

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

57-60	G.O. No.	1065	Press
			<u>Mis</u>
	Dated	6-7-	19-8

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
6th July 1867.*

Read again letter from the Director of Public Instruction, dated 12th June 1866, No. 1182, recorded in Proceedings of Government, Educational Department, dated 16th June 1866, No. 182.

Read also the following papers :—

No. 57. From Major C. S. HEARN, Commissioner of Police, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 4th July 1866, No. 74.

With reference to paragraph 4 of Order of Government, No. 182, of the 16th June, regarding Chemists and Druggists, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. I conclude that the Director of Public Instruction, when recommending that the taking out of a license from competent examiners should be made compulsory, alludes to the large Chemists and Druggists' establishments, for the sale of European medicines, kept almost exclusively by Europeans and Eurasians. Such a measure could scarcely be enforced with reference to the numerous Native sellers of drugs, medicinal roots, and leaves ; and it may be observed that these Native vendors, though doubtless unable to pass an examination in Chemistry, are practically well acquainted with the nature and properties of the articles they sell. Instances of death arising from the sale of deleterious substances by mistake are almost unknown in Madras. Indeed, no such case can be traced in the records.

3. There are at present seven European and Eurasian Chemists' Firms in Madras ; Messrs. Barrie and Co. (Partners, Messrs. Kennedy, Reneaux, and Kennedy) have two establishments—one in the Mount road and one in the Poonamallee road—so that there are eight large shops in all. And there are five or six smaller shops for the sale of European medicines kept by Natives. Most of these persons have either been Apothecaries themselves, or have persons trained as Apothecaries or Medical Students for their assistants. One or two are private medical practitioners, and all, so far as I can ascertain, are practically well acquainted with the details of their profession.

4. In the present limited state of this trade, the individual qualifications of Chemists and Druggists must be well known to the Medical Officers of Madras, and probably to the community also. The matter would scarcely seem to call for legislative action.

No. 58. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 19th November 1866, No. 1916.

General Department.

With reference to G. O., No. 182, dated 16th June 1866, I beg to state that I consider that it would be of much advantage to adopt a system of granting certificates of professional competence to persons intending to practise as Chemists and Druggists

2. Hereafter, when these certificates are more sought for, and more extensively possessed, some system of compulsory license might follow ; but it must be obvious that nothing of this kind could as yet be adopted up-country.

the sick, or a comprehensive measure for enforcing the observance of hygienic laws. The small Government establishment of Medical Officers and Subordinates have always done their best, in their own limited spheres of duty, to afford medical aid during epidemic seasons; but, as their circles of duty have been, for the most part, confined to military cantonments and civil stations, it follows that the assistance they have been able to afford to the general population has been infinitesimal in character.

8. To place medical aid within reach of the people, so as to be of any practical use, I believe it will be necessary to employ to some extent the indigenous practitioners of the country, and it is for the Government to determine how far it may be practicable and advisable to legislate for the issue of licenses to such Native Doctors as may hereafter pass a test of minimum qualification regarding the nature and the uses of drugs, and of the treatment of the more common forms of disease. The present race of hakeems cannot, of course, be interfered with, but, as a temporary expedient, it may be advisable to have some of them instructed in the most approved modes of treating cholera, fevers, &c., for employment, under the Revenue Department, in districts noted for liability to outbreaks of epidemic diseases.

In this way it might be possible to make a beginning of a system of medical relief that in time would enable the Government to cope in some degree with the present unresisted progress of disease amongst its Native subjects.

9. Epidemic diseases, such as cholera, fever, &c., to be treated efficiently, must be treated early. To accomplish this, with the limited Staff of the Medical Department, for the people generally, is manifestly impossible. Even in Great Britain, where medical men bear so much higher a proportion to the population, it is found that a cholera epidemic (such as the one now passing over European countries) taxes to the utmost the energies of the medical profession, and that, even with the facilities which exist in civilized countries for obtaining medicines and advice, many people die for want of early and prompt treatment. Until every considerable village in India possesses a medical practitioner who is capable of affording aid to the cholera and fever stricken inhabitants, the medical treatment of disease must be regarded as not satisfactorily provided for.

10. Should the Government be satisfied, on consideration of these initial difficulties, that the Medical Establishment sanctioned and kept up on account of the various departments of the State are inadequate to the demands of the civil population for medical aid and that it is desirable to do something to mitigate, as far as possible, the scourges which destroy so many of the population, then, I would respectfully submit, it is highly desirable that measures should be considered for training up a class of medical men competent to afford the aid which the Medical Establishment of the State, from their location and duty engagements, are unable to give.

11. Meanwhile, as desired, instructions will be drawn up for the guidance of Collectors as to the best mode of organizing a system for the distribution of medicines.

12. It is scarcely necessary for me to add that the proposed measure will necessitate larger indents on the Home Government for stores, or that the formation of a class of Native doctors for the whole community must prove a costly proceeding. Should the Government, however, desire an expression of my views on the best mode of undertaking this important work, I shall be ready to give them when required so to do.

No. 60. ORDER THEREON, 6th July 1867, No. 1065.

In the Order of Government above noted, arrangements were made for the holding of annual examinations of Chemists and Druggists desirous of obtaining certificates of qualification in compounding and dispensing medicines.

2. The Director of Public Instruction, in his letter recorded with the above-mentioned Proceedings, rightly remarked that, without legislative action on the part of Government, no license to practise as a Chemist and Druggist could be granted, but that certificates of qualification only could be issued. The Director, at the same time, expressed an opinion that very beneficial results would ensue, if the

taking out of a license from competent examiners were rendered compulsory. This suggestion was referred for the opinion of the Heads of the Medical and Police Departments, and of the Commissioner of Police at the Presidency. The replies of these Officers are contained in the letters above recorded.

3. The Principal Inspector General concurs generally with Mr. Powell, in considering it desirable that all Chemists, Druggists, and even Native Doctors, should be compelled to take out licenses to practise. He is of opinion that this system would provide a more sufficient check upon the sale of deadly poisons than at present exists, and that, to be of any use, the system should be extended to the Mofussil.

4. The Inspector General of Police considers it very desirable that the system of granting certificates to qualified persons should be adopted, adding that, though in time this system might be made compulsory, it is obvious that nothing of this kind could as yet be adopted up-country.

5. The Commissioner of Police, Madras, concludes that licenses could not be exacted from the numerous Natives, sellers of herbs, drugs, and leaves, in Madras, who he considers are practically acquainted with the use of their wares, adding that no single instance of death caused by deleterious substances taken or given by mistake is on record. Concluding that the proposed system is only intended to apply to European and East Indian Firms, of which there are only eight, all of whom are duly qualified or have qualified Assistants, and whose merits or demerits are known to the Profession, if not to the Public, Major Hearn is of opinion that the matter scarcely calls for legislative action.

6. The Government, concurring generally in the opinions expressed by the Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner of Police, are of opinion that more cannot at present be done than to grant certificates of qualification to persons who may present themselves for examination, and who may, on examination by competent authorities, be declared qualified to prepare and dispense medicines. It may, at some future time, be found desirable to make such examinations compulsory, and to provide for the punishment of unlicensed practitioners, but the time for such a measure has not yet arrived.

7. As regards the Chemists' shops in Madras, experience shows that they are attended to by competent practitioners; while, under existing regulations, any person preparing or administering medicines without due knowledge and care does so at his own risk, and is held answerable for the consequences of his ignorance or carelessness.

(True Extract).

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Medical Department.
" Inspector General of Police.
" Commissioner of Police.
" Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again letter from
the Director of Public Instruction of 12th June 1866
No 1182, recorded in Nos. of Govt. Secret. Dep't
of 16th June 1866 No 182.

Read also the following papers.

From the Commr of Police - Dated 4th July 1866 No 74.
— Insp^r Genl of Police — 19 Nov — 1916.
— P^l Insp^r Genl Med. Dept — 27 — — 120.

Order thereon 5 July 1867 No 1065.

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5. The Commissioners of Police Madras conclude that

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for the consequences of his
ignorance or carelessness.

8. With regard to the
subject discussed by the
Principal Inspector Genl.
in his letter to the Board
of Revenue No. 4600, dated
27th Nov. 1866, relative
to the organization of
a comprehensive system
of medical relief during
outbreaks of Cholera
and other epidemic dis-
ease, the Government
will

omit this as there have
been subsequent proceedings
upon this subject
M.L.

will at present only
remark that it was
never contemplated that
medical aid should
be afforded under the
direction of the Govern-
ment medical estab-
lishment to the population
at large throughout
the Presidency, such
a measure being under
existing circumstances
^{impracticable.}
~~an incident in the~~

M.L.

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To the Principal Secy. Genl. Secy. Depy.
— Secy. Genl. of Police.
— Commr. of Police.
— Director of Pub. Health.
desp. 9/

57c60.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

No. 1053

Indian 1837. Department.

Dated. 2 Dec 1837

copy from
R. L. L. J.