

Public (189 ♣) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1054.

Dated 17-8-98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording from Edel dept
passing orders on the question of the
training of Hospital Assistants.

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G.O., No. 481, 5th August 1898.

AUGUST.

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Hospital Assistants.

Passing orders on the question of the training of --.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 654, Educational, dated 22nd October 1896.

ORDER—No. 481, Educational, dated 5th August 1898.

In G.O., No. 654, Educational, dated 22nd October 1896, orders were passed by Government on the proposals submitted by the Special Committee appointed to consider all the questions connected with the reorganization of the Medical College, and it was stated, in paragraph 4 of the Government Order, that the question of the training of the hospital assistants would be considered in separate proceedings. In its report on this subject the Committee made 20 recommendations regarding the training of hospital assistants, on 16 of which orders were passed. The Government now proceeds to dispose of the remaining 4 proposals.

2. The Committee (recommendation No. 2) proposed that the training of hospital assistants at the Medical College, Madras, should cease, and that three Provincial schools should be opened, one each in Madras (Ráyapuram), Tanjore and Nellore. The opinion of the Director of Public Instruction and the Surgeon-General are summarized in paragraph 3 of the Government Order referred to above, and they both concur generally in these proposals. The Government approves of the recommendation that the training of hospital assistants at the Medical College should cease. It remains to consider what system should replace that which now exists. The proposal to re-open the Medical school at Ráyapuram for 150 pupils is approved, and the Government inclines to the opinion that the schools at Tanjore and Nellore should not be retained and that, if necessary, schools should be established at Vizagapatam and Calicut. Before, however, definite and final orders on the subject can be passed, further information is necessary, on several points, such as the length of the course of study for hospital assistants, the number of medical institutions to which they would be liable to be posted, the number of pupils for whom accommodation will have to be provided, and the annual rate of decrease among hospital assistants. The question of the length of the course for hospital assistants is dealt with in paragraph 5 below. With reference to the other points, the Surgeon-General will be requested to supply Government with a list of the medical institutions to which hospital assistants will be liable to be posted, and also with accurate information as to the annual rate of growth of medical institutions in the last five years and the probable growth hereafter, and the annual rate of decrease in the last five years among hospital assistants, in order that the numbers for whom accommodation will be required may be calculated. It must be ascertained how many of them, at the existing rates of increase in hospitals and dispensaries and of decrease in the strength of this class of subordinates, will be required now and in future years to man the various Government and Local and Municipal medical institutions in the Presidency, to supply the requirements of the several Native States, and to satisfy the demand for private practitioners.

Information should also be furnished on similar lines with respect to civil apothecaries. The Government considers that the system under which local and municipal bodies are now supplied with both hospital assistants and civil apothecaries is open to improvement, and that steps are necessary both to ensure that, as suggested by the Surgeon-General in his letter read in G.O., No. 970, Public, dated 20th December 1894, a staff of given strength and given qualifications should be maintained in institutions of a given size, and also to counteract the tendency on the part of local bodies to endeavour, for financial reasons, to rid themselves of subordinates whose length of service has entitled them to increments. The Government is disposed to think that these improvements could be effected were it to take the supply of medical subordinates into its own hands, leaving the Surgeon-General to appoint them to the various posts according to the fixed scale of establishment, and levying from local bodies in payment of the salaries of medical subordinates a sum equal to the average cost throughout the Presidency of the pay and pensionary and leave contributions of a subordinate of the class appointed (either hospital assistant or civil apothecary). The Government considers that it would be permissible to appoint first-class hospital assistants to be in charge of dispensaries and of the smaller hospitals which have only a few (say, five or six) emergency beds attached to them, civil apothecaries and licentiates of medicine and surgery and men holding higher qualifications being posted to the more important charges. The statistics referring to civil apothecaries now called for are also necessary in order to enable Government to pass orders upon the question of the number of officers of this class and of the class which must eventually replace them—Assistant Surgeons—which will be required in future years, and for the supply of which arrangements must be made.

3. The financial aspect of the proposals which have been made remains to be considered. Neither the Director of Public Instruction nor the Surgeon-General has taken into consideration the saving, which will be effected at the Medical College, by the withdrawal from it of the hospital assistant classes. A detailed estimate of this saving should be submitted to Government. The Committee proposed (recommendation No. 3) that a staff, which it calculated would cost Rs. 455 * *per mensem*, should

	Per mensem.	Rs.
* A Superintendent	200	
First Instructor (an Assistant Surgeon or Apothecary)	100	
Second Instructor (an Assistant Surgeon or Apothecary)	50	
Third Instructor (an Assistant Surgeon or Apothecary)	40	
Fourth Instructor (an Assistant Surgeon or Apothecary)	30	
Clerk.	15	
Menials	20	
Total	455	

be appointed for each of the schools. The first 5 items in this figure are proposed to be staff allowances. The Government considers the allowance of Rs. 200 for the Superintendent of the Ráyapuram school suitable, but thinks that a smaller allowance would suffice for the Superintendents of the other schools. The Committee thinks that the first instructor should be an Assistant Surgeon or an Apothecary, and the Surgeon-General proposes that all the instructors should be Assistant Surgeons, but neither of them has taken into consideration the fact that the pay of all these instructors as well as their staff allowances will have to be provided for in the estimates of the cost of the schools. There is only one Assistant Surgeon in each district at present, and his duties require him to tour frequently and to be in charge of the head-quarter institutions when the District Medical and Sanitary Officer is in camp and are already so considerable that he could not teach efficiently in the medical school in addition to his other work. The whole of his pay and allowances and leave contributions would thus require to be debited to the school as well as those of the other instructors. It is, however, evident that the financial aspect of the scheme requires to be worked out in far greater detail than has yet been attempted, and the Director of Public Instruction and the Surgeon-General will be requested to submit, in consultation, revised estimates of its probable cost to Government, including an estimate of the cost of buildings at Ráyapuram, Vizagapatam and Calicut.

4. The Committee (recommendation No. 4), the Director of Public Instruction and the Surgeon-General are agreed in considering that the Principal of the Medical

College should be an Official Visitor of the new schools. As, however, it seems clear that his appointment as such will interfere with his duties in the General Hospital, there is apparently no alternative but to request the Surgeon-General to act as Visitor.

5. With regard to the curriculum of the Hospital Assistant class, the Committee (recommendation No. 6) proposed that the course of study of the military hospital assistants should be extended to four years. These proposals were approved generally by Government, but paragraph 4 (c) of G.O., No. 654, dated 22nd October 1896, directed that the proposals should be kept in abeyance until the reply of the Government of India to the letter No. 658, dated 22nd October 1896, regarding the extension of the course of study of the military hospital assistant pupils to four years had been received. The Government of India has refused its sanction to this proposal, and in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 623, dated 4th November 1897, the Government, following the course adopted at Agra and Lahore, has directed that Midwifery, Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene may be omitted from the curriculum of the military hospital assistant pupils. Before final orders are passed on the length of the course of hospital assistant pupils, the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Instruction will be requested to report whether the two classes can be conducted simultaneously and, if not, to submit their further recommendations. It is obvious that on the length of the course will largely depend the amount of accommodation and the number of instructors which will be required in the Medical College. The above remark should be borne in mind by the Surgeon-General when compiling the statistics called for above.

(True Extract.)

for Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
 „ Surgeon-General.
 „ Local and Municipal Department.
 „ Public Department. ✓

Exd. W. D'Moss.

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