

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	974	Press
	208-210	~~His.~~
Dated	22.6.1863	47

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd June 1863.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 208. From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coonoor, 18th May 1863, No. 1,246.

General Department.

* From the Inspector General of Madras Police, to H. R. D. Marrett, Esq., Zillah Surgeon, Salem, dated 12th May 1863.

From H. R. Marrett, Esq., Zillah Surgeon of Salem, to the Inspector General of Madras Police, dated 14th May 1863, No. 18.

I beg to submit the accompanying correspondence* for the information of Government.

2. I have considered it my duty to inform Government that Lieutenant Hill, late

Superintendent of Police of Salem, had not the advantage of that European professional aid which the Government provides for its Officers in his last illness.

3. The Zillah Surgeon was on the Shevaroy Hills during Lieutenant Hill's last illness and did not see him till within a few hours of his death.

4. I addressed Mr. Marrett on the subject. I would only observe on his letter that Lieutenant Hill sent for him on Saturday to place himself under treatment. Disease was then active and Lieutenant Hill suffered much.

5. Lieutenant Hill, though very ill indeed all Saturday, accompanied, it is true, Lieutenant Davies his Assistant to the Honorable Mr. Arbuthnot's house on that evening, but he was then so ill that he had to lie on the sofa during the evening. Had the Medical Officer seen him during the day, this spirited young man would probably have been in bed, and under proper treatment before the evening. Lieutenant Davies took deceased out for an airing on Sunday evening. He had been ill all day. Lieutenant Davies was living with Lieutenant Hill, and no doubt took luncheon in his house on Monday as stated. But deceased was no longer able to take tiffin, and was probably passed the reach of even Medical aid by that time. He had been lying in much suffering on the bed the greater part of the morning. Dr. Scott had been with him. At 3 P. M. on Monday, the last fatal symptoms of unchecked mortal disease set in and he never rallied.

6. I mention these facts in case the inference might be drawn that the late Lieutenant Hill was not very ill till within 24 hours of his death.

7. It is certainly to be regretted that Lieutenant Hill did not summons Dr. Marrett from the Hills to attend him, but it is easily accounted for. Lieutenant Hill was loth to call Dr. Marrett from the Hills. Salem is his Station.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to H. R. D. MARRETT, Esq., Zillah Surgeon, dated Coonoor, 12th May 1863.

General Department.

My Assistant, the late Lieutenant H. S. Hill, Superintendent of Police at Salem, returned to the Station on Friday afternoon the 24th ultimo.

2. He had been under Medical treatment at Coimbatore, and had been prevented for a few days from proceeding to his Station in consequence of very serious illness.

3. Lieutenant Hill was still very ill from his last and so shortly fatal disease, when he arrived at Salem on the 24th ultimo.

4. On Saturday 25th, Captain Davies, his Assistant, wrote to you at the request of the deceased to attend him. The letter was brought back; you were absent on the Shevaroy Hills. I have these facts from Captain Davies.

5. The fatal disease made steady progress. But Lieutenant Hill was without European Medical aid all Saturday and all Sunday the 26th.

6. On Monday afternoon, the 27th, a casual friend, Dr. Scott, who was passing through the Station kindly and skilfully took the deceased's case in hand. But the last fatal symptoms of unchecked mortal disease had by that time set in. He was beyond the reach of Medical aid.

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22nd June 1863.

7. On Tuesday 28th, you returned from the Hills and attended the deceased for the first time. You had shortly to tell him that his case was past hope. Lieutenant Hill died the same evening.

8. The Native Surgeon visited, I believe, the dying Officer more than once in your absence. He is said to have treated him for Colic. (Here I write under correction.)

9. I beg you will have the goodness to inform me whether I have erred in regard to any fact as above stated, as I purpose laying them in this simple form before Government.

10. I need scarcely add that I shall be glad indeed to lay at the same time before Government any explanation you wish me to communicate.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Inspector General of Madras Police.

From H. R. D. MARRETT, Esq., Zillah Surgeon of Salem; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Mofussil Police, dated Salem, 14th May 1863, No. 18.

I have the honor to reply to your No.— of the 12th instant.

2. Your Assistant, the late Lieutenant H. S. Hill, arrived in Salem on the afternoon of Friday the 24th ultimo (when I was in Salem); he was well enough to go out to dinner at the Collector's on Saturday evening. He was seen out driving on Sunday. Captain Davies had, I am informed, dined with him on Monday, and then left him to proceed to Coimbatore. Lieutenant Hill died on the following evening.

3. It is clear from these simple facts, as well as from the information which I have received from the Native Surgeon and other sources, that although the seeds of mortal disease must have been lurking in Lieutenant Hill's system for many days, no symptoms of a really serious nature made their appearance until within twenty-four hours of his death.

4. It is much to be regretted that Captain Davies, or Lieutenant Hill (who was himself quite capable of writing a letter even on the day before his death) did not, if my attendance was considered urgently necessary, on Saturday, send a messenger up to Yerkad for me, as soon as it was ascertained that I had left Salem. Had this course been adopted, I could without difficulty have been with Lieutenant Hill before he went out to dinner on Saturday evening: within six hours, in fact, from the moment when his messenger started.

I state this confidently, from having been sent for to the Shevaroy Hills once on a previous occasion, and under similar circumstances (some years ago.)

5. The Native Surgeon, who attended Lieutenant Hill, has informed me, that the absence of abdominal tenderness, and the beneficial effect of the simple remedies which he applied, led him to set down Lieutenant Hill's case as one of ordinary Colic. He was not aware that a note had been sent to my house; nor was I aware of this circumstance, until the receipt of your letter now under reply. I may add, that the Native Surgeon felt so satisfied with the way in which the case was progressing, that he did not think it necessary to make any report to me on the subject.

6. During my absence from Salem (from Saturday morning, the 25th, until the following Tuesday morning), I was in close attendance on a serious case of Dysentery, for which I had been specially summoned on Friday the 24th.

7. I may add, in conclusion, that I have made the Principal Inspector of Hospitals fully acquainted with the circumstances of Lieutenant Hill's illness and death.

8. I request you will be good enough to forward this letter with any communication you make to Government on the subject.

Forwarded with its enclosures to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, for his remarks.

PORT SAINT GEORGE,
23rd May 1863.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd June 1863.

No. 209. 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 26th May 1863, No. 96.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence* marginally noted, with order† to offer my remarks thereon, and beg to submit the

* From Inspector General of Mofussil Police, No. 1243 of 16th May 1863, and two enclosures herewith returned.
† Dated 23rd May 1863.

following observations for information of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. I may premise that, feeling a deep interest in the late lamented Officer Lieutenant H. S. Hill, from personal friendship with himself and family, I have, from various sources, sought information regarding his illness and death, all the main circumstances of which I have been made acquainted with; and, my sympathies being so strongly with the deceased Gentleman and his friends, I am not likely unduly to extenuate the conduct of the Medical Officer whom the Inspector General of Police imputes blame to.

3. Lieutenant Hill quitted Salem at the end of February on 60 days' privilege leave, in his usual remarkably robust state of health, and proceeded to the Annamallay Hills, in company with two friends, for the sport of shooting large game. Here the first inroad on his health was made, no doubt. He was there for about 20 days, and was confined indoors much of the time, whether suffering from true malarious fever does not appear; Dr. Marrett considers that his blood was then vitiated by malaria, and that all subsequent disease is traceable to that cause.

4. From the Annamallays he proceeded to the plains, and thence by Coimbatore and the Coonoor pass to the Neilgherries. At this time he is represented to have been very much reduced in flesh and strength, but he recovered both in a great degree, from all accounts, for he entered into society, and went out to the remote parts of the Hills shooting, sleeping one night in a Shola on the Koondabs, and undergoing much exposure and fatigue. There are grounds for thinking that, even so early as this, the inflammation of the peritonæum, which ultimately proved fatal to life, had commenced, and went on obscurely and insidiously.

5. On the 19th of April he left Ootacamund to rejoin his station; rode to Wellington, and thence down the Ghaut, when he got drenched with rain, and by coach into Coimbatore the same night. At this place he was very unwell, and was seen and prescribed for by the Civil Surgeon, and remained three days, Dr. Ogg urging him not to proceed, but, his leave expiring on the 21st April, he determined to rejoin his Station, which he did on that day—this journey must have done him much harm—and this was the critical point of his illness.

6. I have named that the inflammation under which Lieutenant Hill was laboring is often slow, and insidious, and obscure in its course, and, in this case, it was remarkably so: and what tended to obscure it still more was the enduring character of the patient, who seems never to have appreciated the grave character of his own symptoms, but to have spoken of them as "indigestion," and "spasm;" and, in this latter light, Native Surgeon Manickum Moodelly, considered them, and evidently failed to discern the dangerous tendency of the case. It is evident, too, that the attached friends who surrounded Lieutenant Hill at this time, were not at all alive to the im-pending result, or they would not have failed to summon the Zillah Surgeon from the Shevaroy, when they found Dr. Marrett was absent from Salem. The Native Surgeon showed great want of penetration in not discovering that superior advice was desirable. It must be perfectly well known at Salem that the Zillah Surgeon has duties on the Shevaroy which he is bound to attend to; it must be equally understood that he can be recalled if his services are required at Salem, and that his return to the Head Quarter Station can be effected in a few hours; and it is as strange as unfortunate that this very obvious course was not adopted by those about the patient, but this arose from non-appreciation of the necessity, not from any neglect of the friend they mourn so deeply.

7. From Dr. Marrett's high professional character and attention to duty, I feel confident that few regret the circumstance more than himself; not having received a summons to the patient, he could not know he was wanted, or there can be no doubt he would have promptly attended; I consider, therefore, that blame cannot attach to the Zillah Surgeon on this score.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
22nd June 1863.*

I am bound, however, to mention that, on this occasion, Dr. Marrett failed to report to me through the Deputy Inspector General of the Division, that duty detained him on the Hills beyond twenty-four hours, as ordered by Government in Proceedings marginally noted.* But the question at issue would not have been affected one way or other by the fact of his having gone through the formality of making this report, or by his omitting to do so. Duty detained him on the Hills (the truth of this I take for granted, of course, on his own assertion); he knew of nothing calling for his presence at Salem; and he was justified in remaining on the Hills under such circumstances, if he had only reported so.

No. 210.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1863, No. 974.

The foregoing letters have reference to the case of the late Lieutenant Hill, Superintendent of Police in Salem, who died at Salem on Tuesday the 29th April, having returned from leave on the previous Friday, the 24th. Lieutenant Hill it appears was ill when he arrived, and had been under Medical treatment for some days previously at Coimbatore. When he reached Salem the Zillah Surgeon Dr. Marrett was there, but left it on the same day for the Shevaroy Hills. Lieutenant Hill did not send for him until the Saturday, when his note requesting Dr. Marrett to call on him was brought back with a message to the effect that Dr. Marrett had gone to the Shevaroy Hills, and although Lieutenant Hill became worse and died on the Tuesday, Dr. Marrett was not sent for. Dr. Marrett returned to Salem on the Tuesday a few hours before Lieutenant Hill's death, but he was then past recovery. The Inspector General of Police has submitted these facts for the consideration of Government, observing that Lieutenant Hill had "not the advantage of that European professional aid which the Government provides for its Officers," owing to the absence of the Zillah Surgeon on the Shevaroy Hills.

2. Dr. Marrett states that he was summoned to the Shevaroy Hills on the occasion in question to attend a serious case of Dysentery, and the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department, to whom Mr. Robinson's letter was referred, considers that, much as it is to be regretted that no message was sent to Dr. Marrett to the Shevaroy Hills, no blame can attach to him under the circumstances further than for having failed to report to the Deputy Inspector General of the Division that duty had detained him on the Hills beyond twenty-four hours, as directed by Government in the Extract Minutes Consultation of the 26th September 1854, No. 998.

3. The Governor in Council concurs with the Principal Inspector General that, presuming the duty on which Dr. Marrett was employed on the Shevaroy Hills to have been sufficiently urgent to detain him from the Zillah Station for the better part of four days, and no intimation having been made to him of Lieutenant Hill's illness, he is not to blame for the delay which unfortunately occurred. Adverting, however, to Dr. Marrett's omission to conform to the order which requires him to report to his official superior whenever he is absent from the Zillah Station more than twenty-four hours, the Government consider that the Principal Inspector General should have inquired more particularly as to the sufficiency of the reason assigned by him for his absence for so many days. The order that such absence should invariably be reported is one to which the Government attach great importance, and it is possible that this is not the first occasion of its being neglected. The Principal Inspector General will now call upon Dr. Marrett for a full report of the cause of his absence on the occasion now under notice, and also as to the number of days he has been absent from Salem during the last six months, and the reason in each case, and whether each case of absence during that period, in excess of twenty-four hours, has been duly reported.

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

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers.

Letter from the Inspector of Police } Here enter 18th May 1863 11/246

Inspector of Police } 26 - - - 96

Order thereon 22nd June 1863 No. 974.

The foregoing letters have reference to the case of the late Lieut Hill Superintendent of Police in Salem, who died at Salem on Tuesday the 28th April, having returned from leave on the previous Friday the 24th. Lieut Hill it appears was ill when he arrived

and

and had been under medical
treatment for some days
previously at Comblatore.
When he reached Salem
the Gillah Surgeon Dr.
Marrett was there, but
left it on the same day
for the Sheraroy Hills.
Serritt Hill did not send
for him until the Saturday
when his note requesting
Dr. Marrett to call on him
was brought back with a
message to the effect that
Dr. Marrett had gone to
the Sheraroy, and although
Serritt Hill became worse
and died on the Tuesday
Dr. Marrett was not sent
for. Dr. Marrett returned
to Salem on the Friday
a few hours before Serritt
Hill's death, but he was
then past recovery. The
Inspector General of Police
has submitted these facts

for the consideration of Govt.
observing that Serritt Hill
had not the advantage of
"that European professional
aid which the Government
provides for its Officers," owing
to the absence of the Gillah
Surgeon on the Sheraroy
Hills.

Dr. Marrett states
that he was summoned to
the Sheraroy on the occasion
in question to attend a serious
case of dysentery, and the
Inspector General of the
Department to whom Mr.
Robinson's letter was referred,
considers that, much as it
is to be regretted that no
message was sent to Dr.
Marrett to the Sheraroy,
no blame can attach to
him under the circum-
stances further than for
having failed to report
to the Deputy Inspector
General of the Division

that

that duty had detained him on the Hills beyond 24 hours, as directed by J. G. in the O. M. C. of the 26th Sept. 1854, No 998.

3 The Governor in Council concurs with the P. C. Inspector General that presuming the duty on which Dr. Marrett was employed on the Sheraroy Hills to have been sufficiently urgent to detain him from the Zillah Station for the better part of four days, and no intimation having been made to him of Sir J. H. Hill's illness, he is not to blame for the delay which unfortunately occurred. Adverting, however, to the Dr. Marrett's omission to conform to the order which requires him to report to his official Superior whenever he is absent from the Zillah Station more than 24 hours, the

Government

Government considers that the P. C. Inspector General should have enquired more particularly as to the sufficiency of the reason assigned by him for his absence for so many days. The order that such absence should invariably be reported is one to which the Govt. attach great importance, and it is possible, and it is possible that this is not the first occasion of its being neglected. The Principal Secy. General will now call upon Dr. Marrett for a full report of the cause of his absence on the occasion now under notice, and also the number of days he has been absent from Lalau during the last six months, and whether each case of absence during that period

It should be the reason in each case an

period in excess of 24 hours
has been duly reported.

He will inform Dr. Marrett
that any future omission
on his part to conform
to the order above referred
to, or any instance of
unexcused absence from
the Gellah Station, will be
followed by his removal
from his appointment.

WJH

WJH

To the Mr. Surgeon General
Med. Dept.
Surgeon General's Office
dup 26

Pro. fine

Indiana 1863. Department.

No. 974

of the 104th - 1703.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT,

Dated 22^d June 1863.

*Resolving certain dis-
-sentations in reference to
O'Connell's return from
-dorm on the occasion of
the death of the late Lieut.
Will. Dupont of
Police.*