

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	7657	Press
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61-62		
Dated	J. 10. 1882	49

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th October 1862.*

No. 61. Read the following letter from C. A. BALLARD, Esq., Magistrate of Malabar ;
to the Honorable T. PYCROFT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George,
dated Calicut 29th September 1862, No. 82.

I think it my duty to bring the following to your notice:—

2. Last Friday a Jail peon took his son, a boy of about 10 years of age, to the Jail Dresser at this station for medical advice. The Dresser intending to give Santonine, weighed out 3 doses. One was given to the boy according to direction. He was speedily seized with convulsions and died in a few hours. His people gave the other powders to a cat, which died almost immediately. The Dresser found that instead of Santonine he had given Strychnine. He at once reported matters to his departmental superior, by whom he was brought to me. I have taken informations, and the case will be disposed of in due course.

3. My object in now writing to you is to bring to notice that the two vials, containing one Santonine and the other Strychnine, appear to have been kept on a separate shelf in the medicine almyra ; but that they were kept together ; and that even the common precaution of writing the word "poison" on the Strychnine label had not been taken. The vial was simply labelled Strychnine (oz. $\frac{1}{8}$) in writing.

4. However culpable the carelessness of the Dresser may have been in not examining the label before giving out the contents of the vial, I cannot but think that equal blame attaches to the gross carelessness that allowed such a dangerous medicine to be issued from the stores without greater precaution in the marking ; and as Magistrate, I bring the case and its consequences thus prominently to the notice of Government, that such orders as they deem necessary may be issued on the subject.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1862, No. 1,654.

Referred for full report to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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Order - 8 October 1862 No 1657

Referred for full re-
port to the Principal
Inspector General, Medl.
Dept.

Thos
Chief Secretary.

Fort St. George }
" Oct. '62. }

The Principal Inspector }
Genl, Medl. Dept. } depost
" Collector of Malabar }