Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

6th October 1857

Back Nos 13-14

Order no. 6/2 of 1st Oct 1857

புரதகாப்பு பிரிவு - 1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் : T. கோபிகிருஷ்ணன்

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக வழங்கப் 12/2002.
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்

செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 24/2002.

சரிபார்க்கும் : சரிபார்க்கும் : ஆய்வாளர்
ஒளி மு. நி. பா. எ. நி. பா. எ. ஒப்பம்
கையொப்பம் கையொப்பம்

2/1857

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 6th October 1857.

READ the following Letter from the Madras Government, dated 14th September 1857, No. 6154.

Read the following papers.

From Col. and M. G. MAXWELL, Adjutant General of the Army, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort Saint George, 1st September 1857, No. 1030.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the communication as per margin.[1]

2. It is evident that frequent applications on the subject being cognizant of the Medical Subordinate Department to meet the ordinary demands of this Army, will be prevented so soon that there is a supply of any of the Medical Subordinates attached to this Military branch being given to Europeans.

3. The only exception to this arrangement, meeting the immediate and urgent demands of Medical Officers which may occur, will be the withdrawal from Civil employ of as many Medical subordinates as may be necessary, their places being supplied where so obtainably accessible by promotion of Medical pupils.

4. I consider this measure will not only supply the ordinary demands of the Department, but I am convinced that the senior class now at the college being the pick and choice of their profession during the whole of this session; which should be continued until the end of May next, and even to be drafted on to the subordinate, every native applicant as many Europeans as would raise the present junior class of native pupils to 60 in number and two of the East Indians to be at once entertained; these to be taught Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica, Surgery and the practice of medicine, more by practical demonstration than by lectures, for a course of twelve months instruction without intermission these might be turned out useful Hospital Assistants.

MEMORANDUM.

The Professors of the Medical College have repeatedly recorded their dissatisfaction with the progress made in their studies by the native medical pupils; and the result of recent examinations, confirms the opinion that the majority of these young men do not derive that advantage from the classes on lectures which was expected of them; and even after they have completed their 5 years course of study, many of them leave the institution imperfectly acquainted with their profession.

This state of matters have been attributed by the College Council to deficient preliminary education, and to inaptitude for study in the class of young men who join the Medical Department, for it has hitherto been found impossible to induce respectable natives, or even those belonging to the inferior grades of society, *once well educated* to enter this branch of the public service.

However, there is no actual paucity of native candidates for admission into the Medical Department, 40 having presented themselves at the College last month, for that purpose, while only 5 were passed. The difficulty which exists, is in procuring young men with a sufficient amount of intelligence, and a sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable them at once to enter upon a course of professional instruction by means of lectures.

Under these circumstances, and when Medical Subordinates are so urgently required for the public service, it behoves us to make the best of the material at our command, and so to modify our system of instruction as to adapt it to the present low attainments of our pupils, and every one will admit that the careful pains-taking teaching of one in the position of a school master, is more likely to be successful in instructing such youths, for the public service, than the most zealous efforts of the Professors, whose lectures, are evidently at this early stage of their studies

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 6th October 1857.

I beg therefore to propose for the consideration of Government, the advisability of instituting a primary Medical school or class, with the view of affording to all native Medical Pupils, an elementary knowledge of their profession, and a thorough practical acquaintance with every thing relative to the duties of a Dresser, previous to their admission to the Medical College.

All Medical Pupils should attend the Primary school, for at least, one year; and during that period arrangements should be made for extending their acquaintance with the English language.

By the above arrangement, the native medical student would enter College comparatively well educated, with a fair knowledge of the English language, acquainted with the elements of his profession, and familiar with professional terms, and in many respects well fitted for receiving scientific instruction, and acquiring professional knowledge by lectures.

In addition to the above advantages of a Preparatory Medical School, many of the pupils would at the termination of the year be fully qualified to perform all the ordinary duties of a Hospital Assistant and might be drafted as such into the Army, should the exigencies of the service require additional aid.

The school might be placed under the charge of Native Surgeon Jesudasen, or Assistant Apothecary Coman, who is a young man of great zeal, and has shown peculiar aptitude for teaching.

As a remuneration for this service I should propose a salary of Rupees 50 per mensem.

The above arrangement would be sufficient for a class of 12 or 14 pupils; and might be carried out at the Vepery Dispensary, but in the event of the class being increased beyond that number, a new agency would be required, and two or more Instructors should be appointed. Such an agency might be organized at the General Hospital and that Institution turned into a large school for practical instruction, the subordinates being made available for that purpose during those periods of the day when not otherwise engaged.

Should either of the above propositions meet with the approval of Government, I beg to state that I shall be happy to assist in communication with the Physician and Surgeon of the Hospital, in organizing and superintending such a system of practical instruction, as has been during the last year so successfully carried out at the Vepery Dispensary.

Vide report of Med. Col. Council.

MADRAS.
2d *September* 1857.

(Signed) J. KELLIE,
President Medical College Council.

The Governor in Council approves of the arrangements proposed in the foregoing letter, and requests that a report may be submitted as soon as possible of the number of Medical Subordinates it may be found practicable to send to Bengal.

2. In addition to the measures recommended by the Commander-in-Chief, His Lordship in Council is of opinion that a Primary Medical school should be established, as suggested in the Memo. from Surgeon Kellie above recorded, and which will be communicated to the Commander-in-Chief; and His Lordship accordingly authorizes the requisite arrangements being made for the purpose under the direction of Mr. Kellie.

3. Salaries and other attendant expenses will be sanctioned on a statement being forwarded of what may be considered necessary.

(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, No. 1012; dated 1st October 1857.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue and Chief Engineer, with a request that they will state, as early as practicable, the number of Medical subordinates that can be spared from Civil employ to meet the demand of the Bengal Government.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Military Department.

No. 3158.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
4th September 1857.

Read the following Papers

No. 1620

From
The Adjutant General of the Army

To The Secretary to Government
Military Department

Sir,

I have the honor by order of the Commander in Chief to acknowledge the communication as per Margin

Government from frequent representations on the subject being cognizant of the inadequacy of the Medical Subordinate Department to meet the ordinary demands of the Army will be

be prepared to learn that there is no possibility of any of the Medical Subordinates attached to the Military branch being given to Bengal.

2 The only expedient for in some measure, meeting the immediate and urgent demands of the Presidency which suggests itself to His Excellency, is the withdrawal from Civil Employ of as many Medical Subordinates as possible, their places being supplied where absolutely necessary by Pensioned Medical Subordinates.

To meet future contingencies and to supply the ordinary demands of the Department, Lieutenant General Sir P. Grant would recommend that the Senior Class now at the College be taught the practical subjects of their profession during the whole of this Session, which should be extended say till the end of May next and then to be drafted on to the Establishment. Further that as many Native Pupils and as many East Indians as would raise the present junior Class of Native Pupils to 60 in number and that of the East Indians to 40 be at once entertained, these to be taught Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica, Surgery and the practice of Medicine, more by practical demonstration than by lectures after a course of twelve Months instruction without intermission these might be turned out useful Hospital Assistants.

Adjut. Genl. Office
Fort St. George
1st September 1857.

Signed
Shaw &c.
W. G. Woods Lt. Colo.
Adjutant General
of the Army

Memorandum

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Madras
[illegible] September
1857

(Sgd) P. Kettle
President Mod^l College Council

[illegible]

8/1812

The Governor in Council
approves of the arrangements proposed
in the foregoing letter and requests
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In addition to the measures
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as suggested in the memo from
Surgeon Kettle above recorded,
and which will be communicated
to the Commander in Chief and His
Lordship accordingly authorizes the
requisite arrangements being made
for the purpose under the direction
of Mr Kettle.

Salmon