

The Hindu Organ

(THE CHEAPEST WEEKLY IN CEYLON)
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY.

VOL XI.

JAFFNA: WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH 1900.

NO. 37.

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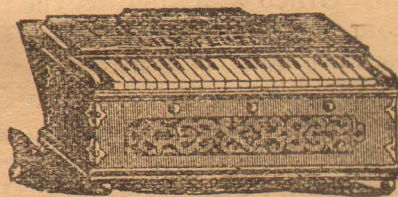
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E Human
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Technical College
Colombo, 20th February 1900.

NOTICE.

We have the pleasure to bring to the Notice of the Subscribers to the Hindu Organ and the Public in general that Mr. N. Ponniah formerly a teacher in the Hindu College Jaffna has been appointed travelling Agent in Ceylon for the Hindu Organ. He is authorised to collect the subscriptions (arrear as well as current) due to the paper, to enlist new Subscribers and to sign bills and receipts on behalf of the Manager, Hindu Organ. It is earnestly hoped that the public will cordially support the efforts of the Sabha to strengthen the position of the Hindu Organ as the only Hindu Newspaper in Ceylon.

A. KANAGASABAI
(Vice President S. P. S.)

V. CASIPPILLAI
(Secy. S. P. S.)

P. CARTHIGASAPILLAI
(Manager, Hindu Organ)

Jaffna, 14th March 1900.

NOTICE.

Mr. N. Ponniah Travelling Agent of the Hindu Organ has the authority of the Saiva Paripalana Sabai, Jaffna, to recover the arrear donations subscribed for the Hindu College in 1895 as well as to collect fresh Subscriptions on account of the institution. All amounts paid to him on account of the College will be acknowledged in the Hindu Organ and receipts duly signed by the Treasurer of the S. P. Sabai will also be posted direct to the subscribers.

V. CASIPPILLAI
Secretary
S. P. Sabai
JAFFNA

CROWN LAND SALE.

Notice is hereby given that two lots of Crown land (one in extent 127 acres and the other 31 acres) situated at Veddukkadu in the Punakari Division of the Jaffna District and much suitable for cocoanut cultivation will be sold by public auction at the Jaffna Kachcheri on the 19th April next at 12 O'clock noon Upset price Rs 25/ per acre

Jaffna Kachcheri
26th March 1900

J. H. LEAK
For Govt: Agent



THE HINDU ORGAN.

JAFFNA, WEDNESDAY MARCH 28, 1900

**A Post Office for
Vannarponnai.**

It is now more than three years since a Receiving Post Office was established in Vannarponnai; and experience has proved its great utility to the public and its importance among similar offices in the Peninsula. It was the *Hindu Organ* that mooted the question of the establishment of a Post Office in Vannarponnai and agitated it till the Receiving Office was established and an assurance given to us when we, with another gentleman, saw

Mr. Skinner, the late Postmaster-General, in the Jaffna Queen's House and urged on him the necessity of establishing this Post Office, that a Receiving Office would be established to begin with, and that, after seeing the result of its working for a few months, it would be converted into a Post Office. Though this Receiving Office has been in existence, not for months, but for some years, and the Government has had ample time to mark the good result of its working, yet its conversion into a Post Office has not taken place.

Vannarponnai is an important centre of business and much intellectual activity. It is in Vannarponnai the whole Nattucotta Chetty community reside and carry on their extensive business. It is here a very large number of native merchants live, besides being the quarter of a not inconsiderable number of Government Officials and professional gentlemen. It is the seat of a College, the Hindu College, to which boys come from different parts of the District, and of an English High School under the Wesleyan Mission, which has also a large attendance. Two newspapers are published in Vannarponnai, the *Hindu Organ*, and the *Dravida Kokila*. There are three Printing establishments in Vannarponnai and one in its immediate vicinity, Kokuvil, which will be benefited by a Post Office at Vannarponnai as much as Vannarponnai itself, as the distance from Kokuvil, which is also a centre of much business activity, to the Jaffna Post Office, is longer than the distance of Vannarponnai from it. From two of these establishments which are more than two miles from the Jaffna Post Office are issued annually about 10,000 copies of Tamil Calendars, which have a wide circulation in all parts of Ceylon and South India, and the value of which is remitted chiefly by Money Orders payable at the central Post Office at Jaffna, as the remittances from outstation subscribers to the newspapers are now being made.

If Vannarponnai has not sufficient claims to have a Post Office of its own, we fail to see what other place has. We have no doubt whatever that this Post Office, if one be established at Vannarponnai, would be the most important Office in the Peninsula, next to the Chief Office in the Town of Jaffna. The number of letters and newspapers now posted in the Receiving Office will bear this out. In these days of ever increasing postal facilities, the establishment of a Post Office in a central position at Vannarponnai, to serve also the needs of the villages of Kokuvil, Kondavil and Tinnavelly, cannot be long delayed. We earnestly hope that Mr. Moysey, the new Post Master-General, will see his way to convert the present Receiving Office into a Post Office, and thus do an act of justice which will promote the convenience and well-being of the people of Vannarponnai and the adjoining villages.

THE JAFFNA F. N. S. HOSPITAL.

A recent visitor to Jaffna, believed to be a gentleman connected with the editorial staff of the *Ceylon Independent*, has contributed to that paper a series of interesting articles under the above heading. We quote elsewhere one of those contributions to show his grasp of the subject, and the interest he takes in our welfare. His observations under "Hospital for the people" are apt and well-timed. But we think that the vast majority of the Jaffna public are not averse to the retention of the F. N. S. Hospital as the people's Hospital, if its affairs can be brought to a satisfactory footing and placed under proper management. In no circumstances, however, will they consent to the withdrawal by Government of the Visiting

Surgeon whose appointment at an additional cost of Rs2000 per annum to the Government was a reform secured after several years agitation. The present grant of Rs6000 annually to the Hospital is conditional on the acceptance by the managing Committee of the Visiting Surgeon, to supervise the working of the Institution. We cannot, therefore, bring ourselves to believe that the Committee have now asked the Government to continue the grant without the Visiting Surgeon, if the Hospital is to be maintained under the management of the Friend-in-need Society; much less to suppose that the Government will accede to this retrograde proposal of the Committee. Either the Institution should be mended by the introduction of reforms in the direction of strengthening the Managing Committee by the addition of new members who would take real interest in the welfare of the institution, or if that cannot be done, it should be ended by the establishment, in its place, of a Government Hospital, as recommended by the writer in the *Independent*. We would, however, still hope that the restoration of the Hospital to its former condition of financial soundness is not an impossibility and that it might still continue to exist, reformed of the abuses rampant in it, as a model Hospital and the only one of its kind in the whole Island. It would then, instead of being an "anachronism," be, as it was in its early days, a pride to Jaffna, as the only place in Ceylon which can maintain and manage a hospital of its own.

THE STEAMER SERVICE.

The competition between the rival steamers has not only grown keener and keener during the last few weeks but is likely to create a crisis and a deadlock on one side or the other. The Nattucotta Chetties who have the almost entire control of the goods traffic welcomed the advent of Messrs. Noorbhai & Co's steamer "Ilafae" as they had some old scores to pay against the Ceylon Steamship Company, chiefly on account of some claims which the company made in respect to goods which were sent here from Colombo by the "Lady Gordon" and which, when she became disabled near Paumban, were transhipped to the "Lady Havelock" and landed at Jaffna by the latter steamer. The Chetties, therefore, not only patronized the new steamer but also decided in their Nagaram not to have anything to do whatever with the steamers of the Steamship Company. This had the result of those steamers being 'boycotted' by the Jaffna mercantile community with the exception of one or two merchants; and these steamers had to return to Colombo with very little cargo during their one or two recent trips. The Colombo Agents of the Steamship Company having become very much alarmed at this, have despatched to Jaffna a man by the name of Suppiapillai, who is a native of Nattucottai and who was a Kanakapillai in some of the leading, Chetty Firms in Colombo, to negotiate with the local Chetty community and to prevail upon them to rescind the resolution already passed in their Nagaram. Suppiapillai has arrived in Jaffna armed with letters of introduction from the leading Chetty Firms in Colombo and is now busy on the fulfilment of his mission. A European member of Messrs Walker Sons and Company also is expected here on the 3rd proximo on the same mission. It remains to be seen what decision the Chetties will come to. On their decision rests the weal or woe of the rival steamers.

The "Ilafae" arrived here on Monday last and left here last night with large quantity of cargo and about 125 passengers. She also took from the Jaffna store 1000 cwt of salt for the Maldives where she will go from Colombo. She will be replaced it is said, in the service between Colombo and Jaffna by another steamer, till her return from those Islands. Mr. Gardiner was a passenger to Jaffna by the "Ilafae" and returned to Colombo by that steamer which also takes him to the Maldives.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

The Weather—Rain still holds off and the heat is unbearable.

The Next Census—The taking of the next census will take place on the 1st day of March 1901. This date has been fixed after consultation with the Government of India who commence taking the census of that country on the same date. Mr. P. Arunachalam will be the Census Commissioner.

An Execution—The Sinhalese man from Mullaitivu who was found guilty of murder at the February Sessions of the Supreme Court paid the extreme penalty of the law on the 24th instant within the walls of the Jaffna Fort.

"Chevelier Lodge"—This house commonly known as "Savirimuttu Mudaliyar's house" has been sold by the administrator of the estate of the late Miss Mary Savirimuttu and purchased by Mr. Advocate J. H. Vannia Singhe for Rs. 9250. This is one of the most well known houses in Jaffna. It derives its importance from the fact of its having been once owned and occupied by the late Chevalier Savirimuttu Mudaliyar who was one of the most influential Mudaliyars of the North and who entertained His Excellency Sir William Gregory at the house in question.

The Medical Department—Dr. Santiago who acted with acceptance as Colonial Surgeon of the Northern Province for more than a year has reverted to his post of Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Jaffna, having been relieved by Dr. Moraes who has been appointed Colonial Surgeon permanently.

Inspector of Schools—Mr. R. H. Leembruggen the Inspector of Schools and his Assistant are busy inspecting the schools in the Point Pedro Division.

A Canard—There is no truth in the rumour which was afloat last week that two passengers by a native vessel which anchored at Point Pedro had died of Plague. There was only one death on board the vessel which was due to a severe attack of typhoid fever superadded to Pneumonia.

Mr. Namasevayam—This gentleman employed in the Survey Department, Straits Settlements, is on a visit to his friends and relations in Jaffna.

Obituary—We regret to record the death of Mr. E. R. Chellaiappillai B. A., B. L. Vakeel practising in Madura, and Advocate of the Supreme Court in Ceylon, which sad event occurred in Colombo on the 19th instant where he had gone from India to be treated by his brother, the Hon. Dr. Rockwood.

Another Death—We extremely regret to record the untimely death of Mrs. M. S. Rajakarier, the wife of Mr. S. Rajakarier who is the only son of Mr. Manelpillai Rajakarier, the well-known Renter and Merchant. She was a daughter of Mr. T. P. Ollegasegampillai, Sub-collector of Kays. The sad event took place on the 24th instant.

Obituary—We are sorry to chronicle the death of Miss Pooranam the daughter of Mr. A. S. Arampamoorthy of Point Pedro which took place at her residence on the 15th instant.

The Acting Attorney-Generalship—The *Ceylon Independent* quotes in full, in its issue of the 24th instant, our leader on this subject. We have no doubt the Tamils of Ceylon will appreciate the services of our contemporary in upholding the claims of a distinguished member of their community for one of the highest offices in the Colony and defending him against the malicious attacks of his enemies. The opposition to Mr. Ramanathan is due in some quarters to the fact of his being a Tamil, in others to petty jealousies and private grudges. We are glad to find the *Independent* on the side of justice and as champion of injured innocence.

Mr. K. Visvanathar—We are sorry to hear that this gentleman who is the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages at Karaitivu has been asked by the Registrar General to retire from his office. He had been holding this office for the last 25 years and has given every satisfaction to the public and the Government in the discharge of his duties. Mr. Visvanathar has built a hospital at his own expense and donated it to the American Mission.—Cor

Mr. Aseerwatham—Mr. Aseerwatham of the Customs has been appointed Sub-Collector of Pesalai and has proceeded to his station.

VAVUNYA.

22nd March 1900

An interesting function came off on the evening of the 15th Inst. at 7 P. M. in the Vavuniya Library—the occasion being the reading of an address and the presentation of a watch and a purse to Mr. P. Arulampalam the dispenser of the Vavunia Hospital on the eve of his departure to Point Pedro on a transfer. A special pandal was erected for the purpose and a large number

of people of all denominations were gathered. Mr. R. Cinthappa (Shroff) was voted to the chair. Mr. P. R. Mappaner the District Mudaliar read the address and Revd A. Mathias presented the purse and the watch on behalf of the assembly in fitting words. Mr. A. Rajakarier the Sub-Inspector of village tanks spoke at length about the sterling qualities of Mr. Arulampalam and remarks were also made by Messrs A. Pon-nusamy (Clerk P. W. D.) T. Emerson (Superintendent of Process Servers), P. Edirmannasinghe (Forest Ranger), A. N. Eliatamby (the New Dispenser), V. Matturajah (Irrigation Clerk), and V. Silvester (Police Vidhan). During the seven years Mr. Arulampalam was here he gained the confidence and esteem of all the officers and people in general by his amiable qualities and good disposition.

In a meeting of the Vavunia Foot Ball Club held on the 14th instant, Mr. J. P. Thampo was elected as captain in the place of Mr. Sma: Dovell.

Mr. C. S. Vaughan the Assistant Government Agent, Mullaitivu, has arrived here and he will make a stay till the 25th instant. Mr. E. R. MacDonell, the Inspector of Village tanks has returned from circuit and it is likely that he will go over to Mankulam on or about the 26th instant to meet the Government Agent. Mr. A. Rajakarier the Sub-Inspector of village tanks has gone to Tuukkai to meet the Government Agent who is expected there from Puarine. Cor.

THE GOLDEN BOOK OF INDIA.

Colombo

23rd March 1900

To

The Editor of the "Hindu Organ"

Sir,

Many would be looking forward eagerly to the *Golden book of India* to have a peep at it for amusement, or for instruction or for satisfaction. In the appendix to this book will be included the names of Ceylonese. The "Observer" a year ago published some extracts from the accounts they received of families intended to be sent to be published in the book; they were both instructive and amusing.

I would suggest that before they are published (if that is late) before they appear in another edition that the appendix be sent to a committee for revision.

For the Sinhalese in Colombo District I would suggest the following names:—the Maha Modliar, Revd A. Dias Abeyasinghe, Messrs Peter de Saram, Adv. A. De A. Seneviratne, Proctor E. F. Prera, Adv. Hector Jayawardene, Revd A. W. D'Mel and Mudaliyar Tudor (Rajapakse).

For the Tamils of the Colombo District Messrs Proctor Oomaraswamy, Dr. S. Aserappa, Anthony Anandappa and D. Rosairo.

For the Singalese of the South:—Messrs Gooneratne Modliar, N. Dias, Proctor, Modliar Tillikeratne and Modliar Illangakoen.

For the Kandyans: Messrs Eknelligodde Dissave (Ratnapura), Hullugalle (Kurunegalle), Nugavelle (Kegalle), Marambe (Kandy) Panabokke (Gampola), Dulave and Keppittipola (Matara) and Taldena (Badulla).

For the Tamils of the North:—Messrs A. Mailvaganam of Copay, Katiravala Pillai (Retired Police Magistrate of Kays) Adv. Allegakoen, and S. Olgasakerem.

For the Tamils of the East:—Messrs M. Supperamaniam Proctor, C. Thamotherampillai, Proctor J. Canagaratne, E. Somanader Modliar, Revd N. Sathukavaller, Proctor C. Supperamaniam, Proctor Candappa and Proctor Caderamen.

To these other names may be added, but the Government Agents of each of the Provinces must be associated with them. This suggestion is to see that proper names or names of families are inserted and not for the mere sake of concocting an account of them. Some years hence one will say "See in the *Golden Book* I am descended from such a King or Queen or Prime Minister." Even if we are late now those old and respectable gentlemen ought to see this book and have the misrepresentation corrected by sending the true version to Messrs J. Ferguson & Co. of the Observer Press who will forward it to Mr. Corbet to be given to Mr. Roper Lethbridge. If this is done we will not see false genealogies in the next edition.

Yours truly
A. Commoner.

SELECTIONS.

THE OPENING UP OF JAFFNA.

Jaffna to-day is as primitive as it was one hundred years ago, a fact that is all the more surprising when we consider all that education has done for its sons

and daughters, and the only cause which we can attribute for this stagnation is the isolation of the Northern town, an isolation which has tended to render the Government all-powerful, enabling them to do as they very well like and countenancing evils which would never be tolerated in any part of the Island. The emancipation of poor old Jaffna, however, is at last dawning. The Far North is, thanks to enterprise, more get-at-able than in the past and with the inauguration of the railway an era of thorough reform must set in. Perhaps then a Commission will be appointed to find out the cause for the sudden epidemics of fever which occur almost every year, whether it be due to the supposed development of the malaria bacilli or to a rotten system of sanitation. Not a word can be said against the people who are scrupulously clean, who keep their gardens tidier, perhaps, than any people in the world, but for a system which hitherto has not made the slightest provision to safeguard their sanitary interests. A beginning is now being made but totally inadequate for a town so large as Jaffna is. The capital of the North ranks as the third largest town in the Island and yet about the first thing that appals one is the absence of a Government.

HOSPITAL FOR THE PEOPLE.

who still have to rely principally on an Institution known as the Friend-in-need Society's hospital. We have in Jaffna a Colonial Surgeon, an Assistant Colonial Surgeon, and a deputy and yet there is no hospital. Is there a parallel elsewhere? The Colonial Surgeon attends his office, which possesses an outdoor dispensary and the assistants do ditto while the hospital of the town is relegated to a gentleman who estimable as he may be, has no connection with the Government whatsoever. The agitation waged in connection with this Institution has gone on for years, but powerful, as it was the Government Agent at the time then plain "Mr." but now Sir, William Twynam proved all powerful, and the preservation of the establishment, which continues at the present time was ensured. The agitators succeeded in obtaining one reform namely the appointment of a Visiting Surgeon (a position at present held by Dr. Rajasingham a duly qualified Medical Officer) as the only Government control over the arrangements, which are in the hands of Dr. Paul a medical practitioner who has been connected with the hospital from time immemorial. The Friend-in-Need society hospital does not certainly impress the visitor and it would be interesting to peruse Dr. Perry's report with respect to it. The P. C. M. O. has not had the opportunity of visiting it yet, but, when he does so, his report will be watched with more than usual interest. The Institution is, it is said, in debt, and if a hospital is in such a bad way how, is it possible that we can expect it to answer its purpose satisfactorily? The picture presented by this Institution does not compare at all favourably with that of the well-appointed Mission hospitals at Manipay and Ennui, thereby proving its worthlessness. The Friend-in-Need society hospital of Jaffna is.

AN ANACHRONISM.

It should be replaced by a Government Institution and the sooner this is done the better. With this, perhaps, the dark side of the picture has been completed and we turn once more to other matters which are a credit to the North. One of the first sights which impress a visitor from Colombo is the smartness of bobby. "If you want to know the time," observe the Jaffna wag ask "our" Policeman. If a bobby wants smartening up they send him to Jaffna. See him at drill, on beat, ask him questions about this street or that, and the impression in each instance left on one is most favorable. We ask how the change is wrought and are told it is due to the discipline enforced by Mr. Supt. Rudd. This worthy officer has been stationed in the North almost all his time, and he has certainly raised the morale of the Policeman in Jaffna. But why is it that such an officer has not been better utilized. There is not a more law-abiding place than Jaffna, you can sleep with impunity with doors and windows opened, you can walk the streets without so much as hearing a noise, and yet the pig-headedness of the higher authorities keeps Mr. Rudd to Jaffna. This is a funny world indeed, and to see and learn some funny things go to Jaffna.

The time will come when the Police will be really required and that is when the

RAILWAY TO THE NORTH

is an accomplished fact. If people in Colombo dread that with the railway there will be such of the Jaffna Tamil to the Metropolis to swamp all the clerkships in the town, so equally do the people of the North fear the invasion they say that will overtake their country of undesirable people from the South. A great change for the worse is feared in some respects. Prices of articles are bound to go up and people will not live as cheaply as they do at present, while notorious characters are expected to overrun the town, but the fear is over-estimated for even of the railway there will hardly be any appreciable reduction to what the steamer fares to-day. What a different place, however, it will be after the railway. It is time now that some enterprising capitalist thought of establishing hotel in the North for large and populous as it is Jaffna strange to relate, does not possess even the smallest public house. This is a funny world indeed and we see and hear some funny things in Jaffna.

The Ceylon Independent.

THE PLAGUE COMMISSION ON INOCULATION.

THE report of the Plague Commission contains a more authoritative and reliable pronouncement, upon the probable efficacy of inoculation as a preventive against the plague, than any official or semi-official

utterance hitherto. Even when Lord Curzon declared himself enthusiastically in favor of inoculation, there were very few who felt inclined to share His Lordship's faith. Evidently it was not a matter for mere laymen. But now that a body of accredited experts has given its opinion as to the probability of inoculation appreciably helping to create conditions of immunity against plague, the inclination to doubt the merits of inoculation may be greatly lessened. If a preventive remedy against plague be really found then every friend of humanity ought to be glad of it. It may, however, be pointed out that the opposition which emanated from the educated and the more sensible classes was not based on this doubt as in the case of ignorant people. The former did not need the verdict of the Viceroy or the Plague Commission to begin to believe that under certain given conditions inoculation may confer a relative immunity against plague. The real ground on which their seeming opposition was based was compulsion in the first place; secondly, the unsatisfactory nature of the preparation of the vaccine and of the general arrangements concerning the operation of inoculation; and lastly, the possibility of bad effects of inoculation. With regard to the first point, viz. compulsion of inoculation the Commission have not at all entered into any consideration of the question. They have contented themselves with expressing their opinion that hitherto the principal motive which induced individuals to come forward to be inoculated has been the desire to obtain exemption from the inconveniences of the plague measures. What kind of inconveniences might amount to compulsion, the Commission have not cared to consider. But they have practically admitted that plague measures of an extraordinary rigour were enforced by Government officers. This taken together with the expression of their opinion as to the real attitude of the people towards inoculation might warrant us in inferring that upon the facts before them the Plague Commission would have pronounced the verdict of "guilty of compulsion" against Government if that question were pointedly and specifically at issue before them. But there are indications in the evidence recorded by the Commission to show that Government officers in their frank moods were prepared to admit that they used compulsion to a certain degree. Captain Thompson I. M. S., Civil Surgeon of Satara, has said in his evidence that "some compulsion was used, that is to say, they had privileges held out to them if they submitted to inoculation." Captain Thompson is thus one of those who think that inoculation forced upon people under an inducement of exemption from certain restrictions already existing amounts to compulsion. But facts are not wanting to prove compulsion of even a positive kind. In the light of these facts it is only pertinent to ask what the Government of India really mean when in their resolution on the plague Commission's report they assure the public that compulsion of inoculation will not be used. The first point for consideration is thus proved in favour of the educated opponents of inoculation. As to the third and the last point about the bad after effects of inoculation we have certainly to bow to the opinion of the Plague Commission that the allegation as to such effects was not proved. But it is yet open to any one to contend that if the allegation was not proved it was also not disproved. Besides the circumstances under which the evidence as to after-effects was given before the Commission were peculiar. The inquiry into the allegation as to bad effects was not an open one in the sense that anybody at random might appear before the Commission and give evidence or be approached by the Commission for the purpose. The large majority of the witnesses before the Commission were Government officers engaged in plague administration who could not be expected to move among the people and make personal enquiries about them. The most general defect brought to notice about the inoculation administration in all places was that there was no system and no machinery by which close watching of the movements and the health of the inoculated people could be guaranteed. "I inoculated many people or caused many people to be inoculated, but I had not good means to know what became of the inoculated people afterwards. Nobody, however, ever came to me and complained that he suffered bad effects from inoculation." That was the kind of evidence recorded at its best before the Plague Commission. That also was the kind of evidence which Dr. Bhattacharya relied upon in his portentously long letter to the *Times of India*. But it needs no elaborate argument to show that this kind of evidence is certainly not sufficient to prove that no bad effects followed inoculation. On this point therefore the Plague Commission's verdict may be taken with a little reservation. The second point only now remains to be considered; and that it is about the preparation of the vaccine and the general arrangement about the operations of inoculation. The absolute purity of the vaccine and the syringe is a very important point. It was feared that the necessary degree of purity was not so far secured in respect of both these things; and their impurity might have as much caused many inoculations unsuccessful as many others positively harmful. In this matter the Plague Commission seem to have made very minute enquiries and their decision shows that the people were not altogether wrong in suspecting that the vaccine used was often not of the purest and the doses often not the most suitable. The Commission pronounced that the doses are used

by inoculators was not uniform and that even the standard dose was an arbitrary quantity. The method of controlling the purity of the cultures of the resulting growths merely by naked eye inspection, used by Mr. Haffkine, was a departure from the usual method and the Commission scrupled to place reliance on it. His method of killing the plague culture is found by the Commission to be trustworthy. But the adoption of carbolic acid after the culture is killed is likely to so alter its chemical constituents as to make it perfectly useless for giving protection. The method of decanting and bottling is naturally a very difficult one; and the chances of contamination of the vaccine must be materially increased when the work is entrusted to unskilful subordinate agency. In fact the Plague Commission find that the precautions taken by Mr. Haffkine did not secure the freedom of the vaccine from contaminating micro organisms. At many places the attention of the Commission was attracted to the question of the purity of the vaccine; and as the result of bacteriological examination of random samples of vaccine the Commission found that contaminations were found in 36 out of 151, that is in 22.5 percent of bottles examined. In one bottle Captain Johnstone discovered a bacillus which proved fatal to rabbits. In another a number of contaminating bacteria were found and were ascertained to have caused constitutional and local symptoms of excessive severity upon Mr. Hogan and his assistant surgeon. The single sterilisation of the vaccine before decanting and bottling was not sufficient to make it harmless and the Commission recommended sterilisation at a temperature of 60 degrees. The Commission have also found that Mr. Haffkine had not taken sufficient precautions to ascertain the weight of the bacterial sediment in a prescribed dose and to regulate the dose by an appreciation of the virulence. The routine method of standardising the vaccine used by Mr. Haffkine is pronounced by the Commission to be extremely imperfect. The Commission, moreover, do not bear out Mr. Haffkine's assumptions as to the properties of the ingredients of the vaccine. The assumptions were that the bacterial sediment gave protection against plague attacks and that the supernatant fluid reduced case mortality. It may be interesting here to point out that the two assumptions were relied on as gospel by Dr. Bhattacharya and denied by the *Kesari* in maintaining that inoculation was only in an experimental stage. The Commission goes so far as to recommend that the supernatant fluid might be dispensed with in the case of man. The reduction of the volume of the vaccinating material will make inoculation less laborious and will diminish the dangers of possible contamination. Such elimination would, the Commission think, result in the elimination of a considerable quantity of "poisonous substance (peptone)." Here, again, Commission declared against Dr. Bhattacharya for it may be remembered that the latter was denying the allegation made by the *Kesari* that part of the vaccinating material was poison. Of course the Commission have rounded off this criticism by saying that the efficacy of inoculation is to be judged not by the defects discovered in the laboratory, but by results actually obtained on man. But when these results themselves are doubted the criticism passed by the Commission on the various points above noted can only serve to confirm the soundness of "a priori" reasoning made by the educated doubter and seeming opponent of inoculation. —The Mahratta.

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The following arrangement, which will take effect from 15th March, 1900, is published for general information.

Registration of births.

Information of births occurring throughout the town of Jaffna, will be received daily from 7 to 10 A. M. and 3 to 5 P. M. by the Registrar

of Births and Deaths, Jaffna town, only at his Office at Temple Villa in Nallur.

Registration of deaths.

Information of deaths occurring in Vannarponnai East and West, and Karayoor including 'Pettah', will be received by the Deputy Registrar of deaths, Jaffna town, at his Office at 'Tali-pot house' near the 2nd N S Hospital from 5 to 10 A. M. and after night fall, and at his station at 'Achchukudavalavu' in Vannarponnai West (near the Chetty Street Wesleyan Mission English School) from 3.30 to 5 P. M. daily.

Information of deaths occurring in the town of Jaffna except Vannarponnai and Karayoor will be received by the Registrar or his Deputy, at all hours, at the office of the Registrar in Nallur, and at the station of the Registrar at the Jaffna Kachcheri, from 1 to 2 30 P. M. daily.

J. H. Leak

For R. W. Levers.

Prov: Registrar.

Prov: Registrar's Office
Jaffna, 12th March 1900

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