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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

8th May 1877, No. 1441.

Sanitary.

Read the following paper:—

No. 70. *From L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated 2nd May 1877, G. No. 143.*

I have the honor to forward the report of the Special Health Officer for the week ending 28th April.

2. Considering that the influx of villagers is still going on, and that Madras has probably never been so overcrowded with them as at the present time, it is a matter of congratulation that the death-rate shows no tendency to increase. Subjoined are the deaths from special and other diseases for the last five weeks:—

Week ending	Small-pox.	Measles.	Fevers.	Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Cholera.	Dis- Other eases.	Total.
March 30	439	4	128	123	82	123	206	1105
April 6	366	2	91	108	91	107	217	982
" 13	388	2	122	123	76	100	208	1019
" 20	367	1	104	102	85	92	196	947
" 27	294	3	115	129	82	94	218	935

3. Every thing possible is being done to maintain a supply of water. Mr. Jones reports that a good start has been made with the new channel lately sanctioned by Government for execution by the famine codies at the Red Hills. The present channel has also been again deepened and will now last until the new channel is ready. The parts of the town which are worst off are Black Town and parts of Pursewalkum and Vepery and the neighbourhood of Perambore Barracks. Some parts of the 1st Division are also suffering.

4. The employment of extra gangs of scavengers in the outlying Parcherries is alluded to by the Health Officer in complimentary terms. I reported in my letter of the 27th ultimo the number and location of the gangs, which are as follow:—

1st Division, 3 gangs.
2nd and 3rd Division, 1 gang.
4th Division, 2 gangs.
5th " 3 "
6th " 2 "
7th " 2 "
8th " 2 "

Each gang consists of one East Indian or European Overseer and ten Scavengers. The cost is large, amounting to Rupees 900 per mensem. A parcherry, that is infested with villagers, presents each morning before it is cleaned precisely the same appearance as a sheep pen that has been occupied all night by a flock of sheep. Latrines are very little used except in the day-time. The bulk of defecation is performed during the night or in the very early morning in the streets and alleys and small open spaces. The cleaning up of all this excrement is a heavy additional charge on the Municipality. The Police are powerless to prevent it, and I have ceased to trouble Colonel Drever with calls for assistance.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Dr. H. STANBROUGH, Special Health Officer, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 1st May 1877.

I have the honor of forwarding, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, a weekly report, ending 28th April 1877, of the working of the Special Health Department.

2. The Mortuary Returns for the week show a small decrease in the number of deaths compared with the previous week in contagious diseases. Cholera and diarrhoea 176 against 177, and small-pox 294 against 367. The total deaths in Madras from all causes were 935 against 947 of the previous week, or 122.2 per mille against 123.8.

3. An outbreak of cholera took place in Mattan Coopum (a fisherman's parcherry, near Chepauk); fifteen persons were attacked the first day, four of which died. It spread westward through a few streets towards the Big Pagodi in Triplicane. There have been some cases since, and this day twenty-two cases were reported. The people are of opinion that the outbreak was caused by the coolies (about 1,000) from the Famine Relief Camps being sent to the Junction Canal Works and huddled in Chepauk grounds, and permitted to wander about the bazaars. Every house and hut where a case occurred were disinfected whether a death had taken place or not. There have been small outbreaks of cholera in several places in Madras during the week, which, in a great measure, I attribute to a bad and insufficient supply of drinking water.

4. Water in Madras has now become a most important question. There has been no rain for several months and the water in the wells is becoming brackish, caused by the pressure of the sea into the land.

5. The Natives are not sufficiently impressed with the value of sanitary measures to submit to laws stringent and comprehensive enough to prevent epidemic diseases, therefore we should at this present unhealthy season take sanitation strongly in hand ourselves, and what may appear harsh and illegal will in the end prove beneficial to Madras.

6. The overcrowding of houses and pigs by villagers continues, for so soon as you drive them from one spot they hurry off to another.

7. Greater activity on the part of the Municipality is taking place in cleaning the Parcherries from filth, and gangs of coolies are engaged daily under a superintendent.

8. It took a long time in England, before sanitary science made sufficient progress, to announce certain and definite discoveries. After the cholera (in England, 1831) had departed the people ceased to feel very keen interest in the matter. The same thing will take place in Madras, and it is more than ever the duty of the Municipality now to fill up cesspools and old tanks to have a better system of drainage, with proper water-supply; let the dust bins be daily emptied, and noxious trades as oil-mills removed from out the town. This is the only efficacious mode of preventing the outbreak and spreading of contagious diseases.

9. The amount of good effected by the house-to-house visitation is incalculable, and fully appreciated and valued by the Native community. Whenever a case of cholera occurs in a house, other inmates, who are predisposed to it by debility, starvation, dissipation, or want of proper nourishment, are sure to become affected, and it is astonishing to see the indifference with which they are treated by their relations and friends. They will not allow them to be sent to hospital or seek any treatment; they generally enclose them in a badly ventilated room without any nourishment to sustain life; here it is that the Medical Health Inspectors are so valuable. Mr. Jesudason Pillay's services have been greatly taxed in attending upon cases of this kind, for, being so well known in all parts of Madras, the people place the greatest confidence in his treatment and kind care.

10. The following is a Summary of the Health Inspector's work for the week under notice.

Number of District.	Name of Ward.	NUMBER OF HOUSES AND HUTS		DISEASES DETECTED.			Number of Patients sent to Hospital.	Number of Food-tickets issued.	Number of People Vaccinated.
		Visited.	Cleaned and Disinfected.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Other Diseases.			
1st	East	828	201	2	6	2	3	1	115
"	Centre	641	34	2	21	..	1	..	92
"	West	325	87	..	21	1	1	7	85
2nd	North	267	121	7	9	11	12	5	52
"	Centre	868	12	7	14	13	4	8	35
"	South	468	12	..	6	4	..	..	86
3rd	North	137	35	2	19	3	1	1	122
"	Centre and South	298	98	6	7	3	5	7	176
5th	North	412	134	14	45	2	9	41	182
"	Centre	221	54	..	6	..	4	..	143
"	South	416	50	10	16	..	..	1	61
"	North	506	39	5	12	3	9	22	74
7th	Centre	393	27	12	4	1	3	2	117
7th and 8th	North and South	314	34	18	11	5	6	..	64
6th and 8th	North and South	438	45	2	5	9	..	8	78
8th	South	143	..	6	..	..	1	21	88
Total		7,075	983	93	202	57	59	124	1,575

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1877, No. 1441.

Communicated to the Revenue (Famine) Department, to the Board of Revenue, and to the Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The Commissioner of Police will consider the last paragraph. The question of the influx from villagers overcrowding the city needs attention.

(True Extract.)

Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.

- " Board of Revenue.
- " Sanitary Commissioner.
- " Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
- " President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.
- " Commissioner of Police.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Rev. 1877 24th
\$790 364.55

Obbt. of 1877 31st
Address.

FINANCIAL.

To THE REVENUE (FAMINE)

DEPARTMENT.

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1877 May 24th

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1877 May 24th

1877 May 24th

MAY

Nos. 70-71.

Secretary.—Communicating letter from Acting
President, Municipal Commission, Mayor, forwarding
Special Health Officer's report for week ending
28th April 1877.

1877 May 24th

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