

**PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS,
VOLUME 19: REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO
INQUIRE INTO THE SANITARY
STATE OF THE ARMY IN INDIA**

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GREAT BRITAIN PARLIAMENT

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REPORT
OF
THE COMMISSIONERS
APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE
SANITARY STATE OF THE ARMY
IN INDIA;
WITH
PRÉCIS OF EVIDENCE.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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COMMISSION.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

To Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, the Right Honourable Sidney Herbert, and to Our trusty and well-beloved Robert John Hussey Vivian, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, a Major-General in our Indian Forces, and a Member of the Council of India; Proby Thomas Cautley, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, a Colonel in our Indian Forces, and a Member of the Council of India; Thomas Alexander, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Edward Harris Greathed, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, a Colonel in our Army, William Farr, M.D., James Ranald Martin, Esquire, and John Sutherland, M.D., greeting:

Whereas it hath been humbly represented to Us that, considering the great importance of maintaining and improving the Health of all ranks of Our Army serving in India, it is expedient that certain Inquiries should be made:

Now know ye, that We, having taken into Our Consideration the Premises, do hereby order and direct you, the said Sidney Herbert, Sir Robert John Hussey Vivian, Sir Proby Thomas Cautley, Thomas Alexander, Edward Harris Greathed, William Farr, James Ranald Martin, and John Sutherland, to inquire, firstly, into the Rate of Sickness and Mortality, and Invaliding among

Our Troops, both of the General and Indian Services, in all Stations throughout India and its Dependencies ; and into the class of Diseases from which such Sickness and Mortality arise.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire into the Causes of such Sickness and Mortality ; whether as relates to Climate, Locality, state of Barracks, Drainage, Water Supply, Diet, Drink, Dress, Duties, or Habits of Troops.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire into what existing Stations are unhealthy, and to indicate how such Unhealthiness may be removed, if possible, and the nature of the Sanitary Improvements required.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire into the subject of Healthy Positions generally, with the view of recommending the most healthy for future Occupation, and of ascertaining whether healthy Stations may not be found within moderate Distance of such existing unhealthy Stations as may be of Political or Military Importance ; also into the general subject of Sanitaria and Hill Stations, with the view of pointing out the most healthy Positions on them.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire as to the best Construction of Barracks, Huts, Hospitals, and Tents for India.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire into the present Regulations or Practice for preserving the Health of the Troops, and enforcing Medical and Sanitary Police.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire into the present Organization of the Army Sanitary and Medical Service.

And, further, We do order and direct you to inquire as to the Practicability of establishing a general system of Military Statistics throughout India, and to ascertain whether any, and what Means exist, of comparing the Diseases and Mortality of the Troops with those of the Civil Population, English and Native.

And, We do further command and require you to Report what Changes you may consider it expedient to make in the present Practice, with respect to any of the Subjects above mentioned.

And, it is Our further will and pleasure that you, or any Five or more of you, do obtain Information touching the Matters aforesaid, by the Examination of all Persons most competent, by reason of their Knowledge, Habits, or Experience, to afford it; and also by calling for all Documents, Papers, or Records, which may appear to you, or any Five or more of you, calculated to assist your Researches and to promote the formation of a sound Judgment on the Subject, and that you, or any Five or more of you, do report to Us, under your hands and seals, your several Proceedings by virtue of this Our Commission, together with your Opinions touching the several Matters hereby referred for your consideration.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this Thirty-first Day of May, in the Year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and in the Twenty-second of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.

(Signed) STANLEY.

REPORT.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the sanitary state of Your Majesty's Army serving in India, humbly present to Your Majesty the results of our investigation, which we do in this our Report, as follows:—

The inquiry in which we have been engaged has been one of unusual extent and duration, and from its nature has led to considerable delay in preparing our Report. We had, in the first place, to lay the foundation for our inquiry by an elaborate examination of the available statistical and sanitary documents in the India House. In doing so it was perceived at the very beginning that we could not arrive at our object by taking oral evidence only, and that it would be necessary to carry out a preliminary local inquiry at all the Indian stations before a true estimate could be formed of what were the real conditions of the problem with which we had to deal. With this view a series of printed questions was drawn up and sent to all the stations to be there replied to and signed concurrently by the commanding, engineering, and medical officers. We had to await the results of this part of the inquiry; and as on some important statistical points the replies from two Presidencies were incomplete, we called for further information, which has not yet been received by us. This, together with other engagements of members of the Commission, has led to considerable but unavoidable delay, which we are grieved to say has been increased by the losses which the Commission has sustained since its first meeting. The late Lord Herbert, who was our first Chairman, was compelled by official occupation, and latterly by declining health, to suspend the meetings for some time. Previous to that period, Sir Robert Vivian had been obliged by his other duties to resign as member of the Commission, and we had further to deplore the death of Mr. Alexander, the late Director-General of the Army Medical Department. To supply these losses, Dr. Gibson, the present Director-

General, and Colonel Durand, since called to India, were added to the Commission, and Lord Stanley consented to succeed Lord Herbert as Chairman.

We have thought it necessary to make this statement to account for the lengthy period which has intervened between the date of Your Majesty's Commission and the date of this Report.

An inquiry extending over so large an area, and including so great a multiplicity of details, many of them of a minute character, has been necessarily voluminous and expensive; but the evidence which it has called forth appears to us to be so important, not only to the interests of troops serving in India, but to those inextricably interwoven with them of the native population, that we have not scrupled to publish it for official use, partly for the purpose of spreading information, and partly in order that the correctness of the statements made by us might be fully sustained by authority.

Appended to the Report, we have given a *précis* of the evidence; and, separately, the oral evidence,* with some important addenda made to it by the witnesses, an abstract of all the stational reports,† and a valuable paper of comments on these reports, contributed, at the request of the Commission, by Miss Nightingale.

P. 371.

P. 347.

P. 527.

The medical statistics for the troops of the late East India Company, and also for those of the Royal army (the latter prepared at the Army Medical Department), which follow, have been drawn up from the best available data, supplied partly from India, partly by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, and by the Secretary of State for India. These, together with a paper on the geographical distribution of Indian climates prepared at our request by Mr. Glaisher, contain the main statistical facts of the inquiry. Involving a wide range of subjects, our researches have been minute, and the evidence by which our conclusions are borne out is necessarily voluminous. But we believe that the abstracts referred to contain the substance of all the facts in such a form as to render reference to the evidence almost needless,

P. 781.

* The evidence, &c. is set out at length in a separate folio volume, printed for official use, and the figures here placed in the margin refer to the page or number of question in such folio, except the references to pages of this report placed within brackets, and marked *ante* or *post*. [See note p. 201 *post*.]

† These reports from Indian stations given in full form a second folio, or "Appendix to Evidence."