

## Sources for the history of leprosy within the India Office Records

### Contact details

India Office Records  
The British Library  
96 Euston Rd  
London  
NW1 2DB

Email: [ior@bl.uk](mailto:ior@bl.uk)

Webpage: [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

### Materials

Sources relating to leprosy in British India within the East India Company papers, India Office Records and Private Papers at the British Library. Detailed descriptions of many India Office materials can be found via the Archives and Manuscripts catalogue: <http://searcharchives.bl.uk>

In addition, a source list of individual document references is available upon request.

For a good initial overview see the sections on leprosy and leprosy hospitals in R Axelby and S P Nair, *Science and the Changing Environment in India 1780-1920* (British Library: 2010), pp 158-59 and 169.

### Official Publications of the India Office: IOR/V

Series **IOR/V/27/854** contains publications on leprosy:

- Leprosy in India (Rake) Commission 1890-91: Report and appendices (Calcutta, 1892)
- Central Advisory Board of Health Leprosy (Vyas) Committee 1941: Report on leprosy and its control in India (New Delhi, 1942)
- Medical reports upon the character and progress of leprosy in the East Indies, being answers to interrogatories drawn up by the Royal College of Physicians, London (Calcutta, 1865)
- H Vandyke Carter, *On leprosy and elephantiasis* (London, 1874) with plates
- 5 reports, 1874-1887: H Vandyke Carter, *Report on leprosy and leper-asylums in Norway, with references to India* (London, 1874); H Vandyke Carter, *Reports on leprosy (second series) comprising notices of the disease as it now exists in North Italy, the Greek Archipelago, Palestine and parts of the Bombay Presidency of India* (London, 1876); Bombay. General Department, *Statement showing the number of persons affected with black or true leprosy in the districts of the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) with particulars as to their residence, age etc.* (Bombay, 1882); H Vandyke Carter, *Memorandum on the prevention of leprosy by segregation of the affected* (Bombay, 1884); H Vandyke Carter, *Observations of the prevention of leprosy by segregation* (Bombay, 1887).

- India. Home, Revenue, and Agriculture Department reports on leprosy for: Assam 1876, Bengal 1876, 1878, Bombay 1878, Burma 1876, Central Provinces 1876, Hyderabad Assigned Districts 1875, 1876, Madras 1876, 1878, North-western Provinces 1876, Oudh 1876, Punjab 1877.
- D D Cunningham, and T R Lewis, *Leprosy in India: a report* (Calcutta, 1877)
- S Anderson and L Rogers, *Report on experiments with Nastin B, with notes by G F A Harris* (Calcutta, 1911)
- F A Barnardo and J W D Megaw, *Report on experiments with Nastin B, with notes by G F A Harris* (Calcutta, 1912)
- C T Peters, *Report on cases of leprosy treated by Surgeon Peters at Belgaum* (Bombay, 1879)
- Leprosy and its control in the Bombay Presidency (Bombay, 1914)
- U Tha Din, *Report on the leprosy survey of Henzada District, Thaton District, Sagaing District, Yamethin District* (Rangoon, 1941)

Publications across other series:

- **IOR/V/23/29, No 138** 'Report on the administration of the Persian Gulf Political Residency and Muscat Political Agency for the years 1876-77.' Part V, *Medical Topography of Muscat* (folios 55-62), by the Muscat Agency Surgeon, Atmarim Sadashiv Jayakar. Contains section on leprosy.
- **IOR/V/23/68, No 331** Home Dept serial no 17, *Papers relating to the treatment of leprosy in India from 1887-95* (Calcutta: Supt. Govt. Printing, 1896)
- **IOR/V/23/121, Pt 40 Art 2** Reports by the civil surgeons respecting the character and progress of leprosy in the North-Western Provinces (Allahabad: Government Press, 1864), pp 7-111
- **IOR/V/23/186, No 52** Report on the treatment of leprosy with gurjun oil and other remedies in hospitals of the Madras Presidency (Madras: Govt. Press, 1876)
- **IOR/V/25/850/55** Scientific Memoirs by Officers of the Medical and Sanitary Departments of the Government of India. New Series. No 42 Part I. E R Rost, *The cultivation of the bacillus of leprosy and the treatment of cases by means of a vaccine prepared from the cultivations* (1911); No 42 Part II. T S B Williams, *The cultivation of the leprosy bacillus* (1911).
- **IOR/V/26/854/1** Leprosy in India (Rake) Commission 1890-91: Report and appendices (Calcutta, 1892)
- **IOR/V/26/854/2** Central Advisory Board of Health Leprosy (Vyas) Committee 1941: Report on leprosy and its control in India (New Delhi, 1942)

#### **Collections of the Board of Control, 1784-1858: IOR/F/4**

Mostly copies of correspondence, minutes and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, letters from the India government and certain other Company administrations.

Relevant material consists of reports on the murder of people afflicted with leprosy.

**Proceedings and Consultations of the Government of India and of the Presidencies and Provinces, 1702-1945: IOR/P**

Bound copies of some of the main records of the central and provincial governments in India, supplied for the information of the East India Company and later the India Office.

Primarily reports on the trials of treatments for leprosy, including the use of cashew nut and gurjun oil, the Beuperthuy and Dougall systems; often containing detailed case notes, and occasionally medical illustrations and photographs. This series also contains details of the provision of leprosy hospitals, records of hospital admissions, reports of apparent outbreaks, and investigations into the extent of leprosy across India.

**India Office Economic Department Records, c1876-1950: IOR/L/E**

Records of a group of related departments responsible for a range of economic, technical and social questions.

References primarily to international efforts to combat leprosy, conference proceedings and the reports of international health organisations, including:

- the Government of India, Central Advisory Board of Health
- League of Nations Health Organisation, and International Research Centre for Research on Leprosy
- The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association
- Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine.
- Details of treatments trialled in other countries

**East India Company General Correspondence, 1602-1859: IOR/E**

Company correspondence, arranged in a chronological sequence.

Details of arrangements for Company employees, soldiers and prisoners afflicted with leprosy (includes details of specific cases).

**Public and Judicial Department Records, 1795-1950: IOR/L/PJ**

Department responsible for constitutional, political and administrative structures and reforms, the administration of justice (especially courts and jails), and law and order.

Primarily concerning immigration and leprosy, and arrangements to prevent the importation of leprosy into India and throughout the British Empire.

## **India Office Private Papers**

### **Mss Eur F219**

Archives of the Friends of Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital; and of their predecessor, the British Board of the Hospital (1916-1996)

Contains an extensive collection of photographic slides showing leprosy treatment and hospital scenes, plus correspondence with the British Leprosy Relief Association.

### **Mss Eur F111/671**

Report of the Leprosy Commission in India (1890-91)

### **Mss Eur F152/114**

British Empire Relief Association publications, plus correspondence with Frank Lugard Brayne, Indian Civil Service (1948-52)