

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 975

DATED 9th March 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Coming to the Board of Rev. Progs of the Public Dept
directing that the rules for the preservation and
transmission of human and other viscera
to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, be
commanded through the Surgeon General to all
Medical Officers concerned for information
and guidance.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1899) Dept.

Government {1899} of Madras.
PUBLIC.

Current No 1513

Recd. } 2nd March } 1899.
Regd.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 218, 21st February 1899.

FEBRUARY.

G.O. No. 1497579th March '99.
Communicated to the
Board of Revenue.

11/3/98

Chemico-Legal Examinations.

Directing, with remarks, that the rules for the preservation and transmission of human and other viscera to the Chemical Examiner for analysis embodied in G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 30th May 1883, as modified, where necessary by G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 20th August 1898, be communicated through the Surgeon-General to all Medical officers concerned for information and guidance.

4/3/99

11-399

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 20th August 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Chemical Examiner, through the Surgeon-General, resolution of the Government of India issuing revised rules for the preservation and transmission of human and other viscera to Chemical Examiners for analysis, and requesting all District Magistrates to submit proposals, in communication with the District Medical and Sanitary Officers, regarding the officers to be appointed to act under rule 7 in stations where there is no Civil Surgeon.

READ—also the following papers:—

From the Acting District Magistrate of Chingleput, dated 16th Sept. 1898, Dis. No. 461.

Collector and District Magistrate of Bellary, dated 17th September 1898, M. Dis. No. 60-R.

From the District Magistrate of Trichinopoly, dated 20th September 1898, Dis. No. 310-M.

Acting District Magistrate of Ganjám, dated 21st September 1898, Dis. No. 593 R-Mag.

From the District Magistrate of Kurnool, dated 20th September 1898, Dis. No. 702-Mag.

Acting District Magistrate of South Arcot, dated 23rd September 1898, Dis. No. 737-Mag.

From the District Magistrate of Nellore, dated 25th Sept. 1898, No. 1146-Mag.

Acting District Magistrate of Tanjore, dated 1st October 1898, Dis. No. 819-Mag.

of South Canara, dated 24th September 1898, Dis. No. 883-Mag.

From the Acting District Magistrate of North Arcot, dated 4th October 1898, Dis. No. 1025-Mag.

From the District Magistrate of Anantapur, dated 4th October 1898, Dis. No. 197.

of Nilgiris, dated 8th October 1898, Ref. on Cur. No. 326.

Acting District Magistrate of Madura, dated 11th Oct. 1898, Dis. No. 35 R-Mag.

District Magistrate of Godáviri, dated 3rd October 1898, Dis. No. 688-Mag.

of Vizagapatam, dated 16th October 1898, No. 1738.

of Salem, dated 21st October 1898, No. 892-M.

of Kistna, dated 19th October 1898, Dis. No. 961-Mag.

of Cuddapah, dated 4th November 1898, Dis. No. 720-Mag.

of Tinnevely, dated 7th November 1898, Ref. on Cur.

No. 1261-Mag.

From the Acting Magistrate of Malabar, dated 21st November 1898, No. 59 R-Mag.

of Coimbatore, dated 6th December 1898, Dis. No. 915-Mag.

ORDER—No. 218, Public, dated 21st February 1899.

In paragraph 2 of the Government Order above read again, District Magistrates were requested to submit proposals, in communication with District Medical and Sanitary Officers, regarding the officers to be appointed, at stations where there is no Civil Surgeon, to despatch to the Chemical Examiner, through the post, parcels containing human or other viscera intended for analysis in connection with criminal proceedings.

2. From the replies received it appears that some of the officers consulted are under a misapprehension as to the nature of the reference made to them. No change is proposed in the arrangements at present in force in regard to the examination by Medical officers of corpses sent to them by Police officers or heads of villages under the provisions of section 174, Criminal Procedure Code. Under G.O., No. 2, Judicial, dated 1st January 1883, Commissioned Medical officers and Medical subordinates down to the grade of hospital assistants are authorised to make such examinations. A Medical officer after his examination is completed must, however, before taking any further step, report the result of his investigation to a Magistrate or superior Police officer, and it is only in cases in which that officer decides that any suspected substance should be forwarded to the Chemical Examiner, that the rules regarding packing proposed by the Government of India, which were printed in G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 20th August 1898, will come into force. Rule 7 of these rules states that at all stations where there is a Civil Surgeon the parcels should invariably be sent to the Post office by that officer, and not by a subordinate officer, but that where there is no Civil Surgeon, they may be sent by an officer appointed by the Local Government for that purpose. The opinion of the officers consulted show that there is no reason to disturb the rule which has already been promulgated in this Presidency, and appears as clause (7) of rule 11 of the rules in G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 18th May 1883. Under this rule at stations where there is no Civil Surgeon, substances may be packed and forwarded direct to the Chemical Examiner by the subordinate officer in charge of the hospital or dispensary.

3. The rules embodied in G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 30th May 1883, as modified, where necessary, by those in G.O., No. 1062, Public, dated 20th August 1898, will be printed as an appendix to these Proceedings and communicated through the Surgeon-General to all Medical officers concerned for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

Adhichapp

for Chief Secretary.

To the Chemical Examiner.

Surgeon-General.

Judicial Department.

Revenue Department.

Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

[Appendix.]

APPENDIX.

CHEMICO-LEGAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following instructions are divided into two sections, viz. :—

SECTION 1.—Containing rules for the guidance of Magisterial and Police Officers.

SECTION 2.—Containing rules for the guidance of Medical Officers. Neither section is complete by itself, the two sections being complementary to one another.

SECTION 1.

The following instructions are issued for the guidance of Magistrates, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police, with regard to the transmission of substances to the Chemical Examiner for examination, in cases of suspected poisoning, or other cases in which the aid of the Chemical Examiner may be required.

2. In future, substances will not be forwarded by Medical Officers to the Chemical Examiner except upon receipt of an order to that effect from a Magistrate, Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police. It will therefore be necessary that orders for the transmission of substances to the Chemical Examiner for analysis should be issued with promptitude. And an order should invariably be granted, if the Medical Officer consider it advisable to obtain the opinion of the Chemical Examiner; whilst on the other hand Magistrates, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police should issue an order for examination, if they consider it desirable to consult the Chemical Examiner, although the opinion of the Medical Officer be adverse to such a proceeding.

3. Magistrates Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police, on instructing Medical Officers to forward articles for analyses to the Chemical Examiner to Government, should, at the same time, address the latter officer, quoting the number and date of their order to the Medical Officer, and should furnish the Chemical Examiner with a brief summary of the history of the case.

4. The principal points on which Magistrates, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police, in cases of suspected poisoning, should furnish information to the Chemical Examiner are as follows :—

- (a) What interval was there between the last eating or drinking and the first appearance of symptoms of poisoning?
- (b) What interval was there between the last eating or drinking and death (if this occurred)?
- (c) What were the first symptoms?
- (d) Were any of the following symptoms present? If so, state which :—
 - (a) Vomiting and purging.
 - (b) Deep sleep.
 - (c) Tingling of the skin and throat.
 - (d) Convulsions or twitchings of the muscles.
 - (e) Delirium and clutching at imaginary objects.
- (e) Were any other symptoms noticed?
- (f) Did any other persons partake of the suspected food or drink, and did they also suffer from similar or other symptoms of poisoning?

5. Any other information available, likely to prove serviceable as a guide to the class of poison administered, should at the same time be furnished.

6. Certificates of chemical analysis are not to be accepted from Medical Officers, as these officers are not in a position to conduct analyses as they should be carried out for judicial purposes. But any Medical Officer who may be provided with a suitable microscope should be able to recognise recent blood stains and to conduct examinations of suspected seminal stains.

7. In every case of suspected human or cattle poisoning, it is desirable that all the substances requiring analysis should be packed and forwarded to the Chemical Examiner by the nearest Medical Officer. If special circumstances should render it desirable to forward any articles directly to the Chemical Examiner, the instructions given in section 2, paragraphs 4—12, must be carefully attended to.

8. SUSPECTED BLOOD STAINS.—Articles requiring examination for the presence of blood stains may, if desirable (*vide* paragraph 6), be forwarded direct to the Chemical Examiner, the following rules being strictly attended to :—

- (1) When clothes are sent up, any stains considered to be suspicious should be indicated by means of pencil marks or pins. Stains on walls, floors, the ground, or articles of furniture, &c., are not to be scraped off. But the stained area is to be carefully cut out; and when the material is brittle, as in the case of earth or chunam, it should be carefully wrapped in cotton wool and packed in a box, so that the surface may be preserved from injury.

- (2) All articles requiring examination should be carefully labelled, and each label should bear the signature of the forwarding officer and the number and date of the letter of advice addressed to the Chemical Examiner. All parcels should be carefully sealed by the despatching officer and packed in such a manner that they cannot be opened without destroying the seal. The seal used should be the same throughout, and a private seal, or an official seal which is kept in safe custody. A letter of advice should be separately forwarded to the Chemical Examiner. This letter should contain—

- (a) An impression of the seal used in closing the packets and description thereof.
- (b) A list of the articles forwarded and a statement as to how the articles have been forwarded.
- (c) Information as to whether any of the weapons, clothes, &c., are to be returned after examination.

9. MISCELLANEOUS EXAMINATIONS.—Magistrates, on forwarding coins, documents, salines, liquors, &c., to the Chemical Examiner, should follow the instructions laid down in paragraph 8, clause 2, and in Section 2, paragraph 11, so far as they may be applicable, and should be careful to include in their letter of advice to the Chemical Examiner information as to the nature and object of the examination required, and to furnish any other information likely to assist the Chemical Examiner in making the required examination.

10. ANALYSIS OF WATER—*vide* Section 2, paragraph 15.

SECTION 2.—INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Medical Officers in charge of Hospitals and Dispensaries are required to maintain a supply of unethylated spirit and suitable bottles, &c., in readiness for the transmission of viscera and other matters to the Chemical Examiner when occasion may arise. In cases of suspected poisoning, it is exceedingly important that viscera and other suspected matters liable to rapid decomposition should be placed in spirit as soon as practicable. And every care should be taken lest doubt may be raised in Court as to the identity of articles likely to require examination, or as to the possibility of their having been accidentally contaminated or improperly interfered with.

2. *Post-mortem* examinations are to be made as thoroughly as circumstances will permit whenever desired by Magisterial or Police Officers. Attendance upon midwifery cases or other similar excuses will not exempt Medical Officers from the performance of the too frequently unpleasant, though most important, duty of making a *post-mortem* examination. Advanced decomposition does not prevent the detection of metallic poisons in the body. Hence remains of viscera may be forwarded for examination when the condition of the body is such as to render any attempt at dissection useless.

3. On making a *post-mortem* examination whenever there is any suspicion of poisoning, the stomach should be tied at both ends (a double ligature being applied at the pyloric extremity, so that the contents of the intestines may not escape) and removed from the body in such a manner that its contents may be retained; after removal it should be opened, the contents received into a perfectly clean bottle and the mucous surface of the stomach carefully examined, its appearance noted, and any suspicious particles found adherent thereto should be picked off with a pair of forceps and placed in a separate small phial for transmission. And the mucous membrane of the mouth pharynx and oesophagus should be examined, and any unusual appearance or marks of corrosion thereon carefully noted.

4. In all cases of death from presumed poisoning, the following articles should be forwarded for analysis, each in a separate bottle, unless otherwise indicated. It will, however, be understood that other matters should be forwarded if, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, the special circumstances of any case render such a proceeding advisable :—

- (a) Stomach.
- (b) Contents of the stomach, which may, if it be convenient, be put in the same bottle with the stomach.
- (c) Suspicious particles (if any have been found) removed from the mucous membrane of the stomach.
- (d) A portion of the liver, not less than 16 oz. in weight, or the whole liver if it weigh less than 16 oz., and one kidney.
- (e) The vomited matter if any. The earlier and the later vomits should, when practicable, be sent up in different bottles. And the labels should state at what period the matters were omitted. Special directions are given in paragraph 6 for the disposal of vomited matters mixed with earth, &c.
- (f) A specimen of the spirit used. Four ounces is sufficient.

When it is suspected that a vegetable poison has been used, the following matters should also be forwarded :—

- (g) The contents of the small intestines.
- (h) Any urine which may have been separately collected after the commencement of symptoms, or found in the bladder after death.

5. Strong unmethylated spirit should in all cases be added, as laid down in the rules for the transmission of articles for analysis, detailed in paragraph 11, to the contents of bottles *A, D, G, H*, and also to the contents of bottles *B* and *E*, unless it be suspected that alcoholic poisoning has been the cause of death. No spirit need be added to the contents of bottle *C*. Care should be taken that no vessel containing fluid matters is quite filled.

6. Vomited and purged matters are frequently received by Medical Officers mixed with earth, &c. If the admixture of earth be sufficient to render the evacuated matters dry and inoffensive, they may be packed without spirit in any convenient manner, otherwise they must be packed with spirit. Vomited and purged matters, if they have, as frequently happens, been allowed to fall on the ground, should be carefully scraped up, not taking more earth than is necessary. The superficial scrapings should be packed separately. It is rarely necessary to remove the earth to a depth greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, even in cases of suspected metallic poisoning, unless the soil be of a very loose character. Except when a metallic poison is suspected, it is very rarely necessary to forward purged matters.

7. If articles of food, medicine, &c., suspected to have been the vehicle by which poison has been admitted, require examination, they should each be packed up separately and spirit invariably added, as in the case of viscera, to such as are liable to decomposition. Fruits, such as the plantain and custard-apple, if suspected to contain poison, should be carefully inspected, and if it should appear that some foreign substance has been inserted, this should be picked out and sent up for examination. If no suspicious substance can be discovered, the fruit should be forwarded.

8. After having made a *post-mortem* examination in a case of suspected poisoning, and having preserved in spirit all articles liable to rapid decomposition, which are likely to require examination, the Medical Officer should report the result of his examination to the Police, and on receipt of an order from a Magistrate, or from a Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police, but not before, forward the viscera of the deceased and such other articles as may require analysis to the Chemical Examiner to Government for examination. In cases where no death has occurred, but where it is suspected that poison has been administered, the Medical Officer having preserved in spirit all articles liable to rapid decomposition, which are likely to require examination, should similarly report the case to the Police, and on receipt of an order from a Magistrate, Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police, forward the vomited matter or contents of the stomach, removed by the stomach pump, of the affected individual, or other matters requiring analysis, to the Chemical Examiner to Government. Though Magistrates, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police are required to grant an order for analysis, should the Medical Officer consider such an examination necessary, they can, if they consider it advisable, order viscera, &c., to be sent to the Chemical Examiner when, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, such a proceeding may be quite unnecessary.

9. When on receipt of the necessary order a Medical Officer forwards articles to the Chemical Examiner for examination, he should address at the same time a letter to the Chemical Examiner advising him of their despatch. This letter should contain—

- An impression of the seal used in closing the bottles and a description thereof.
- A list of the articles forwarded and a statement as to how the articles have been forwarded.
- The name of the officer from whom the order has been received to forward the articles, and the number and date of such order.
- A detailed account of the *post-mortem* appearances observed.
- If he has seen the case during life, an account of the symptoms observed and a statement of the treatment, if any, adopted.

10. All bottles and packets should be carefully sealed by the Medical Officer, and closed in such a manner that they cannot be opened without destroying the seal. The seal used should be the same throughout, and a private seal, or an official seal, which is always in safe keeping. Each bottle or packet should be labelled and each label should bear the number and date of the letter of advice to the Chemical Examiner relative to the case, as well as a short description of the contents, and should be signed by the Medical Officer.

11. RULES FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF SUBSTANCES FOR ANALYSIS.—Suspected substances may be forwarded by post, carriage bearing, by passenger train, or steamer, or in charge of a constable. The latter method is recommended in all cases in which wealthy or influential parties are implicated. Officers forwarding viscera, &c., by post, by rail, or steamer, or by constable to the Chemical Examiner, will be held personally responsible that the following instructions are carefully followed:—

Transmission by Post.—When viscera, &c., are forwarded through the post the following rules are to be observed:—

- The suspected *viscus* or other material to be sent for examination should be enclosed in a glass bottle or jar fitted with a stopper or sound cork.

(2) If the material sent is liable to decomposition, it should invariably be preserved by one of the following methods:—

(i) In cases of suspected poisoning in man, other than alcoholic poisoning, the materials sent should be immersed in spirits of wine. The spirit should be sufficient in quantity to cover the material immersed in whatever position the vessel containing it may be held, and should not bear a less proportion to the bulk of such material than one-third. Care should be taken that common bazaar spirit is not used.

(ii) In cases of suspected alcoholic poisoning in man, the contents of the stomach and its washings in pure water should be placed in a bottle with a sufficient quantity of clean table salt to saturate the solution and leave a little salt undissolved. The stomach itself, after being washed in pure water, as above, may be preserved in alcohol as in (i). *A sample of the water & of the table salt*

(3) Great care should be taken that the stopper or cork of the bottle fits tightly. This precaution is especially necessary when alcohol is used as a preservative; in such cases a ring of bees'—or candle—wax should be placed round the lip of the bottle so as to cover the shoulder of the stopper. The stopper should be carefully tied down with bladder or leather and sealed.

(4) The glass bottle or jar should then be placed in a strong wooden or tin box, which should be large enough to allow of a layer of raw cotton, at least three-fourths of an inch thick, being put between the vessel and the box.

(5) The box itself should be encased in common *garak* cloth, which should be securely closed and sealed. The seals should be at intervals not exceeding three inches along each line of sewing. All the seals must be of the same kind of wax and must bear distinct impressions of the same device. The device should ordinarily be the office seal of the officer despatching the parcel. The device must in no case be that of a current coin or merely a series of straight, curved or crossed lines.

(6) Despatching officers will be held personally responsible that these instructions are carefully followed. Whenever practicable, such parcels should be packed under the immediate supervision of the Civil Surgeon.

(7) At all stations where there is a Civil Surgeon the parcels should invariably be sent to the Post Office by that officer and not by a subordinate officer; but where there is no Civil Surgeon, they may be packed and forwarded direct to the Chemical Examiner by the subordinate officer in charge of the hospital or dispensary.

(8) A declaration of contents to the officials of the Postal Department is unnecessary and should not be made.

Transmission by Rail or Steamer.—When viscera, &c., are forwarded by rail or steamer, it is unnecessary to encase the box in cloth, but with this exception the rules for forwarding articles through the post must be observed in forwarding articles by passenger train or steamer.

Transmission by Constable.—When viscera, &c., are forwarded in charge of a constable, it will not be necessary to pack the bottles, &c., in a strong box in order to protect them from rough handling during transit. But it is desirable that glass bottles containing viscera, &c., should be wrapped in cloth or paper, so as not to be offensive to other passengers.

In every other respect the same rules should be observed as in the transmission of viscera, &c., by rail.

12. SUSPECTED BLOOD STAINS.—Medical officers are in many instances expected to deal with these cases themselves—*vide* section 1, paragraphs 6 and 8.

13. SUSPECTED SEMINAL STAINS—*vide* section 1, paragraph 6—As the clothes requiring examination in these cases are usually exceedingly dirty, it is advisable when practicable to cut out any suspicious stains, pack them in cotton wool, and forward them only for examination instead of the whole garment. In cutting out stains about half an inch of the surrounding cloth should be removed also. In any case cotton wool should be used and every precaution taken to prevent the stains being damaged in transit. For information regarding packing and despatch of letter of advice, see instructions under head of Blood Stains—*vide* section 1, paragraph 8.

14. CATTLE CASES:—

(1) Some precautions should be taken to ensure that viscera, &c., are not sent for examination in cases where death obviously occurred from causes other than poison. A careful search should be made for any indications of the presence of a sui; when this mode of poisoning is suspected, and if anything resembling a sui be found, it should be forwarded for examination. A chemical examination of the viscera is useless in cases of sui poisoning, as in such cases poison cannot be detected in the viscera.

(2) The entire alimentary canal should be opened and its contents inspected for suspicious-looking substances. If any suspicious-looking substance be detected in the alimentary canal, it should be packed in a separate vessel, and spirit should not be added unless necessary for its preservation.

- (3) About two pounds of the contents of the stomach, with about a pound of the contents of the intestines, should be placed in a clean glass or well-glazed earthen vessel or vessels, and strong unmethylated spirit added in the proportion of not less than one-fourth of the apparent bulk of the material, when the contents are nearly dry, but if much liquid be present spirit should be added in the proportion of one-third of the bulk of the material. Also about a pound of the liver and a similar weight of the stomach should be placed in a separate clean glass or well-glazed earthen vessel, and unmethylated spirit should be added in the proportion of one-third of the bulk of the material. A sample of the spirit used in packing should also be sent. Four ounces are sufficient.
- (4) Dried cattle-dung may be sent without addition of spirit.
- (5) Suspected cattle poisons rarely require the addition of spirit for their preservation, and spirit should not be used unless necessary.
- (6) The instructions given as to the packing and transmission to the Chemical Examiner of substances requiring chemical examination in cases of suspected human poisoning are applicable to these cases and should be carefully attended to, and the same precautions must be adopted as to sealing and labelling the different vessels—*vide* paragraphs 9, 10 and 11.
- (7) When, under instructions received from a Magistrate or Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police, a medical officer forwards articles to the Chemical Examiner for examination, he should at the same time address and forward separately a letter to the Chemical Examiner advising their despatch. This letter should contain—
- (a) an impression of the seal used in closing the vessels, and a description thereof;
 - (b) a list of the articles forwarded and information as to how the articles have been forwarded;
 - (c) the name of the officer from whom the order has been received to forward the articles and the number and date of such order;
 - (d) information as to the number and kind of animals affected and number of deaths;
 - (e) any information obtainable as to *post-mortem* appearances, nature and duration of symptoms and which may be likely to indicate the probable nature of the poison.

15. ANALYSIS OF WATER—Before forwarding a sample of water to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, it is necessary to write to the Chemical Examiner and ascertain when it will be convenient to receive the sample or samples which may require to be examined, it being desirable that samples should be examined shortly after they are received at the laboratory.

(2) The duty of collecting the samples should always be undertaken by a responsible person. The employment of peons or servants for this purpose is strictly prohibited. The bottles used should be thoroughly cleansed, and then well washed out twice with water from the same source it is intended to fill them from just before finally filling them.

(3) Glass-stoppered bottles are best, but if those are not procurable, new corks are to be used with the ordinary quart wine bottle, of light-colored glass. In filling the bottles a little space should be left between the cork and the water.

(4) Not less than one gallon of each sample of water is to be forwarded.

(5) Each bottle to be labelled with the name of the well and date of collection.

(6) On forwarding water for analysis the medical officer should, at the same time, forward separately a letter to the Chemical Examiner. This letter should contain—

- (a) An impression and description of the seal used in closing the bottles.
- (b) Information as to the number of samples sent, and a statement as to how the samples have been forwarded.
- (c) An explanation as to the reason for which the examination is required, and information as to by whom it is desired.
- (d) A statement as to the source from which each sample was collected, and by whom and when each sample was collected.

MADRAS,
11th January 1883.

(Signed) T. K. ROGERS, M.B., F.R.C.S.,
Chemical Examiner to Government.

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