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Educational (1907) Department.

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INDEXED.

ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lawrence Asylum, Cotacambur

Requesting the Committee of the
to put themselves in communication with
the Chief Engineer & to obtain plans &
estimates for improving the water supply
lavatory, latrines & urinals of the Asylum.

The Notes
in these Proceedings have been printed.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government {1901} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1901.

Enclosures

Spare copies

ORIGINAL.

G.O., No. 155, 14th March 1901.

MARCH.

Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.

Requesting the Committee of the — to put themselves in communication with the Chief Engineer and to obtain plans and estimates for improving the water-supply, lavatory, latrines and urinals of the Asylum.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Colonel C. A. LIARDET, Acting Secretary, Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated 19th February 1901, No. 2321.

I have the honour to forward, herewith, the remarks of the Committee on the report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of Madras.

ENCLOSURE.

Inspection Notes.

1. *Water-supply.*—There is a path close to the main reservoir which is much used by persons proceeding to and from a Badaga village near the crest of the hill that forms part of the catchment area. It is understood that this village is so built that surface washings pass to the opposite side of the hill. During my visit, however, Badagas were scattered all over the side forming the catchment area.

(a) I am not aware what authority holds this land. It is, however, obvious that it should be the actual property of the Lawrence Asylum, or be maintained under such method as will prevent trespass and consequent possibility of contamination of the surface water and springs.

Replies of the Principal.

1. *Water-supply.*—The water-supply has always received constant attention. To prevent the path and catchment area being made a thoroughfare, it will be necessary to have a watch on the spot. If sanction is obtained this can be done, but whether it will be productive of any good is doubtful.

Note by the Collector.—"I inspected the source of the water-supply with the Principal on the 19th March. There is no village near, and I am very doubtful if fencing would be of much benefit. It will only exclude cattle and not the people who come to collect firewood. The latter are much more dangerous to a water-supply. If the villagers are warned by the Asylum authorities that they would be prosecuted if caught trespassing within the catchment area, it would do some good."

The warning has been given to the villagers by the monigar of Kaity.

(a) The land is the property of the Asylum.

Inspection Notes.

(b) Two springs are now being received in newly constructed reservoirs. It would be advisable to clear the neighbourhood of brushwood so as to better define the origin of the springs. These having been found, the sites should be slightly excavated, filled with rubble stone, and be turfed, or, still better, be covered in by an arched masonry work. The pipes leading the water to the reservoir should be placed within the rubble.

2. *Latrines.*—The number of latrine seats allowed for the present strength of the establishment is probably sufficient. The plan of the latrine is, however, very poor. The arrangement for deposit of dry earth should not depend upon the obviously imperfect discipline of the scavenger supposed to be in attendance. Hoppers actuated by a simple lever should be provided. Each seat should have a hinge so as to permit of its being lifted. White silicate paint should be used for the seats, so that full cleanliness may be observed by washing when necessary.

3. *Urinals.*—Several of the seats were in a disgusting condition owing to their use as urinals. Only one urinal is provided in the latrine. This is certainly too scanty. The question of height of buckets suitable for boys should not be lost sight of. Existing arrangements devote no attention to the matter. Hence the result to the seats. Small buildings should be erected at convenient spots near the main buildings. Instead of providing for increments upon already existing urine stored within a partly covered tub as at present, it would be well to employ sawdust, or peat, as a deodorant or filter medium. The nursery latrine is provided with a tub evidently too high for convenient use by little boys, with the result that, on my first day of inspection, I found the bucket effectually isolated by a pool of urine.

4. *Food distribution.*—The windows of the dining hall ought to be kept open at all hours feasible. The air of the room with closed windows, as found by me on the first day of my visit, was foul.

(a) The tins used by the boys and their plates were decidedly dirty. Many of the tin pots were not only hopelessly

Replies of the Principal.

(b) The reservoir is in charge of the Public Works Department, to which these suggestions have been referred and the matter is now under consideration by them.

2. *Latrines.*—The plan of the latrine was made by the Public Works Department, and, when first erected, it was supplied with Moule's self-acting latrine seats which by a lever arrangement dropped sand into the pan when the seat was vacated. These were found to afford amusement to the boys and were constantly getting out of order. The seats now used were supplied, and the dry-earth system was introduced, and it will be seen from the Medical officer's reports that it worked satisfactorily. The Resident Assistant Surgeon inspects the latrines almost daily. The attention of the Public Works Department should be invited to Dr. King's suggestions.

3. *Urinals.*—Boys taken short will run to the first available place. The whole question of latrine fittings and out-urinals should be referred to the Public Works Department. On the occasion of the Sanitary Commissioner's visit one of the two urinals was under repair. The objectionable condition of the nursery latrine at the time of the Commissioner's visit was purely accidental. The scavenger in charge was absent without leave.

4. *Food distribution.*—As a rule, the windows of the dining hall are always kept open. It was unfortunate at the exact time of Dr. King's visit that they were closed.

(a) Tin mugs are frequently replaced. They are in charge of the sergeant-major who has under him a set of scullions.

Inspection Notes.

stained, but were much corroded. Presuming that all possible care is taken to maintain the tin pots in a cleanly condition (which certainly was not evident to me), it would be essential that the tin pots are renewed at most frequent intervals than at present.

(b) As to cleansing of plates I understand it is conducted by native scullions. Personally, I should have thought it would have been well to detail a part of boys, under a trustworthy leader, for cleansing work each day, so as to make them take an interest in the maintenance of cleanliness. It is probable that if the boys were divided into "messes", a certain amount of pride could be cultivated amongst them as to whose feeding vessels were cleanest; but, if native scullions must be employed, it seems to me that far more convenience for correct working is necessary than shown me in the little room next the kitchen now employed. A well-lighted room near the kitchen should be provided with glazed stoneware troughs and draining racks. This should be supplied freely with taps for hot and cold water. The former could be arranged for by a hot water pipe in connection with the kitchen boilers. All plates should have a preliminary soaking with soda.

(c) It is very undesirable that European boys should be taught a lower standard of cleanliness as to vessels used for eating and drinking than practised by the native community. Moreover, plates as seen by me offer danger, in that ptomaine poisoning might take place.

5. *Bodily cleanliness.*—I understand—excluding from consideration the nursery children—that no arrangements for complete cleansing of bodies exist beyond a weekly plunge bath, and such a wash as may be secured of the hands and upper part of the body by means of basins in the lavatory. This implies a very poor standard of cleanliness and is below that required in the Poor Law Schools of England, where complete washing of the body is demanded at least twice weekly.

(a) Improvements to the lavatory have been sanctioned. They certainly require revision. But I should think unsatisfactory any arrangement that preserved the existing system of promiscuous

Replies of the Principal.

Tannin easily corrodes tin and leaves nasty stains. Nothing except tea and water are used in these mugs, which are washed immediately after meals. The whole school will be supplied with aluminium ware after the 1st April next. At present the little boys of the nursery use aluminium plates and mugs.

(b) The recommendations of the Commissioner were tried over and over again in previous years and found unsatisfactory. A former Medical officer condemned the practice of employing boys on this work.

There is room for improvement in the scullery room as suggested by the Commissioner, but his suggestions should be referred to the Public Works Department.

5. *Bodily cleanliness.*—The boys are taken every Saturday to the plunge bath, and the free use of both soft and bar soap is allowed them. Arrangements have now been made whereby the boys will have a bath twice a week.

(a) The suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner will be satisfied when the new lavatory is constructed. There has been unavoidable delay in doing this owing to the fact that the water-supply is

Inspection Notes.

use of basins. At present 22 clean "jack towels" are provided twice weekly for the whole strength of over 300 boys. This is a filthy arrangement, and one likely to tend to the propagation of skin diseases. Nothing but great watchfulness on the part of the medical staff can account for the grade of very fair immunity enjoyed by the boys, considering the existing incorrect conditions. Yet, last year, there were 17 cases of ringworm. Should either this disease or conjunctivitis secure a hold upon the school, the general use of towels and of basins will cause endless trouble and not a little suffering.

(b) Basins should be got rid of absolutely in favour of the use of sprays of water discharged directly from the pipe. This cleanly mode is economical of water. The water would be discharged by a water channel immediately below the pipe. Splashing of the trousers could be prevented by placing Cuddapah slabs in such a position that the boy using the spray would have to lean over the slab. If warm baths cannot be afforded twice weekly, it ought to be possible to adopt the principle of the spray for bathing the whole body. There is a plunge bath. This is supplied by water which reaches the bath by means of an open channel. This mode of supply is dangerous in that the water runs the risk of faecal contamination. Of course, boys would not deliberately drink such water, but it must be remembered that a mouthful swallowed by accident when bathing is just as dangerous as if swallowed intentionally. The bath is exposed, so that the boys have to dress in the open air. Open-air bathing is by no means an undesirable method if the bathing be conducted under the control of the bather; but when it comes to being obliged to bathe in the open air, whether there is cold wind at that time or not, it is questionable whether better arrangements would necessarily imply too much luxury. I found a boy in the hospital whose history was that on the preceding bathing day he had fainted at the bath. This, in all probability, was due to the strain upon the heart following the action of cold on the skin.

(c) Having regard to the crude state of bathing and lavatory arrangements at present existing, it seems to me that the correct solution is to erect a special building or to modify some part of the

Replies of the Principal.

not adequate. The matter is at present in the hands of the Public Works Department.

(b) *Vide* remark above concerning new lavatory.

Warm baths are given in cases recommended by the Medical officer.

The improvement of the plunge bath is a part of the proposed new lavatory.

(c) *Vide* above remarks on paragraph 5. *Bodily cleanliness.*

Inspection Notes.

existing building so that the whole could be under one roof. It would then be possible to use economically water-heating apparatus, so as to supply water for bathing and for the plunge bath at a temperature not below 70° F. Such recommendations may appear to savour of coddling and extravagance. I think not. It is not likely that English Poor Law Schools would be conducted on lines of that sort; yet, taking the poor standard demanded and comparing the conditions found in the Lawrence Asylum with it, it would appear that the latter is half a century behind the age as to its arrangements, in details which undoubtedly have much to do with the state of health, and especially with the mental training of boys who will derive their standard of sanitation from that taught them at the Asylum. Giving a boy clean plate to eat his food on and clean mugs from which to take his tea and giving him means to keep his body cleanly and uncontaminated with the filth derived from his neighbour's skin will not make him less manly in the future, or less fit a citizen of the community he will take his place in.

6. *Clothes washing.*—This is conducted by a contractor. Examinations of the bundles of clothing at the washing-ground showed the native clothing was washed side by side with that derived from the Asylum. Examination of the room in which clean clothing was stored showed that natives' foul clothing was stored side by side with the boys' clothing that had been cleaned. The danger of transmission of infectious and of skin diseases under such circumstances is obvious.

(a) It is advisable that the whole arrangement of clothes washing be conducted under the direct supervision of the Asylum authorities. At the stream now used should be made washing troughs, allowing of previously unused water being employed for each dhoby.

7. *The village near Oakes' clearing.*—The disposition of the buildings for the European establishment of the Asylum and for the menial staff, respectively, shows that one object very fully held in mind by the designers of the Asylum was that the boys should not be allowed to mix with the low class of natives used as servants, or with such as are likely to live in the vicinity. This care is, however, likely to be rendered abortive by

Replies of the Principal.

the presence of the native houses in this locality. I was told that, in spite of the earnest vigilance of the staff, it is impossible to prevent boys resorting to this place with the result that unwholesome articles of food are indulged in and contact with unfit company is brought about. It is desirable that an estimate be made for buying up the houses and land under the Land Acquisition Act, with the object of removing existing and preventing further buildings on the site. On this point the Asylum authorities would do well to place themselves in communication with the Collector of the district.

8. *Hospital.*—Everything in the hospital was neat and clean. The patients were evidently comfortable and carefully and systematically attended to.

(a) The absence of an infectious disease ward is an error of prime importance in an institution of this size. The difficulty of isolating cases under existing imperfect circumstances was illustrated in the late epidemic of measles. Action in the matter is essential.

9. *Cricket ground.*—One of the suggested modes of the three cases of typhoid fever that occurred in this institution in 1898 being acquired was the drinking of the contaminated water from the stream that runs at the side of the cricket ground. I understand that there is a stand-pipe on the water-supply system close to the cricket ground. It would be advisable to extend the pipe so that water may be obtained at the cricket ground itself.

10. *Exercise.*—I do not profess to have full information on the point; but, so far as my inquiries would go, it would seem that there does not exist amongst the boys any general interest in the gymnasium. It is true that a certain number of boys are proficient; but, in a large boys' school, it is desirable that the masters themselves should throw in their scale of personal influence and example in this matter.

(a) The Commissioner's suggestions if carried out would necessitate the employment of a special supervisor on the spot: The remark relative to washing troughs should be referred to the Public Works Department.

7. *The village near Oakes' clearing.*—The purchase money of the village has been deposited in the Collector's office. After certain claims had been adjusted, the land will be acquired and the huts removed.

Inspection Notes.

the presence of the native houses in this locality. I was told that, in spite of the earnest vigilance of the staff, it is impossible to prevent boys resorting to this place, with the result that unwholesome articles of food are indulged in and contact with unfit company is brought about. It is desirable that an estimate be made for buying up the houses and land under the Land Acquisition Act, with the object of removing existing and preventing further buildings on the site. On this point the Asylum authorities would do well to place themselves in communication with the Collector of the district.

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(a) On certain days the boys are marched to a distance of a few miles; but, during their walk, formation is retained. Even on the play-ground the boys were much under control during my inspection. It seems to me that for at least selected parties of boys under trustworthy mentors, it ought to be possible for a greater amount of freedom to be allowed. A ramble now and then over hill and dale

Replies of the Principal.

existing building so that the whole could be under one roof. It would then be possible to use economically water-heating apparatus, so as to supply water for bathing and for the plunge bath at a temperature not below 70° F. Such recommendations may appear to savour of coddling and extravagance. I think not. It is not likely that English Poor Law Schools would be conducted on lines of that sort; yet, taking the poor standard demanded and comparing the conditions found in the Lawrence Asylum with it, it would appear that the latter is half a century behind the age as to its arrangements, in details which undoubtedly have much to do with the state of health, and especially with the mental training of boys who will derive their standard of sanitation from that taught them at the Asylum. Giving a boy clean plate to eat his food on and clean mugs from which to take his tea and giving him means to keep his body cleanly and uncontaminated with the filth derived from his neighbour's skin will not make him less manly in the future, or less fit a citizen of the community he will take his place in.

8. *Hospital.*—The absence of an infectious disease ward has been felt and Government might be approached with the view to sanctioning its construction.

(a) The absence of an infectious disease ward is an error of prime importance in an institution of this size. The difficulty of isolating cases under existing imperfect circumstances was illustrated in the late epidemic of measles. Action in the matter is essential.

9. *Cricket ground.*—The suggestion might be carried out and it should be referred to the Public Works Department.

10. *Exercise.*—On the contrary, a great interest in the gymnasium and in out-door games is keenly manifested by the boys, who are joined in the latter by their masters and sergeants. Boys ten years of age and under are not sent to the gymnasium. At the time Lieut.-Colonel King visited the school, about a 140 boys were attending the gymnasium, while a 150 were cadets using the carbine.

(a) With all deference to the Sanitary Commissioner, I would not like to carry out the suggestions in this respect for boys who are naturally mischievous would inevitably get into trouble with the forest and other authorities if allowed to wander about without control beyond the Asylum boundaries. In fact, the experiment was tried on more than one occasion and had to be discontinued.

Inspection Notes.

unfettered by the presence of a sergeant should conduce to both moral and physical good training.

(Sd.) W. G. KING, Lt.-Col., I.M.S.,
MADRAS, Sany. Commr. for Madras.
6th Dec. 1899.

Replies of the Principal.

Finally, while appreciating their full value the many suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner, I beg leave to add that most, if not all, of them had been in contemplation and would sooner or later, as opportunity offered, have been carried out.

(Sd.) A. W. ATKINSON, M.A.,
18th Jan. 1901. Principal & Secretary.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 155, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
14TH MARCH 1901.

[SUBJECT.—Sanitary Commissioner's Inspection Notes on the Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund.]

From the Secretary, Lawrence Asylum, Ootacamund, No. 2321, dated 19th February 1901.

The Acting Secretary says that he forwards the remarks of the Committee on the Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes, but so far as can be seen the remarks are those of the Principal and there is no resolution of the Committee adopting them. Should a copy of this resolution be called for?

2. It appears now that all that has to be done on the Sanitary Commissioner's inspection notes is to refer certain points in them to the Public Works department for consideration.

P. T. THARYAN.
25-2-01.

Better "record" perhaps in the circumstances and leave it to Mr. Elwes, if he goes to the Asylum, to proceed in the matter. So far as the water-supply and connected questions are concerned, it is unnecessary for Government to intervene any further.

2. The visit of the Sanitary Commissioner which has given rise to this correspondence was paid in a very unusual way and one discourteous, to say the least, to the Principal, and Lieut.-Colonel King, I.M.S., went a good deal out of his line to make some suggestions relating more to questions of discipline and school life than to sanitation—suggestions which certainly are such as appear ridiculous to English public schoolmen.

A. T. PRINGLE.
27-2-01.

Secretary.

The main wants are clear enough—

- (1) Purchase of the hamlet referred to; this is being done.
- (2) Improvement in the urinals.
- (3) A new and improved lavatory.
- (4) An infectious ward in the hospital.

The lavatory and swimming bath cannot be really improved up to modern requirements with the present supply of water. It is deficient. The Public Works department are experimenting, I believe, to prevent the present leakage from the reservoir. When more water is available, new lavatories should undoubtedly be constructed.

It is submitted that the Committee may be asked to put themselves in communication with the Chief Engineer and obtain plans and estimates for improving the water-supply, lavatory and latrines and urinals.

Yes.
A. T. A[RUNDEL].
2-3-01.

The ward must probably stand over until funds are available.

Honourable Member.

The draft placed below may issue with the concurrence of the Public Works department.

P. T. THARYAN.
4-3-01.

M. HAMMICK.
28-2-01.

A. T. PRINGLE.
4-3-01.

ORDER—No. 155, Educational, dated 14th March 1901.

The Committee of the Lawrence Asylum will be requested to put themselves in communication with the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, and to obtain plans and estimates for improving the water-supply, lavatory, latrines and urinals of the Asylum.

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Committee of the Lawrence Asylum,
through the Director of Public Instruction.

Educational (190 /) Department.

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Forwarding the remarks of the Committee
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C. No. 260, From the Secretary, Lawrence Asylum, No. 2321, dated 19th Febry. 1901.
Atacamand.

" " " " " " " " 190

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ORDER No. 155, dated 14. 3. 1901

P.S.

The Committee of the Lawrence
Asylum will be requested to put
themselves in Communication with
the Chief Engineer, P. W. D., and to
obtain plans and estimates for
improving the water supply, lavatories
~~and the~~ latrines and urinals of the
Asylum.

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The Committee of the
Lawrence Asylum
thru' the D. P. S.

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