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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Gen. 5-11-58

G.O. No.

2315

Press
Mis.

35-36

Dated

3-11-

1858.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

20/3/36

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 5th November 1858.

No. 35. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Public Department, dated 21st October 1858, No. 1306.

Passing orders on the Annual Report of the Medical College Council for the Sessions of 1857-58 and the Reports on the Primary Medical School recently established and drawing the attention of the Department Public Works to the want of additional Lecture Room prominently put forward in the report. } (Vide Public Consultation, 29th October 1858, Nos. 13 at 18.)

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, No. 2315; dated 3rd November 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Chief Engineer, with a request that he will, in communication with the Director of Public Instruction, submit Plans and Estimates for the additions to the Medical College referred to in para. 4 of the above Minutes of Consultation.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 1306.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, under date the 21st October 1858.

Read the following letter from A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Director of Public Instruction.

(Here enter 30th July 1858, No. 609.)

With this letter, *Mr. Arbuthnot* submits

A. The Annual Report of the Medical College Council for the Session of 1857-58.

B. Reports on the *Primary* Medical School, recently established, and* *Vide Selections of Madras Government, No. XLVIII.*

C. Some correspondence on the subject of the changes proposed last year* in the course of instruction at the Medical College.

2. The Council do not report well of the conduct of the Students during the past Session. It has been marked by much levity and carelessness. One of the causes assigned for this and admitting of immediate remedy, is the extreme youth of some of the Students. It is proposed by the Director that the age at which admission may take place be raised to 17 years. The sanction of Government is accorded to this measure.

3. On the other hand the Report of the Committee of Examiners, consisting of the Director General of the Department and three other officers unconnected with the Council, is of a more satisfactory character. Of eight Candidates for the Diploma, six passed with great credit for that distinction.

4. The want of additional lecture rooms, and above all of a reading room for the Students is prominently put forward. This will be referred to the Department Public Works, for consideration.

5. The condition of the Primary School is spoken of in high terms. The design in establishing it was to impart to young lads desirous of entering the Medical College a greater acquaintance with English than is ordinarily met with in the junior classes of that Seminary, and an elementary practical knowledge of their future profession. To this end, after a few hours have been devoted to English, the lads are taken daily to the Vepery Hospital and taught to apply all the common Surgical apparatus. They have further received instruction in the elements of Osteology, Physiology and in Materia Medica. The success of the experiment has been marked. There are between 40 and 50 pupils in this School. These results are highly satisfactory and reflect very great credit on Dr. Kellie.

6. In paras. 16 to 29 inclusive, *Mr. Arbuthnot* discusses the question as to the course of training most suitable for Military Medical Students,* the present standard having been condemn-

* *Divided into*A. *Medical Apprentices (East Indians.)*B. *Medical Pupils (Natives.)*ed by the Committee of Examiners convened last year (*vide Selections of this Government, No. XLVIII*) as unnecessarily high, and incompati-

ble with the future position and prospects of those concerned; an opinion which has also been strongly pressed by the late and present Heads of the Army of this Presidency.

7. The present system appears to be this: The Curriculum of study at the Medical College is the same or very nearly so for all classes of Students. On completing it, the *Eurasian* becomes an Apothecary, and the *Native* a Dresser; and the *Native* has further open to him the grade of "Native Surgeon."

A. The Committee of Examiners, who first drew attention to the alleged evils of the present high standard, propose that Botany, Inorganic Chemistry, Military Surgery and Medical Jurisprudence be omitted, as *separate* courses, and that more time shall be devoted to Clinical Surgery, Clinical Medicine and Pathology.

B. To this scheme the College Council are found to object. The only concession they are willing to make is, to omit the courses on Organic Chemistry and Military Surgery and to reduce those on some other subjects. The President, *Dr. Kellie*, dissents from his colleagues, being of opinion that the education of Military Students, even with these modifications, is pitched too high. His views accord very much with those of the Commander-in-Chief, which are as follows:—

C. His Excellency considers that it would be sufficient if Medical Subordinates were trained to the study of the five subjects noted in the margin† to the expressed exclusion of Chemistry, Botany and Medical Jurisprudence, and to the exclusion, by implication, of Midwifery, Diseases of women and children and Ophthalmic Surgery. This scheme, it is shown, is nearly identical with the education that was afforded to Medical Subordinates previously to the formation of the College in 1847, and is very little in advance of that now to be obtained by the youths at the Primary School, recently established.

† *Anatomy.*
Physiology.
Materia Medica.
Surgery.
Practice of Medicine.

8. When the foregoing three proposals came before him, *Mr. Arbuthnot*, under the belief that the adoption of either the first or second would fail to supply the want now felt in the Army, viz., a class of Subordinates of an inferior grade, to be employed on duties wherein very little professional knowledge will suffice; while the adoption of the third would give to the Public Service mere Hospital Assistants without any admixture of men competent to act in detached situations or to take the place of the Medical Officer on an emergency arising—propounded the enquiry whether it would not be possible in future to train one class of Students as Hospital Attendants, and another for charges of a higher character; the first to be styled 'Dressers,' and the second 'Apothecaries'; all distinctions on account of parentage being simultaneously removed.

9. The Medical authorities being unanimously opposed to this suggestion, on the ground that the exigencies of the Public Service will never admit of its being carried out, *Mr. Arbuthnot* (paras. 30 to 39 inclusive) gives his attention to two proposals, one from the Committee of Examiners and one from the College Council, for attracting to the Subordinate Medical service lads with higher qualifications, both literary and professional, than now engage themselves. The generally slight knowledge of *English*, which the present Candidates possess, is found to be a very serious drawback to their progress in the lecture room. If this state of things could be improved and arrangements made under which youths might enter the College, with some acquaintance with the rudiments of Medical science, very great results might fairly be looked for.

It is therefore proposed, that, at certain stations in the Mofussil, where there are both a Hospital, and a Zillah School or a School of a cognate character, scholarships shall be thrown open to the competition of lads of a certain age. The stipend suggested is 3 Rupees a month, and after pursuing his studies both under the Schoolmaster and under the eye of the Surgeon in charge of the Hospital for a certain period, the scholar is to be drafted off to the Medical College at Madras. As for lads at the Presidency, no scholarships are proposed, they having the benefit of the Primary Medical School.

Mr. Arbuthnot submits a draft‡ set of Rules, and if the principle is approved, he begs that he may be allowed to revise the details with the Director General of the Medical Department, and that it may then be promulgated in the shape of a "General Order."

This proposition will be considered in the Military Department of the Secretariat, in connection with the Minutes of the Honorable W. Elliot and Honorable W. Morehead.

10. *Paras. 40 and 41* describe the Curriculum *Mr. Arbuthnot* would propose for adoption at present in the College course, in the case, first, of Medical Apprentices, and, secondly, Native Medical Pupils. He thinks it will in a great measure meet the views of the Commander-in-Chief, and the Committee of Examiners, and he would maintain it in force, until the scholarship scheme above referred to shall operate in raising the qualifications of Candidates for admission into the College. This subject will like the former, be referred to the Military Department.

11. *Para. 42.* Here *Mr. Arbuthnot* shows that the Commander-in-Chief has been misinformed on an important point in regard to the studies pursued at the College, since "practical demonstration" forms a prominent feature in the course of instruction.

12. *Para. 43.* Adverting to the expediency of introducing the 'tutorial' system to a greater extent into the College, *Mr. Arbuthnot* proposes that one of the Native Surgeons be appointed tutor on the salary of Rupees 100 per mensem. The Government approve this suggestion and will refer it to the Government of India, on being furnished with the usual application.

13. *Paras. 44 and 45.* *Mr. Arbuthnot* adverts to the want of success which has attended the establishment of a grade of *Native Assistant Surgeons*. He would throw the appointment open to all classes, abolishing at the same time the caste distinction now subsisting in the grades of Apothecary and Dresser. It is observed that this very important question has on former occasions come under discussion in the Military Department. It will be considered again.

14. *Para. 46.* One of the draft Rules sanctioned by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 16th November last, laid it down that at Meetings of Council, the Senior Professor, *according to date of appointment*, shall, in the absence of the Principal, take the chair. *Mr. Arbuthnot* now shows cause why the words underscored should be struck out. Ordered accordingly.

15. *Para. 47 ad finem.* *Mr. Arbuthnot* shows that he was misapprehended by Government in two passages in his letter reviewed in the same Extract of the 16th November last.

16. Ordered, that the Director's letter and its enclosures be printed as a 'Selection' from the Records of Government, with the foregoing Extract from the Minutes of Consultation appended.

(True Extract.)

D. J. Cunningham
53 Chief Secretary.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ Public Works Department. ✓
- „ Military Department, with copy of the Minutes and the draft Rules.
- „ Superintendent Government Press, with original Report and its enclosures, Nos. 1 to 3.

