

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Journal DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	324	Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

18

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th March 1864.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 111. From R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Fort Saint George; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 15th February 1864, No. 42.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, Judicial Department, and Order thereon of 3rd February 1864, No. 145, I have the honor to forward a report from the Inspector General of Hospitals of 3rd idem, on the sanitary state of the Salem convicts confined in Her Majesty's Grand Jail, Madras, and have to solicit the orders of Government whether, the present report being so favorable, it is considered necessary to report further, a fortnight hence, agreeably to the orders conveyed in the Proceedings quoted.

2. A present state of sick is herewith forwarded.

From J. SHAW, Esq., Inspector General of Hospitals; to Secretary to the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, dated Madras, 3rd February 1864.

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Principal Inspector General, that on the 1st of this month I inspected the Salem convicts in the Grand Jail.

2. When I visited the Jail on the 27th of October last much sickness prevailed, and six deaths had occurred in a short period. There were 16 prisoners on the convalescent list, and seven in Hospital. Many of the convalescents there showed symptoms of Scurvy, and the men in Hospital, with the exception of one, were in a very unsatisfactory state. One has since died, and out of the six who are now in Hospital, four are men who were then patients. Of these, Ellor was suffering from Anasarca; he is now free from the disease, but is still weak. The same may be said of Kadinghan and Gooradoo. The fourth, Aromooogum, is evidently suffering from some cerebral lesion, from which there is but little chance of his recovery. Of the other two, one has Intermittent Fever of a mild type, and the other Scabies.

3. The diet I recommended for the prisoners has under the authority of Government been introduced. I understand that much opposition was offered by the prisoners to it, and many cases of Diarrhoea occurred; both the Cumboo and the Cholum were omitted between the 9th and 18th of December, but no less than 49 cases of Diarrhoea occurred. This led Dr. vanSomeren to suspect that they were surreptitiously taking some substance which produced Diarrhoea. Upon this, he used blistering freely and with the happiest effects; that and confining some of the most insubordinate and giving them only Cholum Congee suddenly put the Diarrhoea to an end. Since the 11th January the new diet has, with the exception of the Cumboo, been given, and there is not one case of Diarrhoea amongst the convicts, nor is there a single man upon the convalescent list. I examined those men who had before shown symptoms of Scurvy, but they were all free from the slightest taint of it.

4. The men as a body looked fat and sleek; there was the most marked improvement in their appearance since I last saw them.

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5. I understand corporal punishment is not permitted in the Madras Jail, as it is in the Mofussil. I am satisfied that a few strokes of the rattan would soon have put an end to the insubordination which is said to have existed.

6. I have heard, but I do not know the details, that the present diet is more expensive than the former one; that it is much more nutritious there can be no doubt, and I cannot understand why Cholum and Cumboo, cereals grown in the country, should be more expensive than Rice. If the expense is greater, it must be not in the first price, but from the expense of cleaning it; if so, what better occupation for the prisoners than cleaning their own food?

Present state of Her Majesty's Jail.

	Diseases.					
	Febris Intt.	Scabies.	Anæmia.	Anasarca.	Atrophia.	Total.
Remaining in Hospital	1	1	1	2	1	6

In Jail. { Convicted Prisoners, No. 93.
Debtors..... 23.

MADRAS,
1st February 1864.

(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M. D.,
Surgeon, 1st District.

No. 112. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 24th February 1864, No. 32.

I have the honor to return the enclosures received with your Memorandum of the 19th instant, No. 74, and to state that I have directed the convicts to clean and prepare the cholum, and will report the result.

From W. J. VANSOMEREN, Esq., M. D., Surgeon, 1st District; to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Presidency Division, dated Madras, 18th February 1864, No. 19.

I have the honor to solicit your attention to the last two weekly reports as convincing proof that now, at all events, the dietary used in Her Majesty's Jail, is one that appears well suited to the convicts. There has been no case of diarrhoea admitted into hospital within the forementioned period, and on the last report you will observe a case of constipation. On the first trial of any change of diet, it is to be expected that the new food will disagree, but the irritation soon subsides if the aliment be such as can support and fortify the system.

2. The subsidence of irritation in this instance consequently leads me to augur favorably for the ultimate success of a dietary, based upon the lessons of science.

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7th March 1864.*

HER MAJESTY'S JAIL.

Weekly Report of Sick from Monday the 1st, to Sunday the 7th February 1864.

Class.	Order.	Diseases.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Remaining.	Of the remaining are		Remarks.
										Relieved.	No better.	
Zymotic diseases.	Miasmatic diseases.....	Febris Intermittens	2	1	3	2			1	1	...	Numerical strength
Constitutional diseases.	Parasitic diseases	Scabies.....	1		1	1					...	
	Diathetic diseases.	Anæmia.....	1		1				1	1	...	
Local diseases	Diseases of the Digestive system	Anasarca.....	2		2				2	2	...	
		Hepatitis.....		1	1				1	1	...	
Developmental diseases.	Diseases of Nutrition	Atrophia.....	1		1				1	1	...	Numerical strength
Total.....			7	2	9	3			6	6	...	

MADRAS,
8th February 1864.

(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M. D.,
Surgeon, 1st District.

HER MAJESTY'S JAIL.

Weekly Report of Sick from Monday the 8th, to Sunday the 14th February 1864.

Class.	Order.	Diseases.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Remaining.	Of the remaining are		Remarks.
										Relieved.	No better.	
Zymotic diseases.	Miasmatic diseases.....	Febris Intermittens	1	1	2	1			1	1	...	Numerical strength.
Constitutional diseases.	Diathetic diseases.	{ Anæmia.....	1	...	1	...			1	...	...	
	Tubercular diseases.	{ Anasarca.....	2	...	2	...			2	2	...	
Local diseases.	Diseases of the Digestive system	{ Hæmoptysis...	...	1	1	...			1	1	..	
		{ Obstipatis...	...	1	1	...			1	1	...	
Developmental diseases.	Diseases of Nutrition.	{ Hepatitis ...	1	...	1	...			1	1	...	
		{ Atrophia.....	1	...	1	...			1	1	...	
Total.....			6	3	9	1	...		8	8	...	121

MADRAS,
15th February 1864.

(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M. D.,
Surgeon, 1st District.

(True Copies)
(Signed) W. J. VANSOMEREN, M. D.,
Surgeon, 1st District.

* One case of Febris Intermittens and the cases of Scabies and Hæmoptysis were on the debtor side of the Jail.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th March 1864.*

No. 113.

No. 51.
MEMORANDUM.

Transmitted to the Chief Secretary to Government, with reference to the Order of Government, Judicial Department, No. 145, dated the 3rd instant.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
24th February 1864.

(Signed) R. COLE,
Principal Inspector General,
Medical Department.

No. 113A.

ORDER THEREON, 7th March 1864, No. 324.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary

No. 324 Feb 1864 Oct 145.

Ind. 1864 Sept. 28

*From
Lt. Colonel M. J. Wilson,
Commissioner of Police*

*The Hon. A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.*

** 4th March 1864 No. 324.*

*Dated 24th
Recd. 25th February 1864*

No. 32

Encl. 4 No. 334

*Returns the Enclosures
received with memo. of
the 14th Inst. No. 74 and
reports that he had
directed the Couriers
to clean and prepare
the Cholera.*

** Recd. 25th Feb 1864
JP*

*21 March
RJ*

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