

CHAPTER 187.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

[No. II of 1885.]

[1st July, 1885.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Public Hospitals Ordinance.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

Declaring
public
hospitals.

2. The Governor may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette, declare what hospitals shall, for the purposes of this Ordinance, be deemed to be public hospitals, and in the remaining provisions of this Ordinance "hospital" means one of those hospitals.

OFFICERS.

Appointment
of officers of
hospitals.

3. The Governor may from time to time appoint the surgeons, clerks, officers, and servants required for the efficient working of a hospital, who shall hold office during pleasure and receive the salaries and wages respectively assigned or provided for by the Legislative Council.

REGULATIONS.

Regulations.

4.—(1) The Surgeon General may from time to time make regulations as to all or any of the following matters, namely,—

- (a) the guidance and governance of the surgeons, officers and servants of the hospitals in the performance of their respective duties; and
- (b) the management and proper discipline of the hospitals and the due control of the patients therein,

and the regulations shall be submitted to the Governor for his approval.

(2) The Governor and Legislative Council may from time to time make regulations as to all or any of the following matters, namely,—

- (a) the terms and conditions upon which paying patients may be received in the hospitals; and
- (b) the recovery of any expenses incurred in the treatment of those who have improperly received gratuitous treatment in a hospital.

(3) All regulations made by the Surgeon General and approved by the Governor, or made by the Governor and the Legislative Council, shall be published in the Gazette and when so published shall have the same force and effect as if they were inserted in this Ordinance.

NON-PAYING PATIENTS.

5.—(1) Every application for admission to a hospital shall be made to the Surgeon General or to the resident surgeon at the hospital.

Admission and discharge of non-paying patients.

(2) The Surgeon General may discharge any patient labouring under chronic or incurable disease, furnishing him with a certificate that he is not a fit object for hospital treatment, and the certificate shall be considered a recommendation for poor relief unless he has friends able to maintain him.

PAYING PATIENTS.

6. One or more rooms or wards of each hospital shall be set apart for the accommodation of patients who, although not requiring gratuitous relief, are desirous of entering a hospital for medical or surgical aid; it being understood that those patients shall each of them be subject to the regulations for the time being in force.

Admission of paying patients.

SEAMEN PATIENTS.

7.—(1) There shall be in each hospital a separate room or ward for the treatment of seamen belonging to vessels upon which has been paid tonnage duty (unless specially exempted therefrom) or engaged in the pilotage or light-ship service.

Admission and treatment of seamen.

(2) Those seamen shall be entitled to all the benefits and advantages of the hospital without any charge.

(3) Where a seaman on board of any vessel aforesaid is taken ill, or meets with injury requiring medical or surgical aid, the captain, master, or person in charge of

the vessel shall send him within twelve hours after he has been taken ill or has met with the injury, to the nearest hospital, unless he refuses to be so sent or is attended on board by a duly qualified medical practitioner; and, in default thereof, the captain, master, or other person shall pay a fine of not less than ten dollars and not more than twenty-four dollars.

Penalty.

(4) If any seaman dies on board of a vessel within the limits of the colony from any visible disease which has existed for more than twenty-four hours without having been attended by a duly qualified medical practitioner, the captain, master, or person in charge of the vessel on board of which the death occurs shall, unless it is shown that the seaman refused to be sent to a hospital, pay a fine of not less than twenty-four dollars and not more than forty-eight dollars.

Penalty.

Saving of quarantine laws.

8. Nothing herein contained shall interfere with the quarantine laws in force, or shall extend or be construed to extend to vessels within the limits of the colony under quarantine.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Visitors of hospitals.

9.—(1) Members of the Legislative Council and any other persons authorised in writing by the Governor shall be visitors of hospitals.

(2) A book, to be called the Visitors' Book, shall be kept at each hospital in which a visitor may note any matter which he wishes to bring under notice.

Continuance of existing officers.

10. The Surgeon General, surgeons, clerks, officers, and servants holding office or employed in connection with the hospitals at the commencement of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be appointed under this Ordinance and it shall not be necessary for any of them to be re-appointed or to be sworn or to make any declaration.
