to their old and foolish customs and place implicit confidence in men who are empirics at the best, so long will they refuse to see the efficacy of a continued and persevering course of English medicines. Regarding the measures adopted, as soon as the authorities here became aware of the prevalence of fever in the taluqs large supplies of quinine and other medicines with directions for use were placed at the disposal of the Police and village officers for distribution to the sufferers.

18. In drawing this report to a close I cannot refrain from making a few observations on the healthiness of Kurnool, which, I trust, will not be deemed irrelevant. Contradictory reports, I am aware, have from time to time appeared in the papers as well as elsewhere with regard to Kurnool, some in praise and others in condemnation of it, and I have only recently seen it stated that on the whole Kurnool is a healthy place. A reference to statistics, it is said, will clearly prove that Kurnool is far from being the place that it is generally supposed to be, and that instead of being unhealthy it is, in fact, the contrary. One might reply that statistics are seldom trustworthy though often the only guides, and that with even the greatest care they are extremely liable to errors which give rise to hasty and false conclusions. But granting the correctness of these statistics, the broad fact still remains that Kurnool has become a by-word among men and is associated with the very idea of unhealthiness. Nothing better evinces the dread of, and aversion to, the place entertained so generally than the name by which Kurnool is sometimes known, "the Penal Settlement." If, then, we go by the proverb that there can be no smoke without fire, the conclusion inevitably follows that there must be some good reason for the almost universal repugnance to the place. What the causes of this dislike I do not pretend to know, but I simply state it as a fact to be borne in mind in any discussion regarding the healthiness of Kurnool. There are some old residents of Kurnool who stoutly maintain that "it is a healthy place." They admit that there have been severe outbreaks of cholera and fever, but, it would appear, with a view, they claim immunity from sickness seldom enjoyed by other places.* Whether this is to be attributed, however, to a partiality for the place arising from long residence in it, a feeling so natural to the heart, or whether it is an honest conviction on their part, it would be hard to say. Possibly they may be right in their view, and Kurnool may not deserve the bad name it has sometimes earned. My own experience has been so short that it would be extremely rash for me to give an opinion either one way or the other. Judging by what I have actually seen during the eight months I have been in Kurnool I should certainly be disposed to pass an unfavourable judgment, and would, I think, be perfectly justified in doing so. Soon after my arrival in Kurnool diarrhœa and dysentery prevailed to a fearful extent; these gave place to an outbreak of cholera, which though not very severe was still sufficient to cause uneasiness and alarm. Scarcely had cholera ceased when the present epidemic made its appearance and has continued to prevail so severely since then. Were these diseases in any way connected with one another, did they act as cause and effect, or are they to be considered as mere sequence? These are questions which naturally suggest themselves to the mind.

19. It seems to be very probable that the same influence at work in causing diarrhœa and dysentery to prevail may have given rise also to the subsequent epidemics of cholera and fever. To give some idea of how unhealthy Kurnool has been I may state that I have frequently been out from 6 in the morning to 1 in the day visiting patients, and have left home again at 4 in the evening to return perhaps at 8, while the Hospital Assistants have had their hands full of work, more than they could well attend to. I do not wish to draw an exaggerated picture of things or make out Kurnool to be worse than it really is. Probably there are places in the Presidency as bad, or perhaps even worse than Kurnool. But, judging by the sickness that has prevailed during the past eight months and by the fact that fever is always present in the district, I am inclined to pronounce an unfavourable opinion, and, in fact, do not see how any other conclusion can be drawn than that Kurnool is, to say the least, far from being healthy.

* This is correct. Kurnool town has periods of great healthiness and others of fevers, diarrhœa, dysentery, and cholera.

(Signed) E. G. BALFOUR,
Inspector-General.

I.

MONTHLY STATEMENT of Deaths from Fever for 1872 in Kurnool District.

Month and Year.	Ramal-cottah.	Patti-condah.	Nandi-kotkur.	Nandial.	Koil-kuntla.	Sir-well.	Cumbum.	Marka-pur.
January 1872 ...	96	99	71	62	51	53	96	65
February ,, ...	84	115	73	87	75	68	73	75
March ,, ...	105	148	106	112	82	81	96	86
April ,, ...	92	143	99	141	70	80	116	58
May ,, ...	108	172	75	90	76	62	100	62
June ,, ...	117	174	97	95	95	52	59	70
July ,, ...	143	239	118	133	126	65	80	58
August ,, ...	159	265	154	129	124	91	111	83
September ,, ...	150	214	163	130	113	81	119	75
October ,, ...	161	223	124	106	92	63	91	73
November ,, ...	133	193	183	125	110	96	142	125
December ,, ...	134	146	211	147	110	75	229	214
January 1873 ...	209	167	253	147	105	90	148	109
February ,, ...	109	119	126	103	89	51	50	115
Total ...	1,800	2,411	1,853	1,607	1,318	1,009	1,510	1,268

KURNOOL,
24th March 1873.

(Signed) E. TURNER,
Actg. Head Asst. Collector in charge.

II.

MONTHLY Comparative Statement of Deaths from Fever in Kurnool and Cumbum Municipalities.

Months.	KURNOOL.		CUMBUM.	
	1871.	1872.	1871.	1872.
January ...	15	51	3	6
February ...	19	21	10	11
March ...	12	26	10	11
April ...	18	25	20	13
May ...	13	15	10	14
June ...	15	23	22	6
July ...	8	30	18	8
August ...	17	41	12	8
September ...	14	22	10	6
October ...	18	43	11	13
November ...	24	64	7	9
December ...	38	81	6	15
	1873.		1873.	
January ...	...	94	...	16
February ...	...	56	...	7
March ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	211	592	139	143

KURNOOL,
24th March 1873.

(Signed) E. TURNER,
Actg. Head Asst. Collector in charge.

From Captain R. T. TAYLOR, Asst. Engineer, in charge of Kurnool Range, to P. ANDERSON, Esq., Acting Civil Surgeon, Kurnool, dated Kurnool, 18th March 1873, No. 1375.

In accordance with your request I have the honour to state that in the months of August and September 1872 I and my camp followers were first attacked with fever, and the following are the casualties resulting from my visit to Bairluty :—

One Maistry. | One Horsekeeper.
One Lascar.

Overseer Streeramulu Naidoo, my private servants, and I have suffered very severely from enlarged spleen, fever, and dysentery. I have changed horsekeepers and grass-cutters three times since August ; the servants I brought up from Madras have all left me.

Of the European Overseers, Mr. Butler has been repeatedly prostrated by fever since November last, and Mr. Carrol has just joined me, having been transferred from Cumbum, where he was under medical treatment. In my opinion, both these Overseers should be removed and replaced by natives as this range is in no way suited for Europeans, there being no accommodation for them.

Two maistries, one in Ramalcotta and the other in Patticondah Taluqs have also died of fever.

My office establishment has also suffered severely. The Draughtsman, Mr. McGrath, has already resigned, the Head Accountant is begging of me to get him transferred, and the Second Accountant, A. Sashachella Moodelly, lost five relatives in Kurnool during the short time he was here.

I have not a single maistry under me who has been exempt from sickness, and some of the poor fellows are walking skeletons.

Of myself I shall say nothing. You are quite able to form an opinion as I have been under

From Inspector-General E. G. BALFOUR, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, dated Fort St. George, 28th April 1873, No. 2038.

I have the honour to mention that immediately on receiving intimation of the prevalence of fever in some of the taluqs of your district I requested the Acting Civil Surgeon of Kurnool to report as to the condition of the people.

2. From his report it is evident that except in the Markapur Taluq an epidemic fever had prevailed in all the others, though with greatest severity in Patticondah, Ramalcotta, and Nandikotkur. The fever does not seem to have been of a severe form. The Acting Civil Surgeon thinks that in the majority of instances where deaths occurred "they must have resulted from the unwise treatment of native Charlatans, for though the fever might ruin the constitutions by repeated attacks yet there is nothing in it of a malignant character to end fatally."

3. After so much fever, however, the probability is that even if it do not reappear diarrhœa and dysentery will follow, and as these diseases are largely fatal it is extremely desirable that the people in the district be cared for as far as can be done by means of educated Medical Officers and medicines. I have, therefore, the honour to suggest that all the Hospital Assistants attached to the Revenue Officers of your Collectorate, while you are not on tour, be now sent out into each of the taluqs where sickness of any kind is prevalent, and if other Medical Officers be needed in addition to those at your own disposal I will arrange for detailing them for duty.

4. If this meet your approval the Acting Civil Surgeon will add to their present supplies from his hospital stores, and I will send direct from the depôt all additionally needed drugs.

5. I beg the favour of an early intimation of your wishes on this suggestion as it is desirable to have all arrangements made before the sickly period of the rains occur. I observe that in the

past fourteen months it was chiefly after the south-west monsoon broke that the deaths in the taluqs rose above the average of the period :—

Ramalcotta Monthly Average Deaths.	Patticondah Monthly Average.	Nandikot-kur Monthly Average.	Nundial Monthly Average.	Koilkuntla Monthly Average.	Sirwell Monthly Average.	Cumbum Monthly Average.	Markapur Monthly Average.
128.	172.	133.	114.	94.	72.	108.	90.
...	...	...	...	...	Mar., 81.	...	...
...	...	...	Apr., 141.	...	Apr., 80.	Apr., 116.	...
...	May, 172.	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	June, 174.	...	...	June, 95.	...	...	...
July, 143.	July, 239.	...	...	July, 126.	...	...	..
Aug., 159.	Aug., 265.	Aug., 154.	July, 133.	Aug., 124.	Aug., 91.	Aug., 111.	...
Sept., 150.	Sept., 214.	Sept., 163.	Aug., 129.	Sept., 113.	Sept., 81.	Sept., 119.	...
Oct., 161.	Oct., 223.	...	Sept., 130.	...	...	...	...
Nov., 133.	Nov., 193.	Nov., 183.	...	Nov., 110.	Nov., 96.	Nov., 142.	...
Dec., 134.	...	Dec., 211.	Nov., 125.	Dec., 110.	Dec., 75.	Dec., 229.	...
Jan., 209.	...	Jan., 253.	Dec., 147.	Jan., 105.	Jan., 90.	Jan., 148.	Jan., 109.
...	...	...	Jan., 147.	...	...	...	Feb., 115.
			...				

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1873, No. 494.

Ordered to be communicated to the Public Works Department and to the Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The Government desire to be informed whether any arrangements for drainage have accompanied the extended irrigation of the Kurnool District from the Company's canal.

3. The proceedings and suggestions of the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, are approved.

4. The Acting Collector will not hesitate to apply for additional medical aid should the necessity manifest itself, and his attention should be directed to the supply of drinking water, which appears to be in some cases polluted.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secretary,
for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, Acting Collector of Kurnool.
,, Sanitary Commissioner.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Revd 1873 sheet
No. 1535.

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 14th.
Read May 30 1873 and.

G. O., 14th May 1873, No. 494.

MAY.
Nos. 47-48.

Communicating report from the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, on the prevalence of fever in the Kurnool District.

No 203.

30 May 73.