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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1573 Press / Mis.

24445

Dated 29-10-1873.

8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
29th October 1873.

No. 244. Read the following letter from Deputy Surgeon-General J. L. RANKING, Acting Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 3rd September 1873, No. 326:—

I have the honour to acknowledge Proceedings of Government, in the Financial Department, of the 15th ultimo, and, with reference to the Order thereon, No. 1164, to offer my opinion in advertence to Proceedings, No. 631, Financial Department, of the 12th May 1873, upon the best method of providing for professional inspection of Municipal and Local Fund Dispensaries throughout this Presidency.

2. Surgeon-General Balfour, in his letter, No. 122, of 2nd April 1873, embodied in the Proceedings of Government of the 12th May, No. 631, entered fully into the subject, and, after reviewing the practice in other Presidencies, advised the continuance of that followed in Madras, viz., inspection by Deputy Surgeons-General.

3. He also pointed out that, owing to the very extensive ranges assigned to some Deputy Surgeons-General, and the almost daily addition to dispensaries under Municipal and Local Funds, the labour of inspection was heavy, and that, in some instances, it was next to impossible for inspecting officers to overtake the work thrown upon them. In the Northern District such inspections, as pointed out, are made only every second year, while last year the Deputy Surgeon-General was obliged to be recalled before he had completed his inspections.

4. With this exception, every dispensary has hitherto been inspected once a year by the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Range, and, viewed in relation to the Order of Government on the subject of the relation of the Medical Department to such dispensaries, as laid down in Proceedings of Government in the Financial Department, No. 518, of 17th April 1872, and No. 150, of 31st January 1873, I am of opinion that this one inspection is all that is required. Inspections bearing upon ordinary cleanliness of buildings, bedding, &c., the methodical and tidy (to use a homely but expressive word) arrangement of medicines, instruments, &c., the quality of food supplied and cooking of meals, and upon the general care and welfare of the sick, may be safely entrusted to the members of the Boards or Managing Committees, with whom, under the Orders of Government above quoted, rests all responsibility for the economic concerns of such institutions. Such inspections should be made regularly and frequently.

5. Surgeon-General Balfour also showed in his letter, No. 122, of 2nd April 1873, that Civil Surgeons with their onerous duties at Sadr stations, could not make such inspections, and in this I concur.

6. Nor do I advocate the creation of a class of Staff Medical Officers styled Inspectors-General of Dispensaries, as in Bengal. Provided the ranges are not too large, Deputy Surgeons-General are quite capable of inspecting all civil institutions as well as military hospitals in their respective ranges.

7. But these ranges are, in some instances, far too large. The Northern District requires to be separated from the Centre District, and Malabar and Canara from the Southern District, while the Mysore Province should, I think, have an administrative officer of its own.

8. As regards the Madras Presidency then, I consider that two additional administrative officers of the grade of Deputy Surgeon-General are urgently wanted, one for the Northern District and one for Malabar and Canara.

9. I give a decided preference to this increase over the entertainment of a class (three as suggested by Dr. Balfour in his letter so often referred to) of Inspectors-General of Dispensaries; for Deputy Surgeons-General, if properly selected, are competent to perform all the duties, professional and sanitary, connected with inspection of Jails, Civil Dispensaries, &c., and to advise Government and Municipal and Local Boards upon all subjects bearing upon the health of the community.

10. In a financial point of view, the appointment of two additional Deputies recommends itself. The appointment of three Inspectors of Dispensaries would constitute a higher charge than that of two Deputy Surgeons-General, and at the same time involve double travelling allowances.

11. It is true that if Inspectors of Dispensaries were appointed for the exclusive service of Municipal and Local Boards, the pay of the appointments might be debited to Local Service, but this would be met by debiting a portion of the salary of each Deputy Surgeon-General also to Local Service.

No. 245. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1873, No. 1573.

The subject must lie over for the present.

2. It is evident, from what has been submitted to Government, that periodical professional inspection of dispensaries is indispensable for their well-working, that the existing inspecting agency is insufficient for the work required to be performe and that this Government is not competent to increase it.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretar

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, Military Department.
,, Board of Revenue.
To all Presidents of Municipal Commissions.

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated October, 29th.

Read.

G.O., 29th October 1873, No. 1573.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 244-245.

Municipal and Local Fund Dispensaries.—The subject of providing for the professional inspection of these dispensaries ordered to lie over for the present, the necessity for such inspection and the insufficiency of the existing agency for that purpose being admitted.

No. 326

Office of Surgeon General &c.
Fort Saint George 3d September 73

From

Deputy Surgeon Genl. J. L. Ranking
Acting Surgeon General
Indian Medical Service.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge Proceedings of Government in the Financial Department of the 15th *ultimo*, and with reference to the order thereon No. 1164 to offer my opinion, in advertence to Proceedings No. 631 Financial Department of the 12th May 1873, upon the best method of providing for professional inspection of Municipal and Local Fund Dispensaries throughout this Presidency.

2. Surgeon General Balfour

to advise Government and Municipal and Local Boards upon all subjects bearing upon the health of the community.

10 In a financial point of view the appointment of two additional Deputies recommends itself. The appointment of 3 Inspectors of Dispensaries would constitute a higher charge than that of 2 Deputy Surgeons General, and at the same time involve double travelling allowances.

11 It is true that, if Inspectors of Dispensaries were appointed for the exclusive service of municipal and Local Boards, the pay of the appointments might be debited, to Local service, but this would be met by debiting a portion of the salary of each Deputy Surgeon General also to Local services.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt Servant

[signature] Dy Surgeon Genl.

Ag. Surgeon Genl. I.M.S.

G. O. 17. April/72. L. 518
31. January/73 L. 150
12. June/73. L. 631
15. August/73 L. 1164

Received 1873 Despatch

From

The Actg Surgeon Genl
I Dist.

To The Chief Secy to Govt
Public Depte

No. 1574

No. 326

Dated 3. Sept
Rec'd 5. —

Submits opinion upon the best method of providing professional inspections of Municipal & Local Fund Dispensaries

Acknowledged 29 Oct 1873 No. 1515 S.
The subject should be brought to the notice of the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal.

Surgeon Genl Bengal Medical Dept

Board of Revenue

C16-10 A22-10

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To

The Surg. Genl. I. R. Dept.

&c

Dated Oct. 29.
Recd.

Read.

G.O. 29 Oct. 1873, No. 873.

Nos. 244. 245.

Genl. & L. F. Dispensaries. The subject of providing for the professional inspection of these Dispensaries, ordered to lie over for the present: the necessity for such inspection & the insufficiency of the existing Agency for that purpose, being admitted.