

EAST AFR. PROT.

C. O.
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O.G. 252

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS

513

PRIVATE PRACTICE.

912

Mr Hobart-Tichborne has been informed of procedure to be adopted in addressing the S. of S. Reports on his allegations.

April

previous Paper.

646

Mr. Butler.

I entirely agree with Mr. Bowring's remarks on Dr Hobart-Tichborne's letter.

? Acknowledge receipt of this despatch and request the O.A.G. to inform Mr Hobart-Tichborne that Secretary of State has considered his letter of 7th January and that he is not at present prepared to approve of any alteration in the arrangements by which Government Medical Officers in the East Africa Protectorate are allowed to take private practice.

(The answers to the other points in his letter are satisfactorily given by the O.A.G. but I think that all we need do is to reply to the main question.)

A.C.C.P. 7/5

Mr. Read *Sir G. Fiddo*

I agree.

F.C.A.B.

May 7.

H. J. R.
8/11
Stone

subsequent Paper

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 222.

April 12th, 1912.

514

Sir,

*H
m*
In reply to your despatch No. 96 of February 19th I have the honour to report that Mr. Hobart-Tichborne has been informed of the procedure to be adopted in addressing the Secretary of State and the reasons therefor.

2. As regards the subject matter of his complaint you are doubtless aware that the question of private practice in the hands of Government Medical Officers has been the subject of previous representations both from Dr. Macdonald and Dr. Heard, but it was not thought desirable to make any change.

3. The Principal Medical Officer assures me that the success of a private practitioner
establishing

yes
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

establishing himself here depends entirely on his professional qualifications and personal characteristics. If these are such as to gain the confidence of the community, he will prosper, if they are not, he will fail and no action of Government will affect the result except that possibly, if Government Medical Officers were refused the right to practise privately, the public might be forced to avail themselves of the services of a doctor whom they would not otherwise have chosen. In such an event we should receive complaints which might be more difficult than Mr. Tichborne's to meet satisfactorily.

4. Turning to the specific grievances alleged I am unable to comment on the attitude which Colonel Will, the late Principal Medical Officer, is said to have adopted towards Dr. Heard. The latter has not however retired from his profession and has applied for the post of District Surgeon on the Uasin Gishu Plateau.

5. The difficulty in getting nurses does not appear to be a legitimate cause of complaint. The Government naturally has the first call on its own, and, if Mr. Tichborne has any fault to find with those who are working privately it is no concern of ours.

6. - Similarly when patients are admitted into Government Hospitals the ordinary regulations

must of course be carried out and the cases left in the hands of the Medical Officer in charge.

516

7. I asked Mr. Humphery for a report on the action which he is stated to have taken and he informs me that as President of the Board of Education he visited the Nairobi School and was requested by the Matron to enquire into some medicine which she said had made the children ill. Mr. Humphery and Mr. Orr waited till Mr. Tichborne came to the School when the matter was discussed with him and at his own request the two bottles referred to were sent to be analysed. Mr. Humphery absolutely denies that he was overbearing or discourteous on this occasion.

8. On the general demeanour of officials towards settlers it is, I think, unnecessary for me to dwell. I can only say that, as far as I know, there is not the slightest foundation for Mr. Tichborne's remarks. Instances have not been lacking in the past where individuals have attributed to causes of a similar nature a lack of success really due to their personal idiosyncrasies. The annual value, £200 to £250, placed by Mr. Tichborne himself on his medical services is a sufficient indication of his professional

professional standing and it is perhaps scarcely surprising that he has failed to inspire in the general public that degree of confidence which he appears to have anticipated.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your humble, obedient servant,



ACTING GOVERNOR.

C	D
R	H
D	L

July 13 1864

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DRAFT

July no. 269

July

Jan

17 May 1864

col 1015
Butler

Dr.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your draft

No. 252 of the 12th of April & to request you to inform Col C. R. Herbert. I believe that I have considered this letter of the 7th of Jan^r but that I am not at present prepared to approve of any alteration in the arrangements by which Genl. Medical Officers