19. 7. 34

M.R.O. 1—[illegible]—16-10-28.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 635

201-202

Press

~~**Mis.**~~

Dated 28 4 ~~19~~ 188

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Governm [illegible] icial Department,

April 1865.

No. 201. [illegible] ig letter [illegible] R. COLE, [illegible] tor General, Medical Department, to the Honora [illegible] Chief Secretary to Government, F [illegible] 1865, No. 86.

In obedience to Proceedings of Government and Order there [illegible] d 2nd February 1865, No. 197, directing me to obtain information regarding the sickness and mortality among the convicts employed on the works of the Lawrence Asylum, Neilgherries, I have the honor to state on [illegible] points indicated as follows.

2. The Zillah Surgeon of Madura affords unsatisfactory explanation* of his selection of prisoners from the Jail under his charge, by stating that the men of the first gang were not "selected" by [illegible] but by the Jail authorities, and brought to him "for inspection." That *insp* [illegible] [illegible] involved the determination of whether the [illegible] e work [illegible] do, and the *selection*, therefore, virtually had to be made by [illegible] so that the distinction Mr. Rule would draw is falac [illegible] one of the men sent had, it seems, "his head clean shaved," so that, on [illegible] tion "he did not look so old as he really was." Altogether Mr. Rule's "ex [illegible] on" amounts to an acknowledgment that, in fact, careful examination was not made.

"What explanation has been furnished by the Zillah Surgeon at Madura, for his entire neglect of the rule laid down by the Inspector General of Jails, that none but able-bodied men, in the prime of life, should be selected."

* [illegible] ry 15th, 1865, herewith sent. T [illegible] when no longer required.

3. With regard to the selection made at Cuddapah Jail, the Zillah Surgeon has been changed since the time the g [illegible] left that place, and it seems of little use, and would occupy much time [illegible] for explanation from an officer not now on the spot.

[illegible] be furnished in regard to the Cudda- [illegible] would seem, must have been very badly

4. Dr. Miller states that he, when in charge of the Jail, invariably inspected prisoners on arrival, and pointed out such as he thought had been improperly [illegible] ed; and the extreme unfitness of the two [illegible] dura gang was so indicated by him, but it had been previ- ousl [illegible] nd the men sent back by the guard which brought them up.

"Also with reference to the apparent omission on the part of the officer in special charge of the [illegible] lum [illegible] the [illegible]

5. Dr. Miller con [illegible] h Mr. Rohde in thinking that bad selection [illegible] first instance had much to do with producing disease, but does not think [illegible] was introduced by the Cuddapah [illegible] r that a "*tain* [illegible] Jail, and particularly t [illegible] by the Insp [illegible] ils. Dr. Miller's arguments on these points seem confirmatory of [illegible] f his sentiments, and must be perus [illegible] appreciated. He considers that "improper selection" [illegible] depression [illegible] mind" are the chief causes producing the late insanitary condition of the [illegible] the first [illegible] nd. from the full inquiry made on this occ [illegible] doubt; the second must alway [illegible] rative, and [illegible] found impossible to discover the mental constitutions [illegible] tive convicts,

[illegible] ed upon to [illegible] 's opinion, as

those for transfer to th
as Dr. Miller a
hardships and privations on the r
urveillance on the road,
ed Ootacamund, instead
and entered a cold
not only having little
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appearance of being younger than he really was.

cond gang
body of prisoners. On this occasion, I took great pai among them, by
going over the whole body of convicts, man by man,
a similar course been take the
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Inspector
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D.

Departm

Medical Officer,
Division, Trich 7th
March 1
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int out to the Officer in charge such ted.
was done in the case of the M men
had already ived by Capt
had brou up.
directed whethe
ess which has suggest, in
ch the Inspector General of Jails th of the
prisoners. Mr. Rohde attributes the sickness to, 1st, sent up,
2nd, the introduction of scurvy by the Cuddapah gang, and 3rd Jail,
and particularly to the Hospital. I fully concur with Mr. Rohde in regard to the first cause which he has assigned; but I do not agree with him in regard to the other two.
at there were other circumstances which had a large share in p
and that there are other remedial measures which it would
of the Cuddapah gang is entitled to the great importance
given to it b in his re for the following reasons :—
3rd quarter of the year; but there was no notable
4th qua ast three months
afterwards. The proportion of deaths to strength and to admission was almost exactly the

same in the three months following, as it had [illegible]
of this gang.

2nd. There was no appearance of scurvy among the Cuddapah men at the [illegible]
arrival, although they were remarked as [illegible]

3rd. The first "admissions" from s[illegible]
of the Cuddapah party; and during these six weeks there w[illegible]
"ulcers" and "sores", which, as they were a very sh[illegible]
one, days respectively) could scarcely have been ov[illegible]

4th. The first cases of scurvy which occurr[illegible]
from this gang, but included cases from oth[illegible]
gang had a preponderance of scurvy cases and als[illegible]
by the fact that these men were [illegible] predispose[illegible]
prevai[illegible] all afterwards sho[illegible]

[illegible] is probable that the [illegible]stablishm[illegible] [illegible]ceived [illegible]
[illegible] the spread of disease, but that this tain[illegible]
detriment of the other buildings, I venture to doubt.
the apparent excess of "deaths", in proportion to "adm[illegible]
that during the unhealt[illegible] the num[illegible]
number of sick under treatment. The [illegible]
cases. The milder and recovering cases, [illegible]
of those in Hospital, were accommodated [illegible]
there was actually no disproportion bet[illegible] [illegible]ths and
Hospital had aided very largely in the disseminati[illegible]
in an intensified degree on one of [illegible]
[illegible] the wash and per[illegible]
cells besides. The Polic[illegible] [illegible]sided in this building,

6. I believe that the chief causes of the unsatis[illegible]
comprehended under the two heads, improper sel[illegible] [illegible] of min[illegible]
has sufficiently insisted on the former of these; a[illegible]
sending up not only men [illegible]squalified b[illegible] [illegible] health,
also m[illegible] [illegible]ns, who, by [illegible] [illegible]ng their discomforts, uns[illegible]
of thei[illegible] [illegible] disc[illegible]
foreru[illegible] Thus also it
three months after sick-transfer to be deb[illegible]
advantage to the Lovedale Jail, for su[illegible] were alm[illegible]
ought never to have been sent to the [illegible] at all.
[illegible] for me to show how in man[illegible]
producer of disease. [illegible] prisoner
depression natural to a state of [illegible]
banished to a strange country with [illegible]
the sole charge of Native Warders, w[illegible]
medical aid, except in the ca[illegible]
diet and exposure. Th[illegible] [illegible] often in the monsoon from
they were in some [illegible]ducted [illegible]
unprovided [illegible]g to pro[illegible]
supplied with one extra cumbly only, and that
a night and a day's exposure to th[illegible]
and dejected. Here they were w[illegible]
subjected to severer labor and stricter discipline than [illegible]
forebodings of the extreme severity and unhea[illegible]
Hospital and numerous [illegible]
heart, and became at [illegible]
defective appetite, or from wa[illegible]

[illegible]d indulg[illegible], while not a few resorted to practices
for the purpose of producing disease in themselves, either with the hope of obtaining their
re-transfer to the plains, or with the intention of terminating their existence. Ultimately, the
prospect even of being returned to the plains was denied them, for the transferr[illegible]
Coimbatore, which had been tried in the early months, was found to be of n[illegible]
of the unhealthiness of that Jail; and the practice was entirely discontinued, [illegible]
Jail availabl[illegible] [illegible]tion.

8. It is no wonder that such a morbid state of mind should [illegible] [illegible]able
to sickness, and that it should engender a moral contagion as potent as tha[illegible]
[illegible]o be explained the greater prevalence of sickness and death among any par-
[illegible] the Cuddapah gang for instance; [illegible] a moral taint as I have described, once
[illegible], would undoubtedly make most rapid progress among a body of me[illegible] [illegible] predis-
posed to disease, coming from the same part of the countr[illegible]
kind[illegible] [illegible]nstances wer[illegible]
[illegible] and died together.

[illegible] This feeling o[illegible] [illegible]s and despair was not [illegible]
pah men, and their ant[illegible] [illegible]liarly pre-disposed them to it. A [illegible]
first insta[illegible] [illegible]g and harassing journey up, having been march[illegible] [illegible]ed
about the country, in consequence of rumours of cholera on the route. They w[illegible] [illegible]een
much given to opium and bhang eating, in which they had been indulged, but which of course was
stopped; and they probably suffered from the sudden cessation of th[illegible]. They were the only
people who spoke Telugu, even the Jail officials being unable t[illegible] [illegible] with them, so that
they brooded over their miseries in comparative isolation. They [illegible] misfortune, moreover, of
being followed by a portion of their families, who hung upon their line of marc[illegible]
even after their arrival here, keeping up a constant irritation on the [illegible] minds by the
spectacle of their starved and wretched condition, and supplying them s[illegible] [illegible]ly with bhang
and other deleterious substances. To such an extent did this becom[illegible]
had to be applied to turn the followers out of the place.

10. The Tinnevelly gang may also be instanced as [illegible] unusual [illegible]
tend with. They were marched thro[illegible] [illegible]trict devastated by cholera; th[illegible]
the W[illegible] in charge; they had animal food issued to them onl[illegible]
ex[illegible] [illegible] a period of twenty-four days; their [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]y cooked
le[illegible] they themselves, i[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]reva-

11. It is more than probable that over-crowding tend[illegible]
unhealthy state of the Jail. In the first three quarters of the year reviewe[illegible]
were comparatively healthy, the average cubic space per man [illegible]ws:—1st [illegible] [illegible]84 feet;
2nd quarter, 290 feet; 3rd quarter, 258 feet. In the la[illegible] [illegible]ch was [illegible]
cubic space per man was 209 feet; and in the last month, Octobe[illegible]
month of all, the cubic space was reduced to 186 feet per man. The evil effects of insufficient
space were further increased by a practice the prisoners had of huddling together in corners of the
cells for the sake of warmth, a practice which wa[illegible] [illegible]rds prevented by dividing the cells into
compartments by open bamboo partitions. It may be true that in this climate, and with the abun-
dant means of ventilation provided in the cells, the same amount of cubic space as in the plains is
not necessar[illegible] [illegible]tenance of health; judging from the unvarying good health enjoyed
by the inmates of the closely adjoining Police lines, such would certainly see[illegible] [illegible]e, for there
the cubic space was even scantier than in the prisoner's cells. Neverthel[illegible] [illegible] of
numbers, in proportion to the accommodation, as proposed by Mr. Rohde, will be a safe precaution.

Among the circumsta[illegible] [illegible]h probably had an unfavorable influence on the health
of the convicts, I cannot omit to men[illegible] inadequacy of medical aid which at one time existed.
The first Medical subordinate appointed was a pensioned Dresser, who, so long as I was able per-

to superintend the treatment of the sick, did very well. But the
duties in Ootacamund multiplied, and it was no lon for me to
at longer intervals. Unf
the same time, and the pensioned Dresser was
independent medical charge. Becoming alive to this, and seei
greater leisure f t-post du the 27th July
Dresser should be relieved, and an
was at once acceded to, but some del
Anderson arrived on the 13th October 1864, and to
his subordinate is due, in no small measure, the satisfactory sanitar
this moment.

13. In connection with the causes of the sickness which prevailed
the year, it should be noted that the season wa healthy one.
h ted among both the European a
sickness at Lovedale may fairly be attri

14. In all other outward respects, the
that could be desired. The utmost attenti
dation, ventila anliness, conservancy.
, who vi
on the subject, a
mendations were alwa racticabl
able-bodied from t and infirm, as now
the very first
are.

unfortunate results, for there was a remarkable
from iratory organs. The p
in o nd they had nothing
the to the Hills. Nor can any blam
other persons wh on the same spot
good health.

16. I
chiefly tw
early re-transfer of sick to the Plains. T
attention of the Jail authorities as will be seen
by me, on the 9th of to the Of
Hankin, soliciti rding m

" by actual disease which so oft
" from

d to withstand the entire
" cli

r employment
merely to the physical
rule in short should be
that they should have mental as well as
stances in wh Adequate provision should be
t by the way, and each party of 50 men and upwards should

Su , for the purpose not only of affording medical aid to the sick, but of exercising a discre power in regard to such matters as marches, halts, food, &c., and of being a check upon the Warders. They should not be marched through Districts kn ime to be unhealthy or visited by the m thing immedi on their ent the colder climate.

18. W d to the second remedy that I have proposed (th ick to t the experience of the past year has re easy to detect with almost unerring certainty the very earliest indications of that peculiar cachexy which affects those whose constitutions are about to give way, and which sooner or later terminates fatally in one or other of these forms of disease, viz., Diarrhœa, Dysentery, Scurvy, Dropsy, and Atrophy. The prisoners in whom this cachexy is once established derive no permanent benefit from medicine, or careful general treatment, but are inevitably doomed if they remain in the Lovedale Jail. Aware of this themselves, they look upon their entry into Hospital as tantamount to death, and resign themselves to their fate with characteristic apathy. I, therefore, consider that the only means of at once saving the lives of such cases, and of a ility of the disease again becomi mic, is early to remove them to some hea w country, before, or at all eve n as, the symptoms of any of the above specific forms of disease have become devel- transfer them to Octacamund or Coimbatore, for the experiment to that extent was already tried and failed; in the former case because the change was not sufficient, and in the latter because the Coimbatore Jail is notoriously unhealthy, and prolific in those very diseases from which the patients eady suffering. The best cour convenient and too expensive, would be to return each sick convict to the Jail from whence he came; two important purposes being thereby served, viz., affording the patient the best chance of recovery, and dispersing and so diluting the materials of disease. Captain Hankin considers this plan impracticable, as some of the sick men would have to make very long marches; and he suggests that the sick should be distributed among the Jails along the Line of Railway, on account of the facility and quickness of re-transfer. I trust that the establishment of a Convalescent Depot at Vellore may have the desired effect; but I should fear that the congregating of sick co a spot, however healthy, would only lead to the concentration and conti Nor do I think that Mr. Rohde's other project, of which he has ar Depot at Coonoor, is likely to be more successful; for, apart from the discouraging results of the former re-transfers to the very healthy Jail of Ootacamund, there would be little probability of amelioration at Coonoor, where the sick would still be massed together, and where many of the conditions which have proved favorable to the persistence of disease here would still obtain.

19. This system of re-transfer has been objected to, becau ieved that it would increase discontent among those who remained, and lead to the re-crowding of the Hospital with convicts, either feigning or creating illness, in the hope that they also would be sent back to the plains. But such a result did not follow the large re-transfer of 115 men, which was at last effected on 6th December last. On the contrary, the complete remedy of the deplorable state of health in the Jail was the speedy consequence; for although another batch of 22 sick men had soon afterwards to be sent away, the general health thereafter returned to a most satisfactory state, and still continues so. In the two months following these re-transfers (January and February last) the admissions h month respectively, 22 and 37, and the deaths 3 and of an average strength of 357. A spirit of cheerfulness, moreover, has been infused into the whole gang by the prospect that, in the event of sickness, they too will have a chance of recovery by being re-transferred to the plains. At the same time it be denied that the present healthy state of the Jail is also partly due to the very salutary measure, recently adopted, of removing the Hospital to some distance from the cells.

20. It was further objected to the proposed re-transfer of sick that the expense forbade it. No doubt the plan would be at first expensive, but I believe that in the end it would be a real economy, and that it is the only course left, if the gangs are to be maintained on the Hills at all; for soon all the sickly disposed would be weeded out, and there would remain a fine body of men inured to the climate, contented with their lot, and thoroughly effective as laborers, among whom sickness would be rare, and re-transfers, therefore, seldom necessary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
28th April 1865.

No. 387.

MEMORANDUM.

Submitted, in reference to Memorandum, No. 533, dated 8th ultimo, from the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, and th
2nd February 1865.

TRICHINOPOLY, 11th March 1865. ... S. D.

To the Secretary Principal Inspector General, Medical Department ... George.

No. 202. ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1865, No. 635.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers the explanation offered by Assistant Surgeon Rule, the Zillah Surgeon of Madura, for his entire neglect of the rule laid down by the Inspector General of Jails, that none but able ... men, in the prime of life, should be selected for transmission to the Jail at Lovedale, to be extremely unsatisfactory, and directs that Mr. Rule be informed that the Government view his conduct in this matter with grave displeasure, and that any ... of similar carelessness and indifference to duty on his part will be s... ...shed.

2. The Government have perused with much interest Dr. Miller's report on the causes of the unhealthiness of the Lovedale ... and his suggestions for its prevention in future. Thes... ...ions should be carried out as far as practicable, especially those which relate to the selection of prisoners for the Lovedale gang, and for their being properly treated and cared for on their journey to the Hills. Any repetition of the over-crowding, adverted to in the 11th paragraph of Dr. Miller's letter, must be carefully avoided.

3. The Governor in Council, however, ...ssibility of carrying out the somewhat minute system of watching the ... which is advocated at the close of the report. It seems impossible, in such a case, to deal with other than purely physical causes.

Dr. Miller's Report should be furnished to every Medical Officer in charge of a Jail.

ARBUTHNOT,

To the Inspector General of Jails.
„ Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department.
„ Officer in charge of the Jail.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

The Zillah Surgeon of Madura should be
[redacted] censured for his neglect of duty. It
would be well if the displeasure of Govt.
... be evinced in something more
words – but I don't well see how this
... done – we can't be always removing
... suspending men and all such
changes are attended with inconvenience.

Dr Miller's suggestions seem sen-
-sible and should as far as practi-
-cable be carried out. It will not however
be possible to study the constitution of the
native convict mind or to deal with other
than physical causes & means

The disregard by the Zill: Surgeon at Madura of
what, as he must have well known, was his own
special duty, requires, I think, more than a reprimand
in words. Doubtless it is inconvenient to effect removals,
but when orders of an important character are issued for
the guidance of officers up country, and the latter simply
ignore them ~~to~~ save themselves a little personal trouble,
on the very occasions when they should most carefully
be observed, I feel that the authority of Govt. should be
... vindicated. Dr Miller's paper is a very inte-
... one but to carry out all his suggestions wd. require
an addition to Mr. Robinson's police force to escort such convicts
up & down the Ghauts & along the low country roads

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The Madura Surgeon just suspended for 6 months should be severely
reprimanded & warned that a repetition of such carelessness and indifference
will be severely punished – all that we can do is regard the convicts
... see that none physically unfit for the work are sent up & ...
that they are well treated on their way – the chances of the disorders
... must be risked we cannot ...
... of mental disease
into such investigations

S Ord. 635

Judicial Dept.

Fort. St. George

11.56

information
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the works of the
... Railway

Medical Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following letter from the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Dept

(Here Enter 15th March 1865. No. 86)

Order thereon 28th April 1865. No. 635.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers the explanation offered by Assistant Surgeon Rule, the Zillah Surgeon of Madura for his entire neglect of the rule laid down by the Inspector General of Jails that none but able-bodied men in the prime of life should be selected for transmission to the Jail at Lovedale, to be extremely unsatisfactory, and directs that Mr Rule be informed that the Government view his conduct

conduct in this matter with grave displeasure, and that any repetition of similar carelessness and indifference to duty on his part will be severely punished.

2. The Govt. have perused with much interest Dr. Miller's report on the causes of the unhealthiness of the Lovedale Gang, and his suggestions for its prevention in future. These suggestions should be carried out as far as practicable, especially those which relate to the selection of prisoners for the Lovedale Gang and for their being properly treated and cared for on their journey to the Hills. Any repetition of the over-crowding adverted to in the 11th para: of Dr. Miller's letter, must be carefully avoided.—

3. The Governor in Council, however, doubts the possibility of carrying out the somewhat minute system of watching the mental tendencies of the convicts, which is advocated at the close of the report. It seems impossible, in such a case, to deal with other than purely physical causes.

4. Copies of Dr. Miller's report should be furnished to every Medical Officer in charge of a Jail.—

To
The Inspector General of Jails Despd 2/5/65
The Principal Inspector General of the Med. Dept. } despd 2/5/65
To the Officer in charge of the Jail despd 2/5/65

186

No. 5

Proceedings Con

Filed 28 April 1865

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