

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2489	Press Mis.
444-445	
Dated 23 - 10 - 19-1867	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd October 1867.*

No. 444. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Forwarding, for communication to Forest Department, papers regarding the medical treatment of elephants. } (Here enter 18th October 1867, No. 4,030.)

No. 445. ORDER THEREON, 23rd October 1867, No. 2,489.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, the Conservator of Forests, and to Mr. Thacker.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. H. WILKINSON,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
,, the Conservator of Forests, } With Proceedings Military Department, No. 4,030.
,, J. Thacker, Esq., }

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From Lieutenant Colonel T. H. SIBLEY, for Commissary General, Fort William, 2nd September 1867, No. 3130; to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

I beg to forward 50 copies of a circular which I am issuing, No. 69, dated 12th August 1867, regarding the medical treatment of elephants. Perhaps Government may consider it worth while to distribute them to the functionaries to whom copies of the memoranda regarding these animals, forwarded with my letter, No. 1927, dated 28th May 1867, were supplied.

2. The return regarding tree shelter, promised in my letter, No. 1927, will be submitted shortly.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM, THE 12TH SEPTEMBER 1867.
No. 402.

Copy of the above, and of its accompaniment, forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, Military Department, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in continuation of docket from this Department, No. 137, dated 6th June 1867.

(By Order,)

(Signed) W. M. LEES, Major,

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Copy of a letter from the Assistant Commissary General, Rangoon, 29th July 1867, No. 129; to the Commissary General.

I have the honor to forward, for your information, a recipe of my own, which, after several trials, I have found to be most efficacious in healing indolent ulcers of long standing in elephants. Sores brought on from the chafing of the furniture on the back, after being freely opened with the knife, and after suppuration takes place, are quickly stimulated to healthy action, and have been healed by the use of this ointment when the native remedies have failed—the ointment must not be used when there is any appearance of inflammation. The sore should be well washed, and then thickly smeared with the ointment, the air being excluded therefrom. The strength of the ointment may be reduced by adding more sweet oil and wax when the sore does not require too great a stimulus. If you consider it worthy of trial, I shall be glad to hear the result. I append my Serjeant's report upon this ointment.

Recipe.—Equal parts of alum and blue stone, *after being burnt*, to be rubbed down as smooth as possible in double its weight of spirits of turpentine, and then to be mixed with sweet oil and bees wax, to such a consistency as to allow its being *spread* on the sore.

MEMORANDUM.

By Cattle Serjeant J. MINTZ, Rangoon, 20th July 1867.

The undersigned respectfully begs to report, for the information of Colonel R. Benson, that he has used the new ointment on several elephants. In all cases it has proved most successful. One case in particular the undersigned wishes to bring to Colonel Benson's notice, that is an elephant belonging to the Forest Department, which, for 12 or 13 months past, has not done any work, on account of a large sore on its back. This salve was first applied on the 24th of June, and by the 13th of July all bad flesh was removed, and granulation set in. This animal is at present in the Public Cattle Lines, where it can be seen at any time, and also the extent of the sore on its back.

The undersigned can, without any exaggeration, say that this ointment, if properly applied to sores on elephants or camels, must effect a cure in one-third of the time it would take in using the old remedies to which the elephant attendants resort.

Extracts from the "Rangoon Times," dated 20th July 1867, in connection with the disease which has lately carried off so many elephants at Rangoon.

I offer a few remarks upon the subject of the disease which has recently, and, in the short of about fifteen days, destroyed seven elephants in Rangoon.

The mortality commenced as the severity of the south-west monsoon increased, and this I noticed to be the case in diseases which break out amongst cattle in Burmah.

6. The first sign I noticed of the disease was the number of elephants which resort to eating mud—the natural remedy provided by the animal's own instinct for the expulsion of intestinal worms. Perhaps the animal resorts to mud not only as a remedy for worms, but also any excess of irritation in the bowels or stomach is felt. However, be that as it may, in all cases which came under my notice, I am confident the cause of death was from the presence of cystic and larval forms of the Entozoa, which were found in abundance in the liver, lungs, intestines of the animal.

7. In the lower bowels or alimentary canal, the common worms were found in great number termed "Chotee" or "Mussodee" in Dr. Gilchrist's Treatise (species of Ascaridies?), and it was not until the liver and lungs had incisions made in them that the other kind was discovered.

8. The inside of the liver and cavities of the lungs were, I may say without exaggeration, positively alive with this species of "Distoma," for I believe it to be such, at least as far as I am able to judge in comparing its diagnosis with those mentioned in Davaine's "Traité des Entozoaires," of which, at pages 49 and 322, a very accurate description is given, with the exception of some slight variations, which only determines this to be a different species.

9. The form of the one now spoken of is somewhat more round, which I think may be likened in shape to the old fashioned lady's reticule, and of about the size of the nail of the forefinger. The body is compressed, soft, with two distinct orifices, one marginal forming as it were a small pointed distention on its margin, the other between the middle and anterior sixth of the body. Just above the ventral orifice, there is a kind of elongated appendage or sucker, in length about the same as the body, but when pulled out by the forceps extends beyond the margin; it appears slightly elastic, with the end distended. Under the microscope, the external covering or epidermis appears pitted, and when subjected to the action of dilute nitric acid, and mounted on a slide in Canada balsam, the intestinal ducts are plainly visible, containing dark colored granules, being frequent near the orifices, but thickly reticulated towards the margin, with clavate terminations. There are as far as I could discover, no hooklets in mouths, as stated to be in Echinococcus or larva of Taenia. From the absence of these characteristics, I have been led to conclude it to be a species of Distoma.

10. The natural question now is, are these Entozoon imported into the animals whilst feeding *ad est*, from the water or green forage they partake of? or are they indigenous or bred in the animal?

11. I am inclined to the opinion that they are taken in by the animals during feeding, most probably from the water, in the form of ova, which lies as it were in the intestines, until brought to maturity by the succulent green forage, which rapidly springs up during the first rains.

Davaine mentions that animals such as the ox and horse, frequenting marsh swampy places, are subject to the Distoma. It is most probably the truth; but I think, during very prolonged hot weather, when the water is reduced to its lowest stagnant state, and mixed with the lower organism of animal life, the elephant then imbibes them with the water in their embryonic form. In this opinion, I believe I am in a great sense supported; for, from enquiry, I find the virulent diseases which have attacked cattle in Burmah have been during a heavy monsoon, after a continued hot season.

13. The best mode of treatment to prevent this disease, I would suggest is, that at the end of the hot weather, the elephants should have mild laxatives given. If any worms are perceived, the remedies proposed by Dr. Gilchrist at pages 41 and 42 might be used with the best effect. I administered sanfonine in doses of 1½ drachms, which in some cases expelled the worms in a dead state. During the first six weeks of the rains, the elephants' forage should be half dry, as kerby or straw, if no other can be procured, and protected from the heavy squalls of rain and wind which are prevalent, as I have before mentioned, during the first of the monsoon. It is to the prevention of this disease we must look, for if once the animal is attacked in the way above described, I fear there is very little hope of its recovery.

14. The disease is not one which develops its symptoms by different stages, but carries the elephant off in a few hours, and might, I am sure, be taken for apoplexy, or inflammation of the lungs, for the symptoms correspond in character with those described by Dr. Gilchrist. The elephant exhibits difficulty in breathing; it keeps its mouth open, is restless, in most cases refusing food; there is a puffiness about the head and shoulders.

Medical treatments of Elephants

No. 69.

Circulated to the Department.

Officers are requested to give the recipe a trial, and to report the result to this office.

COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
FORT WILLIAM, 12th August 1867. }

(Signed) J. D. MACPHERSON, Major General,
Commissary General.

ORDER, No. 4030, 18th October 1867.
Communicated to the Commissary General.
(True Extract.)

Macmillan Colonel,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Commissary General.
" Quarter Master General.
" Inspecting Veterinary Surgeon.
" Revenue Department, for communication
to the Forest Department. *With 10 spare copies*

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

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No 2829.

Proceedings of the
Military Dept

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Refers to

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Board of Revenue
the Land and Forests
to 1774 Thacker

No 2489

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Communication to
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