

Home (1918) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 176

DATED 13.2.18

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Medical inspection.

Recording notes connected with an article on the
_____ of Bengali schoolboys which appeared in the Indian
Medical Gazette of November 1917.

NOTES.

2 Page

L. & M. (Medical) Dept.

The Indian Medical Gazette for November 1917 is submitted below for circulation to H.M.

K.N.
28.11.17.

V.T.K.
29.11.17.

R.A.G.
2.12.17.

The attention of the Educational Department should be drawn to the paper by Rames Chander Ray on Bengali School Boys' Health. There seem to be several points in it to which the D.P.I. might be asked to pay attention; as for example, the excessive number of hours worked by Indian boys, the absence of sufficient provision for games, the abstention of teachers, especially Indians, from taking part in games, and so on.

A.G.C.
12.12.17.

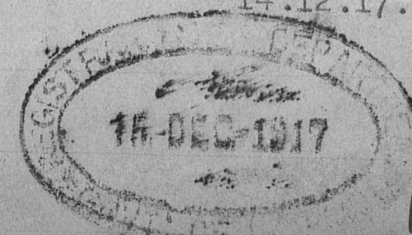
U.S.

An extract of the H.M.'s note may be sent to Educational U.O. for necessary action.

V.S.
13.12.17

V.T.K.
14.12.17.

Home (Ed) no.



Home (Ed) Dept

A draft note to the D.P.I. is submitted

Edu. A
3727
By 15-12-17

241110 2704-1141
14-12-17
dp.
16/12

The Indian Medical Gazette for November 1917 contains an article on 'Bengali School Boys' Health Examination' by Dr. Rames Chander Ray. It alludes to certain defects in the educational system which require consideration, e.g., the excessive number of hours worked by Indian boys, the absence of sufficient provision for games, the abstention of teachers especially Indians from taking part in games. The article may, if it is submitted, be sent u.o. to the D.P.I. for any suggestions he may have to make in respect of the defects noticed.

Conno. 3727A-1
22.12.17

20/12/17

21.12.17

22/12/17

SPG

No. 2 of 3. 1. 18.

I am in correspondence with the Surgeon General about further material inspection of schools. What I have in mind is the inspection of typical high schools and colleges. If this can be arranged for it will be interesting to compare the results with those obtained by Dr Rames Chander Ray.

As regards the point mentioned above the article is to be sent to the Surgeon General.

Home (Education) Department.

(C.No.3727 A)
1917

No. 2, dated 3rd January 1918.

I am in correspondence with the Surgeon General about further medical inspection of schools. What I have in mind is the inspection of typical high schools and colleges. If this can be arranged for it will be interesting to compare the results with those obtained by Dr. Rames Chander Ray.

2. As regards the points mentioned above, the article deals with Bengal boys and Calcutta educational conditions are not altogether the same as those of Madras, and I do not certainly know how far they are similar. I do believe however that ours are somewhat better.

3. As regards hours of work Dr. Ray does not give some information that would be valuable. He seems to say that no week-day is a full or even partial holiday in Bengal. In Madras Saturdays and Sundays are both holidays. He relies on the boys' own statements for the amount of work done at home. I do not impugn the good faith of the boys but I am certain that they would exaggerate in this matter. The school hours are in Madras are five hours a day for five days in the week. The vacations extend to about ten weeks and

Michaelmas. How much ^{home} ~~hours~~ work and work with tutors certainly I do not/know, but I should be very much surprised to find that in the highest forms it was as much as four hours a day, or even two in the lower. We may be wrong in ^{fixing} ~~finding~~ the same number of hours school for all the classes but it certainly was not done without consideration. There is also a break of an hour in the middle of the day for all classes and another break of 15 ^{minutes} ~~min~~ for the lower ^{classes} in the middle of the morning. In the lowest two or three standards the use of Kindergarten methods is encouraged by the department and this means that periods of organized play and simple drill are frequent. I think it likely that the medical inspection I have in view will show a lower average physique and general health than we should ^{like} ~~to~~ see, but how far this can be changed to overstrain from school-work will need careful consideration.

4. Government have given much attention of late to playgrounds and gymnasias and a good deal has been done to improve the provision of the latter and I support every practicable proposal for further improvement. Mr. Noehren is accumulating knowledge and experience about physical culture as it is at present and if Government is likely soon to be in a position to spend a good deal of money ^{on it} ~~on it~~, I could with his help devise a scheme which might be provided for in the budget estimates of 1919-1920.

5. I doubt whether the popularisation of cricket, football and hockey has done all that we hoped of it. They have depressed ~~ing~~ indigenous games in popular imation just as they have driven ^{out} ~~up~~ the simpler hood from British preparatory and Mr. Noehren is however spreading the

the possibility of an indigenous games revival.

6. I am afraid teachers in Madras do not go in for games any more than they do in Bengal. They have been told that they ought to *insistently* enough and I see no good in trying to force them.

7. Perhaps something might be done to encourage their doing so by special allowances to those who do in schools under public management. But one result of this would be to confirm those who do not in their inactivity. In England young men ^{often} ~~are able~~ enough take to teaching so as to be able to go on playing games. I should think this never happens in India. The customs of the country seems to me to be all against games for adolescents. The young Indian of the age when the Englishman is most devoted to games because he is in the most ~~case~~-free part of his life, is commonly a prey to domestic and financial worries. A little later when he has established himself in a ~~profession~~ he may take to games again and so we get the numerous vakils tennis clubs up and down the mufassal.

J.H.S.
27-12-17.

Home Education Department

With reference to para. 1 of the Director's note on page 3 ante it may be noted that ~~the~~ he has separately suggested the ~~suggested~~ medical inspection of the pupils in the College department of the Pachayappa's College and in the Theological High School. If this suggestion is approved, the results of the inspection may be compared with those obtained by Dr. Ray.

2. It is for consideration whether with reference to para-4 on page 4, the Director may be requested to devise a scheme which could be provided for in the budget estimate for 1918-19. It may ^{also} be noted ~~in connection~~ that in connection with the question of providing additional playgrounds etc. for colleges, H. E. has pointed out that the introduction of games and their organisation in High Schools is more important than trying to force it on more adult students.

3. A provision of one lakh has been entered in the budget estimate for 1918-19 for expenditure on playgrounds for aided colleges and secondary schools in the mufassal. Thus no immediate action seems called for.

8.1.18

M. S.

C.

10.1.18

The only use we can make of the article is to know some of the points to which attention is to be paid at medical inspection. The D. P. I. is being asked to standardise the ^{methods} ~~notes~~ of inspection in consultation with the medical authorities. The article may be referred to him for reference in connection with the report.

There is something to be said for the revival of indigenous physical exercise. Very little room and apparatus are necessary. And Indian boys are more likely in larger numbers to take to them than to any new sorts of games. But though I have seen it claimed that a complete course of Indian gymnastics is a graduated course for proper physical development, I have not seen this admitted by scientists. The matter requires investigation. The D. P. I. says that he will ask the Physical Director to consider the possibility of introducing the system.

Box 22
enc 21/1/18
Refd 11/2

NOTES.

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Mr Stone's remarks in regard to hours of work (para. 3) are reassuring - As regards Games (paras 4, 5, 6, & 7), I am not sure that it might not be worth while to use more direct pressure on teachers to take part in the School games. Nothing could be better for their domestic worries than to shake them off & a rule on this point in ^{under public management} Public schools might set a fashion & have a great effect.

ALY
18.7.18



F. H. C. M. L. S.
18/1

2.2.18

9 10
D.O. from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor,

To -the Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home Department,

Dated- the 11th February 1918,

No. -

In returning these files I am to intimate the conclusions which have been arrived at on further consideration of the question of medical inspection of schools and colleges.

The G.O. instructing mofussil municipalities to take steps for the periodical inspection of pupils in schools in municipal areas is to be held in abeyance, but the D.P.I. is to make proposals for carrying out experimental inspections in a number of mofussil schools and colleges in addition to those which are to be undertaken in the Madras Presidency City. As regards the Madras City the inspection will include two high schools and two colleges. At the desire of the Finance Committee provision has His Excellency understands been made in the budget for such inspections and from this provision the necessary fees can be paid. Before these inspections are undertaken the D.P.I. will now take steps to draft instructions as to lines on which medical inspections should be carried out.

As regards the reports of Colonel Donovan and Mrs. Simonsen, they are not to be published at present but the draft G.O. relating to them is approved.

As regards teachers in taking part in games, the conclusion is that no practical means can be devised for obliging teachers to do so and no action is to be taken in that direction at present.

I am to ask the Home Secretary to take the necessary action on these files.

NOTES.

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Submitted that as no further action is needed
these ~~notes~~ ^{notes} may be
only no. 176 & 13.2.18
mess

"Recorded" for reference

A 1/2/18
B 2/18

Medical inspection

Recording notes connected

with an article on the

subject of school hygiene

which appeared in the

Indian Medical Gazette

for January 1917.

1/2/18
1/2/18
1/2/18

D.O. from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor,

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home Department,

Dated the 15th February 1918,

No. -

In returning these files I am to intimate the con-
clusions which have been arrived at on further considera-
tion of the question of medical inspection of schools and
colleges.

The G.O. instructing municipal authorities to
take steps for the periodical inspection of pupils in schools
in municipal areas is to be held in abeyance, but the
D.P.I. is to make proposals for carrying out experimental
inspections in a number of municipal schools and colleges
in addition to those which are to be undertaken in the
Madras Corporation City. As regards the Madras City the
inspection will include two high schools and two colleges.
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made in the budget for such
inspections and from this provision the necessary fees can
be paid. Before these inspections are undertaken the D.P.I.
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obliging teachers to do so and no action is to be taken in
this direction at present.

I am to be the Home Secretary

action on these files.

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191

REAP AGAIN G.O. No.
191

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

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