

Educational (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 101

DATED 7th Feb. 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

MEDICAL OFFICERS AT THE PRESIDENCY TOWN.

Recording Public Department Proceedings referring to the Military and Marine Departments, for remarks, the Surgeon-General's proposals for the redistribution of the work of --.

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Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. 5/2

Encl.

G.O., 28th January 1895, No. 65.

JANUARY.

Medical Officers at the Presidency
Town.

Referring to the Military and Marine Departments, for remarks, the Surgeon-General's proposals for the appointment of an Unconvenanted Civil Surgeon to Ootacamund and the re-distribution of the work of —.

Order 27 Feb. 95, No. 101.

communicated to

Recorded.

8/72

DESPATCHED

9 FEB 96

IN M.S

Copy to the D.P.J.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHOPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 20th December 1894, No. 68.

With reference to G.O., No. 147, Public, dated 7th March 1892, the necessity of appointing two additional medical officers to the General Hospital was accepted. In G.O., No. 868, Public, dated 14th December 192, the Government of India sanctioned the appointment of a Resident Physician, but considered that the necessity for an additional surgeon was not fully demonstrated; the Madras Government again impressed on the Government of India the necessity of two additional medical officers being appointed with the request that one at last, the surgeon for preference, may be sanctioned at an early date. In G.O., No. 293, Public, dated 11th April 1893, the Government of India regretted it was unable at present to advise the Secretary of State to sanction the appointment of more than one additional commissioned officer to the staff of the hospital and sanctioned one officer to be taken from those holding List II appointments. This was finally sanctioned in G.O., No. 644, dated 15th August 1893, Public. An officer was appointed as additional medical officer in July 1893 and is now in charge of portion of the medical wards.

2. The necessity of the additional surgeon is now even stronger than it was when G.O., No. 147, Public, dated 7th March 1892, was published, as the surgical work of the hospital has gone on steadily increasing.

3. With the view of meeting this difficulty and avoiding the necessity of another commissioned medical officer being applied for I consider it would be possible to arrange for these duties by a redistribution of the work now done in the Presidency town and by the appointment of an Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon under G.O., No. 1111, dated 12th May 1885, Public Department, as a List II appointment instead of the additional medical officer, Ootacamund—vide G.O., No. 776, dated 17th October 1894, Public.

4. The pay and allowances now drawn by the additional medical officer, Ootacamund, for six months from 1st April should be passed to some selected officer in civil employ who has had long service on the plains and to whom the change of climate would do good, his permanent appointment being temporarily taken either by an officer from the reserve of commissioned officer or by an Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon or by a Civil Assistant Surgeon.

5. Regarding the redistribution of the work now done in the Presidency town, the Surgeon of the First District is expected to perform the following duties:—

- (a) Supervision of the 132 inmates of the Monegar Choultry.
- (b) Superintendence and medical charge of the Royapuram Native Infirmary with 104 beds with a daily average sick of 60 and a total treated of 3,045 in 1893.
- (c) Supervision over the Municipal North Black Town dispensary with a daily average attendance of 235 and total admission 1,428 in October 1894.
- (d) Clinical instruction in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery to 141 native pupils of the Hospital Assistant class in their second and third years of study assisted by Military Assistant Surgeon Wynne.
- (e) Supervision and medical charge of Rajah Sir S. Ramasawmy Lying-in Hospital with 36 beds.
- (f) Supervision and medical charge of the Government Leper Hospital with 208 beds nearly always full.

(g) Supervision and medical charge of the criminal leper wards with 22 beds.
 (h) Medical charge of Her Majesty's Grand Jail (Civil Debtors'), average number confined in which is about 80.

(i) Medical inspection of migrants, Natal and Mauritius depôts, and the medical responsibility of the embarkation of coolies which in 1893 and 1894 was 1,843 embarked and 188 returned from Natal—from the Mauritius in the same period 115 embarked and 841 returned.

(j) District work including health certificates granted in 1893-94, 233; sick leave certificates 103, and cases for Medical Board 132.

(k) Attendance on Government servants residing in his district.

(l) Medical charge of the Police lock-up in Black Town.

This general work occupies him daily from 7 A.M. to 12-30 P.M. without including evening visits, &c., and appears to be far more than any one officer could carry out efficiently.

The Professor of Anatomy, who is also Fort Surgeon, Fort Sanitary Officer, Port and Marine Surgeon, Port Health Officer and Inspector of Seamen, draws his pay altogether as one of the major Professors of the Medical College from the Educational Department. His duties as Fort Surgeon are—

(a) To attend the officers and non-commissioned officers of the district staff and their families who reside in the Fort.

(b) To attend the warrant and non-commissioned officers and their families residing in the Ordnance Camp Equipage and Commissariat Lines and His Excellency the Governor's Band, consisting altogether of 7 officers, 76 men and 198 members of their families. He is assisted in this duty by a selected Military Assistant Surgeon who is borne on the strength of the Station Hospital.

(c) Medical charge of the Fort dispensary situated in the Government quarters occupied by him in the Fort where all sick followers of the Ordnance, Military Works and Fort Conservancy Departments report sick, and are treated or transferred to the General Hospital as in-patients. The strength of the above departments is about 550 and their daily average sick about 20.

(d) He examines these classes prior to enlistment and as to their fitness to proceed on field or foreign service and also the bearers of the Commissariat Department.

(e) As Fort Sanitary Officer he has to periodically inspect the whole Fort and its surroundings. He states that all these duties only take about an hour daily.

(f) As Port Surgeon and Port Health Officer he has to inspect vessels before granting bills of health. This duty varies according to whether any epidemic is present in Madras or not. He has also to inspect any vessel arriving with any contagious disease on board. The time in going to inspecting and returning from a steamer or ship occupies from one-and-a-half to two hours. The number of bills of health granted during the past three years averaged from 62 to 82, and would be more only that some of the most important Steamer Companies are satisfied with the bills of health for their steamers being endorsed. During an epidemic this duty would be greatly increased.

(g) Medical superintendence of the Port dispensary which is in sub-charge of a Civil Apothecary who assists him in his purely port duties and who attends to all cases of accident or emergent sickness brought to him or to whom he is called.

These duties of Port Surgeon and Port Health Officer are performed at the outposts by Civil Assistant Surgeons or by Civil Apothecaries.

These port duties are defined in G.O., No. 279, Public, dated 27th May 1882; G.O., No. 280 of May 24th, 1879, Marine, and G.O., Nos. 240 and 241 of 1st July 1890, Marine; G.O., No. 625, Public, dated 18th June 1888; G.O., No. 296 of 31st May 1879, Marine.

6. I consider that the Surgeon of the First District should be relieved of—

- (a) the charge of the Leper Hospital and criminal lepers;
- (b) the medical charge of Her Majesty's Grand (Civil Debtors') Jail;
- (c) the medical charge of the Police lock-up.

That the Professor of Anatomy should be relieved of—

- (a) all his Fort duties which are purely military and form one of the anomalies of the old system still remaining;
- (b) all his Port and Marine duties.

7. The proposed Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon should take up—

- (a) the superintendence of the Leper Hospital and criminal lepers;
- (b) the charge of Her Majesty's Grand Jail;
- (c) the charge of the Police lock-up;
- (d) the duties of Port and Marine Surgeon.

The duties of the Fort Surgeon should be handed over to the officer of the Army Medical Staff, one of whom would become Fort Surgeon and Fort Sanitary Officer and would occupy the free quarters now occupied by the Professor of Anatomy which has the Fort dispensary in it. These free quarters would be equal to an extra allowance of at least Rs. 100 a month and would be no extra cost to Government.

The medical charge of the followers could be transferred to another medical staff officer who would become entitled under existing military regulation to a charge allowance whenever their strength was over that of the wing of a Native regiment.

It appears to me desirable that, if these suggestions are accepted, they should be carried out before the 1st April 1895.

8. This arrangement would find the Professor of Anatomy for duty in the General Hospital where he should be made Second Surgeon, which would be a similar arrangement to that existing in the Medical Colleges, Calcutta and Bombay.

9. The Surgeon, First District, would have his work made more possible to perform efficiently. He should, I consider, be placed in the same position as regards his district as a District Medical and Sanitary Officer is in up-country and should have supervision over all medical institutions in his district except those under other commissioned officers or the Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon. If Government concurs in this suggestion I consider it should be extended to the other District Surgeons and that the four officers should be each allowed a clerk on Rs. 20 a month.

10. For convenience of reference I recapitulate the above suggestions:—

(1) That an Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon should be sanctioned for the List II appointment additional Medical Officer, Ootacamund, mentioned in G.O., No. 776, dated 17th October 1894, Public Department.

(2) That the Surgeon, First District, should be relieved of—

- (a) the superintendence and medical charge of the Government Leper Hospital and criminal leper wards;
- (b) duties in connection with Her Majesty's Grand Jail (Civil Debtors' Prison).

(3) That the Professor of Anatomy should be relieved of his duties as—

- (a) Fort Surgeon and Fort Sanitary Officer;
- (b) Port Surgeon and Port Health Officer.

(4) That the Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon should be appointed to—

- (a) the superintendence of the Government Leper Hospital;
- (b) the duties connected with Her Majesty's Grand Jail and the Black Town Police lock-up;
- (c) as Port Surgeon and Port Health Officer with the superintendence of the Port dispensary.

(5) That the duties connected with the Fort Surgeon and Fort Sanitary Officer should be handed over to the Military Department.

(6) That the Professor of Anatomy should be placed on the staff of the General Hospital as Second Surgeon.

(7) That the present Second Surgeon should be designated Third Surgeon as he is always a junior officer.

(8) That the four District Surgeons in Madras should hold the same position to civil medical institutions in their districts as do the District Medical and Sanitary Officers up-country, and that they should each be allowed one clerk on Rs. 20 a month and one peon on Rs. 7 a month for their offices.

ORDER—dated 28th January 1895, No. 65, Public.

The appointment of a second medical officer at Ootacamund is a special one which should be left out of the present calculations. It is sanctioned for a fixed period only and must in future be held by an uncovenanted officer, unless the services of a commissioned officer are available on the conditions laid down by the Government of India. In the event of its being held by an uncovenanted medical officer, it will be for the Surgeon-General to consider whether any, and what, modifications are needed in the arrangements sanctioned in G.O., dated 21st October 1891, No. 893, Public.

2. The Government agrees with the Surgeon-General that some relief should, if possible, be afforded to the Surgeon of the First District, Madras, and it will be a convenience, when the connection of the local Government with the Army ceases, that the Professor of Anatomy should relinquish the medical charge of Fort St. George.

3. The Surgeon-General's letter will be communicated to the Military and Marine Departments for remarks, and the Surgeon-General will be requested to report on the financial effect of his proposals as modified by this order.

4. The Surgeon-General should consider whether the duties at Madras proposed to be transferred to an Uncovenanted Civil Surgeon could not be carried out equally well by the more economical agency of an Assistant Surgeon.

5. The Government sees no necessity for District Surgeons at the Presidency having a clerk and peon each.

(True Extract).

Bras

for Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
 „ Marine Department.
 „ Military Department.
 „ Educational Department.

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189.

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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