

Government {1898} of Madras.
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Enclosures

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G.O., No. 1127, 2nd September 1898.

SEPTEMBER.

Order P. No. 992, 8 16-9-1898
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Recorded.
C. M. S.
M. S.

Police Hospitals in the Madras Presidency.

Reviewing the report from the Surgeon-General on the working of the — for year 17-98.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

From the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated Madras, 11th August 1898, No. 322.

ORDER—No. 1127, Public, dated 2nd September 1898.

With his letter read above the Surgeon-General submits his report on the working of the Police Hospitals in the Madras Presidency for the year 1897-98.

2. In paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 1393, Public, dated 15th October 1897, reference was made to the closing of the three medical institutions at Conjeeveram, Chingleput and Vizianagram. The erection of a hospital at Vizagapatam having been sanctioned, the hospital at Vizianagram will in due course be closed. With reference to the provision of hospital accommodation in the Chingleput district, the Surgeon-General will be requested to report how matters now stand in connection with the establishment of a central hospital at St. Thomas' Mount.

3. There were at the close of the year fifty institutions at work, with accommodation for 561 in-patients. The Surgeon-General states that the daily average number of in-patients treated has in no case exceeded the number of beds available. The adequacy of the accommodation can, however, only be estimated from the maximum number of persons occupying a hospital on any one day, and the Surgeon-General will be requested in future reports to note whether, judged by this test, the accommodation is sufficient.

4. While the number of in-patients exhibits a slight increase, the number of out-patients treated fell from 32,916 to 30,428. The largest ratio of sick to the total strength of the police is again found in Vizagapatam and Ganjam, but the Surgeon-General points out that these districts, owing to their unhealthiness, cannot be compared with the rest of the Presidency. In Gódvári and Salem there was a marked decline in sickness as compared with the preceding year.

5. The number of men invalided and the number of deaths were both higher than in the preceding year. The former rose from 121 to 152 and the latter from 203 to 289. The Surgeon-General attributes the rise in mortality to the scarcity which affected the general population during the year. It appears, however, that the increase was mainly due to the greater prevalence of cholera, which accounts for fifty-two deaths out of the total increase of eighty-six.

6. The cost of police hospitals fell by Rs. 4,031-15-7, owing mainly to the closing of nine institutions. As far as can be judged from the statistics supplied the abolition of the hospitals in question has caused no inconvenience and the measure has therefore been amply justified by its results.

(True Extract.)

J. H. H.
for Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.

- " Judicial Department.
- " Local and Municipal Department.
- " Revenue Department.
- " Financial Department. ✓
- " Accountant-General.
- " Public Works Department.