

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	553	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	16-4-19	1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
16th April 1867.*

No. 92. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 4th April 1867, No. 1054.

Passing orders on the plan of the new } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works De-
Lunatic Asylum to be erected at the } partment, dated 4th April 1867,
Presidency. } Nos. 104 & 105.)

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1867, No. 593.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 233. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp, Columundai, 29th January 1867, No. 4,263:—

1. In compliance with the Order of Government, dated 22nd November 1866, No. 3,732, I have placed myself in communication with the Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department, with a view to the preparation of plans and estimates for the proposed Lunatic Asylum at Madras, with reference to the standard plan furnished and the remarks of the Government of India, regarding the description of materials to be used in the construction of such buildings.

2. The Governor General has authorized the adoption of the plan furnished by the Sanitary Commission for Bengal as a standard for Lunatic Asylum in India.

3. There are some minor details, however, which the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department and the Sanitary Commissioner think require modification, and regarding which I, agreeing with these Officers, request the orders of Government.

4. The Bengal Sanitary Commission, referring to the great improvements which have been made in Europe in treating the insane, insist strongly upon the principle that "The less the insanes are dealt with as prisoners the better; their safe custody must be made to depend on no high walls, but on the attention of kind and vigilant assistants."

5. The Bengal Commission, therefore, lay down that the enclosing wall round the entire space occupied by the cottages of the lunatics should not be more than five feet high, and concealed by shrubs.

According to the Bengal standard plan, the dwellings of the insane will consist of detached cottages.

Out of every six cottages one only will have iron barred doors and windows for the insane who most require restraint.

The doors of the other cottages will be of battens, the lower half of each being sparred for ventilation.

The criminal lunatics only are separated from the other insanes by a high wall.

6. The Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, are of opinion that to secure the safe custody of lunatics in India, and to protect the public from danger from escaped lunatics, more efficient restraint is required than is afforded in the standard plan furnished from Bengal for the lunatics who are not criminals.

7. It would be necessary, on account of the heat during the greater part of the year, to keep the batten doors open, and there would be no impediment, except the vigilance of the assistants or keepers, to the escape of the inmates of the Asylum during the night.

8. A system of vigilance, which is possible in Europe with efficient and well paid European agency, cannot, with safety, be adopted in this country, when such agency can with difficulty, and only at an enormous expense, be obtained.

9. The Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, suggest that the doors should be iron barred, with an outside shutter (with ventilating apertures) in case of rain. They are supported in this view by

the opinion of Dr. A. Payne, the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylums at the Bengal Presidency, who is an Officer of great reputation and experience in the treatment of the insane in India.

10. Dr. Payne says "whatever may be said against iron bars for Asylums in Europe, when such things are not seen out of Jails, they afford, in my opinion, by far the best means of occupying the space devoted to doors and windows in India.

"The Native so frequently employs them in his own house, that the sight of them can awaken no unpleasant association, and it may not be generally known that even to an European an iron barred window loses all its gloomy repulsiveness if it be painted green or white instead of black, as it almost invariably is, while the advantages attending the use of iron bars in India are indisputable."

11. If barred doors and windows are provided for the cottages, it will probably not be necessary to provide a high enclosing wall. An earthen embankment, surmounted by a thick hedge, would be an economical substitute for a high wall. If it is decided that, as a rule, the cottage doors and windows are not to be iron barred, I concur with Dr. Shaw and Mr. Ellis in thinking that a high enclosing wall is absolutely necessary for the safe custody of the Lunatics.

12. That there is a strong tendency on the part of the insane to escape from custody, is shown by the returns of the Idiot Asylum attached to the Monegar Choultry.

Although this is called an Idiot Asylum, the majority of the inmates are lunatics, for out of seventy patients, only ten are idiots, the remaining sixty being lunatics.

The number of escapes from the Asylum during the past year was eighteen.

13. In the Bengal standard plan no provision would seem to have been made for verandahs to the cottages, for it is stated that the quarters occupied by night ought not to be used during the day. Galleries and sheds are provided for working and exercising the lunatics in wet weather, and at other times they should take exercise under trees.

14. I agree with the Sanitary Commissioner, and the Principal Inspector General, in thinking that verandahs, six feet in width, should run the whole length of the cottages.

In certain cases it might be necessary to humour some of the insanes who are disinclined to use the sheds. Some may from infirmity be unable to leave the cottages, and a small verandah, while it would greatly add to the comfort of this class of insanes, would also protect the cottage in rainy weather.

Dr. Payne advocates narrow verandahs on either side of the building, and suggests that curtains of canvas or gunny may be made to hang from the eaves of these verandahs, to be used when required.

15. The Hospital accommodation, provided according to the Bengal standard plan, is small, and it may often be necessary to treat minor cases of illness in the cottages themselves, reserving the Hospital for graver cases.

There can be no objection to this course, but it is an additional reason for providing the cottages with the verandahs we have suggested.

16. In the report of the Bengal Sanitary Commission it is stated, "that in addition to the dwellings for the insane, a separate quarter for the criminals, and another for women, with the sheds for exercise and work, every Lunatic Asylum

"should have a Hospital calculated to contain five per cent. of the population; "with quarters for the Resident Medical Attendant, a house for the Deputy Superintendent, an office and store rooms for clothing, raw materials and manufactured goods, privies, wells, and cook-rooms."

It seems doubtful what is the rank of the Resident Medical Attendant for whom quarters are to be provided. In the standard plan which accompanied the report of the Bengal Sanitary Commission, a house is provided for the Deputy Superintendent, an Office for the Superintendent, and a small house for a Native Doctor, who would seem to be the only Resident Medical Attendant.

17. I have, therefore, to request the decision of the Government as to the nature of the quarters required for the Resident Medical Attendant of the Madras Lunatic Asylum.

18. The bungalow in Locock's Gardens would serve for a residence for the Superintendent, if he is required to reside on the premises, or it could be converted into a Hospital for Male Lunatics.

It is unsuited, from its size, for the quarters of a Native Medical Subordinate.

19. The Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, taking it for granted that the Superintendent of the Madras Lunatic Asylum will be a Medical Officer, and considering the distance from Madras of Locock's Gardens, is of opinion that the Superintendent should reside at the Asylum, and that a suitable house should be provided for him; as shown above the existing bungalow can be repaired and made use of for this purpose.

No. 234. ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1867, No. 433.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 31.

1. Under the circumstances urged in this letter, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that the safe custody of the inmates of the proposed Lunatic Asylum will be better secured by the provision of iron bars to the doors and windows of the several cottages than by the erection of a boundary wall, and His Lordship in Council sanctions this arrangement, as well as the addition of a narrow verandah along the whole length of the cottages, both in front and rear.

2. The bungalow referred to in paragraph 18 should be put in good repair, and be appropriated to the accommodation of the Superintending Medical Officer.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

.. Public Department.

.. Sanitary Commissioner.

.. Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1867.*

No. 104. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 20th March 1867, No. 5,090:—

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, dated 14th February 1867, No. 433,

1 Sketch of Locock's Garden.

1 Design of a Hut.

1 Plan showing the proposed extent of accommodation.

sanctioning the provision of iron bars to the doors and windows of the several cottages of the proposed Lunatic Asylum,

as well as the addition of a narrow verandah along the whole length of the cottages both in front and rear.

2. I have now the honour to submit a general plan of the manner in which, in consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector General, Medical Department, I propose to place the several cottages and subsidiary buildings of the Asylum. I also beg to submit a plan of one cottage capable of containing twelve patients.

3. In paragraph 36 of the Minute of the Governor, Proceedings of Government dated 4th August 1866, it is proposed that accommodation should be provided for 200 persons.

The standard plan furnished by the Government of India is for 250 persons, of whom 24 are criminal lunatics, two European lunatics, four superior patients, supposed to pay for their accommodation, leaving 220 ordinary Native lunatics.

4. No accommodation is provided for East Indian lunatics, nor is any separate provision made for lunatic patients of filthy habits, who, in the opinion of the Inspector General, Medical Department, must be kept separate.

5. In the Bengal standard plan, a house is provided for the Deputy Superintendent and for a Native Doctor, and there is a block of building marked as designed for attendants and Hospital servants.

6. It will be observed in the block-plan now submitted, that provision has been made for

Criminals.

24 Male criminal lunatics, and for
12 Female do. do.

Two padded rooms have also been provided within the enclosure of the male and female criminal lunatics. A sick ward is also provided for each of these classes, the males and females in all these buildings being separated by a wall twelve feet high.

Europeans.

7. Two small cottages, each containing three male European lunatics, have been provided. Total six.

Two other small cottages have been provided for East Indian male lunatics, containing six persons each. Total twelve male East Indians.

There are also four detached cottages for single male lunatics, European or East Indian, intended for persons able to pay for their accommodation in the Asylum.

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8. No separate provision has been made for female European lunatics, but two cottages have been provided for East Indian female lunatics, each to contain six patients. Total twelve. When European female lunatics require accommodation, they can be received into these cottages.

9. It has been shown from the records of the Government Lunatic Asylum, that there are a considerable number of East Indian patients always inmates of the Asylum, and I submit that accommodation distinct from Natives and of a different description will be necessary for them.

10. The cottages designed for twelve Natives are here assigned for six East Indians, whether male or female.

Native Lunatics. 11. For the male Native lunatics one block of eight cottages, each containing twelve patients, is proposed, making a total accommodation for ninety-six patients of this class.

This block is surrounded (*vide* black dotted line) with a thickset hedge, and has, attached, a cook-room, a ward for filthy patients (to contain twelve persons), two wells and two privies and two worksheds, being thus complete. Adjacent to this group are two cottages, each containing four padded rooms. This group is (with the exception of the ward for filthy patients) in strict accordance with the Bengal Standard Plan.

12. For the female Native lunatics, a block of four cottages, each containing twelve patients, is proposed, making a total accommodation for forty-eight patients. The subsidiary buildings of this group are—

- 2 Worksheds.
- 1 Cook-room.
- 2 Privies.
- 4 Padded cells.

1 Ward for patients of filthy habits, to contain twelve, and 1 well. The group of cottages for female lunatics is surrounded by a wall six feet high.

13. The hospital for male and female lunatics is placed so that this wall encloses also the female hospital, leaving the male hospital outside the enclosure, and sufficiently separate.

The object of this arrangement is to economize the time and labour of the Medical attendant and servants.

Establishment. 14. As directed in the Government Order, dated 14th February 1867, No. 433, paragraph 2, the bungalow already in existence on the premises is assigned to the Superintending Medical Officer.

Out-houses have been provided in the plan for this residence. An Office and a Store-room have also been provided.

15. No exact instructions have been laid down as to the subordinate establishment which will be required for the new Lunatic Asylum at Madras, but Dr. Bidie has been consulted as to the probable requirements, and I have indicated on the plan the following buildings for this purpose:—

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Apothecaries' quarters—for one Apothecary and one Assistant Apothecary.

Two small bungalows for four European keepers, and a similar bungalow in the female division for one East Indian keeper.

16. No provision has been made for accommodating, within the Asylum enclosure, other Native attendants, as it is considered undesirable to crowd the enclosure.

It would be desirable, however, that they should be made to build their huts in the neighbourhood of the Asylum, and the site to be occupied by them, and the manner in which their huts should be arranged, should be prescribed, so as to prevent an overcrowded and dirty bazaar growing up near the Asylum premises.

17. No watch tower has been provided, as in consequence of the ground being well wooded with large trees (in itself an advantage) such a tower must be very high to serve any useful purpose.

18. The following is a summary of the accommodation detailed above:—

Class of Patients.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans	6	0	6
East Indians	12	12	24
Superior patients	4	0	4
Natives (Civil)	96	48	144
Natives (Criminal)	24	12	36
	142	72	214

This summary does not accurately correspond with that shown on the face of the plan by Mr. Chisholm, as in the latter, the accommodation for twenty-four patients of filthy habits is shown as if intended to be permanently occupied, but this may not invariably happen.

19. It will be observed that the only serious departure from the Standard Bengal plan is the provision for six male Europeans, twelve East Indian males, and twelve East Indian females, but it must be remembered that the Bengal Standard Plan, as prepared by the Bengal Sanitary Commission, was intended apparently for a Lunatic Asylum, not at the Presidency Town, and, except at a Presidency Town, the number of European and East Indian lunatics would necessarily be small.

20. It has seemed to me desirable to submit these observations, which have been prepared in communication with Mr. Ellis and Dr. Mackenzie, for the decision of Government before preparing more detailed plans and estimates, which latter must depend upon the amount of accommodation which may be sanctioned by Government.

The plans accompanying the report are—

- 1. Present site of Locock's Gardens.
- 2. Site with proposed buildings.
- 3. { Plan of cottage, and
Details of do.

No. 105.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1867, No. 1,054.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 10.

1. The Government approve of the number, distribution, and classification of the several cottages, &c., of the

2. The design of the cottage for filthy patients should be modified so as to provide for separate cells opening on a common verandah. The cells should be separated by walls only high enough to insure safety, and perhaps fitted with iron gratings at the top.

(True Extract.)

Charles A. Smith

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

Kit of 1st May

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Public Department.

Sanitary Commissioner.

Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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No 4453

Exd. G. T. Augustin.

Recorded -

April 1897 No 593

*See record at the Bureau
= water engineering building
near of the new viaduct*

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