

X 1931

17231

KENYA

C0533/413

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17231

Summary of Medical Treatment of  
Amoebic Dysentery in Kenya

Previous

3/11/31

4/6

Indigestion 2/6

Diarrhoea 2/6

Stomach pain 2/6

St. Ovary 2/6

Col. Pain 2/6

None A





This of course does not apply to  
Government official. I saw the  
Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry  
of Pensions. I instructed you about  
this matter. I agree with him on the  
point raised.

A copy of the letter should be sent to the  
Governor of Kenya.

A. K. R. S. L.  
29.6.51

as prepared by Mr. S. C. ...

29.6.51

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

J. M. ... (1 answer)

7 JUL 1951

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

Gov. 1476 - (C. 1)

8 JUL 1951

This of course does not apply to  
Government officials. I saw the  
Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry  
of Pensions sometime last year about  
the matter. It goes with him on the  
front band.

A copy of the letter should be sent to the  
Governor of Kenya.

A. K. R. [unclear]  
29.6.31

As prepared by Mr. [unclear]  
[unclear]  
29.6.31  
[unclear]

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~ To Mr. [unclear] (1 answer) 27 JUL 1931

~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~ To Com. 496 - (C.I.) 8 JUL 1931

Telephone No. Victoria 8740.  
Telegraphic Address:  
Warpension, East, London.

Reply should be addressed to  
The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions,  
and the following number quoted:—  
MS/Gen/401/28.



MINISTRY OF PENSIONS  
SANCTUARY BUILDINGS,  
18, GREAT SMITH STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

17 June 1931

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to state for the information of the Secretary of State, that the subject of the provision of treatment of pensioners of his Department who are resident in Kenya Colony has been under consideration.

As you are aware the Ministry's Agent in Kenya is the Deputy Treasurer of that Colony whose duties in this connexion have been laid down in a Memorandum issued by this Ministry for the guidance of Colonial Treasurers. Whilst the evidence available to the Ministry indicates that the Deputy Treasurer is fully aware of, and carries out his (duties), a number of instances have arisen which suggest that the machinery employed by him for the medical boarding and treatment of pensioners is liable to lead to misunderstanding and unnecessary expenditure of public money.

In two recent cases of disabled officers which

The Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office,  
S.W.1. have

7 JUL 1931  
8 JUL 1931  
TOP 70V 4176

AB  
Telephone: Victoria 8740  
Telegraphic Address:  
War pensions, Pall, London

Reply should be addressed to  
The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions,  
and the following number quoted—  
MS/Gen/401/28.



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SANCTUARY BUILDINGS,  
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LONDON, S.W.1.

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Colonial Office,  
S.W.1.

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have been under review, the Deputy Treasurer, in accordance with His Instructions, applied to the Ministry for authority to arrange for the course of treatment recommended locally to be carried out in this country. In the opinion of the Minister's advisers no sufficient medical grounds existed to justify the course suggested and the Deputy Treasurer was so informed. Notwithstanding the Ministry's decision each of the officers, acting they allege, on local medical advice, subsequently travelled to England to obtain treatment and claimed refundment of the expense entailed.

The main ground on which the local medical officers advised the pensioners concerned to proceed to this country appears to have been the unsuitability of the climate of Kenya Colony, an opinion which the Minister's Medical Adviser found somewhat difficult to accept. This question has also been the subject of informal discussion

with

with a medical officer of your Department who was good enough to intimate to the Ministry that, in his view, the climate was not adverse to the proper treatment advocated in these cases and that adequate facilities were available locally.

In this connexion the Minister desired to point out that it is only on the grounds of the non-suitability of the climate or absence of the necessary medical facilities that liability for transportation expenses would be regarded as a justifiable charge against the Vote of this Department.

In any case the climate of Kenya Colony is admittedly suitable for a particular type of treatment. The Ministry would issue their authorisation for the cost of a journey to the nearest place for the purpose with a suitable climate and the required facilities, which in the case of Kenya would appear to be South Africa.

All applications for treatment outside the country of residence have to be submitted to and receive the



the prior authority of the Ministry and under this procedure, it will no doubt be common ground that any officials, lay or medical, whether employed on a full or part time basis, should not find themselves in a position of having expressed to the pensioner or to any other person not officially concerned in the case, opinions which the Minister, acting on the advice of his medical advisers, and having regard to all relevant facts which may, or may not, be available locally, is unable to support.

It is observed that in one of the cases mentioned above, (Lieutenant Birkett) the pensioner's private medical practitioner was selected to act as Chairman of the medical board, and was also the responsible medical officer at the local Hospital, in which the treatment authorised by the Deputy Treasurer was given.

In the second case, that of Lieutenant Harraway, the medical practitioner who was responsible for the treatment

treatment also acted as Chairman of a medical board.

In both cases, the pensioners represent that in deciding to return to England, notwithstanding the Ministry's refusal to sanction the charge for such a course, they were acting on the medical advice given to them by officials acting on behalf of the Ministry. These representations are corroborated by the recommendations contained in the several medical reports submitted by the medical officers concerned.

Mr. Roberts insists that, in view of the fact that the medical profession is well represented in Kenya Colony, the Deputy Treasurer and his Medical Adviser, the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, should be asked to arrange the personnel of medical boards, etc., so as to avoid utilising the services of doctors who may have already had the case under their charge in a private capacity.

Further, where treatment is being provided at the cost of the Ministry, it is most desirable that the Deputy Treasurer should arrange that any

recommendation