

appearing the Congress action in the p's action
matter - lead and copy ^{to be prepared in 5-10-11} ^{to be submitted in 5-10-11} ^{to be submitted in 5-10-11}

to F.O. refer to 2813: then I don't
see what action they can take in
the matter. ^{judicially} Mr. Hutton
made the impression that Morison
was still under F.O. (an impression
which seems also to have prevailed in
the S.A. Dept of the Office - see 845/058
which did have come to us)

W. Andrews
So proceed?
H & R
28/5

Yes, except that there is
no occasion to write to D.O.
The diff. to Lord Selborne shall
be raised through the South
to command etc.

Plt. June 4
at once.

177.16
18 MAY 06

204

Commissioner's Office
Nairobi

April 24th 1906

Africa Protectorate

Confidential
(n° 18)

My Lord

I have the honour to

enclose herewith in obedience
to the instructions contained
in your Lordship's despatch
n° 39 of January 26th two
memoranda by the Principal

March
Certificate
19th
to E. Macdonald

Medical

H. M. Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies
Downing Street
London

medical officer regarding the circumstances attending the death of Miss Ethel Heath, a passenger by the German East Africa Company's steamer "Reichstag", and the illness of Mrs Heath at Mombasa.

2. The first of these memoranda is a resume of reports furnished by my orders by Dr Macdonald and Dr Walker, the second an explanation submitted by Dr Macdonald of the wrong date of the death entered in the Registration Book and of the fees charged by him for consultation while Mrs Heath was in hospital.

3. I entirely concur with the views expressed by the Principal medical Officer. It is suggested from

from the records of Dr. Macomber's
visits that he was not indifferent
to the talents of his patient,
but ~~was~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~own~~ ~~mind~~ ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~regarding~~
the registration ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~name~~
inaccessible. He has only ~~been~~
found open to ~~consultation~~ ~~for~~
large consultation fees while
ent was ~~an~~ ~~inmate~~
of the ~~hospital~~
in ~~Worcester~~
the
letter
feels he has ~~let~~ ~~5~~ ~~0~~ ~~0~~
refused ~~to~~ ~~am~~ ~~farther~~
open that in view of the
attending ~~to~~
death ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~son~~

Dr. Macomber the ~~secretary~~
of the ~~hospital~~ ~~at~~ ~~Worcester~~

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furnished by the Doctor of the vessel which amounted to a certificate of suicide. Dr Macdonald ought to have insisted on an inquest being held at the time the death was reported to him.

4. I much regret the whole occurrence which appears to me to reflect on the medical profession in East Africa. The medical officers of this Protectorate are, as a rule, indefatigable in their attendance on outside patients, and, with one or two exceptions, do not charge fees, though entitled to do so.

5. I have caused to be communicated to Dr Macdonald, through the Principal Medical Officer, the sense of my grave displeasure at the incidents

above referred to, which would not have arisen had Dr Macdonald acted with the ordinary care required by an officer in his position.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect

My Lord
your Lordship's most obedient

humble servant

Thy servant

17716 209

REC
18 MAR 1906

Minute Paper.

With reference to the circumstances attending the death of Miss Ethel Heath and the subsequent illness of Mrs Heath.

1

Dr MacDonald states that on the afternoon of September 9th he boarded the S.S. "Reichstar" in Mombasa harbour, and was at once informed by the Captain that Miss Ethel Heath was very ill, in fact dying. He walked along the deck to where she was, and found the ship's doctor and a Moonee steward in attendance on her, and that, practically as he arrived, she expired.

The Captain and doctor being questioned, both stated that the deceased lady had taken an overdose of morphine, had, in fact, committed suicide, and the latter gave Dr MacDonald a doctor's certificate written in German to this effect. This certificate was taken to the German vice Consulate, where a translation of it was obtained in the presence of the Assistant Deputy Inspector of Police - Mr Foran, and himself (copy attached).

Dr MacDonald further states that he at once reported the death to Mr Foran A.D.S.P. and before leaving the ship, asked to see Mrs Heath and found her so ill, that he had some difficulty in understanding her. He, however, broke the news of her mother's death, and promised to get a woman to assist her on her voyage. At about 6.30 that evening, on receipt of a message from the Assistant Treasurer, Mr Power, he visited Mrs Heath who had landed and was at the Hotel Cecil. Next morning (8.10th) owing to the attendant (who had been provided by Mr Power) being unsatisfactory, one of the Government Nursing Sisters was sent for to replace her. The patient's condition being critical, Dr MacDonald called Dr Wiggins in consultation.

and on the diagnosis, viz, that she was suffering from
jaundice, with great cardiac weakness.

Dr. MacDonald attended her
He was called by the nurse
she was to be admitted
to the hospital

the history

still on
on the
treatment
European hospital

her condition is to
she was brought to
Dr MacDonald and that
her condition showed on admission

she was brought to
the hospital
her condition

her condition showed on admission
jaundice were observed
of fatty degeneration. She was
with difficulty. With
her veins were narrow
in the urine. Outside

a very helpful
of
and she was
her mental

the most marked condition.
On this date Dr MacDo
to a rise in temperature and a dangerous systo
-tel attack.

heart again gave out and her condition was as
Dr MacDonald was again called in.

By this time she had so far recovered that Dr MacDo
Donald was summoned to attend her
continuing voyage
She was 41

her
Africa.
recent from hospital on

To receive the ~~same~~ ~~same~~.

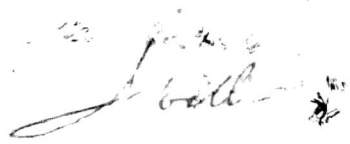
It shall appear that in connection with the circumstances
surrounding the death of Miss Heath, Dr Macdonald acted at the
with propriety, he accepted the statement of the ship's
in and doctor, and at once reported the matter to Mr Peran
S.P.

As regards his "absolute indifference", his record of visits
the summoning of outside advice, his effort to procure an
dent, and his statement to Mrs Heath on board the "Reich-
that if a woman were not recoverable, he would himself go
and do what he could for her while in harbour, prove his
ty and care for his patient.

The error in dates in the first account rendered, shows a
ty in regard to money matters which is regrettable.

The error in registering the proper date of the
at the Registry Office, Bombay, is a more serious matter,
is inexcusable.

As regards the question of fees, it appears from F.O. des-
No. 152 of Jul, 1st 1898, that Government Medical Officers
not entitled to charge fees from private persons treated in
private hospitals. Dr Macdonald should therefore have omit-
ted fees charged for consultation while Mrs Heath was in
hospital, from his bill.



Principal Medical Officer.

INCLOSURE #2

212

C. O.
17716

REC'D
18 MAR 08

(COPY)

Mombasa,

9th September, 1908.

There died just now on board of the S.S. "Reich-
"Vize Ethel Weath who was together with her
er a first class passenger. My diagnosis was
hinisms and, that this was right, was stated to
tab Weath herself the day before yesterday. I
ect her under care and inspection.

This morning I was called at half past five.
Weath is sure to have tried a suicide this night.
I have no doubt that she tried to commit the suicide
using morphium. Her alimentation during the last
days was, iñihui. She lived on champagne, soda-
water, port wine, and morphium. I fed her this morn-
ing with a rebang through the nose, she took some
milk with three eggs and kept it well. Besides I
applied campher solution and faradischen (+) stream
in the necessary way.

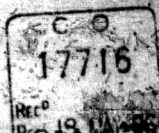
I had hoped to bring her through, but her nutrit-
ion was too bad and the poison she took, was too much.

The ship's doctor

Signed. Dr. med. Zanke

Formerly first physician in the
neural hospital of the Royal University
at Wurzburg.

Memorandum



with reference to charges made by Dr Macdonald for consultation while Mrs Heath was a patient in the European hospital. He states as follows:—

"I had nothing to do with the registration of Miss Heath's death. I handed over the case to the Police, who no doubt would take all steps in the matter. I signed the Registration book when sent to me filled up. Even the cause of death was filled in — Morphineism — and I cannot after this lapse of time recall the date on which it was sent to me for signature, but I know it was a considerable number of days after the death of Miss Heath.

2. I was instructed by the Assistant P. M. O. to send in my bill for the

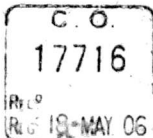
the consultation in Hospital. copy
of original letter herewith enclosed
for information. 214
I am aware of 70 of July 1872
As I have never been called as a
consultant to the European Hospital
Mombasa, I presumed
Assistant P.M.O. in
privately by the friends of
Heath to spare no expense with
regard to her attendance and
I had been called in my private
capacity. However the letter
enclosed will show that
acted in all good faith, as
had I not been asked to send
in my bill for these consultations
I would not have done
I concluded, and not in
that the Assistant P.M.O.
some subsequent letter to L.
152 and was acting on such
as personally I had no desire
whats over to make a
I may mention that I received
a cheque recently from
Heath signed under protest
I declined to give receipt
for it and as far as I know
it

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not be charged by himself for a patient in Hospital and it is difficult to understand why he asked Dr Macdonald to send a bill in. In any case Dr Macdonald being cognizant of the ruling of F.O n° 152, and having had no notification that this had been altered, if he presumed Dr Walker was acting on subsequent instructions should have made enquiry before rendering a bill. I may further add that I have instructed Dr Macdonald to refund the fees in question.

J. Will
P. M. O.

April 19 1906



Dear MacDonald,

217

Heath is going by the next Austrian Lloyd
leaving 19th.

In sending in your account will you include
the 3 consultations you had at the Hospital with me.

Being Medical Officer to the Government Hospital
I can't send in an account as the daily charge of Rs:12/-
includes treatment, and it would simplify matters if you sent
in this claim direct.

Yours etc.,
Sd/- S.R.Walker.

Comm. E.A.P.
17716

[Handwritten signature]

July 14 June 1906

Sir,
I have the honour
to ack. the recd. of your
conf. despatch no: 10
of the 24th of April
on the subject of the
death of Miss Ethel
Heath and the illness
of Miss Heath at
Mombasa in Sept:
last.

2. I have to inf. you
that I approve of
the course which you
have taken in the
matter and that I
assure you that

DRAFT.

La Post Conf.

Com

Lt Col. Satter

MINUTE.

W. Bottomley 3/6

W. Read 6 + 12

[Handwritten flourish]

Mr. Antrobus.

Mr. Cox.

Mr. Lucas.

Mr. Graham.

Sir M. O'Malley.

Mr. Churchill.

The Earl of Elgin.

Copy to 28 June

2 dfts

C. S. M. E. A. P.
177/6

London
14 June 1906

DRAFT.

Genl. Post Conf.
London
Lt. Col. Sastor

MINUTE.

- W. B. St. John 5/6
- Mr. Read 6 + 12
- X Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox
- Mr. Lucas.
- Mr. Graham.
- Sir M. O'Malley.
- Mr. Churchill.
- The Earl of Elgin.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your conf. despatch no: 18 of the 24th of April on the subject of the death of Miss Ethel Heath and the illness of Mrs Heath at Bombora in Sept. last.

I have the wife you that I approve of the course which you have taken in the matter and that!

Copied to 28 June

24/6

India

28 June 06

DRAFT

U.S. & S.
T.O

Am. 24555

MINUTE.

- Mr. Verma ^{25/6}
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Mr. Lucas.
- Mr. Graham.
- Sir M. Ommanney.
- Mr. Chawhill.
- The Earl of Elgin.

25/6

Council Conf. 18. Oct. 24

To Council Conf. June 14

T. Gov. Trans. 347. June 15

to copy to Council Conf. 26 July 21/06

Sir

With ref^r to the T.O. letter of the 20th of Jan. (1826) on the subject of the death of Mrs Ethel Heath on the gun s.s. "Reichstag" at Mombasa. I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to transmit to you, to be laid before Sec. Sir Edward Grey, the accompanying copies of correspondence with the Council of the E.A.P. & the form of the Transvaal

2. Lord Elgin is inclined to the view that the case is not one in which a presentation can usefully

made through the diplomatic channel

I am
R.H.