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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

|                     |          |                 |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

743

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd June 1876.*

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No. 37. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1876, No. 1,330 :—

Read the following letters :—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq.,  
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tindivanam, 28th April  
1876, No. 169.

I HAVE the honor to report, for the information of the Board and Government, that the disease known as "Suruku Mari," which appears to be an epidemic, is spreading eastwards into the district. Its first appearance was in the extreme north-west corner at Chengam, where it seems to have entered from the Salem District. Thence it extended to Trinomalay and Tindivanam, and the disease is now reported to have broken out in the Villapuram Taluq and at Trivady in the Cuddalore Taluq.

2. I enclose a translation of an Arzi on the subject from the Tahsildar of Villapuram. The only remedy administered is the half-digested food of goats, and it is reported everywhere to have been efficacious, and to have effected immediate and most wonderful cures. The popular faith in this specific is so strong that many ryots, I am informed, who have to attend the catcherry for Jamabandi or on

3. The Trivady Deputy Tahsildar verbally informed my Head Vernacular Clerk that he had witnessed the cure of a case in a house adjoining his own by the administration of the medicine.

4. It is now sold in the bazaars, and is said never to fail to effect a cure.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

*Translation of an Arzi from the Tahsildar of Villapuram to the Additional Deputy Collector in charge of the Head Assistant Collector's Office, South Arcot.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of the Huzur Takid, No. 176, dated the 8th instant, stating that cholera reports are being received from the taluq, that if cholera should increase, the Dresser will be sent out with medicines; and asking whether it is necessary to do so, and directing me to report at once whether he should be sent.

2. I learn that the said disease prevails, to some extent, in Sangithamangalam, &c., villages in the west. I am not aware of its having broken out in other places.

3. Besides this, I learn that a new complaint called "Suruku Mariathal" has made its appearance in some of the villages in the west. The symptoms of it are as follow :—All of a sudden a burning sensation is felt in the leg, then an irritation is felt from head to foot as if poison works on the human frame; subsequently, a pressure on the chest stops the free exercise of the lungs, and the patient falls a victim to the disease in two Indian hours. I hear that the remedy prescribed is this: the undigested fodder in the stomach of a goat is taken out, dried, powdered, and mixed with water is given to the patient. A ryot of Kanakarakuppam village died of the same disease. The Monegar of Thoothiput reported to me that few persons in his village were attacked with the disease, but recovered on the application of the said remedy.

4. This is a strange and unheard of disease.

*puram Taluq and at Trivady in the  
Cuddalore*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd June 1876.

5. Some of the Curnams of villages on the west always keep with them the said medicine, being afraid of the attack of this disease. I send herewith for inspection a small quantity of the medicine which I took from the Curnam of Kulput.

VILLAPURAM,  
10th April 1876.

(Signed) C. STREENIVASIENGAR,  
Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN, Collector.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq.,  
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tindivanam, 4th May  
1876, No. 180.

In continuation of this Office letter, No. 169, dated 28th ultimo, I have the honor to forward a translation of an Arzi, No. 39, dated 22nd April 1876, from the Deputy Tahsildar of Trivady, reporting the breaking out of the disease called Suruku Mari in his division.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Translation of Arzi, No. 39, dated 22nd April 1876, from the Deputy Tahsildar of Trivady.

For some days past a disease called Suruku has made its appearance in Punrutty and Trivady; either near the toe or under it a sensation is felt as if one was being pricked with a style. Then one feels as if a reptile was creeping over the body, and this sensation mounts up to the head. As soon as the first sensation is felt the patient perspires and the body becomes cold. Itching is felt in the head which becomes heavy and the belly swells. There is also a swelling in the throat as if an orange had been thrust into it. Vision becomes defective, hands and legs get enfeebled, and difficulty of breathing is experienced, and pain is felt in the loins. All these symptoms appear in about two or three Indian hours, and disappear one by one, and the patient becomes cured in about an hour if the undigested fodder of a she-goat of dark color is taken and given to the patient mixed with hot water.

(Signed) P. RAMACHARI, Deputy Tahsildar.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN, Collector.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq.,  
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tindivanam, 6th May  
1876, No. 185.

In continuation of my previous letters on the subject, I have the honor to forward the accompanying copy of a letter\* from the Deputy Collector on General Duties intimating the outbreak of "Suruku Mari" in the Ulundurpet Division of the Trikalore Taluq.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. SRI BALIAH, Deputy Collector, General Duties, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector  
of South Arcot, dated Trikalore, 25th April 1876, No. 299.

I HAVE the honor to submit, for your perusal, copy of Arzi, No. 55, dated 15th instant, from the Deputy Tahsildar of Ulundurpet reporting on the outbreak of Suruku Mari in his division.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
2nd June 1876.

No information is, however, furnished by the Deputy Tahsildar as to the number of attacks, and whether there were any fatal cases from the disease. I have accordingly called on the Deputy Tahsildar to furnish the above information, and, on receipt of a reply, the same will be submitted to you.

2. The symptoms and the course of the disease as described by the Deputy Tahsildar are just the same as those already reported on in my letter noted in the margin. It appears to be

No. 75, dated 2nd February 1876.

the popular belief that the powder of the indigesta of the goat acts as a powerful remedy; that instantaneous administration of the medicine produces immediate relief; and that, if any delay occurs, the powder has to be more frequently resorted to.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN, Collector.

THESE letters will be submitted for the information of Government, and copies will be sent to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

2. The strong belief in the efficacy of the cure extending over such a wide tract of country is very remarkable. Authentic information of the disease having appeared in Madras has reached the Board, and they would suggest that a thorough investigation of the subject be made by the Medical Department. It is observed that, although it is reported that Surgeon King experimented with the native nostrum, he never saw a case of the disease.

G.O., dated 6th Dec. 1875, No. 1,758.  
" " 15th Feb. 1876, " 220.

3. Copies of the Government orders noted in the margin will be forwarded to the Collector of South Arcot for his information.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,  
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 38.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd June 1876, No. 743.

Miscellaneous.

THE attention of the Surgeon-General is called to a letter which appeared in the papers from Major Sherman, of Pondicherry, stating that the disease is instantly cured by a preparation of ammonia. Dr. Balfour will also report on the treatment of the disease, if any, in the Madras hospitals.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. GARMICHAEL,  
Secretary to Government.

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.  
" the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Suruku Mari and a Trivady in the



Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 20 May 1876

Read the following.

From

J. H. Gresham Esquire  
Collector of South Arcot

To  
C. B. Galton Esquire  
Agent to the Board of Revenue  
Madras.

Sir,  
I have the honor to report for the  
information of the Board and Government  
that the disease known as "Surukh Mari,"  
which appears to be an epidemic, is  
spreading eastward into the District. Its  
first appearance was in the extreme  
northwest corner at Chengam where it  
seems to have entered from the Salem  
District. Thence it extended to Trinomalay  
and Pindivanam and the disease is now  
reported to have broken out in the Villa-  
puram Taluk and at Trivade in the  
Cuddalore

65061.0118701

REVENUE.

To THE SURGEON-GENERAL, INDIAN

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 2nd June, 1876.

Recd.

G.O., 2nd June 1876, No. 743.

Recd.

JUNE  
Nos. 37, 38.

On behalf of a medical kind of Disease called  
"Surukh Mari," in South Arcot District.  
Drawing the attention of the Surgeon-General to  
a letter which appeared in the papers from Major  
Sherman, of Pondicherry, requesting the  
requesting him to report on the treatment of the  
disease, &c., to the Madras Hospital.

Quodalore Sahib.

2. I enclose a translation of an arzi on the subject from the Tahsildar of Villapuram. The only remedy administered is the half digested food of goats and it is reported everywhere to have efficacious and to have effected immediate and most wonderful cures. The popular faith in this specific is so strong that many ryots, I am informed, who have attended the Kutcherry for Gannabandi or on other business, carry a dose or more of it in their bebed bags or turbans.

3. The Trivady Deputy Tahsildar verbally informed my Head Vernacular Clerk that he had witnessed the cure of a case in a house adjoining his own by the administration of the medicine.

4. It is now sold in the bazaars and is said never to fail to effect a cure.

Collector's office  
Camp Villapuram  
28 April 1876

Shano  
Signed J. W. Farquhar  
Collector

Enclosure

Enclosure

Translation of an arzi from the Tahsildar of Villapuram to the Additional Deputy Collector in charge of the Head Assistant Collector's office, South Arcot.

I acknowledge the receipt of the Buzur Sahib's arzi, dated the 8th Instant, stating that cholera reports are being received from the Sahib, that if cholera should increase the dresser will be sent out with medicines, and asking whether it is necessary to do so and directing me to report at once whether he should be sent.

I learn that the said disease prevails to some extent in Sangithamangalam &c. villages in the west. I am not aware of its having broken out in other places.

Besides this I learn that a new complaint called "Kurukumarathal" has made its appearance in some of the villages in the west. The symptoms of it are as follows. All of a sudden a burning sensation is felt in the leg, then an irritation

1. irritation is felt from head to foot as if  
2. poison works on the human frame, sub-  
sequently, or pressure on the chest stops  
the free exercise of the lungs and the  
patients fall a victim to the disease  
in two Indian hours. I hear that the  
remedy prescribed is this. The undigested  
 fodder in the stomach of a goat is taken  
out, dried, powdered, and mixed with water  
is given to the patient. A ryot of Kara-  
kuppam village died of the same  
disease. The Monegar of Thoothiput re-  
ported to me that few persons in his village  
attacked with the disease but recovered  
on the application of the said remedy.  
This is a strange and unheard of  
disease.

Some of the Kurnams of villages on  
the west always keep with them the said  
medicine being afraid of the attack of this  
disease.

742  
552  
disease. I sent herewith for inspection  
a small quantity of the medicine which  
I took from the Kurnam of Kulpur.  
Villapuram }  
10 April 1876 }  
Sd/- B. Sreenivasaiah  
Tahsildar  
[True Translation]  
[Signed] J. W. Garsden  
Collector.

Read also the following  
No 180  
From J. W. Garsden Esquire  
Collector of South Arcot  
To C. S. Galt Esquire  
Secretary to the  
Board of Revenue  
Madras

Sir, In continuation of this office  
letter, No 169, dated 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo, I have  
the honor to forward a translation of  
an Arzi No 39 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1876 from  
the Deputy Tahsildar of Tiruvady report-  
ing the breaking out of the disease called  
Soorookoo Mari in this Division.  
I have &c.  
Collector's office }  
Camp. Tiruvannam }  
4 May 1876 }  
[Signed] J. W. Garsden  
Collector  
Enclosure

Enclosure

Translation of Arji No 39 dated 22<sup>nd</sup>  
April 1876 from the Deputy Tahsildar  
of Trivady.

For some days past, a disease  
called Soorosh has made its appearance  
in Purnetty and Trivady. Either near the  
soer or under it a sensation is felt as if  
one was being pricked with a style. Then  
one feels as if a reptile was creeping over  
the body and this sensation mounts up  
to the head. As soon as the first sen-  
sation is felt the patient perspires and  
the body becomes cold. Itching is  
felt in the head which becomes heavy  
and the belly swells. There is also a swell-  
ing in the throat as if an orange had been  
thrust into it vision becomes defective.  
Hands and legs get enfeebled and difficulty  
of breathing is experienced and pain is felt  
in the loins. All these symptoms appear  
in

in about 2 or 3 Indian hours and disappear  
one by one and the patient becomes cured  
in about an hour, if the undigested  
fodder of a she-goat of dark color is  
taken and given to it faint, mixed with  
hot water.

Signed P. Ramachari  
Deputy Tahsildar  
True Translation

Signed J. B. Garstin  
Collector.

Read also the following

From No 185  
J. B. Garstin Esquire  
Collector of South Arcot  
To C. B. Galton Esquire  
Secretary to the  
Board of Revenue  
Madras.

Sir,  
In continuation of my previous  
letters on the subject I have the honor  
to forward the accompanying copy of a  
letter from the Deputy Collector on General  
Duties

Ch 299 dated  
25 April 1876.

Duties intimating the outbreak of "Suruku  
Mari" in the Mundurpett Division of the  
Dikalore Taluk. I have  
Collectors office / signed J. H. Garstin  
Camp Hindavanam / Collector.  
6 May 1876

Enclosure

From No 299  
The Deputy Collector  
General Duties of South Arcot  
To J. H. Garstin Esquire  
Collector of South Arcot.  
Sir,

I have the honor to submit for  
your personal copy of arzi No 55 dated 15<sup>th</sup>  
instant from the Deputy Tahildar of  
Mundurpett reporting on the outbreak  
of Suruku Mari in his Division. No in-  
formation is however furnished by the  
Deputy Tahildar as to the number of  
attacks and whether there were any fatal  
cases from the disease. I have accord-  
ingly called on the Deputy Tahildar

105 dated  
2<sup>nd</sup> February  
1876

to furnish the above information and on  
receipt of a reply the same will be sub-  
mitted to you.  
2. The symptoms and the course of the  
disease as described by the Deputy Tahildar  
are just the same as those already reported  
on in my letter noted in the margin. It  
appears to be the popular belief that  
the powder of the indigesta of the goat  
acts as a powerful remedy, that instan-  
taneous administration of the medicine  
produces immediate relief and that if any  
delay occurs the powder has to be more  
frequently resorted to.

I have  
Dikalore } signed C. Sribaliah  
25 April 1876 } Deputy Collector  
True Copy  
signed J. H. Garstin  
Collector.

These letters will be submitted for the  
information of Government and copies will  
be sent to the Surgeon-General, Indian  
Medical

Medical Department

2. The strong belief in the efficacy of the cure extending over such a wide tract of country is very remarkable authentic information of the disease, having appeared in Madras has reached the Board and they would suggest that a thorough investigation of the subject be made by the Medical Department. It is observed that although it is reported that Surgeon King experimented with the native nostrum, he never saw a case of the disease.

3. Copies of the Government Orders noted in G.O. 6 December 1875, No 1753. the margin will be forwarded to the collector of South Arcot for his information. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1875. 15 February 1876 No 220

(Enc. Copies & tract)

Respectfully

Ag. Secy - Secy.

To

The Secretary to Government  
Revenue Department

G. M. Murphy  
C. R. B.

in the treatment  
of the disease of  
any of the  
members  
of the family  
the disease is  
usually cured by a  
-junction of ammonia & water taken to bed

June 21st 1876  
The disease is usually cured by a  
-junction of ammonia & water taken to bed  
26: Aug 16 1876

June 21st 1876  
Proceedings of the  
Board of Directors  
June 20th - May 1876  
June 23rd  
June 20th  
June 20th

Submitting to Governor  
-men for forwarding to  
Surgeon General, who  
reports, collector of South  
street on each side of  
a peculiar kind of disease  
called "Scrub-o'-the-bone"  
in his District; suggest-  
ing a thorough investi-  
gation by Medical Dept.  
& Sanitary Collector  
in the office of certain Govt  
orders on the subject.

6. St. Petersburg, Fla. June 20th 1876  
14. de Board of Directors  
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