

Public (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 115-116

DATED 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

CURE OF SNAKE-BITE BY STRYCHNINE.

Forwarding to the Government of India, with remarks, copy of  
a letter from, and pamphlet by, Dr. R. H. Elliot on the subject of the----

Al.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|      |     |             |       |      |     |             |       |

# FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|      | 840 |             | 1895  |      |     |             |       |

*Public* (1895) DEPARTMENT.

From

SURG. MAJOR-GEN. C. SIBTHORPE, *J.R.C.P.*

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

No. 59

ENCLOSURES 2

Dated

Recd.

*29<sup>th</sup> January 1895*

No.

CHIEF SECRETARY  
30 JAN 1895  
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS  
Subject.

*Forwarding copy of a letter d 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 1895  
from Surgeon Lt. R. H. Elliot, on the  
subject of Strychnine as an antidote  
for snake poison.*

*Pub. G.O. No 700 d 22-9-94  
368 d 23-5-94  
203-4 d 29-3-94  
153-4 d 1-3-94  
403-4 d 24-5-93  
1301 d 12-12-90  
819 d 28-11-90*

From Surgeon Lt. Robert Henry Elliot. I. M. S.  
Ag. Prof. of Biology, Presidency College  
Madras

To  
The Secretary Surgeon General with the Government  
of Madras.

Presidency College  
Madras

Jan'y 15<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Sir,

In continuation of my previous letter,  
I have the honor to forward herewith two copies  
of my paper on "Strychnine as an antidote  
to Cobra poison, for the information of the  
Surgeon General.

I have further, the honor to state, that  
since reading that paper, I have conducted  
two series of experiments one with Dabovia  
poison, the other with Krait poison. In both  
cases, the animals selected were guinea pigs,  
dogs and monkeys. The results I obtained  
have unequivocally confirmed me in respect-  
ing Strychnine as an antidote for either  
Colubrine or Viperine snake poison.

May I be permitted most respectfully and  
yet most strongly, to urge the Surgeon General  
to use the powerful influence he possesses

with the authorities in order to stop  
what have very rightly been called "Experi-  
ments with Strychnine on Snake-poisoned  
Humanbeings." I am more than ever  
convinced that Strychnine is a grave danger  
to this class of patients while it is absolutely  
no safe-guard to them.

Further I have already had the honor  
to point out, that the indiscriminate use  
of Strychnine is more than a danger to the  
many unfortunate persons, who may falsely  
believe themselves to have been bitten by a  
snake.

When my work on Kraich, Daboia o'echis  
poison is completed I shall have the honor  
to forward a copy to your office.

I have the honor to be  
Your most obedient servant  
(Ed) Robert Murray Elliot  
Surgeon Lt. J. M. S.

(True Copy)

Chintamani

Surgeon Major General

Surgeon General with Govt. of Madras.

5  
Pub. Fund

86

306

CURRENT NO. 306.

No 59  
Encl.  
From

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,  
Madras, 29 January 1895

SURGEON MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.S.

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE  
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,  
Madras,

To  
THE HONORABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
Public DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 700 dated  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 1894 Public I forward you  
a true copy of a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 1895  
from Surgeon Lieutenant R. H. Elliot, M.B.,  
B.S., London, F.R.C.S., England, D.P.H.,  
Cambridge, on the subject of Strychnine  
as an antidote for snake poison with a  
copy of a paper read by him before the South  
Indian Branch of the British Medical Asso-  
-ciation.

2. Dr. Elliot's very careful and scien-  
-tifically conducted experiments have convinced  
me and all the medical officers who were  
then present that Strychnia in no way  
acts as a physiological antidote to cobra  
poison as claimed by Dr. Mueller vide  
G. O. No. 819 Public dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 1890  
and G. O. No. 103 dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 1893.

I am moreover fully convinced  
these experiments that there is great  
danger to patients suffering from actual  
supposed snake bite by the hypodermic  
use of strychnia and hope that the  
Government of India will be satisfied  
reading these clear proofs of the  
angers and uselessness of using such  
medicines will reconsider their orders  
that further experiments are to be carried  
out by their officers and subordinates.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient servant  
Chintambe  
Surgeon Major General  
Surgeon General with Govt. of Madras.

SK

Public DEPARTMENT.

[5]

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

188 , No.

Again G.O., dated

188 , No

Current No.

of 188 , dated

from

Current No. 306 of 1885, dated 29<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. from the Surgeon General.

ORDER, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1895, No. 115.

The letter and pamphlet will be  
forwarded to the Government of India.

TO

The Surgeon General.

DEPARTED

15 FEB 95

IN M.S.

14

LETTER, No. 116.

TO

The Secretary to the Government of India

Home Department (Medical)

SIR,

With advertance to your letter No.

538 of the 6th September last and pre-

vious correspondence on the subject of

the cure of snake bite by strychnine, I

am directed to forward copy of a letter

from and pamphlet by Surgeon Lieutenant

.H. Elliot, M.B.; B.S.; London; F.R.C.S.,

England; D.P.H. Cambridge, on the subject.

In submitting these to Government the

Surgeon General states that Doctor Elliot's

careful and scientifically conducted

experiments

experiments have convinced him  
the Medical Officers who were present  
at them that strychnia in no way acts  
as a physiological antidote to cobra  
poison as claimed by Doctor Muller  
and that experiments with it involve  
great danger to persons suffering  
from actual or supposed snake bite.  
3. In the event of the Government  
of India being equally convinced of  
the futility of the experiments at  
present being carried on I am to  
request that orders for their discon-  
tinuance may be communicated at an  
early date.

35B  
1/2/5.

2/2/95

*Stomachine for Suakobit*

*See and file*

When given for copying \_\_\_\_\_  
When copied \_\_\_\_\_  
When examined \_\_\_\_\_  
When signed \_\_\_\_\_ } 189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. . A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH  
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—  
A = Copy in full.  
B = Not to be copied  
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Q = Copy heading only.