

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLAGUE COMMISSIONER.

(1898)

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. 1044

Dated 28.12.98

Despatched

[Despatch Abstract.]

Temporary Dr. A. Craig Hunter.

Recording Prog. of Govt. dispensing ^{with} the
services of ——— for gross misadministration.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.	No.	Date.

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

(1898)

CURRENT No. 2092

*Recd. by
not post
Sept 8 Outlets
sent
10/12
And at 8 AM on 17/12/98
4 notes and
submitted
12 sent 8/12*

From The L & M Dept.

Order Camp No 104 24/12/98

Recorded.

No. 1500 P. M.

*Long.
10/12/98*

*12
24/12*

Dated 3 - 12 - 1898

Received 9 - 12 - 1898

Registered 9 - 12 - 1898

Enclosures /

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Recording G.O. Public
Sept. N 1344 dt 18-11-1898
dispensing with the service
of Dr. C. Hunter an
account of grass insub-
ordination.

*12
9/12*

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Copy of letter from the Surgeon-General, C/65, dated 28th October

1898:-

I have the honor to state for the information of Government that a paragraph appeared in the Madras Mail of the 24th instant--Vide cutting a-- attached--regarding one of the temporary doctors from England having behaved rudely towards Major Hakim, I.M.S., in Medical charge, Plague Inspection Station, Tungabhadra.

2. I was about to make enquiries as to who the man was when I received a D.O. from Major Hakim (Copy enclosed) giving a full account of the case. I caused this letter to be forwarded to Mr. A Craig Hunter for any explanation he might have to offer and also spoke to him seriously on the subject when he called at my office. I attach a copy of his reply dated 26th October 1898 which appeared to me most unsatisfactory. Accordingly he was directed by me (Vide copy of my Secretary's D.O. of the 26th October attached) to apologise to Dr. Hakim but this he declines to do as will be seen from his reply (copy attached)

3. Mr Craig Hunter appears to me both from his personal conversation and correspondence a hopeless man wanting in tact and judgment and very arrogant. When I spoke to him he appeared quite unconscious of his indiscretion and want of courtesy and thought for other people. Such a man would be quite useless in this Presidency and likely to prove dangerous amongst the natives. I would therefore propose that he had better be sent back as soon as possible and another and more satisfactory doctor obtained in his place.

Copy of a D.O. from Major H.M. Hakim, Camp Tungabhadra to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 23rd October 1898:-

Please submit the following to the Surgeon-General for notice and such action as he may deem fit.

I have to bring to the notice of the Surgeon-General with regret the conduct of Dr. A. Craig Hunter. Dr. Hunter arrived here by the Mail yesterday and as it was English Mail day there were 36 first class passengers. As usual, I examined all the first class passengers and went up to the carriage occupied by him and asked if I may feel his pulse.

But.

But he told me in a tone quite dictatorial that he won't allow me to do so until I had washed my hands, and pointed to the carriage lavatory and said he wanted to go to Madras without being infected with plague. I informed him that I had not touched any plague patients and had only examined 1st class passengers and there was no utility in washing with plain water if I did carry infection and if I had to wash each time I touched any one I could not go through my work. The other Medical officers did not make the slightest objection; and in spite of their remonstrance he would not be moved and animadverted strongly on the measures adopted against plague. I give him the option of either being examined or be kept back in camp and he preferred the latter alternative. If I had thought it necessary to wash my hands I would have willingly done so as there ~~is~~ is a basin with water and carbolic soap kept ready at hand on the station. Dr. Hunter's idea is that I should have done what he said he would do under the same circumstances and carry a basin about the platform and I bring this to the notice of the Surgeon-General to consider when making an appointment. Out of respect for the profession and as I did not like that he should be put to inconvenience, I went ^{up} to him again after I had washed my hands on completion of the examination of the whole train as I always do, I offered to examine him and he submitted and was allowed to go on. I bring this to the notice of the Surgeon-General as I think it would be brought to his notice from his other quarters, as some of the passengers threatened to bring the conduct of Dr. Hunter to the notice of the higher authorities especially one with whom Dr. Hunter had a hot argument and leave the matter completely in the hands of the Surgeon-General to deal with as he pleases.

Copy of a D.O. from Dr. A. Craig Hunter, Buckingham Hotel, to the Surgeon-General, dated 26th October 1898:-

I desire to acknowledge receipt of letter complaining of my conduct in refusing to be examined by medical officer and in reply have nothing further to say than that I allowed the examination to proceed after ordinary precautions of a sanitary nature had been taken by the medical officer after leaving a native carriage. Regarding Mr. Mullaly no member of my party or myself, spoke to, or even saw this gentleman after leaving Bombay.

But on arrival at Victoria station on Friday morning we engaged a carriage for the four by the evening express. This carriage had our name on it, and was taken possession of ~~it~~ by my brother who put in it his

umbrella &c.

During his temporary absence this carriage was taken possession of by Mr. Mullaly who caused the label bearing our name to be removed. We complained to the Station Master who took our part but out of respect to Mrs. Mullaly we allowed them to retain possession at great inconvenience to ourselves.

Copy of a D.O. from the Secretary, Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras to Dr. A. Craig Hunter dated 26th October 1898:-

I am directed by the Surgeon-General to inform ~~that~~ you that he considers your reply of the 26th October most unsatisfactory. You do not attempt to explain your extraordinary conduct in attempting to teach a Senior Medical Officer how he should perform his duty and obstructing him in the performance of his duties. The Surgeon-General must insist on your sending Major Hakim, I.M.S., an ample apology in writing through this office. The Surgeon-General directs me to inform you that your letter should have been addressed to me as Secretary as is the official custom. No medical officer communicates with him direct. As regards your statements about Mr. Mullaly, the Surgeon-General not having received any complaints from him, does not consider it necessary to make any remarks on them.

Copy of a D.O. Dr. A. Craig Hunter, Buckingham Hotel to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General, Madras, dated 27th October 1898:-

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 26th instant and in reply I wish to state that I did not attempt to teach Major Hakim, I.M.S., how he should perform his work nor obstruct him in the performance of his duties. My action in this case was due to a conscientious principle and under these circumstances I regret that I cannot apologise to Major Hakim, I.M.S.. I was unaware of the regulation regarding communicating with the Surgeon-General through his Secretary.

Q.P.
5.12.

C No 2092

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Public Department No.1394 dated 18th November 1898.

Read the following paper:—

Confidential Endorsement of the Local and Municipal Department on that of the Plague Commissioner Ref.on C.No.845 forwarding letter from the Surgeon-General No.C/65 dated 28th October 1898.

(Copy attached)

Order No. 1394, dated 18th November 1898.

The Government considers that Mr.Craig Hunter's services should be dispensed with as soon as possible. Under the terms of his agreement he must remain in the service of Government for three months at least from the date of his departure from England and until 15 days' notice has been served upon him. His service in India lasts until this notice expires. Accordingly a fifteen day notice of the termination of his agreement should be served upon him, so timed that on its expiry he will be able to reach England by Mail steamer just after the expiry of three months from the date of his departure from England. The Surgeon-General will be requested to serve the requisite notice on behalf of Government.

2. Mr. Craig Hunter should be informed that in view of his grossly insubordinate conduct the Government is unable to place reliance on him, and cannot therefore entrust him with any official duty or responsibility.

3. The following telegram will be despatched to the Government of India:—

"635. My telegram 612, third instant, plague doctors. One of last batch guilty on arrival gross insubordination. Impossible to employ him here--but under agreement no means of getting rid of him till termination of three months. Government considers that agreement signed by doctors engaged on our last indent should give power to Government to dispense with services before termination of period

for

2092-10-1898

for gross misconduct or disobedience of orders. Request that Secretary of State be moved accordingly. Letter follows".

Order No. 1500 -P Misc. dated 3rd December 1898.

Recorded.

(True Copy and Extract.)

89-515/17 2863 d. 17-12-98

At. B. J. G. J. G. J. G.

For Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Plague Commissioner.

8.12-

Handwritten notes and signatures on the left page, including "At. B. J. G. J. G. J. G." and "8.12-".

Letter from the Surgeon-General, Madras, No. C/65,

Exdt. - No. 2863, d. 17-12-98

Copy of endorsement furnished - the original is quoted contains notes by members of Govt.

Chimpois

2. and M. L. d. 17-12-98

17-12-98

Read at 6 p.m. 17/12/98

BR

Temporary Medical Office

Commissioner, on the above

Government,

Independent

General

President

for gross misconduct or disobedience of orders. Request that Secretary of State be moved accordingly. Letter follows".

Order No. 1500 -P Misc. dated 3rd December 1898.

Recorded.

(True Copy and Extract.)

89-91 1/16 1898 11-11-98

Ad. J. G. J. G.

For Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Plague Commissioner.

8.12

P. C.
300-19-10-98.

MEMORANDUM.

For C. No. 2092

REQUESTED for reference the undermentioned papers:—

*Plague Commission's endorsement Ref. no. C. No. 845
Refused 3 in no 1394 of 18-11-98 Pub. Dept.*

PLAGUE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

10 — 12 1898.

To

The

First Asst. Pub. Dept.

Personal Assistant.



Letter from the Surgeon-General, Madras, No. C/65,
dated 28th October 1898.

Abstract.— Bringing to notice the conduct of Temporary Doctor A. Craig Hunter towards Major Hakim, I.M.S. Medical Officer in charge Plague camp, Tungabhadra.

Copy of Endorsement of the Plague Commissioner,
Reference on C.No. 845/98, dated 1st November 1898, on the above.

Forwarded through the Secretary to Government,
Local and Municipal Department.

This officer clearly will not do for independent work. He might perhaps do no harm if placed at ^{the} General Hospital as a junior medical officer under the Resident Surgeon there.

14.12.98

When given for copying _____)
 When copied _____) 189
 When examined _____)
 When signed _____)