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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

1575

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

27-7-1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Sanitary.

No. 21. Read the following letter from H. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Trichinopoly, 1st July 1875, No. 32:—

I have the honor, in continuation of my telegram of June 30th, to report briefly on the state of the cholera in Trichinopoly. The first case occurred on May 18th; as there was a good deal of cholera then on the Tanjore and Negapatam side, a Hospital Assistant was told off to watch the arrival of the trains in the hope of preventing its importation from that quarter. No more cases occurred for about a week. Then came five or six cases scattered in different localities, and, as far as could be ascertained, not imported. Full instructions were given to the Sanitary Inspectors, of whom there are four, one for each division, to carry out the usual sanitary arrangements in houses where deaths had occurred, *viz.*, burning clothes and excreta, digging up the floor, fumigating, &c. One of the Hospital Assistants was appointed to itinerate in the town all day, being supplied with a bullock bandy, both to treat any cases that he might discover, and also to see that sanitary arrangements were properly carried out by the Inspectors. As it became clear that the disease had actually got into the town and there was no longer any necessity to guard against importations, the Hospital Assistant was withdrawn from the Railway Station, and one was kept on duty all day at the hospital either to treat cases brought in or to go out to emergent cases outside, for which latter purpose a bandy was always kept in waiting. The four Municipal Vaccinators were also employed to go about and discover cases, bringing them in, if possible, for treatment, or otherwise distributing medicine. Each Vaccinator had a peon in attendance. Extra coolies were also placed under the Sanitary Inspectors' orders for carrying out the necessary sanitary arrangements. I think I may safely say that every thing possible has been done to keep the disease in check, and it has not yet assumed the form of a severe epidemic.

2. I enclose the cholera return for the day-before-yesterday the 29th June. As I am writing early in the morning I have not yet received the return for yesterday; but will enclose it before sending this to the post. The return may, I think, be considered correct. It is made up every day at the hospital from the cases treated inside and outside, and from the reports brought in by itinerating Hospital Assistants, Vaccinators, Sanitary Inspectors, &c. The Town Sub-Magistrate also collects returns through the Village Munsifs, and the Police Inspectors report cases to the Superintendent who forwards them to me. The Birth and Death Registrars also send returns, but as their duty is only to receive reports within twenty days from date of death, their returns are not of so much value as the others. Some cases, of course, must have escaped notice; but I think not many. We have got and are still getting further supplies of medicine, disinfecting powder, &c.

3. As will be seen from the returns, the total number of cases since May 18th is a little over 600, with about 250 deaths; not a heavy percentage, and though much to be regretted it does not really form a large proportion in a town of nearly 75,000 inhabitants.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
5th July 1875.*

4. In the district, I am happy to say, the disease has not appeared any where in great force. Scattered cases have occurred, but not to any great extent in any one locality. Medicine has been sent to Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, and to Police stations with instructions for use, and directions as to sanitary arrangements. The Local Fund Board have also, at my suggestion, resolved to utilize the Vaccinators temporarily by placing them under Tahsildars' orders to be sent out to villages with medicine, &c., where cholera may be reported.

5. In Srirangam, I am happy to say, very few cases have occurred, not more than half a dozen or thereabouts. I am inclined to attribute this partly to the heavy rainfall they have had as compared with Trichinopoly. Now we have very high and dry winds with no rain, and I fear the disease will not disappear until we get a good downpour.

6. I may add that every official connected with the matter has been working energetically and doing his best, and I think Government may rely on every thing being done which can possibly be done to struggle against the spread of the disease.

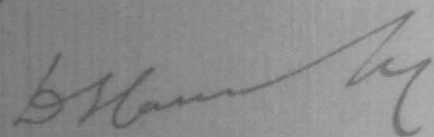
P.S.—I have just received the cholera return for yesterday which shows a considerable decrease in the number of cases and deaths.

No. 22.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1875, No. 864.

The Government are glad to find that the last return shows that the disease is decreasing. They have every confidence that the Civil and Medical authorities will actively discharge their duty. Further occasional reports should be submitted.

(True Extract.)


Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly.

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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G.O., 5th July 1875, No. 864.

JULY.
NOV. 21-22.

Chetara.—Orders passed on the Collector's report on the progress of cholera in the town and district of Chetara.
No 1675—

No 1575

Wichard

27 Dec, 1874