M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 28

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1079 Press

B.P. No. ~~Mis.~~

Dated 17th August 1874 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 136. From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, dated Coonoor, 29th June 1874, No. 115.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to G. O., No. 745, of 18th June 1874, to forward herewith a copy of letter I have addressed to the Collector of Tinnevelly on the subject of the disease prevailing in that district and the borders of the Madura District. It will be seen that I have suggested that the subject should be further investigated by the Civil Surgeon, whose former report contains no specific information about the nature of the disease.

2. I have informed the Collector also in a previous communication that I am prepared to visit the district and personally inquire into the subject if he thinks it advisable. At that time the Collector did not consider my presence to be necessary, as the disease was passing away. I am awaiting the further inquiries of the Civil Surgeon of Tinnevelly.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Coonoor, 8th June 1874, No. 65.

WITH reference to former correspondence, I have the honor to enclose, for your information, copy of a letter from the Collector of Madura, from which it would appear that the disease is still prevalent in a part of the district near Ramnad Zemindari.

2. As the report of the Civil Surgeon conveys no information as to the real nature of the affection described by the natives as "the water-drinking disease," owing to his want of opportunity of observing typical cases of the affection, I have to suggest that Dr. Rickard should be instructed to visit and reside temporarily in a locality where the disease may be prevailing, so as to study and note its peculiarities.

3. Until this is done, the treatment of the disease must necessarily be empirical and the methods of prevention also.

No. 137. From Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 11th August 1874, No. 363.

In the Orders and Proceedings as per margin has been noticed the outbreak of a new epidemic disease in the south of the Peninsula in Madura and Tinnevelly, which was attended with great thirst, and in April last, on hearing of the report, Surgeon Rickard, Zillah Surgeon of Tinnevelly, was ordered to visit the localities where the disease was said to prevail and to report the result of his investigations.

1874, 4th May, No. 1,034, Pros., Rev. Board.
„ 15th „ „ 1,132, „ „
„ 8th June, „ 1,389, „ „
„ 18th „ „ 745, Govt. Order.

2. I beg to place on the margin the dates of the reports which that officer has since sent to me, all of which I subjoin (to be returned). On his first visit to the sickly villages, he merely found people who were said to have been ill, but were recovering. He did not meet with any case that could be called typical of the ailment,

1874, 1st May, No. 84.
„ 8th June, „ 108.
„ 19th June, „ 119.
„ 1st Aug. „ 153.

From Surgeon F. M. RICKARD, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevelly, to Deputy-Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, dated Palamcottah, 2nd May 1874, No. 84.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copy of a letter to the Collector of the Tinnevelly District upon the subject of the epidemic appearance of a so-called disease Tunnir-khodee-novou, for the information of the Surgeon-General.

From Surgeon F. M. RICKARD, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevelly, to the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Palamcottah, 30th April 1874, No. 81.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your orders, I left Palamcottah on the evening of the 24th instant, and returned again on the 28th April 1874. During this period I visited the following villages:—Cassumputty, Pilliarunthum, Chittavanaikenputty, Vellaticolum, Ottapadaram; and made all inquiry into the matter, and, from personal observation, obtained as much information as possible concerning this queer disease Tunnir-khodee-novou.

2. At Pilliarunthum, where the disease was but a few weeks back very rife and destructive, I could find no new case, and saw only a few people who were supposed to be convalescing from this disease. At Chittavanaikenputty I saw and treated three cases,—one a man aged about fifty-five years, and the other two (both women) of above forty years. These three cases, as I learnt, had been much worse, but that they were now improving; the man was exceedingly weak and emaciated, but, as I discovered other causes for his condition, I could not attribute it to the disease (Tunnir-chodee-novou); the two women were [illegible] of an acute character. The [illegible] (dysentery) seems to be the [illegible] and in many of the fatal cases has been the direct cause of death.

3. At Vellaticolum, I saw three more cases of the so-called disease, them (both women of past middle age) were suffering from simple diarrhœa, women of eighty years) was shown to me as a case in which the symptoms disease were well marked, but I could not do the old woman the injustice suffered from anything else but old age and infirmity.

4. It will be thus seen that I had no opportunity of observing a typical case, arrive at my conclusions from general information obtained and from such cases had been attacked and were now convalescent.

5. The so-called disease Tunnir-khodee-novou, signifying "water-drinking disease," not, in my opinion, be classed as a disease, it being only a symptom of other and more serious maladies. The patient is at first attacked with fever, remittent in character, and sickness of such intensity that water even is not retained on the stomach. This ceases soon abates, and thirst takes its place, and the patient, pleased at being able to retain water on his stomach, drinks large quantities to the utter exclusion of anything in the shape of food. This, of course, has its consequence in the shape of dysentery, which soon sets in, and, if not at once treated, very quickly carries off the patient. It is at once remarkable, as well as true, that no Brahmin or other high caste-people have suffered in any way from this disease. The generality of the persons attacked, or I may say the whole of the sufferers, belong to the lower classes who earn their living by cotton-picking, which necessitates their exposure from early morn till sunset, during which time they take no food, and eat only on their return from work, or once in twenty-four hours. I may here remark on the range of the thermometer. I took observations three times in the day, and note below the result:—

8 A.M.	.....	Thermometer 86
12 A.M.	.....	do. 98
4 P.M.	.....	do 91·4

6. The application of a clinical thermometer to the persons attacked shown no higher range than "blood heat," though, it must be remembered as I before related, I saw no case at its worst.

7. In the treatment of these peculiar symptoms, as in the generality of sickness, the friends of the sufferers adopt their usual method, namely, starvation, which, I need scarcely say, does not assist in the cure. I left 1st-class Hospital Assistant P. Vulleah Naidu at Vellaticolum with medicines, and requested him to give me further information, and report to me any peculiarity he might notice in the disease.

8. I must here remark that the sanitation of the villages visited was very good and the water-supply sufficient and pure.

9. In conclusion, I cannot attribute this outbreak to any malarial poison, and am of opinion that the long daily exposure to the sun, and being so long without food, and that food being for the most part new Cumboo, are the causes of this peculiar form of sickness.

10. The natives themselves, of course, attribute the whole of this disease to a certain *goddess* (Mauree) from the north, and say that medicine will not do as much good as Ponguls.

No. 1,881.

SUBMITTED for information.

(Signed) J. E. DICKINSON, Surgeon-Major,
For Deputy-Surgeon-General,
In. Mdl. Dept., Southern District.

9th May 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

1/3

From Surgeon F. M. RICKARD, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevelly, to Deputy-Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, dated Palamcottah, 2nd May 1874, No. 84.

WITH reference to my letter [illegible] May, on the subject of the disease Tunnir-khodee-novou, I have the honor to report that I have carefully visited the villages mentioned by Surgeon Rickard, should any further cases of the disease be reported, and have carefully and successfully to examine and report on them, carrying out the inquiry in a scientific manner. I mentioned that I was not satisfied that the true cause of the information of Surgeon Rickard had been ascertained, and I indicated the necessity of ascertaining whether the disease had been confined to the district since my visit, and whether it was due to climatic influences or to some unwholesome article of grain or vegetable.

2. I have also suggested that some of the millets are occasionally liable to produce unpleasant symptoms in persons who had only previously used rice, and who had only various symptoms. I further desired that if a prolonged residence in the two villages proceeded to enable Surgeon Rickard to examine carefully into the ailment, had disappeared.

3. Should it be found necessary, however, Surgeon Rickard reported that the water-drinking disease had would be made to detail a medical officer to relieve him temporarily. On the matter being referred, however, Surgeon Rickard reported that the water-drinking disease had of the disease was prevalent in the Kytar Division of the Tinnevelly District, and that he would hold himself in readiness to proceed to the place, should there be any need for so doing. On the 1st instant, again he reports that he had visited the Kytar Division of the Tinnevelly District, but found that the disease had entirely disappeared; and he encloses a list of about twenty villages, in which there was no disease of the kind, although reported as having prevailed in the Kytar Division, it had entirely disappeared. Surgeon Rickard examined into the sanitary condition of the villages, and sent to the Chemical Examiner samples of the Cumboo (*Penicillaria spicata*), the staple food of the people, to be reported on.

4. I enclose these reports for information, and merely observe that until the disease be seen and reported on by a medical man, a report would be premature; the sick people whom Surgeon Rickard saw [illegible] being ill with various known ailments, to any of which such a name as "water-drinking disease" would be wholly inappropriate.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Surgeon F. M. RICKARD, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevelly, to the Deputy-Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, Trichinopoly, dated Palamcottah, 8th June 1874, No. 108.

WITH reference to your docket memorandum, No. 2,206, I have the honor to report, for the information of Surgeon-General, that no further case of Tunnir-khodee-novou has occurred in the district since my [illegible] to the different villages where it was reported to have occurred.

2. I had an opportunity on Saturday last of speaking on the subject to the Acting Collector, who had only just returned from a tour in the district, and he informed me that the whole disease had disappeared and nothing more had been heard of it. The reports I have received from the two sub-[illegible] who were sent out to the affected villages confirm this.

3. Should further opportunity occur, I will immediately proceed to the spot and investigate the matter [illegible] I am inclined to the belief that the outbreak was due to climatic influence, as, now the weather has completely changed, and the cool Courtallum winds fairly set in, the disease has completely disappeared.

No. 2,371.

SUBMITTED, with reference to docket, No. 3,035, of 19th ultimo.

(Signed) J. E. DICKINSON, Surgeon-Major,
For Deputy-Surgeon-General,
In. Mdl. Dept., Southern District.

12th June 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From Surgeon F. M. RICKARD, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevelly, to the Deputy-Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, dated Palamcottah, 19th June 1874, No. 119.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that a mild form of the disease called "Tunnir-khodee-Novou" is prevalent in the Kytar Division of this district, and I hold myself in readiness to proceed at once should there be any severe form of the disease and any immediate reason for my going.

No. 2,805.
For information.
(Signed) J. E. DICKINSON, Surgeon-Major,
For Deputy-Surgeon-General,
In. Mdl. Dept., Southern District.

23rd June 1874.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From Surgeon F. M. RICKARD, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevelly, to the Deputy-Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, dated Palamcottah, 1st August 1874, No. 153.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that I have visited Kytar, a village about 20 miles from here, containing 400 houses and a population of about 900 souls. The disease, which was reported to have existed in the Kytar Division, has entirely disappeared, and Kytar itself, with all the surrounding villages, is quite free from epidemic of any kind. I attach a list of villages and the names of the village authorities who personally informed me that Tunnir-khodee-novou did not exist in their respective charges. I made full inquiries into all sanitary points, especially the source and quality of the drinking water.

2. I also examined several specimens of Cumboo, the staple food of the district, but could detect nothing wrong in either instance. I have forwarded some samples of Cumboo of last year's growth, which is now being consumed, to the Chemical Examiner, and have asked the favor of his examining them.

No. 2,391.

SUBMITTED for information.

(Signed) W. JOHNSTON, M.D.,
Deputy-Surgeon-General,
In Mdl. Dept., Southern District.

5th August 1874.

No. 138. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1874, No. 3,099.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

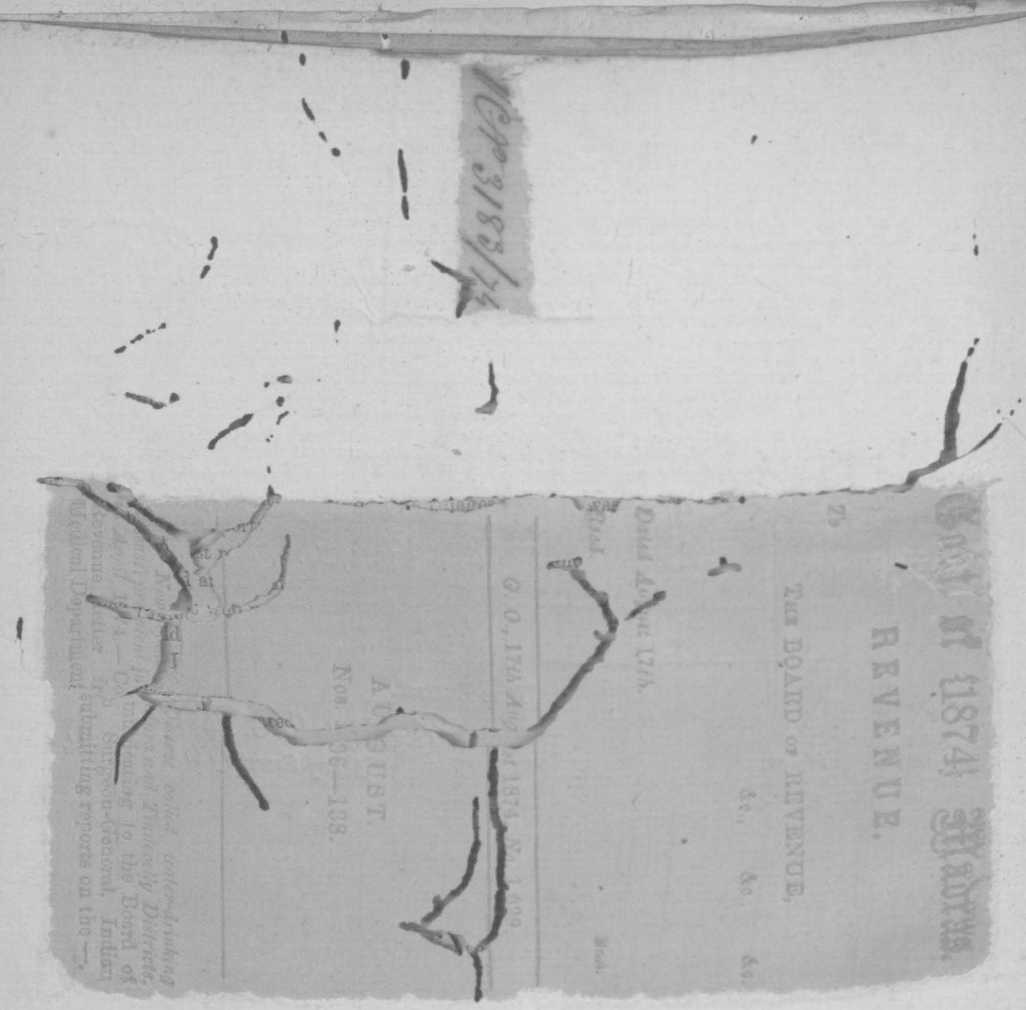
(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Copy 1874



Read the following papers

~~Public~~ 1874 Sept.

From

The Secretary Govt. of

for Madras

No. 115

Dated 29th June

Rect. 1st July 1874

~~No. 116~~

Subject

Forwards copy of a letter addressed by him to the Collector of Tinnevelly on the subject of the disease prevailing in that District & the orders of the Madras Govt. thereon described as the "water drinking disease"

17 Augt. 1874 No 1029

No 81. Palamcottah
30th April 1874.

No 81 Palamcottah
2nd May 1874.

From Surgeon F. M. Richard
Zillah Surgeon Tinnevelly

To The Dy Surgeon General
Indian Medical Depart.
Southern District

Sir, I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter to the Collector of the Tinnevelly District upon the subject of the epidemic appearance of a so called disease Tunnir. Vekodee Kovow, for the information of the Surgeon General.

No 1881 Submitted for information

I have the honorable
Sir
Your most obt Servant
F. M. Richard Surgeon
Zillah Surgeon Tinnevelly

J. E. Pickering
Surgeon Grade for
Surgeon Inspector
9/5/74 Madura

No 2809- 1874- Ag
Rec. 2727/74.

From
The Zillah Surgeon
Tinnevelly

To
The Offg. Surgeon General
Southern Division Madras Presidency
Southern Division

No 84

Palamcottah 1st May 1874.
Rec'd 4th do

Forwarding copy of a letter on the appearance of an epidemic disease called Shanniri Khodie novvo.

Disease

No 81.

Palamcottah
30th April 1874.

From Surgeon J. Dr. Pickard
Zillah Surgeon
Tinnevelly

To The Acting Collector
Tinnevelly

Sir, I have the honor to inform you, that in accordance with your orders, I left Palamcottah on the evening of the 24th Instant and returned again on the 28th April 1874. During this period I visited the following villages, Cafiumpatty, Pillaiarunthum, Chittanaickenpatty, Eullathecolum, Attapadarum, and made all ingenuys into the matter, and from personal observation obtained as much information as possible, concerning this Guare disease Tunnir Kodie novvo.

At Pillaiarunthum where the disease was but a few weeks back very rife & destructive I could find no new case and saw only a few people who were supposed to be convalescing from this disease. At Chittanaickenpatty I saw and treated three cases one a man aged about 55 years and the other two both women of about 40 years. These three cases as I learnt had been much worse, but that they were now improving. the man was according very weak

weak and emaciated, but I discovered other causes for his condition I could not attribute it to the disease. (Zumer Kodee novow) The two women were both suffering from dysentery though not of an acute character. This (dysentery) seems to be the termination of the Water thirst disease, and in many of the fatal cases, has been the direct cause of death.

At Vellatic column, I saw three more cases of the so called disease but found that two of them both women of past middle age were suffering from simple diarrhea; the third an old woman of 80 years was shewn to me as a case in which the symptoms of the epidemic disease were well marked, but I could not do the old woman the injustice of saying that she suffered from anything else but old age & infirmity.

It will be thus seen that I had no opportunity of observing a typical case and can only arrive at my conclusions from general information obtained and from such of the cases as had been attacked and were now convalescent.

The so called disease Zumer Kodee novow signifying "water drinking disease" can not in my opinion be classed as a disease, it being only a symptom of other and more serious maladies. The patient first attacked with fever re-mittent in character and sickness of such intensity that water even is not retained on the stomach. This emisis soon abates and thirst takes its place and the patient pleased at being able to retain water on his stomach, drinks large quantities to the utter exclusion of any thing in the shape of food. This of course has its consequence in the shape of dysentery which soon sets in and if not at once treated very quickly carries off the patient. It is at once remarkable as well as true that no Brahamin or other high caste people have suffered in any way from this disease. The generality of the persons attacked or I may say the whole of the sufferers belong to the lower classes, who earn their living by cotton picking which necessitates their exposure from early morning till sun set: during which time they take no food and eat only on their return from work or once in 24 hours. I may here remark on the range of the Thermometer I took observations three times in the day & note below the results.

8 A.M. Thermometer 86.
12 A.M. —do— 98.
4 P.M. —do— 91.4.

The application of a clinical thermometer to the persons of the attacked shown no higher range than "blood heat": though it must be remembered as I before related I saw no case at its worst.

In the treatment of these peculiar symptoms as in the generality of sickness the friends of the sufferers adopt their usual method namely starvation which I need scarcely say does not

accel-

assist in the cure. I left 1st class Hospl Assistant P. Gulbah Naidu at Villatichum with medicines and requested him to give me further information and report to me any peculiarity he might noticed in the disease.

I must here remark that the sanitation of the villages visited was very good and the water supply sufficient and pure.

In conclusion I cannot attribute this outbreak to any malarial poison and am of opinion that the long daily exposure to the sun and being so long without food and that food being for the most part new cumboo are the cause of this peculiar form of sickness.

The natives themselves of course attribute the whole of this disease to a certain Goddess (Draurce) from the North & say that medicine will not do as much good as Pongulo.

I have &c
Rickard Surgeon
Billah Surgeon
Tinnevelly

True Copy

[illegible]
Surgeon
Billah Surgeon
Tinnevelly

No 108.

Palamcottah
8th June 1874.

From
Surgeon F.H. Rickard
Billah Surgeon Tinnevelly

To
The Deputy Surgeon General
I.M.D. Southern Division
Trichinopoly

Sir

With reference to your Docket Memo No. 2200, I have the honor to report, for the information of Surgeon General, that no further case of Small. Cub. Sir. has occurred in the District since my visit to the different Villages, where it was reported to have occurred.

I had an opportunity on Saturday last of speaking on the subject to the acting Collector, who had only just returned from a tour in the District and he informed me that the whole disease had disappeared and nothing more had been heard of it. The reports I have received from the two Subordinates who were sent out to the affected Villages confirm this.

Should further opportunity occur I will immediately proceed to the spot, and investigate the matter. I am inclined to the belief that the outbreak was due to climatic influence

as. now that the weather has completely changed, and the cool Northerly winds fairly set in, the disease has completely disappeared.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed. Servant

J. MacKerrell
Surgeon
Gillah Surgeon Tunnerally.

No 2371
Enclosed with reference to Docket
No 3035 of 19th ultimo

J. E. Dickinson
Surgeon in charge D. S. Div. Jaffna

12th June 1874

No 119

Palamcottah
19th June 1874

From Surgeon J. M. Rickard
Gillah Surgeon Tunnerally

To The Dy Surgeon General
Indian Medical Departt.
Southern District

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that a mild form of the disease called Tunnis. Erule. Jawoo. is prevalent in the Eylam Division of this District and I hold myself in readiness to proceed at once should there be any severe form of the disease and any immediate reason for my going.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt. Servant
J. MacKerrell Surgeon
Gillah Surgeon Tunnerally

S Paer

No 2435

For information
J. E. Dickinson
Surgeon in charge Batticotta
23/6/74

No 3590 - 1074 -
Rec: 27/7/74

From Surgeon J. MacKerrell Gillah Surgeon Tunnerally
To The Dy Surgeon General Indian Medical Department Southern District
Dated 19th June 1874
Subject Disease called Tunnis. Erule. Jawoo.
Reports that the disease called Tunnis. Erule. Jawoo. or watery drinking disease is subsiding

Rec: 13: Pace.

No 3022. 1874. 1874
From Nov. 27-27/74.
The Fillah Surgeon
Timinelly

To
The Dy. Surgeon General
Indian Medl. Department
Southern District

No 119.

Palamcottah 19th June 1874

Rec. 24th do.

Informs that an outbreak of Guinea Worm disease called in Tamil Kudie Ivanor is prevalent in the Kytaur Division of the District

Dr Dragg[illegible]

No 153.

Palamcottah
1st August 1874.

From Surgeon J. M. Rickard
Fillah Surgeon
Timinelly

S. Pace

To The Deputy Surgeon General
Indian Medical Department
Southern District

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Surgeon General, that I have visited Kytar, a village about 20 miles from here, containing 400 houses and a population of about 900 souls. The disease, which was reported to have existed in the Kytar division, has entirely disappeared, and Kytar itself with all the surrounding villages, is quite free from epidemic of any kind. I attach a list of villages and the names of the village authorities, who personally informed me that Gunnir Kodie Ivanor, did not exist in their respective charges. I made full enquiries into all sanitary points, especially the source and quality of the drinking water.

I also examined several specimens of Cumbos the staple food of the district, but could detect nothing in either instance. I have forwarded some samples of Cumbos of last year's growth, which is now being consumed, to the Chemical Examiner, and have asked the favor of his examining them.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obt. Servt.

No 3091
Referred for information
Dr Cuthbert
D. S. G.
5th Aug 1874

J. M. Rickard Surgeon
Fillah Surgeon
Timinelly

No 4854 — 1874 — May.

Con: 2727/74.

From

Tirucan Tahsildar Rickard

Tirucan Taluk Cutcherry

Zillah Tirucan

To

The Deputy Collector & Asst. Agent

Sub: Report Regarding Cattle Disease

Sir

I have the honor to report for the information of the Collector that I have visited the villages mentioned in the Paricht of the Villages of this Taluk and that the disease called Tumir Khadi has not appeared in any of them.

I have &c.

(Sd) P. Angatc.

Tirucan Tahsildar

Tirucan 7th August 1874.

The following persons attended to the Dt. Rickard and informed that there is no Thumr Khodu disease in their Villages.

Names of the Villages	Names of the persons
Keela Kotai	Kanagasapapathy Modalie Kurungu
Punicholam	Vina Muthra pillay Village Munsiff
	Kanagasabapilla pillay inhabitant of the said Village
Thekkukonar Kottai and Lathikurichy	Letchmepathy Vaidu rich Inhabitant of the said places.
Vadakumaliadai and Kylasapuram	Suppaiah Village Munsiff
Rajah pathukudy Lamnathapathukudy	Narayana pandiaraja Village Munsiff
Thalialvadaithum	Ramalapatheran Nattamgar
Pillalan Kottai	Narayanasamy Naidoo Village munsiff
Thekkumailody	
Kunnirapuram	Eswaradasi Vaidu Village Munsiff
Lette Kolam & Neilangulam	
Lakkalingapuram	Anooreddy Village Munsiff
Kuppanapuram	
Kalianapuram	
Thekkilandakulam	Venkiar Tirumalsidar
Neylandapuram	Purnabdoolrahimandaib
Manangathan	Village Munsiff & Tirumalsidar
Sankarapadi	Eswaralingy Vaidu Village Munsiff
Sivalingapuram	Kallasenum Pillay Village Munsiff
Keytar	Chinnasamy Oyer Inhabitant
Kadamboor	

True Copy.

Tirucan Tahsildar.

No. 363

Surgeon

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL, I. M. D.,
Fort Saint George, 11th August 1874.

No. 137

From *Surgeon General Edward Balfour*
THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL ~~OF HOSPITALS~~,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George.

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

In the orders and proceedings as per margin, has been noticed the outbreak of a new epidemic disease in the south of the peninsula in Madura and Tinnevelly, and in April last, on hearing of the report, Surgeon Richard Zillah Surgeon of Tinnevelly, was ordered to visit the localities where the disease was said to prevail, and to report the result of his investigations.

1874 4th May, No 1034. Proceedings. Revenue Board.
" 15th " " 1132 " "
" 8th June " 1389 " "
" 18th June " 745. Government Order.

2. I beg to place on the margin, the dates of the reports which that Officer has since sent to me, all of which I enclose. On his first visit to the sickly villages, he merely found people who were said to have been ill, but were recovering. He did not meet with any case that could be called typical of the ailment, and he had to restrict his remarks to general observations from information gathered from the people.

1874 1st May, No. 84.
" 8th June, No. 109.
" 19th June, No. 119.
" 1st August, No. 153.
† to be returned.

3. I then, on the 19th May, ordered Surgeon Richard

should any further cases of the disease occur, carefully to examine and report on them; carrying out the inquiry in a leisurely and scientific manner. I mentioned that I was not satisfied that the true nature of the disease had been ascertained, and I indicated the necessity of ascertaining whether it was owing to climatic influences or to some unwholesome article of grain or pulse, and I added that some of the millets are occasionally liable to produce unpleasant and even dangerous symptoms. I further desired that if a prolonged prevalence in the district were needed to enable Surgeon Pickard to examine carefully into the ailment, application would be made to detail a Medical Officer to relieve him temporarily. On the 8th June, however, Surgeon Pickard reported that the water drinking disease had disappeared. On the 19th of the same month, however, he reported that a mild form of the disease was prevalent in the Kytar Division of the Tinnevelly District, and that he would hold himself in readiness to proceed to the place, should there be any need for so doing. On the 1st instant again he reports that he had visited that Kytar Division of the Tinnevelly district, but found that the disease had entirely disappeared, and he encloses a list of about twenty villages, in which there was no disease of the kind - although reported as having prevailed in the Kytar Division, it had entirely disappeared. Surgeon Pickard examined into the sanitary condition of the villages, and sent to the Chemical Examiner samples of the Cumboo (Penicillaria

Spicata), the staple food of the people, to be reported on.

I enclose these reports for information, and merely observe that until the disease be seen and reported on by a medical man, a report would be premature; the sick people whom Surgeon Pickard saw in April being ill with various known ailments, to any of which such a name, as "Water drinking disease" would be wholly inappropriate.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Edward [illegible]
Surgeon
Indian Medical Dept

Revenue 1874. Department.

From Surgeon General E. Balfour
~~The Inspector General of Hospitals,~~
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort Saint George

Dated 11th August
Despatched 12th do
Received 14th do

No. 363 Encl 1

Subject.

Submits Surgn Pickard's report on the new Epidemic disease called "Naki-Nuky disease" which have been prevalent & Inquired in April last.

Dr. 1029
Communicated to the Board of Rev. 17 Aug 74

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