

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>785</i>	Press
<i>127-129</i>	~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>17.6.1881</i>	~~17~~

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
17th June 1861.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 127. From A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Acting Sessions Judge of Salem; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated 17th May 1861, No. 11.

I have the honor to submit the following question, and should feel much obliged by your kindly laying it before Government for consideration.

Can a Zillah Surgeon in charge of a Jail, be continually called for to out stations, and is it his duty to attend every such summons, at all events, as many as he thinks fit, and to stay away, as long as he deems it necessary?

I have been led to trouble Government with this query, because it seems to have been the practice here, for the Medical Officer to be constantly sent for, to the Shevaroy Hills to attend the families of coffee planters, and others, leaving the Jail, and the residents of Salem for three, four and even five days together without any European Medical Officer at all and complaints about it are loud from all quarters.

The Judges of the Sudr Udalut in their Proceedings of the 18th August 1854 rule, that the medical charge of the Jail is the most important part of the Zillah Surgeon's duty, and that he is to obtain the Judge's leave before leaving the station for other duties, but as they say at the same time, that the Judge is to be careful to throw no obstacles in the Medical Officer attending to other duties, and as of course the Medical Officer is supposed best to know, when he is absolutely required or not, the application to quit, resolves itself into a mere form.

I would beg leave here to observe that the European and East Indian community of the Shevaroy Hills, is considerable, and though there is an Apothecary there, practising on his own account, the need of a regularly constituted Medical Subordinate is great, and until one is appointed, the residents of Salem or the Shevaroy Hills, as matters now are, must suffer for want of medical aid, the promptness of which is in many cases so all important.

Referred to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department for his remarks.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

21st May 1861.

No. 128. From R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 31st May 1861, No. 93.

With reference to the letter* No. 11, dated the 17th instant, from
* *Herewith returned.* the Session Judge of Salem and the Order of Government thereon, I have the honor to offer the following observations.

2. The Medical Officer attached to the Zillah of Salem has, from many years past, been accustomed to afford medical aid to the European residents on the Shevaroy Hills; these residents generally including, amongst others, the families of the Covenanted Civil Servants of Government attached to the Salem District.

3. The increase in the number of settlers on the Shevaroy Hills has been gradual, and until lately no complaint has been made of the inability of the Civil Surgeon to attend to the medical wants both stations. A well educated Native Surgeon was not long since stationed at Salem, in order that his services might be available during the unavoidable absence of the Civil Surgeon in visiting patients on the Shevaroy Hills.

4. There is no doubt that the charge of the Jail is the Zillah Surgeon's primary duty, but at the same time it can scarcely be permitted that European settlers or visitors some ten miles off, who have settled on the Hills, with the understanding that medical aid was within reach, should, in times of emergency, be prohibited from sending for the Civil Surgeon.

5. The appointment of a separate Medical Officer for each station would be the simplest way of remedying the inconvenience complained of, but bearing in mind the necessity for economy in public expenditure, it does not appear desirable to make another appointment.

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The residents on the Shevaroy Hills pay an Apothecary, for affording ordinary medical aid, but they are not sufficiently numerous or wealthy to make it worth the while of a private practitioner to settle amongst them, and it would be a great deprivation to them, and perhaps influence unfavorably the progress of the settlement, if the Government Medical Officer were to be debarred from attendance upon them, in cases of serious sickness.

6. There is no reason however why the Medical Officer should be absent from the Sudr Station for "four or five days at a time" except in cases of great danger or emergency, requiring his constant attendance. The stations are only ten miles apart, and with proper arrangements, he need rarely be absent for a period which would interfere with the discharge of his duties at Salem.

The Civil Surgeon must be entrusted with a certain discretion in this matter, clearly understanding that he is responsible for the health of the prisoners, under his care, and that the public service is not to suffer in consequence of his absence.

7. So long as a Native Surgeon is maintained at Salem, it is difficult to understand why there should be any difficulty in permitting the Civil Surgeon to attend to the requisition for his professional services, from the residents on the Shevaroy Hills. In former years before the appointment of a Native Surgeon, the Medical Officer undertook the charge of both stations, and it is believed without inconvenience to the public service. A little arrangement, and mutual accommodation, would perhaps render the interference of Government in this matter unnecessary.

8. The Session Judge, it is observed, makes no complaint against the Acting Civil Surgeon, nor in any way imputes neglect of his public duties.

No. 129. ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1861, No. 785.

Resolved that a copy of the above letter be furnished to the Acting Judge of Salem in reference to his letter of 17th May last, No. 11.

2. The Government find it impracticable under the present circumstances of the Shervaroys to lay down any rule for regulating the attendance of the Civil Surgeon of Salem upon persons resident on the Hills. They direct however that the Surgeon be requested to report at once to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, every occasion on which he may be absent from Salem for more than twenty-four hours at a time, with full explanation as to the reasons of his absence, and that the Jail be visited by the Native Surgeon daily during his absence.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

*Read the following letter
to the Judge of Salem 17 May 1861. No. 11
from the Principal Inspr.
General Med. Departt.*

Approved 31 May 1861, No. 93

Order thereon 17 June 1861, No. 785.

*Resolved that a
copy of the above
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Salem in reference to
his letter of 17 May last
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daily during his
absence.

J.P.

+ with full explana-
-tion as to the nature
of his absence

To the Principal Superintendent
Medical Department } Dec 17
" A. J. Sessions Judge of Salem }

Judicial 1861. Department.

No. *485*.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS
GOVERNMENT.

Oct 20 49/65

Dated *17 June 1861*.

12/6/79