M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1800	Press ~~Mis.~~	
617-626. Dated	26-6-	1868.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th June 1868.

Read the following:—

No. 617. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th January 1868, No. 681.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 14th January 1868, No. 182.

1. With reference to a Standing Order of the Board of Revenue authorizing Revenue Officers to *purchase* medicines, to a certain extent, for distribution to the people when unusual sickness or epidemic disease prevails, I have the honor, by desire of the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to invite the attention of your Board to the following subject:—

2. It has come to the knowledge of the Inspector General that several Collectors have lately indented on the Public Stores for medicines for distribution to the people, some offering to pay for medicines, it is presumed under the above order, and others indenting for them without payment. I am instructed to point out that, if stores are required for the public service, no payment is needed, as, under existing regulations, inter-departmental payments have ceased. On the other hand, if medicines are constantly required from Government Depôts for distribution to the people, a much larger requisition must be submitted to the Home Government than usual.

3. In some stations, Collectors expend the small grant allowed them for the purpose, in the purchase of medicines from the local market, through the Civil or Zillah Surgeon, adjusting the amount by a contingent bill. Were this plan more generally adopted—a plan quite in harmony with the Board's Circular—it will not be necessary for the Medical Department to frame larger indents on the Home Government, and I am desired to solicit an expression of your Board's opinion on the matter.

4. Should the Revenue Board approve of this proposal, the Inspector General will feel obliged if Collectors and other Revenue Officers be instructed accordingly.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be communicated to all Collectors.

2. It is certainly the intention of the order, to which the Inspector General refers, that the course alluded to in paragraph 3 of the Inspector General's letter should be followed.

3. Only such medicines as are not readily procurable in the local market should be indented for on the Medical Department.

No. 618. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th May 1868, No. 3,308.

Read the following papers:—

From the Officiating Secretary to the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 27th March 1868, No. 1,148.

1. With reference to the Revenue Board's Circular, authorizing Collectors to purchase medicines in the local market, for distribution to the people, I have the honor, by desire of the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to submit, for the consideration of your Board, the accompanying indent for medicines from the Deputy Collector of Bellary on the Medical Stores of that station.

2. It is probable that there is no Chemist and Druggist's shop at Bellary; but if Collectors are not to purchase medicines from other than the "local" market, the Board's Circular will practically be inoperative, as there are but few stations at which Chemists and Druggists have as yet established themselves, and Medical Depôts will have to meet requisitions, for which no provision has been made by the Home Government.

3. But, with the present and increasing facilities for communication, there can be no difficulty in Collectors obtaining from other markets, such as Madras, Bangalore, Ootacamund, &c., the small supplies of medicines required by them, for distribution, at a trifling additional expense for carriage—a measure quite in harmony with the spirit of the Board's Circular. and which will obviate the necessity of increasing the medical indent on the Home Government. Should your Board concur in the Inspector General's views, I am requested to solicit the favor of a Circular being issued for the guidance of all Revenue Officers.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Indent.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Examiner of Medical Accounts, dated 2nd May 1868, No. 1,598.

REFERENCE.—Your docket, No. 152, of 29th April 1868. Enclosures herewith returned.

SUBJECT.—The indent for 5,000 fever pills, by the Deputy Collector, of Bellary, has been referred to the Board of Revenue, with suggestion that the Deputy Collector and other Revenue Officers in similar circumstances, should have the power to *purchase* from local or other markets, instead of indenting on Government Medical Stores.

2. The Board will be again moved for an expression of their opinion.

No. 1,600.

To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, with a request that the Board may be moved for an expression of opinion, in reference to this office letter, No. 1,148, of 27th March 1868.

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1. The Board are of opinion that there are practical difficulties in the adoption of the suggestion of the Principal Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, and they, therefore, request that he will direct the Presidency Medical Store-keeper either to purchase the drugs required by Collectors for distribution to the people during the prevalence of epidemic disease, or to issue the medicines indented for from the Government depôts, and replace them by purchase in the local markets.

2. They trust that, if further reference be required on the general question, it may not be allowed to delay the supply now indented for, which, with reference to the season, is probably urgently required.

No. 619. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th June 1868, No. 4,417.

Read again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 681, dated 29th January, and No. 3,308, dated 5th May 1868.

Read also the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 15th May 1868, No. 1,748.

1. I have the honor, by desire of the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to acknowledge the receipt of your Board's Proceedings of the 5th instant, and in reply to offer the following remarks:—

2. Either of the two courses suggested by your Board would place the Principal Medical Store-keeper in the position of agent to Revenue Officers, purchasing supplies and making payments to merchants on their behalf. Medical Store-keepers have at present no pecuniary transactions whatever, and it is not considered desirable that their position in this respect should be altered.

3. There is a special objection to the Principal Medical Store-keeper making purchases of English drugs in the local market here, namely, that his doing so would almost certainly create the belief that the Stores were in urgent want of the articles required, and thus tend to raise the prices.

4. To the second of the two plans proposed there is the additional objection, that it would involve the mixing together of the supplies received from the Home Government and those obtained locally; and thus, in the event of any complaints from Medical Officers regarding the quality of drugs issued from the Store depôt, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to trace the parties responsible.

5. Under all the circumstances above stated, the Inspector General would again recommend, for the adoption of your Board, the plan of Collectors sending their orders direct to Druggists; and if these orders were examined and countersigned by Zillah Surgeons, in the spirit of this Office Circular, No. 503, of 5th February 1868, (copy enclosed,) it does not appear that any practical difficulty could be experienced.

6. Should this course still be objected to, the only alternative seems to be, that Collectors should obtain medicines from the Government depôts; in which case it would be necessary that your Board should obtain the sanction of Government to the "Established proportion" of the articles likely to be required being somewhat increased, so that this Department may be permitted to indent on the Home Government for such extra quantities as would be needed to meet the extra demands.

7. The Indent referred to in the last paragraph of your Board's Proceedings has been passed as requested.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Requests Medical Officers to co-operate with Collectors in purchasing medicines from local markets, for distribution to the people when unusual sickness prevails.

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1. Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. It will be observed that the Board are at issue with the Inspector General, Medical Department, as to whether drugs, required by Revenue Officers for distribution in cases of severe epidemic and not procurable in the Mofussil, are to be supplied from the Medical Stores; purchased by the Medical Store-keeper in Madras on behalf of Revenue Officers; or 3rd, purchased by the latter direct from Druggists in markets such as Madras, Bangalore, and Ootacamund, the bills being countersigned by Zillah Surgeons.

3. The Board admit that there are valid objections urged by the Inspector General against the second course.

4. The last course is suggested by the Inspector General in his letter of 27th March, and again urged in that of 15th May.

5. The Board are of opinion that neither the essentials of quality nor economy would be secured by this method, while delays and disappointments might frequently result.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th June 1868.

6. They would strongly urge the first specified course, which is an alternative suggested by the Inspector General in paragraph 6 of his letter of the 15th May, and they request the sanction of Government to an increase to the "Established proportion" of articles to be indented for by the Medical Department.

7. The Board would gladly see established a system of the sale at cost price in every Dispensary and Talook Cutcherry of fever, cholera, and dysentery remedies, in such a form as to be at once ready for administration by any unprofessional person.

No. 620. ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1868, No. 1,800.

Miscellaneous.

The Government sanction the necessary increase in the "Established proportion" of articles to be obtained by Indent from the Home Government to meet the requirements of the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.
,, the Accountant General.

Encl. F. R. Bandleman.

Rev. 1868 Department.
Pro. of Govt for June

No. 2181.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 15th June 1868.
No. 4,417.

Submitting for orders letter from Inspector General Indian Medical Department on the subject of supply of Medicine required by Revenue Officers for distribution in cases of severe Epidemic, and urging the adoption of the alternative course suggested by the Inspector General of obtaining the sanction of Government to the "Established proportion" of the articles likely to be required being somewhat increased, so as to permit of such extra quantities as would be needed to meet extra demands, being indented for from the Home Government.

No. 1800. 26 June 68
With order