M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1281 Press ~~Mis.~~

55-57

Dated 18—9— ~~19~~ 1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Nos. 55 & 56. Read the following letters from the Director General, Medical Department.

Submitting the Annual Return of sickness and mortality amongst the prisoners in the Penitentiary, for the year 1857, with observations
Forwarding with his remarks, Return of sickness amongst the prisoners in the Jail at Mercara, for the year 1857.

(Here enter 4th Septr. 1858, Nos. 159 & 160.)

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, No. 1281; dated 18th September 1858.

In Extract Minutes Consultation 8th May 1858, para. 1, the Government directed that the future Reports on the sanitory condition of Jails should be submitted for the official, and not for the current year; and it was then remarked that in the next Report, the sanitory state of the Prisons for the 4 months intervening between the close of the last Report, 31st December 1856 and the 1st May 1857, on which date the official year 1857-58 commenced, might be noticed separately.

2. The Reports now forwarded by the Director General, Medical Department are, it is observed, made up for the current year 1857. That Officer's attention will be called to the orders above quoted; and the Reports returned to him for the purpose of that on the Madras Penitentiary being prepared for the *official* year 1857-58, with a separate Report on the four first months of 1857. The Mercara Jail is not under the control of the Inspector of Prisons of this Presidency. The Report on this Jail, therefore, need not be submitted to Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 139

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George

Sir

Agreeably to instructions conveyed in Extract from Minutes of Consultation Judicial Department No. 612 of date 8th May last, I have the honor to forward for submission to Government the annual returns of sickness and mortality amongst the prisoners in the Penitentiary for the year 1857.

The mortality amongst the prisoners has been greater this year than for any similar period during the preceding seven years, and this has been occasioned by the prevalence of Cholera, which disease appeared on two separate occasions in February and again in June. In February the disease first appeared in that part of the building used as an hospital, while in June, the first case occurred in the centre of the prison; in both instances the disease originated in Jail.

From

From the comparative table appended, it will be observed, that the admissions and deaths from cholera during the year under review have exceeded the total number of cases recorded in seven years ending December 1855, during which period the convicts occupied the Bastion of the Black Town wall, close by Her Majesty's Jail, a circumstance which requires attentive consideration. As regards construction and locality, the Jail in the Bastion was objectionable in every respect. Close, confined and damp; yet cholera seldom appeared, and when the disease did occur it was in isolated cases, and for the most part originating outside the Jail. In the present instance, it is distinctly recorded, that both outbreaks commenced inside the Jail — the disease therefore must be owing in this instance to something local. The site of the Jail on the bank of the Coonoor river is objectionable; a large drain from New Town empties into the river in the close vicinity, which adds to the evil, besides which immediately outside the wall, there is a Mohammedan burial ground. The water here is stagnant for the greater portion of the year, becomes putrid, and

No 238. To the Secretary Military Board.

Para 3. "In reference to the last para of your letter, the Board consider the one objectionable in consequence of its being occasionally inundated, and which the level of the area on the present plan will not from recent excavation, prevent; the building also being placed so near the bank of the Coonoor river, must be exposed to the exhalations arising therefrom, which may affect the health of the prisoners; and it may be stated that outbreaks of cholera are usually more severe and aggravated in such localities. I am desired further to add, that most situations in tropical countries similar to the one under consideration, are obnoxious to diseases of a malarious origin."

[Sgd] A Gerrimer M.D.
Secy Medl. Board

24th February 1848.

and omits the most offensive effluvia, causes sufficient in my opinion to explain these outbreaks of cholera. On this subject I beg leave to annex in the margin an Extract from a communication from the late Medical Board dated 24th February 1848. It was requisite to raise the site considerably, and this was accomplished with the muddy sand taken from the bed of the river.

Table exhibiting the sickness and mortality amongst the convicts Prisoners at the Penitentiary for 7 years from 1849 to December 1855, and contrasted with the results of 1857.

Years	Average Strength	Diarrhœa & Dysentery	Mortality	Deaths	Small Pox	Cholera	Fever	Dropsy	Total of principal diseases	General total of admissions	Per centage of Admissions to Strength	Per centage of Deaths to Strength	Per centage of Deaths to Strength excluding Cholera	Per centage of Deaths to Strength excluding Cholera & Small Pox
	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No				
From 1849 to Dec 1855	1271	159	9	27	2	15	5	5	1	7	13	9	3	1
	991	36	1	66	1	28	25	30	35	199	05	2·7	2·2	0·4
Per centage of Admissions to Strength		12·5	2·1	1·1	0·3	0·5	1·02	31·3	2·8	52·006	199·05			
——— Deaths to ———		0·7	0·1	0·3	0·07	"	0·7	0·07	0·07	2·2	2·7			
——— " to Admissions		5·6	7·4	33·3	20·0	"	6·2	0·2	2·7	4·2	1·3			
For 1857	212	23	"	9	1	"	2	"	2	"	35	11	57	"
	8	2	130	14	258	15	121·6	7·07	1·8	7·07				
Per centage of Admissions to Strength		10·8	4·2	"	0·9	0·9	16·5	24·05	3·7	61·3	121·6			
——— Deaths to ———		"	0·4	"	"	"	5·1	"	0·9	6·6	7·07			
——— " to Admissions		"	11·1	"	"	"	31·4	"	25·0	10·7	5·8			

The food and clothing of the prisoners have been unobjectionable, and the labor on which they have been employed has not been prejudicial to health. The wooden doors have been removed from most of the cells, and iron ones made of strong iron bars substituted.

The total number of prisoners incarcerated during the twelve months has been as follows:

European Seamen 186. European Prisoners 15.
East Indian females 2. Native females 89.
Native males 2315.

The natives had committed of Mahomedans 138, Hindoos 2008. Parials 258. Twenty six of this number were committals from the Supreme Court.

The following table is annexed for the purpose of shewing the number of times each individual has been imprisoned.

Once imprisoned	2170
Twice	116
Thrice	85
Four times	54
Five	34
Six	31
Seven	15
Eight	5
Ten	6
Twelve	3
Fifteen	3

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt. Servant
Signed/ A. P. Magrath.
Director General
Medl. Depart.

Office of Director General
Medl. Depart.
Fort Saint George
4th September 1858

Exd. T. H. B.

True Copy
R. Grant
Secretary to the Director Genl.
Medl. Department

Return of Sick of the Prisoners in the Penitentiary, and observations in reference to Sick, for the year 1857

	Fever	Small Pox	Erysipelas	Rheumatism	Diseases of the Lungs	Diseases of the Liver	Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels	Diseases of the Kidneys	Diseases of the Bladder	Diseases of the Urethra	Diseases of the Testicles	Diseases of the Penis	Diseases of the Skin	Ulcers	Syphilis	Wounds & Injuries	Average No. of Sick daily	Average daily number of Prisoners in Hospital	Remarks
Remained 31st Dec. 1856	"	4	"	1	4	2	.	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	7			
Admitted since	51	2	1	8	.	44	4	2	6	41	24	13	.	5	6	16	258		
Discharged	48	3	1	7	.	40	4	2	7	41	25	14	.	5	6	16	242		
Died	"	"	"	2	"	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15		
Remaining 31st December 1857	3	"	.	.	"	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	"	8		

Sanfoins and Carrots per order — R. A. P. 1—13—6

Sanfoins — do — do — 8 — 6

Sanfoins issued for the Hospital and Infirmary, 1½ lb. daily (¾ lb. Hay) 2¾ Officers and 1½ lb. Sugar and ½ lb. Flour allowed daily (12 Oz.) 2¾ Officers and receive Hospital Diet, Prisoners & Sick and Infirmary Nurses, Cooks, Washermen, Scrubbers and Others receive Hospital Diet, Prisoners & Sick and Infirmary Nurses, Cooks, Washermen, Scrubbers and Others

and Lister water bottles issued as required by the Surgeons and Physicians Order and Lister water bottles issued as required by the Surgeons and Physicians Order

Has used Carry sweets for Hospital Has used Carry sweets for Hospital

for Hospital for Hospital

Sanfoins (Oil — do — Magb (

Patients (

Prisoners under the Separate System, Cells and Corridors, Prisoners under the Separate System, Cells and Corridors,

confined by the Surgeons Order confined by the Surgeons Order

Sanfoins used for Hospital Sanfoins used for Hospital

Sanfoins used for Hospital

Sanfoins used for Hospital

1858.

In a letter from the
Director General &c.
Med. Department
A° 159. dated 4th
September 1858.

J/58/D.
En no 1891. 1971

No 1468

Memorandum.

The Secretary to the Director General Medical Department has the honour to state, in reference to the Memorandum in the Judicial Department No 294 of date 5th instant, that the Report on the Sanitary State of the Prisons for 1857 was forwarded with the Letter from this office No 182 of the 18th instant.

A copy of the Report in question is enclosed herewith, to enable the Surgeon

Office of the Director General Medl Staff Fort St George 4th October, 1858.

R. Lewin
Secretary to the Director General, Medical Department.

To
The Deputy Secretary to Government
Judicial Department.

Recd 5th Oct

1858

Depart.t

No.

From
The Director General
Med.l Depart.t
Fort Saint George

Dated 4th Oct. 1858

To
The Chief Secy to Govt.
Fort Saint George

Dated 4th September
Rec.d

No. 159

Submitting the Annual return of sickness and mortality amongst the prisoners in the Penitentiary for the year 1857. with observations.

Original registered as No. 1591 of 1858

No 1281 Judicial Department

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 18 September 1858.

Read the following Letters from
the Director General, Medical Dept
(. Dated 4th Sept/58 Nos 1594/160)

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+ with a separate report on 4-four first months of 1857

Copy to Director Royal Engr Dept. with 2 Reports returned } Despd 23rd "

+

+ not retd.

In Exhibitions 21 Sept 58

Judicial 1858 Department

No 1281.

Extract Minutes of Council

of 18 September 58

Exd No 1281.

55 @ 57.

C 10 Sept
No 16