

**RULES REGARDING THE MEASURES
TO BE ADOPTED ON THE OUTBREAK
OF CHOLERA OR APPEARANCE OF
SMALL-POX. G. O. C. C. NO. 193,
DATED 3RD AUGUST, 1870**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649302413

Rules regarding the measures to be adopted on the outbreak of cholera or appearance of small-pox. G. O. C. C. No. 193, dated 3rd August, 1870 by Fred. Thesiger

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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CALCUTTA:
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING,
1870.



The following revised rules regarding the measures to be adopted on the outbreak of cholera amongst British troops are published in supersession of all former orders on the subject.*

SECTION I.

PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE APPEARANCE OF CHOLERA.

Necessity for constant attention to the sanitary condition of the station.

The outbreak of cholera is often so sudden and virulent that all precautionary measures must be taken beforehand. Experience has shown that, like many other diseases, the extent of its diffusion is in no small degree dependent on local insanitary conditions, and it is therefore essential that every station should be preserved in a state of constant preparation to meet a danger which may come at any time. The personal cleanliness of the men is a matter of much consequence as a preventive measure.

Increased vigilance demanded if cholera threatens.

2. General and other officers in command should at all times give their utmost attention to the conservancy and general sanitary condition of a station. If an outbreak appears probable, every ordinary precaution should be attended to with increased vigilance, but if the disease has actually appeared in the cantonment or its vicinity, more harm than good is likely to arise from any attempts at improvement which may then be made. This is not the time to cleanse foul drains or to remove nuisances which may have hitherto

* The same principles as are contained in these Rules should govern the measures to be taken when cholera appears among *Native troops*; but as the disease rarely attacks them with any great severity, it is left to the Military and Medical authorities on the spot to determine in their case how far the procedure herein prescribed ought to be adopted under the particular circumstances.

been neglected, and such possible sources of disease should, in these circumstances, be left undisturbed.

Duties of Staff Surgeon and Cantonment Magistrate as regards the Bazaars.

3. Whenever cholera is to be apprehended, the Staff Surgeon and Cantonment Magistrate should keep a special watch on the condition of the bazaars, and any case of cholera should be immediately reported to the Officer Commanding the Station. The register of deaths should be carefully scrutinized.

Precautionary measures in Barracks.

4. Especial care should be taken to prevent crowding in barracks and hospitals, and, when considered advisable during the hot season, a portion of the men should be permitted to sleep in the outer verandahs, or in tents pitched for the purpose in the vicinity of the barracks. If cholera threatens, even though the men may have the full regulated amount of space, they should be spread out as much as possible, advantage being taken of any spare buildings which can be conveniently employed.

5. The early treatment of premonitory symptoms is of very great importance, and of these looseness of the bowels is the chief. At seasons, therefore, when cholera threatens, and still more so when it is more than usually prevalent, Commanding Officers should give the most precise orders on this subject, and see that measures are taken for paying the most vigilant attention to the health of the men in barracks, and for treating there, or in observation wards entirely separate from the hospital, all slight cases of diarrhoea or other disease, which, if neglected, might pass into cholera. As the men during cholera time have a natural dread of going into hospital, and are apt on this account to conceal the early symptoms in order to escape being sent there, it is of importance that every facility for the immediate treatment of diarrhoea should be afforded them in barracks. Non-Commissioned Officers in each room should accordingly be provided with suitable medicines, care being taken that the proportion of opium or any other dangerous drug should be small.

Sanitary measures necessary when new buildings are being carried on.

6. Whenever new buildings are being carried on, it is most important, with regard to the health of their future

occupants, that the ground and water in the neighbourhood should be protected from pollution. Special care must be taken that proper conservancy arrangements are organized for workmen, coolies, &c., and that the orders are strictly enforced. The workmen should not be allowed to sleep in or about barracks and other public buildings under construction. They can generally find shelter in the neighbouring city or bazaars; but, in exceptional cases, where no such facilities exist, temporary huts should be erected for them outside the boundary pillars.

Communication with infected localities to be prevented.

7. If cholera appears among the Native population in the neighbourhood, communication with the infected locality should, as far as possible, be prevented. The same principle should be acted upon on all occasions during the continuance of the disease, for frequent communication with places where the disease is prevalent will always be likely to cause alarm and to produce bad results. As one valuable means of attaining this object, the provision of stores attached to the regimental canteen should be encouraged, so that soldiers and their families may be able to supply their wants without going to the city or bazaars.

Management of Native Soldiers returning from leave.

8. With the same object Native soldiers rejoining from leave, or otherwise returning from a part of the country in which cholera was prevailing at the time of their residing in it, or passing through it, should not be allowed to rejoin their regiments until it has been shown that they are free from the disease. This can easily be done by pitching a tent for their temporary accommodation outside cantonments when required.

Military and Sanitary Authorities to make themselves acquainted with the country in the neighbourhood of their stations.

9. Officers Commanding Divisions, Districts, or Stations, as well as all Sanitary Officers, will make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the ground in the neighbourhood of their stations to the extent of 20 miles, with a view to the selection of sites for encampments in the event of cholera appearing, as well as to such measures being taken as they

may deem advisable to remove or counteract any probable source of disease.

Officer of the Quarter Master General's Department attached to the Command to prepare plan of the neighbouring country.

10. The Officer of the Quarter Master General's Department attached to each Command will prepare a plan of the required extent of country, on a scale of one inch to the mile, with the different encamping grounds marked on it, so that the troops may be placed under canvas without delay, whenever such a measure is considered advisable.

Points to be attended to in choosing encamping grounds.

11. In selecting these encampments, enquiry should be made into the previous character of the neighbourhood with regard to liability to cholera or exemption from it. The ground should, when possible, be high, with natural facilities for drainage, with a plentiful supply of good water, and, if possible, easy of access. Although rank vegetation is objectionable, the presence of large trees should be considered advantageous, because they add to the salubrity of the air, and because their shade will be valuable.

Number and situation of such grounds.

12. The circumstances of different cantonments vary so much that no definite rule can be laid down either as regards the number of such encamping grounds or their situations, but it is very desirable that several such places should be selected, and that their distance from cantonments should vary, some being close at hand and others further off.

Selection can best be made in the rainy season.

13. The greatest care is necessary in selecting good sites, and this can only be properly done during those days in the rainy season when sudden and heavy falls of rain afford ready and reliable proof as to the real suitability of any spot for a camp. The selection should be made in communication with the local Civil authorities, whose knowledge of the locality will enable them readily to point out the most eligible sites.

The use of selected camps obligatory, except when suitable buildings are available.

14. When sites for camps have been selected and approved by competent authority, care must be taken that they are always kept in a fit state for occupation, and it must be understood that, in the event of the troops going under canvas, these are the places which, as a general rule, are to be used. If, however, during the hot and rainy seasons, any buildings entirely separate and away from cantonments are available, they should be used in preference to placing men in camp, especially when the ground is either covered with water, or when it is drying up in the months of August and September.

Encamping grounds on great lines of communication are objectionable.

15. The existing encamping grounds, which are ordinarily used by troops on the march, are very commonly situated upon great lines of communication, and are therefore objectionable, for bodies of men supposed to be infected with disease ought always to be isolated as much as possible. For the same reason, if the supply of good water and other circumstances admit of a choice, the vicinity of a village, and especially of any large village, should be avoided.

And should only be resorted to when no others are available.

16. It may sometimes happen that these encamping grounds must be resorted to, either because no other places suitable in themselves can be found, or because during the rainy season they are the only ones easily accessible; but, when it possible, ground not in the vicinity of great thoroughfares should be preferred.

Expense of preparing the encamping grounds need be very little.

17. In some instances a slight expenditure may occasionally be requisite in clearing the ground, in improving its drainage, in increasing or improving the water-supply, or in making it easy of access, and these, especially the two first, are matters of very great importance, which should receive frequent and careful attention. If ground be judiciously chosen, the expense need be very little.