

(1) Number of Pages 6(2) Date of repair 16.12.60(3) Initials of the Referencer 15.4.61**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE****GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS**Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

220

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

15.2.1876

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 179. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th January 1876, No. 259:—

Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Secretary to Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 6th January 1876, No. 70.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 3,144, of 18th November, I have the honor, by desire of the Surgeon-General, to inform the Board that Surgeon W. G. King, Acting Zillah Surgeon of Salem, has made careful inquiry, and submitted extensive reports regarding the peculiar disease known locally as Soorookkoo Marri.

2. Surgeon King had no opportunity of seeing a case of the disease. He, however, conducted a careful inquiry as to its prevalence and nature in Salem, Yadapaddy, and Sunkerrydroog, and collected a large amount of information from medical subordinates and reliable persons who had seen cases. One note-worthy feature of the evidence thus acquired is the general harmony of the statements as to the symptoms of the disease, evident that an unusual complaint did prevail.

BACK as 1869, as in the "Manuel de Medecine" compiled by one of their missionaries it is mentioned as "Le sensation brûlant due pied."

3. In the present occurrence the disease is said to have first appeared in the Coimbatore District, and to have extended thence into Salem; and it also appears that the natives of the latter district were induced to employ the ingesta of the goat as a remedy from rumours which reached them as to the success with which the use of that substance was attended in Coimbatore. Mr. King tried experiments with this nostrum on both the lower animals and man, and it need hardly be said that it was found to be utterly inert. The recoveries which were said to have taken place under its influence must, therefore, be attributed to the unaided powers of nature.

4. It is unnecessary to enter into any detail as regards the symptoms, but the Surgeon-General is of opinion that the disease is probably a mild and peculiar form of Cerebro-spinal meningitis, of which a malignant and very fatal type has, at various times, prevailed epidemically on the Continent of Europe and in America. Nothing certain is known as regards the etiology of the disease, as it has appeared in the Western World where, owing to the severity of the symptoms, it has proved but little amenable to treatment.

5. So far as Surgeon King could ascertain, the disease did not in the Salem District prove fatal in a single instance; but there can be no doubt that the type which prevailed in Salem would have been quite amenable to ordinary remedies. Nothing reliable having been ascertained as to the cause of the disease, it would be futile to attempt to offer any advice as to its prevention in future.

19

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th February 1876.*

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of Salem.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 180.

ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1876, No. 220.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

*Diagnosed known as Soorookkoo Marri, a
District.—Recording Proceedings of the Board
Revenue communicating to Collector report of
Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department
the —*

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 179-180.

G.O., 15th February 1876, No. 220.

*Dated February, 15th.
Recd.*

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

REVENUE.

Govt. of 1876

No. 259.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th January 1876.

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2. Surgeon King had no opportunity of seeing a case of the disease. He, however, conducted a careful inquiry as to its prevalence and nature in Salem, Yadapaddy, and Sunkerrydroog, and collected a large amount of information from medical subordinates and reliable persons who had seen cases. One note-worthy feature of the evidence thus acquired is the general harmony of the statements as to the symptoms and course of the disease, evidently showing that an unusual complaint did prevail, and that its chief features were so novel in their nature as to attract the particular attention of nonprofessional observers. From a demi-official letter with which the Surgeon-General has been favored by the Collector it would seem that Soorookkoo Marri was known to the Romish Clergy as far back as 1869, as in the "Manuel de Medecine" compiled by one of their Missionaries it is mentioned as "Le sensation brûlant du pied."

It is said to have first appeared in the

as to the success with which the use of that substance was attended in Compostore. Mr. King tried experiments with this nostrum on both the lower animals and man, and it need hardly be said that it was found to be utterly inert. The recoveries which were said to have taken place under its influence must, therefore, be attributed to the unaided powers of nature.

4. It is unnecessary to enter into any detail as regards the symptoms, but the Surgeon-General is of opinion that the disease is probably a mild and peculiar form of Cerebro-spinal meningitis, of which a malignant and very fatal type has, at various times, prevailed epidemically on the Continent of Europe and in America. Nothing certain is known as regards the etiology of the disease, as it has appeared in the Western World where, owing to the severity of the symptoms, it has proved but little amenable to treatment.

5. So far as Surgeon King could ascertain, the disease did not in the Salem District prove fatal in a single instance; but there can be no doubt that the type which prevailed in Salem would have been quite amenable to ordinary remedies. Nothing reliable having been ascertained as to the cause of the disease, it would be futile to attempt to offer any advice as to its prevention in future.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of Salem.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Calcutta
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Salem.

Copy to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

" to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Received 15th Dec 81
11-169-70

No 471

Received 1876. Dec

Board of Health
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 28TH JANUARY 1876, No.

2423 Fellows

3 Dec

Ans. to

Received 4 Feb 76

JANUARY.
No. 259.

Disease, known as "Soorookoo Matri,"
in Salem District.—Communicating to Col
lector report of the Surgeon-General, India
Medical Department, on the —

Received 21 Dec

11-169-70. 15-226-71

14 To the Boarding Officer, 16 Feb

2496 169/236