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Bengal.

1911

MUNICIPAL  
DEPT.

(34)

## SANITATION.

MAY.

File S.  $\frac{1-R}{25}$

Nos. 1-3.

Report on the working of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed for the distribution of quinine in malarious tracts.

बिहार सरकार  
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग  
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

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2

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS DEPUTED  
FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF QUININE IN MALARIOUS TRACTS.

[Nos. 1-2.]

[FILE S.  $\frac{1-R}{25}$  1.]

No. 2463, dated Calcutta, the 10th April 1911.

From—MAJOR W. W. CLEMESHA, M.D., D.P.H., I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner,  
Bengal,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department.

I HAVE the honour to submit for the information of Government the annual report of the working of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed for the distribution of quinine in malarious tracts. I also beg to state that as this subject forms a part of the general prophylactic measures against malaria for the province as a whole, it was included in the discussion of such arrangement at the second meeting of the Provincial Malarial Committee. The Committee finally pass the following resolution—"that in order to get the best results out of this system of distributing quinine by Sub-Assistant Surgeons a senior Assistant Surgeon be placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Commissioner in order to supervise the working of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed to this duty; a suitable allowance to compensate this officer for the arduous nature of the duties he will have to perform, should be given to the inspecting officer."

In accordance with the resolution I suggest that a second grade Assistant Surgeon may be employed on this duty on a pay of Rs 150 and an allowance of Rs. 100 in order to compensate him for the arduous nature of his duties. The services of this officer will be required from 15th August to 15th January each year.

I have the honour to request that Government will be pleased to sanction the proposal.

*A short account of the work done by the itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed in certain districts during the fever season of 1910-11 to distribute gratuitous medical aid to malaria-stricken people.*

In accordance with the recommendations of the Drainage Committee of 1907 this work was first started in 1908 as an experimental measure under the direction of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal. The operations were continued during the fever season of 1909-10, the people beginning to appreciate the value of the scheme inaugurated by Government. In Government order No. 600 T.—San., dated the 20th June 1910, to the address of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, it was decided to continue the measure during the fever season of 1910-11 and to increase the area of operations by adding Palamau to it. For this purpose Government sanctioned the deputation of 23 itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons who were distributed as follows:—

24-Parganas	...	...	3	Purnea	...	...	4
Nadia	...	...	4	Palamau	...	...	2
Jessore	...	...	4				
Murshidabad	...	...	5			Total	...
Birbhum	...	...	1				23

These men reported themselves for special duty to their respective Civil Surgeons and were employed for about five months up to the 15th January 1911 when the operations ceased.

*Method of work.*—It was conducted on the same lines as in the previous two years. Before the operations began, lists were made out by the Civil Surgeons of the most affected villages which were allotted to the Sub-Assistant Surgeons in groups. Each group had a central station or head-quarters from which the Sub-Assistant Surgeon used to make rounds in the affected villages in quest of malaria. Thana officers were also informed of the postings and duties of these officers and were asked to make them known to the people, and to help them as far as possible in their campaign. Leaflets were also issued by the Magistrates informing the villagers in the selected areas of the gratuitous medical aid that was to be given by the Sub-Assistant Surgeons at the expense of Government. Statement "A" enclosed shows the work done by the 23 Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed on special duty. It will be seen that these officers treated 76,248 patients during the season under review, against 71,875 treated by 19 officers in the previous season, and 35,320 treated by 17 during 1908-09, thus giving an average of 3,315 cases treated by each against 3,782



and 2,077 in the previous two seasons. The decrease in the average is due to some Sub-Assistant Surgeons in the Jessore and the Nadia districts falling sick, and the delay in filling up their places. Out of the total patients treated this season, 55,362 were malaria, and 20,886 general cases. Among the children examined by these officers 78·74 per cent. were found with enlarged spleens in the Nadia District, 71·30 in Jessore, 66·10 in Murshidabad, 64·96 in 24-Parganas, 62·97 in Purnea, and 50·04 in Birbhum. This gives some idea of the extent to which malaria prevails in these areas.

*Cost.*—Statement “B” attached shows the expenditure incurred in the operations. It will be seen that Rs. 13,442-4-10 was expended during the season 1910-11, against Rs. 10,161-5-1 in the previous season, and Rs. 8,332-4-3 in 1908-09, the average cost of treatment per patient being As. 2-9, against As. 2-3 and 0-3-9 respectively in the two previous seasons.

*General remarks.*—As in previous years the operations commenced on or about the 15th August 1910 and lasted up to the 15th January last. Besides quinine the Sub-Assistant Surgeons were supplied with a stock of other drugs and instruments, which enabled them to treat other minor ailments while on their rounds. In this way they treated 20,886 general cases, giving an average of 908 per each. Quinine was supplied in the form of both powder and tablets, but the latter was preferred by the people. The cost of quinine and other medicines was Rs. 2,834-13-7, against Rs. 2,425-12-2 and Rs. 1,866-12-8 in the previous two years, the average cost per patient being 7·13 pies against 6½ and 10 pies. The results of the operations so far as can be seen from the reports are most encouraging, and the demand for the services of these itinerant fever doctors is gradually increasing.

The following extracts from the Civil Surgeons reports may be found interesting.

Captain Dutton, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Purnea, writes:—

“I was glad to find that the people have begun to appreciate the value of the anti-malarial measures and express their feeling of gratitude for this benevolent act of Government.”

Assistant Surgeon P. C. Purkait, Civil Surgeon, Nadia, says:—

“The deputation of itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons to the affected parts of the district during the fever season have done immense good, and from 1908 the deaths from fever are the lowest than any of the figures preceding them.”

Assistant Surgeon U. C. Das, Civil Surgeon, Palamau, reports:—

“People have been convinced of the benevolent intentions of Government. This campaign has clearly brought the fact to light that fevers and deaths from them are not so numerous as reported to be.”

Captain Macgilchrist, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Jessore, says:—

“The people of the district seem to appreciate the work of the doctors.”

In conclusion I consider that the work of the season has been extremely satisfactory, and that a great deal of good has been accomplished. This seems to be a universal opinion of all who have seen the practical working of this arrangement.

W. W. CLEMESHA, M.D., D.P.H., MAJOR, I.M.S.,

Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal.

The 10th April 1911.

### A.

*Statement showing the work done by Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed to administer gratuitous medical aid to the malaria-stricken people during the malaria season of 1910-11.*

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.	Name of sub-divisions or thanas in which operation was carried on.	NUMBER OF CASES TREATED.			SPLEEN EXAMINATION OF CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS.		
			Malaria.	General diseases.	Total.	Number examined.	Number found with enlarged spleen.	Percentage.
24-Parganas ...	3	Baraset, Habra, Basirhat, Baduria, Hasnabad, Chaital, and Sandeskhali thanas.	2,798	872	3,670	1,350	877	64·96
Nadia ...	4	Chudanga, Jibannagar, Damurhuda, Ranaghat, Chakdah, Gangni, Karimpore, Tehatta, Nowpara, and Doulatpore thanas.	13,124	5,176	18,300	5,802	4,569	78·74
Jessore ...	4	Kesubpore, Bagerpara, Mahamadpore, and Salika thanas.	8,557	2,392	10,949	2,617	1,866	71·30
Murshidabad ...	5	Sujanj, Nabogiam, Bhagwangola, Kamnagar, Shahnagar, Manullabazaar, and Doulatabad thanas.	18,250	6,322	24,572	8,877	5,670	66·10
Birbhum ...	1	Suri, Dubrajpore and Bolpore thanas ...	3,775	224	3,999	1,153	577	50·04
Purnea ...	4	Araria, Bahadurgunge, Kissengunge, Gopalpore, Islampore, Purnea, Sadar and Damdaga thanas.	6,562	5,663	12,230	2,123	1,337	62·97
Palamau ...	3	Latihar, Balumath Banka and Challerpur thanas.	2,296	232	2,528	...	...	...



## B.

*Statement showing the expenditure incurred under different heads in carrying out the anti-malarial work during the malaria season of 1910-11.*

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. of Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed.	EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON ACCOUNT OF—								Total.
		Pay and special allowance of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.	Travelling allowance or boat allowance.	House rent.	Coolies.	Quinine.	Other medicines.	Contingencies.	Other expenses.	
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
24-Parganas ...	3	847 3 4	231 12 1	77 3 11	149 15 10	174 14 2	142 12 8	50 9 6	...	1,674 7 6
Nadia ...	4	1,100 0 0	447 4 6	100 0 0	200 0 0	441 0 0	210 0 0	183 15 0	...	2,632 3 6
Jessore ...	4	1,060 2 8	353 3 1	96 14 9	196 7 3	283 0 0	100 7 2	98 8 3	49 2 11	2,267 14 1
Murshidabad ...	5	1,375 0 0	654 0 0	125 0 0	250 0 0	476 0 0	279 12 2	125 0 0	...	3,164 12 2
Birbhum ...	1	275 0 0	75 0 0	25 0 0	50 0 0	110 4 0	35 15 6	18 11 1	...	589 14 7
Purnea ...	4	923 4 3	391 11 8	86 15 6	174 1 10	244 2 0	182 14 5	77 13 0	...	2,080 14 8
Palamau ...	2	528 11 1	209 5 10	48 0 11	47 3 10	108 14 6	44 13 0	45 0 2	...	1,032 2 4
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,442 4 10

[No. 3.]

[FILE S.  $\frac{1-R}{25}$  2.]

No. 226 T.—San., dated Darjeeling, the 8th May 1911.

From—H. WHEELER, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—The Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2463, dated the 10th April 1911, submitting a report on the work done by the itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed in certain districts during the fever season of 1910-11 to distribute gratuitous medical aid to the malaria-stricken people. It is stated that the report was discussed at the second meeting of the Provincial Malaria Committee and in accordance with a resolution passed by them you suggest that a second grade Assistant Surgeon may be employed in order to supervise the work of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed to this duty.

2. I am to say that this suggestion has been considered, but Government are not disposed to accept it. The area of operations is too large for a single inspecting officer to do the work effectually during the short time for which these anti-malarial measures are continued. Moreover, no complaint has been received as regards the work done by the Sub-Assistant Surgeons. They work under the general supervision of the Civil Surgeon and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, has always exercised care in selecting reliable men who can be trusted to work alone.

3. I am to ask that your proposals for the continuance of the anti-malarial work during this year may be submitted in due course in consultation with the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal.

No. 227 T.—San.

Copy forwarded to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, for information in continuation of Government order No. 600 T.—San., dated the 28th June 1910.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council,

E. L. TANNER,

*Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.*

DARJEELING,

*The 8th May 1911.*



MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

SANITATION.

FILE S.  $\frac{1-R}{25}$

K.-W.—A PROCEEDINGS FOR MAY 1911, Nos. 1-3.

*Report on the working of Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed for the distribution of quinine in malarious tracts.*

[Nos. 1-2.] From the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, No. 2463, dated the 10th April 1911.

THE Sanitary Commissioner submits a report on the working of the 23 Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed to certain malarious districts to administer medical aid and to distribute quinine among the people under Government order No. 600 T.—San., dated the 28th June 1910. The system of affording gratuitous medical relief to malaria-stricken people by itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons was first introduced in 1908. In that year the experiment was carried on with 17 Sub-Assistant Surgeons at an expenditure of Rs. 13,175. As the results were encouraging the experiment was repeated in 1909 with 19 Sub-Assistant Surgeons at an expenditure of Rs. 11,320, and in 1910 with 23 Sub-Assistant Surgeons at an expenditure of Rs. 14,082, the area of the work being extended gradually. The usual time of the work is from the middle of August to the middle of January next each year.

The present report is interesting and may kindly be read. It will be seen that the value of quinine in malarious fever is being appreciated by the people more and more, and that tabloids are preferred to powder.

It is stated that the Provincial Malaria Committee recommend the placing of a senior Assistant Surgeon's services at the disposal of the Sanitary Commissioner in order to supervise the work of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed to this duty and that a suitable allowance be paid to the inspecting officer. The Sanitary Commissioner accordingly suggests that a 2nd grade Assistant Surgeon on Rs. 150 with an allowance of Rs. 100 a month be employed on the inspecting work. The services of that officer will be required from the 15th August to the 15th January each year. Sanction to the proposal is requested. It is, however, not mentioned whether the work will be carried on in the same area or with the same number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons for the current year. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals may in the first instance be requested unofficially for an expression of his opinion on the subject.

This may be called a "local" allowance as deputation allowance to this extent is not admissible.  
C. C. G.—20-4-1911.

Submitted for orders.  
D. N. S.—18-4-1911.  
A. N. M.—19-4-1911.

THE report on the work done by itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons in 1910 may be read. Although more cases were treated, the average results were not so good, possibly owing to the greater healthiness of the year.

The proposal as to the appointment of an Assistant Surgeon to supervise these Sub-Assistant Surgeons may be considered when the annual programme is sent up. The proposal has not been justified in detail.

E. L. TANNER—20-4-1911.

LET Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals see for remarks. We shall almost certainly continue the procedure this year, and in connection with that programme can consider the need of an inspecting Assistant Surgeon, of which I should be inclined to be doubtful. The men should naturally work under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon, and I understood that in selecting them care was taken to get reliable men who could be trusted to work alone. The area of operations is far too large for a single inspecting officer to do much good during the short time for which these measures are continued.

H. WHEELER—21-4-1911.

THE three points raised above appear to be:—

- (1) The advisability of continuing the anti-malarial campaign.
- (2) Whether an Assistant Surgeon should also be added to the present staff to supervise the work of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons. This suggestion has been made by the Provincial Malarial Committee at their second meeting (*vide* Sanitary Commissioner's letter.)



(3) The selection of medical officers to be deputed.

My replies to these are :—

(1) The results already obtained without doubt justify the continuance of this scheme of itinerating Sub-Assistant Surgeon's distributing quinine and other drugs throughout the malarial districts. There is no doubt whatever that their work is appreciated by the people.

(2) Quite unnecessary in my opinion.

(a) The area to be supervised is too large for a single man to effectually do so.

(b) So far we have not received any complaints about the work of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

(c) I cannot agree that the appointment of one Assistant Surgeon would increase the value of their work. Considering the area to be supervised, this supervision would at least be perfunctory.

(d) I am not disposed to recommend the expenditure, as the results would not be commensurate.

(e) I do not think sufficient reasons at present exist for this addition to the staff.

(3) This will be duly attended to.

As regards the Secretary's remarks on page 1 of these notes, I may say that one Sub-Assistant Surgeon on this duty at Nadia fell sick, and was granted two months' leave from 4th November 1910. His successor reported himself for duty on the 10th November.

Another Sub-Assistant Surgeon fell sick in Jessore, and left his post, with the Civil Surgeon's permission, on 19th October, before the arrival of his substitute, for which he was fined. His successor joined on 1st November, with the result that during 12 days there was no Sub-Assistant Surgeon. I am not disposed to agree that the falling off reported by the Sanitary Commissioner was necessarily due to this cause

G. F. A. HARRIS—2-5-1911.

This is the report on the work of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons deputed for special malaria duty, 1910-11. As in previous years, the measure is a success and we may repeat it during 1911-12.

2. The suggestion is made that next year an inspecting Assistant Surgeon shall be appointed. I would venture to deprecate this for the reasons given in my note of the 21st ultimo and that of Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, dated the 2nd instant.

3. Proposals for this year's work will be submitted in due course.

H. WHEELER—3-5-1911.

1. I AGREE that the area is far too large for one Assistant Surgeon to be of any real good as regards inspection work. Three would be the least and on financial considerations that could not be complied with. I do not think that Civil Surgeons could possibly give much time to visiting these Sub-Assistant Surgeons, and therefore I consider that inspecting officers would be useful, but owing to financial requirements such cannot be provided.

2. The number of children whose spleens were found affected is appalling.

3. I see the people prefer tablets of quinine, a fact which should be kept in mind when the supply of quinine question is under consideration.

4. Could it be possible to utilize these Sub-Assistant Surgeons for the purpose of teaching the people—

(a) the good of having reserved tanks and of looking after their water-supply by village action ;

They are supposed to help the people with advice generally. We can emphasize the point in this year's instructions.

H. WHEELER—5-5-1911.

(b) the benefit of sunlight and air which can be secured if the villagers will of their own accord cut down the jungles periodically each in his own small basti site.

If the Sub-Assistant Surgeons could be so utilized they might in their reports say what results had been obtained, though I would not expect any real results for a long time owing to the want of vitality and energy—owing to fever—of the people and conservative habits.

This will be paid for out of the Sanitary improvement grant, His Honour's orders can be taken on this year's programmes.

H. WHEELER—5-5-1911.

5. This system is doing much good and should be continued. I suppose allowance has been made for this in this year's budget and that His Honour's sanction is not needed.

F. A. S[LACKE]—5-5-1911.

[No. 3.]

To the

Sanitary Commissioner  
Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal

Nos. 226-227 T.--San., dated the

8th May 1911.



7

REFERENCE TO FORMER CASES.

7

FILE S.  $\frac{D}{4}$ , A PROCEEDINGS FOR JULY 1910, NOS. 11-13.

REFERENCE TO LATER CASES.

Jan 6 April 13 No. 101-107 (File  $\frac{S}{32}/13$ )

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग  
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

KEEP-WITH.

Office notes (printed).