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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

RBV DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2132	Press.
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Dated	27-6-1877	197

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2132

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

June 1877, No. 1294.
Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 614. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated 21st June 1877, No. 1,294.

Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major A. M. ROSS, Zillah Surgeon, Nellore, to Deputy Surgeon-General W. J. VANSOMEREN, M.D., Indian Medical Service, Presidency and Northern District, Madras, dated 12th June 1877, No. 106.

I HAVE the honor to forward, herewith, my report on the condition of the coolies employed on relief-works in the neighbourhood of Nellore examined on the 27th May 1877.

Coolies first examined.

Men.—Twelve were examined.

Five lost weight—one $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1 lb., one $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 9 lbs.

Five gained weight—one 4 lbs., one $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1 lb., one $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Two remained stationary.

* There is a stage in progressive emaciation which, when reached, no farther diminution of weight takes place; in such cases, if dropsy supervenes, the weight of the patient may increase gradually or suddenly, thus leading to inaccurate conclusions *quo ad* the weight test.—G. S.

One who gained weight, No. 9, Gari-toti Subadoo, owed his increase in weight to increasing dropsical accumulation.* He was visibly thinner otherwise than before.

No. 26, Chinnasuri Mutta Ryal Reddy, although increasingly dropsical, had lost weight. He was in wretched condition,

hardly able to totter under his own weight, and I tried, as on a former occasion, to get him to go to hospital or the relief-camp, but he would not.

Women.—Twenty-two were examined.

Thirteen lost weight—one $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 5 lbs., one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 4 lbs., one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., four 2 lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1 lb., two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 33 lbs.

Seven gained weight—one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., two $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 3 lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 17 lbs.

Two remained stationary.

Two were emaciated and scorbutic (both of whom had lost weight considerably since first examined, and then they had none to spare), one was emaciated, one scorbutic and anæmic, one anæmic and scorbutic and dropsical, one dropsical and scorbutic, four dropsical, two scorbutic, and one very thin.

Boys.—Seven were examined.

Six lost weight—one 2 lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., three 1 lb., one $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 7 lbs.

One gained 1 lb., one was scorbutic and anæmic, and three were scorbutic.

Girls.—Eight were examined.

Three lost weight—one 2 lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 4 lbs.

Four gained weight—one 1 lb., three $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Two were scorbutic.

This examination shows a very serious falling off in all classes.

Coolies employed on Road-works.

Men.—Seventeen were examined.

Eight lost weight—one $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; three 1 lb., two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. =

Women.—Twenty-one were examined.

Fourteen lost weight—one $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 4 lbs., two 3 lbs., three $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 2 lbs., two $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., three 1 lb. = total $42\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Seven gained weight—two $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., three $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1 lb., and one $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 11 lbs.

Two of these women were anæmic, four scorbutic, two dropsical, one dropsical and anæmic, one dropsical, anæmic, and scorbutic, one suffered from scurvy with oedematous feet, and one was pregnant six months.

Boys.—Ten were examined.

Eight lost weight—two 2 lbs., two $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., two 1 lb., and two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total 10 lbs.

Two remained stationary.

Two of the boys were scorbutic, one scorbutic and pot-bellied, two scorbutic and anæmic, and two anæmic.

Girls.—Nine were examined.

Three lost weight—one 2 lbs., one 1 lb., one $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Four gained weight—one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., one 1 lb., two $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. = total $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Two remained stationary.

Four were scorbutic, one anæmic.

One cause of the rapid falling off in the condition of the coolies arises, I believe, from the difficulty in procuring ragi, which is not only cheaper but more nourishing than rice. I found on inquiry that much fewer are living on ragi now than a fortnight back.

The deterioration in the condition of the coolies is most marked. It will be still more so if the wretched condition in which they were when first examined is borne in mind. A glance at the tables of weights taken at different periods will show a serious falling off in the condition of the coolies examined, many of them young and in an age of active growth; while if their diet during the period they were under examination had been sufficient, almost all should have increased in weight.

No. 4,695.

This is a positive proof of the apprehended inadequacy of the one-pound ration.

(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M.D.,
Deputy Surgeon-General, I.M.S.,
Presidency and Northern District.

MADRAS,
15th June 1877.

No. 381.

FORWARDED to the Chief Secretary for the information of Government.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20th June 1877.

(Signed) G. SMITH, M.D.,
Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of
Nellore and Sanitary Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Nellore.
" the Surgeon-General Indian Medical Department
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

No 106

Dated 12th June 1877
Civil Dispensary
Mellore

From A E Mc Ross Esquire
Lillah Surgeon
Mellore

To The Deputy Surgeon General
S M S Presidency
& Northern District
Madras

Sir
I have the honor to forward
herewith my report on the Condition of the Coolies
employed on Relief works in the neighbourhood
of Mellore Examined on the 27 May 1877.
Coolies first Examined.

Twelve were examined.
Men
Five lost weight. one 3 1/2 lbs one 2 1/2 lbs one 1 1/2 lbs
one 1 lb one 1/2 lb = Total 9 lbs
Five gained weight one 4 lbs one 3 1/2 lbs one 2 1/2 lbs
one 1 lb one 1/2 lb = Total 11 1/2 lbs.
Two remained Stationary.
One who gained weight he 9 Garitoli. Su =

COOLIES AT MELLORE
REVENUE.
THE COLLECTOR OF MELLORE
1877.
J D M.
No 214-616
MELLORE DISTRICT NO 1063

badly owed his increase in weight to increasing⁺ dropical accumulation⁺. He was visibly thinner otherwise than before.

No 26 Chinmasuri Mulla Ryah Reddy although increasingly dropical had lost weight in wretched Condition hardly able to under his own weight & I tried as on a former occasion to get him go to Hospital or the Relief Camp, but he would not.

Women — Twenty two were Examined.

Thirteen lost weight one $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs one 5 lbs one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs one 4 lbs one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs four 2 lbs one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs one 1 lb two $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs — Total 33 lbs.

Seven gained weight one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs two $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs one 3 lbs one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs two $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = Total 17 lbs

Two remained Stationary.

Two were emaciated & scorbutic (both of whom had lost ^{weight} considerably since first Examined, then they had none to spare) one was emaciated, scorbutic & anemic, one anemic & scorbutic dropical, one dropical & scorbutic, four dropical two scorbutic & one very thin.

Boys — Seven were Examined.

Six lost weight one 2 lbs one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs three 1 lb one $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = Total 7 lbs.

There is a stage in tropic disease emaciation which when reached no further decrease of weight takes place; in such cases if dropical superacres, the weight of the patient may increase gradually or suddenly, then leading to accumulation of fluids, & the weight test

T.S.

Girls

One gained 1 lbs. One was scorbutic & anemic. Three were scorbutic.

Eight were Examined.

Three lost weight one 2 lbs, one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Total 4 lbs.

Four gained weight one 1 lb, three $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs — Total $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Two were scorbutic.

This Examination shows a very serious falling off in all Classes.

Coolies Employed on Road Works.

Men

Seventeen were Examined.

Eight lost weight one $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, three 1 lb, two $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = Total $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Six gained weight one $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs two $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs two 1 lb one $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = Total 10 lbs.

One was emaciated & scorbutic, three (two of whom had gained weight) were oedematous in the feet & legs, one (who gained weight) was oedematous & scorbutic, one a boy of 17 was very thin & scorbutic.

Women

Twenty one were Examined.

Fourteen lost weight one $10\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one 4 lbs, two 3 lbs, three $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one 2 lbs, two $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, three 1 lb = Total $42\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

even gained weight - two $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, three $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one 1 lb, & one $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = Total 11 lbs.

Two of these women were anaemic, four scorbutic, two dropsical, one dropsical anaemic, one dropsical anaemic & scorbutic. Suffered from Scurvy with a dematous feet & one was pregnant 6 months.

Boys Ten were examined. Eight lost weight - Two 2 lbs, two $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, two 1 lb, & two $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = Total 10 lbs.

Two remained stationary. Two of the boys were scorbutic, one scorbutic & potbellied, two scorbutic & anaemic & two anaemic.

Girls Nine were examined. Three lost weight - one 2 lbs, one 1 lb, one $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs = total $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Four gained weight - one $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, one 1 lb, two $\frac{1}{2}$ = total $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Two remained stationary.

Four were scorbutic, one anaemic. One Cause of the rapid falling off in the condition of the Coolies arises I believe from the difficulty in procuring raggy which is -

The Coolies employed on the "Malay Islands" are practically starving in their poor huts, the present process of dying under a starve when diet -

The highest will be

Not only cheaper but more nourishing than rice - I found on Enquiry that much fewer are living on raggy now than a fortnight back.

The deterioration in the Condition of the Coolies is most marked. It will be still more so if the wretched Condition in which they were when first examined is borne in mind. A glance at the tables of weights taken at different periods will show a serious falling off in the Condition of the Coolies examined, many of them going on in an age of active growth, while if their diet during the period they were under examination had been sufficient almost all should have increased in weight.

This is a forcible proof of the appropriated inadequacy of the one pound ration.
H. J. van Bommel M.D.
Deputy Surgeon Major
H.M.S. "H.M.S. Bell"

I have the honor to be Sir

Your Most obedt Servt
Alfred Moss Surgeon Major
H.M.S. Bell

D. Madras 10.6.77

21 June 1877. C. de V.

1978

Dr. Capt. the Collector of ^{Pakistan}
 Dr. the Surgeon General. Shro. 2 Sep &
 Dr. the Land Survey Commission
 The Boarding Place } P.B. di.
 The Financial Dept. } g. S.

P. C. dies
9 July/77.

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