

KENYA

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REC. OCT 20 1965

NUMBER 964

TITLE

1920

Author

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INFANT WELFARE

INDIAN AND NATIVE CHILDREN

The further memo. by R.M.O. and status as to action being taken in Colony.

*See Journal
in H.R. 15*

*9 Oct 1965
has been done
Glad*

H.R. 15

10 Oct 20

at 10:00

H. J. 12

15/3/20

[Signature]

17 Oct 1965

Previous Paper

6 September, 1920

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My Lord,

In deference to the request expressed by Your Lordship in the second paragraph of your despatch No. 1304 of the 28th November last, I have the honour to transmit a further memorandum by the Principal Medical Officer regarding the efforts made to promote infant welfare amongst the Indian and Native Communities in this Colony.

1. It will be observed that the Indian residents in Nairobi have decided to take the matter out of the hands of the medical authorities and consider that the approaching establishment of a private hospital will provide them with the facilities for undertaking necessary improvements in the sphere of infant welfare.

2. I have not considered it requisite in this connexion to forward the report by Canon Rogers, which accompanied Dr. Chevallier's memorandum, as in the main it deals with the general medical work effected in the Native Reserves under the auspices of the Church Missionary

RIGHT HONOURABLE

V SCOUNT NIENER, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

Memorandum by
Principal Medical
Officer
207

Missionary Society. A perusal of its contents shows that every opportunity is taken to give instruction both at the schools and classes here in the elementary rules of health and hygiene, as well as to tender advice to ignorant mothers. There is a Lady Missionary at Rabai in the Nyika Reserve with midwifery qualifications, who has proved of considerable assistance to the native women of that area. It is reported from the same district that a large proportion of infants and young children die solely because the people persist in treating them in accordance with their own pre-conceived theories and bring them too late to the skilled attendance available.

4. Arrangements have been made for the institution in the Kikuyu country of a native medical centre and training school by the Mission, who have been presented with a sum of Rs.50,000/- for the purpose by the Committee of the East Africa War Relief (African Fund). Negotiations for a similar establishment in Kavirondo are proceeding with the authorities of the Church Missionary Society and it is proposed to offer them the donation of £4,000/- allocated to this Colony by the British Red Cross Society, if they will undertake the necessary organization and superintendence. Both institutions would be subject to inspection by the Government's qualified advisers. The Principal Medical Officer is being consulted as to the feasibility of including infant welfare studies in the curriculum at such centres

centres on the lines of those given by the Church Missionary Society at Kampala in the Uganda Protectorate.

5. I am hopeful in any case that the provision of medical units in the Native Reserves, which is included in the current year's Estimates, will foster enhanced confidence amongst the natives for European medical and sanitary experience, and will tend to encourage more scientific care in the handling and upbringing of the coming generations of the natives in East Africa.

I have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's
humble, obedient servant,

Edward A. Miller

GOVERNOR.

Sir,

INDIAN SAVING LEAGUE OF BRITISH KENYA.

Ref. your memo No. S.13946/27 of 22nd January 1930.

On October 3rd 1919 the Secretary of State was informed (His Excellency's despatch No. 479) that the Indian Association and Mission Societies were being consulted on the question of Infant Welfare.

In April 1920 a further meeting was held to consider what steps could be taken to promote the welfare of Indian children in Nairobi when the Principal Medical Officer was in the chair. The Agenda was as follows:-

- (a) To obtain information concerning the doctors, nurses and midwives at present available for Indian women and children.
- (b) To ascertain whether any system exists in the Indian Association of collecting statistics of births and deaths of Indian children, and whether the former cannot be made notifiable by law.
- (c) To ascertain what arrangements exist for the supply of milk.
- (d) To ascertain whether the Indian Association will be willing to finance the provision of two European nurses in respect of salaries and passages over a period of engagement of three years, such nurses to devote their attention under Government supervision to infant welfare exclusively in the Indian Community.
- (e) Whether it is desired that such nurses shall have been trained on the Lister system or for general maternity work, and whether a knowledge of Hindustani is necessary.

At this meeting it was agreed that a nurse should be engaged by the Principal Medical Officer on behalf of the Indian Association.

The Committee of the Indian Association have, however, subsequent to this meeting, come to the conclusion that, as arrangements have been taken in hand for the provision of a private Indian Hospital and the engagement of Indian nurses,

it is (considered) unnecessary to obtain the services of an English trained nurse.

The various Missions in the more populated districts of the Colony have not become fully alive to the importance of the subject.

The Dutch Mission in Likiep, Northern Enyu, Nukunon and Syeri districts are doing a great work in this connexion, their doctors paying special attention to venereal disease which is unfortunately prevalent throughout these tribes.

Other Missions who hitherto have been without medical men, are now making every effort to put in their.

I also have the honour to enclose a copy of a report by Canon E. St. A. Rogers, Church Missionary Society.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. H. Chandler
PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER,
NORFOLK ISLANDS.

The Hon'ble,
The Chief Secretary,
NORFOLK ISLANDS.

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I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. H. Chauvin
MEDICAL OFFICER,
Kenya Colony.

The Hon'ble,
The Chief Secretary,
Nairobi.

50537/20 Kenya

DRAFT

1504

19 October 1962

MINUTE

Sir,

- Mr. Arnold, 100d
- Mr. Ballertice, 18d
- Mr. ...
- Mr. Grindley
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Ross
- Sir G. Pridel
- Col. ...
- David Milner

I have the honour to
 acknowledge the receipt of your despatch
 of the 6th 1962
 regarding the
 position of ...
 amongst the
 Indian & native communities
 in Kenya. I have
 learned with interest

For ...