

- (1) Number of pages 4
 (2) Date of repair 9.6.86
 (3) Initials of the Referencer lomb ✓

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2311	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	24.4.1877	197.

R.R.
Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

12th April 1877, No. 492.

Sanitary.

Read the following paper:—

No. 75. *From L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated 4th April 1877, G. No. 7.*

I have the honor to forward, herewith, the Special Health Officer's report for the week ending 31st March 1877.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Dr. H. STANBROUGH, Special Health Officer, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 3rd April 1877.

I have the honor of forwarding, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, a weekly report, ending 31st March 1877, of the working of the Special Health Department.

2. This department has still an uphill duty to perform, for the Municipality has to fight against poverty, overcrowding, improvidence, and all the evils which beget and intensify contagious disease.

3. There has been a steady improvement in the cleanliness of the streets and parcherries, but if there be any neglect in inspecting these places they speedily become as dirty as ever.

4. The health of the town for the week ending 31st March is still very bad, and the rate of mortality high.

5. During the week there were 554 deaths from cholera and small-pox alone. Cholera was 122 against 155 for the previous week, and small-pox 432 or four less. How excessive the ravages of the latter disease continue to be may be gathered from the fact that the deaths last week yielded an annual mortality rate of 72 per 1000 of the population of Madras.

6. I consider small-pox to emanate from the crowding together, the filthy habits of the natives, and from the dirt and decomposing faecal and animal matter lying about everywhere.

7. The health of Madras would be much improved if the numerous collection of crowded dens, called parcherries, were demolished; they are incurably defective, and interfere with the ventilation of other places. Spots should be selected in less crowded thoroughfares for parcherries, and the poor segregated beyond the city.

8. I do not see my way successfully to combat this frightful mortality, or increase the security of infantile life, unless some sort of provision be made for housing the poorer classes, for their present dwellings are unfit for human habitations.

9. I do not find so much fault with Cox's Parochery in Poodoopet, or the Tinnevely Settlement in Royapuram. They only require supervision and drainage, but I mean the smaller description of parcherries. Take for instance the one in Moore Street, a densely crowded and most unwholesome place, containing 200 or 300 persons crowded on about one-quarter of an acre of ground without water, drainage, latrines, the ground always in a state of moisture and filth, and refuse in every corner. Can we expect such a place to be healthy? Madras has hundreds of such places. They are all private property, and the ground-rent of a hut is about 2 Annas a-month. In fact there is such an utter disregard of sanitary precautions that it is only surprising that the present epidemic has not produced more deaths. The main sewers of Madras are a source of danger; they cannot be flushed, and they are not ventilated.

The one running to the north is blocked up with sewage. The water-supply is everywhere deficient and not of good quality.

Summary of Health Inspector's work for the week ending March 31st—

Number of District.	Name of Ward.	No. of Houses and Huts.		Contagious Diseases.		Other Contagious Diseases.	Number Vaccinated.	Number of Food Tickets issued.
		Inspected.	Cleaned and Disinfected.	Cholera.	Small-pox.			
1	East	531	132	4	3	4	33	..
	Centre	335	42	1	72	..	39	65
	West	286	105	2	29	..	163	1
2	North	266	25	16	34	28	45	12
	Centre	429	32	10	32	1	57	..
	South	426	17	1	10	7	32	..
3	North	255	101	6	45	4	35	1
	Centre and South.	235	97	8	9	5	55	7
5	North	243	52	12	52	12	63	..
	Centre	271	47	9	12	1	137	39
	South	415	117	5	21	2	47	26
7	North	426	60	2	18	2	78	23
	Centre	269	34	11	11	5	58	4
7 and 8	North and South.	207	49	3	32	3	81	20
6 and 8	Do.	280	38	2	4	..	87	6
8	South	200	13	13	11	3	42	..
	Total	5,074	961	105	395	77	1,052	210

Mortuary returns as given by Municipality for all diseases during the week 1,105. Ratio per 1000 144.5.

No. 76.

ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1877, No. 492.

The Government are of opinion that the Acting President of the Madras Municipality should test the legal liability of the owners of the private parcherries to keep them clean.

2. He will report on the cause of the north main drain being "blocked up with sewage."

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Offg. Chief Secretary.

J. H. Smith

Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.

„ Special Health Officer.

„ Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Revenue (Famine) Department.

„ Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Recd. 1877 241
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Govt. of 1877: Madras.

PUBLIC.

To THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Madras,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 1877.

Issued — 20

Recd. — 21

G.O. 12th April 1877, No. 492.

APRIL.
Nos. 75-76.

Sending.—Special Health Officer's report for
week ending 31st March 1877. Opinion expressed
that the Acting President of the Madras Municipality
should test the legal liability of the owners
of certain private premises to keep them clean.

24-2311

24 April 1877