

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2030	Press
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130-131		
Dated	15.12.1862	TH

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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named Officer

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word, in dispensing
were well known to him

Madras to the Divisional ones, the
and Divisional Storekeepers will be
cines issued by them, I

AND. E. , Officiating General Surgeon, Bangalore
H. G. GRAHAM Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Mys
dated Bangalore, 18th October 1862, No. 65.

ter marginally not have the honor to submit that the conduct of the
Dresser C. Mootosawmy (who, upon my re-
commendation has since been discharged the
was frequently noticed in my letters
and reports, and his neglect of duties and disobedience of orders, verbal and written, were fully

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eedless to say,
e to its ruinment.
Dr. Arnold also; and
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observed in all points.

ing rule of the De
of poisons:
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was very careless, notwithstanding the absence of the distinguishing
word, in dispensing medicines for the other for the name of the medicine and its name
the Principal
word shall be affixed to the poisonous and
them printed labels to affix to all such
cines issued by them, I

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
15th December 1862.

Immediately after the accident the medicine was re-labelled. The bottle containing Strychnine is exactly as received this year from the Medical Depot, and is at present in the possession of the Civil Judge.

List of Medicines of a more directly poisonous nature in Jail Hospital, Calicut, as they were labelled on the 27th September 1862.

	Label.	Remarks.
Antimonii Potas. ta	Name and Poison.	
" Oxysulph.	Do.	
Hydrargyri Bichlorid...	Do.	
" Ntrico-Oxydu	Name only.	In paper parcel.
Liquor Plumbi Diacetat...	Name and Poison.	
Opium	Do.	
Tinctura Digitalis...	Name only.	
" Opii	Do.	
Acidum Hydrocyanicum...	Do.	Covered up with paper.
Liquor Opii Sedatio...	Do.	
Morphiæ Hydrochlorat...	Do.	
Strychnine... ..	Do.	
Vinum Opii... ..	Name and poison.	
Zinc Chloridum... ..	Do.	

(Signed) S. JARDINE WYNDOWE, M. D.,

Calicut, 25th October 1862.

No. 131. ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1862, No. 2,020.

The Governor in Council considers that Assistant Surgeons Cleveland, Arnold and Wyndowe are all more or less responsible for the lamentable accident which forms the subject of the foregoing letter. The examinations of the Stores referred to in para. 2 of Dr. Cleveland's letter must have been very imperfect, when so deadly a poison was allowed to remain unlabelled, and both Dr. Arnold and Dr. Wyndowe are much to blame in not having ascertained, when they took charge of the Dispensary, that all poisonous medicines were duly labelled.

The carelessness shown by the 2nd Dresser who administered the poison is altogether without excuse. The bottle, it appears, was labelled with the name of the medicine it contained, and the Dresser cannot have done more than glance at the label, although he was aware that on the shelf from which he took the bottle, one containing the most deadly poison was placed. The Governor in Council cannot permit a man who has been guilty of such gross negligence to continue in the Medical Service of Government. Orders will accordingly be issued in the Military Department for the discharge of the 2nd Dresser C. Menzies.

3. His Excellency in Council is further of opinion that a radical change is needed in the system under which poisonous drugs are issued from the Medical Store Office at Madras, and in the arrangements made for their safe keeping in the local Dispensaries.

4. It appears from Dr. Cole's letter that it has been the "usual way" for the Medical Store Office at Madras to issue to the Provincial Depôts poisonous drugs by wholesale without any label to designate their deadly character. It has also been "usual" for up country Depôts to re-issue these dangerous medicines to the local Hospitals and Dispensaries without anything to distinguish them from the most harmless drugs. The Regulation is indeed "very precise" that the labels are to be put on by the receiving offices, but how that duty has been performed, at the Calicut Jail Hospital at least, may be seen from Dr. Cleveland's letter in which he says that "it may happen that on receipt of fresh drugs from the Medical Stores, new bottles (not labelled) may have been retained and old ones removed," as well as from the fact that when this sad occurrence took place, one-half (7 out of 14) packets or bottles in the Jail Hospital containing deadly medicines had not the poison label.

Proceed

Department,

15th December 1862.

5. The Government has now issued orders that when medicines of a poisonous character are sent out from the Principal Depot at Madras, they shall be so labelled, and the following instructions shall be observed at the Dispensaries, Hospitals, and Civil or Military Depôts, in the opinion of the Government, in order to prevent any dangerous quality should be kept in a separate almirah, box or of the other drug placed that they cannot be taken with full The poison labels should be not only in Tamil and Telooquo, and it would be well if all bottles or at any rate the labels, were to be of some particular color, so that the nature be known at a glance. Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries, Hospitals, Depôts, Civil or Military, should be particularly careful to observe this order, and to particularly note in their reports how this order is carried out, and if they find during their tours that it has not been duly carried out, should remain at the station and see that it is carried out. This should extend to the labelling and packaging of all medicines, poisonous or otherwise, for it is evident that in some cases the dangerous character of the drugs has not been observed in the past, and the consequences, drugs actually poisonous.

6. The Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department, should be issuing instructions on this important subject. They should be under their consideration before being issued.

(Signed) J. ARBUTHNOT

Exd. T. McMootry.

65.

Reply to letter from the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department, dated 15th December 1862, regarding the labelling of poisonous drugs.

The Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department, Madras, is directed to issue instructions to all Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries, Hospitals, and Civil or Military Depôts, to the effect that when medicines of a poisonous character are sent out from the Principal Depot at Madras, they shall be so labelled, and the following instructions shall be observed at the Dispensaries, Hospitals, and Civil or Military Depôts, in the opinion of the Government, in order to prevent any dangerous quality should be kept in a separate almirah, box or of the other drug placed that they cannot be taken with full The poison labels should be not only in Tamil and Telooquo, and it would be well if all bottles or at any rate the labels, were to be of some particular color, so that the nature be known at a glance. Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries, Hospitals, Depôts, Civil or Military, should be particularly careful to observe this order, and to particularly note in their reports how this order is carried out, and if they find during their tours that it has not been duly carried out, should remain at the station and see that it is carried out. This should extend to the labelling and packaging of all medicines, poisonous or otherwise, for it is evident that in some cases the dangerous character of the drugs has not been observed in the past, and the consequences, drugs actually poisonous.

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Section 7

Ind:

3. ... being printed as
notice in Public Court, viz

comprised ... Having access to
just records, I am unable to furnish
dates but, advent to this, to.
There was no want of attention on my part,
in the question under investigation.

4. It may happen, that on receipt of prescriptions
from the medical stores new bottles
may have been retained and old ones
removed, and, I venture to state that
if per cent bottles will be found
old ones, still bearing two labels and
one "Poison" attached to back
requiring it.

5. It is my practice to inspect the drugs for
as long as at the Hospital at ... etc.
now will satisfy you and I have nothing
to add in exonerating myself from any
 blame attaching to the late accident which
occurred at Calicut three months after
my relinquishing all charge and responsibility
in the Hospital.

Bangalore. I have the honor to be.
10th October 1872 Your Most Obedient Servant.
J. H. Channell
in the ...

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR GENERAL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
Fort St. George, 5 1862

From

M. Colburn

Principal Inspector General,
Medical Department,
Fort St.

To

Shutler

Secretary to Government,
Department,
Fort St. George

Sm,

8th Oct.

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Referring to the

Ans 1/2 No 22 36

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unless, notwithstanding
of the distinction made
and measure
know

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precautionary

to the poisonous articles; and Division

to them furnished

to all measures and

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Have the honor to be

Yours

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Yours
Principal, General
Department

Memo.

From V. S. Med Dept - 5 Nov. 1867.

This report and the representation on which it is based, disclose a state of affairs very unsatisfactory to the Medical Dept and not a little perilous to the general public - and I think whether it drops out, or far enough to being there -

It appears from Dr. Cole's letter that it has been the "usual way" for the Medical Dept to issue at Madison to issue

at Dept's poison on our drugs by wholesale without any label to denote its deadly character.

The up country depots to issue these dangerous medicines to local hospitals and dispensaries to out-see, say to "quit" from a most numerous

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at any rate labels on
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 poisoners have the same
 labels as for, so that the nature of the
 contents could be known at a glance.
 Medical officers in charge of Dispensaries,
 Hospitals or Medical Stores should
 be particularly careful to keep all
 periodically that the precautions have
 been observed in all places under their charge,
 and the Dep^y Secy^r should particularly
 be aware of the reports how this order has
 been obeyed, and if they find in the course
 of their tour that a number of drugs have
 been sent out, should see that the station
 and see it done. This indeed should
 extend to all labelling and arranging of
 all medicines, poisons, or other substances
 for it is well known that a wrong order of
 application of a wrong medicine, although
 not of a dangerous character, may be
 attended with fatal consequences, as in
 the giving of drugs actually poisonous.
 Nov 17. 1862 JF

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
 the Principal Secy^r
 General Secy^r

Nov 1862 No 204

the 15th December 1862 No 2030

The Government Council considers that the
 Surgeon General is
 responsible for the
 accident which
 forms the subject of the present
 examination of the stores referred
 to in the report of Dr. Flevell.
 It has been
 found that when so
 do was allowed
 to be unlabelled,
 as both Dr. Arnold and

[Handwritten signature]

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be issued for the
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of the 2^d Division Co. Ins.
3 His Excellency
Commissioner
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Madras, and are the
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safe keeping
dispensaries.
4 It appears from
Dr. Cole's letter that it has
been the "usual way" for
the Medical Officer
at Madras to issue to the
Provincial Doctors
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with a view to
designate their deadly
character. It has also
been "usual" for up
Country

con. of depots to receive
these drugs. The business
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and dispensa
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the rest harm
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that state has been
-for at the Calicut
S. Hospital at least
may be seen from
Cleveland's
he says that it
happen that on receipt
of first drugs from the
Medical Stores in bottles
(not labelled) may be
been
ones removed. Was
from the fact that when
this sad occurrence took
place, one half-

of the packet.
in the Sail Hospital con-
-taining deadly medicine.
had not the Poison label.
Dr. Cole has
issued orders that when
medicines of a poisonous
nature are sent
from the Principal Dr.
Hos. & Co. as, they
shall be so labelled
and that the same
shall be observed at
Diois
then issue there -
This is all so far
it goes - but in the opi-
-nion of His Excellency in
Council it does not go far
enough. All medicines
of a dangerous quality
shall be kept in a sepa-
-rate Almiraah, box
chest apart from the
other drugs and so placed
that they cannot be
taken

taken for use under with
Pl. Km. 2 Dec

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Hospitals or Medical De-
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reports periodically that
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" Depy: Ins. ent.
should be 'cula' to
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a. If they find in the
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it has not been duly
carried, it should be
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b. Labelling and arrange-
ing all medicines,
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it is evident
that in some disorders
the position of a
wrong medicine - altho'
not per dangerous
character.

- ed with as fatal conse-
quences, as in
of drugs actual

c. The Inspr.
Genl. of the Dep't
will lose no time pre-
paring instructions on
this important sub-
ject. They should be submit-
to Govt. for their
considera

Consideration
issued.

W. H.

to the Asst. Surg. Med Dept
" Mil. Dept. } dep-17th
" Master of Malabar }

W. H.

Johnston 1872 Sept 10

2030

How of the shadows
do we moulder.

15th Dec 1862.

2507

Choosing that class
to form Christian's friends
who were responsible for
the accident in the late steam
ing case at Fall River.
The N. York Herald of
Sept 20th gave an in-
teresting instruction for the
labelling of medicine
bottles and other articles
and advised them to put
their considerations.

1307731

cz. dew.
Rg"