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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 16 Press Mis.

Dated 4-11- 1923.

8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of Government, Financial Department, 9th July 1873.

Read the following papers :—

No. 57. From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., President of the Local Fund Boards and Municipalities in Tinnevelly, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Courtallam, 13th June 1873, No. 181.

In reply to Government Proceedings, No. 620, dated 9th May last, I have the honour to inform you that I have no comments to make on the rules proposed by the Inspector-General, which appear to be in themselves unobjectionable, but I wish to make a few remarks on the system of hospital treatment while the subject is under discussion.

2. As pointed out by the Inspector-General, the hospitals are now under the management of Local Fund or Municipal Boards, but the old system still continues, and this system is briefly the outlay of large sums on treating from six to twelve low-caste patients with a magnificence beyond their requirements, prescribing for thirty or forty out-patients who come in the morning for medicine, and leaving the bulk of the population alone.

3. The one Dresser attached to a hospital has, no doubt, plenty to do in attending these in and out-patients and making up the Doctor's prescriptions; and, should he be called away to a difficult case in the town, it may be to the detriment of those placed immediately under his care, but still there are thousands of cases in every large town that do not come under the Dresser's treatment at all. The uncertainty of securing the Dresser's attendance, and the want of a fixed scale of charges, prevent many from sending for him, and the application for medical aid is thus but too often deferred until all known remedies fail and the case is perfectly hopeless. The attendance of a Dresser under such circumstances is clearly worse than useless, as his failure to check the disease, even in its last stage, is regarded as indicative of want of skill, and if he has to wrangle for a fee, as is too often the case, he is charged with want of common humanity as well as with want of skill. To obviate all this I would suggest that, where a Municipal or Local Fund Board may desire it, a second Dresser be attached to the hospital to attend out-patients at their houses on a fixed scale of charge, and this charge might be sufficiently low to be within the means of all. Those I have spoken to on the subject consider that 8 Annas a visit, or 3½ Rupees for a confinement, would be a very fair charge, and, as the Dresser's income would depend on his skill and attention, it would be to his interest to do his best for his patients. It might perhaps be so arranged that the two Dressers divided their work and attended to hospital and out-patients in turn, but still I think that the option should be given to out-patients to send for the man they like best. Thus the extent of the private practice enjoyed by a Dresser would soon be a measure of his capacity, and, by some such arrangement as this, all classes would benefit by an institution which, though intended for all, is almost exclusively used by the class that pays little or nothing towards its upkeep.

Referred to the Acting Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, for his remarks both as to the details of the plan and as to the feasibility of meeting the demand for Medical Subordinates which might result from its adoption.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 4th November 1873.

No. 7. Proceedings of Government, 4th November 1873, No. 1611.

Adverting to the Proceedings of Government, dated the 9th May 1873, No. 620, the Governor in Council resolves to communicate to the Presidents of all Local Fund Boards and Municipalities the Proceedings of Government, dated the 9th July 1873, No. 959, with the request that they will favour Government with their opinion, at an early date, on the proposals to establish a fixed scale of fees to be paid for medical or surgical service rendered to out-patients at their own houses by the subordinate Medical Officers attached to the hospitals and dispensaries under the control of the several Local Fund Boards and Municipalities.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

No. 58. From Deputy Inspector-General J. L. RANKING, Acting Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 25th June 1873, No. 245.

With reference to your endorsement upon letter, No. 181, of 13th June 1873, from the Collector of Tinnevelly, I have the honour to state that the subordinate establishment in the grade of Hospital Assistant is deficient by fifty, and that at present it is quite impossible to meet the demand made by Mr. Puckle for the services of an additional subordinate of that grade.

2. In regard to the general principle of supply of a second subordinate to Local Fund Boards and Municipalities, there is no objection to the arrangement if such Boards are prepared to pay for their services and men are available. It would appear, however, from the third paragraph of the letter under reference, that it is expected of the subordinates to pay themselves by fees; if so, the scheme is not feasible. Subordinates so employed must be guaranteed the pay of their rank, to which any fees they may make in private practice must be considered supplemental.

3. I am not prepared to say that Local Fund Boards and Municipalities are empowered to regulate or fix the amount of fees to be paid for medical or surgical service rendered by their medical officers. Government, although recognizing the right of private practice, has steadily declined to sanction any fixed scale of fees. I think, however, that the scale suggested of 8 Annas a visit in ordinary cases would sufficiently remunerate medical subordinates of the grade of Hospital Assistant. I would, however, fix the fee for confinements a little higher, say Rupees 5, because advice and assistance in these cases is only sought in those of the worst and gravest nature. This fee should be for the confinement alone and not for any subsequent attendance which might arise out of it.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1873, No. 959.

The Acting Inspector-General's letter will be communicated to the President of the Tinnevelly Local Fund Boards and Municipalities.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

I think that
the creation of fees
for inspection of the Cloves
we have to deal
with in Municipalities
should at once
occupy the attention
of Government
It is time that
Government have
been relieved —
Even when Cases of
for grave Contraventions
and of public inconvenience
have been brought be-
fore it — to regulate
the

the fees of Commissioned
Medical practitioners.
But in respect of those,
the Rank Corps generally,
in the honorary
Gentlemen and
Established Etiquette
of the profession the
independence of the
Patients.

Such as respects
the Corner Coroner
whom we are appointed
by Municipalities,
the poor Rating public
and Taxpayers have
no such power. Limi-
And in this department
of State or Municipal
Administration, the
Such as respects the
Patient

Police officials holds of
Such that the strong
ties of the profession of
the Municipal
Service & the accountable
of European practice
springing upon respect
of the branch of Police
profession. Share
by self Rumour Reports
Subordinate and important
Conduct practised by
Coroner subordinate in the
Medical Department.

The regulation of the
more reasonable and
well-to-do Natives are
most Celebrated Medical attendants,
and will generally
be found to remunerate
them for services
as any fee. But the
poor who Constitute by
far the greater part of
the

the people & whose
these offices are
delegated Regulations
protection against
Exorbitant Demands
or Extortionate neglect
- such as occurred
in Juinault & the
recent Elections.

I would put a
distinct maximum
beyond which fees
cannot be claimed
as of right - that recom-
=mended by Dr Rawlings
in Liberal, I think, Sane
& regard Confirm-
=ation which stands
at £2 2/2 for
Secondary Patrimo
women

Most recent specified
in a fixed scale of
moderate charges,
& their proper
Dr Rawlings recep
received.
I understand that in
a second Degree in
attached to each
Hospital, - the Feeling
to provide some medical
attendance for the
poor. Otherwise, in
my own Dist Dr Rawlings
has fees will not cover

women & Employ
Skilled Trained Remun.
Salaries in Excess of
these amounts should
be optional

7/10 1867.

I am in Entire
Agreement with
the Resolutions
of Local Boards
& Municipalities
of 9 May 73 - then
attention of the Select
Committee of the House
of Lords on Poor
Relief.

Jas

Revenue Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

~~Read the following letter~~

and to raise Contributions
for their Maintenance, and in case
they be disobeyed or
not obeyed & submitted unto
by any of the said Per-
sons to send for and
require the Assistance
and Aid of the Com-
manders Governors Officers
and Magistrates of

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

Financial

To

All Presidents of Local Fund Boards. &c. &c.

Dated 2nd Sept.
Recd. } 1873, No 1611.

Nos. 7.

Local Fund Boards' Finance.

Subject - G.O. No. 959 of 7th July 1873 circulated to the Presidents of the Local Boards of the Presidency requesting on the proposal to establish a fixed scale of fees to be paid for medical or surgical advice rendered to out-patients at their own houses by the Subordinate Medical officers attached to the Hospitals & Dispensaries under the control of these Boards.