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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 150 Press / Mis.

181—183

Dated 31-1- 18 73.

181-183 17/18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 181. From the Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Combaconum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vallam, 18th December 1872, No. 328.

I have the honour to submit, herewith, for the orders of Government, copies of the accompanying correspondence between myself and the Commissioners of the Combaconum Municipality regarding the power of the Deputy Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, over medical subordinates placed at the disposal of Municipalities.

2. The circumstances out of which this reference has arisen are as follow:—Last October, when the Dengue fever was raging at Tanjore, the Zillah Surgeon and the Jail Dresser was suddenly taken ill, and there was no one to look after the hospital and the jail at a time when the amount of sickness was exceptionally great. Under these circumstances, the Deputy Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, at Trichinopoly, directed the Dresser of the Combaconum Dispensary to proceed at once to Tanjore and do duty there till Dr. Houston and the Jail Dresser should recover.

3. The Commissioners of the Combaconum Municipality, in their communications* through the Vice-President, objected to this, and represented that the Deputy Inspector-General had exceeded his powers in thus removing an officer placed under their control without first consulting their wishes, and intimated that they would not pass the Dresser's salary for the period during which they had been deprived of his services. They further urged that, under the Proceedings dated 25th September 1872, No. 1270, the power of the medical authorities in regard to dispensaries was confined to purely professional matters, such as the treatment of disease, and that, consequently, their action in this instance should be reported to Government for their orders.

* Letter from the Vice-President, dated 25th October 1872, No. 129.
Letter from the Vice-President, dated 12th November 1872, No. 140.

4. Having been personally aware of the circumstances under which the Dresser at Combaconum was directed to do duty at Tanjore,† I represented to the Commissioners that it was under circumstances of the most pressing necessity that the step was taken by the medical authorities, and that without doubt Government would be pleased to sanction from Government funds the payment of the salary of the Dresser for the period he was called away from Combaconum; further that the Deputy Inspector-General could not be supposed to have no power whatever in emergencies like the one in question, of issuing orders to medical subordinates of this class who nevertheless are subject to the Articles of War and are under his control. I intimated to the Commissioners that, for these reasons, a reference to Government appeared to me unnecessary, and requested them to reconsider the matter.

† Letter to Vice-President, dated 22nd November 1872, No. 308.

5. As the Commissioners, in their third communication, however, insist on a reference being made, I submit the matter to Government for their orders.

Letter from Vice-President, dated 9th December 1872, No. 180.

Referred to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, for his remarks.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21st December 1872.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 182. From the Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 24th January 1873, No. 24.

I have the honour to report to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council that I sent on the re-enclosed correspondence for the observations of the Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals of the Southern District.

From the Officiating President, Municipal Commission, Combaconum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, No. 328, dated 18th December 1872, and five enclosures.

2. In this case an Hospital Assistant was detailed from the Combaconum Civil Dispensary for duty at Tanjore, because the Zillah Surgeon and Jail Hospital Assistant had been suddenly taken ill, and there was no one to look after the hospital and the jail at a time when the amount of sickness was exceptionally great. When the arrangement was made the Deputy Inspector-General of the District was absent on tour of inspection, and the order detailing the Hospital Assistant to proceed to Tanjore was issued by the senior medical officer present at headquarters in the usual course of business. But in carrying out the orders intimation of the movement ought to have been given by the senior medical officer to the Combaconum Municipality. The orders requiring such intimation to be given are contained in the marginal circulars, and, on my becoming aware that these orders had not been acted up to, I drew the attention of the Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals to the existing regulations on the subject.

No. 976, dated 13th March 1865.
,, 3059, ,, 28th August ,,
,, 299, ,, 23rd January 1866.

3. The orders of Government quoted above, not only require that the sanction of departmental heads be obtained previous to the removal of their medical subordinates, but that intimation be also given of the arrangements proposed for the conduct of the absentee's duties. The senior medical officer, doubtless, deemed Assistant-Apothecary Ashworth, who was left at Combaconum, sufficient for the duties of the station and dispensary in this emergency, and in this view I concur; but he erred in not intimating the change to the Municipal Commissioners, and had the Commissioners been duly informed, as required, I am satisfied that the intimation would have been deemed by them a sufficient recognition of their rights.

4. On the general question I would observe that, in this country, where, alike in peace and in war, sudden and urgent demands occur, straining the strength of the Medical Department to its utmost, it will ever happen to be necessary suddenly to utilize the services of medical officers of Government by detailing them from places where they are not greatly needed to stations where they are urgently required. Also the medical officers of the Government of all ranks are Military medical officers, and the emergencies of war might render necessary the instant recall from civil employ of some, or even all, of those now lent to the Civil Department; and the senior medical officer in the Southern District, in my opinion, acted rightly in sending relief to Tanjore, where the Civil Surgeon and the Jail Hospital Assistant had fallen ill, and there was no one to look after the Tanjore Hospital and the jail at a time when the amount of sickness was exceptionally great. And the Principal Medical Officer of a district being alone aware of the daily state of the hospitals in his range, and as to who of the medical officers can best be spared on an emergency, it must ever be left to him to arrange for required reliefs.

5. Even if the medical officers were not military servants of Government, but private servants of Municipalities, Municipalities would not refuse their assistance on the occurrence of such emergencies as recently happened in Tanjore, for even in private life in England a medical man at once obeys a sudden call at a distance, and leaves his ordinary patients at home to be attended to by others. There is no Hospital Committee in England that would in such a case prohibit their physician from attending to such an emergent call.

No. 183. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1873, No. 150.

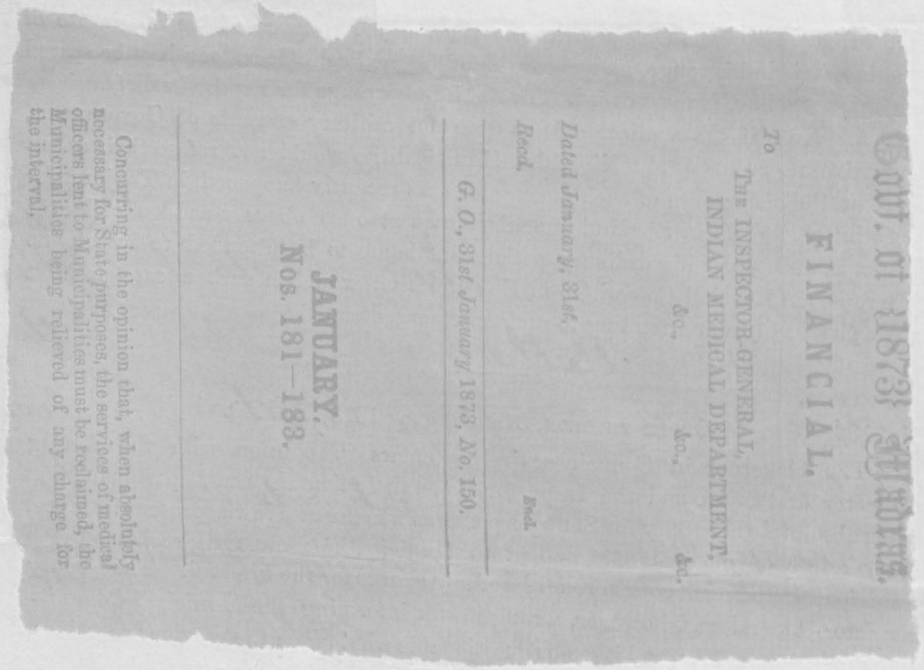
The Governor in Council entirely concurs in opinion with the Acting Collector of Tanjore and the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, that when absolutely necessary for State purposes, as was the case in the present instance, the services of medical officers lent to Municipalities must be reclaimed, the Municipalities being of course relieved of any charge for the interval. The Deputy Inspector-General was, however, wrong in not informing the Municipal Commissioners of the necessity, and it seems questionable whether on the previous occasions mentioned by the Commissioners the course adopted was necessary.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
,, Presidents of all Municipalities.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.



GOVT. OF INDIA (FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT).

FINANCIAL.

To

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 31st.

Read.

Read.

G. O., 31st January 1873, No. 150.

JANUARY,
Nos. 181—183.

Concurring in the opinion that, when absolutely necessary for State purposes, the services of medical officers lent to Municipalities must be reclaimed, the Municipalities being relieved of any charge for the interval.

No. 328

President's Office 19th
Vellam 18th December
1872

From

W. M. Cadell Esq
Offg President, Munic.
-ipal Commission
Combaconum

To

The Honorable W. Huddleston
Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to submit herewith for the orders of Government Copies of the accompanying correspondence between myself and the Commissioners of the Combaconum Municipality regarding the power of the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department over medical subordinates placed at the disposal of Municipalities.

The circumstances out of which this reference has arisen are as follows. Last October when the Dengue Fever was raging at Tanjore the Zillah Surgeon and the Sail Dresser was suddenly taken ill and there was

no

no one to look after the Hospital and the Jail at a time when the amount of sickness was Exceptionally great. Under these circumstances the Deputy Inspector General Indian Medical Department, at Seshmopoly, directed the Dresser of the Combaconum Dispensary to proceed at once to Sanjore and do duty there till Dr Houston and the Jail Dresser showed recover.

The Commissioners of the Combaconum Municipality in their communications through the Vice President, objected to this and represented that the Deputy Inspector General had Exceeded his powers in thus removing an officer placed under their control without first consulting their wishes and intimated that they would not pass the Dresser's salary for the period during which they had been deprived of his services. They further urged that under the Proceedings dated

* Letter from the Vice President dated 25th October 1872 No 1297 Do Do 12th November 1872 No 1140.

25th September 1872 No 1270, the power of the medical authorities in regard to Dispensaries was confined to purely professional matters such as the treatment of disease and that consequently their action in this instance should be reported to Government for their orders.

Having been personally aware of the circumstances under which the Dresser at Combaconum was directed to do duty at Sanjore I represented to the Commissioners that it was under circumstances of the most pressing necessity that the step was taken by the medical authorities and that without doubt Government would be pleased to sanction from Government funds the payment of the salary of the Dresser for the period he was called away from Combaconum; further that the Deputy Inspector General could not be supposed to have

Letter to Vice President dated 22nd November 1872 No 308.

no

no power whatever in Emergencies like the one in question, of issuing orders to Naval subordinates of this class who nevertheless are subject to the articles of War and are under his control. I intimated to the Commissioners that for these reasons a reference to Government appeared to me unnecessary and requested them to reconsider the matter.

As the Commissioners in their 3d Communication however insist on a reference being made I submit the matter to Government for their orders.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed Servt

W. McGarel
Offg President

Letter from Vice President dated 9th December 1872 no 180.

No 129.

6M

From

H. R. Reid Esquire

Vice President, Municipal

Commission Lombaconum

To

W. M. Fadell Esquire

President Municipal Commission

Lombaconum

Sir

In forwarding the accompanying Copy of Memorandum received by the Assistant Apothecary from the Deputy Inspector General Indian Medical Department, I am to submit that the Hospital Assistant at this Station has been removed to do duties under the orders of the Gillah Superintendent at Tanjore.

I further beg to observe that the Commissioners object to pay the Hospital Assistant for the period he is removed from this Dispensary for which he is exclusively entertained by the Commissioners

But I submit that where Medical

No 923 1872
Municipal Commission
Lombaconum

From
The Vice President Municipal Commission
Lombaconum
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Dated 15th December 1872

Received 21st December 1872

Submitting for the orders of Government the enclosed Petition of the Hospital Assistant at this Station praying that he may be allowed to draw his salary during the period he was removed from this Station to do duty at Tanjore

Reply

Officers are (as in this Case), paid exclusively by the Municipal Commissioners they can not be removed from their Service in this manner at the wish of the Dy Inspector General being only under his Control in matter of discipline &c. I understand that the point has been raised by the Municipality of Trichinopoly and decided in their favor. I therefore request that you will ascertain if this is so. - In any Case we should endeavour to get an order of Government passed in this matter settling the point.

I have the honor &c.
Sir
Your most obedt Servant
(Signed) R. R. Weld
Vice President

Municipal Commrs Office
Combaconum
25th October 1872.

(True Copy)
W. Mc Farlane
Offg President

No. 4381.

1 Class Hospital Assistant
M. Perumaliah Naidoo No. 464 of the Civil Dispensary Combaconum, will immediately on receiving intimation from the Zillah Surgeon Tanjore proceed to that station and do duty under the Orders of that Officer during the prevalence of the Dengue or until such time as his services may be required.

J. H. Cox
Lt Colo
Offg D. I. Genl M.D.

Office of D. I. General
S. D. Int C.
Trichinopoly
25th October 1872

Lieut Major
for Dy I. General S. D. Int C

To The Zillah Surgeon Tanjore
" Apothy C. Dy Combaconum

(True Copy)
R. R. Weld
Vice President

(True Copy)
W. Mc Farlane
Offg President

No. 140

8 M.

From

J.R. Weld Esqre.
Vice. President. Municipal
Commission Combaconam

To.

W.R. Cavell Esqre.
President. Municipal
Commission. Combaconam

Sir,

With reference to the Proceedings of Government No. 1270, dated 25th September 1872, of which a Copy is enclosed; I have the honor to bring to your notice that "Except in purely professional matters, such as the treatment of diseases, the Commissioners have absolute authority over the administration and Regulation of the affairs of the Dispensaries which has been made over to them."

The Deputy Inspector General Indian Medical department transfers the Dresser of this Dispensary to Tanjore without Consulting the Commissioners who are opposed to the measure

Local Head of the Medical Department must have a discretion in cases of grave emergency like the one in question to remove Medical Subordinates to the places where their services are most required.

3. These latter officers, I would observe although their services are lent to the Municipality by the Government and their salaries are for the time being paid by the Municipality are still not less the Servants of Government and moreover under the Articles of War and while I have no doubt the Government will be prepared to pay the salary of the Dresser during the time his services were withdrawn, I question whether they will agree to allow the services of their Medical Subordinates any longer if they are to be absolutely under the control of the Municipality.

4. I beg, therefore, you will lay this letter before the Commissioners as I consider that a reference to Government is in this instance unnecessary.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obt. Servant
[signed] W. M. Cadell
Offg. President

[True Copy]
W. M. Cadell
Offg. President

No 180

From

M. L. Weld Esq
Vice President Municipal Commission
Combaconum

To

W. M. Cadell Esq
President Municipal Commission
Combaconum

Sir

With reference to your letter of the 22d Ultimo No 308, I have the honor to inform you that the matter was laid before the meeting of the 25th November 1872.

2 The Commissioners are unanimous in deciding that the matter should be referred to Government —

3 They observe that the Deputy Inspector General is provided with extra hands to meet sudden emergencies —

4 The Combaconum Hospital Assistant was removed to Tanjore on the 22d October, and returned on the 23d November since this return he has been ill of the effects

of

of the Dengue fever contracted while there, and has been unable to do any work. The Commissioners have never been consulted before making this removal. They consider that, under Government order No 1270, dated 25th September 1872 they have complete control over their medical officers, so that they cannot be removed without their consent.—

5 This is a large and populous Town, in importance second to no others in this District. The amount of work in this Hospital is very heavy, and cannot conveniently be looked after without an assistant. If the dresser be removed at the option of the Local Head Board of the Medical department, without consulting the Commissioners beforehand the whole of the Hospital work falls on the apothecary, and he is consequently so much

tied down to it, that he cannot attend to out door patients and cases of emergency that may arise amongst the people in the Town—

6 They further observe that this is not the first time that the Hospital assistant has been taken away from this Station, there have been similar removals on two previous occasions, and the Commissioners doubt whether the circumstances under which these took place can be described as urgent. In 1869 he was removed to Nerooturcapondy for a period of more than 2 months, at the opening of a dispensary there, although Mannargudi, a much smaller place than Combaconum, is nearer. Again in 1871, he was removed to the Rajah's Hospital at Tanjore for more than a months to act for the

dresser

dresser of that station who was away on leave

7 Under these circumstances the Commissioners object to pay his salary for the time he was absent at Tanjore, since the making over of the Dispensary to them, namely on one occasion from the 14th May to 29th June 1871 and on the other from the 22d October to 23d November 1872, and also for such time as he is unable to work owing to illness brought on by the service he was then employed in

8 In conclusion, I beg to state, in connection with this subject, that the Commissioners desire that the Government should be requested to pass an order that no servants attached to the dispensary under Municipal control, shall be removed by the Medical authorities without previously consulting the commissioners and obtaining their permission

I have &c.

Vide Para 4 Letter

Coimbatore 3 December 1872

(True copy)

(Signed) W. R. Wold
Vice President

W. Wallace
Actg President

No. 24 Office of Inspector General I.M.D.
Fort Saint George 24th January 1873.

14M

From

The Inspector General of Hospitals,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Financial Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to report to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that I sent on the pre-enclosed correspondence for the observations of the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals of the Southern District.

From the Officiating President Municipal Commissioner Combaconum to the Chief Secretary to Government No. 328 dated 18th December 1872 and 5 enclosures.

2. In this case an Hospital Assistant was detailed from the Combaconum Civil Dispensary for duty at Tanjore, because the Zillah Surgeon and Jail Hospital Assistant had been suddenly taken ill and there was no one to look after the Hospital and the Jail, at a time when the amount of sickness was exceptionally great. When the arrangement was made, the Deputy Inspector General of the District was absent on tour of inspection and the order detailing the

Hospital Assistant to proceed to Tanjore was issued by the Senior Medical Officer present at Head Quarters, in the usual course of business. But, in carrying out the orders, intimation of the movement ought to have been given by the Senior Medical Officer to the Combaconum Municipality. The orders requiring such intimation to be given are contained in the marginal circulars, and on my becoming aware that these orders had not been acted up to, I drew the attention of the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals to the existing regulations on the subject.

No. 976 dated 13th March 1865.
No. 3059 dated 28th August 1865.
No. 299 dated 23d January 1866.

3. The orders of Government quoted above not only require that the sanction of departmental heads be obtained previous to the removal of their Medical Subordinates, but that intimation be also given of the arrangements proposed for the conduct of the Absentee's duties. The Senior Medical Officer doubtless deemed Assistant Apothecary Ashworth, who was left at Combaconum, sufficient for the duties of the Station and Dispensary in this emergency, and in this view I concur; but he erred in not intimating the change to the Municipal Commissioners, and, had the Commissioners been duly informed, as required, I am satisfied that the intimation would have been deemed by them a sufficient recognition of their rights.

4. On the general question, I would observe that in this country where, alike in peace and in war, sudden and urgent demands occur, straining the strength of the Medical department to its utmost, it will ever happen to be necessary suddenly to utilize the services of Medical Officers of Government by detailing them from places where they are not greatly needed to stations where they are urgently required. Also the Medical Officers of the Government, of all ranks, are Military Medical Officers, and the emergencies of war might render necessary the instant recall from Civil employ of some or even all of those now lent to the Civil Department; and the Senior Medical Officer in the Southern District, in my opinion, acted rightly in sending relief to Tanjore, where the Civil Surgeon and the Jail Hospital Assistant had fallen ill and there was no one to look after the Tanjore Hospital and the Jail, at a time when the amount of Sickness was

exceptionally great. And the Principal Medical Officer of a district being alone aware of the daily state of the hospitals in his range, and as to who of the Medical Officers can best be spared on an emergency, it must ever be left to him to arrange for required reliefs.

5. Even if the Medical Officers were not Military Servants of Government, but private servants of Municipalities, Municipalities would not refuse their assistance on the occurrence of such emergencies as recently happened in Tanjore, for even in private life in England, a medical man at once obeys a sudden call at a distance and leaves his ordinary patients at home to be attended to by others. There is no hospital Committee in England that would in such a case prohibit their physician from attending to such an emergent call.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

Edwd Balfour Insp.r General

Insp.r Genl of Hosps Ind.: Medl Deptt.

To the Insp.r General Indian Medical Dept.-6
— Board of Revenue. — 14 } dup.d 7/2
— Presidents of all municipalities dup.d 10/2 = 170
— Accountant General. dup.d 7/2 170

Cont: 25/3/4/72 Vol 152-153

Jan[y] 1873. Dept.

From
The Insp[r] Genl of Hosps,
Indian Med[l] Deptt,
Fort Saint Geo[e].

To
The Chief Secy to Government
Financial Depart[t].

Dated 24th January
Rec[d] 27th
No 24 2 E. Ch[d].
No 161 Subject.

Submits his opinion relative to the removal of the Hospl asst attached to the Civil Dispensary Combaconum for the usual intimation being given to the Municipal Commissioner

With an Order