

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1222/99

DATED 29-8-99.

DESPATCHED

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Medical Institutions in the Town of Madras.

Recording Ld. Public Dept., reviewing the report on the working of the — for the year 1898, with statistics for the triennial period 1896-98.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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Government {1899} of Madras.
PUBLIC.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 2195M

Recd. 15th August } 1899.
Regd. _____ }
Enclosures nil
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G.O., &c., Nos. 886, 887, 9th August 1899.

AUGUST.

Mr. order No. 1222 ^{desp} _{22.8.99} _{25/8/99}
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Copy to the President Mr. Narayan
Decided 31/8/99

Medical Institutions in the Town of Madras.

Reviewing the report on the working of the — for the year 1898, with statistics for the triennial period 1896—98. Copy to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 29th June 1899,
No. T-8/331.

ORDER—No. 886, Public, dated 9th August 1899.

The Surgeon-General's report on the working of the medical institution in the town of Madras for the year 1898, with statistics for the triennial period 1896—98, was punctually submitted.

2. Public health was unsatisfactory during the past year, the mortality having been 5.1 per mille in excess of the ratio for the preceding decade. Cholera accounted for a larger number of deaths than in any of the previous ten years, except 1891, when there was an exceptionally severe epidemic of the disease. It is however a matter for congratulation that bubonic plague was not added to other causes of mortality. Elaborate preparations were made by the municipality, and by private effort, for the reception of plague patients, but the precautions adopted for the exclusion of the disease from the City were successful. Only twelve cases found admittance into the town, and of these several proved fatal, but no indigenous cases followed.

3. The number of hospitals and dispensaries remained the same, viz., fourteen. The medical work performed in these institutions during the three years is compared in the following table:—

Year.	Number of patients treated.			Average daily attendance.			Percentage of mortality among in-patients.	Number of surgical operations.	Cost of diet.	Total gross expenditure.
	In.	Out.	Total.	In.	Out.	Total.				
1896	17,605	186,249	203,854	974.91	1220.47	2195.38	5.24	27,903	96,449	4,22,314
1897	18,908	198,809	217,717	1025.34	1304.14	2329.48	6.05	31,794	1,01,072	4,15,255
1898	18,584	183,880	202,464	1035.94	1215.01	2250.95	8.02	28,725	97,069	4,04,702

4. The decrease in the total number treated is attributed to a falling off in the number of mufassal patients seeking relief at the General and Ophthalmic hospitals, due to the deterrent effect of plague preventive regulations, and to the fact that large numbers of the usual classes which resort to the Royapettah hospital neglected to seek treatment at that institution for fear of being segregated or otherwise dealt with as suspicious plague cases. The reason given is, however, hardly convincing as regards the Ophthalmic hospital, in which the total number treated has steadily declined in the three years under report.

5. The mortality among in-patients was very high, owing to the general unhealthiness of the year and to the aggravated forms of disease treated. The increase is most marked in the Royapettah hospital, and the Native Infirmary to which a large number of cases of small-pox and cholera were taken. The number of deaths from septic disease was nearly the same as in the previous year and, as usual, in the majority of the cases the disease was acquired before admission to hospital.

6. The total number of operations performed during the year was 28,725 against 31,794 in 1896, the largest number having been performed in the Maternity hospital.

Lieut.-Colonel A. M. Branfoot, C.I.E., I.M.S.
" A. J. Sturmer, I.M.S.
" J. Maitland "
" W. A. Lee "
" T. H. Pope "
Captain P. C. Gabbett, I.M.S.

The steady increase in the number of cures and the decrease in the percentage of deaths is very satisfactory. The officers named in the margin are specially mentioned as deserving of approbation for good work done by them in operative surgery. In accordance with the wishes of the Government of India, the names of

four civil hospital assistants who performed important operations have been included in the report.

7. The number of beds available in all the hospitals was generally sufficient for requirements, the average daily sick being in all cases less than the total number of beds. Occasional overcrowding however occurred in the Maternity and Leper hospitals.

8. A training school for nurses was established at the General Hospital early in 1897, having for its object the instruction of "Lady Nurses", who pay for their board and training, "Special nurse probationers", who are lodged free of cost, but who pay for their board, and "Nurse probationers" who receive free board and lodging and an allowance for clothing and pocket money, and who qualify for appointments as Government hospital nurses. The school also provides for the training of male and female ward attendants. The portion of the scheme which provides for the admission of paying probationers could not be brought into full effect owing to want of accommodation in the hospital.

9. In February 1898, the Government withdrew from the control of the Lady Wenlock Nursing Institute, which has for its object the supply of trained hospital nurses to the public at short notice on payment of moderate fees. The management of the institute was transferred to a Committee, but the nurses are allowed quarters at the General Hospital when they are not engaged in attending on private patients, and their services are utilized in the hospital as a return for the accommodation thus provided.

10. The total expenditure during the year on medical institutions in Madras amounted to Rs. 4,11,055-14-2, which was met from the following sources:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Government	2,93,929	3	1
Municipality	44,016	1	7
Port funds	3,450	6	3
Public subscriptions	14,208	10	0
Paying patients	26,281	9	7
Miscellaneous sources	1,827	13	8
Interest on investments	6,638	13	6
Monegar Choultry funds	15,231	9	8
Other sources	5,971	10	10

Total .. 4,11,055 14 2

11. The receipts from public subscriptions showed an increase of Rs. 10,113-12-3 over the amount collected in 1897. They were obtained almost entirely for the Victoria Caste and Gosha hospital. There was also a satisfactory increase in the amount of fees collected from paying patients.

12. The expenditure on establishment was less than in the previous year owing to changes in the staff and the sum spent on European medicines continued to show a decrease. The total cost of diets was also less than in 1897, owing to the smaller number of patients treated and to cheaper rates of supply. There was nevertheless no reduction in the cost per diem of each diet in the General Hospital, the paying wards, on the contrary, showing an increase in this respect. The total cost of dieting

each person admitted to hospital also rose, the increase in this case being attributed by the Surgeon-General to the fact that the average stay of an in-patient was longer in 1898 than in previous years.

13. The Civil Medical Department sustained a severe loss in May 1898 by the transfer to military service of Colonel A. M. Branfoot, C.I.E., I.M.S., whose many years' eminent service in the Government Maternity Hospital has already been acknowledged by Government.

(True Extract.)

J. H. M.
for Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department. ✓
" Accountant-General.

ENDORSEMENT—No. 887, Public, dated 9th August 1899.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

G. STOKES,
Chief Secretary.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED
189 .

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