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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1033 Press/Mis.

64-65

Dated 19-6- 1874.

4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 262. Madras 10th June 1874

To The Chief Secretary to Government

Your reference ~~No 189~~ 4 June 1874.

Subjects for Port Martem Cases Can be Complied with

Edw Thwaites Surgeon Genl Madr.

(12)

No. 991.

South Canara Magistrates Office
on circuit, Poonjalcatta, 26th May 1876.

From,
H. S. Thomas Esqr.
District Magistrate &c.

To,
The Honourable D. F. Carmichael
Ag. Chief Secretary to Government J.D.
Fort St George.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government the difficulties and risk of failure of justice occasioned by the Medical Officers placed in charge of the Local Fund Dispensaries in the Districts not being provided with the set of instruments required for making post mortem examinations, and to request that the same may be ordered to be supplied to them at the public expense.

2. An alleged case of murder occurred recently near Kasargod, in which the Assistant Hospital apprentice in charge of the Dispensary at that place, to whom the corpse was taken for examination, certified to its external appearance only, and stated his inability to make an internal examination for want of the requisite instruments. As the complaint of murder eventually turned out to be false in this case, no harm actually resulted from this defect, though it would have been

more

more satisfactory if the medical officer had been able to certify to the internal as well as the external appearance of the body. Were it, however, a real case of murder, it can scarcely be said how far the want of a post mortem examination might have prejudiced the case for the prosecution, by adding to the difficulties of detection and involving the case in doubt.

3. Murders and deaths under suspicious circumstances are by no means uncommon in the interior of the District and the impossibility of holding a post mortem examination on the spot or within a short distance, and the [illegible] liability, in many cases, of forwarding the corpse to the Taluk Surgeon before it has reached an advanced stage of decomposition, may not unfrequently occasion a failure of justice. It becomes therefore advisable in the interests of justice that all available means should be used to ascertain the cause of death in each suspicious case without loss of time. Now that a Dispensary has been opened by the Local Fund Board in every Taluk and a competent Medical Officer placed in charge of it under the recent orders of Government, there is every facility for

for attaining this object if only the requisite instruments be provided by Government.

4. Under these circumstances, I trust the Government will be pleased to sanction the supply of a Post mortem case of instruments for each of the ~~three~~ four Dispensaries that are not so provided.

5. I have not addressed the Local Fund Board on the subject, because the object seemed to be a purely Magisterial one and therefore hardly a fair charge on their funds.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Magistrate.

C.S.M.A.

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Referred to the Surgeon General Indian Medical Department for report whether the instruments asked for are available in Store.

D. Hammond
Ag. Chief Secretary

Ootacamund
4th June 1874

Ootacamund 19th June 1874 No. 1033.

The Surgeon General Indian Medical Department is authorized to supply the instruments required in the Govt.

By Order of Board of Revenue
His Majesty's Secretary of State Commissioner
Surgeon General Indian Medical Department