



509

EAST AFR. PROT
16053

C. O.
16053
REC'D
MAY 12 1913

242
1913
April
at previous Paper.

BALDWIN WATER FEVER PATIENTS

This letter and enclosures from the Acting P.M.O. on the subject of the moving of patients.

12/170
Tuzer

Print + then to Mr. Fiddler.
at once.
H.S.L.
13/12/13

P9

See now on 19731 W.A.
S.N.
MF 15/7/13

Circulated to T.M.C. Committee 24th July 1913

at subsequent Paper.

18533
N. Land

1913

999

16853
REC'D 12 MAY 13

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI.
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 242.

April 8th, 1913.

510

Sir,

In reply to your despatch No. 100 of February 4th ^{*} respecting the treatment of patients suffering from Blackwater Fever, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of a letter and enclosures from the Acting Principal Medical Officer on the subject.

Ag. P. 1.0
enclosures
11.5th, 1913

etc
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Thomas R. ...

GOVERNOR.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

* No. 1046.

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

16094-40

INCLOSURE

No. 28/626/1.

End in No.

P.O. Office

Nairobi,

REC.

5th April 1913.

511

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your memo and enclosure No. 8. D171, dated the 26th February 1913, referring to the question of the advisability of moving patients suffering from Black-water Fever for the purpose of taking them to a medical man.

2. This is a matter on which it would appear difficult to dogmatise owing to the variety of environments in which a sufferer from the disease may find himself placed and the degree to which his ailment may afflict him. Remembering, however, that rest in the recumbent position is a cardinal feature in the treatment of the disease it is possible, perhaps, to base thereon advice meant for the guidance of laymen.

3. I consider that, where a patient is overtaken by the disease whilst residing in fixed quarters or other home accommodation, he should not be moved, even within the first twenty four hours of his illness. He should, instead, be placed in bed, looked after by his friends or servants, and medical aid summoned.

4. Were a patient seized with this illness whilst residing in camp, I think that, if his conditions were not very serious, it would be permissible to remove him

Non. Chief Secretary

to the Administration.

Nairobi.

within the first twenty four hours of his illness - though not later - to comfortable quarters or to an hospital, were such to be found within, say, a ten mile radius and provided that intelligent people were present to supervise his transport ~~and~~ with the necessary means for so doing. Otherwise, I think that the patient should remain in bed in his camp until the arrival of medical aid.

5. The remarks submitted in the previous two paragraphs are made on the assumption that acquaintances or reliable servants are at hand and that food and water are available.

6. I enclose herewith for your information copies of letters addressed to this office in reference to the above question by Drs. Radford, Lowley, Chevallier, Small, Gilks, Lumb, Mount and Shiroore.

etc
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) J. A. Har...

Acting Principal Medical Officer.

Nairobi,

March 17th, 1913.

Sir,

In reply to your No. 28/620/1 dated 28th February enclosing an extract from the Colonial Office Despatch East Africa Protectorate No. 100 dated 4th February 1913 in which the question of the advisability or otherwise of removing patients suffering from Blackwater Fever is discussed, I have the honour to state that in my opinion the danger of so transporting patients after the onset of the disease immeasurably outweighs the advantages that trained nursing and reasonable comforts that can be obtained in Hospitals affords.

My experience has impressed on me that absolute rest is essential in the condition under review, and that if possible the Doctor should always proceed to his patient, rather than the latter should be carried to the former. The discomfort and danger to the Patient incident on being transported by porters who are not trained for this work, and where, in this country, "no ^{carrioles} ~~carriers~~" are generally to be found, and where transport has often to be effected in localities destitute of roads or by railway that has no invalid carriages in its rolling stock, and where food supplies are often deficient or absent, are very serious factors in determining the fatal issue in these cases, more especially if the transport has necessarily to be effected after the first 24 hours illness.

etc
I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your most Obedient servant

W. J. Radford
W. J. Radford.

Senior Medical Officer

Principal Medical Officer.

Nakuru.

No. 94.

March 5th 1915.

Sir,

In reply to your No 26/626/1, I have the honour to inform you that in my opinion, it is inadvisable to move a Blackwater patient except under medical advice and supervision.

The gain in time is more than counterbalanced by the fatigue.

etc.
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

~~sd/~~ L.D.Lewisley.

K.O.

Principal Medical Officer.

Nairobi.

March 8th, 1913.

Sir,

With reference to your communication No. 28/826/1 of 28th February 1913, inclosing a copy of a Colonial Despatch with regard to the moving of patients suffering from Blackwater Fever, I have the honour to state that in my opinion the question is one which cannot be answered in a few words.

However in directions to laymen which is the object of the West African Pocket Book it is important to be as precise as possible, knowing full well that ultimately reliance must be placed on the common sense of the individual who is unfortunate enough to meet with this disease.

My wording would be as follows:-

- " To move a patient suffering from Blackwater Fever
- " involves considerable risk as absolute rest and good nursing are of the greatest importance.
- " The patient should not be moved:
- " (1) After the first day of illness.
- " (2) If he cannot be conveyed in the recumbent position and in a fairly comfortable manner.
- 3. If the journey is more than six hours duration.
- 4. If he can be nursed by a person who has had previous experience of this disease. "

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant

C.L. Chevallier.
M.O. E.A.F.

Principal Medical Officer.
Nairobi.

Health Office.

Mombasa, 4th March 1913.

To,

The Principal Medical Officer,

Nairobi.

With reference to your No 28/626/1 of 28.2.13 and Colonial despatch attached marked "urgent" and received here 3.3.13.

I have the honour to inform you that I have had but little experience of Blackwater fever so that my views about the matter cannot be of much value.

From what I know of the conditions prevalent in this country I am of the following opinion.

(a) Camp or Outstation.

If the patient is in camp he should be carried, in hammock or bed, in the cool of the day, a few (say 3 hours) march at the outside, to the nearest decently comfortable house, at the commencement of the disease only.

If there is no house in the neighbourhood I am of opinion that the discomfort and inconvenience of camp would be preferable to the exhaustion inseparable from travel in this country and so particularly to be avoided in this disease.

(b) If the case occurs on the line a Doctor can come sufficiently quickly, as a rule, to be able to decide for himself the desirability of taking the risk of moving his patient.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Ed. R. Small.

As Health Officer.

Medical Department

518

Fort Hill.

March 25th 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I am in receipt of your letter 28/626/1 dated 25th Feb. 1913

I strongly agree with Dr. Daniels in what he says regarding Blackwater Fever.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

sd/ T.F.Lamb.

Medical Officer i/c.

Principal Medical Officer.

Nairobi.

Kisumu.

March 20th 1913

519

(No. 6)

The Principal Medical Officer,
Nairobi.

Sir,

With reference to copy of Colonial Despatch No. 100 dated 4th February 1913 I have the honour to inform you my experience of Blackwater fever has been limited to two cases.

After reading the cautions given it would seem difficult to instruct definitely for the removal of a case until seen i.e., that a medical man should be sent for in every case and the following instructions in addition to the giving of fluids and absolute rest.

- (a) To stop for the time the use of Quinine.
- (b) To give no aperient.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

sd/ A. Mehat.

M.O.

Native Civil Hospital,
Nairobi,
1st March 1913.

The Principal Medical Officer,
Nairobi.

Sir,

With reference to your No. 28/626/1 dated 28/ 2
I have the honour to express the following opinions.

2. A patient may be moved within the first
twenty four (- few) hours provided he is not in
a very bad condition and the means of travelling
comfortable: but no long journey with a patient
carried in a hammock should be undertaken.

3. A case moved later almost invariably
proves fatal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J.O. Mirore.

Medical Officer.