

1. Name of person, to whom  
2. Initials of Referee.  
M.R.O. 1-82 400-22-11-80

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

|          |         |       |
|----------|---------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 1155    | Press |
|          | (57-50) | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 6 - 8 - | 18 69 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
6th August 1869.*

No. 57. Read the following letter from W. MACKENZIE, Esq., M.D., Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 23rd April 1869, No. 158.

In obedience to the order of Government marginally noted calling on me to prepare "a modified scheme for the employment of trained female Nurses in the hospitals of the Presidency town with reference to the reduced allowance sanctioned for this purpose by the Government of India," I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

2. After lengthened and very careful consideration of the whole subject in communication with executive Medical Officers who, from their large hospital experience, were peculiarly qualified to help me in coming to a decision, I am fully satisfied that the scheme originally proposed does not admit of modification, unless to a very small extent, consistently with any chance of its success; and I feel bound to express my conviction that any scheme framed on the proposed allowance of Rupees 700 a month would prove a total failure, and be a mere waste of public money.

3. A lady-Superintendent is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary for the proposed training school, and the services of a properly qualified person could not, I believe, be obtained at a less cost than that stated in my letter, No. 52, of 30th January 1868. If the number of trained Head Nurses under her were fixed at three, these three to be replaced by and by women educated here, (the former being then sent home with a gratuity,) this seems to me the utmost modification of which the original scheme is susceptible.

4. As regards the various objections to the scheme set forth in the letter of the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, No. 4255, of the 24th October 1868, I beg to offer the following explanations:—

(a.) In paragraphs 5 and 6 exception is taken to the proportion of Nurses to sick. The object of the scheme, however, was not to retain all the twenty-four probationers in the hospitals named; but to train them there with a view to some of them being available for out-service, or for employment in female hospitals in the Mofussil, to which it would be desirable to extend by degrees the benefits of trained nursing.

I may add that, besides leaving a margin for sickness and leave of absence, it would be only prudent to make allowance for failure on the part of some of the probationers received into the training school, as it is hardly to be expected that all would pass through it successfully.

Lastly, I should mention that, under the operation of the Contagious Diseases Act, it has already been found necessary to provide greatly increased accommodation in the Lock Hospital; and that, judging from the experience already had, the number of patients in that institution is likely to average 250 instead of only sixty as originally anticipated.

(b.) With advertence to paragraphs 7 and 8, an examination of the returns of the Presidency Hospitals for the last six years shows that, during that period, 4551 European and East Indian women were treated as in-patients, giving an annual

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6th August 1869.

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average of 758. In the same period, the number of out-patients of the same classes amounted to 27,409, or to an average of 4568 a year, and to many even of these the services of an experienced Nurse would be very valuable.

I may add that recent improvements in the several hospitals will in all probability considerably increase the number of patients of these classes hereafter.

(c.) In paragraph 10 it is remarked that no allowance is made for any diminution of expense on account of any of the Nurses being employed on out-service. The scheme having been only submitted in outline, this point was not noticed; but I look on it as a matter of course that, in the case of Nurses employed in that way, either their earnings would be carried to the credit of Government, or their pay as Government servants would cease for the time.

(d.) With advertence to paragraph 11, I beg to refer to the statement already given under (b) as to the average number of European and East Indian sick.

In the Lock Hospital, the average daily sick of Europeans and East Indians has hitherto been about twelve.

As regards the paramount authority of the Medical Officer, the principle is laid down merely to guard against any possible interference in matters concerning the medical treatment of the sick, and is in no way meant to lessen the legitimate authority of the Superintendent in anything pertaining to her own duties, whether as regards nursing or training.

5. In conclusion, I beg to mention that five "Matrons" are now employed in the several Presidency hospitals on salaries varying from 50 to 100 Rupees, and two "Assistant Matrons" on 35 Rupees each, the total cost amounting to Rupees 480 per mensem, which sum should be set against the cost of the proposed new scheme as soon as the training school could re-place these "Matrons" by "trained Nurses."

No. 58. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 6th August 1869, No. 1105.

With reference to the letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, (Public,) dated Simla, 24th October 1868, No. 4255, I have the honour to forward, for the consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, the enclosed

Dated 23rd April 1869, No. 158.

copy of a letter addressed to this Government by the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department. This letter is in reply to an order addressed by this Government to Dr. Mackenzie directing him to submit a modified scheme for the employment of trained Nurses in the hospitals of the Presidency town so as to reduce the cost involved to 700 Rupees per mensem, the limit imposed by paragraph 12 of the Officiating Secretary's letter under reply.

2. It will be observed that the Inspector General, after a very careful consideration of the whole subject in communication with the most experienced Medical Officers of this Presidency, is satisfied that the scheme originally proposed by him, and which was submitted by this Government for the favourable consideration of the Government of India in my letters dated 13th August 1868, will not admit of so considerable a modification as is proposed by the Government of

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6th August 1869.

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India. I am to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with Dr. Mackenzie that it will not be desirable to attempt to carry out a scheme which from want of funds is certain to result in failure.

3. I am, however, to state that the Madras Government attach so much importance to the proposal of providing trained Nurses for the sick in the Public Hospitals in this Presidency, that they venture very respectfully and earnestly to solicit a re-consideration of the decision of the Government of India which would limit the expenditure for this purpose to 700 Rupees per mensem. His Excellency in Council is encouraged again to address the Government of India from its appearing that there has been some misunderstanding regarding the real nature of the proposal submitted to them. The further explanation now offered by Dr. Mackenzie will, it is hoped, be found to reply satisfactorily to the objections contained in the Officiating Secretary's letter.

4. His Excellency in Council is very unwilling to bring forward, at the present moment, any proposal involving increased expenditure; but he is satisfied that the amount originally asked, 25,000 Rupees per annum, is not excessive, and that this sum will be most usefully employed in providing trained Nurses for the principal hospitals at Madras and in the Provinces.

5. The Government of India may rest assured that no effort will be wanting on the part of this Government to carry out the proposed experiment with the utmost economy consistent with efficiency, and that the expenditure will, if possible, be reduced below the amount of the grant originally solicited.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,  
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

1105.

(9)

Memo for order.

In the letter enclosed the Inspector General Indian Medical Dept. points out that it is not in his power to frame any scheme for the training of Nurses - which is likely to be successful at a cost of only 700 Rs. per mensem.

The Govt of India rather wilfully compare the comprehensive scheme for training Nurses with

by this Govt. to Dr MacKenzie directing him to submit a modified scheme for

I agree with Mr Ellis's proposal I think we should make another attempt.

I would wish to see the scheme submitted by this Govt.

the Establishment of  
Nurses in a single  
hospital at Freetown.  
If Dr. Mackenzie's  
original scheme were  
adopted every European  
hospital in the West  
Indies in a few years  
have one or more  
properly trained  
nurses.

With reference to the <sup>(1)</sup> remarks  
of the Govt of India on the  
Lock Hospital in Black Town  
I submit that ~~the~~ Native Mahims  
will ever be efficient  
in a Lock Hospital  
for they cannot control  
the unruly patients in  
the way that a European  
or East Indian does.  
I suggest that a  
letter be addressed  
to the Govt of India  
stating that this Govt  
concur with Dr. Mackenzie  
that it will not be  
desirable to attempt

20/10/8

No. 1105.

To

The Secretary to the Government  
of India.

Home Department.

Sir,

With reference to the  
letter from the officiating  
Secretary to the Govt. of  
India, Home Department  
(Public) dated Simla 24  
October 1868 No 2255, I  
have the honor to forward  
for the consideration of  
His Excellency the Viceroy  
and Governor General  
in Council the enclosed  
copy of a letter addressed  
to this Government by  
the Inspector General  
Indian Medical Department.  
This letter is in reply  
to an order addressed  
by this Govt. to Dr Mackenzie  
directing him to submit  
a modified scheme

W. H. D.

of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1868  
91.158

a scheme which from want  
of funds is certain to be  
~~attended with~~ failure and  
~~represents the Govt. of~~  
India to reconsider  
their refusal to sanction  
the original scheme  
submitted by this Govt.  
If they again refuse  
I think the matter  
may with a fair prospect  
of success be referred  
to the Secretary of  
State. R. H.

C. J. May

for the employment of  
trained Nurses in the  
Hospitals of the Presidency  
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the cost involved to 700 Rs.  
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