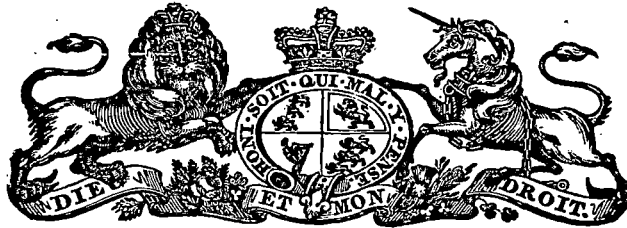


(No. 36.)



1873.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO GENERAL  
HOSPITAL.

CORRESPONDENCE.

*(Return to an Order of the Council dated July 1, 1873.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Scott, July 1; and ordered by the Council to be  
printed, July 4, 1873.



1, Albert Terrace, April 15, 1873.

SIR,

ON the 27th March last my son Herbert made application to the Board of Management of H. M. General Hospital to be admitted as a Student of that Institution; and on the 29th received a reply to the effect "that unless he became the Pupil of one of the Medical Officers this could not be the case," and was referred to Rule 17 of the Regulations as the ground of refusal.

ON the 29th he addressed you upon the subject, not feeling satisfied with the conclusions arrived at by the Board,—as the Rule, under the heading of "Duties of Physicians and Surgeons," appeared to him to be simply an *instruction* to the Medical Officers in the matter of the admission of Students to their *Hospital practice*, and nothing else. He very properly applied to you for a decision, as he was desirous to get his name enrolled without delay.

His letter you forwarded to the Board of Management, with a result which might have been anticipated, viz. "the re-affirmation of the Resolution arrived at upon the previous meeting of the Board," with the addition of another paragraph, "that the admission of any person to the Hospital as a Student without the control of the Medical Officers would be most prejudicial to the working of the department, and would tend to irregularity in the course of study." Such an argument hardly requires serious consideration, for whoever the person or student may be, the *Hospital authorities* must of necessity have a controlling power over him.

As the question appears to me to assume broader proportions than the refusal to admit my son, I have deemed it necessary to take exception to the ruling of the Board, believing as I do that Rule 17 does not prevent the admission of Students to the Hospital,—nor can by any forced interpretation be made to do so,—and that the action of the Board in this particular calls for interference at the hands of the Executive Government.

In the first place I have to ask, is the General Hospital a *Public Institution* under the control of the Government, or has the Government surrendered to the Board all the functions which properly appertain to itself? And is the reception of Pupils on the one hand, and their instruction on the other, to be limited to that of the Medical Officers, and the benefits of a Public Institution monopolised by, and made subservient to, the caprices of those in immediate connection with the Establishment?

It is customary in the Provincial towns in England, as well as in the Metropolis, for the Pupils of Medical men, (Private Practitioners), to attend the various Hospitals and Infirmarys,—for where else could they attain proficiency in anatomy, or the facilities be afforded for its study? and it is absurd to suppose that before a Student can enter at a Public Hospital, he must of necessity become the pupil of one of the Medical men attached to that Hospital.

To put a case.—If from ill-health, or the heat of the climate of New South Wales or Victoria, a number of young men decided upon prosecuting their studies at the General Hospital, Hobart Town,—knowing it to be, although a Public and State-paid Hospital, a recognized School of Medicine,—are they to be admitted as a right, or simply at the pleasure of the Board of Management or Medical Officers? The latter, if put in other language, meaning the payment of a fee—a fee without the collateral advantages of *systematic* instruction in anatomy, surgery, or medicine! Or, to carry the case a little further, suppose these young men say they do not require or feel disposed to become the special pupils of the Medical men attached to the Hospital, are they to be excluded?

Trusting that you will favour me with an early reply,

Believe me, &c.,

(Signed).

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

REFERRED to the Colonial Secretary.

It appears to me that the Board ought to be asked whether they cannot modify their Rules, so as to make the Hospital accessible as a School of Medicine to any pupils. It might be intimated that it was never contemplated that the Visiting Doctors should have a monopoly of pupils by the exclusion of others from the wards, if arrangements to this effect were compatible.

FRED<sup>K</sup>. M. INNES.  
18. 4. 73.

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 24th April, 1873.*

SIR,

I AM informed that a young gentleman desirous of studying for the Medical Profession applied to be enrolled as Hospital Medical and Surgical Pupil at the General Hospital, Hobart Town, in order that he might have the advantages which that Institution offers in pursuing his course of studies, and that his application was refused on the ground that he must first become the Pupil of one of the Honorary Medical Officers; a course said to be prescribed by No. 17 of the Rules and Regulations of the General Hospital and Dispensary, approved 4th February, 1871.

In view of the fact that the Honorary Medical Officers consist of only Three members of the medical profession in the Colony, it appears to me that this rule, bearing such an interpretation, gives to these gentlemen virtually a monopoly, not only of the experience which may be supposed to be valuable to themselves, but of the fees and other advantages arising from the apprenticeship to them as pupils of any young men wishing to become students; and I cannot believe that Regulations producing such a result could ever have been contemplated when providing for the management of an Institution supported wholly from the Public Revenue. The choice of a parent is now necessarily limited to one of the three gentlemen who happen to be Honorary Medical Officers, if he wishes his son to take advantage of the opportunities of studying anatomy and medicine which Hospitals so largely present.

I have now the honor to direct the attention of the Board to this point, and request that they will take into consideration with as little delay as possible the practicability of modifying this Rule, or substituting others, in order that, while maintaining discipline and regularity, no youth choosing medicine as his profession should be in effect excluded from the benefits of such a Public Institution.

*The Chairman, Board of Management,  
General Hospital, Hobart Town.*

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JAMES R. SCOTT.

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*General Hospital, May 2, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 24th April; and I have to inform you that the subject of the letter received very full consideration upon its first coming before the Board on the 28th March, and subsequently upon the receipt of a semi-official reference of the matter by the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

When reviewing their first decision, the Board was influenced by no personal feelings, and they discarded private convenience; they considered that their duty was to decide upon general grounds, and to overlook mere personal and isolated cases,—for if these last were entered into, no rules would apply for any length of time; they would relax for every special case.

In the present instance the Board can see no hardship, inasmuch as the applicant for admission as an unapprenticed medical student, being the son of a medical man, could receive instruction outside the Hospital, without reference to that Institution: were he the son of a non-medical man there might be hardship involved, though even then the Board are aware of no instance in which the honorary or resident medical men have refused pupils who applied in a proper way, and agreed to submit to the Hospital regulations.

The Board is still of opinion that in a small Institution such as the General Hospital, where there is none of the moral control of the large and long-established Hospitals of Great Britain, nor any resident staff of officials capable of preventing any act of insubordination, it is essential both for the proper training of the pupils, and for the safety of the patients and the proper regulation of the wards, that every pupil should be distinctly accountable to one of the medical men approved by the Board, and receiving the sanction of the Government to practise in the Hospital.

The Board have asked the medical gentlemen connected with the Hospital to express their opinion as to pupils and patients in the case of admitting uncontrolled pupils, and they enclose herein a copy of that report.

The Board can see nothing to prevent a pupil apprenticed to one of the Hospital staff being "coached" by a medical man outside the Hospital, if the friends of the pupil think such a course advantageous to the pupil, but the Board see no reason to waive or amend a Rule to meet such a case.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

(Copy.)

SIR,

WE have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication, transmitted through the Resident Medical Officer, desiring our opinions upon the question now brought before the members of the Board by the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, relative to the Institution being thrown open to Students not being under the direction and instruction of one of the Honorary Medical Officers, which we transmit for the information of yourself and the members of the Board.

In all Hospitals the management of which has come under our cognizance the special value of the experience afforded must necessarily be limited to the medical officers under whose treatment the patients are placed, and for which their time, labour, and previous experience is afforded.

The fees which are ordinarily paid in Institutions of this character by Students have always been considered to appertain to those officers who undertake the labour and responsibility of serving the Institution, and so appropriated,—while those fees specially paid for instruction in anatomy and the other separate branches of study, are paid to those who individually afford the instruction; and the evidence that this result was originally contemplated is apparent from the fact that the Rule referred to, No. 17, as approved in 1871, is simply a continuance of the original rule, being No. 22 in the old Regulations, approved in May, 1860, which were prepared by a Committee consisting of Messrs. W. L. Crowther, T. Macdowell, and W. Henty, who was the Colonial Secretary at that time, and *ex officio* Chairman of the Board.

This Rule has been in operation for Thirteen years, and hitherto no difficulty or inconvenience has been experienced in meeting the wishes and desires of parents who have decided that their sons should engage in the study of the medical profession.

Under this Rule thirteen Students have entered upon and pursued their studies, viz. :—

Henry M'Farquhar,  
Edward L. Crowther,  
George Stokell,  
Sydenham Brooke Doughty,  
John Percival Doughty,  
Charles Edward Barnard,  
Francis Regan,  
Arthur Bingham Crowther,  
Edward Owen Giblin,  
Edwin Hughes,  
Charles Mayne Maxwell,  
Alfred James Bisdee,  
Gamaliel Butler;

and in no instance has any complaint been made of the course pursued, nor has it occurred that any Student has been prevented from prosecuting his studies.

There is no precedent within our knowledge which could guide us in framing any modification of the Rules whereby Students could be permitted to visit the wards in pursuance of their studies, unless they were responsible to some medical authority under whose direction and instruction they are placed.

It would be analogous to a youth entering a Grammar School with the intention of pursuing his studies independent of the masters of the Institution.

It is manifest that it is undesirable in the interests of the patients that the wards should be open to the indiscriminate visits of uncontrolled Students; and that such a practice would interfere with the comfort, quietude, and safety of the patients, and would be subversive of all order and discipline in the Institution.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) THOS. C. SMART.  
R. S. BRIGHT.  
HENRY BUTLER.

*To the Chairman of the Board of Management,  
General Hospital, Hobart Town.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th May, 1873.*

SIR,

IN consequence of the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo, addressed to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, I transmitted to the Chairman of the Board of Management, General Hospital, a letter dated 24th ultimo, on the subject of the admission of Pupils into that Institution,—copy enclosed. Copy of the Chairman's reply of the 2nd instant is herewith forwarded for your information; and if you desire to peruse the Report therein referred to you can do so by calling at this office.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES R. SCOTT.

*The Hon. WILLIAM LODGE<sup>K</sup>. CROWTHER, I, Albert Terrace.*

*General Hospital, 2nd May, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose copies of letters dated 23rd and 27th March, 1869, relating to a Medical Pupil who was apprenticed to an Honorary Medical Officer of the Hospital, who for various reasons was obliged to resign: these letters may supply the Government with information that is not at present before them.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

*I, Albert Terrace, 23rd March, 1869.*

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, in which you state "that in accordance with *instructions* contained in a letter from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary of the 8th, the House Surgeon has been instructed to prevent my visiting the General Hospital."

Having on the 20th December, 1867, been re-elected as an Honorary Medical Officer for *two years by the Board*, you will oblige me by stating whether any of the Rules appertaining to Honorary Medical Officers, Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, have been broken by me, or any neglect of duty on my part as to the attendance upon the sick at the General Hospital, to render the carrying out of the instructions referred to necessary, even were such instructions compatible with the functions of the Board; and further, I have also to request you will inform me upon what data and under what Rule has my son, an *enrolled* Pupil of the General Hospital, been extruded from that establishment and his studies interrupted, as under Rule 22 it will be seen that every Physician or Surgeon who shall be elected a Physician or Surgeon to the General Hospital *shall be required* to admit to his Hospital practice *all Pupils* who shall have been apprenticed to *any one* of the Medical Officers of the Board, and who shall have been *previously enrolled* by the Board as Hospital Medical and Surgical Pupils.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM LODGE<sup>K</sup>. CROWTHER.

*The Chairman of the Board of Management  
of H.M.G. Hospital.*

*I, Albert Terrace, 27th March, 1869.*

SIR,

DR. Butler having consented to receive me as his Pupil, may I request to know when I may resume my studies?

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. B. CROWTHER.

*The Chairman of the Board of Management,  
H.M. General Hospital.*

*27th March, 1869.*

UPON handing this note to the Resident Medical Officer at the Hospital, Mr. A. B. Crowther can resume his studies at once.

(Signed) A. KENNERLEY, *Chairman.*

*General Hospital, 2nd May, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you the following copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Board of Management held on the 1st instant:—

*Resolved*—“That after giving due consideration to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary’s letter of the 24th April, and to the point there raised, that the Honorary Medical Officers have advantages as such over Practitioners unconnected with the Hospital;

The Board are of opinion that they are not justified in altering the existing Rule to meet a special case the applicant being still *undebarr’d* from following the course heretofore adopted by Hospital Students.

The Board are of opinion that if the Honorary Medical Officers had no special privileges attending their connection with the Hospital, no medical man would give his time to the duties of the Hospital without pecuniary compensation.”

The Chairman is requested to address the Hon. the Colonial Secretary in reply with the substance of this Resolution.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) GEORGE TURNLEY, *Secretary*.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

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1. *Albert Terrace, 12th May, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, with enclosure from the Chairman of the Board of Management of the General Hospital. It will not be necessary for me to comment upon the letter in question, or attempt to deal with the numerous sophisms it contains, but simply ask what are the intentions of the Government in the matter, and repeat the queries contained in my letter to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer of the 15th April:—

“Is the General Hospital a public and *State-paid* Institution? And if so, are Students to be admitted as a right or a monopoly permitted, by which the reception of pupils on the one hand and their instruction on the other is limited to the Medical Officers? Has the Government surrendered to the Board of Management all the functions which properly appertain to itself, or has it the power to interfere?”

From the tenor of your letter of the 24th April to the Chairman of the Board of Management of the General Hospital I feel assured of your desire to aid in effecting a change, but so obstructive are both the Medical Officers and Board in any matter directly or indirectly appertaining to myself, that any suggestions from yourself or colleagues will, as in the present instance, pass unheeded; nor can any alteration be brought about other than by direct action on the part of the Executive. I have therefore respectfully to request that you, as the head of the Government, will grant permission to my son to enter the Hospital as a Student, thereby enabling him to at once commence the study of Anatomy, and further, that the *entrée* of the “Dead House” of the establishment be accorded to any practitioner desirous of using the same, whether for the purpose of self-instruction or the impartation of knowledge to others.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

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*Colonial Secretary’s Office, 2nd June, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th ultimo, requesting that I will grant permission to your son to enter the Hospital as a Student; and further, that the *entrée* of the Dead House of the establishment may be accorded to any practitioner desirous of using the same.

In reply, I have to inform you that the management of the Hospital having been entrusted to a Board, I have no power to comply with your requests without superseding the existing system of control, for which extreme proceeding I am not at present prepared.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JAMES R. SCOTT.

*The Hon. W. L. CROWTHER, M.L.C., 1, Albert Terrace.*