

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1266

DATED 6th March '97

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Recording with remarks, letter from the
Chemical Examiner furnishing certain
information regarding the manufacture
of Hydrochlorate of Cocaine.*

BACK PAPERS.

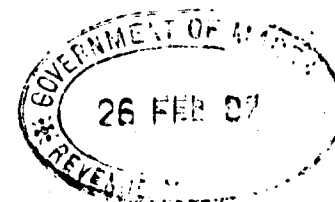
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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Revenue
Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.



Secy
Order misc No. 1266 d 6 March 97
176/3/97

From

The Chemical Examiner
Madras.

No. 179.

Recorded pending
from the Curator of the Govt. Gardens
the receipt of the reply to para
r of G.O. 5079 d 10th Dec:
1896, the submission of
which should be expedited.

Dated 25th February 1897
Received 26- do
Registered 1/3.
Enclosures 4
Spare copies -

SUBJECT.

The Curator of the Govt. Gardens
Ootacamund Chis
the Collector of the Nilgiris

Furnishing certain
information regarding
the manufacture of
Hydrochlorate of
Cocaine.

11-3-97

10/11/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	5079	Reed	12-12-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

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CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE,

Madras, 25 February 1897.

No. 179

From

SURGEON-MAJOR J. L. VANGEYZEL, M.B., F.I.C., F.C.S.,

CHEMICAL EXAMINER,

Madras,

To

THE Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George.

Enclosures. SIR,

With reference to para 2 of Ld. to 5079 ins dated 10 December 1896, I have the honor to report that the quantity of alkaloid which can be extracted from a pound of the coca leaves will depend much upon the quality of the leaves themselves. This is a variable factor, for Dr. Warden of Calcutta has examined samples which yielded from 0.322 percent to 1.56 percent, Mr. Hooper has obtained 0.5 percent from samples presumably grown on the Kilgiris, and I have obtained 0.258 percent from plants grown in Madras. The amount obtained from leaf of Commerce is stated to vary from 0.2 to 0.5 percent.

Resuming

Assuming that Mr. Cooper's figure represents an average yield from Kilgiri grown leaves, a pound of the leaves would yield 35 grains of the alkaloid, or about 40 grains of cocaine hydrochlorate.

2). As to the cost of extraction, the data obtained from working upon such small quantities as can be manipulated in this laboratory would not form a reliable basis for estimating the cost of working upon a large scale. In operating upon a small quantity like a pound of leaves about two to three pounds of alcohol and a smaller amount of ether, with a very small amount of acid and alkali are required. The alcohol costs about 8 annas here, and ether costs about 2^s a pound in England. Larger quantities of the reagents would be required for operating on larger quantities of leaves, but by suitable condensing arrangements the same reagents can be successively employed for extracting fresh portions of leaves, and in this way the cost would be considerably reduced. Unless
therefore

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therefore the extraction is tried upon a larger scale, for which I have neither the apparatus nor with current duties have I the spare time, it would not be possible to forecast an estimate of the probable cost with any degree of accuracy. The process involves nothing which cannot be carried out on a larger scale at the Madras Medical Stores Laboratory or the Quinine factory at Keddawattam.

3). I may add that cocaine hydrochlorate has for some ^{time} recently been quoted in the drug market at 11^s per oz. which is stated to be regarded by the wholesale trade as a non-paying basis. In 1890, the price appears to have been 15^s or 16^s per oz.

4). The delay in sending this, I regret to say, was caused through interruptions (by current duties) of the experimental work undertaken for the purpose of this reply.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

your most obedient servant
W. B. F. H. C. H. S.
Major.
Chemical Examiner

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
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When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____ DATED _____
189

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO Q. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LETTERS

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

A.E.—

- A = Copy in full.
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