

ORDINARY, MS.

Public	DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 23-2-91	
No. 141	

When given for copying

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Limitation of
employment of me-
dical warrant of-
ficers in the Civil
list to 3 years
at a time.*

MILITARY DEPARTMENT, 14TH FEBRUARY 1891, No. 964.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Medical Department—Subordinate.

Read the following paper :—

No. 126. *From Colonel H. R. HOPE, for Adjutant-General, Madras Army, to Brigadier-General A. KENNEY-HERBERT, Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Ootacamund, 6th January 1891, No. 48-BA (Medical Department—Subordinate).*

I, have the honor, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward the

Letter No. 3083, dated 4th November 1890, from the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, to the Adjutant-General, with two enclosures.

Letter No. 82-C, dated 19th November 1890, from the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Adjutant-General.

Letter No. 3494, dated 13th December 1890, from the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, to the Adjutant-General.

correspondence as per margin relative to a suggestion of the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, that all Medical Warrant officers should be employed in the Civil department for only five years at a time in view to their keeping up their knowledge of all the duties required of them in the Military department, and to say that His Excellency concurs with the views expressed by the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras.

2. I am to add that, as this is a question equally affecting the Subordinate Medical departments of the three Presidencies, it should, in the Commander-in-Chief's opinion, be submitted to the Government of India.

From Surgeon-General Sir J. A. HANBURY, M.B., K.C.B., Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, to the Adjutant-General, Madras Army; dated Ootacamund, 4th November 1890, No. 3083.

I have the honor to place in the margin extracts from a report on the medical arrangements of the last Chin-Lushai Expedition

"Five Medical Warrant officers were sent direct from civil employ. They were quite ignorant of military duty."

"I would strongly recommend that . . . all medical officers, subordinates, &c., should have some practical experience of military duty before being sent on field service."

(Burma column) by Brigade-Surgeon E. C. Markey, Principal Medical Officer of the Force employed with the expedition, and, with reference thereto, to state that I feel it my duty to make a representation to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the subject.

2. The necessity of every Medical Warrant officer in the service being fully acquainted with the duties that devolve on him as a Military medical subordinate was a subject which came under notice during the late Burma campaigns (1885—88), when, owing to the ignorance of many of the Medical Warrant officers who were drawn from the Civil branch of the service, of the rules and regulations which govern Military hospitals, no little difficulty was experienced by medical officers under whom they were serving. I thought it proper, therefore, to address the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras with the view of preventing similar

recurrences, and did so in September last year. A copy of my letter on the subject (No. 2625, dated 18th September 1889) is enclosed for information, as well as Surgeon-General Bidie's reply (letter No. 5386, dated 4th October 1889).

3. Although the then Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras did not, as you will see, consent to the proposal made by me, yet, since the above correspondence (when I had to apply to him for more Medical Warrant officers to meet the demands from Burma), the services of some subordinates, who were at the time totally unacquainted with Military regulations, were placed at the disposal of the Military department. I may here observe that there are still many others in civil employ who have little or no acquaintance with Military regulations. It is true that Medical Warrant officers in the Civil department are supplied with a copy of Army Regulations, India, Vol. VI, but that circumstance alone is not sufficient to make them qualified in the duties that they will be called upon to perform in the Military branch of the service, for, nothing short of practical study of these regulations will enable a medical subordinate to be really useful in a Military hospital. I may also bring the fact to notice that many of the Medical Warrant officers who, since the date of the correspondence referred to above, were transferred to the Military department, had not corrected their copy of the regulations, and consequently were ignorant of many of the alterations to the regulations which were issued since its publication.

4. It seems scarcely necessary to mention that the ignorance of many of the Medical Warrant officers employed with the last Chin-Lushai Expedition did, to a very large extent, impair the usefulness of these subordinates and entail a serious loss to the service.

5. In my opinion, it is absolutely necessary that all Medical Warrant officers should serve for a certain period (say five years) in the Military department, so that they may acquire a thorough knowledge of matters that will devolve on them as Military medical subordinates, and that there should be constant exchange between the Medical Warrant officers in the Civil and Military departments.

From Surgeon-Major G. F. BEVAN, for Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras; dated Fort St. George, 18th September 1889, No. 2625.

The existing Military Medical regulations, &c., are so very different from what they were a few years ago, that nothing short of practical study of these regulations will enable a medical subordinate to be of any use in a Military hospital. There are at the present date several Medical Warrant officers in the Civil department who have not had a single day of military work since, and even long before, the changes in the regulations governing Military hospitals took place. These men are liable at any moment for military duty, and, as I have said above, their ignorance of military rules and regulations will render their employment in Military hospitals of little value; they will, moreover, be a source of trouble and annoyance to the medical officer, while the duties required of them cannot be expected to be performed satisfactorily and the results may be serious. If the above remarks show how undesirable it is to employ these medical subordinates in such capacities during peace time, they apply with much greater force during times of war when, to be of any service, it is absolutely necessary that every member of the Sub-Medical Department should be thoroughly acquainted with the work required of him. I base these observations on experience, and consider that the time has arrived when such a state of things should cease to exist. I have therefore the honor to make the following suggestion, and trust you will have no objection to its being carried out.

2. On looking into the records of my office and the Army List, I find the names of the marginally-mentioned Medical Warrant officers amongst those who have been continuously employed in the Civil department,

See list.

and who cannot be expected to have the least practical knowledge of the work, which would devolve on them in a Military hospital. I would suggest, therefore, that these men be transferred to the Military department, where they may learn military work, and that, in lieu of them, an equal number of those now in military employ be made over to the Civil department. This arrangement will secure for the State the advantage of having a trained and qualified staff of Medical Warrant officers to fall back on in case of necessity.

3. These proposals may be objected to on the ground that it would inconvenience the Civil department, if the Medical Warrant officers employed in the large Civil hospitals were withdrawn, owing to these men being specially qualified for a particular kind of work; but considering that these men were primarily intended for the Military department, that the Military service has a prior claim, and the serious inconvenience Military hospitals will be subjected to (particularly in times of war when every member of the Sub-Medical Department may be required) if their working is entrusted to men who have no practical knowledge whatever of military work. I trust you will raise no objection to the arrangement proposed by me. I may further remark that it is nothing but fair to those who have been continuously employed in

the Civil department that they should be afforded the opportunities of learning military work. To deal equitably with the members of the department, may I also suggest that each may be permitted a five-years' term of employment in the Civil department.

4. If you concur in my suggestion, I request you will kindly place at my disposal, as soon as possible, the services of all such Medical Warrant officers as have had no opportunities of learning the working of Military hospitals and who are therefore unacquainted with it. I will, on my part, make over the services of a corresponding number from the Military to the Civil department.

From G. BIDIE, Esq., M.B., C.I.E., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, Madras; dated Fort St. George, 4th October 1889, No. 5386.

With reference to your No. 2625 of 18th September 1889, I have the honor to point out that the number of men in the warrant grade of the Madras Medical Establishment is largely in excess of the sanctioned allotment for military requirements.

2. It has, on that account, been absolutely necessary to find employment for a certain portion of the surplus in civil duty.

3. I have also to invite your attention to G.O., Military Department, No. 2589, of 4th May 1887, from which you will see that it is the intention of the Government of India that some of the surplus should be disposed of by permanent transfer to the Civil department.

4. Strictly speaking, therefore, the Military department has no permanent claim on the surplus establishment which grew up under different conditions of the service, although the members of it have always been at its service during recent extra demands in Burma, &c. The delay too in the final adjustment of the surplus has been entirely due to military exigencies.

5. The sudden removal from civil institutions, as proposed by you, of some of the subordinates for a tour of military duty, would cause considerable inconvenience, and such a measure seems hardly warranted, seeing that the staff of subordinates now at your disposal is in excess of the sanctioned allotment for military service.

6. As regards the alleged disqualification of military subordinates resulting from civil employment, I have to point out that the Government of India has supplied each of these men with a copy of the code of Military regulations, and if any officer, on return to military duty, is found ignorant of them, he will be liable to punishment.

No. 2776-BA.

MEMORANDUM.

Referred for favor of remarks and return.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
14th November 1890.

(Signed) H. P. PEARSON, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Adjutant-General.

To the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

From W. F. DEFABECK, Esq., M.D., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Adjutant-General, Madras Army; dated Fort St. George, 19th November 1890, No. 82-C.

In returning the correspondence referred to me for remarks under your endorsement No. 2776-BA, dated the 14th instant, I have the honor to observe that, in my opinion, the constant changes therein suggested will cause considerable inconvenience to the service generally.

2. The complaint made by the Principal Medical Officer, Chin-Lushai Expedition, is apparently due to the fact that men withdrawn from the Civil department were sent direct to Burma for field service. If men already in military employ and possessing practical knowledge of military rules and regulations had been selected for active service and their places given to the Apothecaries transferred from the Civil department there would, I presume, have been no occasion for the complaint referred to.

3. I may further state that, of the existing establishment of 138 Warrant Medical officers, only 27 are holding civil appointments in this Presidency not provided for in Clause 149, India

Army Circular of August 1890. Of these, 10 were but recently returned from military duty, so that there are only 17 men in respect of whom the proposal of the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, should be considered. Of this number, six are Senior Apothecaries, three of whom will retire next year on completing 55 years of age, and quite recently the Military department returned two Senior Apothecaries placed at its disposal by this office, on the ground that men of this grade were from age unfit for military service in Burma. Of the remaining 11 men, two are holding important appointments as Assistant Professors at the Medical College.

4. The proposal is, further, not in consonance with the spirit of Para. 235, India Army Regulations, Vol. VI (Medical), which lays down that the Subordinate Medical Department should be administered, as far as possible, on the same system as is followed in regard to officers of the Indian Medical Service. Moreover, it can never work in the case of the warrant officers employed in other provinces under the orders of the Government of India over whom I have no immediate control.

No. 2905-BA (Medical Department).

MEMORANDUM.

Forwarded, for information, with reference to his letter No. 3083, dated 4th instant, and for favor of any remarks he may wish to make.

2. Return requested.

(By Order.)

OOTACAMUND,
27th November 1890.

(Signed) H. P. PEARSON, Brigdr.-Genl.,
Adjutant-General.

To the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras.

From Surgeon-Major G. F. BEVAN, for Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in Madras, to the Adjutant-General, Madras Army; dated Fort St. George, 13th December 1890, No. 3494.

In returning your memorandum No. 2905-BA. (Medical Department), dated 27th November 1890, I have the honor to offer the following remarks.

2. To meet the demands in connection with the Chin Field Force, 20 Medical Warrant officers were ordered to Burma from India, which number consisted of 15 men drawn from the Military establishment and of five of the ten men given over by the Civil department. From this it will be seen that the necessity of employing qualified men with the force was not lost sight of; and it is scarcely necessary to add that as many men as could have been spared from the Military establishment were sent without denuding the station hospitals of trained medical subordinates to such an extent as to cause inconvenience and delay. The force of the argument in para. 2 of Surgeon-General deFabeck's letter is not very clear. Members of the Apothecary class, employed in the Civil department, are equally liable as those in military employ to be ordered on active service, and there does not appear to be sufficient reason why the former should not be afforded the opportunity of becoming equally qualified for employment with a field force. You will observe from Para. 258, Army Regulations, India, Vol. VI, that members of the Apothecary class in civil employment are available for military duty in time of war and other urgent necessity, which is a very essential reason for every member of the Apothecary class in civil employ being conversant with Military rules and regulations. This result can only be obtained by constant exchange between Medical Warrant officers in the Civil and Military departments. Another reason for my advocating exchanges between the two departments is that, when necessity requires, the transfer from civil to military of a Medical Warrant officer who is high up the list, it is not possible to appoint him to the subordinate charge of a station hospital, for under Para. 56, Army Regulations, India, Vol. VI, seniority in itself is not a sufficient claim. Not being qualified for a charge in consequence of his want of practical knowledge of Military rules and regulations, often necessitates his being posted to do duty under his junior—an arrangement which I consider very objectionable. There are several instances of this nature on record.

3. The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras states that my proposal is not in consonance with the spirit of Para. 235, Army Regulations, India, Vol. VI. To me it appears that it is not opposed to the spirit of the paragraph quoted, as Indian Medical officers are required to complete a certain term of military duty before they can be employed in the Civil department. The object of this restriction, in regard to officers of the Indian Medical Service, is apparent; and my suggestion regarding Medical Warrant officers was made with the same object and in the spirit of Paras. 23 and 235, Army Regulations, India, Vol. VI.

4. The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras states that the proposal made by me does not apply to ten Medical Warrant officers who "were but recently returned from military duty." With reference to this statement, I may remark that seven of these Medical Warrant officers were sent back to the Civil department on written or verbal applications for their services, and that none of the ten men referred to have been long enough in the Military department to acquire the requisite knowledge of military duties.

5. In conclusion, I may observe that the Military department will suffer no inconvenience if the scheme proposed by me is sanctioned, and that the claims of the Military department should be primarily considered. My object in bringing this question forward is, as I have already remarked, that all Military Medical Warrant officers in civil employment may have an adequate knowledge of their military duties, so that, in time of war or any special emergency, they may be able to take up these duties without detriment to the service.

No. 127.

ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1891, No. 964.

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed.

No. 128.

To the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department;
dated 14th February 1891, No. 965.

(True Extract.)

A. Kennedy Herbert
Brigdr.-Genl.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant-General.

- " Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces, Madras.
- " Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
- " Public Department.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

Luo 493

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
MILITARY.

To
THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 14th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 14th February 1891, No. 964.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 126—128.

Medical Department—Subordinate.

Medical Warrant Officers.—Government of India addressed on the subject of limiting the employment of — in the Civil department to five years at a time in view to their keeping up their knowledge of the duties required of them in the Military department.

C.S.
Mis

Order. 23-Feb 91. h. 141

Recorded.

21 Feb.

C.S.
21.2.91

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No. 1376

OF 18

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.