

EAST AFR. PROT.

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3646

PART -  
SKEENE,  
S. C. R.

Date  
1912

January

PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Protects against Government Medical Officers being allowed the right of private practice and of the attitude of officials to private practitioners and settlers generally

Printing Paper

2/597/10

Dr. Haam 3/2  
W. Fiddian

this question has already been raised & dealt with - see minutes - pag. 13338 of Log. E.A. & various papers.

I see no reason for departing from the attitude hitherto adopted (last Govt M.O's) to take private practice. I don't think that the same work that performed by Govt M.O's could be as satisfactorily performed by local doctors. As an experiment we have allowed the Gov. to retain 2 District Surgeons in 1912-13 @ £150 p.a. each - but as Dr. Haam has already pointed out you will not get the local practitioners to deal with questions of

local settlements

Subsequent Paper

13644

of practitioners which are at present of the utmost  
importance in the  
I make no mention of the statement  
about the "business" - extremely  
under-stands though it is probable  
that I am under a certain amount  
of self-restraint or caution in dealing  
with you like the writer of this letter

The proper action would be  
to send a copy of this letter to the  
Governor for report - Full name to  
Capt. Ashurst such names that  
there has been some misconception  
of Capt. H. J. that comes from  
persons in the S. P. must  
be transmitted through the Governor  
(see Gov. 212, 215)

Mr. Fiddlen

Agree with Mr. Parkinson's proposal. The time is certainly  
not ripe for stopping part of the compensation paid Govt. M.D.s who  
are in touch with it. It would probably be an unpopular  
measure with the settlers (judges), in many cases, a hardship  
on them. Competition between Govt. M.D.s & Private Practitioners  
should be limited to one or two large towns in S.A. where the official  
Practitioner & the former are sufficiently numerous to occupy most of their  
time. When there is any real demand for Private Practitioners  
doubtless the settlers will very easily settle the matter  
themselves & arrange for a suitable supply. 25th 12/2.

Mr. Butler

Mr. Read I doubt it, but I cannot lay claim to any  
acquaintance with the S.A. settlers. I know that any

private practitioners whom the S.A. settlers bring in will  
not be required to have a tropical medicine  
diploma or certificate. 133

It would certainly be an extreme step,  
because one firm of medical practitioners has set  
up at Nairobi & Mombasa to deprive Govt. M.D.s of  
their practice. The settlers would then be in the  
hands of the one firm, whose charges would  
certainly not be lessened by the fact that  
they were not salaried Govt. Officers, whilst  
Govt. on the other hand, would have no control  
over their proceedings.

Profess.

AF 14/2

W. Read.

27th Feb.

Feb. 14

at once.  
H. J. R.  
14/II

2  
Nairobi. B.E.A.

January 7th. 1912.

3843

15-12

To the

Right Honourable Secretary of State for the Colonies.

134

Sir,

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to kindly give consideration to my case which is the same as all private practitioners in this Protectorate.

After ten years of military service, two of which were spent in South Africa during the war, I came to this country in the capacity of junior partner and assistant to Drs. Heard and Macdonald. We the medical practitioners however find it absolutely impossible to practise on account of the Government allowing their medical officers to take private cases.

This country now contains a sufficient population to support medical men but the action of the Government makes it impossible for them to live by their profession.

My predecessor ( Dr. Heard ), having the audacity to start private practise in a British Colony, was by the influence of the late P.M.O. ( Lieut. Col. Wills R.A.M.C. ) professionally and socially boycotted, and on the opening of the European Hospital his name was omitted from the list of invitations. After struggling on for five years Dr. Heard has now retired from his profession and is trying to live by farming.

I have personally found, as most settlers have, the officials here over bearing and extremely rude, especially acting Provincial Commissioner Humphry, who came to my dispensary at the Government School during my absence and took two bottles of medicine, which were in my charge. I laid the case before the Acting P.M.O. but got no satisfaction, the only explanation being that this official was acting on behalf of His Excellency the Governor. I would point out that the Government are paying an average of £500 to £600 a year to their Medical officers, beside leave home, allowances and pension, the same work could be carried

out by local doctors for annual incomes of £200 to £350, and quite as satisfactorily.

I beg also to say that we, the private doctors here consider it a very great grievance that we are the only class of professional men who cannot live by our calling owing to the subsidised opposition of the Government. For 30 Rupees we have the privilege of being put on the list with coloured quacks. We find it impossible to get a nurse for our patients, and when we send serious cases into hospital we are not allowed to visit our patients there.

I have waited patiently for two and a half years, I have never been anything but polite to officials, I therefore would ask whether the Government wish to prevent private doctors settling in this colony, and further is the neglect and discourtesy shown by officials to the private branch of our profession encouraged by His Majesty's Government at home ?.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

*Lt. Col. Robert Gibbon*

Late Captain, Royal Army Medical Corps.

O.D.  
16 FEB  
1940

H. / 3626 Est

~~528~~

DRAFT. Est No 76

Gen. Sir P. Ginnard

19 Feb 40.

at 15/2  
Baker 5/3

Ans'd 15644

Sir,

I enclose herewith to transmit to you, for <sup>your information</sup> ~~reference~~ a copy of a letter ~~which has been~~ addressed to me by Lt C.R. Hobart Ticklebome in the subject of private practice by Gen. in dis. in the Est.

Mr Capt W. Hobart Ticklebome - 7 Jan  
3626

I should request that you will inf. Lt Hobart Ticklebome that the letter has been referred to <sup>me</sup> ~~back to you for report~~ <sup>upon it</sup> ~~you in the way~~ and that you will explain to

him