

Instructions issued by the
Government of India on the
cantonment regulations
published 15th October 1897.



INSTRUCTIONS

ISSUED BY THE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ON THE

CANTONMENT REGULATIONS

PUBLISHED 15th OCTOBER 1897.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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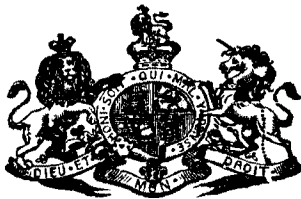
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No. 1.

Letter from Major-General P. J. Maitland, C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Quartermaster General in India (No. 5465—D., "Sanitary—Cantonment Hospitals,"—dated Simla 20th November 1897).

In the Despatch No. 25,* dated 26th March 1897, from the Secretary of State, regarding the prevalence of venereal disease in the British Army in India it is stated that Her Majesty's Government cannot acquiesce in the continuation of the present state of things which has led to a disastrous increase in venereal disease among the British troops in India, and requires the immediate adoption of remedial measures.

2. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Secretary of State, a set of rules has been issued under the Cantonments Act, 1889, superseding the rules issued in G. G. O. No. 460, dated 3rd May 1895, and making full provision for dealing with contagious and infectious diseases, and for the enforcement of public order and decency in cantonments.

3. To give full effect to these Rules, Act V of 1895 has been repealed and Act XV of 1897, and it therefore becomes desirable to state explicitly the policy of the Government of India with respect to the future treatment of venereal disease in cantonments.

4. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that venereal disease should, as far as possible, be dealt with on the same lines as other infectious and contagious diseases. It must be expressly understood that the new Rules do not in any way revive the system which was in force up to 1888. The Rules do not authorise the provision of prostitutes for the troops, or the compulsory examination of prostitutes, or any scheme of registration and licensing for the purpose of prostitution. If a prostitute is suspected of being diseased and of

* See Parliamentary Paper C. 8401, 1897.

... of danger to other persons, and if she refuses to be examined, she is to be confined to the cantonment. Her refusal to be examined will entail no other penalty, and no prostitute, therefore, is to be examined against her will. If she is found to be diseased, and submits to treatment, any further examination that may be necessary will be determined by the medical requirements of the case, and will depend on considerations similar to those which would apply in the case of any other infectious or contagious disease.

Although there is to be no compulsory examination of women, medical officers may make arrangements to carry out from time to time the examination of women who voluntarily present themselves.

The Governor-General in Council desires to impress on those concerned that the success of the measures now adopted will depend very much on the manner in which the new rules are put in force.

Rule 9 empowers the medical officer in charge of a Cantonment Hospital, if he has *prima facie* grounds for believing that any person living in the cantonment is suffering from an infectious or contagious disorder, to require, by notice in writing, that such person shall attend at the hospital or dispensary at a time to be specified in the notice and not to quit it without his permission; and until he is satisfied, by examination if necessary, that such person is no longer suffering, or is no longer suffering, from such disorder.

Rule 10 empowers the Commanding Officer of a cantonment, if the medical officer in charge of a hospital or dispensary reports in writing that any person who has received a notice as provided for in rule 9 has refused or omitted to attend at the hospital or dispensary, or that such person having attended at the hospital or dispensary, has quitted it without his permission, to direct by order in writing, if he thinks it expedient, such person to remove from the cantonment within a specified time and prohibit such person from remaining longer in, or re-entering, the cantonment without his written permission.

It should be carefully borne in mind by those concerned that the powers conferred by these rules are *permissive*, and that if a medical officer should have *prima facie* grounds for believing that any person living in the cantonment is suffering from an infectious or contagious disorder, he should, in order to prevent, as far as possible, the infliction of hardships on the more respectable inhabitants of the cantonment, personally satisfy himself regarding the condition and general circumstances of the sick person, in order to ascertain whether the case does not admit of the exercise of the discretion conferred on him by the rules to give such other directions in the matter, apart from attendance at, or confinement in, the hospital or dispensary, as may seem to him most expedient for the purpose of preventing the spread of the disorder. The powers conferred by the rules are to be exercised with discretion. It is not the intention of the Government that they should be exercised in the cases of respectable persons, who can be attended for private medical attendance, and who are willing to take any necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the disease. It is the danger of the spread of the disease to others that justifies the interference of the medical officer.

His Excellency in Council trusts that the measures which will now come into force may alike tend to remove temptation from young soldiers, and to diminish the prevalence of this terrible disease. These measures will also alleviate the sufferings of the women who have contracted venereal disorders, by providing them with medical care and treatment which would not be denied to them in the case of any other infectious or contagious disease.

In conclusion I am to ask that, under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the necessary steps may be taken for making known the orders of the Government of India on this question to all military officers and soldiers.

Circular Memo. from Major-General A. R. Badcock, C.B., C.S.I., Quartermaster General in India, to the Lieutenant-Generals Commanding the Forces. (No. 1, dated Simla, the 3rd January 1898).

The Quartermaster-General is directed by the Commander-in-Chief to forward * No. 5465 D., dated 20th November 1897. copies of the Military Department letter marginally noted, explaining the future policy of the Government of India for dealing with infectious and contagious disorders, and for the enforcement of public order and decency in cantonment of India (in supersession of the Rules published in G. G. O. No. 460, dated 3rd May 1895) are also forwarded. It will be observed that Act XV of 1897, besides repealing the Cantonments Act Amendment Act (V of 1897 also amends section 31 of the Cantonments Act (XIII of 1889) in such a way as to extend to officers generally the protection hitherto afforded by that section to Cantonment Authorities, Cantonment Magistrates, and Commanding Officers.

2. Copies of (i) this circular, of (ii) Act XV of 1897† and of (iii) the new Rules, are to be furnished to every corps, both British and Native, as well as to every Cantonment Authority in the Punjab Bengal Madras Bombay Command.

3. The Commander-in-Chief directs that the new rules be strictly complied with by all concerned, both in the spirit and in the letter. Further, that copies of the rules, both in English and in the vernacular of the district, be posted up in such public place or places as the Cantonment Magistrate may think best for giving publicity thereto. Local Governments and Administrations have been requested to furnish Cantonment Magistrates with vernacular copies of the rules.

4. This Office Circular No. 12, dated 29th May 1895, is hereby cancelled and His Excellency requests that General Officers Commanding Districts may be instructed to withdraw from circulation all copies of that circular, together with its enclosures. The same course should be followed as regards the vernacular copies of the Act and Rules of 1895, furnished by Local Governments and Administrations.

5. Reports to the effect that the above instructions have been carried out should be submitted by General Officers Commanding Districts for transmission collectively to this office.

6. The Commander-in-Chief further directs that the special attention of all concerned be drawn to the definition, in Rule 1, clause (b) of the new Rules, of the expression "regimental bazar"; also to Rule 12 prohibiting the residence of any public prostitute within the limits of any regimental bazar. Officers allowing this Rule to be infringed will be held personally responsible.

7. Special care should also be exercised by Commanding Officers of British Corps in the selection of the non-commissioned officers and men they recommend to be specially authorised by the Commanding Officer of the Cantonment for the purposes of the Rule 13. A form of authorisation is attached and should be used in all cases.

January and 1st July (for submission to Government) to the effect (1) that the new Rules have been carried out by all concerned both in the spirit and the letter, and (2) that copies thereof and of this circular have been furnished to all corps and detachments on arrival from beyond the limits of their respective commands. They are also requested to at once check and bring to notice any failure to give the fullest effect to these orders.

Form of authorisation for British Military Police referred to in Rule 13 of the Rules published in Military Department Notification No. 1148, dated 15th October 1897.

No. (Rank)* of the
corps)†, being
member of the British Military police force in the
Cantonment, is hereby authorised by me under Rule 13 of the Rules published in Military Department Notification No. 1148, dated 15th October 1897.

The Rule in question has been carefully explained to him, and I have ascertained by all means available to me that he is a person whose character and intelligence warrant the belief that he will carry out the duty entrusted to him with all due care, honesty, and forbearance. He has been warned to avoid interference in all doubtful cases.

Commanding the
Cantonment.

Station

Dated 189 .

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