

1924



KENYA

C.O.
49249
18 OCT 24

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DATE

Sept 18th Sept, 1924

CIRCULATION TO

Coltmanley

Medical Reports, 1922

Replies to observations
of C.A.M.S. Committee

Previous Paper

MINUTES 2 papers

4900

49131/24 (report for 1923)

To P.O. to print the dispatch To me
18.11.24

10.11.24

C.S. coll. report

Subsequent Paper

49131/24 (1923 report)

249

43249
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

333

KENYA.

No.220.

CONFIDENTIAL:



18th September, 1924.



803/124

With reference to your despatch, Confidential, of June 7th in which were transmitted the comments of the Colonial Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee on the Annual Reports of the Medical Department for 1922, I have the honour to submit my remarks on those observations of the Committee which require reply.

2. (a) Paragraph 2 - Page 24 of the Report - Causes of Neurasthenia necessitating invaliding.

The Committee requested further information with regard to seven cases of invaliding of European Officials which might be considered as neurasthenic in origin. One case of "general debility" and one case of "insomnia" would appear to be due in the main to climatic conditions, the former supervened on repeated slight attacks of malaria and the latter developed after seven years service on the Coast. One case of "neurasthenia" would appear to be due to mental strain as the officer underwent considerable hardships during the campaign on the Northern Frontier followed by serious domestic troubles. Three of the other cases supervened on various diseases or conditions of ill-health and the seventh was probably the result of war service outside East Africa.

(b) Page 32 - Chaulmoogra Oil - The treatment of leprosy -

RIGHT HONOURABLE

H. THOMAS, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S. W.

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leprosy by the intravenous injection of Chaulmoogra Oil is being continued and is being combined with other methods.

Further particulars of this treatment are furnished in the 1923 Medical Report which will be forwarded to you in due course.

(c) Page 33 - Tuberculosis: The attention of the Medical Officers of Health of Mombasa and Nairobi will be called to the recommendations of the Colonial Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee with regard to the cleansing and opening up of houses and rooms infected with tuberculosis. The procedure advocated will not be an easy one to adopt among the native and Asiatic communities and will require tact in execution. The question of overcrowding is already receiving the attention of the Government and the local authorities both in Nairobi and Mombasa.

(d) Page 47 - Vaccination: I am fully in agreement with the Committee as to the necessity of more general vaccination. The Principal Medical Officer records the opinion that probably the time is now approaching when the measure can be more widely applied.

(e) Page 53 - Ankylostomiasis: With regard to the recommendations of the Committee on this point, it would appear that in view of the fact that the Native Reserves the first steps to be taken should be to improve the sanitary conditions as a preliminary to a preventive and curative campaign. The question of general sanitation is receiving the earnest attention of the Medical Department.

(f) Pages 59 & 60 - Pneumococcal Vaccine: It is hoped to be able before long to investigate the groups of pneumococci which may be found in the country after which it may be possible to prepare a vaccine locally.

(g) Page 60 - Slaughter Houses: The Nairobi Municipality

have under consideration proposals for the erection of a new slaughter house to supersede the two at present in use. The recommendations of the Committee regarding new slaughter houses at Mombasa and Mombasa have been referred to the Resident District Commissioners at those stations. It is only lack of funds which has prevented earlier action being taken to erect these slaughter houses.

(h) Pages 63-80: Town Planning: The Mombasa Town Planning Scheme has been provisionally approved, and it is proposed to obtain a town planning expert for Nairobi. In this connection I would invite attention to Kenya despatches Nos. 119 of 24th January and No. 142, Confidential, of 7th June.

Bye laws have been introduced by the Nairobi Municipality, and are now in force, regulating the number of dwellings allowed to be erected per acre. The question of African housing in Nairobi is under consideration both by the Government and the Municipality; plans have been prepared for Municipal housing and for the housing of Government employees. At Mombasa the housing problem cannot be effectively tackled until the town planning scheme has reached fruition and more land is available. In both towns the housing of Asiatics and Africans will be proceeded with as funds become available.

(i) Sanitary Staff: With reference to the Committee's remarks on the subject of adequate sanitary staff, I would draw your attention to your despatches No. 121 of 23rd January and No. 481 of 15th May, Head XV Medical Department - Item 54, and my despatch No. 1104 of 26th August 1922.

(j) Page 88 - Infection from grain traffic - The recommendations of the Committee will be borne in mind when the new harbour facilities are completed.

(k) Page 94: Asylum death-rates: The deaths from epidemic disease recorded at the Mathari Mental Hospital in

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1922 totalled three. Improvements in the sanitary arrangements have been suggested and their adoption now awaits the provision of funds.

(l) Page 115: Disease and death statistics: It is not possible to adopt the suggestions under this head for the current year. Their adoption will entail considerable increase in clerical work, but every endeavour will be made to carry out your suggestions during 1925.

(m) The attention of the officers concerned will be drawn to the remarks of the Committee on the subjects of the counting of leucocytes, the possible existence of the plasmodium tenue and its connection with blackwater, the distribution of typhoid fever and the standardization of vaccines.

(n) Page 128 - Male Reformatory: Arrangements will be made for the systematic examination and treatment of the inmates of the Male Reformatory for helminthic infections.

(o) Page 159: The report referred to has not yet been received, and I shall be glad to receive a copy for the Government Bacteriologist.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

E. B. Denham

Denham

GOVERNOR