

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th July 1863.*

No. 63. Read the following letter from ROBERT COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 16th June 1863, No. 119.

Referring to the Proceedings of Government indicated marginally,* I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that I deputed the Acting Inspector General of Hospitals to proceed to Chingleput and to report upon the circumstances attending the late outbreak of Cholera in the Jail of that place and the charges against the Medical Officer, which I feel called upon strongly to pronounce my opinion were ill-considered and groundless.

2. The charges resolve themselves into four heads—

1st.—The introduction of *new rice* for the diet of the prisoners. There is documentary evidence adduced, besides the positive declaration of Dr. Shortt, that he had, at various times, made strong representations on this point, and if positive orders, founded on the opinion of the Medical Officer, were infracted, the contractor and Jail officials must be blamed, for it is impossible that the Medical Officer can be looked to to see that every order is carried out, and the vigilance and attention to duty of Dr. Shortt are indisputable.

2nd.—The deposit of the *choleraic excreta* in the ground, with disinfectants, within the Jail yard. The Zillah Surgeon had a choice of two evils, and quite conscientiously adopted what he considered the least; there was danger in conveying these matters the circuitous road to the garden through inhabited places, Dr. Shortt considered it the greatest evil. I should not, nor, perhaps, would most people, and if Dr. Shortt erred, it was an error of judgment only.

3rdly.—The allegation of Dr. Shortt having carried on certain processes inimical to health within the Jail is too trifling for consideration.

4thly.—It is proved by correspondence that the Zillah Surgeon received no instructions from the Judge to be present when the Inspector General of Jails visited the prison, on the contrary he had Mr. Whiteside's express permission to leave the station, and Government are able to pronounce whether the Zillah Surgeon's presence on such occasions, unless by express desire of the Civil Officer under whom he specially is, is a matter of duty.

* Dated 8th June 1863.

3. Mr. Shaw's Report, and the documents† forwarded with it, are transmitted for the information of Government.

From JAMES SHAW, Esq., Acting Inspector General of Hospitals; to W. R. CORNISH, Esq., Secretary, Principal Inspector General Medical Department, dated 8th June 1863.

1. In obedience to the instructions received from the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, I proceeded to Chingleput, and after inspecting the Jail and the Jail Hospital, commenced an inquiry into the various matters connected with the conduct of the Medical Officer in charge, which have been brought to the notice of Government by the Inspector General of Jails.

2. I enclose Dr. Shortt's explanation, with copies of letters bearing upon the subject, this will render it unnecessary for me to enter so fully into the facts, as I otherwise would have done.

3. The charges are—1st, That "rice for some days before the outbreaking of the disorder (Cholera) was of bad quality, though the fact was never reported by the Zillah Surgeon or brought to my (Session Judge's) notice in any way."

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4. The charge of *knowingly* permitting bad rice to be issued is in no way borne out. Dr. Shortt's letter* to the Sessions Judge is conclusive upon this point, it shows distinctly that he had been in direct communication with that Officer upon the subject of the bad rice, although it may have escaped the latter's memory.

5. The second charge* is the burying of excrements of patients within the very limited "enclosed yard at the back of the Hospital."

6. The yard alluded to is bounded to the south by a high wall, (an old Rampart) the distance between which, and the Hospital verandah, is between 20 and 30 yards. The "well used" for drinking purposes by the patients is situated between the Rampart wall and verandah, and is about 8 or 10 yards distant from the place where the contents of the necessary were buried, and the same distance from the necessary itself.

7. Were the privy, the burying place, and the well joined by lines, they would form, as nearly as possible, an equilateral triangle, the well being the apex.

8. Dr. Shortt states that from the paucity of Toties and Police guards the contents of the privy were only removed once in *twenty-four hours*.

*2nd, That the distance from the Hospital Jail garden, where the ordure is usually deposited, is very considerable, requiring that it should be carried round a great part of the Jail, and that many individuals must then have been exposed to the effluvium from Cholera evacuations, some of which had been passed many hours previously; and, 3rdly, Dr. Shortt says that he was

borne out in what he did by paragraph 58 of Hathaway's Punjab Sanatory Report (quoted in the margin) which is now an accepted authority.

58. Another very necessary caution is not to let the trenches be too far off, so as to prevent the carts from making three trips, at least, every day. By the previous vicious system, the whole accumulation of the day remains in the latrines from 7 o'clock in the morning till 5 or 6 in the evening, and it is here where the real danger lurks during an outbreak of Cholera. It should be remembered that the object is to remove the excreta rapidly and frequently, and the plan of burial in the trenches is so thoroughly effectual, that it is far better, in a sanitary point of view, to have the trenches half a mile distant, and thus be able to clear away all refuse matter three times a day, than to take it double that distance, and only make one journey per diem. This mistake I find existing at every station, and it is a very serious one. In our jails, all the refuse is buried in the garden, and being rapidly decomposed, from the shallow depth of ground it occupies, no inconvenience is ever experienced.

Dr. Shortt informs me that there was only one Toty allotted to the Jail Hospital, even during the prevalence of Cholera. I understood from him that he knew from the paucity of sweepers he could not get more; but I could not satisfy myself that when the Cholera broke out he had urged

* The letter, No. 78, 1st April marked H, and letter 17th April marked I.

the necessity of increased assistance, but he did apply for prisoners to dig the pits in which the excrements were to be buried.

10. I do not feel that I would be justified in asserting that, under the circumstances, but circumstances which never ought to have been permitted to exist; Dr. Shortt did not pursue the safer course in giving the orders which he did. These orders were evidently given after full consideration, and if there has been an error, it was merely one of judgment.

11. I have expressed to Dr. Shortt my opinion that the practise would be highly objectionable, except under circumstances over which he had no control. In this case he ought to have insisted upon the proper assistance being rendered, and had it been denied, it was his duty to have brought the subject to the notice of his Medical superior.

12. I also pointed out that paragraph 58 of Dr. Hathaway's Report contemplated that the pits should be at a much greater distance from the Hospital, than existed in the case under report.

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"Dry conservancy is nominally carried out in the Hospital privy, but it is worse than ridiculous to call it so, if the contents are only carried off once or even twice in twenty-four hours. The smell from it is very offensive, the chunam and bricks having become saturated with urine, &c., and from it, as from the place where its contents were buried "it is only natural to suppose that much that is noxious must percolate through the intervening soil into it" (the well.)

13. The necessary ought not to have been placed in such proximity to the well.

14. The third charge against the Zillah Surgeon is "contumacious refusal to discontinue the practise when the Sessions Judge noticed it."

15. Dr. Shortt in his letter, dated 23rd April, No. 97, marked L, says "I should be obliged to do the same thing again if sickness visited the Jail in an epidemic form as the safest plan, and that now considered the best, by most Medical men, is that of rendering the secretions innocuous by certain appliances and burying it immediately, which under existing arrangements could not otherwise be done with safety; even if it were possible, I consider it safer to bury these secretions at once in the vicinity than to have them carried about the Fort."

16. The expression "contumacious" cannot apply to language such as is given in this letter. Dr. Shortt states his honest opinion, the Sessions Judge does not agree with him, and asks the Inspector General of Jails "to give expression to your" (his) "views on the subject."

17. In speaking to Mr. Phillips upon the charges brought by the Inspector General of Jails, he said he had no intention of bringing Dr. Shortt's conduct to the notice of Government, and spoke in the highest terms of the Zillah Surgeon's professional zeal.

18. With reference to the fourth charge,* of Dr. Shortt disregarding the most ordinary precautions, &c., I requested Mr. Phillips to give me any information he could upon this point. Mr. Phillips said nothing of the sort had even come under his notice, that he had certainly, when sickness occurred in Jail, recommended that the cleaning of the fibres in the Jail Hospital should be discontinued.

19. With reference to the last complaint by Mr. Rohde against the Zillah Surgeon, which inferentially charges him with want of personal respect. Dr. Shortt showed me a private note from Mr. Whiteside, in which, when granting him permission to go to Madras, he regrets his going as he had hoped to have had him at dinner to meet Mr. Rohde, but in it said nothing about meeting him at the Jail.

Copy of Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 752, dated 18th May 1863, is herewith returned.

(Signed) JAMES SHAW,
Acting Inspector General of Hospitals

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon Chingleput; to J. SHAW, Esq., Acting Inspector General of Hospitals, Madras, dated Chingleput, 3rd June 1863, No. 109.

I was much surprised on reading the Proceedings of Government, with reference to the very serious charges brought against me by the Inspector General of Jails, on the representation of the Civil and Sessions Judge of Chingleput. These comprise—

1st. That rice of an indifferent quality was served out for three days prior to the outbreak of Cholera and that I had taken no notice of it.

2nd. The burying of excrements from the Hospital patients by my orders in the Hospital yard and in the immediate vicinity of a well used by the patients.

3rd. Contumacious conduct on my part in refusing to discontinue the practice when the Sessions Judge noticed it.

4th. That Mr. Whiteside reported my disregard to the most ordinary precautions, that I had introduced some of my noxious processes in the arts into the Hospital building, and that the Judge had since insisted on its removal.

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5th. That I was not present when the Inspector General of Jails visited Chingleput, although warned by Mr. Whiteside that he was about to visit the Jail on that day. I had gone to Madras and that the Inspector General of Jails had no opportunity of speaking to me on the subject. These constitute the principal charges brought against me, I am happy to refute or explain them all, and with your permission will take them in order—

First. That rice of an indifferent quality was served out for three days prior to the outbreak of Cholera and that I had taken no notice of it. In reply to this charge I beg to state, that from the time I joined my civil appointment, I have had occasion repeatedly to bring, in person, to the notice of the Judges, who were at different times in charge of the Jails, the use of "new rice" in the Jail, of which the prisoners frequently complained; and I had reason to believe that the rice did disagree with the prisoners, this subject I not only brought yearly as the season came round to the Judge's notice, but also mentioned it in my Annual Medical Reports,* and I beg distinctly to assert that I had personally mentioned to Mr. Phillips the subject of new rice before the appearance of Cholera, and after the outbreak finding that the new rice was still in use, I addressed the Judge on the 1st of April 1863 on the subject, vide copy of letter marked A and his answer marked B, which of itself proves that I mentioned the matter and no later than yesterday, 1st June, I wrote a chit to the Judge on the subject.

* Vide Annual Reports for 1860-61.
" " " " 1861-62.
" " " " 1862-63.

Second. With reference to the burial of excrements, &c. As the system of flushing out the Hospital privy was in vogue, I put a stop to it at once, as the excrement was washed out into the trench at the back of the ramparts, that hemmed the western part of the Hospital compound, where mixed with putrifying vegetable substances in the trench and exposed to the atmosphere it was causing fevers which was then prevalent in the Jails, and as there was a difficulty, (as there always is owing to the Police arrangements) about bringing Scavengers from the Jail to remove the night soil, I ordered its burial in the compound, daily myself superintending the same during my visits at the Hospital. In acting thus I was carrying out what I considered the best arrangement that could, under existing circumstances, be made, and in which opinion I am supported by some of the ablest medical men, and by Dr. Hathaway's able report, Vide paragraph 58, page 231, Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science, Volume VI, No. IX†. Now the place where the night soil was buried by my order is about the same distance to the well as the privy and consequently of the two, the plan I adopted was, I still think, the best and safest; and this was only carried out for a few days in January last, until the arrangement of bringing in the Jail Scavengers, to take away the night soil was adopted.

Vide extract appended.

When Cholera broke out in the latter end of March, it appeared to me the safest plan to have the excretions buried at once in the vicinity, for if I had to send it out, it would have to remain some twenty-four hours ere it was carried away, and then would have to pass in the vicinity of the Court House, between the Jailor's house, and the prisoners' cooking sheds, divided only by a road, and then pass the prisoners' night wards, ere it would reach the Jail gardens; the road leading from the Hospital to which is a thoroughfare, through which people are constantly passing and re-passing, and in my humble opinion it did not appear safe, that the excretions after remaining for twenty-four hours should then be carried through a common thoroughfare, consequently I adopted the system of burying the night soil, with proper precautions‡ in the Hospital compound.

Vide Annual Report for 1862 and 1863.

On the system of burying the night soil was first adopted in January last, nothing was said about it, and only when I had occasion to complain of the negligence of the Jailor, it would appear that this countercharge against me. On the 2nd of April when complaining

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to Mr. Phillips of the inefficient execution of my orders he mentioned to me that, "a charge" was pending against me, and although both in person and by letter I pressed him to inform me of the nature of the charge* he refused to enlighten me on the subject, though the "nuisance" was going on at the time† and it was not until sometime after the cessation of Cholera, and on the 17th April that I received the letter marked I, and my reply thereto is appended marked J. I would beg to state that Mr. Phillips did not at any time personally inspect and visit the locality, but depended entirely on the statements of the Jailor and others; in fact during Mr. Phillips' incumbency he has only visited the Hospital twice, and can therefore have no personal experience in the matter as to the suitability, or otherwise of the locality.

* Vide Letter marked H.

† Vide Letters, C, D, E, F, and G.

On Mr. Phillips' first visit to the Hospital he complained of a foul smell, which, I then pointed out as arising from the ill constructed and objectionable site of the privy.

I believe he sent for the Hospital Warder and Sweeper to the Court, and received their statements against me. I would respectfully beg to draw attention to this fact. I was prepared and ready to give Mr. Phillips any information he needed, or he might have personally inspected the spot, and have obtained the necessary information instead of seeking it from menials, who are placed directly under my orders, in a measure damaging to me.

Third. Contumacious conduct, &c. Had Mr. Phillips ordered or even expressed his objections to the burying of the night soil, I should have adopted whatever other arrangement he might have suggested at once. But I was told nothing about it until after the whole affair had passed over, when he at last on the 17th April 1863, wrote and informed me what the charge against me was.

I stated my opinions, and also that in the event of Cholera again breaking out I should be obliged to resort to the same system again as the safest, unless some other and better could be carried out. Vide letters marked K and L.

Fourth. That Mr. Whiteside reported my disregard, &c. I was only here during two and a half months of Mr. Whiteside's incumbency, and am quite at a loss to know how he could bring such a charge against me; for during that short period I had occasion to write to him the two letters marked M and N, which does not show my disregard to the most ordinary precautions. I had various fibres prepared in one end of the verandah of an empty ward. Mr. Whiteside himself was not only aware of the fact but allowed me the use of a few prisoners for that express purpose. Mr. Phillips allowed me to do so for the London Exhibition of 1862, and allowed it to be carried out occasionally, till Mr. Phillips said, "I had better discontinue it and allowed it to be carried out occasionally, till Mr. Phillips said, "I had better discontinue it during the prevalence of Cholera, in the Jail," when I gave it up.

Fifth. That I was not present when the Inspector General of Jails, &c. With reference to this point I beg to state that I never at any time received either official or private intimation of Mr. Rhode's visits to the Jail except perhaps in course of ordinary conversation, nor was I aware that I was expected to be present on such occasions. On two former occasions, hearing accidentally that Mr. Rhode was inspecting the Jail, I went in and beyond the usual recognition he took no notice of me; in fact so far from speaking to me on any point, he seemed to consider me in the light of an intruder, and consequently I left. I was never "warned" by Mr. Whiteside of Mr. Rhode's visit in a private chit; he casually mentioned that he was expected and had hoped that I should meet him at dinner the next day, but having to meet a gentleman in consultation about a sick relative, and as the call was emergent I left. Mr. Whiteside having given me leave to go to Madras as of itself sufficient to show that he did not think it necessary that I should meet Mr. Rhode. I have never left the Station without the permission of the Judge, except on duty, when I have always reported my departure officially and stated the nature of the duty I was going on.

Trusting that this explanation will suffice; I leave the matter in your hands; having inspected the locality and scrutinized the whole of the correspondence, you will be able to decide whether or not I was wrong in the burial of the night soil, or otherwise wanting in duty to the Judge.

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Extract from the Administration Report of the Collector of Madras for the year ending 30th April 1863.

Vaccination.—Paragraph 16. The Vaccination returns show a very large increase of persons vaccinated during the year under report.

This very satisfactory result is owing to the active supervision exercised over the Vaccinators by Dr. Shortt, the Civil Surgeon of Chingleput, and to the great personal influence which that Officer has obtained in this District. I may also mention that owing to Dr. Shortt's exertions a Dispensary has this year been established at the large and populous town of Conjeeveram.

Cotton Cultivation.—Paragraph 19. I regret that I am unable to report any extension in the cultivation of Cotton in this District. A commencement has, however, been made in instructing the ryots on the subject of this cultivation by Dr. Shortt at Chingleput, and no opportunity has been lost of circulating by means of the District Gazette, information on this important subject.

MADRAS, COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
SYDAPETT, 23rd May 1863.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Collector.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Collector.

Forwarded for the information of the Zillah Surgeon of Chingleput.
(True Copy of an Extract.)

(Signed) J. SHAW,
Acting Inspector General of Hospitals.

A.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon; to the Civil and Sessions Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 1st April 1863, No. 77.

I have the honor to bring to your notice that on visiting the Store rooms at 9 A. M. this morning in the Jail, there were none other but new rice in Store, a sample of which I beg to send with this letter. I bring the circumstances to your notice as I understood from you that no new rice was to be served to the prisoners, but old rice was to be procured and a supply secured for the use of the prisoners.

B.

From A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Session Judge; to the Zillah Surgeon, dated 1st April 1863.

In acknowledging receipt of your letter of this date, complaining of there being no old rice in Store, I beg to say that all the old rice that was procurable in the town was bought up and served out to the prisoners yesterday and the day before. An agreement was also taken from the merchants to furnish old rice to the Jail for 15 days under a penalty, if they fail the penalty will be enforced, and I can do no more.

The Sub-Magistrate has been instructed to assist in procuring all the old rice he can, and understand stopped and secured a bandy load this morning, which I trust ere this is at the Jail. The new rice which you say is in the Store shall be turned out at once, and I have desired the Sheristadar to do it is, and to report the same to me.

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C.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon; to the Civil and Session Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 2nd April 1863, No. 83.

Having heard from you yesterday morning in course of conversation that, "charges were made against me by some person or persons," I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to furnish me with a copy of the nature of these charges and the names of the parties who have made them, to enable me to ascertain their nature and correctness, and if necessary that I may be prepared to meet the same.

D.

From A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Session Judge; to the Zillah Surgeon, dated 2nd April 1863.

In reply to your letter, No. 83, just received, I have the honor to state that certain facts have been mentioned to me which will need inquiring into, and that you shall be furnished with them and the names of the parties who brought them to my notice in sufficient time, and with every opportunity given you to disprove them.

E.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon; to the Civil and Session Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 2nd April 1863, No. 84.

In reply to your letter just received, it is stated that certain facts have been mentioned to you which will need inquiry into, and that I shall be furnished with them, and the names of the parties who brought them to your notice in sufficient time, and with every opportunity given me to disprove them. I am entirely in the dark as to these facts, and I consider no time so suitable as the present for making these known or if need be inquiring into them, as it will give both my accusers and myself the opportunity of proving or disproving these at once.

As it is contrary to all rule and principle to receive a charge against any one, and after apprizing him of an impending "charge" to keep him in ignorance as to the nature of the same. As you were pleased to set aside my request to be informed at once of the nature of these facts. I now claim as a right that you will have the kindness to make me acquainted with the same immediately.

F.

From A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Session Judge; to the Zillah Surgeon, dated 2nd April 1863.

In reply to your letter, No. 84, just received, I beg to say, that in my opinion it is not advisable to hold any inquiry into the truth of the statements made at present, at the same time, I can assure you that a delay of a few days cannot affect the case or operate in the slightest degree to your disadvantage, and this being the case I must decline to hold any further communication on the subject.

G.

From J. SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon; to the Civil and Sessions Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 2nd April 1863, No. 85.

In your letter just received you state that it is inadvisable to hold any inquiry into the statements made against me at present; admitting such to be the case why not inform me as to the nature of the statements and leave the inquiry for a subsequent period. At a time when I have to endure great anxiety of mind and fatigue of body in the public discharge of my duties, I am to have the additional cause of disquietude in some secret charge impending over me and of which I am to be kept in ignorance for some days apparently, and now you decline either to enlighten me or to hold communication on the subject, consequently I am placed under the painful necessity of submitting copies of the correspondence that has transpired on the subject immediately to my Medical superiors and seek their advice in the matter for I cannot allow of any

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secret imputation to stand against me for a moment and be denied the opportunity of defending myself.

N. B.—In consequence of a private chit from the Judge expressing friendly feelings, I did not submit the correspondence as originally intended.

H.

From J. SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon; to the Civil and Sessions Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 1st April 1863, No. 78.

I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to nominate some person to wait at the Hospital with a supply of clothing to be issued out to the patients as called for, and to supply such other extra articles of diet I may consider necessary for the sick, and to furnish perishable articles in the shape of straw, chunam, chatties, charcoal, &c., which may be required from time to time. This will prevent unnecessary delay and will not take up my time in having to address you on each occasion.

The two Warders and four orderly prisoners now attached to the Hospital are fully occupied in attendance on the sick. Under these circumstances I would beg to suggest the advisability of detaching four other prisoners to wait at the Hospital, to keep the place clean, to excavate pits for the burial of the evacuations constantly passing from Cholera patients, and to give such other assistance as may be required.

I.

From A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Session Judge of Chingleput; to Surgeon JOHN SHORTT, M. D., Zillah Surgeon, dated 17th April 1863.

With reference to your letter of 2nd April 1863, No. 83, and my reply to it, of the same date, I have the honor to request that you will let me know if, as alleged by the Jailor and others, the night soil has been in the habit, till lately, of being buried *within* the Hospital compound, and in close proximity to the wards and the well used for Hospital purposes.

The reason I have delayed to put this question sooner, was, because in the event of your saying it had *not* been done, it would have been necessary in order to prove the falseness of the allegation to dig up the spot immediately, and this while Cholera prevailing would, I need scarcely say, have been attended with much risk.

J.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput; to A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Session Judge, Chingleput, dated 20th April 1863, No. 96.

With reference to your letter, No. 165 of 1863 of the 17th instant, I have the honor to state in reply that about the time I recommended to you the burial of the night soil from the prisoners' privies in the Jail instead of its being flushed out as had been the practice before, introduced the same system in the Jail Hospital, and as some difficulty existed about the removal of the night soil for the first few days, I directed its burial in the Hospital having myself previously examined the excavations and used such precaution as I thought necessary to render the same perfectly innocuous, and during my daily visit to the Hospital these places were personally visited by me to see that my orders were strictly carried out, and as soon as other arrangement could be made they were removed from the Hospital privies daily to the Jail garden I believe.

There was no secrecy in the matter, it was done openly and while I was at the Hospital, so that there was no necessity for my being kept in suspense with reference to a "charge" made against me.

Had the Jailor and others reported the occurrence at the time it occurred they would have been doing their duty; but I regret to observe that they only complained when I had cause to speak of the unsatisfactory and negligent manner in which some of my suggestions which you were pleased to order to be carried out were executed, thus as it were in a spirit of recrimination bringing a countercharge against me and endeavouring to make it appear that I produced the

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disease then prevalent in the Jail; I need not point out to you the enormity of such a charge, but will leave the matter in your hands resting satisfied that you will deal with the parties in a manner that will prevent a recurrence.

K.

From A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Sessions Judge of Chingleput; to Assistant Surgeon J. SHORTT, M. D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 20th April 1863, No. 170.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date in reply to mine of the 17th instant, and I observe that it contains the admission that the night soil had been buried in the Hospital compound and that consequently the allegation of the Jailor was not without foundation.

2. I need scarcely say that I consider the burial of such deposits within a few feet of the Hospital Wards, and in close proximity to the well, even for a few days to have been most objectionable, and on this point, I think, there cannot be two opinions.

3. In reply to the remark in the 2nd paragraph of your letter, that what was done was done openly, allow me to point out that no one has accused you of doing any thing secretly, and that for the delay in instituting an inquiry I think I have given full and satisfactory reasons in my last.

4. In conclusion and in answer to the 3rd paragraph, I beg to observe that whatever might have been the feeling which prompted the Jailor to speak of these deposits at the time you allude to, he had on a previous occasion brought the fact to my notice, though it afterwards slipped my memory.

L.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon; to A. W. PHILLIPS, Esq., Sessions Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 23rd April 1863, No. 97.

With reference to your letter, dated 20th and received on the noon of the 22nd instant, I have the honor to state in reply that I do not consider the objection you make to the burial of the night soil (under peculiar circumstances) in the Hospital compound with the precautions used; it was the best method I could have carried out without reference to the vicinity of the wards. I should be obliged to do the same thing again if sickness visited the Jail in an epidemic form, as the safest plan, and that now considered the best by most Medical men is, that of rendering the excretions innocuous by certain appliances and burying it immediately, which under existing arrangements could not otherwise be done with safety even if it were possible; I consider it safer to bury these secretions at once in the vicinity than to have them carried about the Fort.

With reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of your letter I beg to state that your allowing the allegation of the Jailor when first made against me to escape your memory of itself implies that you did not consider it deserving of that importance which has subsequently been given to it, nor can I see the necessity for its being afterwards brought as a "charge" against me and allowed to stand over so long causing me much anxiety from being kept in ignorance of the subject of it.

M.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput; to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Civil and Sessions Judge, Chingleput, dated Chingleput, 1862, No. 61.

I have the honor to bring to your notice the extremely dirty and ragged state in which the prisoners who report sick are in. Their cloths are as offensive as they can be, which if allowed to exist are likely to breed vermin as well as to cause sickness in the Jail. Herewith I beg to sub-

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mit for your inspection a few cloths taken off some of the prisoners in Hospital this morning. In an Hospital it is necessary to preserve the utmost cleanliness which it is impossible to do under the present state of things, I therefore beg to request that you will kindly be pleased to issue the necessary orders on this subject.

N.

From JOHN SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput; to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Civil and Sessions Judge, Chingleput, dated 11th September 1862, No. 35.

With reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I have the honor to state that I this morning minutely examined the new Jail wards and find that some parts of the flooring are very damp. The dampness seems to have been caused by the late rains whilst the roof was being removed. It would not be safe to allow the prisoners to occupy the wards, whilst the flooring continues damp, to remedy which I beg to suggest that a fire be kindled to allow of the moisture being absorbed.

The bricklayer Maistry suggests that the floor should be plastered with cow-dung, which he confidently asserts will remove the moisture.

I would also suggest that the flooring be covered with dry sand to the thickness of an inch, of which there is plenty outside the wards, and the prisoners be supplied with sleeping mats for a short while.

I leave it to you to decide which of the three modes here pointed out you think advisable to remedy the dampness of the floor; if either of these be adopted the prisoners might occupy the night wards with perfect safety.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) JOHN SHORTT, M. D.,
Zillah Surgeon.

Extract from the Punjab Sanatory Report.

Paragraph 58. Another very necessary caution is not to let the trenches be too far off, so as to prevent the carts from making three trips at least every day. By the present vicious system the whole accumulation of the day remain in the latrines from 7 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening, and it is here where the real danger lurks during an outbreak of Cholera. It should be remembered that the object is to remove the excreta rapidly and frequently, and the plan of burial in the trenches is so thoroughly effectual that it is far better in a sanitary point of view to have the trenches half a mile distant and thus be able to clear away all refuse matters three times a day than to take it double that distance, and only to make one journey per diem. This mistake I find existing at every station and it is a very serious one. In our Jails all the refuse is buried in the garden and being rapidly decomposed from the shallow depth of ground it occupies no inconvenience is ever experienced.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) JOHN SHORTT, M. D.,
Zillah Surgeon.

ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1863, No. 1,090.

The Government concur with the Inspector General Medical Department, in considering the explanation now submitted of the statements regarding Dr. Shortt's conduct as Medical Officer in charge of the Jail at Chingleput to be sufficient. It is clear that with regard to the only point which seems to have required reference to superior authority Dr. Shortt acted to the best of his judgment in the way that he considered best for the health of those under his charge.

2. The Government desire that immediate steps be taken to open some less objectionable route by which to remove the Hospital refuse, either as suggested by Dr. Shaw by opening a

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th July 1863.*

door in the wall of the compound or in any other way that may be found practicable. They observe that the bad conservancy of the Jail noticed by Dr. Shaw will be remarked upon in his report on the Jail.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. T. McMootry.

July 29th June

My dear Sir
Arbutnot
tells me that you have
got the Papers about
Rocke & Phillips
England against
Dr. Short. I find I
have made a mistake
take up & come over
that a poor scholar
has been put in
the way of the
H. R. Commission

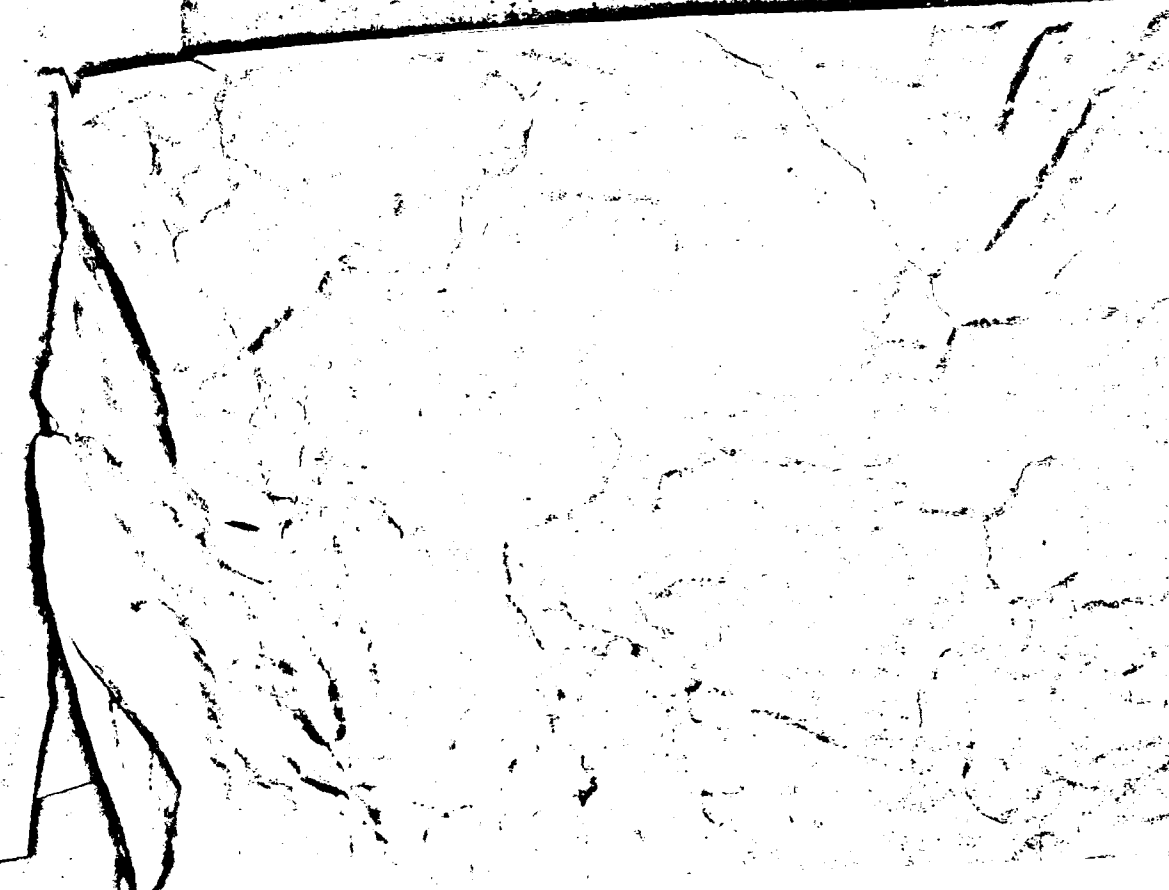
Yours
J. J.

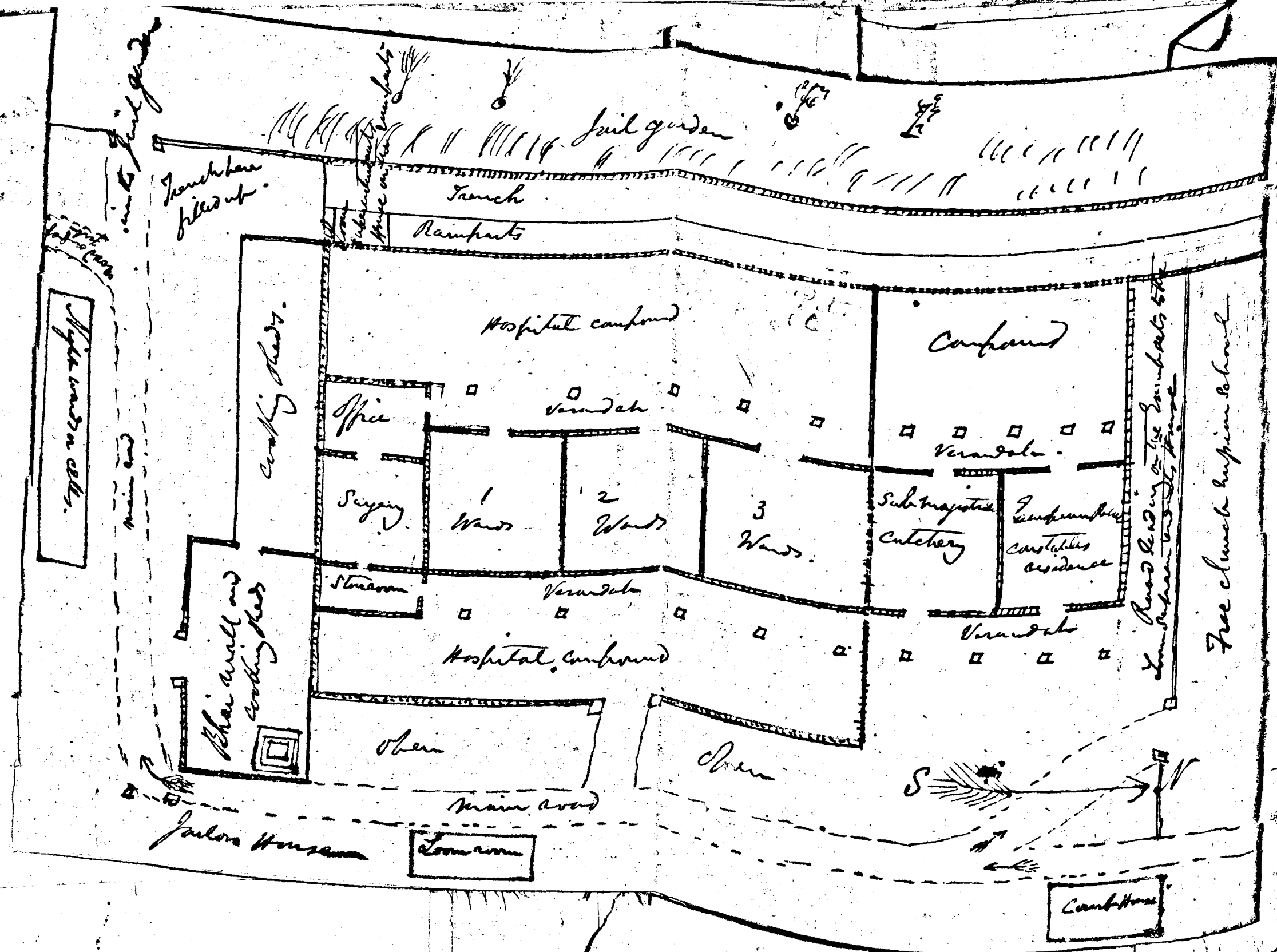
Quite unsuitable for a greater harbor
 of the year it is filled with water -
 mainly by heaving the trench having
 to crop for the after tunnel they
 breaking through the rock bed the
 trench will have to be filled in so as
 to throw a road across to get to the
 jail garden -
 The same road leads to the trench
 behind the building entered the south
 of the wall on the south the prisoners
 resting shed and on the North
 the Sub Magistrate's office and
 next to the Indian School divided
 by a road that leads to the
 fire conduits to the road to
 Jailor's house that was now occupied

by the Town Superintendent -
 The road is a path of the old track
 from the north to the south
 passing by the old school
 and the old jail

Believe me
 Yours sincerely
 J. H. Shaw
 Changleburt 21st June 1863 -

J. Shaw
 & & &





With

No.

From the Principal Insp. Genl. Med. Dept.
Dated 16th June 1863. N. 119.
For Orders.

The explanation seems to me to
be sufficient -

Immediate steps should be
taken for opening the door in the
wall of the Hospital compound
as recommended by Dr Shaw &
then striking all occasion for
further burying of soil in the com-
-pound.

24 June.

J.P.

Amended Minutes

21

Chief of Police. Inspector General
Police. District Police

For Order

→ and to meet in a meeting
- in a meeting

to submit the statement of
the Inspector General of Police
to the Government. The statement
of the Inspector General of Police
is submitted to the Government
for their consideration. The
Government have considered the
statement and have decided to
order the Inspector General of
Police to take the necessary
steps to improve the
management of the
prison.

Judicial Department.

29

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter
from the Principal Inspector General
Medical Department Fort St. George.

(Received 16th June 1863 No. 119)

Order thereon 8th July 1863 No. 1090

The Government concur with
the Inspector General Medical Departt
in considering the explanation now sub-
mitted of the statements regarding
G^d Shortt's conduct as Medical officer
in charge of the Jail at Chingulput to
be sufficient. It is clear that with re-
gard to the only point which seems to
have required reference to superior authority
G^d Shortt acted to the best of his judge-
ment in the way that he considered
best for the health of those under his
charge.

With

741
 The purpose
 of the
 Commission

2 The Govt desire that im-
 mediate steps be taken to
 open
 location some less objectionable
 road & if possible
 route for by which to remove
 the Hospital refuse either
 as suggested by Dr Shaw
 by opening a door in
 the wall of the compound
 or in any other way that
 may be found practicable.

They observe that that the
 bad conservancy of the jail
 noticed by Dr Shaw will
 be remarked upon in his
 report on the jail.

b. H. H.

to the Pol. Genl. Med. Reports }
 " Int. General of Chile }
 " Dr. Shaw, Acting Inspector }
 General of Hospitals. }
 dec'd-15
 5

2 With reference to the remarks
 of Dr Shaw in Para 10. of his report
 that the opening of a door in the
 wall of the Hospital compound would
 enable the refuse to be carried into
 the Jail Garden direct, the Government
 desire that the practicality of doing
 this may be enquired into. If practi-
 cable Dr Shaw's suggestion should
 be carried out at once. It is observed
 that the bad conservancy of the Jail
 noticed by Dr Shaw will be remarked
 upon in his Report on the Jail.

b. H. H.

McClellan 10
 Shaw 1000

Pro. July

Indicative 1863. Department.

No. 1090

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 8th Feb 1863.
J. H. 2000.

Considering sufficient
the explanation of the
short in regard to his
conduct do the special
Officer on the second
occasion when the
last out in the
Chungking fail.

63464

Pro. only

Pro. only
1863. Department.

No. 109

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 8 Feb/53.
St. A. 2000.

Considering sufficient
the explanation of St. A.
about in regard to his
conduct do previous
Officer on the recent
occasion when Cholera
broke out in the
Chungking Jail.

[Signature]
Approved
[Signature]

03464