

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	627	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	22-6-	1966.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
22nd June 1866.

No. 132. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, dated 13th June 1866, No. 2008.

Passing orders on the proposal to pass } (Vide Proceedings, Military Dept., dated
out certain Students of the Medical } 13th June 1866, Nos. 298—301.)
College as Assistant Apothecaries.

No. 133.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1866, No. 627.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Memo. from the Adjutant General... Here enter 12th April 1866, No. 22.
Memo. from the Ag. Chief Secy. to Govt., Edel. Dept. 4th June 1866, No. 210.
From the Offg. Pl. Insp. Genl. Medl. Dept..... ... ,, 9th ,, No. 210.

Memorandum from the Adjutant General, Head Quarters, Ootacamund, 12th April 1866, No. 22; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

In submitting the within letter from the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, the Commander-in-Chief has the honor to state that as Mr. Shaw points out that the present strength of the Medical Subordinate Department is insufficient to meet the requirements of the service, it is highly expedient that immediate measures should be taken to ascertain whether any of the students of the senior Department now in the college, (without reference to the period they may have been under tuition) are qualified for admission into the service: and if so that they be at once promoted to Assistant Apothecaries.

2. His Excellency further requests the orders of Government on the suggestion of Mr. Shaw, that 100 pupil candidates be immediately entertained, to meet the future wants of the Department.

From Inspector General of Hospitals J. SHAW, for the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, 28th March 1866, No. 121; to the Adjutant General.

I have the honor to bring to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that the Medical Subordinate Establishment is at present so much below the authorised strength, that it is impossible fully to meet the requirements of the service.

2. In the grade of Assistant Apothecary there are at present 29 vacancies; in that of the Dresser, or Hospital Assistant's grade, 134.

3. By the scheme for the re-organization of the Subordinate Medical Service now before Government, it is proposed that instead of an Assistant Apothecary and 2nd Dresser to each Native Regiment as at present, a 1st class Hospital Assistant (a 1st Dresser) and a 3rd class Hospital Assistant, be appointed.

4. If this be sanctioned, the strength of the Apothecary grade will be considerably lowered, and that of the Dresser or Hospital Assistant augmented.

5. But the Department will not be in a position to carry out the proposed change for at least two years, it will until then be necessary to continue the system of posting Assistant Apothecaries to Native Regiments.

6. His Excellency is aware that the Medical Subordinate Service is supposed to be kept efficient by youths annually transferred from the senior or 3rd Military Class at the Medical College, but this year the college can only supply 8, a number quite insufficient to meet the immediate wants of the service.

7. It appears to me to be absolutely necessary to pass out, as Assistant Apothecaries, as many of the 2nd year students as may be found *fairly qualified*, after a less rigorous examination than those of the third year.

8. Of this class there are only 12, and of these 6 are what are called "remanded students," who have already been at the Medical College the full authorised time of three years. These "remanded students" are lads, who either from mental incompetence or idleness were considered unfit to pass into a higher class, and were detained in their former class for another year, instead of having been dismissed, as they ought to have been. If these "remanded students" fail in their examination, it would be well that the examiners be requested to report whether it is desirable to retain them any longer as Military Students.

9. Should all the students, which is very improbable, pass out, still only 20 of the vacancies would be filled up.

4. Looking then (1) at the evident unfitness of the youths in the 2nd class of the 2nd Department to pass out of the college, and (2) at the fact that the present pressure on the Apothecary grade will be felt for a very short period, at the expiration of which the number of men in the grade will actually be in excess of the requirements, I have the honor to recommend that sanction be withheld from the first of Mr. Shaw's proposals.

From the Principal, Medical College, Madras, 26th April 1866, No. 198 ; to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, No. 760, dated Madars, 18th April-1866, and to submit for your information, the report called for in paragraph 2 of the said communication.*

*" Mr. Smith is requested to report, as early as practicable, upon Mr. Shaw's proposal that the members of the 2nd class of the 2nd Department of the Medical College should be brought up for examination in May next, and that after a less rigorous test than that laid down for the 3rd or senior class of the same Department, they should be passed out as Assistant Apothecaries, if found fairly qualified for the duties of the grade."

† One student was remanded in the 2nd class, and five in the 1st or junior class of the 2nd Department.

2. The class alluded to by the Officiating Principal Inspector General consists of twelve lads, of whom six are remanded students.†

3. To decide the point whether these lads in their second year of college study, can, in any correct sense, be regarded as "fairly qualified" to perform the duties of the Apothecary grade, it will be necessary to inquire, 1st into the nature of the duties expected of the Apothecary grade ; 2ndly, into the details of the professional training sanctioned by Government for that grade ; and 3rdly, into the character of the examination to be undergone before lads can be transferred to the service as Assistant Apothecaries.

4. The nature of the duties demanded of the Apothecary grade may be summarized thus :—

† Vide letter to the address of the Director of Public Instruction, No. 193, dated 9th March 1864, paragraph 16.

The duties of an Apothecary are principally dependent, often independent ; " but, † placed in whatever position he may be, by the exigencies of the service, it is expected of him that he shall intelligently perform the duties which devolve upon him. Whilst under the immediate orders of his Medical superior, the subordinate is literally his Assistant Surgeon, assisting in all the Medical and Surgical duties of the Hospital ; he is, moreover, the house Surgeon, acting on every emergency in the absence of the Officer in charge ; he is the Apothecary, to compound and dispense medicines ; the clerk, to keep the records ; and the Store-keeper, in charge of the medicines, instruments and apparatus. He is also the usual Medical Attendant of the sepoys' families and of the camp followers, and, when the Medical Officer is sick or absent, he becomes the professional adviser of all from the highest to the lowest, and is expected to be equal to the responsibilities of his position. In addition to the general run of his dependent duties, he may be called upon, at any moment, to assume charge of detachments of troops, whether European or Native with their Officers. It has been frequently found necessary to place him in charge of a wing, and at times of a whole Native Regiment. Outposts, small Jails, Police Corps and Collectors Establishments are frequently committed to his care, and ships full of troops have, ere now, sailed with a Medical Subordinate as the only Medical Officer on board. When in Medical charge, he is, of course, the Physician, Surgeon, Accoucheur and Medical Jurist of his charge. The Coroner takes his evidence when no Medical Officer is at hand, and thus the Government and the public demand from him, and receive from him an assistance, which only a carefully and practically educated professional man can give."

5. The professional training laid down by Government, within little more than a year, as necessary to ensure the requisite qualifications for these important and responsible duties, embraces a two years' course of hospital training before joining college, and a three years' curriculum of professional study in college.

TABLE shewing the pre-collegiate hospital training and collegiate course of study required of students of the second Department.

Pre-collegiate course.		Collegiate curriculum.		
1st year.	2nd year.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.
Hospital training. Vide G. O., 29th March 1865, No. 84.	Hospital training.	Anatomy. Chemistry. Materia Medica. Practical Chem. Practical Phar. Hospital Attendance.	Anatomy. Physiology. Surgery. Medicine. Dissections and Demonstrations. Practical Pharm. Minor Surgery. Clinical. Instruction at the General Hospital.	Medicine. Surgery. Midwifery and diseases of women and children. Ophthalmology. Hygiene. Dissections and Demonstrations. Operative and minor Surgery. Clinical instruction at the General Hospital, Eye Infirmary and Lying-in Hospital.

6. Before lads are transferred to the Medical Subordinate Department as Assistant Apothecaries, they must have passed a searching examination in the theory and practice of their profession, before a Committee of Medical Officers, nominated for that purpose by superior authority. On passing successfully the examination, they receive from the hands of His Excellency the Governor, at the anniversary of the college, a formal certificate to the effect that they have been "duly examined," and have been found "qualified" for the performance of the duties of "Assistant Apothecary."

7. The lads, whom the Officiating Principal Inspector General desires to secure as Assistant Apothecaries, will have received, at the close of June, a professional education as follows :—

Pre-collegiate course.		Collegiate curriculum.		
1st year.	2nd year.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.
None.	None.	Anatomy. Physiology. Chemistry. Dispensary.	Anatomy. Physiology. Surgery. Medicine. Materia Medica. Dissections and Demonstrations. Practical Pharmacy. Minor Surgery. Clinical instruction at the General Hospital.	None.

From an examination of this table, and, from a comparison of it with the table at paragraph 5, it will be observed that, at the close of this session, these lads will have had but two years of college instruction, and, further, that they have had no pre-collegiate hospital training at all. Of the fundamental subjects of medicine and surgery they will have had but one stead of two courses, and, if drafted out of college, they will enter the Medical Subordinate Service in total ignorance of Midwifery (and diseases of women and children) of diseases of the Eye, of Hygiene, and of Operative Surgery.

8. At the close of the present session the professional education secured by the six remanded students will be as follows :—

Pre-collegiate course.		Collegiate curriculum.		
1st year.	2nd year.	1st year.	2nd year.	3rd year.
None.	None.	Botany. Anatomy. Physiology. Chemistry. Dispensary.	Anatomy. Physiology. Chemistry. Dispensary.	Anatomy. Physiology. Surgery. Medicine. Materia Medica. Dissections and Demonstrations. Practical Pharmacy. Minor Surgery. Clinical instruction at the General Hospital.

From this table it may be gathered that Medicine and Surgery will have been studied by them

* Barker, having been remanded in his 2nd year, will have attended two courses each of Medicine and Surgery.
† Midwifery, &c., Hygiene, diseases of the Eye, Operative Surgery.

imperfectly also,* and that the advanced subjects marginally indicated† still remain to be entered upon.

9. The Officiating Principal Inspector General proposes that these half educated lads should be submitted to a "less rigorous examination," and, if "found fairly qualified" for the duties of the Apothecary grade, they should be passed out of college to meet the immediate requirements of the service. It is evident from the facts I have tabulated above, that in their case the final examination must be not only "less rigorous" in its demands in the matter of Medicine and Surgery, but must also be so changed in character, as to leave out four important subjects altogether. Under these circumstances, I cannot see how certificates can be granted to these lads, to the effect that they are "fairly qualified" to perform the duties of the Apothecary grade.

10. To usher into the Apothecary grade a batch of lads very imperfectly educated, and therefore practically unfit for the work of the Subordinate Department, is a very serious step to take, considering that human life is concerned. A similar step was taken in 1857, in a time of War and of extreme exigency, but to have recourse to such an expedient in time of Peace, when no unforeseen pressure ought to exist, appears to me to be most objectionable. Already, by the step taken in 1857, one Assistant Apothecary out of every five is under-educated, and if we add to these this batch of twelve lads, then in a service noted for its general intelligence, professional education and efficiency, one out of every four will have received certificates of qualification on the results of anomalous and insufficient examinations.

11. It would afford me satisfaction to be able to remove the embarrassments of the Head of the Medical Department by any legitimate means within my power. But I do not see how these embarrassments can possibly be relieved by the employment of insufficiently educated lads, who have secured a fictitious certificate, granted, on passing a fictitious examination. At best, such lads would be mere stop-gaps, dangerous shams, occupying a position at once dangerous to the sick, unjust to themselves, unfair to the service, and calculated to bring discredit upon this institution. The pressure complained of can last but for a very short time, for, within two years, there will actually be a considerable number of Medical Subordinates of the Apothecary grade supernu-

rary to the sanctioned establishment, as determined by the proposed new scheme.* Is it not possible that a pressure so temporary as this may be tided over, by employing, for a time,—as has been done before—pensioned Apothecaries and Dressers, rather than by adopting the extreme and inconvenient expedients suggested in the communication under report?

* Thus :—present authorized number of Assistant Apothecaries 181; actual strength 152: add 29 the number called for, total 181. Proposed strength of the Assistant Apothecary grade 92—number supernumerary under the new scheme 89, or 3 less than one half of the whole grade.

12. I may be allowed to add that there are other grounds of objection to the proposal made by the Officiating Principal Inspector General, to the most important of which alone, would I, in conclusion, solicit attention. So late as on the 18th of November 1864, a Committee was appointed by Government to enquire into the working of the Medical College, with a view to submitting suggestions regarding the general arrangements of that institution. The Committee's Report, dated 2nd December 1864, was confirmed in all essential points by Government, under date 29th March 1865, and was brought into operation, as regards the college, at the commencement of session 1865-66. All these carefully considered arrangements will for some time to come be summarily set aside, if the two proposals contained in paragraph 15 of the letter under review be acceded to by Government.

13. The remedies proposed for what is, after all, but a temporary exigency, are unsound in principle, and unsafe in practice. They establish, moreover, a perplexing precedent, and initiate a line of action likely to cause permanent injury to the service as a whole, to the individuals composing that service, and to this institution, and, on these several grounds, I beg most respectfully, but most earnestly to deprecate their acceptance and sanction by Government.

From the Officiating Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, 9th June 1866, No. 210; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

With reference to your memorandum of the 6th instant, calling upon me to state the minimum number of additional Assistant Apothecaries actually needed to meet the requirements of the service, and to report, with reference to objections which have been taken in the Educational Department to the premature removal from the Medical College of the 2nd class students, 2nd Department, whether the existing want is sufficiently urgent to make it expedient to meet it by the temporary employment of pensioned Medical Subordinates.

Body Guard.....	1	2. In reply, I have the honor to call your attention to the table in the margin, which shows the number, 183, of appointments supposed to be filled by Assistant Apothecaries, whilst we have actually only 145 on our returns. In paragraph 5 of my letter to the Adjutant General of the 28th March last, I explained why Assistant Apothecaries are immediately required.
British Troops.....	41	
4 Native Cavalry Regts.....	4	
40 Native Infantry Regts.....	40	
Sappers and Miners.....	4	
Garrisons, &c., and civil requirements.	60	
Educational Department.....	3	
Vaccine.....	9	
Foreign States.....	21	
	183	
Present strength of Asst. Apothecaries.	145	3. I have already appointed 2nd Dressers and 3rd Class Hospital Assistants to some Native Corps, but the former class is so much below the authorized strength, that I have only been able to introduce the proposed change into a few Regiments.
Wanting.....	38	
Sick.....	7	
Total wanting...	45	

ORDER, No. 2008, 13th June 1866.

Ordered that the foregoing memorandum from the Educational Department, be communicated to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Principal Inspector General Medical Department.

2. Adverting to the concluding clause of the first paragraph of the memorandum, and to the remarks of the Director of Public Instruction and the Principal of the Medical College, on the proposal of the Officiating Principal Inspector General, to pass out into the service, as Assistant Apothecaries, the 2nd Class Students of the 2nd Department Medical College, the Government will not object to the lads in question being examined as proposed by Mr. Shaw, should His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief determine that the measure is absolutely necessary for the conduct of the public service,—the result of the examination being reported for the further orders of Government.

3. The Governor in Council sanctions the immediate engagement of 100 pupil candidates to meet the future wants of the Department.

(True Extract.)

M. Marshall Major General,
Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
.. Educational Department.
.. Principal Inspector General Medical Department.
.. Public Department. *With 5 duplicate Copies.*
.. Controller of Military Accounts.
.. Military Accountant.
.. Examiner Pay Department.

4. From this explanation, I hope you will see how urgent are the wants of the Department. It is undoubtedly a disadvantage to call lads from college, who are imperfectly educated, but I see no alternative. This was done in 1857, and the lads so leaving were subjected, before promotion, to an examination up-country.

5. I do not think their places could be taken by pensioned Apothecaries, of whom I understand there is little chance of getting more than four or five, and these men are even inferior to those entertained in 1857-58; the best of the pensioned Apothecaries are nearly all employed. Since 1857-58, a great demand has arisen for this class. I have had several applications from coffee planters and others, to recommend pensioned Apothecaries to take Medical charge of their estates; this, with the Irrigation Companies and the Emigrant ships, have carried off the most energetic and intelligent of this class.

6. With reference to what is the minimum number of additional Assistant Apothecaries actually required to meet the present requirements of the service, it appears to me that the best answer I can give is, that there is full occupation for all the lads of the 3rd and 2nd classes of the 2nd or Military Department of the Medical College,—there are eight in the 1st, and twelve in the 2nd class, in all twenty.

7. I enclose a copy of a letter* which I addressed to the Adjutant General on the 29th ultimo, pointing out amongst other things, that in consequence of having learned that the Committee lately sitting

in Calcutta has recommended that this Presidency shall continue to supply Medical Subordinates to Burmah, Mysore, the Straits and the Hyderabad assigned Districts, that I was obliged to modify paragraph 10 of my letter, No. 121 of the 28th March last.

You are aware that in paragraph 7 of the "scheme," (G. O. G., 17th March 1866) it was laid down that Medical Subordinates should not be withdrawn from the Madras Establishment to meet the wants of other Governments.

From the Officiating Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, 29th May 1866, No. 191; to the Adjutant General.

I have the honor to request, with reference to my letter No. 121 of the 28th March last, that you will be so good as to ascertain whether His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has any objection to an advertisement being issued for the entertainment of 100 pupil candidates, as recommended in the last paragraph of the communication above referred to.

2. I would beg to remark, with regard to paragraph 10 of my letter above referred to, that the Commission lately sitting in Calcutta has recommended the introduction of the principle of *seconding* in regard to all Subordinates in civil employ, and that the Madras Presidency shall continue to supply subordinates to the Civil Governments of Burmah, Mysore, the Straits and Hyderabad assigned Districts. Under these circumstances, I do not apprehend any great reduction in the numbers of the Apothecary grades, and to provide a sufficient number for the public service, I think it is necessary that permission be accorded to the entertainment of 25 paid candidates.

3. I beg to solicit the early orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and Government, regarding these recommendations, as the time has arrived when candidates should be called up by public advertisement.

Ed. J. E. Cashart.

Recd 30 July

Public 1866 Sept

Prospect July Sept
No. 2000

2/13 June /86
K/20

No. 742

Paying order on the
proposal to pass out
certain students of the
West College as Anti-
Apothecaries.

132.133.

With Orders.

N^o. 627-22^d June 1866.

~~Communicated to~~
~~the Director of Public~~
~~Instruction.~~ Recorded

JHJ

~~The Director of~~
~~Public Instruction~~ } Sept