

1. Number of pages. 112
2. Date of repair. 8-4-
3. Initials of Referent. *[Signature]*
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1124	Press Mis.
Dated	7. 9.	19 1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
7th September 1870.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 11. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, (Public,) to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Simla, 18th June 1870, No. 2995.

Questions having arisen, from time to time, as to the propriety of allowing Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Subordinate Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries to practise privately as medical men for their private emolument, and various abuses having been alleged to arise out of this practice where permitted, it seems desirable that some general rule should be laid down defining the extent to which the practice should be permitted, and under what safeguards.

2. His Excellency in Council, therefore, wishes that rules to this effect should be provided in the proposed revision of the existing system of Charitable Dispensaries ; and I am desired to suggest, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, how far it would, for example, be practicable to lay down some such general principles as the following, namely—

That the Dispensary should not be left at all, if possible, at night by the officer in charge ; and that he should not, at any time, be compelled to visit *out*-patients who do not pay him, except in urgent cases and where the patient can not be moved, or when an epidemic is prevailing ; and in the case of Government servants entitled to his attendance at home ;

That fixed hours, say from 7 to 10 A.M. and from 5 to 7 P.M., be fixed for the attendance of ordinary out-patients at the Dispensary ;

That the subscribers to the Dispensary, to the amount of one rupee and upwards, should be allowed to get medical advice gratis for themselves and families by attendance within the prescribed hours : Firms subscribing 20 rupees and upwards, for themselves and their employés ;

That subscribers, in case of severe illness or accident, might be admitted as in-door patients, paying for food and medicine ;

Medicine (and food to in-door patients) to be given gratis only to indigent patients, others being required to pay actual cost to Dispensary, *plus* ten per cent. to cover contingencies.

3. I am accordingly to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be good enough to take the subject into consideration and favour the Government of India with his views thereon, as well as with a draft of such rules as may seem proper.

Referred for report to the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
2nd July 1870.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
7th September 1870.*

No. 12. From W. MACKENZIE, Esq., M.D., C.S.I., Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Fort Saint George, 23rd July 1870, No. 175.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the letter marginally noted, referred for report with your Docket Memorandum of the 2nd instant.

No. 2995, Simla, 18th June, from Secy. to Govt. of India, to Secy. to Govt. of Madras.

2. The duties and privileges of Sub-Assistant Surgeons in this Presidency, as defined by Government, were specified in my letter, No. 176, of 5th May 1869, to your address, and I beg to append, for ready reference, a summary of the rules regarding them, as laid down in the last edition of our Medical Code.

3. With reference to the suggestion that the Dispensary should not be left at all, if possible, at night by the officer in charge, I have to observe that the rules on this head, in the Madras Presidency, direct that the Medical Officer shall always attend, when sent for, to emergent cases, and that the subordinate, if not provided with quarters in the hospital, shall live conveniently near, so as to be ready to give aid during the day or night. These regulations appear to make sufficient provision for night calls, and the only suggestion on the point that occurs to me is, that quarters for one subordinate should be provided in the neighbourhood of every Dispensary. With reference to the proposed restrictions as to visiting out-patients, a similar rule has always obtained in this Presidency; the Medical Officer not being compelled to visit out-patients who do not pay him, except in the case of Government servants entitled to such attendance, or under urgent circumstances such as an accident, or attack of epidemic disease.

4. The following suggestion is that certain hours be fixed for the attendance of ordinary out-patients at the Dispensary. A similar rule has always been in force here, the hours fixed being from 7 to 10 A.M., and from 3 to 5 P.M., as having been found most convenient for applicants for relief.

5. The next suggestion provides that subscribers to a certain amount shall be allowed to get advice gratis for themselves and families, by attendance within the prescribed hours, and firms similarly for themselves and their employés. Our present rule permits subscribers to have medicines from a Dispensary at moderate prices, or free of charge, according to the rate of subscription. This merely applies, however, to medicines, which are Government property, and the Medical Officer is only bound to bestow advice on those who ask for it *in formâ pauperis*. The money realized from the sale of medicines is credited to the funds of the institution, and is, therefore, looked after by the local Committee of Management, while the expenditure of medicines is checked by the divisional Administrative Officer. It would be impossible, however, to establish such efficient supervision with a system of giving gratis advice to subscribers, and I believe it might place in the hands of subordinates opportunities of extorting money, which no administration could detect or control. It also appears to me that such a system would convert our Dispensaries into provident institutions, where any one by paying a small monthly sum could secure the advantages of medical attendance which would interfere with the privilege of private practice, hitherto accorded to Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries, and might thus create considerable discontent, and in some instances loss.

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7th September 1870.*

6. The following suggestion proposes that subscribers, in case of severe illness or accident, may be admitted as in-patients paying for food and medicine. Our rule, which has been found to work well, directs that patients of the richer classes may, when hospital treatment is necessary, be admitted, providing their own diet and clothing. No charge has hitherto been made for medicines, and as the returns from that source would be insignificant, while there would be a considerable increase of expense in maintaining extra servants, bedding, &c., I do not consider it desirable to introduce any change.

7. The last suggestion is to the effect that medicines (and food to in-door patients) shall be given gratis only to indigent patients, others being required to pay actual costs to Dispensary, plus ten per cent. for contingencies. It appears to me that, in practice, it would often be very difficult to decide as to who were, and who were not, really indigent. I would also observe that, if such a rule were brought to bear on the general run of patients seeking advice or admission, it might, at times, be used by subordinates, with the hope of getting fees, to keep out those quite entitled to diet and medicines gratis. The present rule that every one who seeks relief as a pauper shall get medicines, food and advice free of charge is, I think, a liberal and good one, and as the regulation alluded to in last paragraph makes provision for the reception of patients of the better class, without any expense to Government for food or clothing, it seems inexpedient to introduce the proposed alteration.

8. A copy of the most recent Dispensary Rules is attached for reference.

Duties and Privileges of Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

“DUTIES.—Sub-Assistant Surgeons may be appointed at the discretion of Government to the medical charge of Civil Dispensaries, situated in the districts to which they are attached. Sub-Assistant Surgeons, whether in charge of Dispensaries or not, are to afford medical assistance to the poor of the district. They are prohibited from demanding fees for attendance on Government servants, and generally from those who can ill-afford to pay them. Sub-Assistant Surgeons are entitled to claim reasonable fees from private individuals who employ their services, as well as from Government servants in Civil employ, for medical attendance on their families. Sub-Assistant Surgeons are employed only on civil medical duties.

2. Stipends given for aid to the poor only. The stipends allowed by Government to Sub-Assistant Surgeons are expressly given for attendance on the poor, and for affording aid to Government servants. It was never intended that the incomes of this class of medical practitioners should be restricted to their official stipends. They are permitted and expected, to engage in private practice amongst the wealthy inhabitants of their districts.”

Dispensary Rules.

“DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CHARGE.—Government expressly desire that Medical Officers in charge of Civil Dispensaries will, by their kind attention to all applicants, and by prompt willingness to afford relief, endeavour to make the medical charities thoroughly useful and advantageous to the people.

2. OUT-PATIENTS.—The Medical Officer shall give his attendance at the Dispensary, at a fixed hour every day, when those who desire gratuitous Medical or Surgical aid and advice will be attended to, and prescribed for. The time of attendance is to be fixed by the Medical Officer in communication with the Civil authority at Civil stations, and Commanding Officers at Military Cantonments

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7th September 1870.

and intimation thereof given to the inhabitants of the district. The hour must be arranged to suit the convenience of the majority of the people.

3. The Medical Officer shall remain for one hour, at the least, in the Dispensary building, during which time he must personally see and prescribe for all applicants. The period for which the Medical Officer will be present should be notified in the vernacular, on a board in the waiting-room, or some other conspicuous place, and the Medical Officer is enjoined to be punctual and regular in his visits.

4. IN-PATIENTS.—Paupers, Native, East Indian or European, suffering under Medical or Surgical disease requiring hospital treatment, will, when the means at the disposal of the Managing Committee of the Dispensary permit, be admitted as in-patients and treated, fed, and clothed while resident in the hospital; cases may also present in the richer classes, where, from the nature of the ailment, hospital treatment would be desirable, such patients also may be admitted, but are to diet and clothe themselves while in hospital.

5. FEMALE PATIENTS.—One ward, or more, if necessary, will be set apart for women. When lying-in wards are provided, they should be detached from the main building. It is desirable that venereal cases in women be kept in a separate ward also.

6. CONTAGIOUS WARDS.—Cholera or Small-pox cases should, when there is no detached building available, be treated in temporary sheds erected for the purpose.

7. MEDICAL SUBORDINATES.—The Medical Subordinates attached to Civil Dispensaries will, if not provided with quarters in the hospital, reside conveniently near the spot, so as to be ready to give aid to any applicant during the day or night. The Medical Officer in charge will always attend when he may be sent for to accidents and other emergent cases.

8. HOURS FOR BUSINESS.—Civil Dispensaries shall be open from 7 till 10 o'clock A.M., and from 3 to 5 P.M. every day for ordinary out-patients. This regulation is not to preclude persons from getting medicines at any hour of the day or night, when there may be immediate necessity."

No. 13. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1870, No. 1124.

The Government observe that in the Dispensary Rules, which are enclosed in the letter of the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department, dated 23rd July last, the minimum period of attendance of the Medical Officer is laid down as one hour. The Government entertain some doubt as to the sufficiency of the time thus prescribed, and desire to call the attention of the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department to this rule with a view to its amendment, should Dr. Mackenzie consider it necessary.

(True Extract.)

Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department.

Rsd. J. Wright.

Oct. of 1870 ~~Advices~~

PUBLIC.

To

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL, OF THE
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated September, 7th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 7th September 1870, No. 1124.

~~SEPTIMBER.~~

Nos. 11—14.

Drawing attention to the minimum period of attendance of the Medical Officer at the Civil Dispensary as laid down in the Dispensary Rules forwarded with his letter of the 27th July last.

No. 2995

FROM

E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S.I.,

Secretary to the Govt. of India,

TO

*The Secretary to the Government
of Madras*

Home Dept.
Public.

SIMLA, the 18 June 1870.

SIR,

QUESTIONS having arisen from time to time as to the propriety of allowing Sub-Assistant Surgeons and subordinate Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries to practise privately as medical men for their private emolument, and various abuses having been alleged to arise out of this practice where permitted, it seems desirable that some general rule should be laid down defining the extent to which the practice should be permitted, and under what safeguards.

2. His Excellency in Council therefore wishes that rules to this effect should be provided in the proposed revision of the existing system of Charitable Dispensaries; and I am desired to suggest for *the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council* how far it would, for example, be practicable to lay down some such general principles as the following, viz.:-

excepting perhaps the rule that
That the Dispensary should not be left at all, if possible, at night by the Officer in charge; and that he should not, at any time, be compelled to visit out-patients who do not pay him, except in urgent cases and where the patient is the case of Government servants entitled to his attendance at home;

That fixed hours, say from 7 to 10 A. M. and from 5 to 7 P. M., be fixed for the attendance of ordinary out-patients at the Dispensary;

don't the subscribers of this and there will have to be no subscribers under the new rules.
That the subscribers to the Dispensary, to the amount of one Rupee and upwards, should be allowed to get medical advice gratis for themselves and families by attendance within the prescribed hours: Firms subscribing 20 Rupees and upwards, for themselves and their employes;

subscribers will seldom come into your dispensary unless to be attended with a doctor.
That subscribers, in case of severe illness or accident, might be admitted as in-door patients, paying for food and medicine;

Medicine (and food to in-door patients) to be given gratis only to indigent patients; others being required to pay actual cost to Dispensary, plus 10 per cent. to cover contingencies.

3. I am accordingly to request that *His Excellency the Governor in Council* will be good enough to take the subject into consideration and favor the Government of India with *his* views thereon, as well as with a draft of such rules as may seem proper.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. C. Bayley

Secretary to the Govt. of India

File 1054

Ans. 7 September/30 No 11014

Public (1870) Dept.

From
The Offr. Secy. to the
Govt. of India. H.D.

No 4038

dated 5 } Sept.
filed 13 }

No 1068/101.

Requesting an early
reply to the query regarding
the General Rules defining
the extent Sub. Post.
Surgeons & Subordinate
Medical Officers in charge
of Dispensaries are
permitted to practise
privately.

Order 7. September/30.
No 1124.

The Govt. desire that
in the Dispensary Rules
which are embodied in
the letter of the Inspector

General Indian Medical
Dept. the minimum
period of attendance of
the Medical Officer is
permitted.

one hour laid down as
one hour.

The Govt. entertain some
doubt as to the sufficiency
of the time thus presented

and desire to call
for attention of the
Int. Soc. for Int. and
Dept. to the question
this rule - vote -
new to its amendment
should be in the
Committee to investigate

Prof. J. M. Dept. 1887

8611
7/12/1998

Port. of 1870 Windsor.
Public

The ship: Genl. Lus. and L. Diph

[Handwritten signature]

Encl.

0. 7/12/1998 1870, No. 114

Nos. 11. 14

Attention to the business
of attendance of the
Officers at the Civil Dis.
as laid down in
the necessary rules forwarded
in letter of the 23 July