

**Local & Munl. (1896) Department.**

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1687/m

DATED 1-10-96

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Medical. Communicating to the Municipal Commissioners Madras extracts from G. O. Public department reviewing the triennial report and statistics of the medical institutions in the town of Madras, and requesting them to report whether it is not possible to reduce the cost of diets in the Royapettah hospital to the cost incurred in the General Hospital.

# BACK PAPERS.

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# FURTHER PAPERS.

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[L. & M.]  
300-5-8-96

## Local & Munl. (1896) Department.

CURRENT No. 2490 M

C.S.  
misc.

Order No. 1687 Mins of 1. 10. 96

Communicated to the municipal commissioners of Madras, whose attention will be drawn to the remarks of the Surgeon General referred to in paras. 2 & 14 of the Proceedings read above, and to the comparative statement of the cost of diets contained in paragraph 6 of Dr Price's report on the working of the General Hospital.

2. The Commissioners will be requested to report whether it will not be possible to <sup>reduce</sup> bring down the cost of diets in the Royapettah hospital to that incurred in the General Hospital.

V.A.  
23/9/96

W.D.  
25.9.96

MA  
29.9.96

To The President, M.C., Madras.  
with extract from paras. 2 & 14  
copy of Statement in para. 53 of  
Surgeon General's report.

Copy 6/10/96

From

The Pub. Dept.

This para 3 that contains remarks of the S.G. Para 2 contains comments of the S.G. No. 850 & 851.

Dated 11/8

Received 29/8

Registered 1/9

Enclosures

Spare copies 5.

## SUBJECT.

Reviewing the triennial Report & Statistics of the Medical Institutions in the Presidency town of Madras for the year 1893-95.

14/9. W.D. 21/9

# BACK PAPERS.

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Nos. 850, 851, PUBLIC, 11TH AUGUST 1896.

Local & Municipal Dept.  
2491 M

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, forwarding triennial report and statistics of the Medical Institutions in the Presidency town of Madras for the years 1893-95.

ORDER—No. 850, Public, dated 11th August 1896.

As directed in G.O., No. 422, Public, dated 27th March 1896, the Surgeon-General submits, with statistics for the year 1895, the annual report on the working of the twelve \* medical institutions of the Presidency town. The

omission of those at the Civil and Military Orphan Asylums is in accordance with the instructions in the Government Order quoted above, they being merely hospitals for the exclusive use of the inmates of the asylums concerned. The report contains statistics of, and institutes comparisons between, the working of several of the institutions during the past three years, but it does not contain a succinct statement of the advances made in that time. The most important event of the triennial period was undoubtedly the amalgamation of the Women and Children and the General Hospitals, but it receives only a passing notice in paragraph 2 of the report.

2. Before proceeding to review the information placed before it, the Government desires to direct the Surgeon-General's attention to the remarks of the Government of India embodied in its resolution recorded in G.O., No. 1081, Public, dated 2nd August 1887. In the present instance the report and connected papers cover no less than 172 pages of printed matter and they contain much information which serves no useful purpose. The tendency to unduly and unnecessarily extend reports must again be checked, and the Government trusts that the Surgeon-General will not lose sight of this instruction. That officer's particular attention will be invited to paragraph 2 of the report now under review. It covers more than four pages and contains much which is quite unconnected with the actual working of the medical institutions to which the report should be mainly confined. The quotations from remarks in visitors' books are totally out of place in an administration report. If it is thought desirable that Government should be informed of anything appearing in such remarks or that orders should be taken thereon this should be done by separate communications.

3. The remarks in paragraph 2 of the report relating to the Ráyapuram Medical institutions, the Royapettah Hospital, Raja Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar's Lying-in Hospital and the Native Infirmary and North Black Town Dispensary will be brought to the notice of the Local and Municipal Department, the attention of which will also be invited to the comparative statement of the cost of diets at page 53 of the report. It is observed that plans and estimates for a hospital to be built for the north of Madras, in connection with the transfer of the Native Infirmary to the

Madras Municipality, have been called for in the Public Works Department. In the absence of explanation, the Government does not understand how it is that the instructions conveyed in G.O., No. 197, Public, dated 7th February 1896, that the charges for nursing establishments should be shown in a separate column, should have been too late for adoption in the report which was not submitted until the 22nd June.

4. On page 12 of the report a statement appears showing the accommodation provided for in-patients in the several institutions and the extent to which it has been utilized during the year. This exhibits the anomalies noted in the margin, without, however, any explanation as to the reasons for them. As was remarked in a somewhat similar case in paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 845, Public, dated 10th

|                                | Number of beds available. | Maximum number occupied on any one day. |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Maternity Hospital .. ..       | 122                       | 142                                     |
| Ophthalmic .. ..               | 76                        | 79                                      |
| Women and Children Hospital .. | 132                       | 137                                     |
| Royapettah Hospital .. ..      | 45                        | 49                                      |
| Native Infirmary .. ..         | 104                       | 111                                     |

October 1895, it is possible that these discrepancies are susceptible of easy elucidation; one if possible should have been afforded. In the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital half the number of beds was empty for want of funds. This is to be regretted, but the Government is glad to note that the income of the hospital rose from Rs. 12,301 in 1894 to Rs. 39,916 in 1895, owing to the munificent donations \* of certain native gentlemen. The Surgeon-General's remarks on page 13 regarding the number of beds in the General and Women and Children Hospitals are not quite clear.

5. Including 1,927 cases of natural labour there was, as compared with the previous year, a falling off of 3,851† in the aggregate number of patients treated in the various institutions. This is considered by some officers as partly due to the season being a healthier one. The decrease of 1,911 at the Government Maternity Hospital is ascribed by the Superintendent to changes in medical officers and subordinates. This statement seems to demand fuller explanation, as it is not apparent how the general facilities afforded by the hospital are dependent on its staff. The lowest number of deaths per 1,000 of in-patients treated was 9·7 at the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, and the greatest was 160 at Rajah Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar's Lying-in Hospital, or more than four times that at the Government Maternity Hospital. The increase from 22·1 to 160 *per mille* is attributed by the Surgeon-General to the exclusion from the calculations for 1895 of natural labour cases. But the fact remains that the ratio of 37·8 at the Maternity Hospital was arrived at after a similar deduction. The matter is one which calls for more than the passing notice given it. Malarial fevers still continued to furnish the greatest number of cases; the total rose to 23,133 from 22,771 in 1894. In this connection the remarks of Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Sturmer at pages 155 and 156 on the systematic examination of the blood of patients complaining of malaria, carried on in the Royapettah Hospital, have been perused with interest. The subject appears one worthy of attention. The number of venereal cases treated increased from 3,995 in 1894 to 4,750. It is observed

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| * Maharaja of Vizianagram .. .. | Rs. 10,000 |
| Zamindar of Parlakimedi .. ..   | 8,000      |
| " of Kottam and Tuni .. ..      | 2,000      |
| " of Calicut .. ..              | 1,000      |
| Raja of Cochin .. ..            | 1,000      |
| &c. .. ..                       | &c.        |

that there were four deaths from septic diseases acquired in the General Hospital and five in three other institutions.‡ The Surgeon-General has not stated whether any, and if so what, action has been taken on Surgeon-Major Maitland's remarks on

this subject at pages 69 and 70 of the report; important points in the several reports on individual institutions should invariably be noticed in that of the Surgeon-General and Government should not be left to make enquiries with regard to them.

6. The appended statement exhibits the number of patients treated, average daily attendance, &c., for the past three years. Complete records are not available for the year 1893. It will be seen from this that there has been a slight, but steady, diminution in the percentage of mortality among in-patients:—

| Year.   | Number of patients treated. |         |         | Average daily attendance. |          |          | Per cent. of mortality among in-patients. | Major surgical operations. | Cost of diet. | Total gross expenditure. |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
|         | In.                         | Out.    | Total.  | In.                       | Out.     | Total.   |                                           |                            |               |                          |
| 1893 .. | 19,313                      | 169,804 | 189,117 | 823·64                    | 1,039·20 | 1,862·84 | 5·95                                      | * 3,639                    | † 1,22,242    | ‡ 4,05,506               |
| 1894 .. | 19,480                      | 179,825 | 199,305 | 978·16                    | 1,114·56 | 2,092·72 | 5·74                                      | 3,794                      | 1,19,994      | 4,30,017                 |
| 1895 .. | 17,345                      | 176,182 | 193,527 | 1,042·87                  | 1,108·49 | 2,151·36 | 5·66                                      | 4,154                      | 98,046        | 4,26,175                 |

\* No records for Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, St. Thomé Dispensary, and Port and Marine Dispensary.  
† Exclusive of the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital.  
‡ Exclusive of the cost of the Royapettah Hospital, St. Thomé Dispensary, and Port and Marine Dispensary.  
§ Exclusive of 1,927 cases of natural labour.

7. The increase in the number of major operations is satisfactory and the Government has perused with pleasure the Surgeon-General's testimony to the excellent work done in this branch by the medical officers named in paragraph 9 of the report. The statement of operations embodied in that paragraph does not agree in several instances with the particulars afforded in the separate reports on the different institutions. The statement shows that there were 2,138 major operations at the Ophthalmic Hospital in 1895 but the particulars at page 117 show that there were 2,150. The figures for the three Black Town institutions do not agree at all with those at page 170. If the latter are incorrect, it should have been noted in the report. In any case, some explanation should have been afforded of the considerable increase in the total number of major operations. This is variously given as 215 on page 15 and 216 and 217 on page 170. The Surgeon-General will report on this matter.

The total cost of diets in 1893 appearing on page 23 does not agree with column 12 of the statement at page 21, nor does the average daily attendance of in-patients for that year given at page 12 tally with the figures embodied in paragraphs 5 and 7, although that for 1894 and 1895 does. These are details which should have received attention before the report was submitted to Government.

8. *Finance.*—The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rupees 4,26,175-1-2, which was met from the following sources:—

|                                                          | RS.      | A. | P. |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|----|
| Government .. ..                                         | 3,11,661 | 2  | 1  |
| Municipality .. ..                                       | 41,968   | 14 | 10 |
| Public subscriptions .. ..                               | 30,441   | 3  | 3  |
| Paying patients .. ..                                    | 21,121   | 13 | 4  |
| Monegar Choultry Funds .. ..                             | 13,521   | 15 | 4  |
| Interest on investments and withdrawal of deposits .. .. | 4,248    | 9  | 5  |
| Port Funds .. ..                                         | 2,430    | 13 | 5  |
| Miscellaneous (sale of grass, &c.) .. ..                 | 780      | 9  | 6  |
| Total ..                                                 | 4,26,175 | 1  | 2  |

The increase in the item "Public subscriptions" from Rs. 5,634 in 1894 to Rs. 30,441 is due to the energetic efforts of the Secretaries of the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital Committee to make that institution self-supporting. In the report of that hospital the total subscriptions received during 1895 are shown (*vide* page 150) as Rs. 30,867-5-1, whereas in Statement V, page 35, the amount is stated to be Rs. 30,259-13-11. Moreover, the item of Rs. 2,000 under "Miscellaneous" in the

report above alluded to has been omitted from Statement V, the result being that the totals in it and in the report do not agree. It is observed that the word *income* in foot-note (o) to the statement at page 35 should apparently be *expenditure*.

9. The decrease in expenditure on *establishment*\* is explained by the Surgeon-

| * Establishment—      |    |    |    | RS.      | A. | P. |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----------|----|----|
| 1894                  | .. | .. | .. | 1,40,494 | 4  | 2  |
| 1895                  | .. | .. | .. | 1,33,402 | 15 | 8  |
| Decrease              |    |    |    | 7,491    | 4  | 6  |
| † Bazaar medicines—   |    |    |    |          |    |    |
| 1894                  | .. | .. | .. | 2,799    | 11 | 7  |
| 1895                  | .. | .. | .. | 873      | 10 | 2  |
| Increase              |    |    |    | 1,926    | 1  | 5  |
| ‡ European medicines— |    |    |    |          |    |    |
| 1894                  | .. | .. | .. | 39,711   | 15 | 11 |
| 1895                  | .. | .. | .. | 35,475   | 13 | 9  |
| Decrease              |    |    |    | 4,236    | 2  | 2  |
| § Diets—              |    |    |    |          |    |    |
| 1894                  | .. | .. | .. | 1,19,993 | 9  | 8  |
| 1895                  | .. | .. | .. | 98,046   | 5  | 9  |
| Decrease              |    |    |    | 21,947   | 3  | 11 |

bazaar medicines. His attention will be invited to the second paragraph on page 131 of the report. The decrease of Rs. 21,947 § in the total cost of *diets* is satisfactory, but the Surgeon-General should have furnished some details instead of leaving it to Government to obtain them from the appendices to the report.

The statements at page 54 that the private nursing institution managed by the Matron Superintendent of the General Hospital was worked during the year at a profit of Rs. 556, and that employment could readily have been found for double the number of nurses available, confirm the Government in its previously expressed opinion that the "Lady Wenlock Nursing Institute" will prove self-supporting.

10. From columns 13 and 14 of the statement at page 21 of the report it appears that, notwithstanding the fact that the cost of diets at the General Hospital included diets for three months for the Women and Children Hospital, the total cost fell from Rs. 39,480 to Rs. 34,688, while the expenditure for nine months at the Women and Children Hospital was only Rs. 8,346 as compared with Rs. 14,880 for three quarters of 1894, during the whole of which year the expenditure was Rs. 19,839. This is partly accounted for by the fact that, whereas there were 3,507 in-patients in 1894, there were only 2,311 during the first nine months of 1895. At page 126 of the report the medical officer in charge advances additional reasons. The general result was that the average cost of European diets fell from As. 8-1 to As. 7, while that of Native diets rose from As. 3-3 to As. 3-7. The latter variation is attributed to an increase in the quantity of extras ordered.

11. The statement at page 51 of the report shows that the average cost of diets of all descriptions at the General Hospital has decreased to a very appreciable extent during the past three years. The figures for 1895 do not agree with those given by the Surgeon-General at page 37, which are apparently the result of halving the total cost of a male and female diet under each head. The testimony afforded by the Senior Medical Officer that the reduced expenditure is due to favourable rates in procuring supplies, to the skill and attention used in storing and preventing waste and to the economical use of extras by medical officers is very satisfactory, and Government has no doubt that now that matters have been got into working order, a further decline under this head will result. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price, M.D., (now retired) is entitled to the thanks of Government for his exertions in the matter. The plan adopted by that officer in regard to "Samples" as set forth at page 46 of the report is a good one and should be brought to the notice of all heads of medical institutions at the Presidency.

12. The total cost of diets at the Maternity Hospital fell from Rs. 16,472 to Rs. 12,876 and the averages for European and Native diets from As. 9-7 and As. 3-10 to As. 7-6 and As. 3-5, respectively. The cause of the decreases in the averages is not specified either by the Surgeon-General or the Superintendent: it seems, however, highly probable that the introduction of the new departmental system is largely responsible for them. The statement at page 118 shows that the average cost of European and Native diets at the Ophthalmic Hospital fell from As. 7-1 and As. 3-7 to As. 6-11 and As. 3-6, respectively. Although the reductions are slight, they indicate that attention has been paid to recent orders.

13. Owing to the different method of calculation recently introduced, it is not on this occasion possible to institute a comparison between the average costs *per diet* for the last two years, but the Government desires that the Surgeon-General will pay special attention to this matter when submitting his report for 1896. There is evidence in the papers now before Government tending to show that considerable improvements and economies will result from a careful and continued observance of the recent rules in regard to the supply of articles of diet.

14. The variations in expenditure under the different heads in the several institutions are explained by the Surgeon-General at page 22 of his report. In the Royapettah Hospital there was an increase under every head, the largest being under European medicines, viz., Rs. 1,360. This is ascribed to the purchase of a large number of surgical instruments. The Officiating Surgeon, Fourth District, remarks that the rates for diets in this institution were excessively high for the year under review, it having been found impossible to diet a native patient for four annas per day. The Surgeon-General's remarks regarding tenders for diet in this hospital will be communicated to the Local and Municipal Department.

15. The Government fully concurs in the Surgeon-General's remarks in paragraph 17, and notes with pleasure the testimony therein borne to the ability and devotion displayed by Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price in the execution of his duties as Principal Medical Officer of the General Hospital and to the efficiency of the administration of the Maternity Hospital by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Sturmer and Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Branfoot. With regard to the separate reports it appears to the Government advisable that the Surgeon-General should pass proceedings on each on receipt and attach a copy to his report when submitting it to Government in view to informing it of the action taken by him. In the present instance there are several matters which require notice, but the Government is precluded from taking them into consideration in the absence of the remarks and recommendations of the Surgeon-General, e.g., the suggestion of the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, at page 48, that the fees paid by students for clinical instruction in the hospital should be credited to that institution instead of to the Medical College as at present.

(True Extract.)

*J. F. Price*  
for Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.

" Sanitary Commissioner.

" Financial Department.

" Local and Municipal Department.

" Accountant-General.

Copy to Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel W. Price, M.D., I.M.S. (Retired).

ENDORSEMENT—No. 851, Public, dated 11th August 1896.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

J. F. PRICE,  
Chief Secretary.

Exd. Md. Pahlvan.