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G.O. No.

128

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

31-1-1976

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 258. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th January 1876, No. 7:—

Read the following letters:—

From Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 26th November 1875, No. 119.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copies of a letter and its enclosure from the Collector of South Arcot, No. 643, of 20th November 1875, on the subject of a sheep disease in Chedambaram Taluq, which has by inoculation caused disease in twelve men who flayed, or ate the flesh of, animals which died therefrom. I am able to recognise the disease as "Anthrax," which is well known to Veterinarians to be capable of causing, by inoculation, fatal disease in human beings, manifesting itself in the form of Septicæmia or Malignant Pustule. Notwithstanding the well-known almost universal custom of low-caste natives of eating the flesh of animals dying from disease, I believe this to be the first authentic case recorded of men so suffering in the Madras Presidency. The question of a remedy for the disease in man I have referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for reply, but I would bring to notice that diseases of this class are just now very prevalent among cattle in the Presidency. They are known as addipan, quinsy, malignant sore throat, Loodian fever in horses, and by various other local names, and I would respectfully urge the necessity, in the presence of so manifest a proof of the danger of the practice, that natives should be warned against eating, or even handling more than is necessary, the flesh of animals which die of these diseases.

Enclosure No. 1.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, Madras, dated Cuddalore, 20th November 1875, No. 643.

I have the honor to forward for your information a translation of the entry under the head "condition of cattle" in the season report received from the Tahsildar of Chedambaram for the month of October 1875.

2. On enquiry I learn that when sheep are attacked by a disease in the feet which is called "Padavan" (and is best translated, whilow) and die of it, their carcasses are at once buried, because it is said, there is such a poisonous exhalation in the form of a vapour from the intestines, if they are skinned, that if inhaled by human beings, it causes almost immediate death. The disease called "toripar" mentioned in this report, appears to have attacked sheep already suffering from Padavan as well as those not suffering from it.

3. Its symptoms are a kind of sudden fit terminating in a few minutes in death. The Padavan sheep died of the other disease at sunrise and sunset only.

4. From the Tahsildar's report, it seems that of twelve persons who flayed some of the sheep which died of both diseases, two men died after ten days, one has recovered and nine are suffering. Their fingers, hands and side are said to have swelled out, owing apparently to a kind of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st January 1876.*

blood-poisoning. I should be glad to know if you have ever come across similar symptoms before, and, if so, by your informing me of a remedy for the disease in man as well as in beast.

Parasit. No. 2.

Extract from the Season Report of Chittoor Taluk for October 1875.

It appears that there was a loss of 350 cattle from "Vekkai" "Adaiyan," &c., diseases in Komarathur, &c., eight villages in the Kushi Pirk. As the Revenue Inspector's report on this is wanting in certain particulars, it is returned, and will be submitted as soon as received from him.

Further, it is reported that in the village of Thatchakadai, a disease known by the name of "Therian" is prevalent among the sheep. The sheep of the class known as Padaiyan Adai attacked with that disease die at sunrise and sunset. On those who lay such sheep the blood operates as a poison, and the hands, sides and belly become swollen. It appears that a man died in the very first day, that another was attacked and recovered, that nine others are still suffering from it, that a man of the adjoining village of Arampolithevan also died of the same cause, and that seven bullocks and fifty-five sheep fell victims to the said disease. I will send the usual statement as to the cattle attached, &c., after inquiring of the village officers.

I have issued orders to the village officers to segregate the infected cattle from the uninfected, and directed that no one should lay the dead sheep and eat the meat, but that they must be buried. I have also directed them to apply the medicine supplied from the taluk.

(Signed) P. VENUGOPAL,
Tahildar.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. P. BARNES,
Collector.

(True Copy)

(Signed) G. WESTERN,
Veterinary Surgeon.

From Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.S., Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, dated Fort St. George, 3rd December 1875, No. 9,453.

I have the honor, by desire of the Surgeon-General, to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 122 of the 1st instant, and enclosure, and to state that, as you mention, the disease known as "Anthrax" in the domestic animals is readily communicable to human beings and very fatal.

2. The Surgeon-General would therefore suggest that the Collector of South Arcot be requested to warn all stock-keepers as to the risk involved by handling the carcasses of animals which may have died of the disease. He should also issue stringent instructions directing the immediate burial of all such dead bodies.

3. As to the treatment of the disease in the human subject, but little can be done by non-professional persons, and those suffering from it should, with as little delay as possible, be sent to the nearest dispensary. Local swellings should be treated in the first instance with fomentations and poultices, and afterwards with stimulating applications, opium may be given to allay pain, and the general health should be supported by attack or brandy, and strong soups.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st January 1876.*

No. 9,454.

True copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with copy of correspondence.

(By order.)

(Signed) G. BIDIE, M.S., Surgeon-Major,
Secy., Surgeon-General, I. M. D.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, to Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.S., Secretary, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, dated Madras, 1st December 1875, No. 122.

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter, with its enclosure, from the Collector of South Arcot, for reply to the request for information as to a remedy for the disease in human beings therein referred to.

2. The disease in sheep I recognize as "Anthrax," which is well known to Veterinarians to be capable of causing disease in man through inoculation, or by handling the flesh of animals which have died in consequence thereof.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. BIDIE, M.S., Surgeon-Major,
Secretary, Surgeon-General, I. M. D.

Report.

These papers will be submitted to Government, with a view to their being placed at the disposal of the Press. They will also be communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner and to all Collectors, who will warn the people of the danger of eating or handling the flesh of diseased animals.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 259. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1876, No. 128.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the foregoing Proceedings be placed on the Editors' table.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Editors' table.

W. A. Ratt.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th January 1876.

Read the following letters:—

From Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 26th November 1875, No. 119.

I HAVE the honor to enclose copies of a letter and its enclosure from the Collector of South Arcot, No. 643, of 20th November 1875, on the subject of a sheep disease in Chedambaram Taluk, which has by inoculation caused disease in twelve men who flayed, or ate the flesh of, animals which died therefrom. I am able to recognise the disease as "Anthrax," which is well known to Veterinarians to be capable of causing, by inoculation, fatal disease in human beings, manifesting itself in the form of Septicæmia or Malignant Pustule. Notwithstanding the well-known almost universal custom of low-caste natives of eating the flesh of animals dying from disease, I believe this to be the first authentic case recorded of men so suffering in the Madras Presidency. The question of a remedy for the disease in man I have referred to the Sanitary Commissioner for reply, but I would, being to notice that diseases of this class are just now very prevalent among cattle in the Presidency. They are known as addipan, quinsy, malignant sore throat, Loodiana fever in horses, and by various other local names, and I would respectfully urge the necessity, in the presence of so manifest a proof of the danger of the practice, that natives should be warned against eating, or even handling more than is necessary, the flesh of animals which die of these diseases.

Enclosure No. 1.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, Madras, dated Cuddalore, 20th November 1875, No. 643.

I have the honor to forward for your information a translation of the entry under the head "condition of cattle" in the season report received from the Tahsildar of Chedambaram for the month of October 1875.

2. On enquiry I learn that when sheep are attacked by a disease in the feet which is called "Paduvan" (and is best translated whitlow) and die of it, their carcasses are at once buried, because it is said, there is such a poisonous exhalation in the form of a vapour, from the intestines, if they are skinned, that if inhaled by human beings, it causes almost immediate death. The disease called "buriyan" mentioned in this report, appears to have attacked sheep already suffering from Paduvan as well as those not suffering from it.

3. Its symptoms are a kind of sudden fit terminating in a few minutes in death. The Paduvan sheep died of the other disease at sunrise and sunset only.

4. From the Tahsildar's report, it seems that of twelve persons who flayed some of the sheep which died of both diseases, two men died after ten days, one had recovered and nine are suffering; their fingers, hands and side are said to have swelled out, owing apparently to a kind of blood-poisoning. I should be glad to know if you have ever come across similar symptoms before, and, if so, by your informing me of a remedy for the diseases in man as well as in beast.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Extract from the Season Report of Chedamparam Taluk for October 1875.

It appears that there was a loss of 350 cattle from "Vekkal" "Adainan," &c., diseases in Komarratchy, &c., eight villages in the Kusba Firkha. As the Revenue Inspector's report on this is wanting in certain particulars, it is returned, and will be submitted as soon as received from him.

Further, it is reported that in the village of Thatchakadoc, a disease known by the name of "Therian" is prevalent among the sheep. The sheep of the class known as Paduran Adu attacked with that disease die at sunrise and sunset; on those who flay such sheep the blood operates as a poison, and the hands, sides and belly become swollen. It appears that a man died in this way in ten days, that another was attacked and recovered, that nine others are still suffering from it, that a man of the adjoining village of Aroomootthevan also died of the same cause, and that seven bullocks and fifty-five sheep fell victims to the said disease. I will send the usual statement as to the cattle attacked, &c., after inquiring of the village officers.

I have issued orders to the village officers to segregate the infected cattle from the uninfected, and directed that no one should flay the dead sheep and eat the meat, but that they must be buried. I have also directed them to apply the medicine supplied from the taluk.

(Signed) P. VENIGOPAL,
Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. WESTERN,
Veterinary Surgeon.

From Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, dated Fort St. George, 3rd December 1875, No. 9,463.

I have the honor, by desire of the Surgeon-General, to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 122 of the 1st instant, and enclosure, and to state that, as you mention, the disease known as "Anthrax" in the domestic animals is readily communicable to human beings and very fatal.

2. The Surgeon-General would therefore suggest that the Collector of South Arcot be requested to warn all stock-keepers as to the risk involved by handling the carcases of animals which may have died of the disease. He should also issue stringent instructions directing the immediate burial of all such dead bodies.

3. As to the treatment of the disease in the human subject, but little can be done by non-professional persons, and those suffering from it should, with as little delay as possible, be sent to the nearest dispensary. Local swellings should be treated in the first instance with fomentations and poultices, and afterwards with stimulating applications, opium may be given to allay pain, and the general health should be supported by arrowroot or brandy, and strong soups.

No. 9,464.

True copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with copy of correspondence.

(By order.)

(Signed) G. BIDIE, M.B., Surgeon-Major,
Secy., Surgeon-General, I. M. D.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Veterinary Surgeon G. WESTERN, Inspector of Cattle Diseases, to Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Secretary, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, dated Madras, 1st December 1875, No. 122.

I have the honor to forward a letter, with its enclosure, from the Collector of South Arcot, for reply to the request for information as to a remedy for the disease in human beings therein referred to.

2. The disease in sheep I recognize as "Anthrax," which is well known to Veterinarians to be capable of causing disease in man through inoculation, or by handling the flesh of animals which have died in consequence thereof.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. BIDIE, M.B., Surgeon-Major,
Secretary, Surgeon-General, I. M. D.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Its enclosures, copy of letter from Collector and extract from Season Report.

These papers will be submitted to Government, with a view to their being placed at the disposal of the Press. They will also be communicated to the Sanitary Commissioner and to all Collectors, who will warn the people of the danger of eating or handling the flesh of diseased animals.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Sanitary Commissioner.
To all Collectors.

Copy to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

Enc. A. Raint.

C 24. 1876/1877

93/128

Ordered that the foregoing
Proceedings be placed on the
Editors' table

10. 1876/1877
Editor's table

31st Jan 1876

24/2/76

Resoln 1876. 24/2/76

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS 4TH JANUARY 1876, No. 7.

24/2/76

24/2/76

JANUARY
No. 7.

Shree Ganesha. In the Madras District, South
Arcot District. Submitting to Government
papers on subject of — with a view to their
being placed at the disposal of the Press, and
communicating them to Sanitary Commissioners
and all collectors with instructions to warn
people of the danger of eating or handling the
feet of diseased animals.

24/2/76

24/2/76