

Photocopy of letter, 24 Dec 1855, from Andrew Smith, Director General, Army Medical Services, to Dr. John Hall, Principal Medical Officer in the Crimea, re the reporting of drawbacks in medical organisation, the need for constant complaint to commanding officers, and the recent changes in the Army Medical Department

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1855

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beyond 2. Clap and 1 aft. Surgeon - enough for what I
 require. As regards myself I know nothing definite. I hope
 Lord Palmerston would have told me he had given
 up the idea of withdrawing the civil element because they
 objected to have some urgent papers we shall see the
 Department greatly benefited before a month passes. & the
 improvement will be satisfactory if the Treasury does not
 clip it. I feared much thinking the Minister would
 take a slice from it but shan't say he has not interfered
 with any of my proposals. so far well this must be unwar-
 ranted news

Yours faithfully
 Mmth

6 Whitehall Court
 24 Dec 1855

Surgeon L. Clark and 1 Apt Surgeon - enough for what I
require. As regards myself I am without definite duties
Lord Panmure commands Mr. [?] having told me he had given
up the idea of introducing the civil element because they
objection to have some urgent business we shall see the
Department greatly benefited before a month passes & the
improvement will be satisfactory if the Secretary does not
drop it. I feared much thinking the Minister would
take a slice from it but shan't say he has not interfered
with any of my proposals. so far well this must be considered
entre nous

Yours faithfully
M. Smith

6 Whitehall Court
24 Dec 1855

My Dear Hall

I am still uneasy wth what you
hinted into trouble with General Daeris and we be
not quite able to stand our ground as I have stated in my
official report. The medical officers of Hospitals will be
expelled to make colour demands, if they find themselves
through the Captains can maintain, but having done so
then the way is to apply through the senior medical
officer of the Division itself as proposed that first Daeris should
be despatched to communicate with Elliot however that
is of no importance, the latter should report in writing whether
he sees any after making his tour of inspection or what
he hears from the medical officers in charge provided he
is at the same time able to say the present practice
of the service has been observed with respect to any occasion
arises on which the rank officer from regulations established
medical you will do well to communicate especially ~~to~~ me

the facts of the case and have them try what bears effect. - Do
we take care that the Doctors shall not have to bear the
blame of any mishap which may hereafter occur unless they
really deserve it. I do not think the authorities at home will
sanction a foolish routine to operate injuriously at
Leant, will take care that when it is likely to do so they
shall be fully informed of the danger and the necessity what
steps of taking steps to avert it. Hope you have an abundance
of kind friends make this observation because I assure it is
stated not to be given to the artillery. why do the men
suffer vegetables?

It would be well to be recalled that the rules for the sick are not all up
to date - it appears some the Military Officers at least those
who ought to have a desire to improve an efficient army always ready
for work are short sighted otherwise they would endeavor to
secure what is needed for the sick before they provided
for the healthy - English Officers seem behind hand in this
respect and I fear it is the genius of the men never to
concede any thing to Doctors which they can possibly avoid
I lately wrote Lord Panmure suggesting good might be
effected by his giving General Cunningham a hint and at the
same time asked what number of Rules had been sent
out for the sick, his reply was a copy of a telegraphic message
from the Crimea dated 24 December to the effect we have

now Rules for 26,000 men and 4,000 sick I suspect as
regards the Rules he is mistaken I have told Lord Panmure
that you have made every possible effort and from time
to time reprimanded the depositions to the Commauder of the Forces
I do not be backward even if you possible offence and
take care that your statements are in writing and must stand
forward boldly for the sake of the sick and you may be
satisfied that you will have every support I can give you
Keep up a hot fire here in reference to every thing which I
understand has relation to the health of the army and then
no view or generally speaking to compliance of the results.

Was delighted the other day to hear from Mr Donald and
hope that you continue to enjoy good health and that
you are as compact and sound as the most vigorous man
has any right to expect

Dear my cousins that good and great good things shall
result from the labors of the two Boards, you and I must
leave some records behind us that will be useful to posterity
if nations are again mad enough to rush into war. - The Board
I have formed in this Office will work in concert with those
in the East and I in reason of men are zealous that something
creditable should not be produced. I have now been
told to reorganize the Office and I have permission to take
into it two Deputy Inspectors. I shall be very glad to hear
from you

My Dear Hall

I am still uneasy lest I should get
kenned into trouble with General Sauro and so be
not quite able to stand on ground as I have stated in my
official report. The medical officers of Bataan will be
expected to make colour demands, if they find the necessary
through. The Captains are minding, but having done so
then the way is to apply through the senior medical
officer of the Division Staff, as proposed that Paul Barras should
be despatched to communicate with Ellet. However that
as of no importance, the latter should report in writing what
he sees and after making his tour of inspection or what
he hears from the medical officers in charge provided his
is at the same time able to say the present condition
of the service has been observed with respect. Any occasion
arises on which the sick suffer from ^{the} regulations established
medical you will do well to communicate especially ~~to~~ to me