M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2585 Press ~~Mis~~

82-83

Dated 4th September 1889

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th September 1869.

No. 82. Read the following letter from the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort Saint George, 13th August 1869, No. 307 :—

With advertence to the Order of Government marginally noted, I have the honour to report that I have been in communication with Mr. Broughton on the subject of it, and have ascertained that he is quite willing to undertake the work of investigating the indigenous medicinal plants of this country, so far as may be consistent with the performance of his regular duties.

Revenue Dept., No. 2,007, of 12th July 1869.

2. I would suggest that his inquiries should commence with the indigenous drugs which have been made 'Officinal' in the new "Pharmacopœia of India;" a list of which is given at page 15 of the preface to that work; and specially with such of them as appear most likely to prove efficient substitutes for medicines now procured from England.

3. For example, it would be very desirable to ascertain the amount of alkaloid contained in the "Aconitum Ferox," which is abundant here, as compared with the "Aconitum Napellus;" in view to the preparation of 'Tincture of Aconite,' from the former plant, in the Presidency Store Depôt. An examination of the "Pharbilis Nil," and of the "Tylophora Asthmatica," would be particularly useful, with a view to the substitution of their active principles for Jalap, (or its resin "Jalapine,") and Ipecacuan (or its active principle "Emetine" respectively. "Daturine," if it could be prepared at a moderate cost from the indigenous "Datura Alba," might take the place of the expensive "Atropia;" and valuable antiperiodics might probably be found in the "Aconitum Heterophyllum," (or 'Atis,') and in the "Berberis Asiatica."

4. Mr. Broughton suggests that the fact of an educed chemical substance being really the active principle of the plant yielding, it should be ascertained by experiment, or, in other words, that the chemical result should be checked by medical trial. This is, of course, an essential part of the proposed researches, and in this respect every assistance required will be afforded by this office.

5. Mr. Broughton further desires that some convenient arrangement should be made to secure authentic and different specimens for the Chemist engaged in the investigation, in order that important variations in quality, arising from natural causes, may not be overlooked.

6. I would suggest, as the most effectual way of ensuring this object, that Mr. Broughton be requested to place himself in communication with the Professor of Botany, Dr. Bidie, who has expressed his willingness to aid in any way he can an investigation in which he feels greatly interested, and who should be authorized to make any requisite purchases.

No. 83. Order thereon, 14th September 1869, No. 2,503.

Miscellaneous.

The Government are of opinion that Mr. Broughton, in extending his investigations to the indigenous plants of India, will enter upon a most interesting and important sphere of research which,

to this head, has not received the attention it merits; and they are confident that his acquaintance with organic chemistry, and his zeal for the advancement of science, well qualify him for the task.

2. Dr. Bidie will, doubtless, be able to afford Mr. Broughton much useful information on Botany, and the Inspector-General, in his letter now before Government, has sketched the points to which inquiry might be directed at the commencement. The Government will be prepared to sanction such purchases as Dr. Bidie may think necessary, in order to furnish Mr. Broughton with specimens of indigenous medicinal plants.

3. The Government will at all times receive with satisfaction, Mr. Broughton's reports on any discovery which he may effect. The results of his investigation may properly be embodied in his annual report.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department,
J. Broughton, Esq.

Ed. P. C. Sulivan.

Revenue Depart

No. 2505

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 4th Sept 1869

Read the following letter from the Inspector General Indian Medical Dep

Reporting that Broughton is willing to [illegible] take the work of investigating the indigenous medicinal plants of this country with suggestions [illegible]

The Government [illegible]

Govt. of 11869 Madras.

REVENUE.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL,
INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated September 1869.

Recd.

G. O. 4th September 1869, No. 2505.

Nos. 82-83.

Indigenous medicinal plants.—Passing orders on the subject of Mr. Broughton undertaking their investigation.

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Dr. J. Bidie will
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may effect
the results of his
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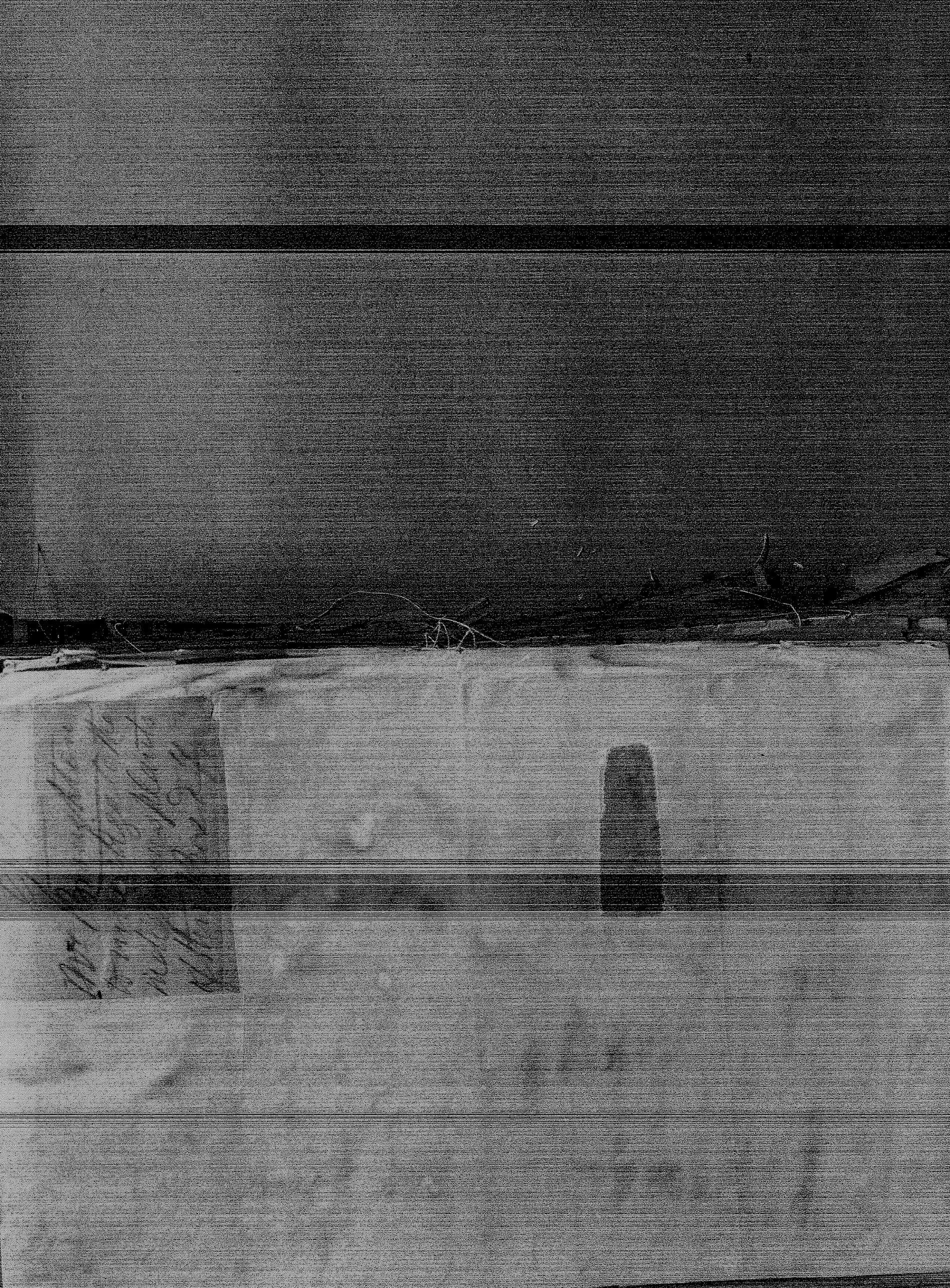
in his annual
Report. N.

2 Tutor Inspector Genl Indian Medl Dept Bengal
1 — J. Broughton Esqr

[illegible]

to sanction such pur-
-chases as Dr. J. Bidie
may think necessary in
order to furnish Mr.
J. Broughton with (authen-
-tic & different) speci-
-mens of indigenous me-
-dicinal plants.

3. The Govt. will at
all times receive with sa-
-tisfaction Mr. J. Broughton's
reports on any discovery
which he (has effected)
(& his operations on this
head might be noticed
generally in his Annual
report.)

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