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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

19th June 1877, No. 832.

Mortuary Returns.

Read the following paper :—

No. 92. *From Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 31st May 1877, No. 599.*

I have the honor to submit, for the information of His Grace in Council, the abstract return of births and deaths registered in this Presidency for the month of March. The figures for the district of South Canara have not yet come to hand, but considering the importance of laying these statistics before Government at an early date, as regards the distressed districts, I have thought it best not to delay any longer the submission of the return. A corrected return will be submitted on receipt of the South Canara abstracts.

2. *Births.*—During the month 36,409 births were registered in 20 districts against 33,363 in 21 districts in February. The birth-rate though generally below the average of past years, was especially low in the distressed districts, viz :—

Nellore ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.4 per mille.
Chingleput ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.6 " "
Kurnool ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.9 " "
Cuddapah ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.4 " "
Bellary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.8 " "
North Arcot ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1 " "
Salem ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.5 " "

The contrast in the number of births and deaths registered in these districts is very remarkable :—

	Births.	Deaths.
Nellore ..	510	3,639
Madras ..	947	5,024
Chingleput ..	847	4,141
Kurnool ..	1,353	5,127
Cuddapah ..	1,622	7,686
Bellary ..	2,617	14,012
North Arcot ..	2,017	9,625
Salem ..	2,719	12,947
	<u>12,532</u>	<u>62,201</u>

There have been registered in fact five deaths for each birth in the famine districts, while in the whole Presidency the registered deaths have been nearly three to one of the registered births.

3. In former reports to Government I have stated that the facts appeared to warrant the statement that in the famine tracts of this Presidency the birth-rate was every where diminishing, and the returns now submitted show an exceedingly low average birth-rate in the famine districts, with a diminished birth-rate in the districts which have been affected only by scarcity and high prices of food.

4. *Deaths.*—The deaths registered in the month (excluding South Canara) were 101,393, or in the ratio of 42.9 per mille of the population furnishing returns. In

comparison with the January and February returns, the following are the ratios of death per mille to population in the famine districts:—

	January.	February.	March.
Nellore	97.1	64.1	31.7
Chingleput	78.1	55.7	52.9
Madras	112.9	132.6	151.6
Kurnool	78.2	65.6	64.1
Bellary	67.4	83.3	100.8
Cuddapah	118.7	101.5	68.2
North Arcot	83.1	74.2	58.1
Salem	62.6	63.5	78.9

5. It will be observed that there was an apparent decrease of mortality in Nellore, Chingleput, and North Arcot in March, with a corresponding increase in the mortality of the Presidency Town. As the starving poor of these districts have been gravitating towards Madras it is only natural that the mortality in the chief city should be abnormally high, but the great reduction of registered mortality in Nellore during March points, I fear, to very defective arrangements for registration, especially in the Zemin-dari tracts of that district, in which famine is known to have caused much suffering and mortality. The main features of the return for March are an increasing mortality in Madras, Bellary, and Salem, and a considerable decrease in the Nellore death-rate.

6. Of the 161,393 deaths registered, 56,061 were males and 45,332 females. The excess in registration of male deaths is again very high, pointing to faulty registration of female mortality by village officials. In the town of Madras, where the registration is fairly accurate, the male deaths were 2,520 and females 2,504, or very nearly equal, as might have been expected for the numbers of sexes living.

7. The causes of death as reported were cholera (43,478), small-pox (8,109), fevers (21,480), bowel-complaints (4,643), accidents (520), other causes (22,759).

8. I have recently called for separate returns of deaths occurring in famine relief camps in the several districts, and regarding the special causes of mortality in these relief centres, shall address Government in a special communication.

No. 93.

ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1877, No. 832.

The return will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, as usual.

2. The attention of the Collector of Nellore will be called to the remarks in paragraph 5 of Dr. Cornish's letter as to the registration of mortality in that district; and that of the Collector of South Canara to the delay in furnishing the returns for March.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

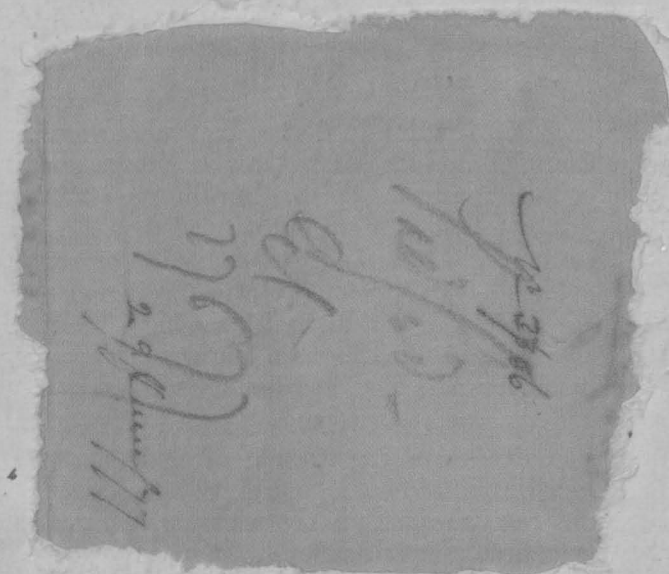
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Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Collector of Nellore.
" Board of Revenue.
" Revenue (Famine) Department.
" Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Edw. T. O'Connor.

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THE COLLECTION OF KIDDER.

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