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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

THE following rules for the disinfection of clothing, &c., in cases of plague are published for general information.

By His Excellency the Governor's command,

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, December 3, 1898.

E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

Rules.

1. Under-clothing, bedding, wearing apparel, mattresses, carpets, &c., which are contaminated or *suspected*, and other articles to be disinfected, should be exposed for fifteen minutes to saturated steam—under pressure, if possible—at a temperature of not less than 100° C. (212° F.), care being taken that the steam shall reach all parts of each article to be disinfected.

2. Disinfecting solutions :—

(a) Solution of corrosive sublimate, of 1 part in 1,000 with the addition of 10 parts of chloride of soda.

The solution should be coloured with aniline dye or indigo. It should not be placed in metal vessels.

(b) A 5 per cent. solution of pure crystallized carbolic acid, or 5 per cent. of crude commercial carbolic acid free from tar oils, in a warm solution of soft soap.

(c) Fresh slaked lime.*

* To get very strong slaked lime, take lime of good quality, slake it by moistening it gradually with half its weight of water. When the operation is completed, put the powder in a carefully-corked receptacle and place it in a dry spot. As each kilogramme of lime absorbs 500 grammes of water in order to become slack, it acquires a volume of two litres 200, and it is sufficient to dilute it with double its volume of water, say 4 kilogrammes, 400 grammes, to obtain a whitewash which will be about 20 per cent. strength of lime.

3. Special instructions to be observed in the employment of disinfecting solutions.

The linen, clothing, and articles soiled by the excreta of patients should be soaked in the solution of corrosive sublimate. The solution of pure carbolic acid and the solution of soap and carbolic acid are equally suited to the purpose. The articles should remain in the solution for at least six hours.

Articles which cannot be subjected to the temperature of the stove (1,000° centigrade) without injury, such as leather goods, wooden articles stuck together with glue, felt, velvet, silk, &c., should be washed with the solution of corrosive sublimate; coins can be disinfected with the solution of soap and carbolic acid.

Persons engaged in nursing the sick should wash their hands and faces with the solution of corrosive sublimate, or with one of the carbolic solutions.

The carbolic solutions will be useful, more particularly for disinfecting articles such as metals, instruments, &c., which can neither be subjected to a temperature of 100° centigrade nor placed in contact with corrosive sublimate. They may also be used at ports not provided with a disinfecting stove of the prescribed pattern.

Slaked lime is particularly recommended for disinfecting excreta. Expecto-rated matter should be burnt.