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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	809	Press Mis.
Dated	12-6	10 18.7/1

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*Précis on question of strength of Hospital Assistants
in the Civil Establishment.*

No. 3455, dated 24th July 1869.

WITH reference to the statement of fresh charges sanctioned by the Madras Government in March 1869, that Government was called upon to submit full explanation of the necessity for allowing second class Hospital Assistants to every Revenue Officer proceeding on tour in the interior of his district or subdivision.

Enquiry was also made whether Warrant Medical Officers, attached to some of the Collectorates, could not be withdrawn, and Hospital Assistants substituted in those districts where medical subordinates were actually needed.

No. 7, dated 4th January 1870.

The Madras Government, in reply, transmitted a statement, showing the ranges of the Revenue Officers to whom Hospital Assistants were allowed, the area of each range, the nature of the climate, and the greatest point of distance within the range from medical aid, the ranges varying from 25 to 105 miles from stations where medical aid could be procured.

In the opinion of the Madras Government, the unhealthy character of the localities, and the difficulty experienced in obtaining medical aid, rendered it imperative that aid of some description should be provided.

As regards the withdrawal of Warrant Medical Officers and the substitution of Hospital Assistants, it was remarked that the services of a medical subordinate of the grade of Apothecary were absolutely required in certain districts.

It was explained that the provision of medical aid was required for the establishments of the Revenue Officers, and the medical subordinates were not employed as their *personal* medical attendants.

No. 1118, dated 28th February 1870.

In reply, it was intimated that sufficient cause had not been shown for the maintenance in ordinary districts of separate Hospital Assistants to attend the establishment of the Collector. It was added that in other provinces no such necessity had been found to exist, and that the Revenue Commissioners of the Bombay

Presidency were recently disallowed a separate medical subordinate.

Irrespective of the staff of Hospital Assistants required for dispensaries, the Government of India thought that at head quarters of each district one such Assistant for the District Jail and one for the Police Hospital should, as a general rule, suffice, the Assistant attached to the dispensary being available for attendance on the civil establishment. At permanent out-stations, a Hospital Assistant might be allowed; but when at such out-stations there was a charitable dispensary, it should be considered whether, as has been found possible in Bengal, the medical subordinate attached to such dispensary could not also undertake the medical treatment of the civil establishment.

A statement was called for showing, district by district, the number and distribution of medical subordinates of the Apothecary and Hospital Assistant classes employed in attendance upon ordinary civil establishments, dispensaries, jails, and police, and the reason for all excess above the scale described above.

A circular to the above effect was, at the same time, addressed to the other Local Governments and Administrations, with the view of reducing the number of medical subordinates employed in the civil department.

The following is a *précis* of the replies; and an abstract of the statement called for will be found appended.

The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces states that the proportion of Hospital Assistants, considered sufficient in the circular, has not been exceeded in any station. On the contrary, it is in several districts below that complement.

At every district head quarters there is a main dispensary, and the Assistant attached is available for attendance on the civil establishments, except at Seroncha, the head quarters of the Deputy Commissioner. The exception at Seroncha is under consideration, and the result will be reported.

No reduction can be proposed, all that was possible having already been made.

The Chief Commissioner of Coorg states that no reduction can be made in the number of medical subordinates employed in the civil department, there being only two, one in charge of the civil

Nos. 1119 to 1127, dated 28th February 1870.

No. 672-65, dated 17th March 187

No orders needed.

No. 52-8, dated 25th April 1870.

Perhaps at Mercara reduction need not be farther insisted on.

J. G.

No. 1045, dated 4th May 1870.

No. 594, dated 11th May 1870.

No. 28, dated 2nd June 1870.

No. 121-9, dated 7th June 1870.

No. 3437, dated 13th July 1870.

dispensary and jail, the other in charge of the Superintendent's establishment. As regards the subordinate attached to the civil dispensary having charge of the civil establishment, the Deputy Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, observes that the arrangement would be inconvenient and detrimental to the interests of the dispensary, if the medical subordinate be required to attend the Superintendent on Circuit.

The Government of Bombay forwards a letter from the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, and observes that reduction is not feasible in the number of Hospital Assistants.

The Government of Madras refers to its letter above noticed for explanation, and observes that the Revenue Officers and their establishments are on circuit during at least four months of the year; and that a Hospital Assistant attached to a dispensary cannot leave his dispensary to accompany the revenue establishment when on circuit. It is, therefore, requested that the existing arrangement may be allowed to remain undisturbed. In the Local Funds Bill under consideration, it is proposed to provide for the support of dispensaries, and thus to lighten the imperial charge for medical establishments.

The Resident at Hyderabad states that the number of Hospital Assistants in Berar cannot be decreased, while the Superintendent of Jails and Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals consider that the present staff requires to be increased.

The scale suggested in the circular has not been exceeded at any station.

The Chief Commissioner of British Burmah is of opinion that at present there is no excess in the lower grades of the medical department, and that no reduction can possibly be made. A saving might be effected by appointing Native Doctors of the 3rd instead of the 1st class to the smaller jails; but even this the Chief Commissioner is not prepared to recommend.

Oudh.—The Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals is of opinion that at all stations where now three Native Doctors are employed, two would suffice; the appointment of a separate Native Doctor for the Police Hospital being unnecessary.

It is suggested that in replacing the many police hospital buildings now in old and wretched condition by new ones, that the latter should be built in such contiguity to the jails that the Native Doctor of Jail and Police shall have his work within an easy compass.

The Government of the Punjab intimates that in most of the stations the arrangements suggested have been adopted. In a few places only has the scale been exceeded, and, wherever practicable, reductions have been ordered to be made.

The Government of Bengal states that there are no Native Doctors in excess of the scale laid down by the Government of India in any of the districts except Moorshedabad and Kamroop, at each of which places one extra man has been employed to assist the Civil Surgeon; but as no good ground exists for their further retention, they have been ordered to be withdrawn.

The Commissioners of Chota Nagpore and Cooch Behar have hitherto each had a Native Doctor to accompany them on their tours; and, owing to the special circumstances of those divisions, their retention has been allowed, but as they form no part of the regular establishment, they have been omitted from the statement enclosed. Similarly, Native Doctors, who are attached to lunatic asylums, or are otherwise specially employed in attendance on survey or other working parties, have not been included.

The question of maintaining separate medical establishments for the police at particular stations has been referred to the Inspector General of Police for opinion.

The Government of the North-Western Provinces reports that the Native Doctors in charge of civil stations have generally been dispensed with, but at Almorah and Nynsee Tal separate Native Doctors have been retained. At all the out-stations the civil medical duties are performed by the Native Doctors attached to the dispensaries.

As regards dispensaries, it is stated that, with the exception of the institutions to which Sub-Assistant Surgeons are attached, each dispensary has one Native Doctor.

In respect of jails, it is said that two Native Doctors for each Central Prison are considered sufficient, and this number

No. 618, dated 23rd July 1870.

No. 2983, dated 1st September 1870.

No. 1815A, dated 23rd March 1871.

is allowed to each with the exception of Bareilly, Agra, and Futtehghurh. In the former, an additional man is entertained for the lunatic asylum. The Agra Jail is an exceptionally large one: four Native Doctors were before entertained,—one has been reduced, but three have been retained, it being advisable to have an extra man to employ in case of an epidemic breaking out. At Futtehghurh only one man is employed. As regards district jails, one Native Doctor is attached to each.

The propriety of reducing the expenditure on account of police hospitals has been under the consideration of the North-Western Provinces Government; and at 14 stations, where the jail and police hospitals are close to each other, the services of the Native Doctors attached to the latter have been dispensed with, the duties being performed by the men employed in the former. It is added that it is in contemplation to discharge the men at other small stations, if, after trial, the new system is found to work well.

Abstract Statement showing the number and distribution of Medical Subordinates in each Province, employed in attendance upon ordinary Civil Establishments, Dispensaries, Jails, and Police.

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E. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C. S. I.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF

For St. George.

Home Dept.
Public.

SIMLA, the 23rd May 1871.

SIR,

WITH reference to the correspondence marginally noted, on the subject of the feasibility of reducing the number of medical subordinates employed in the Civil Department, I am directed to state that as under the orders of the Financial Department, No. 1659, dated the 20th March last, all questions relating to the strength of the Subordinate Medical Service have been left to be dealt with by Local Governments and Administrations, the Governor General in Council does not propose to take any action on the reply above cited. I am, however, to forward for the information of His Excellency in Council the accompanying Précis showing the result of the reference which was made to the several Local Governments and Administrations regarding the proposed reduction.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. C. Bayley

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

4 Feb 20-18-13/6
 16 March 70-71
 11 May 42-43
 26 April 19, 1908-5338
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1925-26

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12 June 1971 No 809

on the subject

the possibility of receiving

the number of medical

subscriptions suggested in

the Civil Department.

J. B. P.

Corrected by

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Govt. of 1871 Madras
Public

Dated June 12 ..

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12 June . 1871, No. 849.

Nos. 54 . 55

Recording letter from the Govt.
of India on the subject of the
possibility of reducing the
number of Subordinate
employed in the Civil Dept.