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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1514	Press ~~Mis.~~
54-55	
Dated 4—9— 1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th September 1860.

No. 54. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 25th August 1860, No. 1,263 :—

Respecting the mode in which the Civil Dispensaries in the Provinces are for the future to be furnished with supplies. (Vide Public Proceedings, 25th August 1860, Nos. 236-237.)

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 4th September 1860, No. 1,514.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for information.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from GEO. PEARSE, Esq., M. D., Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 26th July 1860, No. 115.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Proceedings of Madras Government, Public Department, No. 1,001 of the 9th instant, with the enclosure as per margin, and in reply, beg to offer the following observations for the consideration of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Military Department, and Order, No. 2,340 of 26th ultimo.

Para. 5.—"Although not coming under the head Military Expenditure, yet as the charges are shown in the Commissary General's statement against the Medical Department, I may be permitted to refer here, to the large and increasing expenditure for the dieting of patients in Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries. I have long been of opinion that these charges should be defrayed by local subscriptions, raised on the spot, amongst the wealthy inhabitants of the neighbourhood, European and Native, instead of from the coffers of the State, and it is my intention to represent this matter for the consideration of the local Government."

2. In a letter addressed by me to the President of the Military Finance Commission, No. 481, dated 17th March 1859, para. 5 of which is quoted in the margin, I briefly expressed my views with regard to the dieting of patients in Civil Hospitals or Dispensaries, viz., that the charge should be a local one, defrayed entirely by voluntary subscription.

3. I purposely delayed bringing this subject to the notice of Government, until the submission of the Annual Report on the Civil Hospitals, &c., of the Presidency for the past year, particularly, as I wished at the same time to offer some remarks on the large and increasing expenditure of European Medicines in these Institutions, the cost of which, under existing arrangements, is debited to the Military Department.

4. I see no reason why each Dispensary should not provide for the dieting of its own sick. The system has been successfully tried at Mangalore, for some years past, where the local subscriptions are not only sufficient for the purpose; but out of the surplus funds, newly introduced medicines, or preparations, which our own stores do not always furnish, are occasionally purchased on the recommendation of the Medical Officer. In the new Dispensary at Tellicherry, at my suggestion, the same practice is followed.

5. The saving to Government, by the general adoption of this plan, would amount in round numbers to from 80,000 to 1,00,000 Rupees per annum.

6. To introduce a new practice, of the kind referred to, it would be necessary, to give notice, that the change would be made from a given date, and I am of opinion that it might safely be brought into operation, from the beginning of the year 1861.

7. I am led to believe that it would be well if the Civil Dispensaries were entirely dependant on local arrangements for supplies of all kinds, (with the exception of Europeans medicines) and the Commissariat Department relieved of all connection with these Institutions, a connection which I believe is attended with much unnecessary expence. In particular cases when the local aid was found insufficient for keeping up the Dispensaries at present established, the assistance of Government to a certain extent might be required.

8. There is no doubt, that if these Institutions were entirely dependant on local support, care would be taken, to keep them from degenerating into poor houses, or Lungerkhanas, which is too much the case at present. It is well known that the most troublesome patients are of the beggar class, who prefer the hospital diet, to their own precarious mode of life, and often considerable difficulty is experienced in getting them off the in-patient list. If the local managers of these Institutions had to provide for their own expenses, there is every reason to suppose, that a more

vigilant economy would be exercised, in Hospital expenditure, and that increased efficiency would result.

9. With the view of carrying out the voluntary system, it would be necessary to place each Dispensary under the management of a Local Committee, composed of the Chief Magistrate, or Civil Authority, the Medical Officer, and two or three influential Native Gentlemen, who would dispose of the funds they might collect in the manner most conducive to the interests of the Institution.

10. The funds required should arise chiefly from the voluntary contributions of the residents. A subscription book should be circulated to all European and Native residents, of known ability to contribute, and the monthly income estimated therefrom, should not be exceeded.

11. Another legitimate source of income might, I conceive, be made available, by Government servants and others, who are not entitled to gratuitous attendance, and receive medicines for themselves and families from the Dispensaries, being required to contribute a small monthly payment in proportion to their means, for the support of these Institutions. At present all these persons in the Mofussal, are provided with Government medicines from the Dispensaries, there being no other available source of supply. It is however only proper that those who enjoy such benefits, should in return contribute to support the sick poor of the station.

A scale might be fixed as follows. Officials with incomes exceeding

500 Rupees.....	3	Rupees per mensem.
300 and less than 500.....	2	,, ,,
100 and less than 300.....	1	,, ,,
50 and less than 100.....	8	Annas ,,
20 and less than 50.....	4	,, ,,
All others gratis.		

A list of persons entitled to receive medicines in virtue of their subscriptions, should be kept, and the income from this source shown in the Annual Report.

12. Past experience affords proof that the Native community are not unwilling to contribute to the building of new Hospitals, where the want of such Institutions has been felt. In some instances I believe they are prepared to support them when built. The inhabitants of Pullachy subscribe more than 500 Rupees a year towards the support of the Dispensary built by themselves. This feeling of independence in the matter of local charities, should be encouraged as much as possible, and with this view I would recommend, that public intimation should be given, that donations in money, or landed property, would be received to provide a permanent income for these charities, and the names of all liberal donors, should be published in the Official Gazette, and conspicuously exhibited, in the reception room of the building, as is done in all public Hospitals at Home.

13. The success of the introduction of these measures (which I believe to be worthy the serious consideration of Government) would naturally depend upon the degree of interest taken therein, by the European officials of the District, and the Medical Officers in charge. With their earnest co-operation, I do not imagine that failure could often occur. The total number of in-patients might perhaps be diminished, in the first year. I have before explained, that many of these are attracted to the Hospitals by the diet alone, and therefore the diminution of the number would be rather beneficial than injurious to the interests of the charities.

Vaccine Department.
General Hospital and Civil Dispensary attached.
Lying-in-Hospital.
Lunatic Asylum.
Leper Hospital.
Her Majesty's Jail.
Her Majesty's Penitentiary.
Eye Infirmary.

14. The Institutions named in the margin, will, however, have to be provided for by Government in the Civil Department. I would recommend that advertisement be inserted in the Gazette, calling for tenders, for supplying diet, &c., and the Contractor or Contractors, should engage to provide all articles required (according to a scale to be published) of approved quality, at a given rate. Contracts to be renewed every six or twelve months, as Government may determine.

15. Hospital stoppages according to the scale laid down in page 23, Medical Code, should be strictly enforced, for all Government servants not coming under the Rules, paragraph 11, and their families, and the amount thus realised carried to the credit of Government.

Chintadrepettah Dispensary.
Vepery Dispensary.
Triplicane Dispensary.

16. The three Dispensaries in Madras named in the margin, should I conceive be brought under the same rule, as the Provincial Dispensaries. The large and wealthy community of this town, does not contribute so far as I am aware to any of the medical charities, with the exception of the Monegar Choultry, and that only to a very limited extent, and there is no reason why it should not support its own sick poor, independent of Government assistance.

17. The Mofussal Jail Hospitals can be supplied locally with perishable articles, the Medical Officers submitting contingent bills every month, for the amount expended. Sick prisoners are dieted usually by the Jailer, and not through the Commissariat Department.

ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1860, No. 1,263.

The Government agree with the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, that it is very desirable that the various Civil Dispensaries should be supported by local contributions. Every endeavour should be made by the Chief European Authorities at all such stations to develope Native benevolence, and to give it so excellent an object. Such means as that adverted to in paragraph 12 of Dr. Pearse's letter, or that of notifying that donations in land or money for the maintenance of Civil Hospitals or Dispensaries would be announced in the Fort Saint George and in the District Gazettes, should be resorted to, and the examples of such places as Mangalore and Tellicherry where dieting of the in-patients in the Dispensaries is defrayed wholly from local subscriptions should also be held up prominently to imitation.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council, however, fears that it would be too much to expect that these examples would for the present be generally followed. He apprehends that the time has not yet arrived when the Government could wholly withdraw from the charge of maintaining the Pauper inmates in Civil Dispensaries. Every endeavour should however be made to limit this expenditure as much as possible, and to confine it to cases where it is clearly indispensable. Such abuses as those adverted to by Dr. Pearse should be stringently put down. He will instruct the Medical Officers in charge of Dispensaries that the Government look to them for the careful performance of their duty in this respect. The fault is clearly theirs if unfit objects be allowed to burden the Dispensaries, and live in idleness at the cost of Government. It would also be easy for them, by consulting the respectable Natives of the place, to ascertain which of the patients who really did require treatment within the Dispensary had the means of feeding themselves, and who were absolutely destitute and had no person to whom they could look for support.

3. The Inspector General says, paragraph 5, that the saving to Government by the general adoption of his plan would amount in round numbers to from Rupees 80,000 to Rupees 1,00,000 per annum. It is, however, observed that the total expense of victualling Paupers in all the Dispensaries for the year 1858, was only Rupees 35,973. The statement nevertheless presents some differences not easy to account for. Thus the cost of dieting 153 in-patients in the Coonoor Dispensary was Rupees 1,634, while at Ootacamund 575 patients were fed for a smaller sum Rupees 1,352. In Chingleput 246 in-patients were dieted for Rupees 519, while Rupees 567 was spent in feeding 133 at Chittoor. These variations should receive the attention of the Inspector General.

Report on Civil Dispensaries for 1858, *page* 21.

4. The Government are not prepared to require from public servants contributions towards the support of Dispensaries in the mode proposed by Dr. Pearse in paragraph 11.

5. With respect to the mode in which the Civil Dispensaries in the Provinces are for the future to be furnished with supplies, it seems to Government that, arrangements for this purpose may very well be made by the Medical Officers in charge of the several Institutions by means of

local contracts put up to public competition. The contracts, which may include the perishable articles for Jail Hospitals alluded to by Dr. Pearse in the concluding paragraph of his letter, should be submitted by the Officer in charge, to the Principal Inspector General; and on being sanctioned by him, should be published in the Fort Saint George Gazette and the local Gazettes. The Bills for supplies will be countersigned by the local Medical Officer and sent to the Civil Auditor, who will pass them if the charges are within the contract rates, and they will then be paid by the Collector of the District.

6. As regards the Institutions named in the margin of Dr. Pearse's letter, the Government approve his recommendation that advertisement be inserted in the Gazette calling for tenders, for supplying diet, &c., and the Contractor or Contractors should engage to provide all articles required (according to a scale to be published) of approved quality, at a given rate. The Principal Inspector General will publish in the Fort Saint George Gazette such an advertisement on account of the various Institutions which he has specified, (except the Penitentiary and Grand Jail) and on account of the Presidency Dispensaries, and will submit the contract to Government for approval. The Bills for such supplies should likewise be passed by the Civil Auditor under the signature of the Medical Officer in charge of the Institution, and paid by the Sub-Treasurer. The contracts for the Institutions either at Madras or in the Provinces should commence from the 1st January next and be for one year.

7. Cases in which Contractors may require advances or prepayment will be separately dealt with, on their being reported to Government.

8. The Penitentiary and Grand Jail have no connection with the Medical Department. The charge of provisions for the inmates of these Prisons will from the beginning of next year fall upon the Commissioner of Police and Sheriff respectively, who will invite contracts, and report to the Government the arrangement which they would propose.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.
" Commissioner of Police.
" Sheriff of Madras.
" Inspector General of Jails.
" Commissary General.
" Civil Auditor.
" Revenue Department.
" Military Department.
" Collector of

Exd. F. Cartledge.

To spare Copies

Revenue 1860 Departt
Pro: of Govt for September

No 1837

Proceedings of the Madras
Govt in the Public Deptt

Dated 25th
Recd 31st } Augt 1860

Respecting the mode
in which the Civil Dis-
-pensaries in the Provinces
are for the future to be
furnished with Supplies

From the Public Deptt Dy
19th March 60 C No 713
in pro: 22d June No 679

No 1514-1 " Sept 4th
With an Order

No 1514

Ordered to be com-
-municated to the Board of
Revenue for information.

C Gunsett

For Sec to Govt
4th Sept 1860.

6 Copies
To the Board of Revenue with
pro: Pub: Dept No 1263

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No 54 & 55