

WAR-OFFICE, May 8, 1857.

The Queen has been pleased to issue a Commission under Her Royal Sign Manual, of which the following is a copy, to enquire into the Organization, Government, and Direction of the Medical Department of the Army.

VICTORIA, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith,

To our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, the Right Honourable Sidney Herbert; and to Our trusty and well-beloved Augustus Stafford Stafford, Esquire; Sir Henry Knight Storks, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, a Colonel in Our Army, and Secretary for Military Correspondence in Our War Department; Andrew Smith, M.D., Director-General of Our Army Medical Department; Thomas Alexander, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; Sir Thomas Phillips, Knight; James Ranald Martin, Esquire, F.R.S.; Sir James Clark, Baronet, M.D.; and John Sutherland, M.D., greeting;

Whereas it hath been humbly represented to Us that, considering the great importance of maintaining and improving the health of all ranks of Our Army, at home and abroad, and of providing for their medical care and treatment in cases of disease, wounds, and other casualties whatsoever, in the most approved manner, it is expedient that certain enquiries should be made into the constitution of the Medical Department of Our Army, the mode of appointment of its officers, and the system which regulates their rank, pay, promotion, and retirement; likewise, it is further expedient to examine into the condition and administration of the Hospitals of Our Army, with a view to their increased efficiency.

Now know ye, that We, having taken into Our consideration the premises, do hereby order and direct you, the said Sidney Herbert, Augustus Stafford Stafford, Sir Henry Knight Storks, Andrew Smith, Thomas Alexander, Sir Thomas Phillips, Sir James Clark, James Ranald Martin, and John Sutherland, to enquire into the organization, government, and direction of the Medical Department of Our Army.

And firstly to enquire into the mode by which candidates for first Commissions are selected, and the system adopted for their promotion and routine of service; also the mode adopted in regard to their pay and retiring allowances.

And further, We do order and direct you to enquire into the means now adopted for acquiring, keeping up, and adding to the professional knowledge of the officers of Our Medical Department, and to consider whether it will be expedient to encourage them to combine civil practice where compatible with military duty.

And further, We do order and direct you to enquire into the operation of the regulations now in force, with a view to the prevention of disease in Our Army, both at home and abroad, as regards barrack accommodation, encampments, clothing, rations, and other matters relating thereto, having regard to the various climates to which our troops are exposed, and the duties and responsibility of the medical authorities on these matters.

And further, We do order and direct you to enquire into the state and condition of military hospitals, both general and regimental.

Also into the system adopted in the same, or the treatment of Our soldiers, and the powers possessed or exercised by the Medical Superintendents or

other functionaries in such hospitals, for providing diet, medicines, and every requisite for the medical and surgical treatment of the patients under their charge, together with the character of the diet, medical comforts, furniture, and other hospital supplies.

Also, We do further direct you to enquire generally as to the expenditure of such hospitals, and the financial control now exercised in and over the same, and the relative authority of the various Departments whose functions are exercised within the hospitals.

And further, We do order and direct you to enquire into the rules and regulations, or the practice in force for invaliding and discharging the soldiers of Our Army, when brought forward for discharge, as unfit for further service.

And further, We do order and direct you to enquire into the system of management and treatment of, and the provision made for, patients in civil hospitals, whether in immediate connection with Our Army or otherwise, and to consider whether such management or treatment, or any portion thereof, can be introduced with advantage in the Medical Department of Our Army.

And We further order and direct you to enquire into the expediency of making provision in Our military hospitals for the officers of Our Army suffering from disease or accident incurred in Our service; and to consider whether it will be advisable to provide in Our military hospitals for the treatment and cure of lunatic officers or soldiers, or to establish a separate military hospital or hospitals for that purpose; or in any other manner to provide for the treatment of such cases.

And We do further command and require you to report what changes you may consider it expedient to make in the organization, management, and expenditure of the Medical Department of Our Army, with a view to the utmost efficiency of this branch of Our military service, and what measures you may recommend to be adopted, with a view to the preservation of the health of Our troops at home and abroad; and also that you do report your opinion upon such returns or records as should be kept by the Medical Officers of Our Army, with a view to the preparation of a well digested and accurate body of military medical statistics.

And it is Our further will and pleasure that you, or any five or more of you, do obtain information touching the matters aforesaid, by the examination of all persons most competent, by reason of their knowledge, habits, or experience to afford it, and also by calling for all documents, papers, or records which may appear to you, or any five or more of you, calculated to assist your researches and to promote the formation of a sound judgment on the subject, and that you, or any five or more of you, do report to us, under your hands and seals, your several proceedings, by virtue of this Our Commission, together with your opinions touching the several matters hereby referred for your consideration.

Given at Our Court at St James's, this fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and in the twentieth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

(Signed) PANMURE.