M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 854 Press Mis.

Dated 31-7-1935

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31*st March* 1869.

No. 696. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Reviewing the Report on the Civil Dispensary at Vizagapatam for 1868. } (Here enter 12th March 1869, No. 299.)

No. 697. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1869, No. 854.

Miscellaneous.

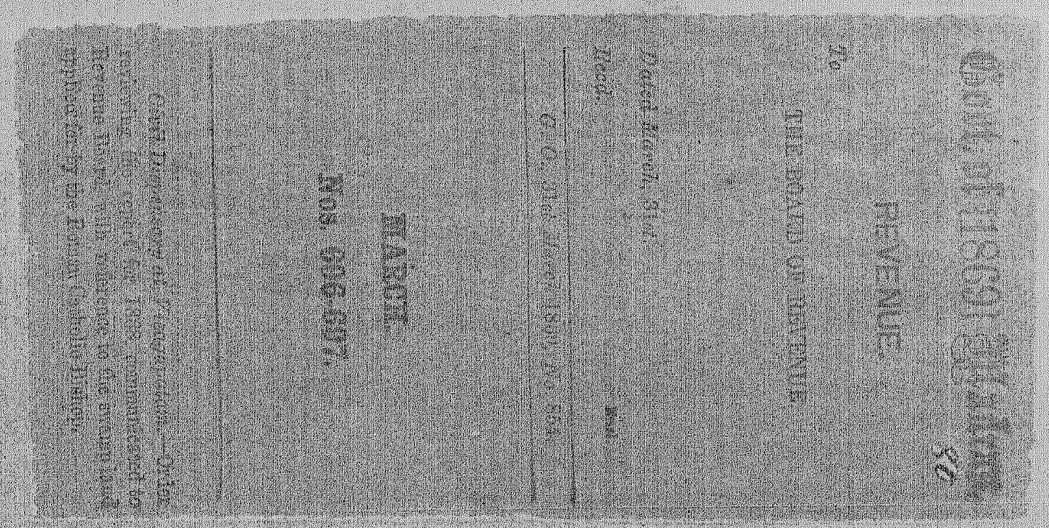
COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 299.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.



Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
12th March 1869.

No. 65. Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Magistrate of Vizagapatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Vizagapatam, 11th February 1869, No. 39.

I have the honor to forward the Annual Report of the Vizagapatam Civil Dispensary, and to bear witness to the excellent management of the institution, which, through the liberality of the Rajah, and the care of the Civil Surgeon in charge, is not surpassed in usefulness in any district of the Presidency.

2. With reference to Doctor Adam's remarks on the increased price of the necessaries of life, and destitution of the poorer classes, I would point out that prices are even now below the average rates in several districts, and as there is no want of grain throughout this part of the country, there is no reason to expect an increase in the present rates, until the prospects of the next agricultural season are known.

3. There is no destitution at present in Vizagapatam, which the existing local charities cannot meet.

4. With regard to the swamp at the back of the town being a cause of malaria, I believe that Doctor Adam is correct, and owing to the consequent prevalence of fever I consider that Vizagapatam is far from being a healthy place. I have submitted, through the Board of Revenue, an application from the Roman Catholic Bishop for the greater portion of this swamp land, which he is desirous to reclaim, and I have no doubt that the measure is very desirable in a sanitary point of view.

Annual Report of the Civil Dispensary, Vizagapatam, for the year 1868.

Throughout the past year the public health of Vizagapatam and neighbourhood has continued good, unaffected by any epidemic of a serious nature. The seasons here, as elsewhere along this coast, have recently been unusually dry. During the first six months of the year the climate had been particularly genial, almost bracing; for until after the month of June the solar heat had been in no degree oppressive. The south-west monsoon broke on the station in that month with unusual severity, and it was hoped that continuance of rain would bring abundant crops to the cultivator, and cheap food to the poorer inhabitants; but during the two ensuing months occasional light monsoon showers only fell, the solar heat increased in intensity, currents of air almost entirely, at nights always, ceased, and when with such condition of the atmosphere is considered the amount of evaporation from the sea surface, as well as from the land during the monsoon season, it cannot but be wondered at that so little general sickness has prevailed among the community, especially during the latter half of the period under review.

2. A total rain-fall of only 32·06 inches was marked at the District Jail greatly below the wonted average, and certainly less than what was required for the crops in the neighbourhood. In June alone 14·23 inches were shown, of which 13·02 fell between the 1st and 7th, at the first burst of the monsoon; and though 11·07 was the rain-fall in the three ensuing months, the showers were never at any time decisive, sufficient to produce an appreciable influence on the climate, for the heat became greater than in the months preceding the monsoon period. Thirteen cents fell on the 16th October, since which date there has not been a sign of rain. The harvest, even inland to the base of the hills, has been very scanty, requiring large remissions to be made from rates due to Government.

3. During the last few months considerable destitution has prevailed, especially among the aged and weak, those unable to work for a livelihood; and though, as I have been given to understand, orders have been sent by Government for the extension of works by the Public Work Department, that the means of living may be within the reach of all, many people have gone to the Upper Godavery works and elsewhere, in quest of cheaper food. Not only has rice become dearer, though it is stated there is no scarcity of it in the godowns of the native merchants, but these,

taking advantage of the adverse season, have increased the price from 23 and 25 seers per Rupee, to so few as 10 and 12. Even dry grain has gone up in price; raggee and cumboo are not procurable at less than 25 per cent. more than what was previously asked for them, and thus the circumstances of the poor and aged being so precarious, their constitutions broken by deprivation have brought many to the Hospital.

4. In the early part of the year measles and small-pox largely prevailed in Vizagapatam and neighbouring villages, though so few of these, from native prejudices, applied for treatment at this Dispensary. Even of hooping-cough, also, there were then some few cases treated among Europeans and East Indians; and again, at the present season, the same diseases prevail, but as yet to no marked extent.

5. I referred in my last Annual Report to the influence exercised upon the health of this town by the permitted existence of the swamp and backwater which lie on the north, north-west, and west of the place. A wide tract of low-lying open country, through which passes the small stream, at the mouth of which Vizagapatam stands, is daily flooded at the rise of the tide by sea and river water. The backwater lies close under the town on its north and north-west side, nearly close up to the Infantry parade ground. It certainly has its advantages, being a place of shelter and resort for dhonies and other native coasting craft during stormy weather at sea; but as it is by such an imperfect channel that the sewage of the town is made to find its way out to sea, it cannot but be considered as a means of exercising a most depressing influence on the health of the inhabitants, more especially upon those who live immediately on its banks. Perhaps I encroach on the province of my friend, Surgeon Major MacLeod, M.D., when I recall the impressions forced upon me when temporarily in charge of the Military duties of this station. Then it was only too perceptible that in the native lines, as long as north-easterly breezes prevailed, the health of the men and their families continued good or fair, but whenever wind blowing across the swamp set in, immediately the number of sick increased, by applications made for admission by asthmatic cases, others with fever, and many with asthenia, and conditions the result of general debility. In the Garrison Hospital, which stands on the bank near the lower end of the backwater, though the number of cases in the wards was never at any time great, I could not but assign the cause of dyspepsia, headache, sometimes diarrhœa, in general depression of spirits, to the inhalation of the noxious atmosphere wafted into the wards from the open reeking waste, and the exhalations from the sewers emptied into the backwater. It is from such localities that the majority of cases applying for relief at the Dispensary come. That reclamation of such a wide extent of waste is necessary in a sanitary point of view, I am persuaded. As to the engineering practicability of what would be a most salutary measure I hesitate to give an opinion. But when I say that many years ago Colonel Rundall, now Consulting Engineer to Government in the Irrigation Department, recommended the reclamation of this swamp, being persuaded of its possibility, as well as of the benefit it would afford, it must be allowed it is with good reason in favor of the measure: and as a proof of what can be done a small piece of this swamp, the property of the Roman Catholic Mission in this place, and situated in that part of the marsh most influenced by the surge of water, has been made useful and arable, merely by enclosing it with a low mud wall not higher than four feet, but which effectually prevents the gut-bearing sea-water around it, a useless, hurtful malarious waste.

6. The drainage of the town, as far as concerns the condition of the streets especially, is good. The streets are well laid with open stone-drains, which are flushed with water and thoroughly cleaned out twice a day under the superintendence of Overseers. These unfortunately, as stated above, lead into the backwater instead of into the sea, and the influences are what I have already remarked. Another objectionable institution is the old-fashioned form of privy, used at any and all times of the day, built out over the backwater, with deep pits through which the fæces are dropped into the water, or on the moist mud and sand below.

7. It is to be hoped that in time the more approved dry conservancy principle will be more thoroughly carried out by the Municipality. As it is there are some of these about the town, but not such as they so generally make use of by the native population. Europeans and East Indians

go to them, nor are they kept so regularly clean by the toties as that the benefit of them can be observed.

8. During the past year the number of applicants for relief has exceeded that of the previous year. Of out-patients 7797 have been entertained, and this number is 1335 in excess of that shown by the last Annual Return. There seems to me to be an increasing willingness on the part of the better classes of natives to avail themselves of the opportunities of obtaining advice and medical treatment afforded at Civil Dispensaries, and their regular daily attendance, as long as this is necessary, confirms this.

9. By last year's Return 13 in-patients remained in Hospital, and 187 have been admitted during the past year, making a total of 205, who have derived in-door relief. There have been many other applicants, whose condition was entirely influenced by want and destitution, subjects for the Poor-house rather than the Dispensary charity, and such were usually sent to that institution when special medical treatment was not indicated in their cases.

10. There is little calling for special detailed remark upon the diseases of either in or out-patients.

11. Fevers, rheumatism, and ulcers, as usual, hold their high portion among the numbers admitted, the former presenting the uniform character of intermittens in this district. In many, especially those coming for aid from the Hill Tracts, organic implication showed in liver, spleen, or lungs, and in not a few the stomach and bowels were so generally affected, producing very frequent seromucous evacuations, with vomits of the same character, greatly lowering the powers of life. Antiperiodics are not always decisive enough in arresting the progress of such a severe form of intermittent, other of the cinchona alkaloids, cinchonine for example exercise almost a specific action in hepatic congestion, and with a remedy combining such desired action it is believed an earlier effect would be produced upon the more severe cases.

12. This Dispensary, as is well known, is entirely supported by the munificence of His Highness the Maharajah of Vizianagram, and during the past year His Highness has at all times been ready to accept the representations of the Committee of Management towards the extension of the charity. It has been before shown that His Highness endowed this institution with the sum of Rupees 20,000; but it was found necessary, when this sum was received, and it was desired to invest the amount in Government securities, to use a portion of the principal in securing the investment. Rupees 1000 of that amount had been so used, and it had recently been recommended by the present Committee of Management to appropriate a portion of the balance, lying to credit in the Government Savings' Bank, to make up the investment to the amount of the original grant. This has been done during the past year, at a cost of Rupees 141-7-8.

13. The Financial Statement shows a balance of Rupees 1191-14-3 to have lain in the Government Savings' Bank on the 1st January last. During the year there were received in addition from the Maharajah the sum of Rupees 398-3-5 when the expenses of the institution had exceeded the means at command in the Bank, and Rupees 550 for the supply of ward and consulting room furniture; and from the sale of medicines Rupees 258-0-11 were derived. Rupees 1014-8-4 were received as interest upon investment. There was thus a sum of Rupees 3412-10-8 on hand for the working of the charity.

14. Of this sum Rupees 1141-7-8 were laid out in the purchase of Rupees 1000 Government Promissory Note; Rupees 874-11-10 in the provision diets for the sick in Hospital; Rupees 223-3-10 for the purchase of perishable articles; Rupees 431-6-0 in providing furniture in the wards, and clothing for the sick; and for servants' wages Rupees 404. In addition to this a renewal fee of Rupees 5 and gross interest, amounting to Rupees 27-4-4 on Savings' Bank account, had to be met; and deducting this total, viz., Rupees 3107-1-8, from the amount of receipts, leaves a balance at disposal of Rupees 305-9-0.

15. The Dispensary is nearly as complete in furniture and such necessaries as are required for the number of sick I can accommodate. I purchased iron cots at a very moderate rate at Madras, the appearance of which, to say nothing of the greater comfort they afford, is vastly preferable to

the old wooden shape. A small table stands at the side of each bed. A liberal supply of clothing has been provided for the use of the inmates to be worn only as long as they remain in Hospital.

16. The building outside, and the flooring of the wards, are much in need of repair. The Maharajah has promised his early attention to this.

17. I need say no more regarding 1st Class Hospital Assistant C. Appavoo, No. 359, than that my opinion of him, as expressed last year, remains still the same, and that he still stands high in the estimation of those who come to the Hospital for advice and treatment.

(Signed) H. ADAM,
Surgeon.

MEMORANDUM of visitors of the Civil Dispensary, Vizagapatam, during the year 1868.

Names.	Date of visits.	Remarks.
W. M. Babington	7th January 1868.	Visited a sick lad.
W. M. Babington	2nd March ,,	
R. E. Master	11th ,, ,,	
J. H. Master	11th ,, ,,	
P. Steenevassa Row	20th ,, ,,	
J. H. Master	31st ,, ,,	
W. E. Jellicoe	31st ,, ,,	
W. M. Babington	31st ,, ,,	
J. W. McMurray	31st ,, ,,	
N. Jugunnada Row	16th May ,,	
Sree V. Vizianagram	22nd ,, ,,	I am very glad that the Hospital is kept in a very good condition
J. Minchin	22nd ,, ,,	
J. W. McMurray	8th July ,,	
W. E. Jellicoe	8th ,, ,,	
A. R. Hutchins	26th September ,,	
T. E. Tennant	1st October ,,	
C. S. Hearn	1st ,, ,,	
W. E. Jellicoe	8th ,, ,,	
J. W. McMurray	8th ,, ,,	

(Signed) H. ADAM,
Surgeon.

No. 66. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1869, No. 299.

With the foregoing letter the Magistrate of Vizagapatam submits the Medical Report on the Civil Dispensary there established for 1868.

2. The number of out-patients treated during the period under review was 7707, being 1395 in excess of that in the preceding year. The number who obtained in-door relief was 205.

3. The Government are glad to learn that the usefulness of the institution is becoming more and more appreciated, as evidenced by the resort to it of the better classes of Natives.

4. Adverting to the practice which seems to have hitherto obtained, of depositing in the District Savings' Bank funds belonging to the Dispensary, the Government direct that this arrangement be discontinued, with reference to the orders issued on the subject under date the 4th January 1869, No. 6.

5. The Government are much gratified at the continued interest evinced by the Maharajah of Vizianagram in the welfare of the institution.

6. It is observed that the application of the Roman Catholic Bishop, referred to in the last paragraph of Mr. Minchin's letter, for the transfer to him of the greater portion of the land described as a swamp, at the back of the town, for the purpose of reclamation, is under consideration in the Revenue Department.

7. The question of reclaiming the remaining portion of the swamp is deserving of consideration, as there is reason to believe that its present condition is at certain seasons of the year injurious to the public health of the town of Vizagapatam.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Magistrate of Vizagapatam.
,, Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.
,, Revenue Department.

Committee
Revenue Board

Extd. J. Tulloch.

Revenue Misc.

Govt. of 1869 Madras.

8f. 880.

PUBLIC.

To

THE MAGISTRATE OF VIZAGAPATAM.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 12th

Recd. 19th

Rec.

G. O., 12th March 1869, No. 208.

MARCH.

Nos. 65-66.

Reviewing the Report on the Civil Dispensary at Vizagapatam for 1868.

[illegible]

11858 21 March 2