

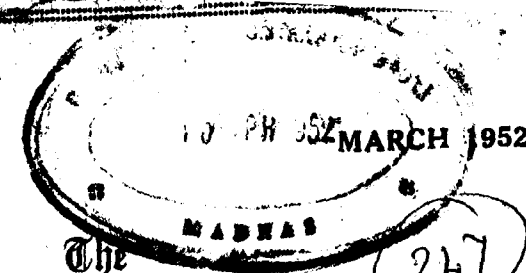
The
Medical Practitioner.

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Medical Practitioner

CONDEMNS

INVIDIOUS DISTINCTIONS SHOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT BETWEEN PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS AND STATE-PAID PRACTITIONERS IN THE MATTER OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

STANDS

FOR PROPAGANDA AND SERVICE TO BRING ABOUT HARMONY AND PROSPERITY IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

EDITOR :

DR. V. RAMA KAMATH,

Ex-President, Madras Medical Council.

Office : Vepery, Madras 7.

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[No. 2

VILLAGE, SAVIOUR OF ALL ILLS.

The recent general elections held on the basis of adult franchise, have proved without a shadow of doubt, that the village is not only a mirror but also a barometer which indicates rise and fall of humanity in all walks of life pertaining to health, wealth and prosperity of a nation more so of the Indian Nation as India is a cluster villages. If the public took interest in the uplift of the villages, the Government could not have afforded to be culpably negligent to the welfare of the villages. The procurement of rice in the villages by having recourse to coercive methods, is the only important activity of the Government in the villages, which is being felt by the people. The villages supply to the urban areas all the necessities of life in addition to rice. In fact, the villages are the life of Indian Nation but the soul of the Government representing the people, has been remorseless with the result that the villagers preferred to be ruled by politicians outside the Congress fold, including the Communists, in spite of their reported atrocities.

We are really sorry for what had happened. The Congress Organisation did its work splendidly till India got independence. Independence necessarily brought with it power and responsibility. Soon after the independence was won, the Captain at the helm, the most lamented Gandhiji who was able to steer clear the Indian Ship of independence avoiding all obstructions, felt the need for throwing open the country for the service of the

people, to all the Indians irrespective of their being Congress men or other wise. He must have thought and rightly so that patriotism can not be the monopoly of only Congressmen. This sound and wise advice was flouted by the Congressmen at the top and a large number of them, have now been using power for the good of individuals on reciprocal basis with the only aim of maintaining power to help them and their hench men who have been responsible to keep them in power. We are concerned only with medical problems which directly or indirectly tell upon the welfare of the public.

About 30 years ago, during the diarchical system of Government, the Panagal Ministry conceived the idea of rendering medical relief to the villages by establishing rural dispensaries in charge of private practitioners. To encourage the practitioners to settle in villages and to be in charge of the rural dispensaries, they were given a yearly subsidy Rs. 500/- for medical licenciates and Rs. 600/- for medical graduates. They were also supplied with drugs to the value of Rs. 360/- per year. They were expected to treat free the poor whose monthly income was Rs. 30 or below. Till about the year 1936 there was a regular and gradual increase in the number of rural dispensaries.

Later, during the Congress regime lot of changes were introduced in the Rural Medical Relief Scheme, by the then Public Health Minister Dr. T. S. S. Rajan. The original scheme did give

and position of Dr. Kamath cannot afford to keep silent when he was deliberately defamed by the Government through their Ministers. The Special Officer had no legal right or authority to hold the enquiry. Yet he played his part in the drama, making men and matters appear as they really were not. It is most unworthy that the Government acted on the strength of unreal facts, stated by the actors in the drama in the garb of an enquiry. Dr. Kamath is quite justified to publish the letters addressed by him to those who took important part in the plot against him. Though the right course for Dr. Kamath was to take legal action against those who defamed him, Dr. Kamath naturally felt nervous to seek justice in Courts as he had had bitter knowledge that the Government did not hesitate to direct the Surgeon-General, the tribunal appointed by the Government to enquire into the alleged irregularities of 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections, to give judgment as per their dictation. So, Dr. Kamath placed the whole matter before the members of the Medical Profession through the columns of The Medical Practitioner as they were responsible to send Dr. Kamath as their accredited representative to the Medical Council which in its turn elected him as its President. Through the members of the Medical Profession the matter reacted on the public in time and added to the weight of unpopularity of the Government. The resultant reaction was a nemesis and the Government is now tottering. Dr. Kamath had justice at last, not in Courts but through the Goddess of Retribution.

To,
The Secretary to the Government
of Madras, Public Health Department,

Sir,
Sub:—Confidential Report submitted by the Special Officer regarding 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections.

October 1951 issue of the Medical Practitioner had been sent to you some time ago. The matter on the first

eighteen pages of the journal, is a copy of the Memorandum to be submitted to the Select Committee of the Madras State Legislature appointed to consider the Madras Medical Registration Act Amendment Bill, as and when it meets. On page twenty of the journal a sub-leader appears under the caption, "Dr. Kamath *versus* Madras Government" and on page twenty two another sub-leader appears under the caption, The Madras Medical Council before and after 1944."

The facts upon which comments have been made in the Memorandum were found in the Respondents' Documents, submitted to the Madras High Court in C.M. P. No. 9975 of 1949. (Dr. V. Rama Kamath and 3 others Petitioners *versus* The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, Respondent). The confidential report referred to above did lose its value and nature as such, when it was published by the Government on behalf the Surgeon-General and was made part and parcel of the Government documents submitted to the High Court.

The fact that the Government had no power to hold an enquiry of the nature that was held by the Special Officer, has been commented upon in the Memorandum. In the same place it is said that the Special Officer, had no legal powers or authority of any sort to conduct the enquiry. The Special Officer himself did confess to that effect in his letter to the Government dated 18th June 1949. Yet to please the Government whose only object was to spite me for resisting, series of their unconstitutional and illegal orders, the Special Officer did not mind the qualms of his conscience and made most defamatory and false statements against me in his report to the Government, to enable the Government to unseat me from the position, as the President Madras Medical Council.

The Government had to spend over three years to stage a drama against me and they had recourse to questionable methods not to mention them to be unconstitutional and illegal. The crowning and most grossly scandalous action they had had recourse to, was

to dictate to the Surgeon-General whom they appointed illegally as a tribunal to go through the unwarranted allegations made by the defeated candidates in 1946 elections, that he should declare the 1946 elections invalid and order fresh elections. The Government did not stop there. They were nervous that if elections were held immediately after the 1946 elections were declared invalid, I was likely to contest the elections and was as likely to be returned to the Council. So they got materials from the report of the Special Officer on the basis of which, they drafted an Amendment Bill to the Madras Medical Registration Act not only to revert to the old order of things, and have a Govt. nominated President but also to take power even to unseat a member of the Medical Council, unwanted by the Government. While introducing the bill, the then Public Minister and the Law Minister made most reckless and defamatory statements against me on the authority of the report submitted to the Government by the Special Officer. That his report was a fabrication, had been fully discussed and commented upon in the Memorandum to be submitted by me to the Select Committee.

As soon as I read in the newspapers the reports of the speeches of the Public Health and Law Ministers, delivered by them on the floors of the Madras Legislature, I challenged them to come out of the privileged walls of Legislature and repeat what they said inside the walls. They have not so far cared to take up my challenge. The only conclusion any reasonable person may come, to regarding my challenge, is that the Government whose mouth pieces were the two Ministers, have not been able to take up my challenge for obvious reasons.

I say that the conduct of the Government displayed by them in the garb of an enquiry is highly questionable. I abstain from taking any legal action against the Government and others who acted the drama against me Special Officer. Because judging from the conduct of the Government in directing the Surgeon-General, (the tribunal made to act illegally by the

Government for the Madras Medical Council,) as to what decision he should give, I cannot have faith in the law Courts under the present Government. Therefore, I decided to place this nasty episode before the members of the Medical profession and through them before the public. I have faith in thought power and Divine Justice. That my faith has had desired effect is evidenced by the results of the general elections.

V. RAMA KAMATH.

To
Sri K. MADHAVA MENON,
B.A., B.L.,
Ex-Minister for Law & Education.

Dear Mr. Madhava Menon,

Though I had no opportunity to contact you more than once or perhaps twice, I have known your good qualities of head and heart from our mutual friends. I was surprised, you joined Dr. Rajan, your then colleague in the State Ministry, in the defamatory vituperations against me as the President Madras Medical Council, depending upon the report submitted to the Government, by the Special Officer who was appointed to go into the alleged irregularities in the 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections. This you did when the Madras Medical Registration Act Amendment Bill, was introduced in both the houses of Legislature. I challenged both of you to come out of the privileged walls of the Legislature and, repeat what you stated inside the walls. Both of you have been mum so far.

I sent you a copy of The Medical Practitioner about two months ago. Due to some inadvertent mistake in my office, it was not sent to you soon after its publication. If you have read the journal, well and good. If not, I request you to go through it. The matter in the first eighteen pages of the journal, is a copy of a Memorandum which I intended to submit to the Select Committee appointed to consider the Bill, as and when it meets. An unbiased reader even with no legal knowledge would condemn the report of the Special Officer. Your goodself, a member of the legal profession, would do so, much more easily. The High

Court did not go through it, in the C. M. P. No. 9975 of 1949 nor did the Advocate-General consider it worthy of consideration. My Advocate said it was not worth the paper on which it was written. The enquiry was a deliberately conspired attempt to unseat me from the Medical Council as its President by any means. The Chief witness was a disgruntled Registrar, Madras Medical Council whom I removed from office, while he was acting and would not reinstate him in spite of the recommendation of my friend and your then colleague, Hon'ble Mr. A. B. Shetty. The Registrar Mr. B. Kuttappa is a Master of Arts and he acted before the Special Officer as a Master of Falsehood in a manner to enable the Special Officer to come to false, scandalous and defamatory inferences against me. You could verify my opinion from the statements made by Mr. Kuttappa in his appeal to the members of the Medical Council, for re-instating him and from the note submitted by him to the Medical Council, in his capacity as the Returning Officer, in-charge of 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections, (vide my memorandum to the Select Committee). The truthful facts stated by Mr. Kuttappa regarding his work as Returning Officer, which he averred he did independent of the President Medical Council, are a deliberate contrast to what was said by the Special Officer about Mr. Kuttappa who was made the hero in the drama, enacted against me in spite of the "week memory" displayed by Mr. Kuttappa before the Special Officer. What all I stated in the Memorandum may kindly be read by you, if you have not done so already, so as to enable you to assess the part played by the Special Officer and his hero Mr. B. Kuttappa. The former based his findings on the papers found in the ballot-box which was lying in the open verandah of the Secretariat building next to the room of the Secretary P. H. Department for over 2½ years. The seals of the Medical Council on the slit of the ballot-box were found tampered with and the tampered seals were superimposed by the Government seals. How the ballot-box was removed to the Secretariat and what happened before

and after, had been stated by me in the Memorandum. The Special Officer was not invested with the powers of a Court, nor for a moment, he could assume the authority of an election tribunal to be able to open the sealed and tampered ballot-box. The Special Officer himself did confess that he was not a Court nor did the Government invest him with legal powers of a Court when the Special Officer requested the Government to do so. Evidently the Government were conscious that they had no powers.

After the farce of an enquiry was gone through, the Government realised that they could not unseat me on the strength of the illegal enquiry conducted by the Special Officer. So they had recourse to another most questionable procedure. They transformed the Surgeon-General into an Election Tribunal in the place of the Medical Council and gave him instructions by a D. O. that he should declare the 1946 elections invalid and order fresh elections. This they did even before the Surgeon-General took charge as a tribunal. The Government thought they were all powerful as Duryodana did in the Mahabharata. The Surgeon-General acted as Bhishma. There was also a Shakuni to advise the Government. They first burnt the Madras Medical Council and sent me out. I actually lifted up the Council and its administration from the dirty rut it was before I assumed office as the first non-official President of the Council.

The Special Officer apprehended that I might get into Council and undo what all he did. To prevent such an eventually, he recommended to the Government to amend the Madras Medical Registration Act for sending the Council back to the same dirty rut in which it was during the regime of the Government nominated Presidents. The Government were also advised by the Special Officer, to go a step further for getting power to dismiss an unwanted member of the Council. But the Government had no support for the proposed Bill in the houses of Legislature and outside. Needless to say that the medical profession as a whole, con-

demned the Bill. In the meanwhile, nemesis was at work. The Public Health Minister who sponsored the Bill, suffered from all round constitutional disturbances and had to resign. He is now a recluse. Soon after, the Government had to stand the test of the general elections, Nemesis was at work even here as could be seen from the results. The prayerful thought wave from a honest and innocent individual, have been more powerful than the mighty Government with the Departments of Health and Law, which prepared the stage actors against me till I had to vacate the seat of honour, as honourably won with the help of the members of the noble medical profession.

V. RAMA KAMATH.

To

The Hon'ble A. B. Shetty, Minister.
My dear Balakrishna Shetty,

Whatever you are in your official position and whatever you did to hurt me unrighteously, keeping company with your Congress comrades, in connection with the fight I put in, against the Government in company with my comrades, in the Madras Medical Council, I cannot forget my old relationship with you hailing from the same village as we do and having spent most pleasant days in school and college and later both having co-operated with each other in public activities. Therefore, I have taken the liberty of addressing you as I had been doing in the past.

You must have in your hands, the revived October issue of The Medical Practitioner which due to some inadvertent mistake in my office could not be sent to you soon after its publication. The matter published from the first to the last page in the columns of the journal, relates to the Madras Medical Council Elections held in 1946, before and after, till the Government by questionable means unseated me from the position as the President Madras Medical Council.

If you so far had no time and peace of mind to go through the journal due to the general elections, you may kindly go through it now and judge for yourself the part played by the Government at the initiation of the Public

Health Department of which you were then the Head. I draw your attention to the false evidence given by your friend Sri B. Kuttappa and the description given about him by the Special Officer. The picture of your friend as drawn by the Special Officer, is quite in contrast to the real picture as depicted in the statements of your friend made by him in his appeal to the members of the Medical Council, against my order of removal of him from office as the acting Registrar of the Medical Council, and the statement made by your friend before the Medical Council as its Registrar and Returning Officer of the elections when the Council sat in judgment regarding the alleged election irregularities.

Will you kindly introspect calmly and judge for yourself whether my not having complied your request to reinstate Mr. Kuttappa as the Registrar Medical Council, was justiable or otherwise. To please the Government whose salt he had been eating in the past and now as a pensioner and more to spite me your friend a Master of Arts did not hesitate to make baggering and incoherent false statements before the Special Officer.

In spite of what you did against me, a good old and intimate friend of yours, I have not lost my affection for you. Because I am painfully aware that what you did, was entirely due to the unhealthy pressure brought to bear on you.

Let us forget the most unhappy Medical Council episode and continue to be loving friends as in the past.

Before closing, I take this opportunity of congratulating you most heartily on your success in the general elections, which in itself is note worthy.

V. RAMA KAMATH.

To

Mr. T. A. SUBBIAH PILLAI,

B.A., B.L.,
Retired, Palamkottah.

Sir,

You must have read with interest the October issue of The Medical Practitioner which I sent to you a couple of months ago.

Ever since you held an enquiry regarding the 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections, you have been haunting me day and night and even in my dreams. The publication of your confidential report submitted to the Government, along with the other documents of the Respondent, the Surgeon-General, in C. M. P. No. 9975 of 1949 before the High Court, did serve me as a talisman. I was able to see you in my mental vision and your marvellous capacities to make things appear as they were not, to serve the purpose of your benefactors, the Madras Government.

You were quite conscious even before you began the enquiry that you had no powers of a Court. You did confess it in your correspondence with the Government. You were questioned by me to mention the legal authority under which you were holding the enquiry. You were mum. Yet you proceeded and concluded the enquiry in a manner certainly not worthy of your position as a senior retired session judge. You came to erroneous and false inferences against me, which pleased the Government who had been burning with rage against me for having defied series of their unconstitutional and illegal orders, which I did with the approval of the Medical Council. You must be aware that your report did not serve the purpose, the Government had in view excepting that it got you an employment as a Special Officer. Your report was found defective to unseat me as the President of Medical Council. The Government did not hesitate to have recourse to yet another scandalous action. They appointed the Surgeon-General as a Tribunal in the place of Medical Council and by a D. O. letter instructed him to declare 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections invalid and order fresh elections. When the matter was taken by me to the High Court in the C. M. P. No. 9975 of 1949, your report was included in the documents of the Respondent, the Surgeon-General. The Advocate-General appearing for the Respondent, did not find it worthy of the attention of the High Court. Nor did the High Court itself take notice of it.

You made Mr. Kuttappa, the Returning Officer of 1946 Medical Council

Elections as the hero of your enquiry and though according to your own statement your hero was a person of "weak memory", you relied on his memory, when it served the purpose of your jugglery. I ask you now to go through what appears on page eight of The Medical Practitioner, 2nd paragraph, in the 2nd column where amongst other things your hero says:

".....I successfully managed the heavy work connected with the Madras Medical Council Elections as Returning Officer, independent of the President as he was himself one of the candidates. Again as the sole Official of the Council, of I successfully managed the Council meeting held on the 25th November 1946 and the subsequent working day, as I could act on my initiative with full freedom....."

Compare the above statement of your hero with what you say in the report about him (Vide page 80) as quoted below:

"The Registrar admitted that he was quite new to election work; he could not have taken upon himself the responsibility of deviating from the relevant rule and the prescribed form. It is extremely likely that he had instructions or inspiration in this connection from his experienced guide, the President, he might not have also been able to perceive the significance of the alteration."

You went a step further not as a judge but as a juggler and twisted the sense and meaning of the word "willing subordinate" appearing in a certificate granted to your hero by a Surgeon-General and paraphrased these words in your own way and said after the two words, "that is to say by nature, subservient to his boss whoever he may be, and in this case" the boss was his benefactor. (Dr. Kamath.)

After going through the above quotations appearing in The Medical Practitioner along with my statements and comments in regard to your report and your own imaginery description of your hero appearing in your report, I wonder what your feeling should be about your judicial conscience compared with the skillful jugglery, you displayed in your report, an outcome of most injudicious and imaginative inferences. An unbiased introspection of what you did, as a Special Officer ought to raise in you a

feeling of remorse. What I stated in this letter is only an example of many such facts of jugglery displayed by you in the report.

In the course of my dictating this letter, I read reports in the news papers of the wonderful influence of hypnotism. A woman is said to have delivered a baby with little or no pain due to her being hypnotised from a distant place. Even burglary is reported to have been committed by hypnotising the inmates of a house. I wonder whether you were under hypnotic influence while conducting the enquiry or else, how can the injudicious methods adopted by you in arriving at your conclusions, be reconciled with the position you occupied as a senior District Judge. You had no records nor had you powers to procure them. Even a Department of the Government at the Secretariat opined that the alleged irregularities in the election must be held at the door of the President and the Returning Officer. You made the President and the six other successful candidates as the respondents though they had nothing to do with the conduct of the elections. You transformed the Returning Officer into a witness of the defeated candidates. When the Returning Officer actually appeared before you and you found him making staggering incoherent statements you dubbed him as a person of "weak memory" to make up for the defects in his evidence which did not serve your purpose. All the same, when you found what he stated served your purpose to damn me, you forgot that Mr. Kuttappa was "of very weak memory" You behaved more as a party man than a Judge. You must have contrived or you must have been instructed to bring about the strange transformation of Mr. Kuttappa as a witness of the defeated candidates or else you would not have been able to write a report of the nature you did, making things and facts appear as they really were not. As referred to above, you paraphrased the word "willing subordinate" of a Surgeon-General as "the subservient subordinate" of the President, Medical Council, to be able to state that all the alleged irregularities which were committed by the Returning Officer Kuttappa were due to President Rama

Kamath, dominating over him. You now know that your hero, the Master of Arts who actually held the elections independent of the President, when he stated before you that he was new to election work and was guided by of the President behaved, like a Master of falsehood. You may argue within yourself, that in case I had very strong unassailable evidence, why I did not come forward to prove my case against the defeated candidates, I did tell you even before you commenced the so called enquiry that you or even the Government had no power to question the decision of the Council. If in spite of the courage of the Council and mine, the matter went against us in the High Court, I would say even now, we were right and you and your Government were wrong. There was not a word in the judgment of the High Court, directly or indirectly to denote that the alleged irregularities were proved. The High Court took exception to the presence of the successful candidates at the proceedings of the Council, when the Council set in judgment regarding alleged irregularities. If the Government did not take the defeated candidates under their protection but advised them to seek justice in the Law Courts, you would have spared the strain of twisting facts and the hiding of the true facts regarding the ballot-box would have come out. It is a matter for consolation that you had stated in your report that the then Registrar, Medical Council was allowed by you to be present at the time you opened the ballot-box. The report made to me by the Registrar varies materially from the description given by you especially regarding the condition of the seals. You say amongst other things:

"The seals of the box were carefully examined. The seal on the lock which secured the lid of the box was intact. After the box was delivered at the Secretariat by the Registrar (Mr. Asron) and before it was brought to me, it would not have been possible for any paper being thrust into the box or take out of it, though there was a very small tear in the paper pasted over the slit in the box and one of the seals got broken, perhaps as a result of handling by several men during the transit. It is a

big box which required 6 men to lift and carry."

The Registrar's description regarding the condition of the seals is quoted here below:—

"Condition of the seals:—There were two tapes placed cross wise at the end of which the Council office seals were affixed. The seals on the tape across the slit in the Ballot box were intact. The seals on the tape along the slit were broken. At one end the Secretariat seal was superimposed over the Council seal; but at the other end there was no seal at all. There were two tapes with the seal of the Secretariat, fixed diagonally and they were found intact."

You have deliberately omitted to mention in your report that there were five seals of the Secretariat on the ballot-box as against four seals of the Medical Council and one of the seals of the Medical Council was superimposed by the Secretariat seal. You did even go further out of the way and gave your own presumptive explanation regarding one broken seal which you said, "perhaps as a result of handling by several men during transit." It is a big ballot-box which requires six men to lift and carry." The size of the box stated by you is a most grotesque exaggeration indeed! The box could be carried with difficulty by one man on his head and easily by two. You aver that six men carried the box. Could you not get one amongst six men to depose before you how the seal was broken and where? That the ballot-box had the Medical Council seals intact was certified by the Assistant Secretary, Public Health Department who received the box. You did not bestow your thought as to why there were 5 Secretariat seals on the box. There could be no doubt that the box was tampered with at the Secretariat.

Regarding your inventory of the contents of the ballot-box and your remarks regarding the election records and the presumption arrived at by you are certainly unworthy of your position as a retired senior District Judge especially when there was glaring evidence of the box being tampered with.

Your report did not stop with all you said about me. You made recommendations to the Government to amend the existing Madras Medical Council Act, not minding what you did was unworthy of a democratic Government. You knew, so did the Government, that in case fresh elections were to be held, I was likely to be returned to the Council and that I might occupy the position of the President of the Council. To be prepared against such an eventuality, you recommended to the Government to have a Government nominated President and you also recommended a provision to empower Government to remove a member of the Council not wanted by the Government. Depending upon your report, the Government introduced the Amendment Bill in the two houses of Legislature and while doing so, the Public Health and Law Ministers made defamatory statements against me, most recklessly and as cowardly. The cowardice of the Government was demonstrated by them by not accepting my challenge to make these two Ministers repeat outside what they said within the privileged walls of the Legislature.

Your recommendations were held in favour by the Government in preference to the recommendation made to them by the High Court to amend only Rule 19 regarding elections, as the Government could get materials in our report to spite me. Your report with the recommendations therein, which were made much of by the retired Public Health Minister and the now defeated Law Minister, must now be in the Secretariat waste paper basket.

You might have read the sub-leader in *The Medical Practitioner*, which was concluded with an appeal to the members of the Medical Profession and through them to the public, to see to it that the present Government be changed or at least the Ministers at present running the Government be unseated. The prayerful thought waves did bring about the nemesis prayed for by me. The unrighteous sword of injustice provided for by you, in the shape of a confidential report and raised against me, has since returned to the neck of the Government. What next about the

mechanic who prepared the sword let us wait and see.

You are old and I am infirm and old to write to you anything more. I stop here abruptly requesting you to be good enough to send a reply to this letter if you wish to contradict my statements. I will gladly publish your reply in the columns of the journal.

V. RAMA KAMATH.

To

Sri B. KUTTAPPA, M.A.,
Govt. Pensioner,
Codanda Mercara.

Sir,

I trust you must have received the October issue of *The Medical Practitioner*.

From the first to the last page, the columns of the journal narrate the history and events of the 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections and the part played by the Government in the unrealistic drama against me, of which you were made the hero by the Special Officer, specially chosen by the Government from amongst the Retired Session Judges from a District very near to that of the Chief Minister. Before the drama was actually enacted, I had an occasion to interview the Chief Minister, in company with a colleague of mine in the Medical Council I learnt from the Chief Minister, amongst other things that the Special Officer had seen him as he was personally known to him and that this officer wondered as to what was expected in 1949 from an enquiry regarding Medical Council Elections that took place in 1946. The next Minister seen by the Special Officer, was your friend, Hon'ble A. B. Shetty who could not succeed in getting you reinstated as the Registrar, Medical Council, from which position, you were removed by me. You made a personal appeal to the individual members of the Council in which you said amongst other things;

"In contrast to this, I may be permitted to point out that I successfully managed the heavy work connected with the Madras Medical Council Elections as Returning Officer, independent of the President as he was himself one of the

candidates. Again as the sole Official of the Council, I successfully managed the Council meeting held on the 25th November 1946 and the subsequent working day, as I could act on my initiative with full freedom"

What you stated with a clean conscience to the Medical Council on the 25th November, 1946, when it sat judgment against the alleged irregularities complained of by the defeated candidates and in your appeal to the members of the Madras Medical Council, are in contrast to the statements which you struggled to make before the Special Officer as appearing below:

"The Registrar, admitted that he was quite new to election work and that he depended for guidance entirely on the President, who had very kindly offered the job to him on the eve of this retirement from Government service, and persuaded him to accept it after getting a promise from him that he will implicitly obey him in all matters."

Evidently, the Special Officer could not reconcile the false, incoherent and inconsistent statements made by you, which if they were made on oath, would amount to perjury. To patch up your statements for serving the purpose of the plot engineered against me in the garb an enquiry, the Special Officer depicts you in the following terms:

"A perusal of the entire deposition of the Registrar Mr. Kuttappa, will show that he has very weak memory and that he is in a confused state of mind perhaps the result of the nervous shock that he had due to worries caused to him by the President, Dr. Rama Kamath during the later part of service under him. He admitted that he could not rely on his memory as the incidents about which he gave evidence happened 2½ years ago."

He quotes the words "willing subordinate" appearing in a testimonial given to you by a Surgeon-General, evidently produced by you before him and defines the word "willing" in his own way as, subservient to his master that is myself. His object was to make his enquiry appear realistic though as a matter of fact he made

things and facts appear as what they were not. If you did not come forward to play the part of the hero of the plot, God would have pitied you during of our financial stringency and helped your Minister friend to get a job for you, some where in the vast field of Government service. The description given about you by the Special Officer did really harm you. Do you know this old pensioner enjoyed for one year the position, as the Chairman Special Tribunal to try Government Servants for corruption and such and similar offences? Whereas you had to leave Madras for good. This is indeed a sad irony of fate inspite of your Minister-friend and his sympathies towards you.

V. RAMA KAMATH

NEWS & COMMENTS

Democracy Excelsis or Democracy Amuck: The Madras Government would not hesitate to do anything, to spite any body who exposes their misrule. They would even burn and destroy a house to kill a rat not wanted by them. This they did in terminating the life of the Madras Medical Council during its progressive and peaceful regime under Dr. V. Rama Kamath, the first non-official President who had a disinterrupted tenure of office for 3 terms being elected always unanimously by the Medical Council after 1944, when he was first elected as the President, there being a contest between him and Dr. T. Sada-gopan. The only sin committed by the Council under the lead of Dr. Kamath as its President, was the Council's defying series of Government orders in regard to the alleged irregularities complained of by the 6 amongst 15 defeated candidates in October 1946 Medical Council Elections. The disappointment in their thorough defeat was such that they did not hesitate to have recourse to all possible means and methods to get the favour of the Government and avoided the right royal method of seeking justice in a Law Court against the decision of the Medical Council which declared that there were no sufficient grounds to invalidate the Council Elections held in October 1946. It must be said that the Government under Prakasam Ministry would not listen to the cock and

bull stories of the defeated candidates. Mean advantage was taken of certain events in the affairs of the Madras Medical Council, in regard to the appointments of the Registrars of the Medical Council, some of whom had to be removed for their incapacity in setting right the rotten condition of the office of the Medical Council, a legacy left behind, by the Government nominated President from the year 1914 to 1944, when the official nominated President had to make room for a non-official elected President. The last in the series of the incapable Registrars happened to be Mr. B. Kuttappa who retired as the acting Assistant-Accounts in the office of the then Surgeon General. Soon after Mr Kuttappa was removed from his acting appointment as the Registrar of the Medical Council, he attempted to interview the then Public Health Minister the late Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmi-pathi taking advantage of the starred-questions given notice of by Sri N. S. Varadachari regarding the removal of the Registrars by the Medical Council with Dr. Kamath as its President. She refused audience to Mr. Kuttappa and everything was lull for the time being. Just then Mr. A. B. Shetty, the then prospective Minister in the Omandur Ministry inter viewed Dr. Kamath for persuading him to reconsider the removal of Mr. Kuttappa as the acting Registrar of the Medical Council. Dr. Kamath had to tell him that the Madras Medical Council was not a pinjerpole to entertain unserviceable staff especially so as the work of the Council had to be done only by a Registrar and a clerk. Later it was reported that Mr. N. S. Varadachari had been very often interviewing the Public Health Minister Mr. A. B. Shetty regarding the October 1946 Madras Medical Council elections and the alleged irregularities in the elections complained of by the 6 defeated candidates and it was also remoured at the Secretariat that a notice of a resolution had reached the Secretariat office regarding the October 1946 elections. What happened next regarding the affairs of the Medical Council which resulted finally in the unseating of Dr. Kamath as the President of the Madras Medical Council is within the knowledge of the readers of The Medical

Practitioner. The latter event took place early in March 1950, and the Government have not been able to reconstruct the Medical Council burnt by them, to unseat Dr. Kamath even after 2 years, inspite of the fact that elections were held in October 1951 to fill the seven vacancies that accrued on account of October 1946 elections of seven members being held invalid.

The Public Health and the Law Departments of the Government which took over three years to be able to apply section 22 of the Madras Medical Registration Act to help the defeated candidates and take them under their complete protection as against the seven successful candidates, seemed to be so much intoxicated with their success that they did not care to fathom the depth of the implications of their folly. These Departments must have eyes and ears but they would neither see nor hear. The implications of their folly were pointed out to them by the then President of the Medical Council Dr. Kamath during the stage of crossing awards and even after the so-called victory won by the then Surgeon-General on behalf of Government who did not hesitate to dictate to the Surgeon-General the judgment to be delivered by him regarding October 1946 Elections. Even after this victory, Dr. Kamath warned all concerned through the press that the proceedings of the Medical Council from October 1946 till March 1950 should be considered invalid on account of the Government misapplying section 22 to the conduct of the elections. As a matter of fact the Government themselves declared the proceedings of the Council relating to a disciplinary case against a Practitioner passed by the Council in March 1950 as invalid due to the fact that members of the Council whose elections were declared invalid, took part in the proceedings. As a test case, Dr. Kamath has petitioned to the Medical Council to declare the elections held in October 1951 invalid, on the ground that the Registrar who conducted the elections as the Returning Officer, could not function as such as he was appointed by a Council consisting of members whose elections had been declared invalid. The Council

exists with eight members though the Government for reasons best known to themselves would not permit this Council to function after the elections of 7 members were declared invalid. It is not known under what authority the Director of Medical Services has been ordered to function as the President, Medical Council. The Government have powers under section 24 of the Medical Registration Act to frame rules for the conduct of the Medical Council elections. Under the latter section, the Governor empowered the Director of Medical Services to hold October 1951 Elections. He did so least knowing that the Registrar who is the Returning Officer for conducting elections was an officer appointed by the Council consisting of 7 members including the President of the Council, whose elections had been declared invalid.

In the intriguing circumstances brought about by the Government Dr. Kamath had no other go than to forward his petition to the Medical Council as it is the tribunal to sit in judgment regarding Medical Council election irregularities through the Director of Medical Services. A meeting of the Medical Council to elect a President was summoned on 5-12-51 and the Director of Medical Services dissolved the meeting as Dr. Kamath had objected to the newly elected members taking part in the meeting. It is now more than three months since Dr. Kamath petitioned the Medical Council and nothing has transpired. The Medical profession is without a statutory Medical Council. The Government have deliberately flouted a statute, the Madras Medical Registration Act. What next? Heaven knows! Perhaps a remedy lies in a Court of Law. Who is to bell the cat? Who will pay the price of the bell? There may be cats but a bell has to be found before taking further action. Is all this a result of Democracy Excelsis or Democracy Amuck?

New Dean, Government General Hospital, and Madras Medical College: Amongst the reforms advocated by us in the past in regard to the administration of Medical Teaching Institutions, the creation of the post of the Dean was an important one.

We had been recommending to the Madras Government the creation of the post of the Dean in the Government Medical Teaching Institutions. It was only about three or four years ago that the Government of Madras in a very hesitant mood established the post of the Dean, Government General Hospital and Madras Medical College. Dr. R. V. Rajam soon after his retirement as the Venereologist, Government General Hospital, was appointed as the Dean, as an experimental measure. When Dr. Rajam's services were required for another scheme, the upgrading of the Venereal Department along with some other Departments, it was rumoured that the post of the Dean was to be abolished. We are glad that the rumour did not last long and soon after Dr. Rajam's services as a specialist were required at Bangkok, Lt. Col. C. K. Prasad Rao retired additional Professor of Medicine, Medical College, has now succeeded Dr. Rajam as the Dean, Government General Hospital, and Madras Medical College. We wonder whether the creation of the post of the Dean is still in the experimental stage. From what we see and what we hear, the work of the Dean is very heavy indeed. An experiment to be successful should be provided with all the facilities to make it successful or else it is bound either to fail or the person holding the appointment would not be able to stand the strain of the heavy work and indirectly cause failure of the experiment. Wherever there is a Dean in the Medical Teaching Institutions, there is a Deputy to help the Dean. The Madras Government would do well to create the post of a Deputy Dean.

In this connection it will not be out of place for us to point out an anomaly in the Madras Medical College, that the Assistant to the Dean helping him in the College, work is styled as Assistant Principal though the Principal has ceased to exist as such, after the appointment of the Dean. Col. Prasad Rao has been popular both with his colleagues as well as students when he served as the additional Professor of Medicine, and we are sure he will continue not only to be popular but also to be efficient and thus demonstrate the desirability of the creation of the post of the

Dean in the other Government Medical Teaching Institutions. Apart from his professional academic qualifications, Col. Prasad Rao is spiritually disposed and with such a temperament which is rather a rare quality in medical men, we trust Col. Prasad Rao to will discharge the duties of the Dean in an exemplary manner. We congratulate the Government on their being able to falsify the rumour of the abolition of the post of the Dean.

Rural Medical Mission:—One thought takes us to other desirable thought. We suggested in the current Editorial columns that elderly Medical Practitioners will do well to start a medical mission for service in rural areas. We have made it a hobby to talk about this subject to our visitors and we are glad to say that Dr. S. R. Bhutta a popular rural practitioner from the Tanjore District and Dr. G. V. Hanumantha Rao, President of the Andhra Branch of the I.M.A. have indicated their hearty support. Another well-known retired practitioner, who wishes to be anonymous would keep at the disposal of the organization Rs. 1,000 with the hope of donating more if his circumstances permit. It looks as if it may be possible to start a golden chain of service if God so wills.

Famine and Distress in Rayalseema: The last subject takes us to another topic under the above caption. There can be no doubt that women have softer hearts than men. This is evidenced by the fact if any proof is wanted at all, that amongst the members of the public Smt. Durga Bai was the very first person who while reporting about distress in Rayalseema pointed out the urgent necessity of starting medical relief centres or at least mobile health units for giving medical relief to the suffering humanity in Rayalseema. Knowing, as we painfully do, the present Government policy of dumping quacks on the village folk, we wrote to two medical practitioners who had varied experience of rural medical relief, having once served as subsidized practitioners, whether they would offer their services if health centres are started in the famine area. They have willingly

agreed to do honorary services. Both these practitioners belonged to the Rayalseema Government Subsidized Rural Medical Services which dwindled in Rayalseema very much as a large number of subsidized practitioners being disgusted with the policy of the State Government did give up this service and are thriving well in urban areas. We intend appealing to many more such practitioners who served as subsidized practitioners and it is just possible to have a good response. Medical profession is a capital in itself. Almost all general practitioners who are thriving as private practitioners, invested only their professional skill and integrity and are doing well. There are a few or perhaps as many who might not have been lucky to make money to the extent their more fortunate brethren have been doing. Even these can do charitable and philanthropic work by contributing in kind, in the shape of service, hoping for God's help and blessings. God is always merciful and their services will be highly rewarded by Him. There can be no doubt about it. Individual or group suffering is many a time a blessing in disguise to those who suffer or to those who share the sufferings. The reward cannot be in the area of famine and distress but will surely come to them from some where else.

Why Force Favour and Cause Supersession:—Supersession was at times a note worthy feature in the Medical department, during the British Regime. The fault was at the head of the department and not in the Government itself. It must also be said to the credit of the British Rule that when unjustifiable supersessions were brought to the notice of the head of the Government, they were cancelled and those concerned were censured. It is just the other way under the Congress Rule. The Officer recently appointed as Deputy Director of Medical Services was a popular Surgeon doing good and efficient work, in a Teaching Institution. It is said that he did not like to take up executive responsibilities as a Deputy

to the Director of Medical Services and would have liked to continue his service as a Surgeon; but the appointment was forced on him and he had to obey. At the same time, it is said that there were 6 to 7 officers in the Medical Department seniors to the latter officer, and they were superseded for no fault of theirs. It is rather mysterious why seniority should be overlooked and a junior should step over several seniors though personally the junior did not aspire for the post. The existing super democracy does not perhaps permit the constitutional head of the Government to interfere when appealed against such orders.

Federation of the Medical Councils: It is a strange coincidence that the President, Medical Council of India, suggested at the last meeting of the Council that it was desirable that a federation should be brought about of the Medical Councils in the Indian Union on par with the political federation of the Indian States under the Central Government, when such a subject is under active consideration of all Bar-Councils in India. We learn that the Bar-Council of Madras has strongly supported such federation. The subject of giving equal status and opportunity of service to all legal practitioners is also under the consideration of all the Bar-Councils in India. To consider this and allied subjects concerning the legal profession, the Central Government have appointed a representative committee. When there is progress and reform on uniform basis in all walks of life, the medical profession alone is in a deplorable condition from time immemorial. This state of affairs is certainly not excusable under the Indian Constitution. Democracy demands publicity propaganda to educate and convince the present Governments in the states and at the Centre regarding the need for the unification of medical profession for equal status and opportunity of service. There are perochial, sectional and All India Medical Associations to speak and work for their members for common good. Will they rise to the occasion? Let us wait and see!

Drift Towards Revolution : The Subject of Medical Relief and Medical Education in India though much talked of has not reached a stage to be useful to the 80 to 90 percent of population living in villages. In the Madras State the Finance Minister took advantage of this subject during the 1951 Budget session when he wanted money for the additional Medical Colleges and said more doctors were wanted for medical relief in the villages; so more colleges had to be built up and more money was needed. When the question of rural medical relief was being discussed on the floors of Legislature, the Health Minister said that qualified doctors were averse to settle in villages. The real fact is that the Government are hard pressed by their hunchmen, especially in the Guntur District to have a full fledged Medical College without delay, and the Finance Minister wanted that money should be voted upon and exploited the village Medical Relief for the purpose, forgetting at the moment what his brother Health Minister has been saying that qualified medical men were unwilling to settle in the villages, and that quacks are being trained to look after the villagers.

Of late high ranked international bodies have come into existence regarding medical, economical, social, industrial etc. The development of air service, radio service television, have been directly responsible for encouraging and helping international activities. So far so good.

Our field of service being medicine and allied activities, we have been musing to find out what practical benefit the 90 percent population is having so far and will have in the future on account of all-world activities if medical relief in rural areas is entrusted to quacks. The U.K., U.S.A. and their allies have been actively helping India with a view to combat Communism spreading from Soviet-Russia. But unfortunately the welfare of the villagers is culpably neglected by the Governments in India, with the result that Communism is spreading as was evidenced in the last general elections especially in Madras and the T.C. States. The neglect of the health of the

common man in the villages along with social and economic neglect, are showing signs of political revolution towards Communism.

An Embarrassing Situation : Dr. P.S. Srinivasan gave notice to twenty-two starred questions, regarding October 1946 Madras Medical Council Elections, on the floor of the Legislative Council to be answered by the Minister for Public Health and the Minister instead of answering the questions serially made a non-committal single reply by saying that in December 1949 Dr. V. Rama Kamath, Dr. P. S. Srinivasan and two other candidates whose election was set aside, filed a petition in the High Court for a writ of certiorari to quash the proceedings of the Surgeon-General declaring their election to the Medical Council void and calling upon the electorate to make a fresh election. The High Court dismissed the petition on March 31, 1950. The Minister added that as the High Court had finally pronounced on the issues covered by these questions the Government consider that no public interest would be served by probing into the matter further.

Evidently, the Government in their own interest and not in public interest did not desire to expose themselves by answering Dr. Srinivasan's questions. The Government were not at all correct in averring that all the issues raised by Dr. Srinivasan were covered by the decision of the High Court, which dismissed the petition. Only on one issue of natural justice that the successful candidates were present at the meeting of the Madras Medical Council when it decided that there were no sufficient grounds to declare the elections invalid, though they did not take part in the proceedings of the Council, the petition was dismissed. Not a word was mentioned in the judgment about any alleged irregularities.

Dr. Kamath has not only answered all the 20 questions elaborately with comments there on in the five letters addressed by him to the Secretary, P. H. Department, Mr. K. Madhava Menon, Mr. A. B. Chetty, Mr. Subbiah Pillai, Special Officer and Mr. B. Kuttappa, the Returning Officers published elsewhere in the columns.