

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.

E.O.
8136

MAR 09

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Medical Officer
Private Practice

Individual

No. 13

1909

12 Feb

Previous Paper

45920

Asserts that Govt. Medical Officers in Mombasa & Nairobi do compete against private medical practitioners. Suggests that an inquiry be made.

W. Reed

The statements in this letter which I have marked do not tally with the account given by ^{Col.} Mr. Wills in 45920/08.

Copy to Col. & ask him for a report upon the extent to which Govt. medical officers in Nairobi & Mombasa do in effect compete with private practitioners including a statement of the number of private practitioners in each town and the extent of their practice & the receipts of the Govt. medical officers in those towns from private practice. I request him to inform W. Wills that his letter has

then referred back for a report by the Capt
to explain to him in the case of
Col. Regts No 212 & 213 the necessity for
the transmission of communications from
persons in the Pte through the Capt

has

March 12

W. H. H. H.

To proceed

S. R.

13/III

W. H. H. H. 13
at once

S. R.

Mombasa, 18th February 1909.

The Right Honourable
Colonel Seely P. C. M. P.

C. O.
8136
REC'D
MAR 09

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a despatch "copy enclosed" dated 3rd February 1909 at His Excellency the Governor's Office Nairobi in answer to my communication to you of 16th November 1908.

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In replying serially to above mentioned despatch I much regret I am unable to accept His Excellency the Governor's statement "that after due inquiry it would appear that there are no grounds for my complaint that Government Medical Officers have entered into active competition with private practitioners". I beg to reiterate that my statement is substantially correct, and maintain that Government Medical Officers have been, and are, at present, in active competition with private practitioners in Mombasa and Nairobi.

It is also stated in the despatch under reply, "The amount of private practice taken by Government Medical Officers is inconsiderable and a large proportion is done gratis, in cases where a patient cannot afford fees". I am in a position to know, that the amount of fees drawn by Government Medical Officers in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi are very considerable; and not only so, but attempts have been made to under cut private practitioners fees. I am aware that numerous people have been unable to pay fees, such a state of things is common all the world over, as I can speak very feelingly from personal experience on that subject, as no doubt the Administration can also. I refer to the large deficit in fees for Medical attendance and board of patients at the Nairobi Hospital.

I regret that in my communication of 16th November 1908 I have apparently failed to convey to your notice, that I only referred to competition in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi: it is however specifically referred to in the first and penultimate para of my letter. I agree entirely with His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, "that it would be considered a

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" great hardships on European settlers living in out lying
" districts if they were debarred from what is in the majority
" of cases, their only Medical assistance". It is most encourag-
ing and reassuring to know that His Lordship the Principal
Secretary of State for the Colonies takes this kindly view of
the position. If however reference is made to my letter of 12th
November 1908, it will be noticed that I only referred to Mombasa
and Nairobi, and made no reference whatsoever to outlying dis-
tricts. I should be the very last man to suggest that any per-
son in outlying districts should be debarred from what is in the
majority of cases their only medical assistance; such an idea
would be inhuman and repulsive to any ordinary Britisher.

I have no doubt whatsoever, that the Administration has
given standing instructions to their Medical Officers regarding
medical assistance to Europeans in cases of urgent necessity in
outlying districts, and where private medical assistance is not
immediately available.

It is however quite a different matter in the towns of
Mombasa, and Nairobi, where there are numerous private practi-
tioners; where as I have already stated in my former letter they
are endeavouring to make a living, but find it well nigh impos-
sible owing to salaried and pensionable Government Medical
Officers entering into keen competition with them.

I would beg to suggest to you, that the whole matter re-
quires looking into, as a very vital principle is involved; and
that you may be pleased to recognise, that I am simply asking
that a very serious form of subsidised professional competition
may be put a stop to in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi.

In my opinion, allowing Government Medical Officers to
compete in the towns of Mombasa and Nairobi against private
Medical practitioners is quite unfair, and is contrary to the
fundamental principles of our Government and constitutes a grie-
vous injustice upon the legitimate interest of the medical pro-
fession.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

Walter H. B. Edwards

When communicating on this
subject please refer to
H. P. No. 252
1909

Copy

31

Governor's Office,

Nairobi.

2nd February 1909.

C. O.
8136

Sir,

With reference to your letter of November 16th addressed to Colonel Hooley, I am directed to inform you that after due enquiry it would appear that there are no grounds for your complaint that Government Medical Officers have entered into active competition with private practitioners.

2. The amount of private practice taken by Government Medical Officers is inconsiderable and a large proportion is done gratis in cases where a patient cannot afford fees.

3. In the circumstances His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies is of opinion that it would be considered a great hardship on private practitioners, living in outlying districts, if they were debarred from what is in the majority of cases, their only medical assistance and I am to inform you that His Lordship regrets that he cannot see his way to meeting your wishes in the matter.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

Spd. V. J. Morison,
Secretary.

Dr. W. H. E. MacDonald,
Mombasa.

M
8136/04
CAP
Sgt

DRAFT

CAP. Conf
Gov
Saddler

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24th Feb 05

MINUTE 12/3 adp

Mr. Noall 19/Hk

Mr. Butler 19

Mr. Just

Mr. Antrobus

Mr. Coa

Sir C. Lucas

Sir F. Hepwood

Cpl. Sedy

The Earl of Greve

Sir

With referce to my Conf
degr. of the 30th Dec 1904

I have the honour to transmit
to you the accompanying copy
of a further ltr from Dr W. B.
Macdonald, & to ^{request} ask you
to furnish me with a report
as to how far
~~upon the subject to which~~
Your Medical Officers in Nairobi
& Mombasa do in effect

Done Dr Macdonald 12th
1905

for the transmission of
communications from
persons in the Provinces
to the Govt.

confers with private
practitioners.

Your report should
include a statement of
the number of private
practitioners in each town,
& of the extent of their
practice, & of the receipts
from private practice of
the Govt. Medical Officers in
those towns.

I have to request
that you will inform Mr
Macdonald that his L^r
has been referred back to
you for a report, & that you
will explain to him, in
the case of Col. Reyn
Nos 212 & 213, the necessity