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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1722	Press
724-725	Mis.
Dated 31-5-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st May 1866.*

No. 724. Read the following letter from the Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort Saint George, 17th May 1866, No. 174 :—

1. In acknowledging receipt of Order of Government as per margin, I have the honor to state that the forms of sick certificate therein indicated are not suited to the cases of persons temporarily disabled by sickness for the performance of their duties, and who do not require change of air.

2. It is quite impossible for a Medical Officer to say at the beginning of an illness, such as fever, dysentery or diarrhoea, how long the patient will be unfitted for work; at the best a certificate given under such circumstances must be mere guess work, and it is just as probable that the Government will lose by an unnecessary grant of leave, as that the time mentioned in the certificate may be too short for perfect recovery.

3. It seems to me that this difficulty would be best met by requiring certificates something in the following form :—

FORM 1.

This is to certify that Mr. _____ is this day placed on the sick list, and that he is unable to perform any duty.

FORM 2.

“ This is to certify that Mr. _____ has been incapacitated for duty by sickness from the _____ to the _____ both days inclusive,”
And that forms 2 and 3 in the Chief Engineer's printed Circular No. LXX. of 7th January 1862, should only be employed when the patient needs a change of residence for his recovery.

4. The attention of Medical Officers will, as directed, be called to this subject, but I feel it my duty respectfully to point out, that in asking Medical Officers to certify on first seeing a patient as to the probable duration of an illness, “good discipline” in the Department Public Works is more likely to suffer, than when a certificate is given to include only the actual number of days the patient was on the sick list.

5. Instructions will be issued to the Medical Department on receipt of the views of Government on the subject.

No. 725. ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1866, No. 1,722.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 68.

As the revised forms which are submitted by the Officiating Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department will not remove the inconvenience which is at present experienced by the Superintending Engineers, owing to the non-production by their Executive Officers and Subordinates temporarily disabled by sickness from the performance of their

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31st May 1866.

duty of certificates from Medical Officers for leave for a specified time, the Government do not think it necessary or advisable to sanction their adoption, or to authorize any modification of the forms which are now in use, and which have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
,, Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

No. 174.

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

Fort Saint George, 17th May 1866

From

The Offg. Principal Inspector General, Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To

The Secretary to Government, Public Works Dept.,
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

No. 1295 of date 25th
April 1866
Public Works
Department.

In acknowledging receipt of order of Government as per margin, I have the honor to state that the forms of sick certificate therein indicated are not suited to the cases of persons temporarily disabled by sickness for the performance of their duties and who do not require change of air.

2. It is quite impossible for a Medical Officer to say at the beginning of an illness, such as fever, dysentery, or diarrhoea how long the patient will be unfitted for work, at the best a certificate given under such circumstances must be mere guess work, and it is just as probable that the Government will lose by an unnecessary grant of leave as that the time mentioned in the certificate may be too short for perfect recovery.

3. It seems to me that this difficulty would be best met by requiring certificates something in the following form.

Form 1.

This is to certify that Mr. _____ is this day placed on the sick list, and that he is unable to perform any duty.

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Form 2.

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4. The attention of Medical Officers will, as directed, be called to this subject, but I feel it my duty respectfully to point out, that in asking Medical Officers to certify on first seeing a patient as to the probable duration of an illness, "good discipline" in the Department Public Works is more likely to suffer than when a certificate is given to include only the actual number of days the patient was on the sick list.

5. Instructions will be issued to the Medical Department on receipt of the views of Government on the subject.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Laurel Henry
Insp. Genl. of Hospitals
Offg. P. Insp. General
Medical Department

C. J. Thomson

Public Works Dept

1866/22

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 31st May 1866
Read the following

From the Off. Principal
Inspector General
Medical Dept.

(Received 17 May 1866
No 174)

As the revised forms
which are submitted by the
Off. Principal Inspector General
of the Medical Department
will not remove the incon-
venience which is at
present experienced by the
Superintending Engineers owing
to the non production by their
Executive Officers and Subordinates
temporarily disabled by sickness
from the performance of their
duty of certificates from
Medical Officers for leave for
a specified time, the Gov^{rs}
do not think it necessary

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to the Off. Principal
Inspector General
Medical Dept.

Dated 17th May 1866
No 174

submitting observations
on the forms of certificates
submitted to be granted
to Executive Officers and
Subordinates of the Public
Works Department.

1866/22

1866/22

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 adoption or to authorize any
 modification of the forms
 which are now in use,
 and which have been
~~sanctioned~~ sanctioned by the
 Government of India -

[Signature]

By the Principal Surgeon General
 Medical Dept
 Secy & Hygiene & Disinfect

Secy " " " done

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[Signature]

P.W. 1086 Department.
Proc: of Court for May
A. 1422

Proc: of the Chancery Court
Of 3rd May 1872

Wm. V.
22/5/72

The Officiating Principal
Inspector General Medical Dept.
informed that there is no neces-
sity for any modification of
Forms of Sick certificates which
are now in use.

A. 724.725