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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	204	Press
		~~Mis.~~
Dated	28.3	1892.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

28TH MARCH 1892, No. 204, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From W. F. DEFABECK, Esq., M.D., Surgeon-General, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 15th February 1892, No. 150.

With reference to paragraph 4 of G.O., dated the 8th October 1891, No. 2068, Judicial, I have the honour to forward herewith for approval forms of *post-mortem* and wound certificates with instructions and a draft departmental circular on the subject. I also enclose this office circulars No. 24 of 1883 and No. 2 of 1884, to which reference is made in the draft circular.

2. It will be noted that in the instructions accompanying the *post-mortem* certificate form, I have entered "Committing Magistrate" instead of the "nearest Magistrate" as proposed by the Inspector-General of Police in his letter printed in G.O., No. 228, Judicial, of 19th April 1888. The latter term causes confusion, as it is not clear whether the District Magistrate, his Deputy, the Taluk Magistrate or the Town Magistrate is meant.

3. *Post-mortem* and wound examinations are so important a part of a medical officer's duties that I recommend that each hospital and dispensary have a copy of the "Clinical Manual for India." This book, in addition to being a useful guide for hospital practice, contains a very complete section on *post-mortem* examinations and Medical legal necropsies. The first edition was brought to notice by Surgeon-General Cornish in 1880—*vide* Proceedings, Board of Revenue, No. 1803, dated 26th November 1880. It has recently been revised and a third edition brought out.

ORDER dated 28th March 1892, No. 204, Public.

The drafts and forms submitted by the Surgeon-General have had to be entirely recast. They are approved as printed in the appendix to this order.

2. The term "Committing Magistrate" should not be used, for it implies that there is a charge and an accused, whilst in many cases there is neither. The original *post-mortem* certificate should be placed in a cover, which should be sealed and handed over to the Police, who will be responsible for its correct delivery.

3. The Surgeon-General will submit a copy of the "Clinical Manual for India," and report the expenditure involved by the proposal in paragraph 3 of his letter.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Judicial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.

[Appendix.]

APPENDIX.

No. .

Circular.

The Government having recently noticed the imperfect nature of the certificate given by a Medical officer of the result of a *post-mortem* examination, the Surgeon-General desires to impress upon all Medical officers and subordinates employed in the Civil Department the grave responsibility which devolves on them in making *post-mortem* examinations and recording the result of them at the time and also when examining wounded persons. Care and accuracy in performing these duties can alone ensure a correct professional opinion being formed and recorded.

2. In addition to granting *post-mortem* certificates, Medical officers should furnish orally to the police all possible information that they consider calculated to assist the elucidation of the case.

Forms of *post-mortem* and wound certificates are attached to this circular for guidance. They should be of foolscap size with counterfoils and should be bound in books of 100 forms each, numbered consecutively. The counterfoil which should be an exact copy of the original certificate should remain as a permanent record. A book of each kind of form should be maintained in every hospital.

N.B.—These forms should not be used for certificates granted at the request of private individuals.

3. In addition to these books the usual *post-mortem* registers should also be maintained, in which all details of examination (copied from the rough notes) should be entered *immediately after* the *post-mortem* examination has been made. Each case should be signed by the Medical officer who grants the certificate. The wound register, in which the whole case of wounded persons should be entered, should also be carefully kept up. Under no circumstances should any one but the Medical officer or subordinate in charge have access to these records.

4. Particular attention is directed to this office circulars No. 24 of 13th July 1883 and No. 2 of 24th January 1884.

OFFICE COPY.

POST-MORTEM CERTIFICATE.

No. _____

Regarding the body of a
 aged _____ years; received on _____
 at _____ M., from the _____ of _____
 with his letter No. _____, dated _____ and in charge of _____ Constable No. _____

charge of _____ Constable No. _____

The body when first seen by the undersigned was _____

Post-mortem commenced at _____ M., on _____

Appearances found :— _____

Identification and caste marks :— _____

Opinion as to cause of death. _____

Station _____ Name _____
 Date _____ Rank _____

ORIGINAL.

POST-MORTEM CERTIFICATE.

No. _____

Regarding the body of a
 aged _____ years; received on _____
 at _____ M., from the _____ of _____
 with his letter No. _____, dated _____ and in charge of _____ Constable No. _____

The body when first seen by the undersigned was _____

Post-mortem commenced at _____ M., on _____

Appearances found :— _____

Opinion as to cause of death. _____

Station _____ Name _____
 Date _____ Rank _____

Instructions for filling in Post-mortem Certificates.

- After the words "body of a," the sex should be entered.
2. The approximate age to be entered should be judged from appearances.
3. The date and time of receipt of the body and the name and official position of the person ordering the *post-mortem* should be entered together with the number and date of the document sent by him.
4. The number, rank and name of the constable in charge of the body should be entered.
5. After the words "the body when first seen by the undersigned was," its condition should be noted, *i.e.*, whether warm, cold, condition of *rigor mortis*, or undergoing putrefaction.
6. The time at which the *post-mortem* examination was commenced and the date on which it was made should be accurately entered.
7. After "appearances found" all particulars regarding wounds, injuries, and suspicious signs, external or internal, should be concisely and sufficiently described, the site and extent of any wounds being carefully entered.
8. Identification and caste marks should be entered in the office copy of the certificate.
9. The original certificate should be placed in a cover which should be sealed and handed over to the Police who will know to what Magistrate to take it.
10. The certificate should not be filled in until the *post-mortem* notes have been entered in full in ink in the *post-mortem* register. This should be done *at once* to obviate the possibility of any delay in the delivery of the certificate to the Police.
11. It is to be distinctly understood that the original certificate is, in all cases, to be handed over to the Police on the day on which the *post-mortem* is held.

[Office copy.]

OFFICE COPY.

WOUND CERTIFICATE.

No. _____

Wounds or injuries found on the person of a
 calling himself _____, aged _____ years;
 an inhabitant of _____, who was
 sent with _____, for report
 from _____, and accompanied by _____
 as to certain _____ said to have been
 caused on _____, and to be due to _____

The injured person was first seen by the undersigned
 at _____ m. on the _____ and the examination
 was commenced at _____ m. on the _____
 when the following injuries were found:—

Identification and caste marks.

I am of opinion that

Station

Date

Name

Rank

I am of opinion that

Station

Date

Name

Rank

6

ORIGINAL.

WOUND CERTIFICATE.

No. _____

Wounds or injuries found on the person of a
 calling himself _____, aged _____ years; an inhabitant of _____
 who was sent with _____, for report
 from _____, and accompanied by _____
 as to certain _____ said to have been caused on _____
 said to have been caused on _____ and to be due to _____

The injured person was first seen by the undersigned at _____ m. on the _____ and
 the examination was commenced at _____ m. on the _____ when the
 following injuries were found:—

I am of opinion that

Station

Date

Name

Rank

7

Instructions for filling in Wound Certificates.

1. After the words "of a," the sex of the person should be given.
2. After the words "sent with" should be entered particulars of any document received from a Magistrate or the Police.
3. When the injured person is accompanied by a constable, the name, number and rank of the latter should be noted. If no communication in writing is received with the injured person, the fact should be noted as follows: "who was sent without a written communication by"
4. The exact time at which the injured person was first seen by the certifying officer and also the exact time at which the examination was commenced should be carefully noted and entered in the certificate.
5. Particulars of all injuries found should be concisely but sufficiently described in the plainest language.
6. After the words "I am of opinion that," enter whether the injuries are or are not of a serious nature, and, if the former, whether a fatal result or any permanent injury is likely to follow.
7. Identification and caste marks should be entered in the office copy of the certificate.
8. The original certificate should be forwarded at once to the Magistrate or the Police officer who sent the injured person for examination.
9. As the certificate has to be filled in and despatched immediately after the examination, a very carefully considered prognosis should be made, especially as regards injuries to the head or spine.
10. Further details should be entered in the Hospital Wound Register.

Issued

Recd.

Encd.

G.O., 28th March 1892, No. 204.

MARCH.

Post-mortem and Wound Certificates.

Approving, with remarks, the forms of — as amended, and directing the Surgeon-General to report the cost of supplying the "Clinical Manual for India" to hospitals and dispensaries.

HEMICO-LEGAL EXAMINATIONS.

Form circular for Medical and Civil Surgeons for communication to Medical subordinates in their range for information and guidance.

The following instructions are divided into two sections, viz. :—

SECTION 1.—Containing rules for the guidance of Magisterial and Police Officers.

SECTION 2.—Containing rules for the guidance of Medical Officers. Neither section is complete by itself, the two sections being complementary to one another.

SECTION 1.

The following instructions are issued for the guidance of Magistrates, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police, with regard to the transmission of substances to the Chemical Examiner for examination, in cases of suspected poisoning, or other cases in which the aid of the Chemical Examiner may be required.

2. In future substances will not be forwarded by Medical Officers to the Chemical Examiner except upon receipt of an order to that effect from a Magistrate, Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police. It will therefore be necessary that orders for the transmission of substances to the Chemical Examiner for analysis should be issued with promptitude. And an order should invariably be granted, if the Medical Officer consider it advisable to obtain the opinion of the Chemical Examiner; whilst on the other hand Magistrates, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police should issue an order or consult the Chemical Examiner, although the opinion of the Medical Officer be adverse to such a proceeding.

3. Magistrates, Superintendents and Medical Officers to forward articles for analysis at the same time, address the latter officer Medical Officer, and should furnish the Chemical Examiner with a brief summary of the history of the case.

4. The principal points on which Magistrates of Police, in cases of suspected poisoning, should furnish information to the Chemical Examiner are as follows :—

- (a) What interval was there between the occurrence of symptoms of poisoning.
- (b) What interval was there between the occurrence of symptoms and death (if this occurred).
- (c) What were the first symptoms.
- (d) Were any of the following symptoms present?
 - (a) Vomiting and purging.
 - (b) Deep sleep.
 - (c) Tingling of the skin and tingling.
 - (d) Convulsions or twitchings.
 - (e) Delirium and clutching at the throat.
 - (f) Were any other symptoms present.
- (f) Did any other persons present also suffer from similar symptoms.

5. Any other information available, should at the same time be furnished.

6. Certificates of chemical analysis are not in a position to conduct a post-mortem examination. But any Medical Officer who may be able to recognise recent blood stains, and to

7. In every case of suspected human remains requiring analysis should be packed in a box and forwarded to the nearest Medical Officer. If special circumstances require, articles directly to the Chemical Examiner, must be carefully attended to.

Superintendents of Police, on instructing the Chemical Examiner to Government, should, at the same time, forward to the Chemical Examiner the number and date of their order to the Magistrate with a brief summary of the history of the case.

Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police should furnish information to the Chemical Examiner as follows :—

1. The nature of the case, and the first appearance of symptoms of poisoning.

2. The interval between the first appearance of symptoms and death (if this occurred).

3. If so, state which :—

4. The objects.

5. The suspected food or drink, and did they suffer from symptoms of poisoning?

6. The serviceable as a guide to the class of poisoning.

7. The accepted from Medical Officers, as these should be carried out for judicial purposes. A suitable microscope should be provided with a suitable microscope should be provided for the examination of suspected seminal stains.

8. In every case of suspected human remains requiring analysis, it is desirable that all the substances should be forwarded to the Chemical Examiner by the nearest Medical Officer. If special circumstances require, articles directly to the Chemical Examiner, must be carefully attended to.

8. SUSPECTED BLOOD STAIN
stains may, if desirable (*vide* para
following rules being strictly atte

(1) When clothes are sent
by means of pencil
of furniture, &c., a
cut out; and when
should be carefully
surface may be pres

(2) All articles requiring
bear the signature
of advice addressed
sealed by the despa
opened without des
and a private seal,
advice should be s
should contain—

(a) An impression of the

(b) A list of the articles
forwarded.

(c) Information as to w
examination.

9. MISCELLANEOUS EXAMIN
liquors, &c., to the Chemical Exam
clause 2, and in Section 2, para
careful to include in their letter of
and object of the examination requ
Chemical Examiner in making the

10. ANALYSIS OF WATER—*vide*

SECTION 2.—INSTRUCTIONS

Medical Officers in charge of
of unmethyllated spirit and suitable
other matters to the Chemical Exam
ing, it is exceedingly important that
position should be placed in spirit a
doubt may be raised in Court as to
to the possibility of their having be

2. *Post-mortem* examinations
whenever desired by Magisterial or
similar excuses will not exempt M
unpleasant, though most important
decomposition does not prevent the
viscera may be forwarded for exam
any attempt at dissection useless.

3. On making a *post-mortem* ex
stomach should be tied at both ends
that the contents of the intestines m
that its contents may be retained; a
perfectly clean bottle and the mucou
noted, and any suspicious particles
forceps and placed in a separate sm
the mouth pharynx and oesophagus
of corrosion thereon carefully noted.

4. In all cases of death from
warded for analysis, each in a separ
understood that other matters should
pecial circumstances of any case rend

(a) Stomach.

(b) Contents of the stomach
with the stomach.

(c) Suspicious particles (if any
the stomach.

(d) A portion of the liver, not
less than 16 oz., and on

ing examination for the presence of blood
led direct to the Chemical Examiner, the

dered to be suspicious should be indicated
ns on walls, floors, the ground, or articles
off. But the stained area is to be carefully
tie, as in the case of earth or chunnam, it
wool and packed in a box, so that the

e carefully labelled, and each label should
eer and the number and date of the letter
examiner. All packets should be carefully
ked in such a manner that they cannot be
re-seal used should be the same throughout,
which is kept in safe custody. A letter of
to the Chemical Examiner. This letter

; the packets and description thereof.
atement as to how the articles have been

apons, clothes, &c., are to be returned after

on forwarding coins, documents, salines,
the instructions laid down in paragraph 8.

they may be applicable, and should be
eal Examiner information as to the nature

ish any other information likely to assist the
ation.

graph 15.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MEDICAL OFFICERS.

spensaries are required to maintain a supply
adiness for the transmission of viscera and
on may arise. In cases of suspected poison-
er suspected matters liable to rapid decom-
able. And every care should be taken les
articles like to require examination, or as
contaminated or improperly interfered with.

is thoroughly as circumstances will permit
Attendance upon midwifery cases or other
on the performance of the too frequently
ing a *post-mortem* examination. Advanced
the poisons in the body. Hence remains of
the condition of the body is such as to render

ever there is any suspicion of poisoning, the
re being applied at the pyloric extremity, so
nd removed from the body in such a manner
ould be opened, the contents received into a
stomach carefully examined, its appearance
thereto should be picked off with a pair of
transmission. And the mucous membrane of
ined, and any unusual appearance or marks

ing, the following articles should be for-
otherwise indicated. It will, however, be
if, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, the
eding advisable:—

t be convenient, be put in the same bottle

1) removed from the mucous membrane of

in weight, or the whole liver if it weigh

(e) The vomited matter if any. The earlier and the later vomits should, when practi-
cable, be sent up in different bottles. And the labels should state at what period
the matters were emitted. Special directions are given in paragraph 6 for the
disposal of vomited matters mixed with earth, &c.

(f) A specimen of the spirit used. Four ounces is sufficient.

When it is suspected that a vegetable poison has been used, the following matters should also be
forwarded:—

(g) The contents of the small intestines.

(h) Any urine which may have been separately collected after the commencement of
symptoms, or found in the bladder after death.

5. Strong unmethyllated spirit should in all cases be added, as laid down in the rules
for the transmission of articles for analysis, detailed in paragraph 11, to the contents of bottles
A, D, G, H, and also to the contents of bottles B and E, unless it be suspected that alcoholic
poisoning has been the cause of death. No spirit need be added to the contents of bottle C.
Care should be taken that no vessel containing fluid matters is quite filled.

6. Vomited and purged matters are frequently received by Medical Officers mixed with
earth, &c. If the admixture of earth be sufficient to render the evacuated matters dry and
inoffensive, they may be packed without spirit in any convenient manner, otherwise they must be
packed with spirit. Vomited and purged matters, if they have, as frequently happens, been
allowed to fall on the ground, should be carefully scraped up, not taking more earth than is
necessary. The superficial scrapings should be packed separately. It is rarely necessary to
remove the earth to a depth greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, even in cases of suspected metallic poisoning,
unless the soil be of a very loose character. Except when a metallic poison is suspected, it is
very rarely necessary to forward purged matters.

7. If articles of food, medicine, &c., suspected to have been the vehicle by which poison has
been administered require examination, they should each be packed up separately and spirit
invariably added, as in the case of viscera, to such as are liable to decomposition. Fruits, such as
the plantain and custard-apple, if suspected to contain poison, should be carefully inspected, and
if it should appear that some foreign substance has been inserted, this should be picked out and
sent up for examination. If no suspicious substance can be discovered, the fruit should be for-
warded.

8. After having made a *post-mortem* examination in a case of suspected poisoning, and
having preserved in spirit all articles liable to rapid decomposition, which are likely to require
examination, the Medical Officer should report the result of his examination to the Police, and on
receipt of an order from a Magistrate, or from a Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of
Police, but not before, forward the viscera of the deceased and such other articles as may require
analysis to the Chemical Examiner to Government for examination. In cases where no death
has occurred, but where it is suspected that poison has been administered, the Medical Officer
having preserved in spirit all articles liable to rapid decomposition, which are likely to require
examination, should similarly report the case to the Police, and on receipt of an order from a
Magistrate, Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police, forward the vomited matter
or contents of the stomach removed by the stomach pump of the affected individual, or other
matters requiring analysis, to the Chemical Examiner to Government. Though Magistrates,
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police are required to grant an order for
analysis, should the Medical Officer consider such an examination necessary, they can, if they
consider it advisable, order viscera, &c., to be sent to the Chemical Examiner, when in the opinion
of the Medical Officer such a proceeding may be quite unnecessary.

9. When on receipt of the necessary order a Medical Officer forwards articles to the
Chemical Examiner for examination, he should address at the same time a letter to the Chemical
Examiner advising him of their despatch. This letter should contain—

(a) An impression of the seal used in closing the bottles and a description thereof.

(b) A list of the articles forwarded and a statement as to how the articles have been
forwarded.

(c) The name of the officer from whom the or has been received to forward the articles,
and the number and date of such order

(d) A detailed account of the *post-mortem* ap- rances observed.

(e) If he has seen the case during life, an acc- it of the symptoms observed and a state-
ment of the treatment, if any, adopted

10. All bottles and packets should be carefull sealed by the Medical Officer, and closed
in such a manner that they cannot be opened with- destroying the seal. The seal used should
be the same throughout, and a private seal, or an o al seal, which is always in safe keeping.
Each bottle or packet should be labelled and each le should bear the number and date of the
letter of advice to the Chemical Examiner relative the case, as well as a short description of
the contents, and should be signed by the Medical C r.

11. RULES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF SUBSTANCES FOR ANALYSIS.—Suspected substances may be forwarded by post, carriage bearing, by passenger train, or steamer, or in charge of a Constable. The latter method is recommended in all cases in which wealthy or influential parties are implicated. Officers forwarding viscera, &c., by post, by rail, or steamer, or by Constable to the Chemical Examiner, will be held personally responsible that the following instructions are carefully followed.

Transmission by Post.—When viscera, &c., are forwarded through the post the following rules are to be observed:—

- (1) The suspected viscous or other portion of the body or other substance liable to decomposition requiring to be sent for examination should be enclosed in a glass bottle or well-glazed earthenware jar provided with a well-fitting stopper or sound cork.
- (2) If liable to decomposition, it should be immersed in unmethylated spirits of wine, which should be used in the proportion of one-third of the bulk of the material, and care should be taken that no vessel containing liquid matters is quite filled.

N.B.—The use of spirits of wine in packing viscera should be invariable, whether the season is hot or cold, and care should be taken that common bazaar spirit is not used.

- (3) The stopper or cork should be carefully tied down with bladder, and large corks should be coated over externally with wax, glue or tar. To ascertain that it has been securely closed, the bottle or jar should be placed for five minutes with its mouth down.
- (4) The glass bottle or jar should then be placed in a strong wooden or extra strong tin box, which should be large enough to allow of a layer of raw cotton, at least one inch thick, being put between the bottle or jar and the box.
- (5) The box itself should be encased in common garah cloth, which should be sealed in accordance with the usual rules of the Post Office as to parcels.
- (6) When articles are forwarded by post to the Chemical Examiner to Government, each package should be franked externally with the name and address of the officer forwarding the articles, and a declaration of contents to the officials of the Postal Department is unnecessary, and should not be made.
- (7) At all stations where there is a District Civil Surgeon, the parcels should, when practicable, be sent to the Post Office by that officer, and not by a subordinate officer, but where there is no Civil Surgeon substances may be packed and forwarded direct to the Chemical Examiner by the subordinate officer in charge of the Hospital or Dispensary.

Transmission by Rail or Steamer.—When viscera, &c., are forwarded by rail or steamer, it is unnecessary to encase the box in cloth, but with this exception the rules for forwarding articles through the post must be observed in forwarding articles by passenger train or steamer.

Transmission by Constable.—When viscera, &c., are forwarded in charge of a Constable, it will not be necessary to pack the bottles in a strong box, in order to protect them from rough handling during transit. But it is desirable that glass bottles containing viscera, &c., should be wrapped in cloth or paper, so as not to be offensive to other passengers.

In every other respect the same rules should be observed as in the transmission of viscera, &c., by rail.

12. SUSPECTED BLOOD STAINS.—Medical Officers are in many instances expected to deal with these cases themselves—*vide* Section 1, paragraphs 6 and 8.

13. SUSPECTED SEMINAL STAINS.—*Vide* Section 1, paragraph 8. As the clothes requiring examination in these cases are usually exceedingly dirty, it is advisable when practicable to cut out any suspicious stains and forward them only for examination instead of the whole garment. In cutting out stains about half an inch of the surrounding cloth should be removed also. For information regarding packing and despatch of letter of advice, see instructions under head of Blood Stains—*vide* Section 1, paragraph 8.

14. CATTLE CASES:—

- (1) Some precautions should be taken to ensure that viscera, &c., are not sent for examination in cases where death obviously occurred from causes other than poison. A careful search should be made for any indications of the presence of a sui; when this mode of poisoning is suspected, and if anything resembling a sui be found, it should be forwarded for examination. A chemical examination of the viscera is useless in cases of sui poisoning, as in such cases poison cannot be detected in the viscera.
- (2) The entire alimentary canal should be opened and its contents inspected for suspicious-looking substances. Any suspicious-looking substance be detected in the alimentary canal, it should be packed in a separate vessel, and spirit should not be added unless necessary for preservation.

(3) About two pounds of the contents of the stomach, with about a pound of the contents of the intestines, should be placed in a clean glass or well-glazed earthen vessel or vessels, and strong unmethylated spirit added in the proportion of not less than one-fourth of the apparent bulk of the material, when the contents are nearly dry, but if much liquid be present spirit should be added in the proportion of one-third of the bulk of the material. Also about a pound of the liver and a similar weight of the stomach should be placed in a separate clean glass or well-glazed earthen vessel, and unmethylated spirit should be added in the proportion of one-third of the bulk of the material. A sample of the spirit used in packing should also be sent. Four ounces are sufficient.

- (4) Dried cattle dung may be sent without addition of spirit.
- (5) Suspected cattle poisons rarely require the addition of spirit for their preservation, and spirit should not be used unless necessary.
- (6) The instructions given as to the packing and transmission to the Chemical Examiner of substances requiring chemical examination in cases of suspected human poisoning are applicable to these cases and should be carefully attended to, and the same precautions must be adopted as to sealing and labelling the different vessels—*vide* paragraphs 9, 10 and 11.
- (7) When under instructions received from a Magistrate or Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police a Medical Officer forwards articles to the Chemical Examiner for examination, he should at the same time address and forward separately a letter to the Chemical Examiner advising their despatch. This letter should contain—
 - (a) An impression of the seal used in closing the vessels, and a description thereof.
 - (b) A list of the articles forwarded and information as to how the articles have been forwarded.
 - (c) The name of the officer from whom the order has been received to forward the articles and the number and date of such order.
 - (d) Information as to the number and kind of animals affected and number of deaths.
 - (e) Any information obtainable as to *post-mortem* appearances, nature and duration of symptoms and which may be likely to indicate the probable nature of the poison.

15. ANALYSIS OF WATER.—Before forwarding a sample of water to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, it is necessary to write to the Chemical Examiner and ascertain when it will be convenient to receive the sample or samples which may require to be examined, it being desirable that samples should be examined shortly after they are received at the laboratory.

- (2) The duty of collecting the samples should always be undertaken by a responsible person. The employment of peons or servants for this purpose is strictly prohibited. The bottles used should be thoroughly cleansed, and then well washed out twice with water from the same source it is intended to fill them from just before finally filling them.
- (3) Glass-stoppered bottles are best, but if those are not procurable, new corks are to be used with the ordinary quart wine bottle, of light-colored glass. In filling the bottles a little space should be left between the cork and the water.
- (4) Not less than one gallon of each sample of water is to be forwarded.
- (5) Each bottle to be labelled with the name of the well and date of collection.
- (6) On forwarding water for analysis the Medical Officer should, at the same time, forward separately a letter to the Chemical Examiner. This letter should contain—
 - (a) An impression and description of the seal used in closing the bottles.
 - (b) Information as to the number of samples sent, and a statement as to how the samples have been forwarded.
 - (c) An explanation as to the reason for which the examination is required, and information as to by whom it is desired.
 - (d) A statement as to the source from which each sample was collected, and by whom and when each sample was collected.

MADRAS,
11th January 1883.

(Signed) T. K. ROGERS, M.B., F.R.C.S.,
Chemical Examiner to Government.

15

CIRCULAR No. 2.

MEMORANDUM.

IN continuation of this Office Circular No. 24, dated 13th July 1883, the following rules for conducting *post-mortem* examinations and for examining wounded persons, extracted from the Bombay Medical Code and published in pages 121 to 125 of the quarterly sheets for the 2nd quarter of the year 1875, are reprinted for distribution to the Medical Subordinate in charge of each dispensary in his district.

(By Order.)

A. J. STURMER, Surgeon,
Secretary, Surgeon-General
with the Government of Madras.

Office of Surgeon-General
with the Government of Madras,
Madras, 24th January 1884. }

Rules for Conducting Post-mortem Examinations and for examining Wounded Persons.

I. The Medical Officer shall, immediately on receiving from any person, for examination, a corpse or any other substance, inquire and note down the name and residence of such person, and, if he be a Police Officer, his number and rank, and shall, without delay, grant to such person a receipt for the corpse or other substance delivered by him. The receipt so granted shall contain a list of the articles or substances received by the Medical Officer, and the name of the person from whom they were received, and to whom the receipt is given. It shall be the duty of the Medical Officer to examine all bodies sent to him as soon as practicable after arrival.

II. In cases where the body is sent to him, the Medical Officer should note the time of its arrival; the date and hour of the *post-mortem* examination; the sex and height and apparent age of the deceased; the state of the body, whether well-nourished or otherwise; the existence or absence of any caste or other marks, not of recent origin, such as cicatrices, deformities, and the like; and whether the marks upon it correspond with those in the Police or other report.

III. In cases where he has been taken to the place where the body lies, besides the above, he should note the place and nature of the soil (if out in the open country) where he found the body, also its position and the state of the clothes, if any. He should also note, in cases of death from violence, the position of the body in reference to surrounding objects, such as sharp stones and the like, contact with which, it may be alleged, has produced the injury; also whether any blood-stains are visible on such objects or anywhere near the corpse, and whether any weapons are lying near it. In cases of suspected death from poisoning, he should note whether any appearance, as if of vomited matters, &c., is present in the neighbourhood of the body.

IV. In every case he should describe the condition in which he found the body, noting the degree of coldness, warmth, rigidity and putrefaction, and the amount and nature of the clothing or covering on it.

XX. The notes of examination in all cases, or a fair copy of them, in the hand-writing of the Medical Officer, should be at once made in a book kept at the hospital or dispensary for the purpose, and should be signed by him.

2. ~~In case of Post mortem~~ ^I in addition
to ~~granting the~~ ^{granting} certificates to the
~~Committee Magistrate~~ ^{Medical officers sub: previous or all} all possible ~~oral~~
information ~~should be given~~ ^{to the}
~~Police~~ ^{that will aid in the elucidation of} ~~to help them in elucidating~~ the
Case.

[illegible]

certificates of foolscap size, in the counter-
foils should be opened in each Hospital
containing 100 pages each - to be numbered
consecutively and printed according to the
forms appended to this Circular. When
the certificate is given the counterfoil
which should be a true copy of the
certificate shall remain as a permanent
Hospital record.

3. In addition to these books ~~there~~
~~should also be kept~~ the usual Post-
mortem Registers ^{should also be maintained,} in which all details of
Examination (copied from the rough
notes) should be entered immediately
after the Post mortem Examination ^{has been}
made. Each case should be ~~signed~~ signed
by the ^{Medical} Officer ~~in charge~~ who grants
the certificate. The wound Register,
in which the whole case of wounded
persons ^{should} be entered, should also be
carefully kept up. ^{Under no circumstances} ~~no one~~ should
^{but the Medical Officer or subordinate in charge} have access to these records.

4. Particular attention is ^{directed} ~~imposed~~ to
this Office Circulars Nos. 1
1883 and No. 2 of 24.

5. Private certificates should not be
granted in these forms.

(By order)

D. B. Browning Surgeon

As Secy. Surgeon Genl.
with the Govt. of Madras

Office of Surgn. Genl. }
with the Govt. of Madras }
Madras Feb'y 1892

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~~Post mortem Certificate~~

Post mortem Certificate

No.

Regarding the body of a

^{apparently} aged years received on

at from the of

with his letter No. dated and in

charge of Constable No.

The body when first seen by the undersigned was

Post mortem commenced at on

appearances found
 Opinion as to cause of death

Station
 Date

Name
 Rank

~~Post mortem Certificate~~

No.

Regarding the body of a

^{apparently} aged years received on

at from the of

with his letter No. dated and in

charge of Constable No.

The body when first seen by the undersigned was

Post mortem commenced at

appearances found
 Opinion as to cause of death

21.

Station
 Date

Name
 Rank

Instructions for filling in Post mortem Certificates. 27 VJW

Submitted that the
deceased officer
causally certify
1865-1874.

How can he
know
height
weight
color
are his
hair
eyes
nose
mouth
ears
teeth
fingers
toes
nails
scars
marks
tattoos
etc.

1. After the words "Body of a", the ^{should be entered} ~~national~~ ^{see to be given} ~~certificates~~ ^{see to be given}
2. The ^{approximate} ~~age~~ ^{to be entered, slide he judged from appearances} ~~of the deceased~~ ^{must be guessed}
3. The date and time of receipt of the ^{and} body, the name and official position of the person ordering the Post mortem ^{should} ~~to be~~ ^{entered} ~~made~~ together with the N^o and date of the document sent by him ^{are to be entered}
4. The number, rank, and name of the Constable in charge of the body ^{should} ~~to be~~ ^{entered}
5. After the words, "the body when first seen by the undersigned was", its condition ^{noted} ~~should be entered~~ ^{it} whether warm, cold, condition of ^{rigor} ~~rigor~~ ^{mortis}, or undergoing putrefaction.
6. The ~~exact~~ ^{at which} time ~~and date of commencing~~ ^{was commenced, and the date on which} the Post mortem Examination ^{it was made} ~~should be~~ ^{accurately} entered.
7. ~~Under~~ ^{after} "Appearances found" all particulars regarding wounds, injuries, and suspicions

Signs

Done
27th
1874

Signs, ^{or} external ~~and~~ internal ^{should} ~~are to~~ be concise by
and sufficiently ^{described} ~~described~~ the site and extent
of ^{any} wounds being carefully entered.

8. ~~It is recommended to enter~~ ^I identify:
- ^{(as he entered in the} ~~above~~ ^{marks} ~~in~~ office copy of the certificate.

9. ^{The original} ~~Your~~ Certificate ^{should} ~~is~~ to be sent to the
Committee ^{whose name and address} ~~the~~ Police will
inform you who the committing magistrate
is. ^{Substitute} ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~the~~ ^{attached}

I do not
require the
certificates
themselves
to be handed
to the Police
but of course
the Police
must have
the original
and the copy
producing
the original

10. The certificate ^{should} ~~is~~ not ~~to~~ be ~~done up~~ ^{filled in}
~~until~~ the ~~full~~ Post mortem notes have been
entered in ^{full} ~~detail~~ in ink in ^{the} ~~your~~ Post-

mortem register. This ^{should} ~~is~~ to be done at once
to obviate the possibility of any delay in the delivery of the certificate to the
~~Police~~ ^{Police}.
~~to that end~~ ^{original} ~~delay~~ ^{to the Committee} ~~shall occur~~ in forwarding
the Post mortem Certificate ^{which might result in the} ~~other cases~~ ^{to the Police}
ends of justice ^{being} ~~may be~~ ^{deprived}

11. It is to be distinctly understood that ^{the original} ~~the~~ certificate is, in all cases, to be ^{handed} ~~sent~~
to the ^{Committee} ~~Committee~~ over to the Police ^{on the day} ~~on the day~~ the Post mortem
is ~~held~~ ^{held}.

[Original] Office Copy

No. Would Certificate of injuries found

On the person of a

calling himself

aged

an inhabitant of

and

for report as to certain

caused on

and to be due to

the examination was

at the following

injuries were found

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

[Duplicate]

No. Would Certificate of injuries found

On the person of a

calling himself

aged

an inhabitant of

and

for report as to certain

caused on

and to be due to

the examination was

at the following

injuries were found

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

and no opinion was

Instructions for ^{filling in} Wound Certificate

68

1. After the words "of a", the ~~last~~ ^{of the person should} ~~and~~ sex ~~are to~~ be given.

27

2. After the words "sent with", ~~are to~~ ^{should} be entered particulars of any document ^{received} from a Magistrate or ^{the} Police ~~man~~.

3. When the injured person is accompanied by a Constable, the name, number and rank of the latter ^{should be noted} ~~are to be given~~. If no ~~letter~~ ^{com^r} in writing is received ^{the fact should} ~~is sent~~ with the injured person ~~the fact should~~ be noted as follows: "Who was sent with out a ~~to be done~~ ^{written conveyance} ~~through the blank following~~ ~~under referring to these particulars~~."

4. The exact ~~time of commencing~~ ^{time at which the injured person} was first seen by the certifying officer and also the ~~examination is to be entered~~ ^{was first seen by the certifying officer and also the} exact time at which the examination was ~~is to be entered~~ ^{commenced} should be carefully noted, and ~~entered in the certificate~~.

Particulars of all injuries ^{should be} ~~are to be~~ ^{described} ~~conveyed~~ ^{sufficiently} ~~in the plainest language~~ ^{of all injuries}.

6. After the words "in my opinion that", ~~under opinion~~ ^{whether} the injuries are or are not of a serious nature, and ^{if} the former ~~are~~ ^{whether in your opinion} a fatal result or ^{any permanent injury is likely to follow}.

26/11/92
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Pub.

~~as a fatal result is probable~~

7. ~~It is recommended to enter~~ ^I & ^(should be entered) ~~identification~~ ^{marks} in ^{the} Office copy of ^{the} Certificate.
8. The ^{original} Certificate ~~is to~~ ^{should} be ~~forwarded~~ ^{forwarded} to ^{the} ~~Magistrate or~~ ^{injured} the Police Officer who sent the person for examination.
9. As ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{certificate} ~~report~~ has to be ~~submitted~~ ^{filled in & despatched} immediately after the examination, a very carefully considered ~~prognosis~~ ^{prognosis should be made} especially as regards injuries to the head & spine. ~~Should be made~~
10. Further details ^{should} ~~can~~ be ^{entered} ~~kept~~ in ^{the} Hospital ~~Bound Register~~.

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Jan 777/92
Pub 582

Pub 140 81

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL

WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras, 15th February 1892.
582
777

No. 150

From

THE SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

PORT ST. GEORGE,

To

THE Chief Secy. to Government
Judicial Department,

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 2068 dated the 8th October 1891, (Confidential) I have the honor to forward herewith for approval, form of Post Mortem and Wound Certificate with instructions, and a Draft Departmental Circular on the subject. I also enclose this office circulars No. 24 of 1883 and 2 of 1884, to which reference is made in the Draft Circular.

2. It will be noted that in the instructions accompanying the Post Mortem Certificate form I have entered "Committing Magistrate" instead of the "nearest Magistrate" as proposed by the Inspector-General of Police in his letter printed in G. O. No. 928 Judicial of 19th April 1888. The latter term causes confusion as it is not clear whether the District Magistrate

Magistrate, his Deputy, the Taluk Magistrate or the Town Magistrate is meant.

3. Post Mortem and Wound Examinations are so important a part of a Medical Officer's duties that I recommend that each Hospital and Dispensary have a copy of the "Clinical Manual for India".

4. This book in addition to being a useful guide for Hospital practice contains a very complete section on Post mortem Examinations and Medical Legal Necropsies.

5 The first Edition was brought to notice by Surgeon General Cornish in 1880 - vide Proceedings Board of Revenue 24/1803 dated 26th November 1880.

It has recently been revised & a third Edition brought out.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Yours most obedt. servant.

Wm. Lake Esq
Surgeon General
with Govt. of Madras



Appearance of Body--
 Muscularity.
 Stout.
 Emaciated.

Special marks -

Scars.
Tattooing.
Amount of air

Signs of Decomposition -

Wounds and Bruises -

(a) Position
(b) Character
(c) Size

State of Natural Orifices -

Eyes.
Ears.
Nostrils.
Mouth.
Vagina.
Anus.
Urethra.

State of Limbs, &c. -

Rigor Mortis.

Position.
Contents of hands, if clenched.

Features { Relaxed
Contracted

Eyelids.

Pupils.

Contents of Mouth.

Position of Tongue.

State of Teeth.

Thorax -

Ribs.
Costilages.
Pleura.
Pericardium.
Heart { Shape and appearance
Cavities.
Clots, ante or post-mortem
Muscular structure.

Vessels. { Clots.
Aneurism.
Atheroma, &c.

Lungs. { Appearance
Colour.
Consistence.
Adhesions.

Larynx, trachea, and bronchi for foreign bodies or disease

Abdomen -

Peritoneum.

Peritoneal Cavity, Contents.

Liver and gall bladder, form and size, disease or injury.

Pancreas, disease or injury.

Spleen - do - do

Kidneys - do - do

Stomach. { Size and general appearance.

{ Appearance of Coats.

{ Contents, appearance, Odour, and quantity.

Intestines. { General appearance and Contents.

{ Appearance of Coats.

Gen erative Organs.

Bladder and Contents.

Uterus, appearance, size and Contents.

Vagina, Contents.

Head.

Scalp.

Bones, disease and injury.

Membranes.

Brain, Substance and Ventricles.

Base of skull, fractures, Caries, Extravasation, &c. &c.

The Spinal Canal need not be examined unless any indication of disease or injury exist.

Fractures and Dislocations.

More detailed description of injury or disease.

Opinion as to Cause of Death.

Civil Surgeon or Medl. Officer of

Station. _____

Date d. _____

Public Dept.

Current 582 (recd. in
Public on 29.2.92).

The Surgeon General sub-
mits draft circulars &
forms for approval, with
refce to para: 4 of G.O. of
8.8.91, No. 2068. Indl: (Confdl)

Attention is invited to
the disgraceful way in
which the papers have
been submitted to Govt.
They have passed thro' the
hands of the Manager
(several times recd. for
increase of pay), the Secre-
tary and the Surgeon
General - and it is hard to
believe that the papers
were read over by anyone
of them. It is submitted
that to stigmatise them
as a disgrace to the office
from which they eman-
ated is not to use too
strong a term. Especially
when it is remembered
that the Secy draws 800/-
a month & the Manager
150/-.

Some time has been
taken up in an attempt
to make the drafts readable
and intelligible - and if

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Indl 777/92
Pub 582

generally approved as
altered proof copies will
be struck off & submit-
ted for approval.

Sanction to the use of
the term "Committing
Magistrate" instead of
"nearest Magistrate"
is necessary.

A copy of the "Clinical
Handbook" is not avail-
able. It is proposed to
ask the S. G. to submit
a copy with particulars
of expenditure involved
by his proposal.

J.D.B.
1/3/97
The drafts are no doubt well
drawn up but they are both so badly
compounded as to take for any expression
of the ^{meaning} indignation of Govt.
I submit that it is desirable in
all cases to hand the certificate
which may be placed in a
sealed cover over to the Justice
of the Peace who will know to what
Magistrate to take it. The
"Committing Magistrate" is an
incorrect term for it implies
that there is a charge and that
accused. There is often neither
one nor the other. The nearest
Magistrate may not infrequently
not be the one to whom the certificate
should be handed. It seems better
therefore to let the Justice take it
and to make them responsible
for its due delivery. I cannot
see what objection there can be
to this course.

2 March

Post Mortem Certificate

Hon. Mr. Stokes. C.S.D.

James Smith 15 Pres
Nov 27/97

For fresh proof on 18/3/97

Agree with G.D.

W.D.
4 March.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

2273

[illegible]

16/104-20252

465

ORDER—dated 28 March 1892, No. 2, Public.

2. The term "Committing Magistrate" should not be used, for it implies that there is a charge and an accused, whilst in many cases there is neither. The original *post-mortem* certificate should be placed in a cover, which should be sealed and handed over to the Police, who will be responsible for its correct delivery.

(True Extract.)

S Chief Secretary.
24 March

[Appendix.

APPENDIX.

No. .

Circular.

The Government having recently noticed the imperfect nature of the certificate given by a Medical officer of the result of a *post-mortem* examination, the Surgeon-General desires to impress upon all Medical officers and subordinates employed in the Civil Department the grave responsibility which devolves on them in making *post-mortem* examinations and recording the result of them at the time and also when examining wounded persons. Care and accuracy in performing these duties can alone ensure a correct professional opinion being formed and recorded.

2. In addition to granting *post-mortem* certificates, Medical officers should furnish orally to the police all possible information that they consider calculated to assist the elucidation of the case.

Forms of *post-mortem* and wound certificates are attached to this circular for guidance. They should be of foolscap size with counterfoils and should be bound in books of 100 forms each, numbered consecutively. The counterfoil which should be an exact copy of the original certificate should remain as a permanent record. A book of each kind of form should be maintained in every hospital.

N.B.—These forms should not be used for certificates granted at the request of private individuals.

3. In addition to these books the usual *post-mortem* registers should also be maintained, in which all details of examination (copied from the rough notes) should be entered *immediately* after the *post-mortem* examination has been made. Each case should be signed by the Medical officer who grants the certificate. The wound register, in which the whole case of wounded persons should be entered, should also be carefully kept up. Under no circumstances should any one but the Medical officer or subordinate in charge have access to these records.

4. Particular attention is directed to this office circulars No. 24 of 13th July 1883 and No. 2 of 24th January 1884.

POST-MORTEM CERTIFICATE.

POST-MORTEM CERTIFICATE.

No. Regarding the body of a
aged years ; received on
at M., from the
with his letter No. , dated and in
charge of Constable No. .
The body when first seen by the undersigned was

Post-mortem commenced at M., on
Appearances found : —

Identification and caste marks :—
Opinion as to cause of death.

Station Name
Date Rank

No. Regarding the body of a
aged years ; received on
at M., from the
of and in charge of
No. , dated Constable No. .
The body when first seen by the undersigned was

Post-mortem commenced at M., on
Appearances found : —

Opinion as to cause of death.

Station Name
Date Rank

Instructions for filling in Post-mortem Certificates.

- After the words "body of a," the sex should be entered.
2. The approximate age to be entered should be judged from appearances.
3. The date and time of receipt of the body and the name and official position of the person ordering the *post-mortem* should be entered together with the number and date of the document sent by him.
4. The number, rank and name of the constable in charge of the body should be entered.
5. After the words "the body when first seen by the undersigned was," its condition should be noted, *i.e.*, whether warm, cold, condition of *rigor mortis*, or undergoing putrefaction.
6. The time at which the *post-mortem* examination was commenced and the date on which it was made should be accurately entered.
7. After "appearances found" all particulars regarding wounds, injuries, and suspicious signs, external or internal, should be concisely and sufficiently described, the site and extent of any wounds being carefully entered.
8. Identification and caste marks should be entered in the office copy of the certificate.
9. The original certificate should be placed in a cover which should be sealed and handed over to the Police who will know to what Magistrate to take it.
10. The certificate should not be filled in until the *post-mortem* notes have been entered in full in ink in the *post-mortem* register. This should be done *at once* to obviate the possibility of any delay in the delivery of the certificate to the Police.
11. It is to be distinctly understood that the original certificate is, in all cases, to be handed over to the Police on the day on which the *post-mortem* is held.

OFFICE COPY.
WOUND CERTIFICATE.

No. _____

Wounds or injuries found on the person of a
calling himself _____, aged _____ years ;
an inhabitant of _____, who was
sent with _____
from _____
and accompanied by _____, for report
as to certain _____ said to have been
caused on _____, and to be due to _____

The injured person was first seen by the undersigned
at _____ M. on the _____ and the examination
was commenced at _____ M. on the _____
when the following injuries were found :—

Identification and caste marks.

I am of opinion that

Station _____ Name _____
Date _____ Rank _____

ORIGINAL.

WOUND CERTIFICATE.

No. _____

Wounds or injuries found on the person of a
calling himself _____, aged _____ years ; an inhabitant of _____
who was sent with _____
from _____
and accompanied by _____
for report as to certain _____
said to have been caused on _____ and to be due to _____

The injured person was first seen by the undersigned at _____ M. on the _____ and
the examination was commenced at _____ M. on the _____ when the
following injuries were found :—

I am of opinion that

Station _____ Name _____
Date _____ Rank _____

Instructions for filling in Wound Certificates.

1. After the words "of a," the sex of the person should be given.
2. After the words "sent with" should be entered particulars of any document received from a Magistrate or the Police.
3. When the injured person is accompanied by a constable, the name, number and rank of the latter should be noted. If no communication in writing is received with the injured person, the fact should be noted as follows : "who was sent without a written communication by"
4. The exact time at which the injured person was first seen by the certifying officer and also the exact time at which the examination was commenced should be carefully noted and entered in the certificate.
5. Particulars of all injuries found should be concisely but sufficiently described in the plainest language.
6. After the words "I am of opinion that," enter whether the injuries are or are not of a serious nature, and, if the former, whether a fatal result or any permanent injury is likely to follow.
7. Identification and caste marks should be entered in the office copy of the certificate.
8. The original certificate should be forwarded at once to the Magistrate or the Police officer who sent the injured person for examination.
9. As the certificate has to be filled in and despatched immediately after the examination, a very carefully considered prognosis should be made, especially as regards injuries to the head or spine.
10. Further details should be entered in the Hospital Wound Register.

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
48, No.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

995/92
1364/92
for 543 R
25/9/92

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH OFFICE

ORDER, &c., OF GOVERNMENT-A.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

PAPERS KEPT OUT OF FILE FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL
(not paged).

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED
 { Order complete.
 { Letter only.
 { Order complete with Letter or Endorsement.

N.B.-

A = Print in full.
 B = Not to be printed.
 P = Print abstract only.
 Q = Print heading only.
 R = Print, but not for monthly volume.

100 - Greater letter brief type
standing for letter
while letter will
to me a lot of
expire. 6/