

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	31	Press
		~~Mis.~~
33-34		
Dated	10.1.1863	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
10th January 1863.*

No. 33. Read the following letter from R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd December 1862, No. 234.

In acknowledging receipt of Proceedings of Government and Order thereon, dated 15th December 1862, No. 2,030, I have the honor, in obedience thereto, to submit the following directions which I propose to issue to my Department on the subject of poisonous drugs in the Stores.

2. I beg to point out, with reference to the observations of Government as to poisonous drugs not having a precautionary word affixed in the Store Depôts, that there no *dispensing* takes place; the drugs are there *in bulk*, at the Presidency Depôt in the state in which they are received from Europe from the Manufacturer or Druggist, without any mark to indicate deleterious qualities; and very many are transferred, in the bottles, &c., in which they are originally received, to the Divisional Stores. It is evident that danger lies only when these medicines come to be *dispensed*, and therefore the rule to indicate the poisonous quality of a drug, has hitherto been restricted to medicines in Hospitals and Dispensaries, where the Medical Officer in charge is ordered to see the mark affixed. Too much care, however, can hardly be used, and the instructions of Government will in future be carried out, and all issues from the General Depôt to the Provinces will be marked, and labels will be supplied to affix to poisonous drugs sent out for administration.

RULES REGARDING THE CUSTODY OF POISONOUS DRUGS.

1. The Medical Storekeeper of the General Depôt at Madras, and all Divisional Storekeepers, are enjoined not to issue any drugs which have been known to cause death, or to give rise to accidents in dispensing, without the word POISON, in large printed characters, being affixed to the bottle, vessel or box containing the drug. The word *poison* should invariably be in *larger characters* than the names of the medicines.

2. For this purpose the Medical Storekeeper at the Presidency will provide himself with *labels* printed on yellow paper, with the word "Poison" in large English characters, and in Tamil, Telooogo, and Hindoostani, to affix to all bottles, &c., containing such articles which he issues; and he will send with his supplies to Divisional Storekeepers labels, of convenient size, to suit smaller bottles and vessels, which the latter Officers are held responsible for having affixed to all their issues to Hospitals.

3. In Hospitals and Dispensaries these medicines will be kept separate from all others, in a box or drawer, and the latter also shall have the word POISONS affixed, and no other drugs shall be kept therein. When medicines are in large quantity, as Tint. of Opium, of course it will be necessary to keep apart only the phial from which the medicine is being used for prescriptions, the bulk of the Tincture being put out of the way on the upper shelf of the Almirah.

4. Medical Officers will, in their Annual Reports on their charge, certify in a *foot note*, to the following effect:—I certify that the orders respecting the custody of poisonous drugs, issued by the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, dated December 1862, are fully carried out; and Deputy Inspectors General will, in their Annual Inspection Reports, in reporting on the condition of medicines, state whether these orders are obeyed in the case of all poisonous drugs; and it is to be understood that, in such cases as they may find them unattended to, they will enter the circumstance in their reports, and (if at an out-station) not leave the place without seeing the order fulfilled. In their weekly visits to Hospitals at Head Quarters, they will occasionally examine the medicines with reference to this point.

(Signed) R. COLE,
Principal Inspector General Medical Department.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 10th January 1863, No. 31.

The rules submitted with the foregoing letter are approved subject to the following additions and alterations.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
10th January 1863.

2. At the end of rule 2 the words "and Dispensaries" should be added, and then the following sentence should be introduced. "On the labels affixed to bottles containing poisonous medicines intended for use at places where Malayalam or Canarese is the Vernacular language of the District as at Calicut, Cannanore, Mangalore or Bangalore, the word poison should be printed in such Vernacular language as well as in English, Tamil, Telugu and Hindustani.

3. At the end of rule 3 for the words "on the upper shelf of the Almirah" the words "in a box carefully locked," should be substituted. It appears to the Government to be inexpedient that poisonous medicines should be kept in the same Almirah as ordinary medicines even in bulk.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. McMootry.

Rules regarding the custody of Poisonous Drugs.

1. The Medical Storekeeper of the General Hospital at Madras, and all Divisional Storekeepers, are enjoined not to issue any drugs which have been known to cause death, or to give rise to accidents in dispensing, without the word Poison, in large printed characters, being affixed to the bottle, vessel or box containing the drug. The word poison should invariably be in larger characters than the names of the medicines.

2. For this purpose the Medical Storekeeper at the Presidency will provide himself with labels printed on yellow paper, with the word "Poison" in large English characters, and in Tamil, Telugu and Hindustani, to affix to all bottles &c. containing such articles which he issues; and he will send with his supplies to Divisional Storekeepers labels, of convenient sizes to suit smaller bottles and vessels, which the latter officers are held responsible for having affixed to all their issues to Hospitals, &c.

3. In Hospitals and Dispensaries these medicines will be kept separate from all others, in a box or ~~chest~~, and the latter also shall have the word Poisons affixed, and no other drugs shall be kept therein. When medicines are in large quantity, as Tinct. of Opium, of course it will be necessary

to keep apart only the phial from which the medicine
is being used for prescriptions, the bulk of the medicine
being put out of the way on the upper shelf of the
Apothecary.

Medical Officers will, in their Annual
Reports on their charge, certify, in a particular,
to the following effect:—I certify that the orders
respecting the custody of Poisonous Drugs,
issued by the Principal Inspector General Medi-
cal Department, dated December 1862, are fully
carried out; and Deputy Inspectors General will,
in their Annual Inspection Reports, in reporting on
the condition of the medicines, state whether these
orders are obeyed in the case of all poisonous
drugs; and it is to be understood that, in such cases
as they may find them unattended to, they will enter
the circumstance in their Reports, and (if at an out-
station) not leave the place without seeing the
order fulfilled. In their Weekly Visit to Hospitals
at Head Quarters, they will occasionally examine
the medicines with reference to this point.

W. H. A.
Principal Inspector General
Med. Dept.

W. H. A.

No. 3

The rules submitted
with the foregoing
letter are approved
& sanctioned.

W. H. A.
Approved & sanctioned
to the Secretary
General
17th Dec 1862
W. H. A.

The Principal Inspector
Genl., Medl. Dept.
" Chlly. Dept.
" Publ: "

7/5
The enclosed letter will
be forwarded by the
Commissioner of the
Madras District.

4
Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letter from the Principal
Secty. to the Govt.
Secty. to the Govt.

(See entry 22nd Decr 1862 N^o 234)

Order thereon 10th January 1862 N^o 31.

The rules submitted
with the foregoing letter are
approved subject to the
following additions and alter-
ations.

2. At the end of rule 2 the
words "and dispensaries"
should be added, and then
the following sentence should
be introduced. "On the label
affixed to bottles containing
poisonous medicines in-
tended for use at places
where Malayalam or Can-
nada is the Vernacular language
of

of the District as at Calicut
Cananore Mangalore or
Bangalore the word poison
should be printed in such
vernacular language as
will as in English, Tamil
Telugu and Hindustani.

3 At the end of rule 3rd
the words "on the upper shelf
of the Almirah" the words
"in a box carefully locked"
should be substituted. It
appears to the Government
to be inexpedient that
poisonous medicines should
be kept in the same Almi-
rah as ordinary medicines
~~are~~ in bulk.

[Signature]

The Prince of Wales
Med. Dept.
Public Dept.
Mily Dept.

Sept 13

