

[L. & M.
2,000-13-6-98.]

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1393M

DATED 8-8-98.

DESPATCHED
INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Infectious Diseases.— Communicating to the
Munl. Commissioners of Madras with request
G.O. Public ^{dept} passing orders on the Subject
of admission into the General Hospitals
of patients suffering from small pox
and other —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government { 1898 } of Madras.

PUBLIC.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.

CURRENT No. 236817

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1898.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 821, 29th June 1898.

Order No. 1393 M. Mus. 8/8/98

Copy of dispatch
under previous to me
before 3 PM today with
the accompanying slip from
the Secy

Communicated to the municipal
Commissioners of Madras, who are re-
quested to report through the Surgeon
General, what action they propose
to take in the matter of establishing
a hospital for the treatment of
contagious diseases.

JUNE.

KR
28/7/98

ale
5/8/98

To The President. M. C. Madras. Dist.
Surgeon General. Dist.

our 8/8/98

Infectious Diseases.

Passing orders on the subject of admission into the General Hospital of patients suffering
from small-pox and other —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Messrs. BINNY & Co., Agents, British Indian Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 1st April 1898.

We have the honour to bring the following to the notice of Government.

On information received from Negapatam that the Chief and Second Engineers of S.S. *Purnea* were suffering from fever, we instructed the Company's Medical Officer to go on board on arrival. He did so at 10 A.M., and reported that the Engineers were suffering from small-pox. After the steamer had complied with the necessary formalities, they were landed at the direction of the Port and Marine Surgeon who recommended their removal to hospital. They were taken to the General Hospital, but after keeping them waiting for over an hour, the authorities there declined to admit them and the Resident Surgeon handed the clerk who accompanied the Engineers a letter to the Company's Medical Officer stating that he had directed the Engineers to return to him for treatment, as in accordance with hospital order, No. 54, dated 21st March 1898, contagious diseases were no longer treated at that hospital and the municipality had undertaken the treatment of all such cases. Our representative then interviewed the President of the municipality (it was now past 5 P.M.) who at once directed the Health Officer to provide accommodation in a disused hospital at Royapuram which had originally been set apart for plague patients, where the best arrangements possible were made.

We would draw attention to the present inadequate arrangements and lay stress on the very serious consequences that might have ensued, had we been unable to make arrangements for the Engineers' accommodation during the night, and to the serious risk to the public health in conveying a couple of infectious cases about town in hackney carriages.

It has hitherto been customary to admit small-pox patients into the General Hospital, and if the authorities have decided to discontinue the practice we think due intimation should have been given to the public.

We further venture to submit that when a case of infectious disease, which is more likely to occur among passengers, declares itself on a steamer and the patient is landed, the case should be taken out of ship's hands at once and adequate arrangements made by the Port authorities for the patient's removal and further care. Under present conditions beyond directing what should be done the Port and Marine Surgeon, who is also Health Officer of the port, takes no action and we as Agents of the steamer have, to undertake for humanity's sake, the care of patients who should have accommodation provided for them in the public interest.

Small-pox is not one of the diseases to which much importance is attached in this country; but the rules and regulations apply equally in cases of plague and cholera. If the patients on this occasion had been suffering from either of these complaints, the results from the protracted exposure to which they were subjected whilst driving about in the heat of the day might be much more serious.

While writing on this subject of infectious diseases, we would bring to your notice that on the 5th May 1897 a case of small-pox occurred on board the S.S. *Patiala* and permission to land the patient (a woman) was refused by the Port

authorities as she was a passenger to Negapatam and objected to be put ashore here. The patient was accordingly retained on board although there were about 800 other deck passengers. The regulations on this point are defined under section 38 of Act VIII of 1876, but, taking into consideration the grave risk thus forced on a large number of healthy passengers, we venture to suggest that a modification of existing rules is necessary to prevent the detention on board on such cases of infection.

It seems desirable in the public interest, provided adequate arrangements are made on shore, that such cases should be at once effectively isolated which obviously cannot be done in a crowded steamer.

In conclusion, we think a small quarantine hospital on the beach would be a valuable adjunct to this port.

From Messrs. BINNY & Co., Agents, British Indian Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 4th April 1898.

With reference to our letter of 2nd instant, we have the honour to state that the incident therein referred to occurred on the 31st ultimo.

We find that by an oversight, which we regret, this fact was omitted to be stated in our letter under reference.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, Kt., C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 6th April 1898, H. No. 48.

In forwarding the marginally-noted correspondence, I have the honour to submit as follows.

Letter, No. 185, dated 31st March 1898, from Surgeon, 4th District, to President, Municipal Commission.

Letter from Messrs. Binny & Co., dated 1st April 1898, to Chief Secretary to Government.

Letter, No. 184-2, dated 17th February 1898, from Surgeon-General, to President, Municipal Commission.

2. There has been considerable correspondence on the subject of the treatment of contagious diseases in the General Hospital.

3. In reply to the letter of 17th February 1898 from the Surgeon-General, I informed him that the isolation sheds at Kistnampet and the Monegar

Choultry were available, but I never anticipated that Europeans or Eurasians would be sent there. The Surgeon-General is perfectly aware that these sheds are not suitable for such patients.

4. The first intimation I had of the action adopted by the hospital authorities was from the Surgeon, 4th District. This was confirmed the next day as reported in Messrs. Binny & Co.'s letter in which reference is made to Hospital order, No. 54, dated 21st March 1898.

5. It is not for me to remark upon the propriety of the hospital authorities in issuing such an order without any reference to Government, but it is in my province to remark upon what I consider the impropriety of their conduct in not informing me of the existence of such an order and in turning the patients into the streets to sow broadcast the seeds of disease.

6. Messrs. Binny & Co. have stated the action I took.

7. It may, or it may not, be desirable that these diseases should be dissociated from the General Hospital. If they are to be, there must be proper hospitals for them. The municipality has no such hospitals, although the isolation sheds at Kistnampet and Monegar Choultry provide for native patients. The General Hospital has hitherto taken them in, and I protest most emphatically against the action adopted by the hospital authorities and trust that Government will support my protest by the most severe condemnation of such arbitrary procedure.

8. The question is a very large one and the points raised by Messrs. Binny & Co. are worthy of consideration and the whole matter should be thoroughly gone into.

ENCLOSURES.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the President, Municipal Commission, dated 17th February 1898, Ref. No. 184-2.

In forwarding herewith the enclosed correspondence, I have the honour to enquire what the municipality are prepared to do in the matter, as it is not at all desirable that the Government General Hospital should be used for the purpose of treating such diseases.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. BROWNE, M.D., Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 19th January 1898, Ref. No. 4068.

I have the honour to forward a letter from the Resident Medical Officer addressed to me on the subject of the admission of a case of measles on the 15th ultimo.

The procedure ultimately adopted in the disposal of the case was carried out by the Resident Medical Officer on my orders, namely, the clearing out of one of the female isolation huts which was fortunately nearly empty of patients at the time. The mother of the child in question solved the difficulty as far as this hospital was concerned by removing the child the next morning.

2. In connection with this subject I beg to draw the attention of the Surgeon-General to paragraph 1 of my administration report for 1896 wherein I stated "that at last there seems a possibility of the treatment of cases of the 'specific infective diseases' being undertaken in special hospitals" because the Health Officer had informed me that the Kistnampet hospital was available for cases of contagious diseases in general, but apparently with the chance of the possible arrival in Madras of "the plague", no other contagious disease was thought worth troubling about and on the conversion of the Kistnampet hospital into a plague hospital all further notices of cases of other contagious disease was practically abandoned.

3. When the Health Officer was asked by the Resident Medical Officer (by telephone) on the 15th ultimo, if he should turn the mother and child into the streets, he promptly replied "yes, as there was nothing else to be done", but the Resident Medical Officer consulted me (while at college) on the subject and the action taken was as given above.

4. It is not, I consider, our duty to relieve the municipality of all trouble and expense in the matter of providing due accommodation for cases of contagious disease and I trust that the Surgeon-General will be able to have the subject placed on a more satisfactory footing than exists at present.

From Surgeon-Captain G. G. GIFFORD, Resident Medical Officer, General Hospital, to the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, dated Madras, 16th December 1897.

I have the honour to inform you that yesterday afternoon a child suffering from a bad attack of measles was brought by his mother for admission; she having been sent to the hospital by the Port Officer. They were travelling from Bangalore to Rangoon. They were not allowed to embark on board the ship. We had here the whole of our available accommodation filled by cases of cholera and small-pox. I therefore at once telephoned to the Municipal Health Officer that I was unable to admit the child and asked what should be done and whether there was any other accommodation for European cases of infectious diseases available in Madras. I was informed by him that there was not. As the case could not go on board the ship and could not be received into a hotel and since the mother had no friends in Madras, in order to avoid what might have developed into a public scandal, I turned the European patients (three in number) out of the Senior Physician hut and admitted the case.

I need hardly point out, firstly, that the accommodation for infectious diseases at the General Hospital was not originally intended to be the contagious disease hospital for the whole of Madras, but only to accommodate such cases as occur accidentally from time to time in the hospital itself, and secondly, that the accommodation at one time within a few yards of this large General Hospital of cases of cholera, small-pox, measles and other contagious diseases is an extremely dangerous procedure.

Ref. No. 86-2.

Returned. The Surgeon-General wishes to have a statement from you showing what cases of contagious diseases have been admitted into the General Hospital during the past three years.

(By order.)

MADRAS, (Signed) R. H. ELLIOT, Surgn.-Capt.,
31st January 1898. Secy., Surgn.-Genl. with the Govt. of Madras.

To the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, Madras.

Ref. No. 323.

The following is a statement showing the number of cases admitted into the hospital during the past three years for infectious diseases:—

Diseases.	1895.			1896.			1897.		
	Europeans and Eurasians.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans and Eurasians.	Natives.	Total.	Europeans and Eurasians.	Natives.	Total.
Cholera ..	1	8	9	2	16	18	9	32	41
Small-pox ..	2	3	5	5	4	9	22	18	40
Chicken-pox ..	3	70	73	19	15	34	1	2	3
Measles ..	12	1	13	14	15	29	1	..	1
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Total ..	18	82	100	41	50	91	33	53	86

MADRAS, (Signed) W. R. BROWNE, M.D., Surgn.-Lt.-Colonel,
7th February 1898. Senior Medical Officer.

To the Secretary to the Surgeon-General,
with the Government of Madras.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. WALKER, M.D., Surgeon, 4th District, to the President, Municipal Commission, dated Royapettah Hospital, 31st March 1898, No. 185.

I have the honour to bring to notice that a Eurasian woman aged 22, residing at Pudupet, suffering from small-pox, was brought to the isolation hospital, Kistnampet, yesterday, stating that she had been refused admission into the General Hospital, and had been directed to go to the Kistnampet isolation hospital. The woman could not be turned away and had to be admitted; but I must invite your attention to the fact, well known to you, that the Kistnampet isolation hospital consists of two wards—one for cholera and one for small-pox—each ward accommodating six males and six females and that they are intended for Natives only and that there is no accommodation or provision for Europeans and Eurasians.

2. Under the circumstances of the rejection at the General Hospital of Europeans and Eurasians suffering from communicable disease, and the want of provision for such cases elsewhere, what is to be done? If they come to the Kistnampet isolation hospital, I must of course admit them, but they must be treated with, and as, natives.

3. I understand the General Hospital authorities absolutely decline to admit any severe cases of communicable disease even in Europeans and Eurasians. Will you therefore kindly take the matter up as it has reached a deadlock?

Transferred to the Public Department.

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secy. to Government.

14th April 1898.

Endt. No. 968.

Communicated to the Surgeon-General for very early report, in continuation of G.O., No. 534, dated 7th April 1898.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) A. T. ARUNDEL,
22nd April 1898. Chief Secretary.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 17th May 1898, No. T.—118.

With reference to G.O., No. 534, Public, dated 7th April 1898, and your endorsement, No. 968, dated 22nd April 1898, herewith returned with enclosures, I have the honour to attach, for the information of Government, a copy of letter, No. T.—21, dated 19th April 1898, addressed to the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, on the subject of provision for the treatment of cases of infectious disease in Madras.

2. The subject of the admission of cases of all the infectious diseases into the General Hospital has been prominently brought to notice during the past three years and much correspondence has taken place between the Senior Medical Officer of the General Hospital and the President of the Municipal Commission and the Health Officer of Madras on the subject.

3. The order regarding the restriction of the cases to be taken into the General Hospital which had received my sanction was brought into force on the 21st March 1898. Accordingly on the 31st March the two cases of modified small-pox referred to were brought to the hospital, the apothecary on duty at once consulted the Resident Medical Officer. This officer personally saw the patients and found that they were mild cases and he was therefore unable to admit them. The Senior Medical Officer informs me that the whole detention at the General Hospital of the patients did not last half an hour and they were not "kept waiting over an hour" as is stated in Messrs. Binny & Co.'s letter. Messrs. Binny & Co. state in paragraph 3 of their letter that it has hitherto been customary to admit small-pox patients into the General Hospital, and this has been and is quite true, but always with limitations, for the space available is small.

4. The space provided in the isolation sheds consists of—

C. Shed, cholera, female, natives	..	..	..	..	..	8 beds.
D. " " male " "	..	..	..	..	..	8 "
E. " small-pox, male, Europeans	..	..	..	..	..	3 "
F. " " " natives	..	..	..	..	..	6 "

This shows how limited the accommodation is and that it is quite impossible to provide separate accommodation for European and natives and for men, women and children, respectively, if more than the two diseases mentioned (cholera and small-pox) are to be treated at one time. When as lately occurred, cases of five distinct infectious diseases had to be treated, the Senior Medical Officer had to resort to the use of tents

which had to be pitched on the very limited space in the hospital compound which is most undesirable and is even dangerous to the ordinary patients—such arrangements also lead to great difficulties about the nursing.

5. I inquired from the Senior Medical Officer whether it would not be possible to make temporary arrangements for European and Eurasian persons suffering from such diseases pending the provision of a properly organized isolation hospital and he replies "this does not now seem to be necessary. as the municipality have at last provided accommodation for Europeans and Eurasians (for small-pox cases at any rate)—the Health Officer having written to me on the 2nd ultimo to direct in future all European and Eurasian small-pox cases to go to Ráyapuram where suitable accommodation is now provided for them."

The order to which the President takes exception was as follows:—

"The contagious sheds shall be reserved for the treatment of—

(a) Cases of contagious diseases occurring in patients already under treatment in the hospital.

(b) Cases of contagious disease brought to hospital in such a dangerous condition that serious risk to life would be incurred by further transportation. All other cases of contagious disease brought to the General Hospital are to be directed to be taken to the Kistnampet isolation hospital or the Monegar Choultry according to circumstances. In the former hospital all varieties of contagious diseases can be treated, but in the Monegar Choultry provision is at present (March 1898) restricted to small-pox and cholera occurring in natives."

6. Government will see from the above facts that the accommodation for the treatment of infectious and contagious diseases in the General Hospital is so limited that the above order was necessary. The President of the Municipal Commission was quite aware of the unpreparedness of the city for the conveyance and treatment of such cases. It is clearly most desirable that adequate provision should be made in Madras for the conveyance of such cases and their treatment.

ENCLOSURE.

COPY of letter from the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, dated 19th April 1898, No. T.—21.

With reference to your letter, No. 366, dated Madras, 25th February 1898, I have the honour to inform you that I addressed the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, who proposed to reserve the General Hospital contagious sheds solely for such cases of infectious disease as occurred amongst in-patients of the hospital and for those cases brought to hospital in a dangerous condition, and which could not be transferred either to the Monegar Choultry or Kistnampet isolation sheds without danger to their lives.

2. These proposals met with my approval, and I referred them to the Surgeons of the 1st and 4th Districts directing them to inform me—

(1) What accommodation existed at present in the hospitals under their charge for the class of cases in question?

(2) What equipment was available?

(3) What staff was available?

and I received the following replies:—

(1) That there are two sheds—one for cholera and the other for small-pox cases, each is supposed to accommodate eight males and eight females, but only twelve in all can really be accommodated at a time without overcrowding.

(2) There is no furniture, cots, equipment or bedding and clothing, but old articles of bedding and clothing, belonging to the Native Infirmary, are issued, and destroyed after use. Diet and contingent expenses are first supplied through the Superintendent, Monegar Choultry, and subsequently recovered from the municipality.

(3) There is no special medical staff, the work being done by the staff at the infirmary.

(4) The permanent menial staff consists of one male and one female toty, a male and a female ward attendant are engaged when necessary.

(5) There is no accommodation at all for European or Eurasians, nor is there any provision for dangerous communicable diseases other than cholera or small-pox.

3. The Surgeon, 4th District, reports—

(1) The Kistnampett isolation sheds are located about a mile away from Royapettah hospital. There are two pukka built wards for natives only—one for cholera and the other for small-pox cases, each accommodating six males and six females. There is no provision at all for Europeans or Eurasians, and there is no separate ward for reception of other contagious diseases other than those already mentioned.

(2) Diets, clothing, &c., are issued from Royapettah hospital.

(3) The medical staff now consists of two hospital assistants specially detailed for duty, by the President, Municipal Commission, since the present outbreak of the small-pox.

(4) The permanent menial staff consists of one male ward-cooly and one male toty. Temporary servants are engaged when necessary.

(5) There are no nurses.

4. Under such circumstances, I would suggest that a proper isolation hospital for all classes should be organized.

Memorandum, No. 1174, Public, dated 20th May 1898.

From the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, dated 23rd May 1898, No. G.-87.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding copy of the following paper:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, *Kt.*, C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 25th February 1898, H. No. 366-B.P.

With reference to your letter, No. 184-2, dated 17th February 1898, I have the honour to state that the isolation hospital (cholera-shed) at Kistnampett is and has been available for the treatment of infectious diseases, as well as the isolation sheds at the Monegar Choultry.

2. When the Health Officer reported the case referred to by the Senior Medical Officer I at once suggested that it should be sent either to Kistnampett or to the Monegar Choultry. He objected to this, as the patient would have to be taken through the streets. I can hardly reconcile this with his telephonic communication to the Resident Medical Officer.

3. I am at a loss to know where the Senior Medical Officer obtained his information that the isolation hospital at Kistnampett had been converted into a plague hospital. It never has been and is never intended to be used as such.

4. I should have thought that Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Browne, of all people, would have known that the plague hospital for that part of the city was the old Women and Children's Hospital.

5. If the Senior Medical Officer had referred to his letter, No. 1331, dated 26th January 1897, to the Health Officer, he would have known that the Monegar Choultry, at all events, was available.

6. The enclosures with your letter under reply are herewith returned.

Telegram from the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 3rd June 1898.

My No. 48, dated 6th April 1898. Solicit orders seven cases measles in plague hospital, Rayapuram. Must decline to continue admission.

Transferred to the Public Department, to which the previous papers on the subject were forwarded for disposal.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

3rd June 1898.

Official Memo. No. 1272.

The Surgeon-General is requested to submit a very early reply to official memorandum, No. 1174, Public, dated 25th May 1898.

(Signed) A. R. KNAPP,
for Chief Secretary.

6th June 1898.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Ootacamund, 10th June 1898, No. T.—182.

With reference to your memorandum No. 1174, dated 20th May 1898, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Health Officer's letter and a statement of the European, Eurasian and Native patients who were under treatment in the isolation wards at the General Hospital on March 31st.

ENCLOSURE

COPY of a letter from the Health Officer, Madras Municipality, to the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, dated Madras, 2nd April 1898, No. H.—9.

I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to direct, in future, all European and Eurasian small-pox cases to go to Rayapuram where suitable accommodation is now provided for them.

Statement.

On the 31st March 1898, the following cases were under treatment in the contagious disease sheds:—

	Europeans and Eurasians.			Natives.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Small-pox	1	1	1	4	1	1
Chicken-pox	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	4	1	1

ORDER—No. 821, Public, dated 29th June 1898.

In the foregoing letters the President of the Madras Municipal Commission and Messrs. Binny & Co. bring to the notice of Government the grave public danger and inconvenience caused by the refusal of the medical officer to receive into the General Hospital in March last patients suffering from infectious diseases. From the subsequent correspondence it appears that this refusal was in accordance with the orders of the Surgeon-General, and the latter officer upholds his action by showing that the contagious wards at the hospital are, from their size, obviously sufficient only to accommodate cases accidentally arising in the hospital itself. The Government agrees with the Surgeon-General in this view, and the question of establishing a municipal

hospital for contagious diseases will be considered in the Local and Municipal Department. In the meanwhile the hospital order of 21st March 1898 should be withdrawn as far as it relates to European patients, who, until other arrangements can be made, must be received at the General Hospital whenever accommodation is available. Native patients can be sent to Kistnampett and the Monegar Choultry.

2. Messrs. Binny & Co.'s suggestions for the future treatment of infectious diseases arising on boardship will be considered in the Marine Department.

(True Extract.)

A. K. Russell
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" President, Madras Municipal Commission
(through Local and Municipal Department).
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Messrs. Binny & Co.
" Marine Department.

Exd. C. M. Thumbarwamy.

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

, DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

OF GOVERNMENT.

ENT WITH DIET.

NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

B.-

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

F = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.