M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 280 5 Press ~~Mis.~~

388-389

Dated 15- 10- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 280 5 Press ~~Mis.~~

388.389

Dated 15- 10- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 388. Read the following letter from the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 28th September 1866, No. 356:—

1. Referring to your Memorandum No. 308, Judicial Department, dated 22nd instant, I have the honor to state, for the information of Government, that all Collectors and Sub-Collectors and several Head Assistants have Native Medical subordinates placed under their orders to afford aid to themselves and their Cutcherry Establishments. These subordinates draw, on annual indent from the Medical Stores, such medicines as are needed, including remedies for cholera. The medicines, however, are intended chiefly for the Cutcherry Establishments, and are not issued in quantity sufficient for gratuitous distribution to the inhabitants of the Districts.

2. Besides these sources of supply, cholera medicines are made up in the Provincial Civil Dispensaries, Station Hospitals, or Police Hospitals, for distribution on the requisition of the Revenue or Police authorities.

For detached parties of the Public Works Department, prepared medicines are issued from the Presidency Stores, on requisition.

3. I believe I am right also in stating that in some Districts the Revenue authorities expend local funds in the purchase of common and useful medicines, such as Jalap, Opium, Ipecacuanha, Quinine, &c., which medicines are usually placed under the charge of the Civil Surgeon, and prepared under his orders, so as to enable the District Officers to distribute them as "fever," "cholera," or "dysentery" medicine, as the case may be. Only a few days ago a bill was received in this Office from the District of Malabar, for approval, from which it would appear that upwards of Rupees 100 had been spent in the purchase of the ingredients for cholera mixture and pills.

4. On the 18th of last month, I issued a Circular to all Deputy Inspectors General of Hospitals, giving the formula for the preparation of what are commonly known as "Paterson's Cholera Pills." These were introduced in 1849 by the late Dr. Paterson, and, I believe, if given in the early or premonitory stages of cholera, or choleraic diarrhœa, are as efficacious as any other remedy. I speak from a tolerably extended experience of their use. These pills, for the purposes of public distribution, have the great merit of being cheap, and of preserving their remedial virtues for a long time, in either dry or moist climates.

5. The form of a pill is, I consider, the best adapted for distribution, when medicine has to be administered by the ignorant, with plain directions given in the vernacular.

6. I have as much confidence in pills prepared according to Dr. Paterson's formula, as in Chlorodyne, or any other medicine usually given in the early stage of cholera, but I do not profess to have any faith in them, when the disease is far advanced, and none but medical men would presume to dictate what the treatment should be in such cases. I merely propose that the remedy should be given to, and by those who have not the advantage of medical attendance.

7. With regard to the general issue of Chlorodyne, there is this very great objection, that it can only be entrusted to the hands of persons of some intelligence. It contains some rather powerful poisons, which, if given in certain forms of cholera,

would certainly do more harm than good. Some of the essential ingredients are so volatile, that care is required in keeping the bottles properly corked. Though these precautions may be attended to by persons who buy and pay a high price for the article, I do not think that the Natives of India generally are enlightened enough to be entrusted with the gratuitous distribution of so powerful a remedy, and one, an over dose of which might speedily cause death.

8. I may state generally that Medical indents on the Home Government are always based upon the actual expenditure for Military and Civil Hospitals, and that any general issue to the population at large of expensive drugs, such as Chlorodyne, will not only be a costly proceeding, but will necessitate special demands being made on the Home Government for this particular purpose. I notice the subject here, as I observe that two Revenue officials have reported upon the successful use of this remedy, when intelligently administered.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 389. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1866, No. 2,805.

Miscellaneous

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to paragraph 5 of the Order of Government dated 10th October 1866, No. 2,737, on Mr. Ellis' Report of his tour in the North Arcot and Salem Districts.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Reported to England
D 26th October No 48 of 1866.
Mis:
A. 388 & 389

R. D.
No. 2805.
5

Con & Ch. Sec
of Rev. in Ch
Reference Chairs.
of the order of Govt
of 10th October 1866 No 2737
on Mr Ellis' Report
of his tour
in the N. Arcot
& Salem Dts

S D
10th Oct 1866
Issued a circular
same to the
five Collectors

Rev:
Public Dept
Pro: of Govt for October
Mem
No. 3464.

The Principal Inspr Genl
Medl Establishment
Fort St George

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt
Judicial Dept

Dated 28th September
Rec'd 1st Oct 1866.
5

No 1247

No. 356.

Reporting the arrangements in force for the supply of Cholera Medicines to the Civil Authorities for distribution.

Transferred to the Rev Dept
No 2805 - 15 Oct
S D