M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	758	**Press Mis.**
177-178		
Dated	18 - 5 - ~~19~~ 1868	

415

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read again letter from the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, dated 21st December 1865, No. 388, and recorded in Proceedings of the 5th April 1866, No. 498.

No. 177. Read also the following letter from the Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 1st May 1866, No. 160.

With reference to Order of Government, Judicial Department, No. 498, 5th April 1866, I have the honor to submit Mr. Dougall's explanation.

No. 34, dated Rajahmundry, 19th April 1866.

2. Mr. Dougall explains that a Telugu Urzee had been sent to his house, but had missed him. The message he received at 5-30 P. M. was a verbal message.

3. Mr. Dougall, in paragraph 6 of his letter, shows that his public duties at that particular time were very numerous, but it is to be regretted that he did not at once, upon receiving the verbal message, make the necessary examination of the body.

4. I shall call the attention of Medical Officers to the necessity of making judicial *post mortem* examinations with as little delay as possible.

From Assistant Surgeon J. DOUGALL, Civil Surgeon, Rajahmundry, to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Northern Division, Waltair; dated Rajahmundry, 19th April 1866, No. 34.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memorandum, No. 290, dated 16th April 1866, forwarding "Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department," dated 5th April 1866, and beg to state, in reference to the order thereon, that a Telugu Urzee was sent by the Sub-Magistrate. This Urzee stated "that a body had been found dead, near Alipur, and I was to examine and certify if there were any marks of violence upon it." It was a mere verbal message that I received at 5-30 P. M., but the Urzee had been sent to my house, and missed me by the way. Its contents had been correctly communicated to me by the Dresser, and it contained not the slightest indication as to what the suspicious circumstances were which called for the examination.

2. Engaged as I was that day, and at the late hour (sunset) at which I received notice that the body had been sent to the Dispensary, I could not have made a *post mortem* examination by day-light; and as I was then on my way to visit a patient, and I was simply called upon to certify as to marks of violence, I decided to examine the corpse in the morning.

3. Had the Sub-Magistrate's letter given any information as to what the suspicious circumstances were attending the death of this woman, I would have set every other duty aside, and made an immediate examination of the corpse, and there would then have been some guide as to what course of examination I ought to have pursued; and I need not remind you that the most minute *post mortem* examination, without a chemical analysis, will not disclose the cause of death, when certain poisons have been employed to produce it.

4. But engaged as I was that evening, unaware that the body had been so long dead before being sent to the Dispensary, and not informed that there were any suspicious circumstances (further than that it had been "found dead" at Alipur), I did not consider that an examination by candle-light that evening would be so satisfactory as if made by day-light the following morning. And as Alipur is not over a mile from the Hospital, I never imagined that the woman had been dead for more than an hour or two, in which case there would have been nothing to prevent me examining the body the following morning.

5. On the 5th December 1865, I explained to Mr. Carmichael that, if Sub-Magistrates were instructed to communicate to the Medical Officer the suspicious circumstances attending the death of the body to be examined, it would lead to more satisfactory results.

6. By a reference to the records of your Office, you will observe that, at the time referred to, besides the various duties I had to perform as Civil Surgeon, I was Superintendent of the Jail,

in Medical charge 31st Regiment N. I., European Veteran Company, General and Staff of the Division, and Acting Deputy Medical Store-keeper Northern Division.

MEMORANDUM.

Transmitted to the Secretary to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, for information, agreeably to Memorandum, No. 1634, dated 9th instant.

(Signed) J. A. COX, M. D.,
Senior Surgeon in charge.

WALTAIR, 23*rd April* 1866.

To the Secretary to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Madras.

No. 178. ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1866, No. 758.

The explanation submitted by Dr. Dougall with the foregoing letter is far from satisfactory. On the receipt of the Sub-Magistrate's written report, he should have lost no time in making the necessary examination of the corpse. The attention of all Medical Officers should be called to the rule approved in G. O., 6th December 1864, No. 1745, and to the necessity of prompt attention being given to all requisitions for making judicial *post mortem* examinations.

2. The Civil authorities of the Districts should, as a rule, obtain, through the Deputy Inspector General of the Division, the explanation of a Medical Officer in cases of the nature of that now in question, before bringing his conduct to the notice of Government.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
" Magistrate of
" Inspector General of Police.

Extl. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department
2141

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again letter from the Pt. Inspr. Genl. Medl. Deptt. dated 21st Decr. 65 No. 388 and recorded in Proceedings of the 5th April 66 No. 498.

Read also the following letter from the Pt. Inspr. Genl. Medl. Deptt.

Here enter 1st May 1866 No. 760

Order 18th May 1866 No. 758.

The explanation submitted by Dr. Dougall with the foregoing letter is far from satisfactory. On the receipt of the Sub Magistrate's written report he should have lost no time in making the necessary examination of the Corpse. The attention of all Medical Officers should be called to the rule approved in G. O. 6th Decr. 64 No. 1745 and to the necessity of prompt attention being

being given to all requisitions
for making judicial post mor-
tem examinations.

2 The civil authorities
of the Districts should, as a
rule, obtain thro' the Dep.y
Insp.r Gen.l of the Division
the explanation of a Med.l
Officer in cases of the nature
of that now in question before
assigning his conduct to the
notice of Govt., who would
then have the case before
them in a complete shape
and be saved the necessity
of making references involving
delay.

to the Dep. Insp. Genl. Med. Dept.
" Magistrate of Vizagapm
" " Other Do
" Insp. Genl. of Police

758.

Judicial 1866. Department.

No. 758.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

F.C. 1267.

Dated 18th May 1866.

Pro. No. 31-33

574/66

177-178.

Press No. 4260, G. M.—12-4-66—500.