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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	4375	~~Press.~~
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Dated	6. 8. 1877	197 .

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

24th July 1877, No. 995.

Sanitary.

Read the following paper :—

No. 73. *From the Hon. J. G. COLEMAN, Acting President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 18th July 1877, G. No. 450.*

I have the honor to forward the report of the Special Health Officer for Madras for the week ending 14th 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 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
" 13th	83	..	158	273	187	96	288	1,085

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. STANBROUGH, Esq., Special Health Officer, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 18th July 1877.

I have the honor of forwarding, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, a weekly report ending 14th July 1877 of the working of the Special Health Department.

2. As I had every reason to expect, there has been a considerable increase in the number of deaths during the past week. The mortuary returns for all deaths amounted to 1,085 against the previous week's report, showing 937, giving an increase of 148—

From cholera 96, an increase 28.
Do. diarrhoea 187, an increase 31.
Do. dysentery 273, an increase 60.
Do. fevers 158, an increase 7.

From the total 1,085 we must deduct those who died amongst the famine people in camp, viz. 254, leaving 831 deaths amongst the present crowded population in Madras and suburbs, giving 113·8 deaths per cent. yearly. From further observations made during the past week, I am more than ever convinced that my views on the subject of the census are not far wrong, and that 580,312 at present represents all residing within Municipal bounds. The mortuary returns as shown by the Municipality 141·9 per cent. of the present population for the year should be only 74·4.

3. The utterly insufficient drainage is the immediate cause of much sickness and of many deaths in Madras. The positive cause of typhoid fever by bad drainage is now clearly established, and typhoid may rank under the head of preventable disease. For the want of a good system of drainage, we allow sewage and other matter to soak into the ground and infect dwellings and poison wells. I am not acquainted with one pure untainted well of water in the town of Madras.

4. I cannot account for the number of deaths from fever and dysentery in any other way but from bad drainage.

5. Under the present system of keeping the mortuary returns it is almost impossible to find out the exact places where deaths have taken place from fever, or the causes, whether emanating from putrid sources as faecal decomposition or vegetable decay.

6. Mortality increases with density of population, one has only to visit the beach during the day to convince oneself of the immense number of people at present in the town.

7. On 30th May Mr. Burrows, in commenting upon one of my weekly reports, wherein for reasons given, I gave it my opinion that the death-rate would continue to increase, told the Government my report was written in a desponding tone, and that he saw no reasons for its being so as the recent rains had cleansed Madras, and that future returns would show improvement. I regret to state my forebodings are correct. All the efforts in the world made for sanitation by Health Officers and others are useless, unless there be some intelligent appreciation for sanitary principles amongst the people themselves.

8. Calcutta has just made an important change in the conservancy of the town, and has followed the example set by Bombay and introduced what is called the "Halalcore system." It consists in the entire control and removal of the night soil by paid servants of the Municipality controlled by its officers. Like Madras, this duty was very badly discharged by private sweepers, and very often not done at all. No one knows the difficulty and opposition of the better class of inhabitants to have their filth removed from their dwellings and backyards, but those who like me have visited from house to house. This halalcore system at once removes the difficulty. Of course, we must expect at first a general rising of the sweepers, but that will subside in a few days, particularly if the Municipality are prepared at once to employ recruits from other places.

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

Number of Districts.	Name of Ward.	NUMBER OF HOUSES AND HUTS		DISEASES DETECTED.			Number of Cases sent to Hospital.	Number of Food Tickets issued.	Number of Cases vaccinated.
		Visited.	Cleaned and Disinfected.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Other Diseases.			
First	East	610	78		4	4	3	4	60
"	Centre	673	19	1	2	3	4	2	74
"	West	460	4	5	2	7	13	12	19
Second	North	360	68	5		2	4	6	105
"	Centre	580	7	2		1		1	91
"	South	262	10			4	1	5	58
Third	North	580	165	7	4	2		14	103
"	Centre and South.	346	162	2	5	1	5	4	118
Fifth	North	547	58	5	2	12	8	76	90
"	Centre	274	19	2		4	5	8	92
"	South	392	30		2	5		6	99
Seventh	North	300	6			7	6	10	126
"	Centre	279	6	2		4			89
Seventh & Eighth.	North and South.	192	7	2	4	3	2	1	65
Sixth & Eighth	Do.	645	18	9	1	1	9	10	54
Eighth	South	209	75	4		5	6	5	45
	Totals	6,708	732	46	26	65	65	164	1,288

No. 74.

ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1877, No. 995.

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

2. The Acting President of the Madras Municipal Commission will be requested to obtain information as to the system of halalcore scavenging obtaining in the Presidency Towns of Calcutta and Bombay.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

H. B. Figg
Ag. 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. A. Grubert.

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PUBLIC

THE ACTING PRESIDENT
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION

Dated July 24th

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Aug 6 August 1877 N 1375

JULY.
NO. 73-74.

Summary.—Commissioning letter from Acting
President of the Maltese Municipality forwarding
Special Report (1) for a report for week ending
1st July 1877; and requesting the Acting
President to obtain information as to the system
of building and repairing obtaining in Calcutta
and Bombay N 1375

6 August 1877