

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
11th August 1869.*

No. 70. Read the following letter from the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 30th July 1869, No. 285.

In obedience to the Order of Government marginally noted, I have the honour to submit a copy of the Annual Indent, No. 34, for Medical Stores for the Presidency of Fort Saint George.

Military Department, 7th May 1869, No. 1713.

2. The Indent shows separately, as required by the Order above referred to, the requirements in the Civil and Military Departments, which have also been separately priced in the Office of the Examiner of Medical Accounts.

3. Along with the Indent I have the honour to submit copy of my letter, No. 277, of 24th July 1869, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, in which full explanation is given as to the present condition of the Medical Store Department, and the urgent necessity of placing it on a safer footing.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1869, No. 1118.

The Government see no objection to the supplies of Medical Stores provided for in the Annual Indent, No. 34, on account of the Civil branch of the Service.
(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Military Department, with the Indent.

„ Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department,
28th August 1869.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 507. From the Inspector General Indian Medical Department, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 24th July 1869, No. 277.

In forwarding, for submission to Government and eventual transmission to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, the annual indent, No. 34, in quadruplicate, for Medical stores for the Presidency of Fort Saint George, I have the honor to offer the following explanation of the increased demands it has been found necessary to make.

2. For some years past, it has been observed that the reserve stock which existed in the Presidency Store Depôt at the time the present system of a two and

*Proceedings of Government, Military Department.
No. 1079, of 21st March 1866.
„ 3881, of 9th October 1867.*

a half years' "established proportion" was adopted, was gradually, but steadily, being exhausted. The subject was

brought to the notice of Government in February 1866, and again in August 1867; and lastly, in reply to a reference from the Controller of Military Accounts, regarding medicines urgently required by certain Officers of the British Medical Service, the present condition of the Store Department was fully explained in my letter, No. 2526, of the 6th current, which may probably already have been submitted to Government, and of which this communication can be little more than a repetition.

3. It was shewn in the communications referred to that, by the present system, the annual receipts from England, which *theoretically* complete the remainders in Store here to two and a half years' expenditure, do not *practically* make up these remainders, as a general rule, to more than eighteen months at most, while they often fall far short of doing even that.

4. Attention was drawn to the risks entailed by this arrangement, *viz.* firstly, the probability of recourse to the local markets, at exorbitant rates, becoming necessary in any emergency, and secondly, the still more serious possibility of even this resource failing in time of need, since there is never any certainty of the articles required being procurable here in sufficient quantity at *any* price.

5. As a remedy for this state of things, I suggested that, in order to accomplish the object intended of keeping up a sufficient reserve stock, the indenting Officer should be permitted to estimate the probable expenditure during the interval between the dispatch of his indent and the receipt of his stores, and to add that amount to the quantities "now indented for," and I expressed my belief, founded on past experience, that there is no present prospect of that interval being reduced below one year at least.

6. Government, however, adhered to their previously expressed opinion that the "established proportion" of two and a half years' expenditure would be found amply sufficient, if the annual indents on England could be more promptly complied with, which it was anticipated would be the case, the Right Honorable the Secretary of State having in 1866 stated, in reply to a reference on the subject, that every attention would be paid to the request that the supply of Medical stores from England might be expedited.

Depôt of 1869 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated August, 11th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 11th August 1869, No. 1118.

AUGUST.
Nos. 70-71.

Approving of the supplies of Medical Stores provided for in the Annual Indent, No. 34, on account of the Civil branch of the Service.

7. This anticipation unfortunately has not been fulfilled. By the last bi-monthly return of stores under preparation, which has been received from London, it appears that the bulk of the *medicines* indented for in August last are to be shipped during the present month, and can scarcely, therefore, be landed here before November next at earliest, while many of the other articles included in the indent are not to be dispatched till October, and as the annual indents of Deputy Medical Store-keepers fall due here in the last-named month, and the Principal Medical Store-keeper states that the remainders in Store will be "inadequate to meet in full even a single one of these indents," great inconvenience and delay will be the unavoidable consequence.

8. But, even were the supplies from England dispatched much earlier than it seems likely they ever can be, I am convinced that that alone would not be sufficient to place the Store Department on a safe footing. The exhaustion of the reserve stock in the Presidency Stores is due chiefly, in my belief, to another cause, which I shall now attempt to explain.

9. The so called "established proportion" is deduced from the actual expenditure of the previous five years, which, divided by two, represents the allotment for two and half years; and if this expenditure had remained nearly stationary, or if it had increased very slowly, the Store Department being at the same time kept sufficiently replenished to enable it to meet in *full* all sanctioned demands upon it, then the "established proportion" would have kept pace with the increasing requirements of the country.

10. But from various causes (the rapid multiplication of Civil Dispensaries and Police Hospitals, and of 'Forest' and 'Survey' parties, the extension of irrigation works, the wide distribution of medicines in times of sickness, through the Agency of Revenue Officers and of the Vaccine Department, grants of medicines and instruments to charitable hospitals established by Missionaries, &c.), the increase in requirements during the last few years has been so rapidly progressive that the "established proportion" deduced in the way above mentioned does not, by any means, represent two and half years' expenditure, at the rate at which it is going on at the date of the indent.

11. This is illustrated by the following table, furnished by the Acting Principal Medical Storekeeper, in explanation of his estimate for the year 1870-71.

Articles.	Expenditure in 1864-65.	Expenditure in 1865-66.	Expenditure in 1866-67.	Expenditure in 1867-68.	Expenditure in 1868-69.	Total expenditure in five years.	"Established proportion."	Remarks.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
Acid Acetic	292	307	277	313	383	1,572	786	Fractions of pounds omitted.
Æther	225	183	202	201	250	1,061	530	
Iodum.....	20	22	17	26	31	116	58	
Potassa Acetas	46	75	64	69	81	335	167	
Quina Sulphas and Cinchona Alkaloids.....	241	411	336	356	382	1,726	863	

12. Dr. Bidie observes that, "taking the expenditure for 1868-69 in each of these instances as representing the probable average annual expenditure during the period for which the new indent is supposed to provide, it will at once be seen that the established proportion does not, in a single instance, secure a supply sufficient to meet the demands of two and half years. Thus, in the case of Acetic Acid, the expenditure in the last year of the five is 383, and the 'established proportion' 786, or a little more than the probable demands for the next two years. In the instance of 'Iodum,' the 'established proportion' does not provide for even two years' expenditure at the rate at which it took place in 1868-69. It must also be remarked that, judging from the past, the expenditure for some time to come is likely to increase yearly, and this will render the quantities indented for, according to the present system, still more insufficient."

13. Owing then to the causes abovementioned, viz., the exhaustion of the reserve stock which existed when the established proportion of two and half years was first adopted, to the long intervals between the dispatch of indents and the receipt of stores, and to the vitiation of the 'established proportion' in the manner described, the Presidency Depôt has at last been reduced to a state of entire inefficiency.

14. As a necessary consequence of this, the indents, both of Mofussil Depôts and of Executive Medical Officers who draw their supplies direct from the Stores here, have, for some time past, been complied with *in part only*. This again gives rise to innumerable 'extra indents,' which, in their turn, can only be met to a still smaller extent, or, as very often happens, cannot be met at all. The *expenditure*, therefore, which cannot exceed the quantity in Store, is no longer any true, or even approximate measure of the *requirements*, which may, and constantly do, largely exceed that quantity; and thus the 'established proportion,' which is based on *expenditure only*, becomes still more profoundly vitiated.

15. The evil, it is hardly necessary to say, is not confined to the Presidency Stores, but extends also to the up-country Depôts, all of which have, for some time past, been unavoidably short-supplied. There are now on hand here large 'extra indents' from five Deputy Medical Storekeepers, who report their inability to meet the demands upon them, and none of these indents can be met, except to a very limited extent.

16. The Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Pegu Division, in his official diary, under date 10th June 1869, describes as follows the state of the Medical Store Depôt at Rangoon.

"The Medical Stores are in a deplorable state. Fifty medicines short-supplied by the Medical Storekeeper, Madras, on annual indent; thirty not supplied at all. Of the indents under preparation, thirty-nine medicines are short, ten wholly expended; thus the difficulty of our being unable to supply the indents is palpable."

17. This is by no means a solitary case. On the contrary, it is evident from the urgency of the demands made that other Mofussil Depôts are in much the same state, and, indeed, the principal Depôt here is in little better condition.

18. To remedy the state of things above described, the first essential step evidently is at once to replenish the Depôt here to such an extent as will place it once more in a position to meet in full the demands on it; and the second, not less essential, to make such arrangements as will maintain it in that position.

19. The indent now submitted has been framed with a view to the accomplishment of the former of these objects, the requirements being put down at the lowest rates which, after the most careful computation, are considered compatible with safety; and I trust that, under the circumstances stated, it will receive the sanction of Government in full.

20. To accomplish the latter object; that is, to *maintain* the Store Department in an efficient state, it has already been suggested, either to revert to the 'established proportion' of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, which was in use up to 1861, and by which a sufficient reserve was kept up, or to permit the Indenting Officer to add to his 'requirements' the estimated amount of expenditure in the interval between date of indent and receipt of supplies, which would practically come to much the same thing.

21. I still think that one or other of these measures would be the safest arrangement, but neither of them has hitherto met with the approval of Government; and a third plan is now suggested by the Acting Principal Medical Storekeeper, which may, perhaps, be deemed preferable.

22. Dr. Bidie proposes, in the first place, to modify the system of *calculating* the 'established proportion.' He is of opinion that, for the reasons stated in paragraph 12 of this letter, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ years' allotment, calculated as at present, does not represent $2\frac{1}{2}$ years' expenditure at the rate at which it is going on at the date of the indent, and he considers it would be safer, and more equitable, to take the expenditure of the year preceding that of the indent as an approximate standard for one year's expenditure in the future, and to obtain the 'established proportion' by multiplying that quantity by $2\frac{1}{2}$.

23. In the second place, he proposes that, to cover in some measure the expenditure taking place between the dispatch of indents and the receipt of stores, and to provide for other contingencies, (*new* demands are constantly arising which could not have been anticipated, and which therefore are not provided for,) a quantity equal to 25 per cent. on one year's expenditure should be added to 'established proportion,' calculated on the principle described in the last paragraph.

24. Thirdly, he adds that in cases where the expenditure has evidently been kept below the normal standard, in consequence of the supplies received not having been sufficient to meet the sanctioned demands, the quantity indented for should be increased, under explanation.

25. This system, he believes, would ensure supplies adequate to meet all legitimate requirements, and would gradually establish the essential reserve, which the existing arrangements have entirely failed to provide.

26. I would respectfully recommend the plan now proposed by Dr. Bidie, who has given much attention to the subject, as worthy of a fair trial, should it still be thought undesirable to revert to the old 'established proportion' of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. It is self-evident that *some* change of system is imperatively and urgently necessary, and that now suggested involves, I think, the minimum amount of departure from the existing method that would offer any prospect of ensuring the efficiency of the Store Department. It would be most desirable, if it be adopted, to ensure it the fairest chance of success, by adopting, at the same time, such measures as may accelerate, so far as may be found practicable, the dispatch of stores from England.

27. In conclusion, I beg to state that every effort will be made to reduce expenditure, as far as this can be done consistently with efficiency. The Examiner of Medical Accounts has just completed the compilation of a series of tables, showing the average annual expenditure in the Civil and Military Hospitals of this Presidency during the last five years, and as soon as these tables can be printed, they will be furnished to administrative Officers as an assistance in checking indents—inquiries are, at the same time, being made by the Acting Principal Medical Storekeeper, regarding the cost of the indigenous drugs made 'official' in the new 'Pharmacopœia of India,' and the facilities of procuring them in the local market here as well as in the bazaars of up-country stations, with a view to their being, whenever found desirable, substituted wholly or in part for medicines now procured from England: and it is hoped that, in this way, the demands on the Home Government may, by degrees, be reduced.

28. In obedience to the Order of Government marginally noted, the indent now submitted shows, separately, the 'requirements' of the Civil and Military Departments.

Military Department, No. 1713, of 7th May 1869.

No. 508. Extract from a report from the Controller of Military Accounts, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort Saint George, 4th August 1869, D.

Para. 13. With reference to paragraph 27 of the Inspector General's letter, with the Administrative Department alone rests the control over the demands made on the Medical Stores, by Administrative Officers all indents are checked and passed; but it may not be out of place to make one or two observations on the subject, with a view, if possible, to a reduction of expenditure without impairing efficiency, as the increased demand for Medical stores is becoming financially important. It has been brought to my notice by the Examiner of Medical Accounts that one source of seemingly unnecessary expenditure in the Military Department is the issue by Medical Storekeepers, on the movement of small detachments by rail or steamer, of the medicines and instruments laid down in the scale drawn up for troops when they proceeded by daily marches, and were exposed to many additional causes of disease. Even if not used and returned to Store, the drugs deteriorate, and breakage and losses occur, which render it very desirable that the scales should be revised to suit the present means of transport, both for European and Native troops.

14. With reference to supplies made to the Civil Department, I append the observations on this point of the Medical Examiner, who states:—"A reference to paragraph 10 of the Inspector General's letter will shew the various sub-divisions of the Department to which medicines are issued. Many of the parties mentioned are in charge of Medical subordinates, who, as far as is known, are under no immediate professional or departmental control. When absent from the Head Quarter Zillah station, which they generally are, these subordinates are quite independent of the Civil Surgeon of the District. They make out their own indents, and, as regards the expenditure of the supplies entrusted to them on these occasions, are under no immediate supervision or check. It is not only the medicines used in cases of sickness that cause expenditure. There are few which, if not carefully preserved, will not deteriorate and become useless, so that, without care, from wastage alone the loss must be great. Considerable saving might, I think, be

"effected by all the requirements for the Civil Department of each district being incorporated in one indent, to be submitted annually by the Civil Surgeon. Medical Subordinates should then obtain from him such medicines, &c., as they from time to time require, each being supplied with a portable box, to be replenished when necessary, and they should be accountable to the Civil Surgeon for the due preservation of the stores issued to them, and for the use they make of them."

"The Inspector General alludes, in paragraph 27 of his letter, to the tables which have been furnished to him from this office, showing the average annual expenditure in Civil and Military European and Native hospitals, calculated from the returns for the last five years. These will form a guide to Administrative Medical Officers in checking future requirements made for these fixed establishments, but no such scales can be drawn up for the smaller Civil charges alluded to in the foregoing paragraph."

No. 509. *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department.*

Read the following letter from the Inspector General Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government; dated Fort Saint George, 30th July 1869, No. 285.

In obedience to the Order of Government marginally noted, I have the honor to submit a copy of the annual indent, No. 34, for Medical stores for the Presidency of Fort Saint George.

2. The indent shows separately, as required by the Order above referred to, the requirements in the Civil and Military Departments, which have also been separately priced in the Office of the Examiner of Medical Accounts.

3. Along with the indent, I have the honor to submit copy of my letter No. 277, of 24th July 1869, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, in which full explanation is given as to the present condition of the Medical Store Department, and the urgent necessity of placing it on a safer footing.

ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1869, No. 1118.

The Government see no objection to the supplies of Medical stores provided for in the annual indent No. 34, on account of the Civil branch of the Service.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 510. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1869, No. 3103.

Under the circumstances detailed in the foregoing correspondence, and on the assurance of the Inspector General Indian Medical Department, that while the demands in the indent will, if complied with in full, place the Presidency Stores in a position to meet all requisitions on them, the supplies asked for are still put down at the lowest rates which are considered compatible with safety, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to transmit the indent to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, with the recommendation that the stores included in it be furnished in full, and as early as possible.

2. It is observed that in their Proceedings of the 6th August 1869, No. 2877, the Government deferred the consideration of the question of increasing the "established proportion." They would here remark that, as the arrangement introduced last year, of transmitting indents from the three Presidencies at successive periods, instead of simultaneously, has not yet had a sufficient trial, it appears inexpedient to make any permanent change in the "established proportion" at present.

3. The question raised by the Controller of Military Accounts, of revising the scale of Medical supplies for troops moving by rail or steamer, will be referred for the consideration and report of the Inspectors General British and Indian Medical Departments.

Paragraph 13.

4. The arrangements suggested in paragraph 14 of the Controller's report, in reference to supplies made for Civil purposes, will be communicated to the Public Department, in view to the early adoption of such measures as may be deemed necessary for the due preservation of, and accounting for, medicines issued to and from Civil Dispensaries, &c.

5. The Government direct that, in future, no demands on account of new hospitals, for which provision has not been made, shall be met from any local or subordinate Medical Stores (except in cases of certified emergency), without previous reference to, and the sanction of, the Inspector General Indian Medical Department.

No. 511. *Docket to the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept.* } Here enter 28th Aug. 1869, No. 3104.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. T. WILDE, Colonel,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General Indian Medical Department.
" Inspector General British Medical Service.
" Controller of Military Accounts.
" Public Department.

Cont. of 1833-4 Minutes.

MILITARY.

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THE INSTR. GENL. INDIAN MED. PL. PL.

Revised August, 28 '91

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U. S. 28th April 1866 No. 3150

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AUGUST.

Nos. 507-511.

Passing Orders on a letter from the Inspector General Indian Medical Department, forwarding annual indent No. 34, For Medical Stores for the use of the Madras Presidency.

With an order

No.

From

The Inspector General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To

Dated

Received

No. 285-

1879-80
To 1789 A. True,
Submits copy of
the Annual Report
No. 34 for Merchants
for the Presidency of
J. A. St. George.

With an order

No.

From

The Inspector General,
Indian Medical Department,
Fort Saint George,

To

Dated

Received

No. 285-

1879-80
To 1789 A. True,
Submits copy of
the Annual Report
No. 34 for Merchants
for the Presidency of
J. A. St. George.

With an order

Govt. of 1869) *Madras*

Public
To
The Mily. Dept.

Date Aug. 11.

Recd

11 Aug. 1869

No. 70.71.

*Approving of the supplies
of Medical Stores, provided
for in the annual Estimate
No. 34, on account of the
Civil branch of the
Service.*

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