

Judicial (1895.) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 2411.

Dated 22nd Nov 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

LUNATIC ASYLUMS

Communicating to the Surgeon-General for information and guidance letter from the Government of India, together with the note by the Surgeon-General with that Government reviewing the various reports on-- for the year 1894.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
		21657/96					

Note by the Surgeon-General with the Government of India on the Annual Reports on Lunatic Asylums for 1894.

The reports refer to three asylums in Madras, to six in Bombay, to five in Lower Bengal, to four in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to two each in the Punjab and Central Provinces and to one each in Burma and Assam. All these asylums, except those in Madras City and Colaba, which are whole-time charges, are held as collateral charges by Civil Surgeons.

The asylum at Bhowanipur, Lower Bengal, is reserved exclusively for the reception of Europeans and Eurasians, and will be considered separately.

The reports were received in this office on the following dates: Central Provinces, 23rd April; Burma, 25th April; Bombay, 9th May; Bengal, 24th May; Punjab, 31st May; Assam, 1st June; Madras, 12th July; North-Western Provinces and Oudh, 27th July.

The numbers of criminal and non-criminal lunatics admitted during the year 1894 were 1,146 males and 214 females, a total of 1,360, which includes 96 re-admissions, and shows an increase of 94 on the previous year.

There was an increase of 11 admissions in Madras, of 23 in the Punjab, of 83 in Rangoon and of 13 in Assam; and a decrease of 8 in Bombay, of 5 in Bengal, of 17 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and of 6 in the Central Provinces.

The large increase of admissions in the Rangoon asylum was due to the transfer of 62 criminal lunatics from the Central Prison, Rangoon.

The admissions combined with those remaining from 1893 give a total population treated of 4,458 males and 1,169 females, total 5,627, an increase of 164 on the previous year.

These figures show that there was 1 female to 3·8 males, whereas among the lunatics treated in the county and borough asylums of England the proportion is 1·2 females to every male.

The total population in the asylums of Madras was 806, in those of Bombay 1,000, in Bengal 1,116, in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh 1,298, in the Punjab 480, in the Central Provinces 376, in Burma 405, and in Assam 146; and the daily average strength was 621, 727, 915, 1,038, 341, 311, 261, 106, respectively, or a total daily average strength of 4,322 for the whole of India.

The total number of discharges was 792, and of the deaths 460, leaving in confinement at the end of the year 4,375; of those discharged 463 were returned as cured, and the remainder as improved or discharged under the heading "Otherwise."

The percentage of those cured to the daily average strength was, for the whole of India, 10.7, and by Provinces as follows: Madras 10.9, Bombay 11.1, North-Western Provinces and Oudh 11.7, Punjab 17.0, Central Provinces 6.4, Rangoon 9.2, and in Assam 9.4.

The percentage of cured on total population was for all India 8.2, and for Madras 8.4, Bombay 8.1, Bengal 7.2, North-Western Provinces and Oudh 9.4, Punjab 12.1, Central Provinces 5.3, Rangoon 5.9, and Assam 6.9.

The percentage of recoveries on the total admissions, including re-admissions, was 34.0. In the country and borough asylums in England, the returns for the year 1893 show somewhat similar results, the percentage of cures on the total number admitted being 37.29.

No explanation is given in the report from the Punjab Government of the unusually high percentage of cases discharged as cured.

The figures relating to sickness and mortality entered in Statement I will be considered in connection with the returns from hospitals.

Criminal Lunatics.—Information regarding them is found in Statement II. The number remaining in confinement from 1893 was 1,141, which, with 352 admissions, gave a total population of 1,493, an increase of 122 on the previous year. The daily average strength was 1,152.2.

The total population in Madras was 194, or an increase of 16 on the number in 1893; in Bombay 130, or a decrease of 3; in Bengal 553, an increase of one; in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh 199, or an increase of 16; in the Punjab 105, or an

increase of 7; in the Central Provinces 114, or an increase of 15; in Burma 169, an increase of 70, almost entirely due to transfers from the Central Prison, Rangoon; and in Assam 29, the same number as in 1893.

Religion.—Of the 1,360 admissions, 764 were returned as Hindus, 313 as Muhammadans, and 94 as Europeans and Eurasians; the remainder, 189, being grouped under the head of "other castes."

The proportion of females to males among the Hindus was as 1 to 5.5 and among Muhammadans as 1 to 4.9.

The 94 Europeans and Eurasians were confined chiefly in the asylums at Madras and Colaba, only a very few having been received into the other asylums.

Age on admission.—The admissions according to age were as follows: Under 20 years, 79; from 20 to 40 years, 1,028; from 40 to 60 years, 242; and above 60 years, 11.

The percentage of admissions under 20 years to total admissions was 5.8; but this varies greatly in the different asylums. In Madras the percentage was 4.5; in Bombay 7.5; in Lower Bengal 2.0; in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh 4.3; in the Punjab 8.3; in the Central Provinces 2.8; in Rangoon (where 62 criminal lunatics are admitted) 8.5; and in Assam 14.5.

The returns showing the alleged causes of insanity are, as shown in the Report of the Hemps Drugs Commission, quite untrustworthy, and are therefore hardly worth recording.

The Commissioners in Lunacy in England state in their Report for 1893, with regard to the similar returns which they publish, that the "causes therein set forth are not those imagined by unskilled or biassed persons, but the deliberate opinion of the medical staff of the institutions, formed after much enquiry and with careful diagnosis." In Indian asylums the "causes" have hitherto been imagined by unskilled persons, and measures are about to be taken to simplify Statements VI and VII, and to throw the responsibility of diagnosis as to the cause, on the medical officer. We cannot hope, however, to arrive at the same accuracy in this respect as is the case in asylums in England.

Sickness and Mortality.—The returns of sickness and mortality show that 4,903 cases were treated in hospital during the

cases the epilepsy was the original affection, and that the deaths resulted from complications; if so, they should have been returned accordingly.

Although the next highest death-rate occurred in the Tezpur asylum, yet it has returned the lowest sick-rate, showing that sufficient attention had not been paid to the inmates, and that those who became sick were not admitted into hospital at that stage of their illness when treatment would have benefited them. Of the 28 deaths in this asylum, 13 resulted from disease of the lungs and 8 from anæmia. At the instance of the Chief Commissioner, a committee of the visitors was appointed to investigate the causes of the high mortality, and the asylum was also visited by the Sanitary Commissioner with special reference to these points. The conclusions arrived at were that the barracks were excessively damp, and that those admitted were in a bad state of health. The latter condition applies, more or less, to the admissions into all asylums, and the effects of the former could surely be obviated by supplying each barrack with a raised platform for sleeping accommodation, and the inmates might also be given straw to sleep on. With the information now before me, I should conclude that the lunatics were insufficiently fed. A resident medical subordinate, either an Assistant Surgeon or capable Hospital Assistant, should be attached to this asylum and placed in executive charge; the services of the Overseer being utilised elsewhere.

In Colaba asylum there were 15 deaths from dysentery, while in the other asylums of the Bombay Presidency, there were only 8 deaths from this disease. There were also in the same institution 12 deaths from pneumonia and chronic pneumonic phthisis, and the same lung affections accounted for 7 deaths in the Hyderabad asylum, and for 6 at Delhi.

In future the Provincial totals should be given in all the statements.

The following statement showing the expenditure under the different budget headings has been compiled for the information of the different Superintendents, as it is expenditure which can be controlled by the officer in executive charge of the asylum. The differences in cost per head are remarkable, more especially so when considered in connection with the sickness and mortality in the different asylums.

PROVINCE.	ESTABLISHMENT.		DIET.		CLOTHING AND BEDDING.		MEDICINE.		TOTAL CONTINGENCIES.		GRAND TOTAL.	
	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Bengal	35 9 0	41 14 11	41 9 5	42 0 6	2 3 0	2 9 9	1 15 4	2 1 10	8 2 2	8 7 6	89 7 6	96 13 2
	31 15 7	31 5 2	44 11 6	43 10 3	2 1 8	2 0 4	0 5 1	0 7 3	8 2 2	89 7 6	89 7 6	96 13 2
	36 4 9	36 15 7	32 3 2	35 5 11	3 15 6	3 15 4	0 11 0	0 9 6	6 15 6	86 12 9	86 12 9	94 6 6
	113 1 0	111 15 2	38 7 1	40 6 4	1 10 4	1 13 0	0 4 9	0 3 11	5 3 11	77 9 1	77 9 1	82 2 3
	32 2 1	32 2 6	35 15 4	34 11 8	1 11 6	2 0 4	0 8 1	0 11 1	4 7 9	158 14 2	157 5 7	158 14 2
	35 10 3	37 2 5	38 12 8	39 2 0	2 7 10	2 10 2	0 14 1	0 15 1	3 10 11	73 4 6	73 4 6	73 4 6
	36 1 1	37 7 0	39 13 2	34 6 4	7 11 8	9 10 9	0 8 9	0 12 4	6 0 5	83 10 7	83 10 7	85 14 1
	35 10 1	33 11 9	41 8 8	33 12 4	6 4 1	3 4 2	0 3 2	2 6 4	6 0 5	89 6 11	89 6 11	88 4 10
	35 15 7	36 4 9	40 5 2	34 3 3	7 4 10	7 11 2	0 7 2	1 4 4	1 11 10	86 1 7	86 1 7	84 1 1
	39 13 0	38 9 6	40 4 0	47 8 9	9 12 3	6 10 6	0 8 11	0 10 6	4 3 10	94 7 10	94 7 10	96 13 2
	27 13 2	27 7 11	35 11 11	22 9 4	3 4 8	2 13 9	0 0 3	1 4 4	3 5 6	69 7 8	69 7 8	56 8 3
	28 6 6	26 6 11	26 6 2	26 11 4	1 2 11	1 13 1	0 3 6	0 2 6	3 13 10	60 0 11	60 0 11	60 1 1
	28 1 11	26 15 9	31 0 1	24 10 7	2 3 6	2 6 8	0 1 11	0 11 9	3 3 10	64 11 3	64 11 3	58 3 8
	45 1 2	43 14 4	62 6 4	73 2 6	4 5 5	5 15 1	0 4 9	2 7 10	7 0 9	119 2 5	119 2 5	136 4 4
	96 5 5	98 7 2	104 12 6	103 14 7	9 6 5	10 12 0	4 8 9	4 10 9	16 8 2	231 9 4	231 9 4	239 12 3
	53 12 5	43 2 10	40 0 7	49 3 9	2 14 11	3 12 9	0 11 3	0 2 9	3 11 5	110 2 8	110 2 8	101 13 11
	40 2 0	48 0 0	52 7 4	55 2 7	7 8 0	0 0 0	1 7 3	1 2 4	6 3 4	168 10 11	168 10 11	166 9 5
	43 4 6	44 8 3	43 3 1	41 3 10	4 9 6	5 11 10	3 8 10	0 3 0	6 11 3	101 5 7	101 5 7	100 9 5
	37 6 7	37 3 6	45 6 3	42 7 5	5 0 8	5 5 0	1 0 2	1 0 4	3 7 2	91 7 11	91 7 11	89 7 7
	42 0 3	44 3 11	40 15 0	39 11 3	8 10 10	4 9 7	0 7 11	0 8 10	3 14 7	96 0 6	96 0 6	96 1 6
	64 2 3	64 0 9	69 9 10	68 13 8	7 8 2	6 7 10	2 7 11	2 4 2	9 4 6	153 0 8	153 0 8	154 4 11
	29 9 7	29 6 7	28 8 10	25 13 2	1 15 7	2 6 4	0 5 11	0 8 4	1 5 11	61 13 10	61 13 10	60 14 0
	28 10 10	28 4 0	32 10 5	28 6 9	3 4 2	4 0 5	0 6 5	0 8 2	1 5 8	66 8 0	66 8 0	62 9 0
	34 7 3	31 9 7	28 10 9	26 3 8	2 2 2	2 9 3	0 4 10	0 4 10	2 0 10	68 9 10	68 9 10	63 1 1
	29 10 3	30 3 2	28 5 2	26 2 1	2 15 4	2 10 7	0 9 7	0 12 3	0 6 10	61 15 2	61 15 2	63 1 0
	30 6 7	29 12 5	29 9 9	27 1 10	2 12 7	2 14 11	0 6 7	0 8 4	1 5 6	64 9 0	64 9 0	62 5 0
	70 6 1	68 3 5	88 13 7	72 9 8	15 1 5	5 4 2	2 1 2	0 8 5	7 11 3	184 1 6	184 1 6	149 11 5
	58 2 7	50 15 3	60 15 0	61 11 2	1 6 8	3 5 6	4 0 9	0 0 4	6 13 6	105 10 10	105 10 10	85 4 6
	45 13 8	41 6 4	51 9 0	61 11 2	5 12 9	3 7 11	3 1 6	2 10 5	10 1 10	195 12 9	195 12 9	119 10 0
	65 13 3	62 9 10	80 12 4	67 9 8	12 11 4	4 12 0	2 5 11	0 13 2	8 0 0	169 10 10	169 10 10	139 13 10
	43 6 7	43 3 3	48 7 3	46 2 7	5 7 0	4 5 5	1 1 9	1 2 4	5 5 10	103 12 4	103 12 4	100 10 6
ALL INDIA	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

year. The daily average number sick was 369, a percentage of 8.5 on the daily average strength.

The Provincial percentages were in Madras, 16.9; in Bombay, 6.6; in Bengal, 6.0; in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, 5.6; in the Punjab, 15.2; in the Central Provinces, 4.8; in Burma, 10.8; and in Assam, 4.7. Not much importance can be attached to these figures, unless they are taken in connection with the mortality, as admissions into hospital depend greatly on the individual medical officer.

The admissions into hospital for those diseases which are considered more or less preventable, were not, as a rule, particularly high. Under the head "Fevers," 1,077 cases were treated, an increase of 344 on the previous year, but only 12 deaths were ascribed to them. These fevers, presumably malarial, are but the beginning in many instances of conditions and complications which ultimately end in death, and it would be well if the inmates of those asylums which are situated in malarial districts were put under a course of prophylactic treatment during the unhealthy months. The quinine or cinchonidine used might be combined with one of the preparations of iron, so as to obviate the great tendency to anæmia which generally prevails among the inmates.

Eighty-four cases of pneumonia were treated, with 31 deaths, giving a mortality of 36.9 per cent., which is extremely high. More than two-thirds of the cases occurred in the asylums of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab; both combined gave a total of 59—twenty-four in the former and thirty-five in the latter; but the mortality in the Punjab cases was equal to 34.3 per cent., and in the North-Western Provinces to only 20.8. It would be advisable to provide the inmates of these asylums with warm jerseys, in addition to their ordinary clothing, during the cold-weather months.

The number of cases admitted for debility and anæmia amounted to 446, being 200 less than in 1893. The mortality was equal to 16.6 per cent.

There were 386 cases of dysentery treated, an increase of 135 on the previous year, with 66 deaths. The percentage of cases treated to daily average strength was 8.9, and by Provinces as follows:—

Madras 16.9.

Bombay 10.6.

Lower Bengal 6.8.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh 8.3.

increase of 10; "

Punjab 7.0.

Central Provinces 3.2.

Burma 7.3.

Assam 0.9.

The numbers treated were greatest in the following asylums, where the percentages to daily average strength were, in Calicut 41.8; Colaba (Native) 23.5; Delhi 17.1; Madras 13.0; Patna 12.5; Benares 10.9; and in Dacca 7.5.

Diarrhoea accounted for 173 admissions, with 15 deaths, as compared with 206 cases and 28 deaths in 1893.

One hundred and forty-eight minor and eighty-two major cases of injury were returned. Some Superintendents appear to forget that all cases of the latter should be referred to and explained in their reports.

Four hundred and sixty deaths occurred during the year, which number is equal to a percentage of 10.6 on daily average strength, and 8.2 on total population.

These results compare favourably with those in the county and borough asylums of England, more especially when we consider the superior arrangements and the special medical staff of the English asylums. The mortality in these institutions for the ten years ending with 1893 was on the daily average strength 10.1, and on the total population 8.00.

The deaths in the Provincial asylums were as follow:—

	Total Population.	Death	Per cent. on T. P.
Madras	... 806	64 —	7.9
Bombay	... 1,000	101 —	10.1
Lower Bengal	... 1,116	75 —	6.7
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,298	96 —	7.4
Punjab	... 480	42 —	8.8
Central Provinces...	376	28 —	7.4
Burma	... 405	26 —	6.4
Assam	... 146	28 —	19.2

The asylums with the highest mortality were Poona with 32 deaths, or a percentage of 33.6 on daily average strength; Tezpur, with 28 deaths, or a percentage of 26.44; Delhi, with 18 deaths, or a percentage of 17.12; Hyderabad, with 17 deaths, or a percentage of 16.2; and Colaba (Native), with 38 deaths, or a percentage of 14.8.

There was an outbreak of cholera in the asylum at Poona, which accounted for 8 deaths, and the same number died from epilepsy. I presume that in the latter

It is necessary to point out that 33 Europeans and Eurasians were treated in the Madras asylum and 43 in the one at Colaba.

The points to which increased attention should be shown in the management of the asylums are as follow:—

1. An improved dietary for a large proportion of the inmates.
2. Better clothing for the convalescent and weak.
3. Special means for heating those barracks occupied by the weakly and convalescents during the cold weather months.
4. The general introduction of means for affording amusement to the inmates. Their lives are at present a weary round of dull monotony.
5. Selected patients to be allowed to take walking exercise outside the asylum walls.
6. Greater attention to be paid to the feeding and clothing of lunatics when they are in transit to the asylum.

Bhowanipur asylum for Europeans and Eurasians.

Twenty-three cases were admitted during the year, 41 remained from the previous year, giving a total population of 64. Of the admissions 12 were Europeans and 11 Eurasians.

Twenty-five cases were discharged, 4 of whom were cured, two sent to Europe under the Merchant Shipping Act, 11 were transferred to the care of friends, one was discharged otherwise, one was made over to the military authorities and six died.

The average daily number of criminal lunatics was 338.

Of the total population, only 9 cases were admitted into hospital for treatment, but the mortality was high, being at the rate of 14.86 on daily average strength.

Of the six deaths which occurred two were due to old age, two to pneumonia and one each to phthisis and aneurism of the aorta.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 23,350, and the yearly cost of each lunatic was Rs. 583, or, after deducting the amount received from paying patients, Rs. 240.

Excluding expenditure on public works and on rates and taxes, the yearly cost of each patient was Rs. 166, or a decrease of Rs. 61 on the previous year.

The daily average cost of diet was 5 annas 9 pies per patient.

J. C.,—20-8-95.

23rd Oct
No. 748.

FROM

L. M. THORNTON, Esq.,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

TO

The Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Madras.

Home Department.
Medical.

Simla, the 26th October 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No 1304 (Judicial) dated 18th June 1895, forwarding a copy of the Annual Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Madras Presidency for the year 1894, together with a copy of the orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council thereon.

2. With Home Department letter No. ^{4 Medical} 136-193, dated the 29th March 1895, certain proposals for the improvement of the administration of Lunatic Asylums in India were circulated to all Local Governments, and in order that Local Governments and Administrations may be able to compare the results of the Provincial Asylums with those obtained elsewhere it has been considered desirable to review the various reports on Lunatic Asylums submitted for the year 1894 in one note. A copy of the note thus prepared by the Surgeon-General with the Government of India is circulated herewith for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

3. The question of asylum manufactures and the judicious employment of lunatics on such manufactures has been referred to in the reviews on the reports for previous years where this appeared to be necessary. The Government of India consider it sufficient for the present to remind Local Governments and Administrations of the necessity for continued attention to this important branch of asylum administration as being one of the best means of improving the health of the lunatics and effecting their cure.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. M. Thornton

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

1303/4. 18.6.95

1954: 22.8.95

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noted d/ 22 Nov. 1895 No 2411.

Comm. W. H. S. S. for information & guidance.

W. H. S. S.

28/11/95

Note.

Nothing in the current requires reply or immediate or definite action on the part of Govt.

W. H. S. S.

CURRENT NO. 5214

Jul

From

The Govt. of India

Home

No. 23-2nd
778

Dated 26-10-95

Recd 3-11-95

Repd 5-11-95

Encl-1

Subject 7.00

Acknowledging receipt of the Annual Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Madras Presy & forward copy of a note containing reviews of various Asylums.

Ref. Please put up to Govt. for review.

To the S. S. (S. C.) dated 26/10/95

population in the asylums of 806, in those of Bombay 1,116, in the North-Westes and Oudh 1,298, in the in the Central Provinces 376, and in Assam 146; and the strength was 621, 727, 915, 1,261, 106, respectively, or average strength of 4,322 for India.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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