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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

14th September 1877, No. 2,736.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper :—

No. 269. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd September 1877.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1877, No. 319.

At this period of intensified distress the extent of sickness to be relieved causes great anxiety. Additional medical aid has been asked for, but the reply to all applications or advertisements is that none is to be had.

2. In the Pulladam Taluq I have established two relief-camp hospitals : one has upwards of forty in-patients ; each is [illegible] southern sections, with a distance between them of seventeen miles. Another intermediate hospital at Tirupur is in course of construction.

3. I have only one medical man for both.

4. I cannot even procure a compounder.

5. I propose to enlist the services of some of the native medical practitioners who have a considerable knowledge of medicine (I know of a case where a vythian recovered the child of a late officer of a most dangerous disease, erysipelas, on the head), and who treat successfully those maladies which are now so rife—diarrhœa and dysentery. It is not to be expected that their services to the poor can be procured except upon payment.

6. With the services of such, as Hospital Assistants, two advantages would be obtained, the native practitioners would gain some knowledge of our medical treatment in the administration of European medicine, and they would enable the Government Medical Officer to visit all his hospitals and out-villages. I have just seen one at Tirupur, who is agreeable to give his services.

7. One thing is plain. We cannot cope with disease which is now carrying off so large a percentage of our population.

8. A central hospital or dispensary can afford but inadequate relief in an area of 500 to 800 square miles of country.

9. I have lately visited the two camp hospitals established in the Pulladam Taluq and was struck by the great good they were effecting, as indeed is the case in all of our hospitals ; but when the sick come or are brought in numbers to our camps, unless they are treated they must die. Many do die as they are brought when past care. I have seen children who have been recovered from death. I would, therefore, in view to the benefits that may be secured, urge that I may be permitted to enlist the services of the vythians or native doctors who would be content with a small salary, say, from Rs. 7 to 15 a-month. If approved, I would engage four in this taluq.

10. Since writing the above, which occurred to me after a visit to Pulladam, I have seen Mr. Cook, who tells me he has already introduced the system of employing the vythians in Pollachy and Oodoomalpettah, where there are camp hospitals containing 80 (exclusive of cholera patients) and 120, respectively. He pays Rs. 15-a-month each to two vythians; one is a hakheem or Mussulman doctor, the other is Hindu.

Submitted for the sanction of Government.

2. The employment of native medical practitioners has already been resorted to in Madura, and the Board think that, in the present dearth of subordinates of the Medical Department, the proposed plan is worth a trial. The Collector will be authorized by telegram to entertain native doctors in anticipation of sanction.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON.
Acting Secretary.

No. 270. Order thereon, 14th September 1877, No. 2,736.

Miscellaneous.

Approved as a temporary measure.

2. Further medical aid has been promised from other parts of India, and the needs of Coimbatore will be borne in mind in distributing it. The paper will be communicated to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to that end.

(True Extract.)

Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

9726

asked for. but the reply
to all applications was
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could be had.

2. In the Palladium July
I have established a relief
Camp Hospital, one hun-
dred yards of the encampment,
with a centrally situated
cook house for the Soldiers
Sections, with a detail
of Soldiers there of to do
the cooking for the
Hospital at Tampa is an
Quarter of a Mile from

3. I have only one Medi-
cal man for both.

4. I cannot procure a

Compounder.

5. I propose to enlist the
services of some of the native
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and Professional offices where
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Containing 50 (exclusive of
Cholera patients) and 120
respectively. Her pay Rs 60
per month each to the Dykian
one is a Mahomedan
doctor, the other is Hindoo.

Combatore Colln office 21st August 55 } I have &c
Sd/ A Wedderburn
Collector.

Submitted for the
sanction of Government
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True Copy Postscript

Sd/ C Lt
Sy. Secretary

To. The Addl Secretary to Govt &c

Rec'd 1877 Dept.
Ft No 7406

Rec'd
Surgeon Genl Off.
Accounting Genl
Genl Dept.