

CHAPTER XII.

HEALTH.

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IN the north and north-east the extreme heat and dryness of the hot months cause fever and other diseases. During the cold months, fever is common in Bijápur, passes south through Bágévádi, and is commonest and most severe in Muddebihál. Of the subdivisions south of the Krishna, Bágalkot has the best climate, while Bádámi has the worst climate, feverish during the cold months and oppressive during the hot months. Except in the hot months the climate of Hungund is pleasant. The rainfall in the district is uncertain averaging about twenty-four inches, and the district, especially the north-eastern part of it, is often subject to drought, which is generally followed by sickness. Besides fever, the prevailing diseases are rheumatism, guineaworm, and cholera.

In 1689 Bijápur was visited by a most malignant plague.¹ The disease began with a slight swelling under the ear or in the armpit or groin, attended with inflamed lungs and severe fever; the attack generally proved fatal in a few hours. All attacked gave up hope. It broke out in Aurangzeb's camp at Bijápur and carried off his queen. So sudden and fierce was this plague that seventy men of the Emperor's suit are said to have been struck down by it and to have died on the road, as Aurangzeb was being borne from his palace to the Jáma mosque a distance probably of about three quarters of a mile. A hundred thousand people are said to have perished, many of high rank. Those who recovered were maimed for life. So numerous were the victims, that the usual burial rites could not be performed. The dead were thrown into carts and buried in open spaces beyond the town. In one day 700 carts full of dead bodies are said to have passed through the Sháhápur

¹ Elliot and Dowson, VII. 337. This outbreak was apparently the true Baghdád or bubonic plague called *taun* and *wába*. It raged for several years over a great part of Western India. At Ahmadabad, where it lasted for six years (1683-1689) its visible marks were swelling as big as a grape or banana behind the ear under the arms and in the groin, and redness round the pupils of the eyes. Near Goa in 1684 it attacked Sultán Mosam's army and carried off 500 men a day (Orme's Historical Fragments, 142); it raged in Surat during the six years ending 1690 (Ovington's Voyage to Surat, 347); in 1690 it reduced the Bombay garrison to thirty-five English soldiers (Bruce's Annals, III. 94); in this year it was so violent that in a few hours in Surat, Daman, and Thána whole cityfuls perished (Gemelli Careri in Churchill's Voyages, IV. 191); and in 1696 at Tatta in Sind it killed 80,000 people (Hamilton's New Account, I. 123). Since the plague of 1690 a serious outbreak apparently of the same disease wasted Mewár and North Gujarát in 1812 and again in 1819. Ahmadabad Statistical Account.

gate. The day of judgment seemed to have come. Whole families were carried off in a night and their bodies were left to decay where they lay. None attended to the wants of others. Trade ceased and the whole city was given over to mourning. In 1818, among other districts of the Bombay Karnátak, Bijápur was visited by a severe outbreak of cholera.¹ During the 1876-77 famine the district suffered grievously. The number of recorded deaths was 69,026 in 1876 and 69,026 in 1877 in excess of the average of the five previous years, and the 1881 census returns seem to show that the famine reduced the population by about 235,000 some of whom left the district and lived but most of whom died.

Besides the Kaládgi civil hospital in 1882 the district had six grant-in-aid dispensaries in which 23,425 out-patients and 372 in-patients were treated at a cost of £1060 (Rs. 10,600). The following details are taken from the 1882 report :

The commonest diseases were malarious fevers, diseases of the eye stomach and bowels, skin diseases, and chest affections. 2363 out-patients and 158 in-patients were treated at a cost of £365 (Rs. 3650). The Ilkal dispensary was established in 1873. The prevailing diseases were ague, syphilis, ophthalmia, ulcers, and skin diseases. No epidemic occurred. 3098 out-patients and 60 in-patients were treated at a cost of £134 (Rs. 1340). The Bágalkot dispensary was opened in 1867. The commonest diseases were malarious fevers, ophthalmia, worms, bowel complaints, and skin diseases. Cholera prevailed in the district and out of 144 cases 72 proved fatal. 6563 out-patients and 53 in-patients were treated at a cost of £203 (Rs. 2030). The Bijápur dispensary was established in 1871. The prevailing diseases were malarious fevers, rheumatic affections, ophthalmia, chest affections, diseases of the stomach and intestines, and skin diseases. Cholera prevailed in the town and neighbourhood in June. 6604 out-patients and 61 in-patients were treated at a cost of £156 (Rs. 1560). The Muddebihal dispensary was opened in 1878. The commonest diseases were malarious fevers, bronchitis, bowel complaints, and skin diseases. Cholera prevailed in the town and neighbourhood. Ninety-five children were vaccinated, and 1904 out-patients and seven in-patients were treated at a cost of £90 (Rs. 900). The Bágévadi dispensary was opened in 1879. The commonest diseases treated were ague, rheumatism, intestinal worms, and itch. Cholera

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1882.

¹ The following story of the origin of the great plague of cholera in 1818 and 1819 is widely known and believed in Sátára and in the Bombay Kánarese districts. Adil Sháh of Bijápur was a magician. He had power over spirits and diseases. At Bijápur he built a house with strong walls and a round stone roof. The house had no windows and no doors. He left a little hole and by his power over them he drove in all diseases cholera, small-pox, and fever, and shut the hole. After this the people were free from disease. When the English took Bijápur an officer saw this strong building without a window or a door. He thought it was to store money. He asked the people what was the use of this strong house with neither a window nor a door. The people said cholera and small-pox and fever were shut in the house and no one should open it. The English officer thought that this showed there was money in the house and that the king had told the people this story so that no man might touch his treasure. The officer broke down the wall and the house inside was empty. Terrible cholera and small-pox spread over the land and especially in Dhárwár many soldiers and many officers died.

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prevailed in the surrounding villages but did not attack the town. 132 people were vaccinated and 1859 out-patients and 33 in-patients were treated at a cost of £62 (Rs. 620). The Sindgi dispensary was opened in August 1882. The prevailing diseases were malarious fevers, rheumatism, eye and ear affections, and skin diseases. No epidemic occurred. 1044 out-patients were treated at a cost of £50 (Rs. 500).

According to the 1881 census 1416 persons (males 796, females 620) or 0·22 per cent of the population were infirm. Of the total number 1243 (males 698, females 545) were Hindus, 172 (males 98, females 74) Musalmáns, and one a woman was a Christian. Of 1416 the total number of infirm persons 61 (males 39, females 22) or 4·30 per cent were of unsound mind; 799 (males 410, females 389) or 56·42 per cent were blind; 366 (males 209, females 157) or 25·84 per cent were deaf and dumb; and 190 (males 138, females 52) or 13·41 per cent were lepers. The details are:

Bijápur Infirm People, 1881.

	HINDUS.		MUSALMA'NS.		CHRISTIANS.		TOTAL.	
	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.	Males.	Fe-males.
Insane ...	36	22	3	...	...	...	39	22
Blind ...	377	353	33	35	...	1	410	389
Deaf-Mutes ...	163	124	46	33	...	...	209	157
Lepers ...	122	46	16	6	...	...	138	52
Total ...	698	545	98	74	...	1	796	620

VACCINATION.

In 1883-84, under the supervision of the deputy sanitary commissioner, Southern Deccan Registration District, the work of vaccination was carried on by nine vaccinators with yearly salaries varying from £16 16s. (Rs. 168) to £28 16s. (Rs. 288). Of the operators eight were distributed over the rural parts of the district and one attended to the work of Bágalkot town and the villages within a radius of three miles. Vaccination was also practised by the medical officers of the Bijápur, Ilkal, Muddebihál, Bágévádi, and Sindgi dispensaries, and at the Kaládgi Jail. The whole number of persons vaccinated was 21,830, besides 538 revaccinated as compared with 10,986 vaccinations in 1869-70:

Kaládgi Vaccination Details, 1869-70 and 1883-84.

YEAR.	PERSONS PRIMARILY VACCINATED.									
	Sex.		Caste.					Age.		Total.
	Males.	Fe-males.	Hindus.	Musal-máns.	Pársis.	Chris-tians.	Others.	Under One Year.	Above One Year.	
1869-70 ...	5866	5120	9310	1011	...	...	665	4151	6835	10,986
1883-84 ...	10,912	10,918	17,572	2726	...	21	1511	10,133	11,697	21,830

In 1883-84 the cost of vaccination, exclusive of dispensaries, was £558 12s. (Rs. 5586) or about 6½d. (4½ as.) for each successful case. The charges included the following items:

Supervision and inspection £279 12s. (Rs. 2796), establishment £256 8s. (Rs. 2564), and contingencies £22 12s. (Rs. 226). Of these the supervising and inspecting charges were wholly met from provincial funds, while £268 4s. (Rs. 2682) were borne by the local funds of the different sub-divisions, and £10 16s. (Rs. 108) were paid by the Bágalkot municipality.

The total number of deaths shown in the Sanitary Commissioner's yearly reports, for the eighteen years ending 1883, is 328,142 or an average mortality of 18,230, or, according to the 1881 census, of twenty-nine in every thousand people. Of the average number of deaths 9997 or 54·83 per cent were returned as due to fevers, 1608 or 8·82 per cent to cholera, 450 or 2·46 per cent to small-pox, 1556 or 8·33 per cent to bowel complaints, and 4342 or 23·26 per cent to miscellaneous diseases. Deaths from violence or injuries averaged 277 or 1·51 per cent of the average mortality.

An examination of the returns shows that fever, which during the eighteen years caused an average yearly mortality of 9997 or 54·83 per cent, was below the average in thirteen years and above the average in the five years ending 1881. Three years, 1866 1867 and 1868, had less than 5000 deaths, the lowest total being 3294 in 1867; four years, 1869 1870 1871 and 1873, had between 5000 and 6000 deaths; one year 1874 had 7756 deaths; three years, 1872 1882 and 1883, had between 8000 and 9000 deaths; and two years, 1875 and 1876, between 9000, and the average 9997. Of the five years above the average 1881 had 10,025 deaths, 1880 had 11,054, 1879 had 14,372, 1878 had 16,872, and 1877 the chief famine year 41,248. Of the deaths from cholera, which amounted to 28,943 and averaged 1608, 7124 or 24·61 per cent happened in 1877, 5126 or 17·71 per cent in 1869, 5072 or 17·52 per cent in 1876, and 3896 or 13·46 in 1866. The only other years which were over the average were, 1878 with 2230 and 1872 with 1750 deaths. Of the six years below the average and above 100, 1875 had 1365 deaths, 1883 had 1008, 1882 had 543, 1868 had 320, 1871 had 167, and 1881 had 138. In none of the other years were there more than 100 deaths, the lowest number being one in 1874; and one year 1879 was free from cholera. Of the deaths from small-pox, which amounted to 8097 and averaged 450, 1765 or 21·79 per cent happened in 1872 and 1081 or 13·35 per cent happened in 1869. Besides 1869 and 1872 six years had a more than average mortality from small-pox, 1877 with 801, 1868 with 687, 1883 with 645, 1870 with 608, 1871 with 571 and 1866 with 499. Of the nine years below the average, four years, 1867 1873 1874 and 1875, had between the average and 200; and five years were below 100, 1876 with eighty-seven, 1878 with eighteen, 1879 with ten, 1882 with seven, and 1880 with one. Only one year 1881 had no death from small-pox. Of the deaths from bowel complaints, which amounted to 28,002 or 1556 a year, fourteen years were below the average, and four years, 1877 with 6102 deaths, 1866 with 2784, 1869 with 2468, and 1870 with 2031 were above the average. The smallest number of deaths from bowel complaints in any one of the eighteen years was 464 in 1879 and the largest was 6102 in 1877. Injuries, with a total mortality

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of 4990 and an average of 277 varied from 158 in 1868 to 517 in 1879. Other causes with a total mortality of 78,167 and an average mortality of 4342 varied from 991 in 1867 to 27,290 in 1877.

Birth returns are available only for the thirteen years ending 1883. During those thirteen years the number of births averaged 14,596 or according to the 1881 census twenty-three to the thousand people. The yearly totals vary from a lowest of 2795 in 1878 to 22,678 in 1882. The details are:

Bijapur Births and Deaths,¹ 1866-1883.

YEAR.	TOTAL DEATHS.							TOTAL BIRTHS.
	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Bowel Com-plaints.	Injuries.	Other Causes.	All Causes.	
1866 ...	3896	499	4406	2784	209	2504	14,298	...
1867 ...	47	447	3294	1088	235	991	6102	...
1868 ...	320	687	4806	1395	158	1567	8433	...
1869 ...	5126	1081	5773	2468	193	2259	16,900	...
1870 ...	62	608	5825	2031	231	2832	11,589	...
1871 ...	167	571	5189	1189	235	2959	10,310	12,570
1872 ...	1750	1765	8396	1500	251	5990	19,652	13,742
1873 ...	90	331	5777	720	228	3450	10,596	13,500
1874 ...	1	286	7756	742	286	4358	13,429	18,635
1875 ...	1365	253	9463	983	267	3818	16,149	16,156
1876 ...	5072	87	9757	1402	242	4068	20,628	18,581
1877 ...	7124	801	41,148	6102	488	27,290	83,053	11,467
1878 ...	2230	18	16,872	516	452	4121	24,209	2795
1879 ...	...	10	14,372	464	517	3827	19,190	6798
1880 ...	4	1	11,954	1025	306	1895	14,195	10,825
1881 ...	138	...	10,025	1284	249	1821	13,517	19,580
1882 ...	543	7	8112	1011	224	2296	12,193	22,678
1883 ...	1008	645	8318	1298	219	2211	13,699	22,406
Total ...	28,943	8097	179,942	28,002	4990	78,167	328,142	189,743
Average ...	1608	450	9997	1556	277	4342	18,230	14,596

¹ The death returns are believed to be fairly correct and the birth returns to be incomplete.