

Local & Munl. (1895) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 658/n

DATED 10th April 1895

[Despatch Abstract.]

Hospital.

Recording G.O., Financial Department, sanctioning a grant of Rs. 1500 towards the extension of the lying-in-ward of St. Bartholomew's----, Ootacamund, &c.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

22ND MARCH 1895, No. 264, FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper :—

G.O., dated 5th December 1894, No. 1069, Financial.

ABSTRACT.—Declining to make a grant towards the expenditure on the proposed extension of St. Bartholomew's Hospital buildings.

READ—also the following paper :—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 16th February 1895, No. 168.

With reference to G.O., No. 1069, dated the 5th December 1894, Financial Department, I have the honour to submit, for the favourable consideration of Government, a further representation from the Honorary Secretary, Hospital Committee, Ootacamund, requesting a reconsideration of the refusal of Government to give a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 1,500 towards the proposed extension of the lying-in ward of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

2. The reasons for this request are fully explained in the Honorary Secretary's letter. I quite agree with him that the hospital at Ootacamund is placed under different circumstances and supported in quite a different manner from municipal hospitals on the plains. It is a charitable institution supported chiefly by voluntary contributions. The amount derived from this source is already considerable but nevertheless hardly sufficient to meet the ever-increasing expenditure of the hospital. To attempt, therefore, to raise an additional sum of Rs. 3,000 for the extension of the buildings will imperil the ordinary hospital income from these sources and affect the efficient management of the institutions.

3. It will be seen from the large and yearly increasing numbers treated in the hospital that a further provision for lying-in cases is absolutely necessary to avoid overcrowding, which insanitary condition is a powerful factor towards producing outbreaks of puerperal fever.

4. Under these circumstances, I strongly recommend that Government will be pleased to reconsider their decision and sanction a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,500, which is only a small amount when compared with the total expenditure of the hospital.

5 The plan and estimate are herewith resubmitted.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-Major G. L. WALKER, Civil Surgeon, Ootacamund, to the Secretary, Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated Ootacamund, 19th January 1895, No. 856.

As the result of a conversation on the 17th instant with the Honourable Mr. J. F. Price, Chief Secretary to Government, at his suggestion and approval I am emboldened to address the Surgeon-General once more with a suggestion that he will move Government to reconsider their refusal to give a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 1,500 towards the proposed extension of the lying-in ward of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the following grounds, viz.—

2. Government, in G.O., dated 5th December 1894, No. 1069, suggests that the required amount could be raised locally by voluntary contributions. I would point out in this connection

that the amount already derived from this source, aided by fancy bazaars, concerts, theatrical performances, &c., is already considerable and barely suffices to keep up with the current and constantly increasing expenditure of the hospital, and that the raising of the comparatively large additional sum of Rs. 3,000 for the special purpose of extension of buildings cannot be hoped for without imperilling the precarious hospital income from these sources. The following figures will show the yearly increasing numbers relieved at the hospital and the consequent increasing expenditure in keeping the hospital going, rendering necessary a careful husbanding of all sources of regular income:—

Year.	Total attendance.
1890	12,889
1891	14,318
1892	16,687
1893	18,319
1894	20,537

3. The committee, however, have all along had in view the raising of a moiety of the sum required, viz., Rs. 1,500, by a special appeal to the public as suggested by Government.

4. Government further states that the Ootacamund Municipality should provide the necessary hospital buildings, as is the case with other municipalities. I would point out, however, that this hospital is under different circumstances and is supported in quite a different manner from municipal hospitals on the plains. St. Bartholomew's Hospital is not a municipal hospital; it is a charitable hospital supported chiefly by voluntary contributions, and is managed by a representative managing committee of twelve local gentlemen and a sub-committee of nine ladies. If the municipality took it over, they would have to provide and budget for a large sum of money (Rupees 9,000 per annum), which they doubtless would decline to do, or even, if willing, could not provide at once; moreover it is very questionable whether it would be for the benefit of the hospital that the municipality should support and manage it. If such a change was adopted, the following would be the result, viz., the present representative managing committee which meet at the hospital regularly once a month would cease to exist, and with them the ladies' sub-committee would disappear, leaving the management to the municipal council (composed largely of natives), who certainly would not trouble themselves to meet at the hospital monthly and take the active benevolent interest in the welfare of the institution that the existing voluntary committees do. The present chief source of income, such as voluntary contributions, fancy bazaars, concerts, theatrical entertainments, "Hospital Sundays" in the various places of worship, would also disappear; the promoters of entertainments and collections now got up in aid of the hospital would transfer them to some other charitable object, as they would naturally consider that as the hospital was the property of the municipality it was the business of that corporation to support it. Such a change would, I think, be detrimental to the best interests of the hospital.

5. I would now emphasize the urgent need for the immediate extension of the lying-in ward. The following figures show the considerable increase in number of lying-in women accommodated during the last five years, viz.—

Year.	Lying-in cases.
1890	64
1891	107
1892	104
1893	122
1894	142

6. An increase of 222 per cent. since 1890. Such an increase, I think, is very satisfactory, but it has a very regrettable drawback if accommodation does not keep pace with the applications for relief; and this has been exemplified during the past year by the fact that we have had three cases of puerperal fever amongst lying-in patients, the appearance of which fatal disease has been doubtless influenced by want of sufficient accommodation, the constant occupation of the small lying-in wards, and defective drainage behind those wards, which defects are removable by the proposed lying-in ward extension and drainage scheme, which I have submitted to the Surgeon-General in foregoing correspondence on this subject. It is almost an impossibility to restrict the number of lying-in women to the extremely limited existing accommodation, as the women are brought to hospital when actually in labour, often in an advanced condition, and sometimes in conditions requiring immediate operative assistance; such cases cannot be refused admission, even at the risk of overcrowding.

7. Neither the hospital funds nor the municipality can be looked to to furnish the necessary funds for the proposed alterations; if, then, Government will not give a grant-in-aid, admissions of lying-in women must be greatly restricted and many applications refused.

8. I would again give prominence to the fact that Government is only asked for the comparatively insignificant sum of Rs. 1,500 towards the work, being half the amount of the estimate, the hospital committee undertaking to raise the other moiety.

9. The Honorable the Chief Secretary during the conversation above referred to expressed a desire to have an interview with the Surgeon-General on the subject of a re-consideration by Government of their decision in the matter of the grant asked for, and stated that he would return to Madras on Monday, the 21st instant.

ORDER—dated 22nd March 1895, No. 264, Financial.

Under the circumstances represented in the present communication from the Surgeon-General, the Government is pleased to sanction, as a special case, a grant of Rs. 1,500 towards the proposed extension of the lying-in ward of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Ootacamund. The grant will be met from savings under 45, Civil Works, and should be drawn before the close of the current official year.

2. The appended statement, which has been prepared from the annual returns of the civil hospitals and dispensaries in this Presidency, shows that the number of patients treated rose from 14,318 in 1891 to 18,319 in 1893 and that, whilst the subscriptions from Europeans amounted to Rs. 4,493, Rs. 4,984 and Rs. 5,188 in the years 1891, 1892 and 1893, respectively, those from Natives were as low as Rs. 169, Rs. 370 and Rs. 294. The attention of the Committee will be drawn to the matter by the Surgeon-General, in view of greater efforts being made to enlist native support.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.

" Accountant-General.

" Local and Municipal Department.

Editors' Table.

APPENDIX.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Ootacamund.

Number of patients treated.			Income.													
—	In-door.	Out-door.	Total.	From Government.					From		Subscriptions.			Miscellaneous receipts.	Total.	
				As salaries.		As European medicine.	Special allowance.	Total.	Local funds.	Municipal funds.	Interest on investments.	From Europeans.	From Natives.			
				Medical officers.	Inferior establishments (including mental servants).											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1893	769	17,550	18,319	RS. 784	RS. 84	RS. 972	RS. 3,644	RS. 5,484	RS. ..	RS. 850	RS. ..	RS. 5,188	RS. 294	RS. 543	RS. 110	RS. 12,469
1892	759	15,927	16,686	627	84	1,926	5,205	7,812	500	135	72	4,984	370	378	44	14,325
1891	868	13,450	14,318	684	84	1,913	2,783	4,464	750	300	..	4,493	169	333	981	11,490

	Expenditure.														Percentage of total cost paid by Government.						
	On establishment.						On diet.														
	Paid by Government as salaries.			Paid from local sources on salaries.			On bazaar medicines.		On European medicines.		On charges (including registers, &c., supplied by Government).		On buildings or repairs.			Invested during the year.		Total expenditure.		Average cost of each diet.	
	Inferior Dispensary establishment (including menial servants).			Medical officers.			Inferior establishment (including menial servants).		Com-pounders, &c.		Menial servants.										
	Medical officers.	Con-pounders, dressers, &c.	Menial servants.	19	20																
1893	784	84	84	84	350	1,500	1,797	32	1,041	4,011	1,247	704	979	0 5 3	12,469	440					
1892	627	84	84	84	250	1,500	1,903	118	1,975	4,176	1,022	2,603	67	0 5 6	14,325	647					
1891	684	84	84	84	300	1,500	1,614	84	982	3,934	1,773	295	240	0 5 10	11,490	383					

	Expenditure.										Percentage of total cost paid by Government.					
	Paid by Government as salaries.					Paid from local sources on salaries.										
	European Dispensary establishment (including menial servants).			Local Dispensary establishment.		On European medicines.		On hazard medicines.		On miscellaneous charges (including registers, &c. supplied by Government).		Invested during the year.	Total expenditure.	Average cost of each diet.	Total.	
	Medical officers.	Inferior Dispensary establishment (including menial servants).	Compounders, &c.	Menial servants.	Medical officers.	Inferior establishment (including menial servants).	Compounders, &c.	Menial servants.	On diet.	On European medicines.	On hazard medicines.	On miscellaneous charges (including registers, &c. supplied by Government).	On buildings or repairs.	On diet.	On buildings or repairs.	On diet.
1893	784	84	84	84	350	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,011	1,041	1,247	704	979	0 5 3	12,469	440
1892	627	84	84	84	250	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,176	1,975	1,022	2,603	67	0 5 6	14,325	647
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	Paid by Government as salaries.					Paid from local sources on salaries.										
	Paid by Government as salaries.			Paid from local sources on salaries.		On European medicines.		On hazard medicines.		On miscellaneous charges (including registers, &c. supplied by Government).		Invested during the year.	Total expenditure.	Average cost of each diet.	Total.	
	Medical officers.	Inferior Dispensary establishment (including menial servants).	Compounders, &c.	Menial servants.	Medical officers.	Inferior establishment (including menial servants).	Compounders, &c.	Menial servants.	On diet.	On European medicines.	On hazard medicines.	On miscellaneous charges (including registers, &c. supplied by Government).	On buildings or repairs.	On diet.	On buildings or repairs.	On diet.
1893	784	84	84	84	350	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,011	1,041	1,247	704	979	0 5 3	12,469	440
1892	627	84	84	84	250	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,176	1,975	1,022	2,603	67	0 5 6	14,325	647
1891	684	84	84	84	300	1,500	1,500	1,500	3,934	982	1,773	295	240	0 5 10	11,490	383

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FINANCIAL.

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G.O., 22nd March 1895, No. 264.

MARCH.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
Ootacamund.

Sanctioning a grant of Rs. 1,500 towards the extension of the lying-in ward of —, and drawing the attention of the Hospital Committee to the meagre subscriptions from the native community in view to greater efforts being made to enlist native support.

in order. 95/12/658
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Copy to the Chairman M.C. Ootacamund.
9/4 29/4

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Hospital

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Rs 1500 towards the extension
of the Ling-in ward of St.
Bartholomew's — Botaca-
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