

1. Number of pages. 22
2. Date of repair. 12 - 11-2
3. Initials of Officer.

M.R.O. 1-29,000-16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	436	Press Mis.
Dated	4-4	19/8/68

Not to be folded or roughly handled

CH
12/12/38

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th April 1868.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 46. From Captain J. MITCHELL, Superintendent Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 14th March 1868, No. 31.

When on leave lately at Ootacamund, I had some conversation with my friend Dr. Furnell on the use of the Microscope, as a means of diagnosis in many important diseases, and I was much surprised to find that Medical Officers are not supplied with that most valuable instrument.

2. A bad or an indifferent Microscope would be worse than useless, as it would probably lead to most dangerous mistakes. A good Microscope is an expensive instrument, and I take the liberty to believe that Government does not expect its Medical Officers to be at the expense of providing themselves with what may be called the physician's sheet anchor. I am fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, able to speak from my own experience of the value of this instrument to the physician. Some years ago excessive mental labor caused me to be attacked with that most distressing disease Oxaluria. The present Principal Medical Officer of Netley Hospital was my neighbour, friend, and Medical attendant. He failed to recognize my disease, and was in fact groping in the dark. It so happened that he asked me to examine, with the Microscope, the urine of one of his patients, and it then occurred to me that it might be of service to me to examine my own. I did so, and found it contained large quantities of the octohedral crystals of oxalate of lime, which I duly reported, and my friend said, "now I know what to do with you." My treatment was entirely altered, and the disease was shaken off.

3. Dr. Furnell mentioned to me the case of a lady who had been under the care of two Medical Officers, both men of standing and repute in their profession. This lady was supposed to void blood with her urine, and her husband was naturally much alarmed. She came under the care of Dr. Furnell, and he, seeing reason to doubt the presence of blood, and having, fortunately for his patient, a Microscope at command, requested that some of the urine might be sent to him for examination. The microscopical examination showed him that what had been taken for blood was the excess of an ordinary urinary salt. The nature of the disease having been thus ascertained the way was clear and the patient was, in a very short time, restored to health. I believe that hundreds of similar cases could be referred to by the gentlemen of the medical profession.

4. But besides the detection of disease, there is another very important use for the Microscope. Medical Officers are sometimes called upon to examine supposed blood-stains on clothes, or weapons of some kind ; here the value of the Microscope cannot be exaggerated ; it is undoubtedly the readiest, and, I believe, the most certain means of answering the question—"blood, or not blood?" particularly when the stains are recent ; and the want of this instrument has, I believe, placed many Medical Officers in a very unpleasant position. I am permitted by Dr. Furnell to say, that in a murder case at Tellicherry, when he was Civil Surgeon there, and Mr. Holloway was Judge, he was asked to examine stains on a knife, and he could not say they were caused by blood, simply because he had no Microscope. The knife was sent to Dr. Mayer at Madras, a journey of some five days, and when it reached

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th April 1868.*

him he was unable to say positively it was blood; he adds, "if I had had a Microscope, so recent were the stains, I should no doubt have been able to swear positively it was blood." The man, if I remember rightly, escaped on appeal.

5. In bringing this subject to the notice of Government, it may be thought I am meddling with what does not concern me, and I am obliged to admit that it is no business of mine. But it is because I cannot be supposed to have any other motive than a desire to relieve suffering humanity that I take the liberty respectfully to recommend to Government that every Civil and Military station should be supplied with a really good Microscope, to be at the command of every Medical Officer, or any scientific man who desired to use it for the public good.

6. I would have sent this letter through Dr. Mackenzie, but I think it best that I should take the whole responsibility. With the exception of Dr. Furnell, I have had no communication with any member of the profession on this subject, but I believe that one and all will admit that what I have taken the liberty to recommend would be of great advantage both to the physician and his patient.

Referred to the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

14th March 1868.

Secretary to Government, R. D.

No. 47. From W. MACKENZIE, Esq., M. D., Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 19th March 1868, No. 126.

In reply to your reference of the 14th current, I have the honor to state that

On letter from the Superintendent Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, No. 31, of 14th March 1868.

Captain Mitchell has, in my opinion, wandered considerably beyond his province in the remarks submitted by him to Government on medical diagnosis, and I have no doubt that the Principal Medical Officer of Netley Hospital could give very good reasons for any difficulty he may have felt regarding Captain Mitchell's case, quite independently of the want of a Microscope.

2. It is of course very natural that Captain Mitchell should magnify the importance of an instrument, in the use of which he is himself, I believe, a proficient; but as a means of medical diagnosis, the Microscope has hardly realized the high expectations entertained of it some years ago, and is certainly not the *sine qua non* Captain Mitchell imagines it to be.

3. I am perfectly ready, however, to admit its usefulness in some cases; and there can be no doubt that every instrument supplied to Medical Officers, as a help in either the diagnosis or treatment of disease, should be thoroughly good of its kind. It appears to me, therefore, that Microscopes, if provided at all, should be procured from the best makers, whose names are a sufficient guarantee for the articles made by them; but I see no reason why they should be of a very expensive description. The "Student's Microscope," for example, manufactured by Messrs. Smith and Beck at a very moderate price is, I believe, quite sufficient for all medical purposes.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
4th April 1868.*

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1868, No. 436.

The Governor in Council fully appreciates Captain Mitchell's motive in addressing Government on this subject, and, as the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, is of opinion that the Microscope can be usefully employed in medical diagnosis, directs that the necessary steps be taken for providing every Hospital with a Microscope of the kind referred to at the close of Dr. Mackenzie's letter.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.
To Captain J. Mitchell, Ootacamund.

From

The Inspector General, Indian Medical Department,

Fort Saint George,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Public Dept.

Fort St. George.

Sir,

I in reply to your reference of the 14th current, have the honor to state that Captain Mitchell
(On letter from the Supdt. Genl. Central Museum to the Chief Secy. Govt. Fort St. George 29th of 14th March 1868.)
 has, in my opinion, wandered considerably beyond his province in the remarks submitted by him to Government on Medical diagnosis; and I have no doubt that the Principal Medical Officer of Vellore Hospital could give very good reasons for any difficulty he may have felt regarding Captain Mitchell's case, quite independently of the want of a microscope.

2. It is of course very natural that Captain Mitchell should magnify the importance of an instrument, in the use of which he is himself, I believe, a proficient: but as a means of Medical diagnosis, the microscope has hardly realized the high expectations entertained of it some years ago, and is certainly not the "Sine qua non" Captain Mitchell imagines it to be.

3. I am perfectly ready, however, to admit its usefulness in some cases; and there can be no doubt that every instrument supplied

to Medical Officers as a help in either the
diagnosis or treatment of disease. should be
thoroughly good of its kind. - It appears to me
therefore that microscopes, if provided at all,
should be procured from the best makers,
whose names are a sufficient guarantee for
the articles made by them. - But I see no reason
why they should be of a very expensive descrip-
tion. The "Student Microscope", for example,
manufactured by Messrs Smith and Beck
at a very moderate price is, I believe, quite
sufficient for all Medical purposes.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt Servant

W. Mackenzie Esq

Inspector General

Ind^t Med. Report.

Recd of 24th April

Government C. Museum
Madras, 1st March 1868

From
Captain L. Mitchell
Suptl Government C. Museum

To
The Honorable R. L. Ellis C.B.
Chief Secretary to Government
Port Saint George

Sir,

When on leave lately at
Colacarnund, I had some conversation
with my friend Dr. Furnell on the
use of the Microscope as a means of
diagnosis in many important diseases
and I was much surprised to find
that Medical Officers are not supplied
with that most valuable instrument.

2. A bad, or an indifferent,
Microscope would be worse than useless,
as it would probably lead to most
dangerous mistakes. A good Microscope
is an expensive instrument and I take
the liberty to believe that Government
does not expect its Medical Officers to

be

To Madras 1st March 1868
From
The Hon. Secy. to Govt.
Madras, 1st March 1868

No. 436
The Chief Secy. to Govt.
Madras, 1st March 1868

Recd 19 March
No. 126

Substantive opinion on the
suggestion of Capt. L. Mitchell
to provide Medical
Officers with Microscopes.

24th April 1868

be at the expense of providing themselves
with what may be called the Physicians
sheet anchor. I am fortunately, or
perhaps unfortunately, able to speak
from my own experience of the value
of this instrument to the Physician.
Some years ago excessive mental
labour caused me to be attacked
with that most distressing disease
Cyaluria. The present Principal
Medical Officer of Melby Hospital was
my neighbour, friend, and medical
attendant. He failed to recognize my
disease and was in fact groping in
the dark. It so happened that he
asked me to examine, with the
microscope, the urine of one of his
patients, and it then occurred to
me that it might be of service to me
to examine my own. I did so and found
it contained large quantities of the
octohedral crystals of Cyalate of lime,
which I duly reported, and my friend
said, now I know what to do with you.
My treatment was entirely altered
and

and the disease was shaken off.

3. Dr. Furnell mentioned to
me the case of a lady who had been
under the care of two Medical Officers,
both men of standing and repute in
their professions. This lady was
supposed to void blood with her urine,
and her husband was naturally
much alarmed. She came under
the care of Dr. F. and he, seeing
reason to doubt the presence of blood,
and having, fortunately for his patient,
a microscope at command, requested
that some of the urine might be sent
to him for examination. The microscopical
examination showed him that what
had been taken for blood was the
excess of an ordinary urinary salt.
The nature of the disease having been
thus ascertained the way was clear
and the patient was in a very short
time restored to health. I believe that
hundreds of similar cases could be
referred to by the gentlemen of the
Medical profession.

4. But besides the detection
of disease there is another very important
use for the Microscope. Medical Officers
are sometimes called upon to examine
suspected blood stains on clothes, or
weapons of some kind. Here the
value of the Microscope cannot be
exaggerated, it is undoubtedly the
readiest, and I believe the most certain
means of answering the question, blood,
or not blood, particularly where the
stains are recent, and the want of this
instrument has, I believe, placed
many Medical Officers in a very
unpleasant position. I am permitted
by Dr. Furnell to say that in a murder
case at Tellicherry, when he was Civil
Surgeon there and Mr. Holloway was
Judge, he was asked to examine stains
on a knife and he could not say
they were caused by blood simply
because he had no Microscope.
The knife was sent to Dr. Mayne at
Madras, a journey of some five days,
and when it reached him he was
unable

15
unable to say positively it was blood;
he adds if I had ^{had} a Microscope, so recent
were the stains, I should no doubt,
have been able to swear positively it
was blood. The man, if I remember
rightly, escaped on appeal.

5. In bringing this subject to
the notice of Government it may be
thought I am meddling with what
does not concern me, and I am obliged
to admit that it is no business of mine.
But it is because I cannot be supposed
to have any other motive than a
desire to relieve suffering humanity
that I take the liberty respectfully
to recommend to Government that
every Civil and Military station should
be supplied with a really good
Microscope, to be at the command
of every Medical Officer, or any scientific
man who desired to use it for the
public good.

6. I would have sent this
letter through Dr. Mackenzie but
I think it best that I should take

the whole responsibility. With the
exception of Dr. Turnbull I have had
no communication with any member
of the profession on this subject, but
I believe that one and all will admit
that what I have taken the liberty
to recommend would be of great
advantage both to the Physician
and his patient.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant,

John A. Caplan
Suplt Genl Central Museum

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read also the following
letter from the Inspe-
ctor General, Indian
Medical Department.
(L.S. dated 19th March/68
No 126)

The Governor
in Council fully appreci-
ates Captain Mitchell's
motives in addressing
Government on this
subject, and, as the
Inspector

[illegible]

St. 23/868
Government of India

Henry Ward

Captain R. Mitchell
 Dept. of the East 13th November

Mr. L. B. ¹⁰
The Hon. W. C. Cullen
Chief Clerk to Governor
Jeff. W. George
Jan. 7/21

Daily } March 1868
 Recd

The Superintendent
of the Government
Innround — respectfully
recommending that
a good microscope
may be supplied to
each Civil & Military
Station for the use of the
Practical officers
attached

Inspector General,
Indian Medical De-
partment, ^{is of opinion.} agrees with
~~him as to the utility~~
that ^{can be usefully}
of the microscope ~~is~~
employed in
~~a means of~~ medical
diagnosis, directs that
the necessary steps
be taken for providing
every hospital with
a microscope of the
kind referred to at
the close of Dr. Mac-
Kenzie's letter.

10/11
to the Insp^r Genl. I. M. Dep^t
disp^d 15/11 Capt. Mitchell Sec^y.

hit of 21 April

27th 1868. Department

No. 436.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 4th April 1868.

24th 721-419-