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Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1588 M

DATED 2^d October 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

State Hospitals.

Communicating, with remark, G.O., Public, reviewing the annual report and statistics for 1894 of the----in the town of Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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INDEXED.

Miscellaneous.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPT. G.O., DATED 2-10-95 No. 1588. W.

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BACK PAGE

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
1888 No. MISCELLANEOUS.

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STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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28TH AUGUST 1895, Nos. 712, 713, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter from the Surgeon-General, dated 18th June 1895, No. 363.

ABSTRACT.—Forwarding the annual report and statistics for 1894 of the State hospitals in the Presidency Town of Madras.

ORDER—dated 28th August 1895, No. 712, Public.

The Surgeon-General, in submitting his report on State hospitals for 1894, explains that, in order to show more clearly the work done in, and the relative cost of, each hospital, he has adopted a somewhat different system from that of preceding years.

2. A comparative statement of the work done and the charges incurred during the past three years in the six State hospitals is appended :—

Year.	Number of patients treated.		Total.	Average daily attendance.		Percentage of mortality.	Major surgical operations.	Recoveries from paying patients.	Cost of diets.	Total gross expenditure.
	In.	Out.		In.	Out.					
1892	13,185	76,087	89,272	851.71	576.40	6.19	3,498	15,987	1,02,005	3,49,769
1893	13,194	81,518	94,712	810.26	563.47	5.18	3,417	19,661	1,09,951	3,64,966
1894	13,863	82,515	96,378	821.38	560.68	5.02	3,355	21,481	1,06,071	3,53,050

3. Compared with the preceding year there was an increase of 1,666 patients and a decrease in the percentage of mortality. The expenditure was less by Rs. 11,916 and the cost of diets fell from Rs. 1,09,951 to Rs. 1,06,071, or by $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This is accounted for by the fall in the price of provisions. The price of rice, which is the principal article of diet, fell, however, from 18.8 seers per rupee in 1892-93 to 21.3 seers in 1893-94, or by more than 13 per cent.

4. It appears that the expenditure on bazaar medicines was only Rs. 483 against Rs. 5,117 in 1893. This is attributed mainly to the more correct entry of charges under their proper heads. In its letter, No. 592, dated 27th September 1894 (G.O., No. 341, dated 4th May 1895), the Government of India remarked on the large expenditure in special State hospitals in Madras in 1893 on bazaar drugs as well as on English medicines, and in his letter recorded in G.O., No. 527, dated 25th June 1895, the Surgeon-General explained that the cost of medicines in this Presidency

was much higher than in the North-West Provinces on account of the less extensive use of indigenous drugs in Madras where the attention of medical subordinates is more largely directed in their professional training to the British Pharmacopœia, and where there is also a prejudice against the use of these drugs on account of the difficulty of getting them pure and reliable. In paragraph 4 of the Government Order last quoted, the Government remarked that more attention should be paid, in the education afforded at the Medical College, to the employment of indigenous drugs, which are naturally much cheaper than European medicines, and directed that their use where practicable and expedient should be encouraged. It is clear from the figures now furnished that the matter is one which calls for the particular attention of the Surgeon-General.

5. In addition to the patients treated in the six State hospitals, it appears from paragraph 5 of the report that the large number of 103,362 received attention in the other private, municipal, or aided institutions which exist at the Presidency Town. These large numbers evidence the growing popularity of European hospitals and dispensaries. Although 1894 was a comparatively healthy year, there was a marked

Cases in the General Hospital ..	6,647
„ the Women and Children's Hospital ..	586
„ the Lying-in Hospital ..	760
Total ..	7,993

Cases in 1893 ..	5,623
„ 1892 ..	3,432

increase in the number of cases of malarial fever. The statement of mortality in paragraph 9 contains, as remarked by the Surgeon-General, inadequate information and no percentages. It is hoped that the orders already issued by the Surgeon-General will result in more detailed records being maintained in future. The existence of septicæmia in the various hospitals should in future reports be fully discussed, and it should be noticed what proportion of the cases is traceable to conditions arising before the admission of the patient and how far they originate within the hospital. The return of 418 cases in the Women and Children's Hospital under the general, undefined head of "Debility" is unsatisfactory, but as the officer responsible has retired from the service the Government will merely request the Surgeon-General to take steps to prevent such remissness in future.

6. From the statement in paragraph 4 it appears that altogether 1,035 beds were available but the average daily sick numbered only 821. This is particularly noticeable in the case of the Lying-in Hospital where the 122 beds had on an average only 68 occupants. The Surgeon-General should in future report the largest number of in-patients on any one day at each hospital.

7. Details regarding operations, such as were embodied in paragraph 6 of the report for 1893 have not been afforded. The omission should be supplied and the particulars given in future. Statement III-A contains particulars of major operations, but they have not been summarised, nor is anything said in regard to minor operations.

	1892.		1893.		1894.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.	A.	P.
General Hospital ..	5	11½	6	5½	6	3
Women and Children's Hospital ..	5	11	6	5	6	3
Lying-in Hospital { European ..	8	4	8	9	9	7
Native ..	3	8	3	9	3	10
Ophthalmic Hospital ..	3	0½	3	4	5	4
Leper Hospital ..	4	3	5	8	3	11
Voluntary Venereal Hospital ..	3	11½	3	11½	3	11

graph of the report at page 94, from which it appears that, had last year's method of calculation been adopted, the average cost would have been As. 5-7. The Surgeon-General states that the variations in the cases of other hospitals are not

sufficiently marked to call for special notice. This apparently refers to the total cost of the diets, which for the past two years was as shown in the margin. The averages, however, exhibit considerable increases at the Ophthalmic and Lying-in Hospitals and a rise of three pies per diet at the Women and Children's Hospital. The Government cannot find that any attempt has been made to explain satisfactorily these increases in view of the fact that the prices of food commodities were lower in 1894 than in 1893. If the figures given are correct, the cost of diets at the Ophthalmic Hospital rose more than 60 per cent. As to the Lying-in Hospital, the Surgeon-General states that its special requirements sufficiently explain the increase. This is incorrect; they account for a difference but not for a rise in the face of the fall in the price of articles of diet. The decrease in the General Hospital average is good so far as it goes; but in this and every other case except that of the Leper Hospital (the returns for which in previous years there are, as already stated, reasons for distrusting), there has been either an increase since 1892 or an insignificant decrease, although it is certain that from 1892 to 1894 there was a considerable fall in prices. The Government has in these circumstances reasons for dissatisfaction with the manner in which the hospitals have been managed in this respect; and His Excellency in Council trusts that the matter will receive the early and close attention of Surgeon-General Sibthorpe.

9. The averages given in column 6 of the statement at page 21 do not correspond in all cases with the figures given in the separate reports attached, e.g., column 6 at page 32 gives the average cost for each diet in the General Hospital as As. 6-1¼ as against As. 6-3 in the Surgeon-General's statement; and at page 50 the averages for the Lying-in Hospital are shown to be—

	RS.	A.	P.
European ..	0	9	7
Native ..	0	3	10
2) 0	13	5	
	0	6	8½

as against the Surgeon-General's As. 6-7. There is also reason to suppose that the systems adopted in the various institutions for the calculation of the averages are not all on the same lines. It is therefore quite impossible to arrive at figures on which correct comparisons can be based. The Government directs that, in future, the cost of European and Native diets be kept quite distinct, and separate averages *per diet per diem* under each be worked out. This is the method employed in the report on the Calcutta Medical Institutions (*vide* column 6 of the statement at page 36 of the report for 1892), and is the only method that affords any useful information or shows where financial improvement may be effected. The Surgeon-General will state what method is at present in force in each of the State hospitals for the calculation of the average cost of each diet.

10. In regard to the financial side of the report, it is satisfactory to note that the amount paid by Government fell from Rs. 3,44,679 to Rs. 3,30,744, although the number of sick treated was larger. The recoveries from paying patients rose from Rs. 19,661 to Rs. 21,481, which is satisfactory. In this connection the Government would observe that the G.O., of 13th October 1894, No. 770, Public, quoted in paragraph 6 of the General Hospital report (p. 27), dealt solely with the method of recovery from *public servants* treated in the Presidency hospitals. The Surgeon-General should procure information from Calcutta and Bombay as to the charges made to private patients treated in the State hospitals in those cities, and the mode in which

recoveries are made. It appears to Government that it should generally not be difficult to distinguish labourers and artisans, who should not pay, from the superior classes, who should pay. The Government desires also to be furnished with particulars of the use made of the quarters provided for native gentlemen and the amount of fees recovered on that account. The large increase from Rs. 48,583 to Rs. 59,443 on salaries of Medical Officers is satisfactorily explained; as also is the advance from Rs. 28,623 to Rs. 33,646 in the cost of "inferior dispensary establishment" at the General Hospital. The Surgeon-General's attention will be invited to paragraph 5 (c) and (g) of Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price's report (page 26) and he will be requested to state under what authority temporary hands are sanctioned month by month. The system, if worked carefully, may be a source of economy but is opposed to account principles as to the appointment of establishments. The Surgeon-General has already been directed to include all establishment which is practically permanent in the proposition statement for the revision of the establishment of the General Hospital.

11. The Government has recently, by G.O., dated 4th May 1895, No. 341, Public, directed the Surgeon-General to make a full and careful inquiry into the cost of medicines as well as into the whole question of the expenditure incurred in the City State hospitals; and this report is awaited.

12. The Government regrets to observe that the present report shows that in more than one way there has been mismanagement, or careless supervision, at the Women and Children's Hospital. This is not likely to continue, but the Surgeon-General's attention will be directed to the matter.

13. The Government has perused with interest the professional reports of the Medical officers concerned, and particularly notices with satisfaction the success of Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price's experiment in grass-farming, which has resulted, not only in an additional source of income to the General Hospital, but in, what is far more important, an improvement in its sanitary condition. His remarks in paragraph 5 (h) of the report (pages 26 and 27) will be communicated to the Local and Municipal Department.

14. The question of revising the charges for the "Officers' quarters" has already been referred to the Surgeon-General in G.O., dated 31st May 1895, No. 439. The Senior Medical officer's observations (page 28) on the subject have, no doubt, attracted the Surgeon-General's notice. The statement that the members of the steward's department at the General Hospital have to attend from 6-30 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily throughout the year and to take night duty once in six nights should be enquired into and a report submitted. The fact that the three stewards required assistance in their duties to give them time to check the storekeeper's expenditure and returns points, apparently, to a defect in system. The Surgeon-General will report fully on the existing arrangements. The names of patients who die in the Voluntary Venereal and other hospitals should be omitted from future professional reports; initials or numbers are sufficient.

15. With reference to the remarks under "Midwives" on page 7, the attention of the Surgeon-General will be invited to the paragraph regarding nursing at the Lying-in Hospital on page 50. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Sturmer appears to be rightly dissatisfied with the arrangements under which this important duty is carried out entirely by probationers. The Government is of opinion that a small permanent staff of nurses should be maintained. The Surgeon-General will report on the point. At page 29 it is stated that there were 26,570 "self-diets" in the native wards of the General Hospital, giving an average of 7.38 "self-diets" *per diem*. Either the latter figure is wrong or the method adopted in its calculation should have been explained.

16. His Excellency the Governor in Council has read with gratification the testimony borne by the Surgeon-General to the professional labours of Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonels Price and Brown and the other Medical officers mentioned in paragraphs 11 and 18 of the report.

17. It is observed that the report is dated the 18th June, but it was not received in print till the 16th July.

(True Extract.)

J. F. Price
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Examiner of Medical Accounts.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Accountant-General.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 28th August 1895, No. 713, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd. 16 SEP 95

Encl.

G.O., &c., 28th August 1895,
Nos. 712, 713.

AUGUST.

State Hospitals.

Reviewing the annual report and statistics for
1894 of the — in the town of Madras.

*in
twice*

Order

Communicated to the
Municipal Commissioners Madras
with the request that early steps
may be taken to ^{prevent the recurrence of} ~~remove~~ the
nuisance complained of in para
5th of Brigade Surgeon. Lieut.
Colonel Price's report.

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26/9/95*

W. S. R. S.

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189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189 ,

DATED

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To The President Municipal Commission Madras
with an extract from the report
Dated 26/9/95

with an order