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HOSPITALS & PUBLIC HEALTH
MAR. 1944

HOSPITALS & PUBLIC HEALTH

Folios Referred to Dali.

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THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM
TO March 1944
CATALOGUE.

1. 22 Sept. from AFHQ.

Folio referred to date.

1A
REAR HEAD BARRERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

ACC/3069/L/VE

21 Mar 44

TO : His Excellency, Signor Dele, Minister of Interior.

Hospital, Potenza.

1. Since our interview regarding this matter, I have received a further report by the Director of Public Health ACC; it is attached for your information.
2. I have in addition read a report by the senior officer responsible for Military Hospitals in the district. There is no doubt in my mind
 - (a) that everything possible was done by the British Medical Unit concerned to assist the civilian hospital in its move to its present location.
 - (b) that sound advice given by the British officers at the time was ignored by the director of the hospital, Surgeon Professor Cavolli Federico.
 - (c) That an offer that the seriously ill patients could remain in certain wards until they were sufficiently recovered to be moved, was also ignored, and may have been contributory to any fatalities.
 - (d) That the present accommodation of the civilian hospital is NOT as unsuitable as has been alleged, and properly handled, can be made very much more comfortable. In this connection, I would point out that the building had been used as a British Military hospital and that the heating facilities installed by them are NOT being properly used by the present occupants.

3. The whole administration and organization of this hospital appears to me most unsatisfactory, and I strongly recommend that you investigate the matter further with a view to taking the action recommended in the last paragraph of the attached report.

3210

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- (b) That sound advice given by the British officers at the time was ignored by the director of the hospital, Surgeon Professor Cavicoli Federico.
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3210

SEARSHAW,
Vice President, Administrative Section,
Allied Control Commission.

Copy to: Executive Commissioner (2)
D.D.M.S. No. 2 District.
Public Safety Sub Commission.

PA 22/3

C O P Y

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
AFO 394
Public Health Sub-Commission.

1B

AOC/3069/1/TH

20 March 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : VP Adm Sec.

I am now in a position to make a further report on the hospital situation at Potenza concerning which certain charges were made against the Military Authorities by His Excellency the Minister of the Interior of the Italian Government when they took over the Trachona Hospital and moved civilian patients to the Piedmont Institute.

I visited the Piedmont Institute on March 14, accompanied by Major Vollit, the Provincial Public Health Officer, where I met Surgeon Professor Cavioli Federico who is in charge of the civil hospital.

There was snow on the ground and hail was falling at the time of my visit. Without heating, as one might expect, the temperature in the wards was very low and the only part of the building in which there was any heat was the operating theatre. In one ward there were men, women and children which I was told was for infectious cases and here I found typhoid, tuberculosis and scabies all together. A woman who was said to be suffering from scabies was in bed and when asked why I was told that she went to bed to get warm while similar results could have been obtained if she were up and working.

All the wards were cold including the maternity ward where there was a newly born infant.

In most of the wards there were stoves which had been put in by the military, none of which was lit and when asked why I was told that they would fill the ward with smoke though this did not happen when the building was occupied by a Field Ambulance.

The next day at Bari I had an opportunity of discussing the situation with Brigadier Cameron, ADMS No 2 District, who considers that the unsatisfactory condition under which the patients are living is largely due to the obstructive attitude of Professor Cavioli Federico and with this I am inclined to agree.

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In view of the attached report - 10 AD made by Colonel Warburton, ADMS No 2 District, it would appear that Professor Cavioli Federico is quite unsuitable for his present position and it is possible that if the correspondence is brought to the notice of His Excellency the Minister of the Interior he may have Professor Cavioli Federico removed from office and his political background thoroughly investigated.

TH/GSE/arb

/s/ G.S. Ferkinson, Brigadier,
G.S. PARKINSON, Brigadier,
Director, Public Health Sub-Comm.

