

Public (1899) Department

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INDEXED.

Genl Hospital, Madras

Passing revised orders
regarding to the allowance for the
medical servants at the —

Government {1899} of Madras.
PUBLIC.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 743, 6th July 1899.

JULY.

General Hospital, Madras.

sing revised orders regarding clothing allowance for the menial servants at the —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. BROWNE, M.D., I.M.S., Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated Madras, 24th May 1899, Ref. on No. 1934.

With reference to the supply of clothing to the hospital servants, I have the honour to state that as Government has decided in G.O., No. 470, Public, dated 25th April 1899, not to revert to the old scale but to retain the amount fixed in G.O., No. 159, Public, dated 30th January 1896, on the ground that "sufficient reason has not been shown" for increasing the recently fixed scale, I am compelled in the interests of the hospital to again draw attention to the matter and to furnish such reasons as will, I hope, enable Government to at least sanction reversion to the old quantity of clothing that was allowed for very many years and which no one ever found to be in the least degree excessive.

2. The Surgeon-General in his letter to Government of the 13th March 1899 has quoted the Senior Medical Officer's opinion "that experience has shown with only two suits it is impossible that the servants can be kept in the clean state that the work in the hospital necessitates" and that "I need hardly say that it is not advisable that the ward attendants and the menial servants should be permitted to approach the patients in rags more or less unavoidably dirty."

I did not, in the letter quoted, dilate on the very possible dangers that may accrue in the surgical wards especially on dirtily-clad attendants being brought—as they must be—into personal contact with the sick, nor need I, I consider, say more now than that it is obvious there must be risk of causing septic disease or unhealthy inflammation to all recently wounded cases. In all the wards the attendants are liable to the accidental contamination of their clothes by the feculent discharges of the patients; and again, should a patient vomit over a ward attendant or discharge accidentally upon him any of his excreta, the ward attendant can only roughly wash, as soon as he can be spared from the ward, the suit of clothes he has upon him, and then as soon as it is washed must put the suit on again, for this reason that his only other suit is with the dhoby. This is what has to be done now and it is very objectionable from every point of view. At least one spare suit of clothes is an obvious necessity.

3. Then again the attendants in the contagious diseases wards should be particularly well furnished with suits of clothing and in these wards the old scale of three suits was always considered insufficient; but as, fortunately, outbursts of epidemic disease have of late years never lasted for any considerable time, it was not deemed absolutely necessary to address Government on the subject of providing a special allotment of clothing for the attendants in these wards. Now, however, I am forced to state that it is dangerous to attempt to work the contagious sheds on the present amount of clothing.

4. The withdrawal of clothing from the menial servants detailed in my former letter was, I consider, unfortunate for the hospital and for the servants. The pay of these men is too small, as I have already pointed out, to permit of their clothing themselves properly and the natural result is that they are forced to go about in the scantiest possible quantity of covering. It is of course very desirable that all the employés of the hospital should be recognisable at a glance by their clothing, but

this is not the case now, and "coolies" from outside and these menial servants are constantly being mistaken for each other with more or less unsatisfactory results, but this is a slight drawback compared with the dirty condition in which the cooks are generally to be met with. It is hardly necessary to dilate on the unpleasantness of having cooks in dirty clothes in which they work, and in which they must go home to their more or less dirty hovels and then return to the kitchen here in the same, after a visit to the bazaars, with the probable contamination from all sorts of filth therein to be met with.

5. The saving that has accrued is so small and the economy effected so miserable that I trust that Government will in the interests of the reputation of the General Hospital, see that there are sufficient reasons to increase the present inadequate stock of clothing to at least its former dimensions.

No. T-8/275.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The additional grounds adduced by Dr. Browne are too weighty to leave me any alternative but to urge Government to reconsider its orders in G.O., No. 470, Public, dated 25th April 1899. A ward attendant in a first-class hospital appearing in rags to administer to the needs of a patient must present a spectacle too repulsive to be tolerated for a moment. But the climax is reached when such grave consequences as are depicted by Dr. Browne are apprehended to patients' health which is the object of devout solicitude in an hospital. The interests of the patients and the reputation of the General Hospital alike demand that the servants should be decently clad and as this object is said from practical experience to be impossible of achievement with the scale of clothing at present allowed, I cannot too strongly recommend its enhancement as proposed by the Senior Medical Officer.

CAMP, OOTACAMUND,
11th June 1899.

(Signed) C. SIBTHORPE,
Surgn.-Genl. with the Govt. of Madras.

ORDER—No. 743, Public, dated 6th July 1899.

In view of the reasons now adduced by the Surgeon-General, the Government authorises the issue of three suits each per annum to the servants of the General Hospital, Madras, of the classes named in the margin. The cost must however be restricted to Rs. 5-4-0 per head per annum.

2. The remaining classes* of servants who now under G.O., No. 159, Public, dated 30th January 1896, receive free clothing will continue to receive two suits, subject to the existing limit of Rs. 3-12-0 per head per annum.

* Male and female	Lascars.	
toties.	Boatswain.	
Bearers.	Peons.	
Sweepers.	Gate peons.	

3. The Government adheres to its decision that free clothing need not be granted to servants who do not come in personal contact with patients. The addition to the list of the menials mentioned in the Surgeon-General's letter No. 231, dated 13th March 1899, cannot therefore be sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Accountant-General.
" Financial Department.

Ed. A. F. Eccleston.

Public (1899) Department.

CURRENT No.



Orders, with reference to
the note at B, and
G. by D. P. M. and
C. M. P.

From

Surgeon General
Sik R. P. C. & R. P.

No.

Dated

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Submitting the order of
Government a letter from the
Surgeon General, showing the
Hospital, showing the
increase of the number of
the King's allowance for the
Surgeon General and the
Institution.

No.	No.	Department.	Date.
470	Pub :	25-4-99	
1	paps		

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C 17-6-99. C 22-6-99. C 28-6-99
 R 20-6-99. R 26-6-99. R 3-7-99.
 R2 clothing allowance to the menial
 servants at the General Hospital.

6.6.1704.

F O R G E N E R A L S

2000

$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}$

[illegible][illegible]

was reduced to 2 and the amount allowed ^{provision} annually for each servant with clothing

was fixed at not more than Rs.3-12-0.

The S.G. quoted in that letter a remark by the Senior Medical Officer that experience has shown with only two suits it is impossible that the servants can be kept in the clean state that the work in the hospital necessitates."

The Senior Medical Officer went on to say

"I need hardly say that it is not advisable that the ward attendants and other menial servants should be permitted to approach the patients in rags more or less unavoidably dirty, and yet this is what must result towards

the close of the year after each suit has been sent to the dhoby some twenty times". The Senior Medical Officer now bases his request on somewhat different grounds. He points out that in all

the wards the attendants are liable to the accidental contamination of their clothes by ^{the} discharges of the patients,

and he explains that in such a case the ward attendant can only roughly wash the suit of clothes he has upon him, and then put it on again, for the reason

that his only other suit is with the dhoby, ^{he} and therefore considers that one spare suit of clothes is an obvious necessity. ~~Similarly he considers that the attendants in the contagious~~

~~separate wards should each have three~~

The Medical Officers are correct

servants were allowed one suit. When the table in L.I. Sub. 47 1-12-00, is ^{will} be seen that three suits were allowed for the attendants in the wards. The table also shows that the attendants in the wards were allowed one suit, and the attendants in the contagious wards were allowed two suits. In L.I. Sub. 47 1-12-00, the table shows that the attendants in the wards were allowed one suit, and the attendants in the contagious wards were allowed two suits. In L.I. Sub. 47 1-12-00, the table shows that the attendants in the wards were allowed one suit, and the attendants in the contagious wards were allowed two suits.

In consequence of the above-mentioned facts, the Medical Officer has recommended that the attendants in the wards should be allowed one suit, and the attendants in the contagious wards should be allowed two suits.

L.I. Sub. 47 1-12-00, is ^{this submitted} for the consideration of the

Medical Officer, and the Medical Officer has recommended that the attendants in the wards should be allowed one suit, and the attendants in the contagious wards should be allowed two suits.

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It is with reference to this G.O. that the S.G. has recently asked for a reconsideration.

From the notes in G.O.No.159 Pub., d/ 30th of Jan. 1896, it appears that the question whether three suits were required for some of the servants was not specially considered, the provision for clothing being fixed solely with reference to the cost. In these circumstances it is for consideration whether the Senior Medical Officer's arguments in regard to the necessity for a spare suit for such menials as actually come in contact with patients may not be accepted and the old scale, which ^{allowed} 3 suits to ward attendants and dispensary coolies and attendants ~~may not~~ be restored. In the Police Dept. Rs. 2/15 covers the cost of two suits, and 1/8 has therefore to be added to the present limit of Rs. 3/12 if a third suit is to be allowed, making Rs. 5/0 in all.

With regard to the second question—the addition to the list of persons supplied with clothing of the menials mentioned by the S.G. in his letter d/ L the 13th of March 1899—the reasons which influenced Govt. in refusing to supply clothing in these cases ~~still~~ appear to hold good. It was held that clothing ^{should be} not supplied to such servants as do not come in personal contact with patients. The Senior Medical Officer's special stress on the

*I think this should be allowed.
H.A.*

necessity of providing clothing - vide para 4 of his letter, but, as has already been remarked, the hospital authorities enjoy the same facilities as private employers for maintaining the servants of this class. They should keep themselves clean. With regard to this part of the subject, it is submitted that no modification of the previous orders is called for.

15/1

C. No. 1702 From the Surgeon General, No. 78/275, dated 11-6-1899.

" " " " " " 1899 .
" " " " " " 1899 .
" " " " " " 1899 .

Order
in view of.

In view of the rooms now addressed by the Surgeon General, the Govt. authorizes the issue of three suits each per annum to the servants of the General Hospital, under of the classes named in the margin - the cost must however be restricted to Rs 5-4-00 per head per annum.

2. The remaining class of servants who now receive a free issue of two suits, ~~who were~~ allowed the same scale of clothing prior to the ~~issue~~.

Male & female ward attendants
out patients ^{coolies} and
dispensary coolies

* Male & female
Messengers
Sweepers
Lascars
Boatmen
Peons
Gardens

