

(Rules Under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, Prevention of the spread of Bubonic Plague in Villages and non-Municipal Towns.)

No. 104

THE BURMA GAZETTE, JULY 2ND, 1898.

No. 104.- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2, sub-section (1), of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and by the Notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 302, dated the 4th February 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor prescribes the following rules for preventing the spread of bubonic plague in villages and non-Municipal towns:-

Prevention of the spread of Bubonic Plague in Villages and non-Municipal Towns.

1. Date of taking effect.- Except as provided in Rule 7 of the Rules published in this department Notification No. 103 of this date, these rules shall come into force in any subdivision from the date on which the Deputy Commissioner may, by proclamation issued with the sanction of Government, declare the plague to be prevalent, and shall continue in force until by a similar proclamation he shall declare the plague to have ceased.
2. Appointment of Subdivisional or Township Health Officer.- On plague being declared prevalent in any subdivision, the Deputy Commissioner may, subject to the control of the Commissioner, appoint as many Subdivisional or Township Health Officers as he may think necessary, and may fix their pay. All such officers shall be subordinate to the Civil Surgeon of the district.
3. Appointment of Medical Committee.- For any town, village, or group of villages, where plague is prevalent, the Deputy Commissioner, or, with the previous sanction of the Deputy Commissioner, the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, may appoint a Medical Committee consisting of such medical practitioners and other suitable persons as may be available, for the purpose of accompanying the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, on his visits of inspection, explaining the necessity of the sanitary measures adopted and assisting in carrying them out.
4. Procedure in case of suspected plague.- When the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, has reason to believe that a case of plague has occurred in a house, he shall proceed with, if possible, the members of the Medical Committee to enquire into the case. The owner and occupier of the house shall permit him to enter his premises and examine any person

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whom he has reason to believe to be infected with bubonic plague. In case of resistance or refusal, the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, may call in any Police Officer, who may arrest without warrant any person offering active resistance and shall take such other steps as may be necessary to give effect to the rule. If the person be a female, the examination shall be made in the presence of a female and, if possible, by female agency.

5. Segregation.- (1) If on enquiry under the last preceding rule the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, finds that a fatal case of plague has occurred in the house, or that any person therein is suffering from or is infected with plague, he shall in the latter case cause such person to be removed to a hospital for treatment. He shall also, in either case, cause the other occupants of the house in which such person resided to be removed to a segregation camp and to be detained under observation for ten days.

The Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer may grant subsistence allowance at rates suitable to their station in life to persons detained under this rule.

(2) When family or caste or race hospitals and camps have been provided with the approval of the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, sick or suspected persons may be removed to such private hospitals and camps instead of to a public hospital or camp.

(3) In family and caste or race hospitals the patients shall be treated on such system and by such doctors as they or their friends may desire.

(4) In all hospitals separate and suitable accommodation shall be provided for females, and they shall, so far as may be possible, be treated by female agency.

(5) In all hospitals the relatives, friends, hakims, baids, and priests of sick persons shall be allowed free access to them at all times subject only to such precautions as the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer may consider necessary.

(6) If in any case a person removed to a public or family or caste or race hospital is accompanied by friends or attendants, the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, may require so many of them as are not in personal attendance on the patient to live in the immediate neighbourhood of the hospital in segregation huts or tents provided for the purpose and to remain in such place until they receive permission to depart.

(7) If a person is attacked with bubonic plague while so segregated, the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, shall remove such person to a

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public or family or caste or race hospital, as may be suitable in the case, and may treat his friends and attendants as provided in the preceding rule.

(8) All hospitals and camps shall be suitably guarded, and in the case of family or caste or race hospitals and camps the arrangements for guarding must be approved of by the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Magistrate and their cost will be met by the persons by whom the hospital and camps are provided.

(9) Family and caste and race hospitals and camps may be closed by the order of the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Magistrate if the Health Officer thinks that they are not properly managed, or that their continuance is objectionable or a source of danger to the neighbourhood.

6. Disinfection and cleansing of houses, Ec., by Health Officer.- In any house in which a case of plague has occurred the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, shall take measures for the disinfection and cleansing of the house, the destruction of bedding, clothing, and articles of a similar nature, the improvement of the sanitary condition of the premises, the removal, in consultation if possible with a competent Engineer, of all partitions, erections, or portions of house-walls which obstruct light or ventilation, and other sanitary precautions. The Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer may, on the report of the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, order the burning or destruction of any hut or other temporary structure if disinfection cannot be satisfactorily effected otherwise, awarding compensation to persons who are so poor as to be unable to replace at their own expense the structure that has been burnt or destroyed.

7. Right of entry.- The owner or occupier of any house in which a case of plague has occurred shall permit the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer and his staff, to enter his house or premises for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the preceding rules. In case of resistance or refusal, the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, may call in any Police Officer, who may arrest without warrant any person offering active resistance, and shall take such further steps as may be necessary to give effect to the rule. Provided that, when an apartment is occupied by a female who, according to custom does not appear in public, the Subdivisional Magistrate or the Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, shall not enter such apartment without giving notice and affording time to such female to withdraw.

8. Evacuation of village.- On the occurrence of plague in a town or village the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer may direct the inhabitants to vacate their houses and to remove to a temporary settlement outside the town or village, and he may, when necessary, provide such persons with temporary accommodation. After evacuation, the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer shall arrange for the thorough disinfection and cleansing of the empty premises, and the inhabitants shall not be permitted to return until the premises have been certified to be free from infection.
9. Watch and ward of houses.- Whenever houses are vacated under Rules 5 (1) and 8, each householder shall be permitted to make suitable arrangements for the care of his house and property during his absence, provided that the house is not occupied. He may remove any valuable property or place seals upon it, and the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer will arrange for the watch and ward of empty houses, and will, when the nature of the house admits of it, see that they are properly padlocked or secured.
10. Duty of compliance.- A person dealt with under the foregoing rules shall comply with any directions that may be given to him by the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, with regard to his removal to, and residence in, an observation shed, public or private hospital, or place of segregation, and with respect to disinfecting or burning of bedding, clothing, and articles of a similar nature, or with respect to any other sanitary matter. He shall not depart from any such place without the written permission of the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer.
11. Disposal of dead.- The friends of the deceased shall be permitted to dispose of the corpse by cremation or burial in accordance with their religious practices, but they shall obey the directions of the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer or other sanitary or executive authority, as to the route and method of removing the corpse to the burial or cremation place. In the event of the failure or refusal of relatives or friends of the deceased to dispose of the body, the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, shall dispose of it in accordance with the religion of the deceased. The corpses of Mahomedans who die of plague shall be buried, if possible, at least six feet deep. The place of burial should be far from habitations, and should be so situated that there may be no risk of contaminating sources of water-supply. The coffin and cloth used to cover the corpse, when not interred with the corpse, shall be destroyed. In cases where cremation is the custom, the body shall be completely burned at the usual

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burning ghat or other isolated locality, in accordance with custom, the cloths brought in contact with the body being either burnt or disinfected.

12. Disinfection of public conveyances.- Any conveyance, public or private, that has been used by a person infected with or suspected of being infected with plague shall be thoroughly disinfected and exposed to air and sunlight for not less than twenty-four hours before being again used, and all articles of furniture belonging to it, which, in the opinion of the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, cannot be properly disinfected, shall be destroyed by fire.

13. Delegation of powers.- The powers conferred by these rules on the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer may, with the sanction of the Commissioner, be exercised by any gazetted officer of Government specially empowered by the Deputy Commissioner in this behalf.

14. Compensation.- The Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer may, in his discretion, pay compensation to any person who has sustained substantial loss or damage by reason of anything done under these rules. Provided, however, that no person shall be entitled as of right to claim any compensation whatsoever.

15. Control.-All powers conferred upon the Subdivisional Magistrate or Township Officer, or the Subdivisional or Township Health Officer, by these rules shall be exercised subject to the general control of the Deputy Commissioner.

16. Expenses.- All expenses incurred under these rules shall be paid from the District fund or from District cess fund, as the case may be.

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