

# Surgeon-General Charles Sibthorpe

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ACC/1924/2



Case books and other documents of Surgeon-General Charles Sibthorpe  
from his time in the Indian Medical Service.

*Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock  
April 2014*

**CS**  
**Surgeon-General Charles Sibthorpe**

**Collection**  
**1873-1906**

*Extent:*

7 volumes and 6 files

*Creator:*

Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*

Case books of Surgeon-General Charles Sibthorpe covering much of his time in the Indian Medical Service, and an admissions register from the Grant Road Plague Hospital, Bombay (now Mumbai). The collection also contains pamphlets and newspaper cuttings by, or about, Sibthorpe; a history of his service in the field during the second Afghan War; and notes on cholera and skin grafting.

*Arrangement:*

Case books are arranged chronologically, followed by the patient register and other items.

*Administrative History:*

Charles Sibthorpe was born in Dublin in 1847; he studied medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and at the Meath Hospital, Dublin. In 1870 he joined the Indian Medical Service as Assistant-Surgeon. Following some years of official work in the civilian and military departments, he was appointed Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of the Goal at Banda, in the Central Provinces (Uttar Pradesh).

In 1875 he was transferred to Madras (now Chennai) and appointed Resident Surgeon to the General Hospital and Professor of Pathology at the Madras Medical College. He remained at both institutions until 1890, serving successively as Professor of Ophthalmology, Anatomy and Surgery. In 1894 he was appointed Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, a post he held until 1900. In 1880 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, and in 1897 a CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath).

Sibthorpe volunteered for active service with the Indian Medical Service in 1878 when he served with the Peshawar Valley Field Forces in Afghanistan. In 1885 he transferred to active service again, this time in Burma, where he was staff surgeon to Sir H Prendergast the officer in command of the British forces in Upper Burma.

Sibthorpe retired from the Indian Medical Service in August 1900, he returned to Dublin where he lived with his sisters, until his death in 1906.

*Acquisition:*

The collection seems to have been donated to the College by the Miss Sibthorpes, who donated several other items to the College after their brothers death.

*Access Conditions:*

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines

**CS/1 Case Book - Nagode and Banda 1873-1875**

*Extent:*

c.340 pages

*Creator:*

Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*

Case book from hospitals in Nagode and Banda, India, kept by Sibthorpe, while Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of the Goal at Banda, and with the 11th Regiment of the Madras Native Infantry.

The case book cover both military and civilian patients, with case records, extracts from reports from the 1860s and 1870s into the outbreaks of fever in the regiments, with some statistical analysis of the data, and a register of fractures and dislocations.

**CS/2 Case Book - Banda, General Hospital Madras and Madras Eye Infirmary June 1874 - February 1880**

*Extent:*

c.400 pages

*Creator:*

Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*

Case book from the hospital in Banda June 1874 to April 1875, and the General Hospital Madras and the Madras Eye Infirmary from 1875 to 1880.

Records include detailed case notes and post mortem records from Banda, indexed by disease. A register of fractures and dislocations treated from June 1875 to December 1876 in the General Hospital Madras with illustrations, and case notes from the Madras Eye Infirmary, many with illustrations.

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| <b>CS/3</b> | <b>Case Book - General Hospital Madras</b>  | <b>June 1875 -<br/>September<br/>1878</b> |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>340 pages   |   |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906  |   |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>Case book from the General Hospital Madras. The hospital had been set up in the seventeenth century the hospital was the model for British Hospitals in India by the nineteenth century.<br><br>This book gives details cases with name and personal details of patients, histories and clinical notes, some of the cases are also accompanied by temperature charts or illustrations. Also contained are some notes on the nineteenth century history of the hospital and a list of doctors who worked there.<br><br>The index at the front of volume is by type of case. |   |
| <b>CS/4</b> | <b>Case Book - Madras</b>   | <b>December<br/>1879 - July<br/>1886</b>  |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>c.500 pages   |   |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906  |   |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>Case book [from General Hospital Madras], each set of case notes contains details of patients, a clinical chart of temperature, pulse and other test results, and notes on history, case progression and outcome.<br><br>Note: cases cover only c.50 pages.  |   |

**CS/5 Case Book - Madras 1880-1884**

*Extent:*  
c.350 pages

*Creator:*  
Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*  
Indexed case notes for patients between 1880-1884, several with illustrations, and extracts from the operations register of 1884. Records give names, age, details, operation, results, complications and remarks.

The reverse of volume contains further case notes from c.1878-1880.

The volume also includes a couple of draft letters by Sibthorpe.

**CS/6 Case Book - Madras 1887**

*Extent:*  
360 pages

*Creator:*  
Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*  
Case book of Charles Sibthorpe, with index of cases at front. The case notes include personal details, history and details of treatment, several are accompanied by illustrations or clinical charts of temperature and other tests.

The volume also contains loose sheets with details of a further six cases.

**CS/7**      **Grant Road Plague Hospital, Bombay**      **4 March 1897**  
**- 4 June 1897**

*Extent:*  
66 folios

*Creator:*  
Grant Road Plague Hospital, Bombay

*Description:*  
Admissions register for the Grant Road Plague Hospital, Bombay, which opened 4 March 1897. The register records name, age, sex, caste, occupation, reported date of attack, date of admissions, date of discharge or death, duration in hospital, where from and remarks on admission.

Note: this volume is not in Sibthorpe's hand

**CS/8**      **Newspaper Cuttings**      **1880-1906**

*Extent:*  
5 items

*Creator:*  
Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*  
Small collection of newspaper cuttings by or about Sibthorpe, file contains;

- 'Some notes on the treatment of cholera and the administration of cholera hospital' by Sibthorpe July 1880 from the Indian Medical Journal
- A letter to the editor of The Medical Press and Circular on the Indian Medical Service by Sibthorpe, July 28 1880
- A letter to the editor of The Lancet on the Indian Medical Service by Sibthorpe, August 14, 1880
- 'On the Preservation of Bodies for Dissection' by Sibthorpe, June 1883, from the Indian Medical Journal
- Proof of an obituary from the Dublin Journal of Medical Science, dated 13 May 1906.

**CS/9**

**Pamphlets**

**[1874]-1904**

*Extent:*

7 items

*Creator:*

Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

Ross, Sir Ronald, 1857-1932

*Description:*

File of pamphlets written, or collected, by Sibthorpe.

File contains;

- Dr Sibthorpe's address at the [Madras] Medical College, [1874]

- Some notes on the different diseases diagnosed as fever in the General Hospital at Madras, by Surgeon C Sibthorpe (1880)

- Surgeon Major General Sibthorpe's Remarks on medical arrangements for field service (1886)

- On filara sanguinis hominis, by Brigade-Surgeon C Sibthorpe (1889) 2 copies

- President's Address to the South Indian Branch, British Medical Association, by Sibthorpe (1895)

- Researches on Malaria being the Nobel Medical Prize lecture for 1902 by Ronald Ross, inscribed by Ross to Sibthorpe 'for assistance rendered'.



**CS/10      Medical history of the Queen's Own Madras Sappers      [1880]  
and Miners on field service in Afghanistan in 1879**

*Extent:*

82 pages and 3 items

*Creator:*

Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*

Manuscript written by Sibthorpe on '*Medical History of the B E & FL companies of the Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners who were on Field Service in Afghanistan in 1879 with the Peshawar Valley Field Force*'.

The first sections details the orders and departures, the strength of the company, and descriptions and quantity of medical supplies. The second section contains details of the health of the army, including tables of common diseases, sickness and mortality rates. The third section contains notes on the working of the field hospital system in the Khyber Pass. The manuscript is accompanied by a hand drawn '*Sketch of camp and pickets at Ali Masjid*'.

File also contains two copies printed of '*Hints for officers proceeding on active service*', issued to Indian Army Medical Officers.

**CS/11      Hints and notes on outbreaks of cholera      [1889-1892]**

*Extent:*

7 pages

*Creator:*

Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906

*Description:*

File of printed and manuscript notes on the duties of medical officers during outbreaks of cholera. The manuscript notes are in the hand of Sibthorpe, while the printed notices are issued by Medical Division of the Madras Army.

- CS/12**      **Some notes on skin grafting**      **[1860s-1890s]**
- Extent:*  
4 pages
- Creator:*  
Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906
- Description:*  
Manuscript notes made by Sibthorpe on skin grafting.
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- CS/13**      **Indian stretchers, doolys and muncheels**      **[1860s-1890s]**
- Extent:*  
2 items
- Creator:*  
Sibthorpe, Charles, 1847-1906
- Description:*  
Soft back volume containing sketches of 13 different stretchers, doolys or muncheels used in India, with manuscript notes on origins and/or use. File also contains a printed notice 'Bearer Drill' containing instructions and regulations for 'doolie detachments'. The notice was issued by Surgeon-Major Sibthorpe, in charge of the Bearer Column, and Major R Hill, Director of Transport.