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29/5

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 25-5-93.
No. 416.

INDEXED.

29/5

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording letter from the Surgeon
and regarding the resignation of
Asst. Surgeon Mannickam

Circ 1307

Previous 80, 324 of 93

Seen by members

1,000-224-93

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

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

PAPER NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

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ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 19 6 98.
No. 472

When given for copying.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Resending. per
L & M. dept. consi-
dering that local in-
debt for machine
should be as machine
be returned & the pay
for & that local bo-
die should invariably
get the machine
for which they are pre-
pared to pay & man-
ing unless general
remarks on the sub-
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READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES

CURRENT No.

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26TH MAY 1893, No. 1157 L., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From H. LE FANU, Esq., President, District Board, North Arcot, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Chittoor, 6th January 1893, Ref. on General L.F. No. 3871 of 1892.

I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government that on the 28th November 1892, the Civil Surgeon, Chittoor, submitted a bill for Rs. 5-11-0, being the value of 1 lb. of chloroform purchased by him from Messrs. Smith and Co., Madras, for urgent use in the hospital. I objected to pass the bill, with reference to the instructions contained in page 113 of the Audit rules, and requested Dr. Evans to explain the circumstances under which he obtained the medicine from private dealers instead of from the Government Store. The Civil Surgeon reported in his letter, dated the 13th ultimo, No. 232, a copy of which is herewith submitted, that the last supply of the medicine received from the Medical Store in the previous year was exhausted in August last. In his annual indent for the current year, he applied for 4 lb. of the medicine, but it was not supplied. In October 1892, he submitted an extra indent for it. But still no supply was made and the Civil Surgeon surmises that the medicine will not be supplied until August next. The hospital will, therefore, have to be without this important medicine for one year from August 1892, and serious cases brought to hospital for operations cannot be attended to without this important anæsthetic agent.

2. I need hardly urge on Government the importance of keeping an adequate supply of useful medicines, without which there is not much good in having a large hospital with a commissioned officer and staff. Ever since Dr. Evans took charge, there has been a large number of operations, and it is impossible for him to do them without an anæsthetic. I can quote a case in which a poor Pariah, who went to the

* Codeia and Tincture of Jambulana.

hospital at Chittoor for treatment, was told that he could not be treated, as some medicines * needed for curing him were not in store. Fortunately for the Pariah, he was in the service of a master who paid Rs. 25 for getting the necessary medicines from Bombay and Madras. But for the pecuniary help of his employer, he would have succumbed to his illness. In short, without a good supply of medicines in hospitals and dispensaries, much useful work cannot be done. The Medical Store is an institution which cannot be too highly spoken of, but it does not seem to keep pace with the extension of hospitals in the mofussil. It is a matter of frequent complaint that indents, carefully prepared by commissioned medical officers, are either cut down or rejected *in toto*. There is, I have heard, some rule limiting the annual indent on England to a fixed sum. This is, if true, unintelligible, for, as hospitals increase in number, the annual indent must swell. The District Boards are quite willing to pay for their indents, and it would be hard to conceive a more useful object for expenditure. If, however, the Medical Store will not supply medicines and the District Boards are prohibited from purchasing in the open market, it would be better to close some of our hospitals and reduce our medical staff.

3. I placed the matter before the District Board at their meeting held on the 24th ultimo, at which Dr. Lancaster was present. A copy of the resolution of the District Board passed on the subject is herewith submitted.

4. Under these circumstances, I request that Government will be pleased to sanction the amount of the bill and to authorize Presidents of Local Boards to purchase medicines in emergent cases from respectable firms in Madras or Bombay. It is, I respectfully submit, a matter of urgent necessity that the whole question of supply should be gone into by a professional committee. The present arrangements are utterly inefficient to meet the wants of the Boards concerned.

ENCLOSURES.

From Surgeon-Major F. S. EVANS, I.M.S., Acting Civil Surgeon, Chittoor, to the President, District Board, North Arcot, dated Chittoor, 13th December 1892, No. 232.

With reference to your letter, No. 3631, dated 5th instant, I have the honour to state that I was aware of the orders and rules quoted by you, but as this case was exceptional and urgent I considered I was justified in not waiting for sanction.

2. The last annual supply of medicines was received from the Medical Stores on 16th August 1892, which supply is supposed to be for 12 months, viz., to August 1893. In that supply 4 lb. chloroform was indented for; none was, however, supplied. By the stock-book I find that the chloroform of this hospital was exhausted in August last. In October an emergent extra indent was sent in; as this indent was sent in only some two months after the annual supply was received, an explanation was called for by the Surgeon-General, which was sent on 13th November. This indent was received yesterday and again no chloroform has been supplied and in the ordinary course none will be supplied from the Medical Stores until August next, when the hospital will have been just 12 months without an anæsthetic.

3. I need hardly point out the extreme risk of allowing a station to be without chloroform and although the price of drugs bought from private sources is more than double what they cost at the Medical Stores, yet under the circumstances I do not think the District Board will be justified in waiting an indefinite time for important drugs.

Copies of correspondence and extracts from indents are attached.

Chloroform is marked in the Medical Stores price list at rupee one per lb. + loss by exchange + 3 per cent. + 20 per cent., which will be less than two rupees a lb. or less than half the price charged in private establishments.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of Proceedings of the District Board, North Arcot, passed at their meeting held at Chittoor on the 24th December 1892.

15. Read letter from the Civil Surgeon, Chittoor, dated the 13th instant, No. 232, requesting sanction for the purchase of 1 lb. of chloroform at a cost of Rs. 5-11-0 from a private dealer at Madras, as the drug was not available in the Government Store and as it was urgently required at the hospital.

Resolution.—The Board requests the President to obtain the sanction of Government for the expenditure incurred by Dr. Evans, and also to draw the attention of Government to the very serious effect which the general rules as to supply of medicines have on the efficiency of the Local Fund hospitals.

No. 45.

Referred to the Surgeon-General for remarks.

(By order.)

FORT ST. GEORGE,
27th January 1893.

(Signed) A. T. PRINGLE,
Assistant Secretary.

From Surgeon-Major-General W. F. deFABECK, M.D., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 16th February 1893, No. 163.

I have the honour to return the correspondence referred to me for remarks with your endorsement, No. 45, of the 27th ultimo.

The question of the supply of medicines, &c., to districts on account of the extension of medical relief is an ever-increasing difficulty and taxes the resources of the Medical Store Depot to the utmost. The drugs sanctioned by the Madras Government and the Government of India and actually supplied on Home indents have been put to the best possible use, and it is neither the fault of the Medical nor of the Store departments if these drugs, closely scrutinised as they are by the Government of India, run out of stock and the following year's supply is awaited.

(2) I enclose for information copies of urgent letters from this office requesting Government to ask the Home authorities to expedite the despatch of medical stores due on Madras indents.

2. The difficulties pointed out in my letter, No. 26, dated the 14th ultimo, regarding the supply of hospital assistants from the reserve to newly-opened hospitals—the notice of the opening of which in many cases is only given a few months before a medical subordinate is required—applies with equal force to the supply of drugs. A few important drugs ran out of stock and I have been compelled to resort to the means allowed in G.O., dated 1st July 1892, No. 457, Public, and have ordered the purchase of these drugs locally to the extent, this month, of Rs. 200; in fact, every endeavour is being made to meet with up-country demands.

3. The Home indents are restricted by the rule that demands should only be made in accordance with the previous three years' issue, and this has necessitated constant reference by the Storekeeper to me to obtain Government sanction for local purchases.

4. The drug which has most markedly failed is chloroform. It has not been considered advisable to refuse a certain amount of this drug to any dispensary on account of the great advance made in connection with its use, though previously it was only sanctioned for large hospitals. The matter will be referred to again when submitting the Home indent for this year to Government, and sanction will be requested for an increase of certain drugs beyond the limit allowed according to the previous three years' issue.

Under these circumstances Government may sanction the amount asked for the chloroform already bought by the Civil Surgeon of Chittoor as an exceptional case, but with regard to the remarks of Mr. LeFanu that District Boards should be allowed to buy drugs in an emergency, it should be pointed out that, in order to keep the Home indent within proper limits, I must have the scrutiny of indents, which scrutiny is constantly exercised in my office, owing to the difficulty I have met in getting District Surgeons to perform this duty through press of work in their districts. In this connection I would specially draw the attention of Government to paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 5112, Military, of 17th August 1892. Drugs bought in the way referred to do not count in the year's issue in the Home indent when calculating averages, and the latter item under the circumstances would not be reliable.

Mr. LeFanu remarks on the absence of Codeia and Tinct. Jambulana from the Chittoor hospital and refers to a large sum spent on a case of diabetes which applied for treatment. On reference to the Stores I find that $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of Codeia was actually supplied on indent to the Chittoor hospital and no Tinct. Jambulana was indented for at all. As a matter of fact the use of Codeia, an expensive drug, in diabetes has been almost completely superseded as a treatment of that disease by the simple, inexpensive Extr. Opii. If this Extr. Opii were in the hospital at the time of the patient's application for relief, the Civil Surgeon's reference to the want of Codeia is quite inexplicable in view of this fact. The amount of Codeia used in the General Hospital during the whole year of 1892 is 4 oz. and 5 drachms and is not generally used in diabetes there, and no Tinct. Jambulana has been used there under any circumstances.

Chloroform, therefore, is the only drug about the supply of which there has been any difficulty. This has already been explained. If Mr. LeFanu had in the first instance referred to me, these facts would have perhaps prevented him from using the unnecessarily strong language in his letter under reference. His suggestion of a medical committee regarding the supply of medical stores is obviously the result of a misapprehension of the facts of the case on his part.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-Major-General W. F. DEFABECK, M.D., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Madras, 16th November 1892, No. 738.

I have the honour to submit extracts from letter from the Principal Medical Storekeeper, Madras, No. 1946, dated 11th instant, and to solicit that Government will be pleased to take necessary steps to expedite the supplies due in the supplementary indent forwarded to the Government of India (*vide* G.O., No. 5196, dated 20th August 1892), as they are urgently required to meet demands.

From Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel D. F. BATEMAN, Principal Medical Storekeeper, to the Secretary, Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 11th November 1892, No. 1946.

I have the honour to report for the information of the Surgeon-General that as the stock of acid boracic and drainage tubing is entirely exhausted, this depot is unable to comply with the requisition for the same from the General Hospital, Madras: *vide* enclosed letter from that institution.

2. These articles were included in the supplementary indent forwarded to the Government of India—*vide* G.O., No. 1596, dated 20th August 1892—but it is not known when it will be complied with.

3. As many of the articles indented for are urgently required, I request that the Surgeon-General will be pleased to move Government to expedite the supplies due on the above indent.

From Surgeon-Major-General W. F. DEFABECK, M.D., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Madras, 11th January 1893, No. 20.

With reference to G.O., dated 25th November 1892, No. 7527, I have the honour to forward extract from letter from the Principal Medical Storekeeper, Madras, No. 2451, dated 31st December 1892, and to solicit that Government will be pleased to send a reminder to the Secretary of State for the speedy despatch of the stores.

From Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel S. L. DOBIE, Acting Principal Medical Storekeeper, to the Secretary, Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 31st December 1892, No. 2451.

2. The stock of these drugs having become entirely exhausted some time ago, this depot is quite unable to meet the pressing demands of some of the important medicines, such as chloroform, chloral, chlorodyne, boric acid, &c.

3. A supplementary indent on the Home Government for such medicines, &c., as were urgently required, was submitted so long ago as August last, but no intimation as to their despatch has yet reached this office.

From Surgeon-Major-General W. F. DEFABECK, M.D., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 9th March 1893, No. 249.

I have the honour to state that the provision made in Grant III of the budget estimate of the Kumbakonam Municipality for the year 1893-94 is sufficient.

2. In connection with the remark of the Chairman, Municipal Council, in paragraph 26 of his letter to Government, No. 474, of 26th January last, that the indents are largely cut down, drugs indented for which are not included in the printed list introduced by the Government of India are not sanctioned except in special cases. Even in some Head-quarter hospitals no drugs are indented for not included in this list, showing therefore that in a subordinate hospital these drugs (mostly expensive ones) are not of paramount importance. The other drugs were sanctioned in the present case in sufficient quantity to meet the want of a hospital having average daily sick of 223.54.

3. The subject of indents is still engaging my attention and an attempt is now being made to establish as fixed a proportion as possible between the average daily sick of the previous year and the quantities of drugs sanctioned for the following year. It will later on be seen how this system works.

ORDER—dated 26th May 1893, No. 1157 L., Local and Municipal.

The Government considers that local indents should in no instance be reduced by the Surgeon-General, and that local bodies should invariably get the medicines for which they are prepared to pay. If at any time the Medical Store department is unable to comply with an indent or supplemental indent passed by a local body, the Surgeon-General must obtain sanction for purchase in the country and supply the medicines required in whatever way may be possible.

2. The indents will always have undergone the scrutiny of the District Surgeon, who is the most competent judge of actual requirements. If in any case application is made for expensive drugs which in the Surgeon-General's opinion may be replaced by others of a less costly kind, he should, instead of cutting down the indent arbitrarily and without any communication with the local body concerned, address the President or Chairman on the subject, supplying in the meantime without delay the other articles required. If the local body, after considering the remarks of the Surgeon-General, persists in the demand, the indent should be complied with.

3. The calculation of items of an indent upon the quantities used during a period of three years is, no doubt, proper in certain circumstances, but if reasonable explanation for exceeding the established proportion can be given, the rule should not be worked with absolute strictness; and such an explanation as the increase of local hospitals is one that may certainly be accepted.

4. It is evident from the papers before Government that there is great delay in supplying or replying to indents. This is a very serious evil which demands the urgent attention of the Surgeon-General. The petty economy which may sometimes be secured by "scrutiny" of indents at head-quarters is of no consequence compared with the paralysis of local institutions which experience shows to be the usual result. That local hospitals should be left for a year without anaesthetics is in itself a sufficient condemnation of the present system.

(True Extract.)

W. H. P. H.
Under Secretary, P.W.D.,
for Chief Secretary.

To all Presidents of District Boards.
„ all Chairmen of Municipal Councils,
„ through the Collectors concerned.
„ the Surgeon-General.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Military „

Exd. A. Raitt.

Adp ho 437

Public Department
Govt. of {1893} Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

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order 19th June 1913. No. 472.
Recorded.

1913/11/19

G.O., 26th May 1893, No. 1157 L.

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MAY.

Medical Stores.

Considering that local indents for medicines should in no instance be reduced by the Surgeon-General, and that local bodies should invariably get the medicines for which they are prepared to pay, and making certain general observations on the subject.

Medical Stores Officer

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