

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1787	Press
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Dated	7-11-1867	

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

90-9-30

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th November 1867.*

No. 90. Read the following letter from the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 31st October 1867, No. 426.

With reference to the increasing number of requisitions for accommodation in the Presidency Lunatic Asylum, and in view of the certainty that such applications will become more numerous still as the institution, under more favorable circumstances, becomes better known, I have the honor to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. It seems highly desirable that, in the new Asylum, special provision should be made for idiots and cases of hopeless dementia, in addition to, and separate from, that for other insanes.

3. The proportion of idiots to lunatics amongst insane paupers in England in 1859 was 29.3 per cent., and there is reason to believe that it will be found much the same in India. Assuming, then, that there are 400,000 inhabitants in the town of Madras, and one insane per thousand (a very low estimate), this would give a total of 400 insanes, of whom, according to the above ratio, 117 would be idiots.

4. With regard to cases of confirmed dementia (a condition closely resembling idiocy), it has been found by experience that in all English Asylums such cases so accumulate as to occupy the greater part of the available space, and thus prevent the admission of acute cases at the very time when they are most amenable to treatment, and this inconvenience is beginning to be felt here also; there being at present 29 patients of this class in the Asylum.

5. It is further very undesirable that idiots should be associated with insanes, both because the one class is apt to have a prejudicial influence on the other, and because, unless they are kept separate, it will not be practicable to carry out efficiently the improved system of treatment for the former class, which is intended to be put in operation when the new establishment is opened.

6. Under these circumstances, and with a view to provide adequately for prospective wants, I beg to suggest that five additional cottages, capable of containing 60 patients, should be provided at once for idiots and cases of confirmed dementia; three of these should be set apart for males, and two, with a sufficient enclosing wall, for females.

7. The Superintendent of the Asylum, with whom I have been in communication on this subject, and who fully concurs in the views above expressed, states that a very good and convenient site, with ample space, for these buildings will be found in the south-west corner of the enclosure.

No. 91. ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1867, No. 1787.

The Governor in Council approves and sanctions the construction of five additional cottages at the south-west corner of Locock's gardens, capable of containing 60 patients of the class specified in paragraph 6 of the foregoing letter.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, Medical Department.

„ Public Works Department.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

Fort Saint George, 31st October 1867.

From

The Inspector General, Indian Medical Department,

Fort Saint George.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Public Dept.

Fort Saint George.

SIR,

With reference to the increasing number of requisitions for accommodation in the Presidency Lunatic Asylum; - and in view of the certainty that such applications will become more numerous still as the Institution, under more favourable circumstances, becomes better known, I have the honor to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. It seems highly desirable that in the new Asylum special provisions should be made for Idiots, and cases of hopeless Dementia; - in addition to, and separate from, those for other insanes.

3. The proportion of Idiots to Lunatics amongst insane paupers in England in 1859 was 29.3 per cent; - and there is reason to believe that it will be found much the same in India. Assuming then, that there are 400,000 inhabitants in the town of Madras, and one insane per

per thousand, (a very low estimate,) this would give a total of 400 insanes, - of whom, according to the above ratio, 117 would be idiots.

4. With regard to cases of confirmed Dementia (a condition closely resembling idiocy) it has been found by experience that in all English Asylums such cases so accumulate as to occupy the greater part of the available space, - and thus prevent the admission of acute cases at the very time when they are most amenable to treatment - and this inconvenience is beginning to be felt here also; - there being at present 29 patients of this class in the asylum.

5. It is further very undesirable that Idiots should be associated with insanes; - both because the one class is apt to have a prejudicial influence on the other; and because unless they are kept separate it will not be practicable to carry out efficiently the improved system of treatment for the former class, which is intended to be put in operation when the new establishment is opened.

6. Under these circumstances - and with a view to provide adequately for prospective wants, I beg to suggest that five additional cottages - capable of containing 60 patients - should be provided at

7 November 1867. 1787. 3/
The Governor in Council approves and sanctions the construction of five additional Cottages at the South-west Corner of the gardens, capable of containing 60 patients of the class specified in paragraph 6 of the foregoing letter.

W. M.

Noted by the
the following
be in the place
already mentioned
1867

2. His Excellency of the 4th Division with his instructions in the Public Works Department to prepare, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Asylum, the necessary Plans & Estimates for the Cottages in question.

W. The Inspector General of the Public Works Department
Public Works Department