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If the Surgeon-General is correct in thinking that the sanction of the Government of India must be obtained before the existing three reports can be reduced to one, I would suggest that that Government may be addressed on the subject. It appears to me that the written sanitary report prescribed in 1887 supersedes the sanitary sheet prescribed in 1878, which was itself intended to supersede the reports hitherto in use. In any case the preparation of three reports, where one would be both easier and better, ought not, it is submitted, to be allowed to continue.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government (through the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras), dated Ootacamund, 25th June 1895, No. 342-Tour.

In returning your endorsement, No. 1358, dated the 12th June 1895, with its annexures, I have the honour to state that I fully agree with the Inspector-General of Prisons that the three annual medical or sanitary reports now submitted by medical officers of jails should be replaced by one report which should contain all the information now given in the three reports and thus be complete in itself.

2. The reports now rendered contain more or less the same information and cover the same ground, so that their preparation costs unnecessary time and labour without apparently any corresponding advantage. It will indeed greatly facilitate the work of medical officers, as well as of those who have the checking of these documents, should the three reports be consolidated into one under the orders of the Government of India.

———

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. KING, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 26th June 1895, No. 1095-S.

In returning the papers forwarded with your endorsement, dated 12th instant, No. 1358, received through the Surgeon-General with Government, I have the honour to state that I fully agree with that officer and the Inspector-General of Prisons in thinking that it is undesirable to continue the practice of forwarding three distinct reports. A single report ought to suffice for all requirements.

———

Order—dated 24th August 1895, No. 1763, Judicial.

The Government of India will be addressed.

[Here enter No. 1764, dated 24th August 1895.]

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Prisons.
„ Surgeon-General.
„ Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of {1895} Madras

JUDICIAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 24th August 1895, No. 1763.

AUGUST.

Sanitary Reports on Jails.

Ordering that the Government of India be addressed on the question raised by the Inspector-General of Prisons as to whether it was the intention of that Government that *three* medical or — should be submitted annually by medical officers of jails to the Sanitary Commissioner with that Government.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From A. G. CARDEW, Esq., M.A., Inspector-General of Prisons, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 22nd May 1895, No. 2818.

In Home Department Resolution, No. 25—1653—65, dated 26th December 1878, the Government of India directed that there should be appended to each annual jail return of sickness and mortality a sanitary sheet containing answers to "a few questions on the most important sanitary facts." The Government of India believed that the information supplied by this sheet would be more definite and valuable than the reports which were then submitted. As regards the Bengal Presidency, the Government of India directed that the sheet should take the place of the separate reports hitherto submitted, but in the case of other Presidencies no such direction was made.

2. In 1887 revised forms of annual returns of sick prisoners in jail were prescribed by Home Department Resolution, No. 26—1742—53, dated 31st October 1887. The instructions printed on the back of these forms direct that the annual return of sickness is to be accompanied by a written sanitary report. It seems probable that the "written sanitary report" thus prescribed was intended to take the place of the sanitary sheet prescribed in 1878, but the resolution omitted to say so. In consequence, both sanitary sheet and sanitary report have continued to be submitted.

3. When the Government of India in 1878 prescribed the sanitary sheet, it apparently intended that it should be everywhere submitted in place of the reports hitherto submitted. As, however, no order on this point was made (except in the case of the Bengal Presidency), a medical report is also submitted in addition to both sanitary sheet and sanitary report.

4. Medical officers of jails in this Presidency have thus to submit annually three medical or sanitary reports, all covering nearly the same ground. I beg to enclose herewith, as a specimen, those received during the current year from the Cannanore Central Jail. It will be seen that the existence of three reports involves unnecessary repetition, bad arrangement, and undue separation of connected remarks. A single report would save a large amount of unnecessary clerical labour and would be clearer and easier to understand. It is believed that four copies of each of these three reports have to be furnished, viz., to the Surgeon-General, to the Sanitary Commissioner to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, and to this office.

5. I addressed the Surgeon-General on the subject of these reports and, in reply, after indicating the orders of Government which have been named above, he writes:—

"As these reports and returns have been prescribed by the Government of India with a view to securing uniformity in all Provinces, any alterations in them would require the sanction of the Government of India. The statistics taken from them are embodied in the annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India."

If the Surgeon-General is correct in thinking that the sanction of the Government of India must be obtained before the existing three reports can be reduced to one, I would suggest that that Government may be addressed on the subject. It appears to me that the written sanitary report prescribed in 1887 supersedes the sanitary sheet prescribed in 1878, which was itself intended to supersede the reports hitherto in use. In any case the preparation of three reports, where one would be both easier and better, ought not, it is submitted, to be allowed to continue.

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Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector-General of Prisons.
" Surgeon-General.
" Sanitary Commissioner.

Ed. A. Raitt.