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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 418 Press Mis.

314-315

Dated 23-2- 18 75

18/14

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Medical.

No. 314 Read the following letter from E. B. POWELL, Esq., M.A., C.S.I., Director of Public Instruction, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 3rd February 1875, No. 246:—

I have the honor to submit a letter, No. 39, of the 19th ultimo, from Surgeon-General Balfour, Indian Medical Department, and also one referring to the same from the Acting Principal of the Medical College.

2. I must own that, while recognising the very great benefits which might be expected to accrue from the adoption of some such course as that suggested by the Surgeon-General, *if the country were prepared for it*, I very much doubt if the time has arrived for action.

From Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 19th January 1875, No. 39.

I do not know whether the Governments of Russia, Greece, and Turkey exercise any licensing control over their practitioners of medicine, but in every other kingdom of Europe no one can legally follow the Medical profession until he passes a successful examination on subjects prescribed by the State, and I have the honor to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the time seems to me to have come for India to move in that direction.

2. In the year 1815, when the Apothecaries' Company of England was established, every person who was at that time practising medicine was registered, whether possessed of a Collegiate qualification or not, and was allowed to continue engaged in his profession. But from that year no one could legally engage in the practice of his profession, unless he had passed a successful examination in Medicine.

3. What was done for England in the year 1815 I propose should be done for India now. I do not recommend the issue of any Order, Rule or Act prohibiting any one continuing as a Medical practitioner, who is now engaged in medical or surgical practice, neither would I inquire where, when or how, any one of the present medical practitioner's skill and knowledge had been acquired, but I would suggest that every person following the healing art be now registered and licensed without fee, and for the future, whoever may desire to practice medicine or surgery in any of their branches, be subjected to an examination as to his knowledge of the branches which he intends to follow, and if found qualified that he be licensed without fee. Further, that all who are at present in the practice of the Medical *Art* be afforded the opportunity of obtaining a certificate of qualifications from recognised medical practitioners. For this purpose the Medical Officers in the civil or military employ of Government may be authorized to hold examinations in the first week of each quarter, giving free permission for any applicant to appear before them for examination, and that they issue certificates to all whom they find qualified. In this manner would be initiated a system of State Medicine.

4. In conducting the proposed examinations and certifying to the knowledge of the persons appearing, a certificate should be issued to every person whom the examiners find possessed of such a knowledge of the Medical Art as the examiners may deem to be sufficient to authorize the issue of a certificate, and the wording of it should be to the effect that the holder possesses such an acquaintance with a specified branch of Medical or Surgical science as may justify his being consulted for, or summoned to, the relief of human suffering. It will be necessary to examine specially and to specify in the certificate the branch of medicine or surgery in which the examined has been found qualified, because in this country the hakim and the vaidyan are physician purists of a strictness unknown even in London, everything relating to surgical practice being left to the barber and the potter, whilst the barber's wife as a rule is the midwife of the community.

5. Many of the hakims and vaidyans are skilful, alike in diagnosis, in prognosis, and in the application of remedies ; some are even learned. Lord Elphinstone, when Governor of Madras, on one occasion while in the mofussil broke his leg, and it was set successfully by a potter, but there are also many very ignorant men whose malpractices are shocking even to hear of and horrible to witness, and the registration of all now in medical practice, the examination of all who may hereafter wish to engage in it, and the issue of certificates to qualified men, would make known to the communities the practitioners whom they may trust.

6. I do not hide from myself that, so long as the Government shall abstain alike from registering medical practitioners and from requiring that the future intending practitioners shall give proof of their qualifications, a great incentive to study is in abeyance, and my inquiries have made it clear to me that the non-examining and non-registering of medical men is a great cause of the indifference shown by the population to study the art of medicine as taught in the schools of Europe. I, likewise, believe that, if no fee be demanded either for registration or examination, the present and intending practitioners will readily come forward from a consciousness that the possession of a license will give them importance in the eyes of their respective communities.

From Surgeon-Major M. C. FURNELL, Acting Principal of the Medical College, to E. B POWELL, Esq., M.A., C.S.I., Director of Public Instruction, dated Madras, 1st February 1875, No. 343.

I have the honor to forward, as requested by this officer, a letter of the Surgeon-General to Government concerning State Medicine.

2. I very much question if the time has yet arrived to adopt measures for registration. England in the provinces in 1815 was a more civilized country than India in the provinces is in 1875 ; however Civil Servants more acquainted with the feelings and prejudices of the people would be the best judges of such a question.

3. But it has often struck me that Government possess ready made to its hand as it were a most powerful engine for medical education.

4. In England, Ireland, Scotland and indeed all European countries, every country practitioner has one, two, or more apprentices or pupils who are being brought up under him in that most useful of all schools—the practical. Most of these men when they go up to the metropolis to walk the hospital are already admirable general practitioners, and the courses of lectures which they attend simply set the scientific seal on their acquirements.

5. Why not make each of the Civil Dispensaries a local school by allowing natives of that part of the country to bind themselves apprentices to Government for three, four or five years ? These men at the end of their time could either be examined in Madras at the College, or by the Deputy Surgeon-General on his inspection tour, aided by the local Medical Officer. The plan would have two advantages—it would keep the Zillah Surgeon on his metal to continue his studies, without which every medical man becomes more or less rusty, and there would gradually spring up a class of local practitioners of great use in the country around.

6. I had the honor of suggesting this plan to Lord Napier some years ago, but no steps I fancy were ever taken to carry out the suggestion.

No. 315. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1875, No. 418.

There are considerable difficulties in the way of the introduction of a comprehensive scheme like that suggested by the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, but the Government consider that the measures suggested by Dr. Furnell may be adopted at once.

2. Dr. Balfour will submit proposals as regards examinations, and matters of detail, together with an estimate of the probable cost which it will be necessary to incur.

3. All Presidents of Municipalities and Local Fund Boards will report on the question of the propriety or necessity of assigning small stipends or scholarships to such apprentices. The Government are aware that what may be called pupil assistants are at present entertained in more than one Dispensary in the provinces, and that proposals very similar to those which it is now decided to adopt were submitted from the Chingleput Local Fund Board with the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th January 1874.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
,, the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
,, all Presidents of Municipalities.
,, all Presidents of Local Fund Boards.

Bxd. J. Wright.

Educational Department.

No. 43.

From

The Director of Public Instruction

Dated 3 Feb. 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

I think D. Farrell's proposal may be adopted with advantage provided it can be done at small expense: and D Balfour should be referred to as to the effect of Balfour's scheme

somewhat visionary. he might register Thos. Wild Thos Hutton & others & Mr Farrell & Mr Barnes & Mr Gahan & Mr Hutchinson

Z/1/13 R.T.
4.3.75 R.
24.2.75 R.
19-3-75 R.

Govt. of 1875] Medical

FINANCIAL.

To

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, &c., &c.,

Dated February, 23rd.

Recd.

G.O., 23rd February 1875, No. 418.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 314315.

F. No. 780
F. Nos. 937.

Dispensaries.—Reports on the details, cost, &c., of the proposed scheme for training persons as several local Dispensaries in view to their eventual becoming practitioners, called for.

who [illegible] kill a goat was
more useful than they can. Besides
this general inconvenience we
at once find — also it [illegible] for
the accumulation of this
nuisance throughout the country,
[illegible] [illegible] defiance
of the [illegible] [illegible]
the villages will have their
'bakuri' in some way or other,
and altho they will evade the

law requiring a certificate, & the
cost of examining will come
this can [illegible] be
contemplated.

J. M.
8/2

Registration of Private Medical Practitioners

FOR ORDERS.

Copy & draft as separate paper

Copies / Circ

24/12

5+1

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
MADRAS, 3rd February 1875.

No. 246.

From

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit a letter No 39 of the 19th ultimo from Surgeon General Balfour, Indian Medical Department, and also one referring to the same from the Acting Principal of the Medical College

2. I would urge the importance of organizing the many great benefits which might be expected to accrue from the adoption of some such course as that suggested by the Surgeon General, if the Country were prepared for it, & many much doubt if the time has arrived for action.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

J B Norman
Director of Public Instruction

Lt Col M. D.

Through the Principal of the Madras Medical College
and the Director of Public Instruction.

No. 39

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL, I. M. D.,
Fort Saint George, 19th January 1875.

From

SURGEON-GENERAL EDWARD BALFOUR,
Surgeon-General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Public Department
Fort St George.

SIR,

I do not know whether the Governments of Russia, Greece and Turkey exercise any licencing control over their practitioners of Medicine, but in every other Kingdom of Europe, no one can legally follow the Medical profession, until he pass a successful Examination on subjects prescribed by the State, and I have the honor to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council that the time seems to me to have come for India to move in that direction.

2. In the year 1815, when the Apothecaries' Company of England was established, every person who was at that time, practising Medicine, was registered, whether possessed of a Collegiate qualification or not, and was allowed to continue engaged in his profession. But, from that year, no one could legally engage in the practice of his profession, unless he had passed a successful Examination in Medicine.

3. What was done for England in the year 1815, I propose should be done for India now. I do not recommend the issue of any order, rule or Act prohibiting

No. 744.
Enclosures. 2
Nos. 43

Dept. 1875.
From
The Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort Saint George.

Dated 3rd February 1875.
Received 4th " "

any one continuing as a Medical practitioner who is now engaged in Medical or Surgical practice, neither would I inquire where, when or how any one of the present Medical practitioners' skill and knowledge had been acquired, but I would suggest that every person following the healing Art be now registered and licensed, without fee, and for the future, whoever may desire to practise Medicine or Surgery in any of their branches, be subjected to an examination, as to his knowledge of the branches, which he intends to follow, and if found qualified, that he be licensed, without fee. Further, that all who are, at present, in the practice of the Medical Art, be afforded the opportunity of obtaining a Certificate of Qualifications from recognized Medical practitioners.- For this purpose, the Medical Officers in the Civil or Military employ of Government, may be authorized to hold Examinations in the first week of each Quarter, giving free permission for any applicant to appear before them for Examination, and that they issue Certificates to all whom they find qualified. In this manner would be initiated a system of State Medicine.

4. In conducting the proposed Examinations and certifying to the knowledge of the persons appearing, a Certificate should be issued to every person, whom the Examiners find possessed of such a knowledge of the Medical Art as the Examiners may deem to be sufficient to authorize the issue of a Certificate, and the wording of it should be to the effect that the holder possesses such an acquaintance with a specified branch of Medical or Surgical Science as may justify his being consulted for, or summoned to the relief

of human suffering. It will be necessary to examine specially and to specify in the Certificate, the branch of Medicine or Surgery, in which the Examined has been found Qualified, because, in this country, the Hakim and the Vaidyan are physician Jurists of a strictness unknown even in London, every thing relating to Surgical practice being left to the Barber and the Potter, whilst the Barber's wife, as a rule, is the Midwife of the Community.

5. Many of the Hakims and Vaidyans are skilful, alike in diagnosis, in prognosis, and in the application of remedies: some are even learned. Lord Elphinstone when Governor of Madras, on one occasion while in the Council, broke his leg and it was set successfully by a Potter, but there are also many very ignorant men, whose mal-practices are shocking even to hear of and horrible to witness, and the registration of all now in Medical practice, the Examination of all who may hereafter wish to engage in it, and the issue of Certificates to Qualified men, would make known to the Communities, the practitioners whom they may trust.

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either for Registration or Examination, the present and intending practitioners will readily come forward from a Consciousness that the possession of a License will give them importance, in the eyes of their respective Communities.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.
Edward Grafton Sheppard

No. 343 Madras Medical College
1st February 1875

From The Acting Principal
Medical College

To The Director of Public Instruction
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to forward as requested by this Officer a letter of the Surgeon General to Government concerning state Medicine

2. I very much question if the time has yet arrived to adopt measures for registration England in the provinces in 1815 was a more civilized country than India in the provinces is in 1875, however Civil Servants more acquainted with the feelings and prejudices of the people would be the best judges of such a question.

3. But it has often struck me that Government proposes ready made to its hand as it were a most powerful engine for Medical education

4. In England, Ireland, Scotland and indeed all European countries, every country practitioner has one, two, or more apprentices or pupils who are being brought up under him in that most useful of all schools

1875.

From
Surgeon-General E. Balfour,
Surgeon-General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George.

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt.
Public Dept.
Fort St. George.

Dated 19 January

Despatched

Received

No. 39

Subject.

Suggest that all female
practitioners should register
be required, & no other
allowed to practice. Medical
Act.

Encl Ltr 43 of 1875

the practical. Most of these men when they
go up to the Metropolis to walk the Hospital
are already admirable general practitioners
and the courses of lectures which they attend
simply set the scientific seal on their ac-
quirements.

5. Why not make each of the Civil Dispen-
saries a local school by allowing natives of
that part of the Country to bind themselves
Apprentices to Government for 3, 4, or 5 years;
these men at the end of their time could
either be examined in Madras at the College
or by the Dy Surgeon General on his inspection tour
aided by the local Medical Officers. The plan
would have two advantages, it would keep
the Zillah Surgeon on his metal to continue
his studies, without which every Medi-
cal man becomes more or less rusty, and
these would gradually spring up a class of
local practitioners of great use in the country
around.

6. I had the honor of suggesting this plan
to Lord Napier some years ago, but no steps
I fancy were ever taken to carry out the
suggestion.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most Obdt servant
M. C. Jamieb.
Acting Principal

No 6598/75.

From The Principal
Medical College
To The Secretary to
Public Instruction

Dated 1st July
Recd 23 do

No 243.

Forwarding Letter
No 239 of 1st July 75
from the Surgeon
General I.M.D.
Forwarded.

In Council No 315 of 1875

Statistical.

Financial
Educational Department.

11+5.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated 3rd February 1875. No 246

315. Order thereon 23 Feb 75 No 418.

There are considerable difficulties in the way of the introduction of a comprehensive scheme like that suggested by the Surgeon General, Indian Medical Department, but the Govt consider that the measures suggested by Dr Farnell may be adopted at once.

2. Dr Balfour will submit proposals as regards

Med 22/2

regards examinations, and matters of detail; together with an estimate of the probable cost which it will be necessary to incur.

3. All Presidents of Municipalities and Local Fund Boards will report on the question of the propriety or necessity of assigning small stipends or scholarships to such apprentices. The Govt. are aware that what may be called pupil assistants are at present entertained in more than one Dispensary in the Provinces, and that proposals very similar to those which it is now decided to adopt were submitted from the

Ch/f
Ad. Cuddalore for instance.

To
The Director of Public Instruction.
— Surgeon Genl. I.M. Dept.
All Presidents of Municipalities
— do — L.F. Boards

Ch/f 17+
Chingleput Local Fund Board with the proceedings of the Board of Revenue d/12 Jan 1874
E/
C.
19/2

Ind.
The Chingleput proposals were sent to Dr Balfour and returned with remarks and proposals embracing such a wide area that it was found necessary to retain the letter for consideration along with the other papers on medical education then under discussion.
H

25/11/10

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

Financial

To

Dated 23rd
Recd. } January 1875, No. 418

Nos. 314-15

Dispensaries. Reports on the details, cost &c of the proposed scheme for training persons at the several local Dispensaries in view to their eventually becoming practitioners, called for.