

THE

Hongkong



Government

GAZETTE.

NEW SERIES.

VICTORIA, SATURDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1859.

VOL. IV. No. 200.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Contract for publishing this Gazette, entered into on the 24th September, 1853, was terminated on the 30th ultimo; and notice is hereby given that a NEW SERIES of this Gazette will be published hereafter, to commence from the 7th instant, under a New Contract, and that "THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT GAZETTE"

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 2d July, 1855.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER, Colonial Secretary.

ERRATUM.

In last Government Gazette, No. 199, Page 183, in the 67th Regulation for the Government of the Gaol, first line, for "on a Civil Process," read "or on Civil Process."

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The Colonial Surgeon's Report for the past Year, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 15th March, 1859.

THE COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT FOR 1858.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, VICTORIA, 3d March, 1859.

The universally lamented and untimely death of my friend, the late Colonial Surgeon, has imposed upon me the duty of making this Report a duty which will be but very imperfectly fulfilled on account of the short period I have held the office, and in consequence of my having been so fully occupied in the practice of my profession and other duties.

I would call the attention of the Government to the fact, that one most important source of information which would make the Colonial Surgeon's Report of much more value than it is at present, is entirely wanting to him. There is no proper Registration of Deaths in this Colony, and therefore when it is asked what percentage of the Inhabitants of this Island die from Climatic diseases? and what form do these diseases assume? only a general and imperfect answer can be given. And yet it is of great importance that this answer should be as correct and comprehensive as possible, for it is daily more and more satisfactorily proved that a very great proportion of the diseases to which our population fall victims are owing to causes which are entirely preventable by human means, and which only need to be made evident in order that they may be got rid of.

I would submit that it is highly desirable, and at the same time very feasible, that the same system of Registration of Deaths should be established here as is in use in England, and that interment of the body should not be allowed to take place until the Sexton has received the proper form of Certificate of Death, filled up and signed by the medical attendant of the deceased.

Of course this should not be insisted upon in the case of the Chinese, nor perhaps in that of the Portuguese inhabitants of the Colony, as the former and many of the latter are not attended by duly qualified Medical men, and those who do attend them would not be able to fill up the Certificates in a satisfactory manner.

Were the Registration of the Causes of Death properly carried out, we should in a few years be in possession of a body of statistics which might prove of the greatest value.

That the Sanitary condition of this Colony stands in great need of improvement has been more than once pointed out in previous Reports of the Colonial Surgeons; but I am moved to insist upon this necessity the more pressingly in the present Report, in consequence of the Colony having been visited during the year by one of the most terrible of those "preventable diseases," whose ravages, if not entirely owing to the most fearfully aggravated and extended by, neglect of proper Drainage and Cleanliness, the evil results of which must act with increased force in a Community so crowded together as that of Victoria, and in a climate so favourable to the decomposition of animal and vegetable products.

I am happy to learn that steps are to be taken to remedy the defects at present existing.

Previously to last Autumn, no well-authenticated case of Cholera was recorded to have happened in Hongkong, and so confident were the Medical Practitioners of the immunity of the place, that it was at first thought by them that the cases of the disease at first reported were merely severe cases of Diarrhoea. But it soon became only too evident that the disease amongst us was the true Asiatic Cholera, for the first symptom was wanting, and it destroyed its victims in an equally short space of time.

As was to be predicted of it, the disease first attacked the worst lodged and worst fed part of the Community—the Chinese, then some Indian Seamen, and then the European Seamen both on shore and afloat, and at the same time some of the Soldiers of the Garrison, and the Prisoners in the Gaol. Finally, in three cases it attacked the higher class of European Inhabitants of the Colony, and in one of these cases proved fatal.

At the same time the Portuguese in Macao suffered severely from the disease, and cases occurred in the Forces at Canton, and in some of the Men-of-war in the River.

The disease afterwards visited the East Coast, reached Shanghai, and, it is also reported, raged with great virulence over a great part of the Japanese Empire.

What percentage of the Chinese population of Hongkong was attacked by the disease, and what proportion of those attacked died has been impossible to ascertain. It is well known, however, that a very considerable number were carried off by it. For instance, it is reported that as many as Fourteen Hundred were destroyed by the disease at Aberdeen.

The late Colonial Surgeon attempted to procure information about the disease from the Chinese Medical Practitioners of the Colony, and many reports were sent in to him; but these, except that they prove that the disease was wide spread, are comparatively valueless. Some boast of having saved two-thirds and others three-fourths of their patients; but in these numbers most probably many cases of simple Diarrhoea which accompanies Cholera, and is supposed to be its first stage, was doubtless included.

The Remedies they advise for it are numerous, but they are all derived from the vegetable kingdom, and not likely to prove beneficial. Their disquisitions as to the nature and cause of the disease are as vague and unsatisfactory as those of their European brethren.

The following is an approximate estimate of the number of cases of Cholera which occurred among the White population at the shore:—

CASES OF CHOLERA ASIATICA, OCCURRING IN VICTORIA, IN 1858.

LOCALITIES.	CASES.	DEATHS
Military Hospital, ... ..	20	14
Naval Hospital, ... ..	7	3
Civil Hospital, ... ..	13	5
Gaol, ... ..	3	2
Seamen's Hospital, St Francis' Hospital, and Private Patients,	23	10
Total, ... ..	75	34

Mortality, 45.33.

With regard to the beneficial effects of treatment in these cases much cannot be said. One practice which was adopted by the late Colonial Surgeon, and which in several cases appeared to have a most marked and decided beneficial effect, was the early application of solid Nitrate of Silver, so as to make a circular blister about four inches in diameter over the pit of the stomach.

In the cases which came under my observation, this plan, even when adopted at a late advanced period of the disease, never failed to check the vomiting and to prolong life, though it did not always succeed in saving it. I consider the treatment well worthy of a more extensive trial.

Hydrophobia, another disease heretofore unknown in the Colony, also made its appearance during the past year. In one case the attack came on six weeks to a day, after the infliction of the bite, and proved fatal in a few hours. Another man, who was bitten by the same dog, fell a victim to the disease in the commencement of the present year, the first symptom showing itself ten months after the bite. In this instance an attempt at suicide was made, which shortened the patient's sufferings by a few hours.

The Climatic diseases usually prevalent in the Colony were of their ordinary character, with the exception of Fever, which was somewhat more prevalent than usual, and manifested a tendency in many cases to put on a typhoid form, with imperfect intermissions.

In the Autumn of the year a number of cases of Phagedonic ulcers of the leg and foot, of a most obstinate and formidable character, occurred amongst the Chinese prisoners in the Gaol, and in two or three instances also attacked the Europeans.

An extensive trial of the prophylactic virtue of quinine wine (a dose being given the first thing every morning) was made in the Garrison at Canton, and the Reports of the different Medical Officers bore evidence to its very great utility and benefit.

I would strongly recommend that a similar plan be adopted with those Constables who are sent to the out-lying Stations on the Island, such as Aberdeen, Stanley, Sow-ke-wan, and Siwan, for I have noted, not only since I have been Acting Colonial Surgeon, but in former years, that the worst and most obstinate cases of Fever and Dysentery arise among the men placed at these Out-stations; and I believe it to be a fact that, if their stay be at all prolonged at either of these Stations, scarcely one escapes altogether the ill-effects of Malaria.

These cases of disease might I believe be almost entirely avoided, if the Superintendent of Police were to insist that the Constables stationed at these places should take every morning a dose, either of quinine mixture, or of quinine wine.

The experiment of establishing a Sanatorium on Victoria Peak, recommended some years ago by the late Dr Morrison, then Colonial Surgeon, has again been agitated during the past year, and I believe stands a fair chance of being put to the proof, both by the military authorities and by private enterprise. I believe that the difference of temperature would tell very favourably in many of the diseases which occur here.

I shall conclude this Report with the following Statistical Tables having reference to the Gaol, the Civil Hospital, the Seamen's Hospital, the Police Force, and the state of the Weather during the year:—

VICTORIA GAOL.

The following Table shews the Number of Cases and Mortality under each Disease, during the Year, 1858.

DISEASE.	CASES.	DEATHS.	DISEASE.	CASES.	DEATHS.
Abscess, . . . . .	2	...	Icterus, . . . . .	91	18
Amentia, . . . . .	1	...	Hernia, . . . . .	1	1
Berri Berri, . . . . .	16	9	Ophthalmia, . . . . .	2	...
Bronchitis, . . . . .	3	...	Orethritis, . . . . .	2	...
Cholera, . . . . .	3	2	Phagedonic Ulcers, . . . . .	27	2
Colica, . . . . .	2	...	Phthisis, . . . . .	1	...
Constipation, . . . . .	5	...	Pneumonia, . . . . .	3	2
Contagio, . . . . .	2	...	Rheumatism, . . . . .	11	...
Diarrhoea, . . . . .	15	1	Syphilis, Primary, . . . . .	22	...
Dysentery, . . . . .	7	2	Syphilis, Secondary, . . . . .	4	...
Epilepsy, . . . . .	1	...	Scabies, . . . . .	4	...
Febris Intermittens, . . . . .	22	3	Wounds, Gunshot, . . . . .	2	...
Febris Remittens, . . . . .	6	...	Wounds, Incised, . . . . .	1	...
Hematemesis, . . . . .	1	1	Dyspepsia, . . . . .	1	...
Hemorrhoids, . . . . .	1	...			
Hemoptysis, . . . . .	4	...			
Carried over,	91	18	Brought over,	163	23
			Total, . . . . .		

Mortality 13.69.

Table showing Rate of Sickness and Mortality in the VICTORIA GAOL, during the Year 1858.

AVERAGE STRENGTH.	TOTAL SICK.	TOTAL DEATHS.	RATE OF SICKNESS.	RATE OF MORTALITY.
266	163	23	61.27 per cent.	8.64

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THE CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the number of Cases and the Mortality under each Disease during the Year 1858.

DISEASE.	CASES.	DEATHS.	DISEASE.	CASES.	DEATHS.
Amputations,	4	...	Hepatitis,	319	70
Ascites,	2	...	Hæmoptysis,	1	...
Cholera,	6	2	Hæmorrhoids,	2	...
Cholera Asiatica,	1	1	Heart Disease,	1	...
Cholera,	2	2	Icterus,	1	...
Dysentery,	3	1	Leprosy,	1	...
Dysentery Asiatica,	5	...	Mania,	1	...
Cholera,	14	6	Orchitis,	1	...
Dysentery,	21	...	Phthisis,	2	...
Dysentery,	15	...	Pneumonia,	1	...
Dysentery,	11	...	Psora,	1	...
Dysentery Tremens,	6	3	Rheumatism,	4	...
Dysentery,	32	6	Stricture of Urethra,	29	...
Dysentery,	1	...	Syphilis, Primary,	2	1
Dysentery Intermittens,	40	23	Syphilis, Secondary,	32	1
Dysentery Remittens,	1	...	Ulcers,	8	3
Hæmorrhoids,	103	21	Vertigo,	22	1
Hæmorrhoids,	22	5	Variola,	1	...
Hæmorrhoids in Ano,	1	...	Wounds, Gunshot,	5	2
Hæmorrhoids,	3	...	Wounds, Incised,	9	2
Hæmorrhoids,	11	...		7	...
Hæmorrhoids,	1	...			
Granular Conjunctiva,	1	...			
Carried over,	319	70	Total,	450	80

Mortality 17.88 per cent.

The apparently heavy mortality in this Hospital is owing to the number of Deaths entered under the heads of Dysentery and Intermittent and Remittent Fever and Diarrhoea. A very large majority of the fatal cases under these heads were destitute Chinese and Indians, and had been picked up by the Police in a moribund condition, and were only brought up to the Hospital to die.

THE SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The following Table shows the Number of Cases and Mortality under each Disease, during the Year, 1858.

DISEASE.	CASES.	DEATHS.	DISEASE.	CASES.	DEATHS.
Amputation,	1	...	Ophthalmia,	165	39
Beri Beri,	1	...	Orchitis,	2	...
Cholera Asiatica,	4	3	Paralysis,	4	...
Cholera,	2	...	Phthisis,	5	...
Contusions,	4	...	Pneumonia,	6	...
Debility,	1	1	Rheumatism,	3	...
Dysentery Tremens,	6	2	Scorbutus,	20	2
Dysentery,	7	...	Spinal Disease,	7	1
Dysentery,	1	1	Stricture of Urethra,	1	...
Dysentery,	64	27	Syphilis, Primary,	2	...
Dysentery Intermittens,	51	4	Syphilis, Secondary,	33	...
Dysentery Remittens,	1	...	Ulcers,	7	...
Hæmorrhoids,	6	...	Variola,	11	...
Hæmorrhoids,	1	...	Wounds, Gunshot,	12	6
Hæmorrhoids,	2	...	Wounds, Incised,	2	...
Hæmorrhoids,	7	1	Other diseases,	1	...
Hæmorrhoids,	3	...		7	...
Heart Disease,	3	...			
Carried over,	165	39	Total,	288	48

Mortality 16 2/3 per cent.

THE POLICE.

Table showing the Admissions into Hospital and Deaths during the Year, 1858.

MONTH.	EUROPEAN.		INDIAN.		CHINESE.		TOTAL ADMISSIONS.	TOTAL DEATHS.
	Admissions.	Deaths.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Admissions.	Deaths.		
January,	2	...	25	...	1	...	28	...
February,	4	...	4	1	...	...	8	1
March,	3	...	7	...	2	...	12	...
April,	5	...	10	...	1	...	16	...
May,	4	...	13	...	...	...	17	...
June,	7	...	14	1	3	1	24	2
July,	5	1	32	...	1	...	38	1
August,	4	...	27	1	3	...	34	1
September,	8	...	17	...	1	...	26	...
October,	3	...	18	...	...	...	21	...
November,	3	...	11	1	...	...	14	1
December,	3	1	20	...	1	...	24	1
Totals,	51	2	198	4	13	1	257	7

Table showing Rate of Sickness and Mortality in the HONGKONG POLICE FORCE, in the Year, 1858.

STRENGTH.	TOTAL SICK.	TOTAL DEATHS	RATE OF SICKNESS.	RATE OF MORTALITY
279	257	7	92.11 per cent.	2.50 per cent.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

Showing the range of the Thermometer and Barometer, direction of the Wind, Rain fall, &c.

MONTH.	THERMOMETER.			BAROMETER			WIND.	WEATHER.
	Max.	Med.	Min.	Max.	Med.	Min.		
January.	66	62	50	29.94	29.89	29.83	N.E. & E.	Rain 15 days, 2.30 inches; only a few fine days.
February.	67	63	57	29.95	29.90	29.86	E. & N.E.	Rain 0.28, 5 slight showers.
March.	75	67	59	29.85	29.77	29.75	E.N.E.	Rain 18 days, 3.69 inches; overcast.
April.	80	71	66	29.82	29.77	29.73	E.S.E.	Rain 6 days, 0.71 inches; generally fine.
May.	81	73	75	29.70	29.66	29.64	E.—S.W.—S.E.	Rain 22 days, 15.45 inches; a few fine days.
June.	86	82	79	29.61	29.57	29.54	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 19 days; 27.91 inches; heavy thunder from 22d to 25th—18.50 inches; rain fell in three days; latter part fine.
July.	91	84	78	29.97	29.83	29.70	S.W.—S.E.	Rain 21 days, 6.37 inches.
August.	91	84	78	29.94	29.69	29.57	S.W.—S.S.W.—S.E.	Rain 17 days, 12.07 inches.
September.	90	83	72	30.12	29.80	29.67	S.W.—S.E.—N.E.	Rain 16 days, 5.42 inches.
October.	82	78	69	29.92	29.70	29.64	S.W.—E.—N.E.	Rain 0.54, clear, fine.
November.	77	66	60	30.09	29.91	29.79	N.E.—S.W.—E.N.E.	Rain 0.15.
December.	72	65	59	30.00	29.87	29.75	E.N.E.—N.W.	Rain 0.14; several days cloudy, overcast.

I have to add a few observations with regard to the Central Police Station, the Civil Hospital, and the Gaol.

The Drainage of the Central Police Station is in a very unsatisfactory state, and requires immediate amendment. It seems that the Station is entirely surrounded by a drain which has not a sufficient fall into the sewer, and that the contents of two privies pass into this drain, and must remain there for a considerable time.

Such an arrangement cannot but be injurious to the health of the many persons who inhabit the Station, and I have myself in the Summer several times noticed a most offensive effluvia to arise from it.

The Superintendent of Police has, I believe, called the attention of the Surveyor General to the matter.

I need not dilate upon the necessity which exists for the enlargement of the present Gaol, and the improvement of the Hospital accommodation therein, as the Government is fully alive to it, and has already appropriated funds for the purpose.

A large and commodious house situate at West Point, on a site which, as far as sanitary matters are concerned, is unobjectionable, has been purchased by the Government for a Civil Hospital. On the fitness of the building for this purpose I cannot now report, as its former owners have not as yet vacated it.

T. A. CHALDECOTT,  
Acting Colonial Surgeon.

No. 28.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Despatch from His Excellency Rear-Admiral SIR MICHAEL SEYMOUR, K.C.B., covering Captain COLVILLE'S Report of a most successful Expedition against Pirates in the neighbourhood of Koolan, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 17th March, 1859.

Calcutta, at HONGKONG, 17th March, 1859.

SIR.—Having received information that a number of Pirate Vessels had assembled near their old haunt at Coolan, I despatched Her Majesty's Ship *Niger*, and the Gun-boats *Janus* and *Clown*, on the 11th instant, in search of them, accompanied by Mr Caldwell, Registrar General, who, as usual, kindly volunteered his services.

The Squadron returned last night, and I do myself the honour of forwarding your Excellency Acting Captain Colville's report of his proceedings, which will show the essential service rendered to the community at large, and the gallant manner in which Captain Colville and the Officers and Men engaged, have succeeded in destroying a formidable force of Pirates.

I beg to draw your Excellency's notice to the good service rendered by Mr Caldwell—an additional claim to the many already possessed by that zealous Officer. As this is the last opportunity I shall have of addressing your Excellency on the subject of Piracy, I beg your Excellency will express to Mr Caldwell my high sense of the important services rendered by him on the numerous occasions he has volunteered to accompany Her Majesty's Ships on expeditions against Pirates, in which he has volunteered to share all the danger, without the inducements which animate Naval Officers to distinguish themselves.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient, humble Servant,

M. SEYMOUR,  
Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

His Excellency SIR JOHN BOWRING, LL.D., &c., &c., &c.,  
Hongkong.

H.M.S. *Niger*, HONGKONG, 16th March, 1859.

SIR.—I have the honour to lay before you the results of my late cruise after Pirates, and to congratulate your Excellency on the success of the undertaking.

Acting on information received at Macao, the whole of the 12th instant was spent in searching for a Fleet of Piratical Vessels cruising in the vicinity of the Tang Rocks, but failing to discover them, I weighed towards evening, and anchored late off Koolan, with the intention of visiting Tsoo-chong, under whose batteries a formidable Fleet of Piratical Junks were known to be lying—the depredators of several valuable cargoes: an Owner and Master of two of the captured Junks acting as Pilots, under the able and effective assistance of Mr Caldwell, Registrar General.

Accordingly, at 7 on the morning of the 13th, I proceeded with the Boats (as per margin\*) in tow of the Gunboats *Clown* and *Janus*, and after a run of 14 miles came within sight of a large flotilla of heavily-armed Junks and Row-boats, hauled under the protection of what we subsequently discovered to be regular defences, consisting of a water Stockade, with a double ditch and high stockaded embankment, armed with 36 Guns, protecting the whole sea face and flanks of Tsoo Chong.

Directing Lieutenant Wells in the 10-oared Cutter to examine a suspicious Junk to windward, whilst the *Janus* overhauled two others to leeward, I took the remaining Boats directly in towards the central force of Junks, leaving the *Clown* to cover our movements, but with peremptory orders to fire only in case the Shore Batteries opened on the Boats.

However, it soon became evident that the Enemy were prepared for a determined resistance, the Crews of the Junks joined the Villagers, who, with violent ejaculations and waving white Flags, on which the characters Hoong-kin-wong, (*Triad King*), was prominent, invited us on, at the same time a heavy fire of Round and Grape opened on our advance.

Forming behind a knoll of land, insulated by 500 yards of shallow water from the left extreme of the Stockade, leaving the Pinnacle to cover the landing, and much assisted by the very excellent shell practice of the Gunboats, the storming party dashed waist deep at the Stockade, and receiving a fire of Grape entered the embrasures of an 8-gun Battery, bayonetting the defenders, who crowded the inner ditch and appeared paralysed by the vigour of our proceedings. After a short hand to hand encounter, they retired precipitately, and now was seen the extraordinary sight of 60 Blue Jackets and Marines chasing fully 500 armed Men, through brakes and narrow acclivities for nearly two miles in the rear of the works.

In this movement great numbers of the Enemy were killed, and it had the effect of turning the Sea-defences, thus rendered comparatively harmless.

\* *Galley*,—Acting-Captain Colville.  
*Pinnacle*,—Lieutenant Blako, Mr Laurensen, Mr Pearce, Mr Markham, and Mr Buok.  
*1st Cutter*,—Mr Price, Midshipman.  
*2d Cutter*,—Mr Smyth, do.  
*3d Cutter*,—Mr Wells, Mr Potter, and Mr Wesley; subsequently to the destruction of Tsoo-Chong, Lieutenant Villiers.

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