

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	932	Press
		~~Mis.~~
136-137		
Dated	13.6.1863	45

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

932

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
13th June 1863.*

No. 136. Read the following letter from J. ROHDE, Esq., Inspector General of Jails; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry on Circuit, 28th May 1863, No. 26.

The enclosed letter in justification of the conduct of Dr. Stewart in medical charge of the Ootacamund European Prison, in reference to the transfer of prisoners on Medical Certificate, it was my intention in justice to that Officer to submit, on receipt, to the Government.

Dated 10th April, No. 10, (original)

2. The delay has been from oversight.

From Assistant Surgeon L. W. STEWART, in Medical charge of European Jail; to W. S. NESBITT, Esq., in charge of European Jail, dated Ootacamund, 10th April 1863, No. 10.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Madras Government and letter from the Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, and Order thereon, dated 1st April 1863, No. 514, I have the honor to submit the following remarks for transmission to the Inspector General of Jails.

With reference to paragraph 2 of Mr. Rhode's letter, I beg to explain that out of courtesy I requested Dr. Forbes to form one of a Committee with Dr. Rogers and myself to report on prisoner Ross. Dr. Forbes saw the man with myself and was of opinion that there was no use in having a Committee for the purpose of recommending the removal of the man as his disease was too advanced; and he further expressed himself that the man may as well die here as any where else. I on the contrary (who know the case from the commencement) was of opinion that a timely removal to a warmer climate would, in all probability stay the disease, if it did not almost effect a cure. The man stated to me that about seven years ago he was quite as bad as he was at this time, but eventually recovered under a change of climate and treatment.

I observed almost a daily increase of prisoner Ross' symptoms. He became very emaciated and weakly; his nights were restless, and his appetite failed. He spat up blood on two occasions in considerable quantities, from the bursting of a blood vessel in the left lung, I conscientiously considered it my duty that the man should not be allowed to die (which he was doing) for want of a change to Madras or some warmer climate.

Medicines had a very partial effect in giving relief to the symptoms, and as the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals (Dr. Linton) was here, I requested him to see the patient, which he did, and immediately countersigned my Certificate recommending the man's removal to Madras.

With reference to paragraph 6 of Mr. Rhode's letter, I must explain the apparently inconsistent "unanimous opinion of the Committee" on prisoner Murphy. On his arrival in this Jail he began to complain of rheumatic pains in his knees and ankle joints, for which the usual treatment was employed; but he got no better. Subsequently his gums bled almost every day, and his breath became very offensive, having the mercurial factor; his feet were swollen, and his general health now began to decline.

From questioning him, and making an examination, I found cicatrices or scars in his groin, the result of old Buboes, and he acknowledged having taking mercury when at Trichinopoly thirteen years ago.

I therefore was of opinion the man was suffering from mercurial rheumatism, evidenced by his breath and characteristic pains, and that he formerly suffered from venereal, and that the climate of Ootacamund would not suit him, particularly as he was unable to work or take any exercise.

Dr. Sanderson who knew the man, was of opinion he was suffering from scurvy, and recommended the usual medicines for that disease, amongst which Gin or Arrack every night to be given, and the man to be kept under *further treatment*, thus implying that a removal might ultimately be necessary. Although I consented to what Dr. Sanderson recommended, that was "further treatment, and to be put under a course of medicine for the cure of scurvy," I maintained tacitly my opinion, that the man's case was one of venereal or mercurial rheumatism, and that his removal was necessary at once.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

13th June 1863.

I confess it would have been more consistent if I had entered my dissent to the opinion of Drs. Sanderson and Rogers, rather than have been "unanimous" with them, especially as the man has been now upwards of a month on the sick list for nearly the same symptoms which he had before.

In reference to paragraph 5 of Mr. Rhode's letter, No. 891, dated 18th March 1863, in same Proceedings, I have the honor to remark that very frequently there is not a third Medical Officer at Ootacamund to form a Committee as proposed by Mr. Rhode.

No. 137.

ORDER THEREON, 13th June 1863, No. 932.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

Rev. 14th April 1863 to 13th 75.

Judicial Department

The Chief Magistrate
The Chief Magistrate
The Chief Magistrate

Dated 28th June 1863
Read 28th June 1863

Under the order of the
Court of Sessions

* 13th June 1863 No. 932.

In absence of

Submitting
the petition to the
jurisdiction of the
Court of Sessions
in Medical charge of
the Ootacamund
European Prison in
reference to the
medical certificate
of the Prisoner

* Recorded
J. D. Sim

13th 75

of June
1863