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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.		Press.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

24th July 187, No. 994.

Sanitary.

Read the following paper :—

No. 71. *From the Hon. J. G. COLEMAN, Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 12th July 1877, G. No. 434.*

I have the honor to forward the report of the Special Health Officer for Madras for the week ending 7th instant.

2. The following table shows the mortality for the last five weeks :—

Week ending	Small-pox.	Measles.	Fevers.	Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Cholera.	Other Diseases.	Total.
June 8th	134	..	112	141	108	144	260	899
" 15th	120	..	107	168	110	87	237	829
" 22nd	111	..	106	169	122	65	263	836
" 29th	90	..	127	196	139	57	253	862
July 6th	88	..	151	213	156	68	261	937

3. A weekly analysis of the Red Hills water may, no doubt, be of use, but I am not prepared to adopt the suggestion as each analysis would cost the Municipality Rupees 20. At present the water is submitted to the chemical test as occasion demands.

4. With reference to the remark that for want of funds vaccination has considerably fallen off, I find that Mr. Burrows was careful in placing the Superintendent of Vaccination in sufficient funds whenever required.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Dr. H. STANBROUGH, Special Health Officer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 10th July 1877.

I have the honor of forwarding, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, a weekly report ending 7th July 1877, of the working of the Special Health Department.

2. In my weekly reports I have only mentioned the actual deaths caused by contagious diseases that have taken place in Madras, and given the totals only of all other deaths. The Special Health Department is only a temporary one, and may at any moment be dispensed with. I have therefore up to date not considered it necessary to make remarks on other diseases, but I think the time has now arrived for doing so, and more especially on the registration of births which have taken place between 1st January and 30th June 1877.

There have been males born alive	3,157
Females do.	2,537
Total ..	5,694

This taken at the supposed Census of Madras gives 28.6 per thousand for the year. I consider this quite sufficient proof at once to set aside such obviously erroneous calculation, and adopt for the present the ideal figures as given in my last report, viz., 580,312, which would show 19.6 per 1,000 for the year.

The births in England for the last ten years were 35.4. The registration of births was never more important than at the present time. For it has been proved by the Sanitary Commissioner and others that very few, if any, of the urban paupers, amounting to several thousands have become impregnated, and most of the children brought by them into the several camps have died, and from my own observation I am entirely of the same opinion.

I made mention in my last week's report that 24,893 deaths had taken place within the limits of the Municipality from 1st January to 30th June 1877, or 125.2 per thousand of the imaginary population for the year. There certainly has been unusual sickness in Madras, and the death-rate has been very high in the town and suburbs, but taking the increased population at 580,312, and allowing 10,000 strangers receiving relief in the camps within municipal limits, we have then a death-rate from all diseases of 80.7 per thousand for the year, which I am of opinion is near about the correct number, and deducting the deaths in camps and those sent to hospital from the camps 4,138, the resident inhabitants of Madras then have had a death-rate of 66.6 per 1,000 against its normal condition of 32.1.

3. There were several cases of diarrhoea set from the Chopank Camp to the Royapettah Hospital during the week under review. Upon inquiry into the cause I discovered that a very bad description of broken rice—the cleanings and sweepings from the Famine Camps—was being sold to the coolies at 1½ Annas per measure. The price of rice has risen during the week, and has never been so high before; therefore a brisk sale was being carried on. I prevented the further disposal of it, and reported the circumstance to the Commissioner of Police. Conjee-water might have with safety been made from it, especially if mixed with raggy, but it was quite unfit to be cooked and eaten as rice.

4. The Hon. Mr. Coleman took charge of the Municipality from Mr. Burrows on Thursday, and I accompanied him on inspection of some of the Pagoda tanks, where it was proposed to erect fountains to prevent the people being compelled at times to resort to the tank water. There can be no doubt that a large sum of money has been expended in bringing water from the Red Hills, and it is but fair that the poorer classes should see the fruits of the expenditure. With all faults and defects the Municipality have done much for Madras, but they cannot carry out as much as they might for want of funds. A supply of good water is essentially necessary. Cleanliness is impossible without water. Health, as shown by my former reports, is imperilled without potable water. I have proved that an outbreak of cholera of a serious nature was distinctly traced to a tainted supply. It is to the interest of every one in Madras that a weekly analysis of the Red Hills water should be published, and also the height of the water over the lower delivery pipe given. Of drainage the least at present said the better. In my opinion open surface drainage, when we can use our eyes, is the only drainage adapted for a tropical city nearly on a level, and in some places lower than the level, with the sea.

5. The week gives a mortuary return of all diseases as 937, an increase of sixty-eight over the previous week. I was fully prepared for this increase, as the famine is now telling upon the wearied out people and especially children. Upon the idea of our population being only 397,552 it gives 122.5 deaths per thousand of population for the year.

6. I have reported to the Commissioner of Police the necessity, on account of the lowness of the water in the River Cooum, of preventing the fishing in the river, especially as I notice the men use their nets in front of every large drain.

7. I regret to notice, for want of the required funds, vaccination has considerably fallen off during the week.

8. The following is a summary of work done by the Health Inspectors during the week under notice:—

Number of District.	Name of Ward.	NUMBER OF HOUSES AND HUTS		DISEASES DETECTED.			Number of Cases sent to Hospital.	Number of Food Tickets issued.	Number of people Vaccinated.
		Visited.	Cleaned and disinfected.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Other Diseases.			
1	East	447	66	1	2	1	5	1	30
1	Centre	461	22	..	7	7	5	6	66
1	West	357	39	5	4	6	10	6	..
2	North	307	83	6	3	9	5	1	62
2	Centre	477	8	3	..	9	6	5	62
2	South	396	14	..	..	5	1	3	31
3	North	185	49	1	3	..	1	5	43
3	Centre and South	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	North	500	68	4	5	16	5	69	61
5	Centre	288	32	3	1	..	1	4	35
5	South	349	37	..	2	9	6	6	45
7	North	329	9	1	2	9	4	7	41
7	Centre	242	7	2	1	5	3	..	60
7 and 8	North and South	173	19	..	..	2	..	1	55
6 and 8	Do.	550	17	5	1	..	2	7	57
8	South	370	60	2	..	2	4	11	69
	Total ..	5,431	530	33	31	80	53	132	717

No. 72.

ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1877, No. 994.

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

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

H. B. Full
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Special Health Officer.
" Revenue (Famine) Department. ✓
" Board of Revenue.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

Nov. 1877 24/5
✓ 7/20 6/15

Govt. of 1877. Madras.

PUBLIC.

To THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION.

Madras,
No., No., No.

Printed July 24/8

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Sanitary.—Communicating letter from Acting
President, Madras Municipality, forwarding Special
Health Officer's report for week ending 7th July
1877.

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14 August 1877