Medical History of British India

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Background

• Promotion of the National Library of Scotland’s Official Publications collections
National Library of Scotland

- collections - digital library - catalogues - info for users - news - about us - contact - search + browse

Official Publications

- Focus on ... the India Papers and the Medical History of British India collection
- In the news – links to reports hitting the headlines (full text)
- Official Publications Unit blog

With over one million items, the National Library of Scotland holds one of the largest collections of official publications in the United Kingdom and the largest collection of official publications in Scotland.

The legal deposit privilege ensures comprehensive coverage of publications from the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments, together with the publications of their respective government departments and agencies.

In addition the Library has extensive collections of overseas publications, including material from the United States and Commonwealth countries. The Library acts as a depository library for the United Nations and for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Enquiries
The India Papers collection
IP/QA.3.
The proceedings of the first All-India Sanitary Conference held at Bombay 13th and 14th November 1911. - Calcutta: Superintendent [of] Government Printing, 1912. - iv, 146p; 34cm.

IP/QA.3.
The proceedings of the second All-India Sanitary Conference held at Madras, November 11th to 15th 1912. - Simla: Government Central Branch Press, 1913. - 4v.; 34cm.

IP/QA.3.
The proceedings of the third All-India Sanitary Conference held at Lucknow, January 19th to 27th, 1914. - Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co., 1914. - 5v.; 33cm.

IP/QA.4.
Abstract of proceedings of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

IP/QA.5.[cont.]
Vol.V Reports bringing up the statistical history of the European Army in India and of the Native Army and jail population of Bengal to 1876; and the cholera history of 1875 and 1876, in continuation of reports embracing the period from 1817 to 1872. - Calcutta: Superintendent of Government Printing, 1878. - xiii, 331p; 33cm.

IP/QA.6.

IP/QA.7.
Annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India... - Calcutta: Superintendent of Government Printing.
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Simple Search  Advanced Search

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   proceedings of the first all india sanitary

2. Choose a search type:
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   Subject
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50 records per page  Search  Reset

National Library of Scotland home page  Catalogues main index
Promotion of the collection:

• Small displays in NLS, e.g. Sanitation in Britain and India in 19th century; general selection from the collection
• Major exhibition in 2007: “Tea & Tigers: Stories of Scotland and South Asia”
Medical material:

- Rich resource for the study of the practice of medicine in Colonial India
- Covers a period which saw important breakthroughs in bacteriology, parasitology and the developments of vaccines
- Access could be difficult
- Brittle
Digitise it all…

- Preservation standard microfilm
- Conservation
- Share
DURATION OF CROWN COPYRIGHT

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(from "Copyright for Archivists" by Tim Padfield)

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• 2. Conservation preparation
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Website:
http://www.nls.uk/indiapapers/index.html
Media History of British India
Disease Prevention and Public Health

browse and search

Search

You can search the text content of our 44 volumes, dating from 1868 to 1920.
Boolean operators and wildcards may be used to refine your search criteria.

Keywords: search

List by Category

- Titles
- Contents pages
- Diseases and associated terms
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Medical History of British India
Disease Prevention and Public Health

browse and search
Browse by title

- [A collection of reports from various provinces on the distribution and causation of leprosy], (160 pages)
- [Report of an outbreak of cholera in Sulhatwar, Bulliah Sub-division], (12 pages)
- A report of an investigation into the causes of the diseases known in Assam as Kal Ja-Azai and Beri-Beri by Geo. M. Giles, (194 pages)
- Account of plague administration in the Bombay Presidency from September 1896 till May 1897/prepared by M. E. Couchman, (385 pages)
- An inquiry into the circumstances attending an outbreak of cholera in H. M.'s 18th Hussars at Secunderabad in the month of May 1871 by W. R. Cornish, (46 pages)
- Cholera in India, 1862 to 1881 :Bengal Province, 1862 to 1881, and review /by H.W. Bellew, (290 pages)
- Cholera in southern India ; a record of the progress of cholera in 1870, and resumé of the records of former epidemic invasions of the Madras Presidency by W.R. Cornish, (262 pages)
- Hookworm disease and how to prevent it /by Clayton Lane, (10 pages)
- I.- Report by Surgeon-Major Lyons, L.M.S., President of the Plague Research Committee. II. - Report by Surgeon-Captain Childe, L.M.S. III. - Summary of work carried on by Mr Hankin, (61 pages)
- Leprosy and its control in the Bombay Presidency, (10 pages)
Medical History of British India - Sease Prevention and Public Health

7 - An inquiry into the circumstances attending an outbreak of cholera in H. M.'s 18th Hussars at Cunderabad in the month of May 1871

by W. Cornish.

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organic matter, was not satisfactory. The muddy deposits, in fact, at the bottom of the wells, were every day shaken up, when water was drawn.

75. I entertain a strong opinion that if the Hussar Regiment had received its water-supply solely from the old well within the Secunderabad barracks, this remarkable outbreak would never have occurred. Still, as I have said before, the evidence in regard to the actual pollution of the water-supply is not sufficient to convince those who decline to accept the view that water is the most common medium by which cholera is communicated from man to man. To me it is a very suggestive fact that a small body of men drinking water from a public well should be suddenly seized with a most violent form of cholera poisoning, while much larger bodies of men at Trinilgherry and in the cantonment generally, drinking from wells not accessible to the public, should have escaped. Supposing the public wells to have been directly contaminated by accidental circumstances with cholera matter, it is quite possible that the Regimental supply was drawn soon after contamination, and the men may have thus got the poison in a concentrated form.

It is worthy of note, in connection with this view of the question, that cholera appeared almost simultaneously in the Regimental Hospital, in the barracks and ranges of family quarters. The family quarters stand high, and are well above the Barmaca, but their drinking water, and that used in the Hospital was brought from the same source. The Regimental Apothecary and his family, residing close to the Hospital, drank the water from the old "condemned" well in the barracks, and they had no symptoms of cholera.

76. Beyond the water-supply, the conditions of existence of the Hussars did not differ from those of other European troops in the Command. The food, drink, stores, supplies, &c., were of precisely the same nature.

77. If the atmosphere had been generally infected with the germs of the disease, these would naturally have been deposited at Trinilgherry and other parts of the cantonment, quite as readily as in the Hussar barracks and native bazaar; but, as a matter of fact, we know that cholera was brought along the eastern coast road into the native bazaar, and to a village close to the Hussar barracks, and
organic matter, was not satisfactory. The muddy deposits, in fact, at the bottom of the wells, were every day shaken up, when water was drawn.

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- p. [Plate verso] - No. I. Map of Bombay showing original islands
- p. [Plate verso] - No. II. Map of Bombay Island showing area below sea level shaded
- p. [Plate verso] - No. II. Map of Bombay Island showing undrained area shaded
- p. [Plate] - No. V. Map of North Fort (133 acres) showing distribution of wells
- p. [Plate verso] - No. VI. Map of portion of Dhobi Talao (about 25 acres) showing wells
- p. [Plate] - No. VII. Map of Bombay

- Report of the Bombay Plague Committee, appointed by government resolution no. 1204/20P, on the plague in Bombay, for the period extending from the 1st July 1897 to the 30th April 1898, under the chairmanship of Sir James MacNabb Campbell: examined by C.A.
  - p. [Plan No. 1], vol. 2 - Map of the Island of Bombay [Showing medical districts and hospitals]
  - p. [Plan No. 2], vol. 2 - Map of the Island of Bombay [Showing progress of the plague and number of cases]

- Report on certain features of malaria in the island of Salsotta / by J.L. Marjoribanks.
  - p. [Plate verso] - Map of the Salsatte Taluka of the Thana Collectorate
  - p. [Plate verso] - Map of Salsatte

- Report on malaria in the Punjab during the year ... together with an account of the work of the Punjab Malaria Bureau.
  - p. [Plate], vol. 1 - Appendix C, Map 1. Showing the epidemic areas of the Punjab and the "fever" death-rate per 1,000 of population for each district of the Punjab during 1913
  - p. [Plate], vol. 2 - [Appendix No. 3] Map 1. The Punjab
  - p. [Plate], vol. 2 - [Appendix No. 4] The Punjab
Medical History of British India

Disease Prevention and Public Health

Report of the Bombay Plague Committee. appointed by government resolution no. 04/726P, on the plague in Bombay, for the period extending from the 1st July 1897 to the 31st April 1898 under the chairmanship of Sir James MacNabb Campbell: examined by C...
Phase 2

- Army Health
- Lock Hospitals
- Medicines
- Medical Schools
line of march, and admitted 69 to hospital in February. In September the 85th Regiment had 50 admissions. In August and September, 23 badly diseased unregistered women were admitted to the lock-hospital. The medical officer thinks these diseased women caused the disease amongst the soldiers. Famine prevalence is, in the opinion of the medical officer, answerable in great degree for the increased number of patients requiring treatment amongst the women. Especially women brought by the police have been found diseased. They are described as young girls, or women with babes at the breast, not of the usual prostitute class, but women driven to prostitution through dread of actual starvation.

13. As incidents connected with the question of regimental control as efficient against intercourse of the soldier with unregistered women, the medical officer records that a soldier patient in hospital effected such intercourse in the ward, that a soldier effected such intercourse in the dining-hall of his barrack. A third woman, much diseased, was found in the lines, resident in a rum-barrel, and is believed to have been a source of much mischief. A fourth woman, suffering from primary syphilis, on being arrested by the police, stated that she had had intercourse with seven soldiers just before discovery. Work-women, employed on the new barracks, have been a cause of disease to the soldiers, and the number of these women was therefore reduced, and instructions issued for their surveillance. One European woman, practising prostitution without license, was captured by the police and found to be diseased.
One case of ganja smoking I watched since I joined the 13th Regiment in 1882 until the other day. Up to 1892 he never smoked immoderately. There was no physical or mental deterioration until 1892. In 1892 he went on leave and lost some relations from cholera. He then took to immoderate smoking, which resulted in madness; so that when he returned from his furlough he was a raving maniac. He had six months’ furlough and overstayed his leave. When arrested he was a raving maniac, violent, obstreperous. The man never said he was a ganja smoker, but he asked for ganja in hospital. In this man’s case I put down the cause as “the sudden loss of relations and probably ganja smoking.” He did not become mad under my observation, so I could not know the actual cause. We have to give a cause if possible. This man was sent to the Madras Lunatic Asylum.
Next phase:

- Employed a Digitisation Manager for the project
- Larger award, so subject to EU procurement regulations
- Site visits
- Lots of form filling
Phase 3

• Veterinary Reports:

• Significant period in veterinary history in India
• Establishment of veterinary colleges
Partnership development

• AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (National Library of Scotland and the University of Strathclyde/Centre for the Social History of Health & Healthcare (CSHHH))
• Kolkata Connections
• Scottish Government “India Plan”
• National Library of India
Future plans:

• Add all the India Papers medical volumes to the website
• Add related manuscripts from NLS to the site (doctor’s diaries, photographs, letters, etc.)
• “Plagues & Pandemics” exhibition at NLS
• UK-wide partnerships
• International partnerships