

Public (1895) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 963

Dated 21st Nov: 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

INDIGENOUS DRUGS.

Communicating to the Surgeon-General, for information, resolution of the Government of India appointing a committee to consider the practicability of extending the use of---in India.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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From

The Government of India
Home Department

No. 24 Medical
793-809

Dated 31. 10. 95
Received 63-11-95
Ref. 63-11-95

Subject

Forwarding copy of
Resolution appointing
a Committee to consider
the whole question re-
-garding the use of
indigenous drugs

Am.

By J. H. S.
No. 963 dated 21/11/95
boud. to the Sur-
-geon General for
information.

20
12/11/95
J. H. S.
8. 11. 5. in Surg. General. J. C.
J. H. S.

Isnt Mr. Hooper agent
authority on this subject? I
believe so but any doctor
will be able to say - If so, a
your copy might be sent
to him / d.o.

20. 8. 23rd Nov. 95
J. H. S.

Dear Mr. Hooper,

I am directed to forward for
your information a copy of Resoln
of the G. & S. in the Home Dept. No.
24/793/809 dt 31st ult^{mo} (as it relat^{ed} to a subject in which it is believed
you are specially interested

Yours truly

20
18/11/95

No. 264, dated Bombay Castle, the 6th February 1894.
From—G. C. WHITWORTH, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Educational Department,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India.

IN the Foreign Department letter No. 8381, dated the 7th March 1893, regarding the proposed continuance of the appointment of an additional Professorship of Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology in the Grant Medical College, the salary of which, at the rate of Rs. 500 per mensem, was paid by His Highness the Gaekwar for three years, the Government of India proposed that, if this Government concurred, His Highness should be informed that the extension for two years of the period of the appointment was deemed to be too short to be of practical utility, and that the appointment would therefore cease. In their reply No. 1101, dated the 27th May 1893, this Government assented to the answer proposed to be sent to His Highness, and intimated that, if it should appear advisable to continue the Professorship as a provincial charge, proposals to that effect would be submitted. I am accordingly to submit the following application for the favourable consideration of the Government of India.

2. Before the above reply was sent, Mr. F. D. Petit, founder of the Laboratory for scientific medical research in connection with the Grant Medical College, had offered to pay the salary of the appointment, provided Dr. Bahadurji continued to hold it, and Dr. Bahadurji himself had offered to discharge the duties of the appointment without any remuneration if no endowment for the salary could be secured. His Excellency in Council was obliged to decline both the offers, as he could not permit the authority of Government in the matter of appointments to be controlled by a private person, and as, in his opinion, the continued service of Dr. Bahadurji in the College was undesirable.

3. Since the issue of the Government Resolution declining the offers above-mentioned, His Excellency in Council has been in communication with the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay and the Principal of the College (copies of whose reports* accompany this), and it will be observed that in the opinion of the Surgeon-General and of the Principal of the College there is no necessity for either an additional Professor of Clinical Medicine or a Professor of Pharmacology; but the former officer has no objection to the appointment of a well-qualified man as Pharmacologist in the Grant Medical College for a limited period of three years, subject to further orders at the end of that period and full consideration of the results attained.

4. After due consideration of the views of the principal medical advisers of Government His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that there is a field for pharmacological research which should not be left unexplored, especially when the advantage of a fully equipped laboratory is present, and he has good reason to believe that he can secure the services of a native gentleman qualified for the post, and who is willing to devote his whole time to research. His Excellency in Council accordingly proposes to create an appointment of Pharmacologist in the Grant Medical College on a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem and to nominate Dr. Nasarwanji Fakirji Surveyor, M. D., M. A., B. Sc. (Bombay), M. R. C. P. (London), D. P. H. (Camb.), to the post. It is proposed that, as recommended by the Surgeon-General, Dr. Surveyor should go through a six months' course in pharmacological research in London, and draw pay from the commencement of the course. The appointment will for the present be for three years, subject to reconsideration at the end of that period, and while holding the appointment Dr. Surveyor will be debarred from private practice.

5. I am accordingly to request that, under Articles 95 and 96 of the Civil Service Regulations, the Government of India may be moved to accord their sanction to the creation of an appointment on Rs. 500 per mensem in the Grant Medical College on the terms above stated. Provision for the salary has, I am

to add, been made in the Provincial Budget for 1894-95. A proposition statement, duly verified by the Accountant General, will follow.

No. 573, dated Bombay, the 11th November 1893.

From—BRIGADE-SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. A. MACONACHIE, M. D., M. R. C. P.,
Principal, Grant Medical College,

To—The Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay.

In reply to your endorsement No. 7868, dated 6th instant, on a memorandum No. 2429 of the 3rd idem, from the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, all returned herewith, I have the honour to state that a special chair of Pharmacology is not required in the Grant Medical College; all the pharmacology required, or which can be understood by the first-year students who study *Materia Medica*, being taught by the Professor of *Materia Medica*. The original appointment of Professor of Pharmacology was intended to be for research only, and not for the ordinary teaching purposes of a Medical College. I doubt if any person working in Bombay without skilled assistance and in this climate would obtain any results which would be considered of the least value by the profession at large. Physiological experiments, such as are done by the Pharmacologists, are very difficult and very indefinite in their results owing to the heat destroying the irritability of living tissues so quickly that drugs have almost no time to act. For instance, I have seen the heart of a frog beating at least 48 hours after it was removed from the body in Scotland, whereas in Bombay the Professor of Physiology informs me that it ceases to beat in five minutes, and he finds it very difficult to perform experiments here which can be done in Europe with ease. The result is that a Pharmacologist here must have skilled assistance, and the work will be costly. If reliable pharmacological reports are required of Indian vegetable drugs, it would be much cheaper and much more satisfactory to pay skilled Pharmacologists in Europe to investigate them and then there would be some prospect of medical men in this country trying them on their patients if the report had been satisfactory. At present medical men are much more sceptical of the value of Indian drugs than formerly owing to the many random and incorrect statements which have been published in Indian Medical Journals, and I doubt much whether the statements of a Pharmacologist at the Grant Medical College would restore the confidence in these drugs which was apparently so much more common formerly than it is at present. If, however, it is intended to appoint another Pharmacologist, it is not advisable to call him Professor any more than it is to call the Bacteriologist by that name, and although Dr. Surveyor has had no experience in pharmacological research, probably he would perform such work as could be done here as well as any other native candidate. His reputation in Bombay was more that of a hard student than of a practical man, but apparently from his certificates he has greatly improved in the practical application of his reading.

No. 8356, dated Bombay, the 25th November 1893.

From—SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL P. S. TURNBULL, M. D., Surgeon-General with
the Government of Bombay,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Educational Department.

With reference to your memorandum No. 2429, of the 3rd November 1893, I have the honour to forward a report by the Principal, Grant Medical College, Bombay, in which I concur.

2. In my opinion there is no necessity for either an additional Professor of Clinical Medicine or for a Professor of Pharmacology, and I am unable to recommend a revival of them.

3. But I do not see much objection to the appointment of a well qualified man as Pharmacologist at the Grant Medical College for a limited period, say three years, subject to further orders at the end of that period and full consideration of the results attained.

4. Whether Mr. N. F. Surveyor "is the kind of person" needed for such an appointment, I am unable to say from personal knowledge, but from enquiries made and the certificates appended to the application, Mr. Surveyor seems to have made good use of the excellent opportunities afforded him of acquiring a knowledge of general Pathology, Bacteriology, and the most recent methods of research, and though, strictly speaking, he has not received training as a Pharmacologist, I think a few months' special training in that department would be sufficient to fit him for the work in Bombay. I however agree with Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Maconachie that in the climate of Bombay the Pharmacologist labours

under great disadvantage as compared with a similar investigator in Europe, and that the results will always be less definite and reliable.

5. The only object in appointing Mr. Surveyor to be Pharmacologist would be the encouragement of native talent and work, and, should Government think fit to do so on that ground, I see no objection to it, provided the period for which he is appointed is limited. I think, however, it will be well to insist on six months' special training in pharmacological research in London before appointment.

N. 224, dated Calcutta, the 11th April 1894.

From—C. J. LYALL, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of
India,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Educational Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 264, dated the 6th ultimo, requesting that the Government of India may accord sanction to the creation of an appointment of Pharmacologist in the Grant Medical College, on a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem, for a period of three years, subject to further orders, after full consideration of the results attained at the end of that period. His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that there is a field for pharmacological research which should not be left unexplored, especially when the advantage of a fully equipped laboratory, such as exists at the Grant College, is present. Dr. Nasarwanji Fakirji Surveyor, M.D., M.A., B.Sc. (Bombay), M.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H. (Cambridge), who it is said will be qualified for the work after a special course for six months in London, is recommended for the appointment.

2. In reply I am to invite attention to the opinions expressed by the Principal of the Grant Medical College and by the Surgeon-General to the Government of Bombay, in the letters forwarded by you, that in the climate of Bombay a Pharmacologist would labour under great disadvantages as compared with a similar investigator in Europe, and that results obtained in Bombay, would be less definite and reliable than experiments conducted in a cooler climate. I am further to say that the Government of India are advised that the investigations of a Pharmacologist, to be of value, must be conducted with extreme care and with every precaution to exclude fallacious results; and that the conclusions to be drawn from any series of experiments require much thought and discrimination even from the greatest scientists. The professional advisers of the Government of India consider that it would in any circumstances be expedient rather to make provision for the investigation in Europe of the properties of Indian drugs than to attempt experiments in Bombay.

3. In view of these opinions, the Government of India regret that they are unable to recommend the proposal of the Government of Bombay, for the creation of this appointment at public expense, to the Secretary of State, whose sanction would be necessary.

24 Medical
No. 793-809

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Medical),—under date Simla, the 31st October 1895.

READ—

Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 264, dated the 6th February 1894.

Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 224, dated the 11th April 1894.

Read also—

Resolution recorded by the Pharmacological section of the Indian Medical Congress to the effect that the Government of India should consider the desirability of extending the use of indigenous drugs in India.

RESOLUTION.

IN the section of Pharmacology and Indian drugs of the Indian Medical Congress, eight papers were read on the use of indigenous drugs, the most important being those by Dr. G. Watt, M.B., C.M., F.L.S., C.I.E., and by Rai Bahadur Kanny Lall Dey, F.C.S., C.I.E. In his paper on the subject Dr. Watt enumerated the names and reputed properties of the drugs indigenous to India and urged the desirability of greater attention being given to the study of such drugs and Rai Bahadur Kanny Lall Dey made the following suggestions:—

- (1) that definite pharmacological preparations of certain indigenous drugs should be made at the Medical Store Depôts for distribution to the various hospitals and dispensaries for trial and report;
- (2) that medicinal plant farms should be laid out in the districts most suited to the plants which it is proposed to grow; and
- (3) that a drug emporium for India should be established at Calcutta.

In considering these papers the Indian Medical Congress recorded the following resolution:—

“That it be recommended to the consideration of the Government of India that an extended use of indigenous drugs is most desirable.”

2. The Government of India are advised that the more extended use of indigenous drugs in pharmacological preparations has hitherto been retarded by the circumstance that the sophistication and adulteration of these drugs are carried on so systematically that it is almost impossible to procure them locally in a pure state and also because there are now available imported remedies of a much more efficient nature. Certain indigenous drugs, which can be obtained pure in the local market and in which adulterations can be detected, are used in the Medical Depôts. In his paper on the subject Rai Bahadur Kanny Lall Dey concludes, from a perusal of the latest list of medical stores for hospitals

List of drugs purchased locally by the Calcutta Depôt.

Assafœtida.	Glycyrrhize root.
Columba root.	Gum Arabic.
Cardamom seeds.	Kino.
Catechu.	Myrrh.
Cinnamon bark.	Nux Vomica.
Chiretta.	Senna leaves.
Cubebs.	Anisi oil.
Ginger.	Cinnamon oil.
Galls.	Santal oil.
Castor oil.	

in Bengal, that only one such drug—namely *chiretta*,—is so utilized, but from the list marginally noted of drugs now used in the Medical Depôts, which has been furnished to the Government of India, it will be seen that his information upon this point was imperfect. The Government of India have no doubt that other indigenous drugs would be employed in the Medical Depôts if they could be obtained pure, of a stable character and at a price not exceeding that at which they can be imported.

3. With the information at present available the Government of India would only be justified in taking such steps as may appear practicable with a view to encouraging the increased use in the Medical Depôts of drugs of known therapeutic value, and perhaps also in sanctioning the manufacture of stable preparations of certain drugs at the Depôts. The Government of India are not at present convinced of the desirability of initiating as a Government measure experiments to test the *reputed* therapeutic value of indigenous drugs. From the correspondence with the Government of Bombay quoted in the preamble to this Resolution, it appears that an attempt was made in this direction in that Presidency but proved unsatisfactory.

4. The Government of India are, however, anxious to give such effect to the recommendations of the Pharmacological section of the Indian Medical Congress as may be found practicable, and, with this end in view, have decided to appoint a Committee to consider the whole question in a practical way. The Committee will consist of the following members:—

Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. King, M.B., F.R.S., C.I.E., Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Garden, Howrah, who will serve also as President of the Committee.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. P. McConnell, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, Medical College, and Second Physician, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Warden, M.D., Medical Storekeeper, Bengal Command.

Dr. G. Watt, C.I.E., Officer in charge of the Economic and Art section of the Indian Museum.

Rai Bahadur Kanny Lall Dey, F.C.S., C.I.E.

5. The points to which the Government of India desire more particularly to invite the attention of the Committee with a view to their careful consideration are the practicability, as well as the utility of—

- (a) encouraging the systematic cultivation of medicinal plants, indigenous to India;
- (b) encouraging the increased use in Medical Depôts of drugs of known therapeutic value; and
- (c) sanctioning the manufacture of stable preparations of certain drugs at the Depôts.

Regarding the above the Government of India desire that the Committee should further consider, and report their opinion as to, the action which would be best calculated to give the suggested encouragement. The Committee should further consider, from a practical point of view, the question of initiating, as a Government measure, experiments to test the *reputed* therapeutic value of indigenous drugs. The Government of India, as at present advised, are inclined to the opinion that such investigations can more profitably be left to the enterprise of private individuals.

6. The Committee should assemble at Calcutta during the ensuing cold weather, and should, on completing their deliberations, submit their Report to the Government of India in the Home Department for consideration.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Local* Governments and Administrations, the several members of the Committee and to the Surgeon-General with the Government of India for information.

* With copy of letter from Bombay, No. 254, dated the 6th February 1894, and enclosures.
With copy of letter to Bombay, No. 224, dated the 11th April 1894.

[True Extract.]

A. L. Thwaites

Secy.
Secretary to the Government of India.

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When copied

When examined

When signed

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REMARKS AGAIN G.O., No.

189

DATED

CURRENT No.

NO. UNDER G. O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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