BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

PRINTED.

G.O., No. 870 M

DATED 20/6/99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Hospital — Passing orders on the proposal of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras to construct a — in Black Town and requesting the President of the Monegar Choultry to enquire of the directors if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality a sum of Rs 14,000 towards the cost of the upkeep of the new —

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Cuo 2379 M/99							
Cuo 2605 M/99							
Cuo 351 M of 01 (Plans returned to the Pres. M.C)							

27/6/99

Government (1899) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Proof for approval

HR
29.6.99

Strike off as issued

VR
27/6/99

Recd.
Regd. } 1899.

G.O., No. 870

NOTE FOR THE Madras office 14th

~~Please submit to A.S. for C.J.~~

~~Desp~~ PJ 13/6/99

Submitted to the A.S.

HR
13.6.99

This may be counter initialled. The papers about the medical schools are with the Secy. The point noted may be borne in mind when drafting the orders about medical schools

HR
14.6.99

[illegible]

Passing orders on the proposa
in Black Town and requesting the President of the
if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality
towards the cost of the upkeep of the new hospital.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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C. No 2379 M/99							
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VR
29/6/99

Recd. } 1899.
Regd. }

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~~Desp~~

PJ
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VR
14.6.99

Passing orders on the proposa
in Black Town and requesting the President of the
if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality
towards the cost of the upkeep of the new hospital.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper :—

G.O., No. 1278 M., dated 15th July 1898.

Read—the following papers :—

From Lieut.-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, *Kt.*, C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 29th July 1897, G. No. 141.

In forwarding the accompanying extract from the proceedings of a general meeting of the Commissioners held on 26th July 1897, I have the honour to submit the detailed estimates for the construction and the maintenance of the proposed new Black Town hospital, together with a copy of my memorandum to the Commissioners of 15th idem, which will fully explain the state of affairs.

2. The plans of the proposed hospital are also forwarded herewith.

Plans returned
Vide G.O. 2760 M/99
Plans accompanied by [illegible]
G.O. 348 M/00

ENCLOSURES.

Extract referred to.

REPORT of the Special Committee appointed by the Commissioners at their adjourned general meeting held on 9th August 1895, regarding a new hospital for the north of Madras.

Proposed by Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Walker, I.M.S., and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster—

"That, in the event of the proposed hospital being constructed, the Commissioners accept with thanks the liberal offer of Mr. P. Venkatachellam to give Rs. 20,000 to construct the out-patient department of the hospital and they approve of that block being called after his name."

a/

Carried.

i/ M.R.Ry/

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu and seconded by the Hon'ble P. Rangayya Nayudu Garu—

"That the Commissioners, while regretting they cannot accept the generous offer of Mr. Lod Govindoss to contribute a lakh of rupees towards a hospital in Mint Street, will be very glad to accept it for the proposed new Black Town hospital."

Carried.

y/ M.R.Ry/

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Chariar Avargal and seconded by the Hon'ble P. Rangayya Nayudu Garu—

"That the plans and estimates be submitted to Government with a request that they will inform the Commissioners what assistance they are prepared to give both towards construction and maintenance of the proposed new hospital."

Carried.

Memorandum.

It will be seen from the accompanying statement that the cost of construction and equipment of the new hospital is two lakhs.

2. The interest at 4 per cent. and sinking fund will be Rs. 9,500, say Rs. 10,000

3. The maintenance is estimated to amount to Rs. 30,000 (Rs. 29,100).

4. The Municipality will therefore have to meet an annual outlay of Rs. 40,000.

5. Against this must be set off the existing annual expenditure on the Black Town dispensary, about Rs. 7,500, so that the increased actual annual expenditure will be Rs. 32,500.

6. The Municipality pays an annual contribution of Rs. 20,000 to hospitals and an average annual contribution of Rs. 4,500 to the Medical College.

7. In 1887-88 an additional contribution of Rs. 50,000 was imposed under the head of hospitals; this was continued until 1891-92. In 1892-93 Government ruled that this contribution of Rs. 50,000 should be put under the head of "Other Charges."

8. Two of the items in the accompanying statement, viz., "operation theatre" and "mortuary," are practically for Government educational purposes. The operation theatre being constructed to hold 150 students and the mortuary 60 students. The cost of these two amounts to Rs. 7,518.

9. Government might fairly be expected to contribute towards their construction.

10. This hospital is a want that Government has long felt for educational purposes and a certain amount of the cost of maintenance might therefore be met by them.

11. In view of this being a municipal hospital, the Municipality may reasonably expect to be relieved from some portion of the contribution of Rs. 74,500, the three items mentioned above, paid annually to Government.

(Signed) G. M. J. MOORE, Lt.-Col.,
President, Municipal Commission.

15th July 1897.

Endorsement

Reference No. 914 M.

Referred to the Surgeon-General for remarks, which should be submitted through the Director of Public Instruction.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

28th August 1897.

From the Hon'ble Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Madras, 21st October 1897, No. 11780.

In submitting herewith letter from the Surgeon-General, No. Tour-5/2, dated 7th instant, together with the endorsement of Government, No. 914, dated 28th August 1897, I have the honour to state that I concur with the Surgeon-General in thinking that the proposed hospital deserves the support of Government and am of opinion that the cost of constructing the operation theatre and mortuary should be borne from Provincial Funds. What proportion of the expenditure incurred for the upkeep of the hospital should be met annually by Government in view of the proposal to utilize the hospital for the clinical instruction of the pupils attending the proposed Provincial Medical School, Royapuram, can, I think, be satisfactorily decided only after orders have been passed on the establishment of Provincial Medical Schools and after the hospital has begun to work on the lines chalked out.

ENCLOSURE.

From Surgeon-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Director of Public Instruction), dated Ootacamund, 7th October 1897, No. Tour-5/2.

I have the honour to return your endorsement No. 914, dated the 28th August 1897, with the attached papers and 24 plans.

2. The President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, submits detailed estimates for the construction and the maintenance of the proposed Black Town hospital with a copy of a memorandum by him fully explaining the state of affairs. He also submits the plans of the proposed hospital.

3. As regards the 24 plans they have been prepared by the Consulting Arcihtect in communication with the then District Medical Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Walker, I.M.S., who consulted me on each and I can now recommend that they be adopted.

4. The absolute necessity of reconstructing the old Native Infirmary on modern lines has been fully recognized by Government and the present proposals slightly increase the accommodation. This is necessary as the accommodation of the General Hospital has now been fixed at 500 beds and its resources as regards accommodation for Native males and females are now overtaxed. As the site of the General Hospital will not allow of more accommodation being provided, even if it were desirable to have more than 500 patients treated on one site, it will become necessary in the near future to increase the accommodation of this hospital in Black Town for which extensive space will be available as may be seen from the proposed site plan. As this hospital will be the clinical school for the students of the hospital assistants' class attending the proposed Royapuram Medical School it is most important that it should be well organised and be made a model of what a municipal hospital should be.

5. It is to be hoped that the liberal offer of Mr. P. Vencatachellum to give Rs. 20,000 to construct the out-patient department of the hospital to be called after his name will be followed by similar donations from other charitably disposed persons. If Mr. Lod Govindoss will only reconsider the terms of his generous offer of a lakh of rupees for the construction of a hospital in Mint Street which site would be unsuitable, and give it to this hospital which will be close to the Mint Street, the pecuniary difficulties in the way of carrying out the scheme will nearly disappear.

6. The Commissioners submit the plans and estimate to Government with a request that Government will inform them what assistance it will give both towards the construction and maintenance of the proposed new hospital. The estimate includes—

	RS.
For buildings	1,88,960
Furniture	8,040
New surgical equipment	5,000
Total ..	2,02,000

Maintenances.—Annual expenditure on medical staff, establishments, medicines, diets, bedding and clothing, &c., Rs. 30,000. The provision made for scientific nursing being Rs. 50 a month for a matron, and Rs. 25 a month each for two nurses is very scanty.

With this exception the estimates may be accepted.

7. In his memorandum, the President points out how the Municipality now contributes Rs. 74,500 a year towards the hospitals and Medical College in Madras; the balance of the cost of the hospitals is now provided from Provincial sources. I am of opinion that, for the reasons given in paragraph 4, Government should assist the Municipality to the utmost of its ability. I concur with the President that the operation theatre and mortuary are practically for educational purposes.

8. I attach for the information of Government the following statements:—

(*a*) Showing the actual cost of the maintenance of the Black Town institutions during the past five years and the proposed cost.

(*b*) The present establishment and its cost as compared with the proposed establishment and its cost. The position and pay of the Clinical Assistants cannot be dealt with until the final orders of Government are received upon the reorganisation of the Medical schools. Until then the existing arrangements are now provided for.

(*c*) A statement showing the exact amount received from Government during the past five years.

Reference No. 224 M.

In the President's memorandum of the 15th July 1897, it is stated that the additional annual cost to the Municipality on account of the proposed new hospital will be Rs. 32,500, taking the existing cost of the Black Town dispensary at Rs. 7,500. But from Dr. Walker's estimate, dated 20th July 1897, submitted with the President's letter, it appears that the present annual expenditure on account of this dispensary and the Native Infirmary (in-patient department) is about Rs. 21,000, of which the cost of the latter comes to Rs. 13,886. The President is requested to state whether this expenditure of Rs. 13,886, which is apparently met from the Monegar Choultry funds, is to be discontinued if the Native Infirmary is taken over by the Municipal Commissioners and, if so, why.

24th February 1898. (Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

From Lieut.-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, Kt., C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 28th February 1898, G. No. 620.

With reference to your memorandum No. 224, dated 24th February 1898, I have the honour to state that the expenditure of Rs. 13,886 hitherto met by the Monegar Choultry funds will be discontinued. It is merged in the item "in-patient department Rs. 22,466." The Monegar Choultry will restrict itself to the care of paupers and the incurable wards.

Reference No. 412 M.

In the estimate for the construction of the new Black Town hospital, submitted by the President, provision is made for an "operation theatre" and a "mortuary," which are estimated to cost Rs. 7,518, and the Municipal Commissioners request Government to contribute towards their construction, as the buildings are practically for Government educational purposes, being required for the instruction of students of the hospital assistants' class attending the proposed Medical school at Royapuram. The Surgeon-General is requested to state whether it will not be necessary for Government to incur any further expenditure on buildings in connection with the proposed school, such as class rooms, library and other things which may be needed for the school, what will be the probable cost of constructing them, and whether the site will afford space for them.

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

5th April 1898.

From Surgeon-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Ootacamund, 4th June 1898, No. T. 160.

With reference to your memorandum No. 412, dated the 5th April 1898 (received with the plans herewith returned), I have the honour to report as follows.

2. The old Bullet Factory at Royapuram has, under G.O., No. 533, Educational, dated 17th September 1897, been handed over to the Educational Department for the purpose of the proposed Medical school. This building is not only spacious enough for the purpose but will also, with very few alterations, be well adapted to the various requirements of the school including class rooms, library and reading room, lecturers' retiring rooms and the Superintendent's office, &c. The main expenditure that will have to be incurred will consist of what will be necessary for fittings and furniture. These, including the cost of altering room No. 1 so that it may be used as a lecture theatre, alterations in stables, the erection of a latrine for students and the stocking of the library with medical books, are roughly estimated to cost about Rs. 5,070. This amount does not, of course, include the cost of the articles and the apparatus, &c., necessary for the teaching of the students in the several branches.

3. There is however no room which can be used as a dissecting room to provide for the teaching of practical anatomy. One such will have to be built. There is no adequate space in the Bullet Factory building for this purpose, and even if there were, it would be objectionable from a sanitary point of view to locate a dissecting room side by side with class rooms attended for several hours in the day by young students, and also in such close proximity with the Ramaswamy Lying-in hospital. A suitable site will have therefore to be selected elsewhere for it. This question will be dealt with by me in dealing with the proposal for an alternative site for the new Black Town hospital which will form the subject of a separate and early communication to Government.

4. I regret the delay in dealing with this reference, but it was impossible to answer Government's question until certain enquiries had been made.

Order—Mis. No. 1278 M., dated 15th July 1898.

The further communication, promised by the Surgeon-General in paragraph 3 of his letter read above, is awaited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the President. Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Surgeon-General.
" Director of Public Instruction.

Read—also the following paper:—

From Surgeon-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Ootacamund, 1st July 1898, No. T. 252.

I have the honour to state that in reply to your endorsement, No. 914, dated the 28th August 1897, I recommended in my letter No. T-5/2, dated 7th October 1897, the adoption of the plans for the reconstruction of the Native Infirmary *on its present site—the Monegar Choultry.* In approving of this site in spite of its limited area, I was influenced solely by the consideration that it was the only site then available for the purpose.

2. I now understand that the Infantry lines and the connected buildings lying north and south of the Old Jail Street which were occupied by the Military Department have now become vacant. Dr. Lee now in charge of the First District as well as his predecessor Dr. Walker (to whose exertions the proposal for the construction of a new hospital for Black Town mainly owes its success), advocate this new site, and I strongly support their view in the event of the site being available for the purpose.

3. The new site is more spacious and healthy, more airy and convenient of access than the old one, and its acquisition would obviate the necessity for demolishing the existing buildings of the Native Infirmary. The Infantry barracks can serve as hostels and the drill-ground as a recreation ground for the students of the clinical classes. The construction of the hospital on the new site which is exactly at the southern end of Mint Street may induce Mr. Lod Govindoss to liberally subscribe to it in pursuance of his original offer of a lakh of rupees for an hospital in the said street.

4. Other advantages that will follow from the adoption of this site are (1) the reversion of the Native Infirmary building to the Monegar Choultry, (2) the transfer into it of the pauper inmates of the Venkatagherry Choultry, and (3) the addition of the Venkatagherry Choultry building with its ground to the Leper Hospital which is at present overcrowded and needs an extension.

5. The new site has also this advantage that a suitable place can then be formed for the construction of a dissecting room in connection with the proposed Medical school at Royapuram referred to in paragraph 3 of my letter, No. T. 160, dated 4th June 1898. Either a new dissecting room can be built between the proposed hospital and the proposed school, or the old dissecting room which still exists can be altered and adapted to requirements.

6. In this connection, I beg to urge on the favourable consideration of Government Dr. Lee's suggestion to open an ophthalmic institution at Royapuram. An extract from his report fully dealing with the matter is enclosed. Dr. Walker also takes the same view of the case and I fully concur with both of them. I trust that Government will be pleased to accord sanction to a proposal so conducive to the interests both of the public and of the Medical Department.

Enclosure.

Report on proposal to open a Medical school in the old Bullet Factory, Royapuram.

• • • •

3. *Opthalmology.*—With regard to instruction in the treatment of diseases of the eye, I observe that in the report of the Committee on the reorganization of the Medical College a proposal to open an Ophthalmic dispensary at Royapuram was considered (*vide* page 16, G.O., No. 654, Educational, dated 22nd October 1896) and that the Superintendent, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, was consulted on the matter. This officer is said to have regarded such a measure as most objectional, though, as his reasons for this belief are not summarised, it does not appear on what grounds it was based. The Committee seems to have endorsed this opinion, by recording the view that the opening of an ophthalmic department under that designation would prejudice the confidence of the public in Western methods of treatment, and that the training of hospital assistant pupils should be limited to the diagnosis and treatment of superficial lesions (*i.e.*, surface wounds or injuries) of the eye. This is a euphemistic way of saying that the working results of such an institution would compare very unfavourably with those of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital and is an illustration of the old baneful tendency that has rendered ophthalmic work so remarkably backward in this Presidency contrasted with other parts of India, viz., to make it the monopoly of a specialist—a cult as it were, to be jealously guarded from diffusion,—with the result that according to my lengthy experience as a District Medical Officer a most deplorable lack of knowledge of eye diseases prevails among the large majority of medical subordinates of every grade or class, and I have witnessed in my own practice several unfortunate examples of such ignorance, due, I am forced to conclude, to want of sufficient facilities for acquiring a knowledge of this important subject. There is no reason to suppose that many medical subordinates in independent charge would not, with efficient training, become expert in cataract extraction, and there is a wide field for such work everywhere among those who are now the prey of the quacks and impostors that ruin most of the eyes subjected to their barbarous treatment. It is doubtless the case that not a few Medical officers now serving are fully competent and possess the requisite experience to teach practical ophthalmology, and these might reasonably resent the imputation of the Committee on their capacity to do so.

• • • • •

II.

III. It may perhaps be argued that there is no scope for a second eye institution in this large extensive and populous city, but judging from the analogous success of the Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar Lying-in Hospital it is reasonable to suppose that an eye hospital in North Black Town would not be less popular or less likely to fulfil a public want: at all events, until satisfactory proof to the contrary is afforded it is idle to contend that the field for ophthalmic work is already fully occupied.

• • • • •

18*th February* 1898. (Signed) W. A. LEE, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,
Surgeon, 1st District, and
Supt., Clinical Hospitals.

Order—No. 870 M., dated 20th June 1899.

With his letter disposed of in the Government Order read above, the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, submitted plans and estimates of a municipal hospital proposed to be constructed in Black Town on the site of the buildings occupied by the Native Infirmary, which the Directors of the Monegar Choultry agreed to hand over to the Municipal Commissioners for the purpose, and also an extract from the proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 26th July 1897, in which they requested to be informed what assistance the Government was prepared to give towards the construction and maintenance of the proposed hospital. The cost of construction was estimated at just over two lakhs and that of maintenance at Rs. 30,000 per annum and in his memorandum to the Commissioners, the President pointed out that including the annual payment on account of interest and sinking fund on the loan which would have to be raised to meet the initial cost of the buildings, the total annual expenditure on account of the hospital would be Rs. 40,000, that the Government might fairly contribute towards the construction of the "operation theatre" and the "mortuary" costing Rs. 7,518 which were practically intended for Government educational purposes, that as the new hospital would supply a want that Government had long felt for educational purposes, a portion of its maintenance charges might also be met by Government, and that in view of the hospital being a municipal institution, the Municipality might fairly expect to be relieved of some portion of the annual contribution of Rs. 74,500, which it paid to Government on account of hospitals, Medical College, &c.

2. The Surgeon-General who was consulted in the matter, while observing that the plans and estimates of the proposed hospital buildings might be adopted with the exception of the provision made for nursing, which he considered to be inadequate, stated that as the proposed hospital would be the clinical school for students of the hospital assistants' class attending the proposed Royapuram Medical school and as it was therefore most important that it should be well organized and made a model hospital, the Government should assist the Municipality to the best of its ability and that the "operation theatre" and "mortuary" were practically for educational purposes. The Director of Public Instruction also agreed with the Surgeon-General in considering that the hospital deserved the support of Government and that the cost of constructing the "operation theatre" and "mortuary" should be borne from Provincial Funds, and pointed out that the proportion in which the cost of the upkeep of

this hospital should be met annually by Government in view of the proposal to utilize it for the clinical instruction of the pupils attending the proposed Medical school at Royapuram, could be satisfactorily worked out only after orders had been passed on the scheme for the establishment of Provincial Medical schools and after the hospital had begun to work on the lines chalked out.

3. As recommended by the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Instruction, the cost of constructing the "operation theatre" and "mortuary", which is estimated at Rs. 7,518, will be contributed from Provincial Funds; but no reduction can be made in the annual contribution of Rs. 74,500 paid by the Municipal Commissioners to Government, towards the maintenance of the police force and the cost of the Government hospitals and the Medical College in the city. The only help that the Government can give towards the upkeep of the proposed hospital, which it will use as the training ground for medical students of the hospital assistants' class, is to supply medical officers free of charge, and this will be borne in mind when passing orders on the revised estimates of the cost of the Medical school at Royapuram called for in G.O., No. 481, Educational, dated 5th August 1898.

4. The Municipal Commissioners are requested to state whether they have any objection to the site of the Infantry lines and the connected buildings being utilized for the construction of the proposed new hospital, as suggested by the Surgeon-General in his letter read above.

5. From the President's memorandum of the 15th July 1897, and his letter, dated 28th February 1898, recorded in G.O., No. 1278 M., dated 15th July 1898, it will be seen that it is proposed to discontinue the expenditure of Rs. 13,886, which is now being annually incurred on the Native Infirmary from the Monegar Choultry funds, when that institution is taken over by the Municipal Commissioners, the Monegar Choultry restricting itself to the care of paupers and incurable cases. It is, however, observed that about three-eighths of the funded capital of the Monegar Choultry, the greater portion of which was contributed by Government, appertains to the Medical or Infirmary fund, and the remaining five-eighths to the poor fund, that is the fund devoted to the assistance of paupers and incurable cases. But for a long time past, nearly two-thirds of the income has been spent on medical relief and one-third only on the latter object. The Government cannot therefore agree to the proposal that the expenditure on medical relief from the funds of the charity should be altogether discontinued and thrown on the Municipality and that the whole of the available resources (about Rs. 22,000 per annum) should be spent on the relief of pauperism and on incurable cases. If the Municipality takes over the medical part of the Monegar Choultry's work (as no doubt it should) and establishes an efficient hospital in Black Town, it should in the opinion of Government be assisted by a contribution from the funds of the charity of a sum equivalent to the current rate of expenditure on the objects the management and care of which are transferred. The President is accordingly requested to enquire of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality a sum of Rs. 14,000, which is about the expenditure they have been, and are now, incurring on the Native Infirmary, towards the cost of the upkeep of the new hospital ~~and~~ report the result to Government.

6. The suggestion to open an ophthalmic institution at Royapuram, made by the Surgeon-General in paragraph 6 of his letter, will be considered in the Public Department.

(True Extract.)

for *Ag. Secretary to Government.*

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Surgeon-General.
" Public Department.
" Educational Department.

Ext. A. F. Eccleston.

---

al & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 2246 M

Order

From
Surgeon-Major-General
C. Sibthorpe C.B. F.R.C.P.I.
Surgeon-General
with the Govt. of Madras.

No. 7/252

Dated 1st July

Received

Registered

Enclosures One

Spare copies

SUBJECT,

Submitting proposals for the
reconstruction of the Nati
Infirmary on the site no
extended by the vacation of
Infantry lines and the
buildings connected therew

a 19/10/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	
fo	1278	[illegible]	15
fo	654	E.S.	22-10-9

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 2246 M

No. 7/252

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERA
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MAD
~~Madras,~~ Ootacamund 1st July ~~June~~ 1

13B

From

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I.,
SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

THE ~~HON'BLE THE CHIEF~~ SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Local & Municipal DEPARTMENT.

SIR

I have the honour to state that in reply to your endorsement No.914, dated the 28th August 1897, I recommended in my letter No.~~75~~ T-5/2, dated 7th October 1897, the adoption of the plans for the reconstruction of the Native Infirmary on its present ~~scale~~ site - the Monegar Choultry. In approving of this site in spite of its limited area, I was influenced solely by the consideration that it was the only site then available for the purpose.

2. I now understand that the Infantry lines and the connected buildings lying north and south of the old jail street which were occupied by the Military Department have now become vacant. Dr.Lee now in charge of the 1st District as well as his predecessor Dr.Walker(to whose exertions the proposal for the construction of a new Hospital for Black Town mainly ows its success), advocate this new site, and I strongly support their view in the event of the site being available for the purpose.

3. The new site is more spacious and healthy, more airy and convenient of access than the old one, and its acquisition would obviate the necessity for demolishing the existing buildings of the Native Infirmary. The Infantry barracks can serve as hostels and the drill ground as a recreation ground for the students of the clinical classes.

21

The
reason

nstruction of the hospital on the new site which is ly at the southern end of Mint Street may induce Mr. Govindoss to liberally subscribe to it in pursuance his original offer of a lakh of rupees for an hospital n the said street.

4. Other advantages that will follow from the adoption of this site are (1) the reversion of the Native Infirmary building to the Monegar Choultry (2) the transfer into it of the pauper inmates of the Venkatghery Choultry, and (3) the addition of the Venkatghery Choultry building with its ground to the Leper Hospital which is at present overcrowded and needs an extension.

5. The new site has also this advantage that a suitable place can then be formed for the construction of a dissecting room in connection with the proposed Medical School at Royapuram referred to in para 3 of my letter No.T/160, dated 4th June 1898. Either a new dissecting room can be built between the proposed hospital and the proposed school, or the old dissecting room which still exists can be altered and adapted to requirements.

C.no 1984M cir 30
no 1278M
15-7-98

6. In this connection I beg to urge on the favourable consideration of Government Dr.Lee's suggestion to open an Ophthalmic institution at Royapuram. An extract from his report fully dealing with the matter is enclosed. Dr.Walker also takes the same view of the case and I fully concur with both of them. I trust that Government will be pleased to accord sanction to a proposal so conducive ~~the~~ to the interests both of the public and of the Medical Department.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Surg. Majr-Genl:

Surgeon-General

with the Govt. of Madras.

---

1 [illegible] No. 7 1-7-98
252

REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO OPEN A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE OLD BULLET FACTORY, ROYAPURAM.

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x x x x x
x x x x x x

3. Ophthalmology. With regard to instruction in the treatment Diseases of the Eye, I observe that in the Report of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Medical College a pr posal to open an ophthalmic Dispensary at Royapuram was considered, (vide page 16 G.O.No.654, Educational, dated 22nd October 1896) and that the Superintendent Government Ophthalmic Hospital was consulted on the matter. This officer is said to have regarded such a measure as most objectionable, though as his reasons for this belief are not summarised, i does not appear on what grounds it was based. The Committee seems to have endorsed this opinion, by recording the view that the opening of an Ophthalmic Department under that designation would prejudice the confidence of the public in Western methods of treatment, and that the training of Hospital Assistant pupils should be limited to the diagnosis and treatment of superficial lesions (i.e. surface wounds or injuries) of the eye. This is a Euphemistic way of saying tha the working results of such an institution would compare very unfavourably with those of the Government Ophthalmic Hospital and is an illustration of the old baneful tendency that has rendered ophthalmic work so remarkably backward in this Presidency contrasted with other parts of India, viz: to make it the monopoly of a specialist - a cult as it were, to be jealously guarded from diffusion, - with the result that according to my lengthy experience as a District Medical Officer a most deplorable lack of knowledge of eye diseases prevails among the large majority of Medical Subordinates of every grade or class, and I have witnessed in my own practice several unfortunate examples of such ignorance, due, I am ~~fore~~ forced to conclude, to want of sufficient facilities for acquiring a knowledge of this important subject. There is no

reason

on to suppose that many Medical Subordinates in indepen-
t charge would not, with efficient training become expert
cataract extraction, and there is a wide field for such work
ery where among those who are now the prey of the quacks and
postors that ruin most of the eyes subjected to their bar-
rious treatment. It is doubtless the case that not a few
dical Officers now serving are fully competent and possess
requisite experience to teach practical ophthalmology, and
ese might reasonably resent the imputation of the Committee
their capacity to do so.

II. x x x x x x
x x x x x

III. It may perhaps be argued that there is no scope
r a second eye institution in this large extensive and po-
pulous city, but judging from the analogous success of the Sir
Ramasawmy Mudaliar Lying-in Hospital it is reasonable to sup-
pose that an Eye Hospital in North Black Town would not be less
popular or less likely to fulfil a public want: at all events,
until satisfactory proof to the contrary is afforded it is
idle to contend that the field for ophthalmic work is already
fully occupied.

x x x x x x x
x x x x x x x

(Sd.) W. A. LEE.
Surgeon-Lt: Col:
Surgeon 1st District
and Supdt: Clinical Hospitals.

Madras,
18th Febry: 1898.

-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-+-

(True Extract.)

R H Elliot.
Surgeon-Captain,
Secretary, Surgeon-General
with the Government of Madras.

Madras,
23 Feby
19 June 1898.

1/2246 M/98

Construction of a Municipal hospital in Black Town

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

[L.]
200-13-9-98.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. dated 189 ,
Again G.O., No. 1278 M dated 15th July 1898,
Current No. 2246 M of 1898, dated 1st July 1898, from the Surgeon General
" " " 189 , " , "
" " " 189 , " , "

15P

PS.

ORDER. No. 870 M d 20/6/99

Flag. X

devd

With his letter disposed
of in the Government order read
above, the President of the Muni
cipal Commission, Madras, sub
mitted plans and estimates of a
Municipal hospital proposed t
be constructed in Black Town o
the site of the buildings occupe
by the Native Infirmary, whic
the Directors of the Monegar Chow
agreed to hand over to the Muni
cipal Commissioners for the p
pose and also an extract from
the Proceedings of the Commis
ers dated 26th July 1897, in whic
they requested to be inform
what assistance the Governm
was prepared to give towa
the construction and maint

To
The Educational Department for E. i with reference to the last sentence of para. 3. ade 16/6/99
" Public Departt with reference to para. 6.

2d

of the proposed hospital. The cost
of construction was estimated at
just over two lakhs and that of
maintenance at Rs 30000 per annum
and in his memorandum to the
Commissioners, the President point- B.
ed out that including the annual
payment on account of interest
and sinking fund on the loan which
would have to be raised to meet
the initial cost of the buildings,
he total annual expenditure on
account of the hospital would be
ls 40,000, that the Government might Vide para. 4 of the Memorandum.
airly contribute towards the con-
ruction of the "operation theatre"
d the "mortuary" costing Rs 7.518 para. 8 ibid.
hich were practically intended for
overnment Educational purposes,
at as the new hospital would
pply a want that Government
d long felt for educational pur-
es, a portion of its maintenance
arges might also be met by
ernment, and that in view of
hospital being a municipal
titution, the municipality might
ily expect to be relieved of some
tion of the annual contribution

of Rs 74.500, which it paid to Gov-
-ment on account of hospitals,
medical College &c.

2. The Surgeon General wh
C. was consulted in the matter, wh
observing that the plans and est-
-mates of the proposed hospital
buildings might be adopted wit
the exception of the provision mad
for nursing, which he considered
to be inadequate, stated that as th
proposed hospital would be the
clinical school for students of the
hospital Assistants' class attendin
the proposed Royapuram Medica
School and as it was therefore
most important that it should
be well organized and made a
model hospital, the Governmen
should assist the Municipality
to the best of its ability and
that the 'operation theatre' and
'mortuary' were practically for
educational purposes. The Direc
D. of Public Instruction also agree
24 with the Surgeon General in co
sidering that the hospital deser
the support of Government and
that the cost of constructing th

of the proposed hospital. The cost
of construction was estimated at
just over two lakhs and that of
maintenance at Rs 30000 per annum
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D. of Public Instruction also agree
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sidering that the hospital dese
the support of Government and
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operation theatre' and 'mortuary' should be borne from Provincial funds and pointed out that the proportion in which the cost of the upkeep of this hospital should be met annually by Government in view of the proposal to utilize it for the clinical instruction of the pupils attending the proposed medical School at Royapuram, could be satisfactorily worked out only after orders had been passed on the scheme for the establishment of Provincial Medical Schools and after the hospital had begun to work on the lines chalked out.

3. As recommended by the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Instruction, the cost of constructing the 'operation theatre' and 'mortuary', which is estimated at Rs 7,518, will be contributed from Provincial funds; but no reduction can be made in the annual contribution of Rs 74,500 ⊗ paid by the Municipal Commissioners to Government, towards the maintenance of the Police [illegible]

	R
⊗ Contribution towards the Police Force	50,000
Do — to the Govt. hospitals	20,000
Do — the Medical College	4,500
R	74,500

The papers have come
2.10.99

Flag X.1.

Cuo. 2246 M. Flag. P.

30

178

and the cost of the Government hospitals and the Medical Colleg in the city. The only help that the Government can give towar the upkeep of the proposed hospit which it will use as the training ground for medical student of the hospital Assistants' class is to supply Medical Officers free of charge, and the ~~Director and the Surgeon General are requested~~ will be borne ~~to bear~~ this in mind ~~in framing~~ when passing orders on the revised estimates of the cost of the Medical School at Royapura called for in G.O. No. 481 Education dated 5th August 1898.

4. The Municipal Commission are requested to state whether they have any objection to the site of the Infantry lines and the connect ed buildings being utilized for the construction of the proposed new hospital, as suggested by th Surgeon General in his letter re above.

5. From the Presidents' Memorandum of the 15th July 1897, and his letter dated 28th February 189 forwarded in G.O. No. 1278, M, dat

B.
K.
N.

5th July 1898 it will be seen that
is proposed to discontinue the
xpenditure of Rs 13,886, which is
ow being annually incurred
n the Native Infirmary from
he Monegar Choultry funds, when
hat institution is taken over by
he Municipal Commissioners,
he Monegar Choultry restricting
tself to the care of paupers and
incurable cases. It is, however,
bserved that about three-eighths
f the funded capital of the Monegar
Choultry, the greater portion
f which was contributed by
Government, appertains to the
Medical or Infirmary fund, and
he remaining five-eighths to
he Poor fund, that is the fund
devoted to the assistance of paupers
nd incurable cases. But for a
ong time past, nearly two-thirds
f the income has been spent on
Medical Relief and one-third only
n the latter object. The Govern-
ent cannot therefore agree to
e proposal that the expenditure
Medical Relief from the funds
charity should be al

discontinued and thrown on the
Municipality and that the whole
of the available resources (abou
Rs 22,000 per annum) should be
spent on the relief of pauperis
and on incurable cases. If the
Municipality takes over the
medical part of the Monegar
Choultry's work (as no doubt it
should) and establishes an
efficient hospital in Black
Town, it should in the opinion
of Government be assisted by
a contribution from the funds
of the Charity of a sum equi-
valent to the current rate of
expenditure on the objects the
management and care of which
are transferred. The President
is accordingly requested to enqui
of the Directors of the Monegar
Choultry, if they are willing to
contribute annually to the Madras Muni-
cipality a sum of Rs 14,000, whi
is about the expenditure they
have been, and are now, incur
on the Native Infirmary, towa
the cost of the upkeep of the ne
hospital and report the resu

8.

Government.

6. The suggestion to open an ophthalmic Institution at Roya-puram, made by the Surgeon General in paragraph 6 of his letter, will be considered in the Public Department.

(From Orders)

V.R.
4/5/99

P.

To
The President. Muncl Comm Madras 11
" Director of Public Instn
" Surgeon General
" Public Department with
" Educational Department
Despd 8/1/99

Government (1899) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1899. Enclosures
Regd. } Spare copies

G.O., No. 870 M., 20th June 1899.

JUNE.

Hospital.

Passing orders on the proposal of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras to construct a — in Black Town and requesting the President to enquire of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality a sum of Rs. 14,000 towards the cost of the upkeep of the new hospital.

8.

Government.

6. The suggestion to open an Ophthalmic Institution at Royapuram, made by the Surgeon General in paragraph 6 of his letter, will be considered in the Public Department.

(Form Orders)

V.R.
29/5/99

P.

To
The President, Munl Comm Madras
" Director of Public Instn
" Surgeon General
" Public Department with
" Educational Department
Despd 8/7/99

Government (1899) of Madras.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Recd. } 1899. Enclosures
Regd. Spare copies

G.O., No. 870 M., 20th June 1899.

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Passing orders on the proposal of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras to construct a — in Black Town and requesting the President to enquire of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality a sum of Rs. 14,000 towards the cost of the upkeep of the new hospital.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper :—

G.O., No. 1278 M., dated 15th July 1898.

Read—the following papers :—

From Lieut.-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, *Kt.*, C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 29th July 1897, G. No. 141.

In forwarding the accompanying extract from the proceedings of a general meeting of the Commissioners held on 26th July 1897, I have the honour to submit the detailed estimates for the construction and the maintenance of the proposed new Black Town hospital, together with a copy of my memorandum to the Commissioners of 15th idem, which will fully explain the state of affairs.

2. The plans of the proposed hospital are also forwarded herewith.

Enclosures.

Extract referred to.

Report of the Special Committee appointed by the Commissioners at their adjourned general meeting held on 9th August 1895, regarding a new hospital for the north of Madras.

Proposed by Lieut.-Colonel G. L. Walker, I.M.S., and seconded by Mr. J. DeCaster—

"That, in the event of the proposed hospital being constructed, the Commissioners accept with thanks the liberal offer of Mr. P. Venkatachalam to give Rs. 20,000 to construct the out-patient department of the hospital and they approve of that block being called after his name."

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. P. Theagaroya Chetti Garu and seconded by the Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. Rangayya Nayudu Garu—

"That the Commissioners, while regretting they cannot accept the generous offer of Mr. Lod Govindoss to contribute a lakh of rupees towards a hospital in Mint Street, will be very glad to accept it for the proposed new Black Town hospital."

Carried.

Proposed by M.R.Ry. V. C. Desika Chariyar Avargal and seconded by the Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. Rangayya Nayudu Garu—

"That the plans and estimates be submitted to Government with a request that they will inform the Commissioners what assistance they are prepared to give both towards construction and maintenance of the proposed new hospital."

Carried.

Memorandum.

It will be seen from the accompanying statement that the cost of construction and equipment of the new hospital is two lakhs.

2. The interest at 4 per cent. and sinking fund will be Rs. 9,500, say Rs. 10,000

3. The maintenance is estimated to amount to Rs. 30,000 (Rs. 29,100).

4. The Municipality will therefore have to meet an annual outlay of Rs. 40,000.

5. Against this must be set off the existing annual expenditure on the Black Town dispensary, about Rs. 7,500, so that the increased actual annual expenditure will be Rs. 32,500.

6. The Municipality pays an annual contribution of Rs. 20,000 to hospitals and an average annual contribution of Rs. 4,500 to the Medical College.

7. In 1887-88 an additional contribution of Rs. 50,000 was imposed under the head of hospitals; this was continued until 1891-92. In 1892-93 Government ruled that this contribution of Rs. 50,000 should be put under the head of "Other Charges."

8. Two of the items in the accompanying statement, viz., "operation theatre" and "mortuary," are practically for Government educational purposes. The operation theatre being constructed to hold 150 students and the mortuary 60 students. The cost of these two amounts to Rs. 7,518.

9. Government might fairly be expected to contribute towards their construction.

10. This hospital is a want that Government has long felt for educational purposes and a certain amount of the cost of maintenance might therefore be met by them.

11. In view of this being a municipal hospital, the Municipality may reasonably expect to be relieved from some portion of the contribution of Rs. 74,500, the three items mentioned above, paid annually to Government.

(Signed) G. M. J. MOORE, Lt.-Col.,
President, Municipal Commission.

15th July 1897.

Endorsement No. 914 M.

Referred to the Surgeon-General for remarks, which should be submitted through the Director of Public Instruction.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

28th August 1897.

From the Hon'ble Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D., Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Madras, 21st October 1897, No. 11780.

In submitting herewith letter from the Surgeon-General, No. Tour-5/2, dated 7th instant, together with the endorsement of Government, No. 914, dated 28th August 1897, I have the honour to state that I concur with the Surgeon-General in thinking that the proposed hospital deserves the support of Government and am of opinion that the cost of constructing the operation theatre and mortuary should be borne from Provincial Funds. What proportion of the expenditure incurred for the upkeep of the hospital should be met annually by Government in view of the proposal to utilize the hospital for the clinical instruction of the pupils attending the proposed Provincial Medical School, Royapuram, can, I think, be satisfactorily decided only after orders have been passed on the establishment of Provincial Medical Schools and after the hospital has begun to work on the lines chalked out.

Enclosure.

From Surgeon-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the Director of Public Instruction), dated Ootacamund, 7th October 1897, No. Tour-5/2.

I have the honour to return your endorsement No. 914, dated the 28th August 1897, with the attached papers and 24 plans.

2. The President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, submits detailed estimates for the construction and the maintenance of the proposed Black Town hospital with a copy of a memorandum by him fully explaining the state of affairs. He also submits the plans of the proposed hospital.

3. As regards the 24 plans they have been prepared by the Consulting Arcihtect in communication with the then District Medical Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Walker, I.M.S., who consulted me on each and I can now recommend that they be adopted.

4. The absolute necessity of reconstructing the old Native Infirmary on modern lines has been fully recognized by Government and the present proposals slightly increase the accommodation. This is necessary as the accommodation of the General Hospital has now been fixed at 500 beds and its resources as regards accommodation for Native males and females are now overtaxed. As the site of the General Hospital will not allow of more accommodation being provided, even if it were desirable to have more than 500 patients treated on one site, it will become necessary in the near future to increase the accommodation of this hospital in Black Town for which extensive space will be available as may be seen from the proposed site plan. As this hospital will be the clinical school for the students of the hospital assistants' class attending the proposed Royapuram Medical School it is most important that it should be well organised and be made a model of what a municipal hospital should be.

5. It is to be hoped that the liberal offer of Mr. P. Vencatachalam to give Rs. 20,000 to construct the out-patient department of the hospital to be called after his name will be followed by similar donations from other charitably disposed persons. If Mr. Lod Govindoss will only reconsider the terms of his generous offer of a lakh of rupees for the construction of a hospital in Mint Street which site would be unsuitable, and give it to this hospital which will be close to the Mint Street, the pecuniary difficulties in the way of carrying out the scheme will nearly disappear.

6. The Commissioners submit the plans and estimate to Government with a request that Government will inform them what assistance it will give both towards the construction and maintenance of the proposed new hospital. The estimate includes—

	RS.
For buildings	1,88,960
Furniture	8,040
New surgical equipment	5,000
Total ..	2,02,000

Maintenances.—Annual expenditure on medical staff, establishments, medicines, diets, bedding and clothing, &c., is Rs. 30,000. The provision made for scientific nursing being Rs. 50 a month for a matron, and Rs. 25 a month each for two nurses is very scanty.

With this exception the estimates may be accepted.

7. In his memorandum the President points out how the Municipality now contributes Rs. 74,500 a year towards the hospitals and Medical College in Madras; the balance of the cost of the hospitals is now provided from Provincial sources. I am of opinion that, for the reasons given in paragraph 4, Government should assist the Municipality to the utmost of its ability. I concur with the President that the operation theatre and mortuary are practically for educational purposes.

8. I attach for the information of Government the following statements:—

(*a*) Showing the actual cost of the maintenance of the Black Town institutions during the past five years and the proposed cost.

(*b*) The present establishment and its cost as compared with the proposed establishment and its cost. The position and pay of the Clinical Assistants cannot be dealt with until the final orders of Government are received upon the reorganisation of the Medical schools. Until then the existing arrangements are now provided for.

(*c*) A statement showing the exact amount received from Government during the past five years.

Reference No. 224 M.

In the President's memorandum of the 15th July 1897, it is stated that the additional annual cost to the Municipality on account of the proposed new hospital will be Rs. 32,500, taking the existing cost of the Black Town dispensary at Rs. 7,500. But from Dr. Walker's estimate, dated 20th July 1897, submitted with the President's letter, it appears that the present annual expenditure on account of this dispensary and the Native Infirmary (in-patient department) is about Rs. 21,000, of which the cost of the latter comes to Rs. 13,886. The President is requested to state whether this expenditure of Rs. 13,886, which is apparently met from the Monegar Choultry funds, is to be discontinued, if the Native Infirmary is taken over by the Municipal Commissioners and, if so, why.

24th February 1898. (Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

From Lieut.-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, *Kt.*, C.I.E., President, Municipal Commission, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated 28th February 1898, G. No. 620.

With reference to your memorandum No. 224, dated 24th February 1898, I have the honour to state that the expenditure of Rs. 13,886 hitherto met by the Monegar Choultry funds will be discontinued. It is merged in the item "in-patient department Rs. 22,466." The Monegar Choultry will restrict itself to the care of paupers and the incurable wards.

Reference No. 412 M.

In the estimate for the construction of the new Black Town hospital, submitted by the President, provision is made for an "operation theatre" and a "mortuary," which are estimated to cost Rs. 7,518, and the Municipal Commissioners request Government to contribute towards their construction, as the buildings are practically for Government educational purposes, being required for the instruction of students of the hospital assistants' class attending the proposed Medical school at Royapuram. The Surgeon-General is requested to state whether it will not be necessary for Government to incur any further expenditure on buildings in connection with the proposed school, such as class rooms, library and other things which may be needed for the school, what will be the probable cost of constructing them and whether the site will afford space for them.

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

5th April 1898.

From Surgeon-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Ootacamund, 4th June 1898, No. T. 160.

With reference to your memorandum No. 412, dated the 5th April 1898 (received with the plans herewith returned), I have the honour to report as follows.

2. The old Bullet Factory at Royapuram has, under G.O., No. 533, Educational, dated 17th September 1897, been handed over to the Educational Department for the purpose of the proposed Medical school. This building is not only spacious enough for the purpose, but will also, with very few alterations, be well adapted to the various requirements of the school including class rooms, library and reading room, lecturers' retiring rooms and the Superintendent's office, &c. The main expenditure that will have to be incurred will consist of what will be necessary for fittings and furniture. These, including the cost of altering room No. 1 so that it may be used as a lecture theatre, alterations in stables, the erection of a latrine for students and the stocking of the library with medical books, are roughly estimated to cost about Rs. 5,070. This amount does not, of course, include the cost of the articles and the apparatus, &c., necessary for the teaching of the students in the several branches.

3. There is however no room which can be used as a dissecting room to provide for the teaching of practical anatomy. One such will have to be built. There is no adequate space in the Bullet Factory building for this purpose, and even if there were, it would be objectionable from a sanitary point of view to locate a dissecting room side by side with class rooms attended for several hours in the day by young students, and also in such close proximity with the Ramaswami Lying-in hospital. A suitable site will have therefore to be selected elsewhere for it. This question will be dealt with by me in dealing with the proposal for an alternative site for the new Black Town hospital which will form the subject of a separate and early communication to Government.

4. I regret the delay in dealing with this reference, but it was impossible to answer Government's question until certain enquiries had been made.

Order—Mis. No. 1278 M., dated 15th July 1898.

The further communication, promised by the Surgeon-General in paragraph 3 of his letter read above, is awaited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
" Surgeon-General.
" Director of Public Instruction.

Read—also the following paper :—

From Surgeon-General C. SIBTHORPE, C.B., F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department, dated Ootacamund, 1st July 1898, No. T. 252.

I have the honour to state that in reply to your endorsement, No. 914, dated the 28th August 1897, I recommended in my letter No. T-5/2, dated 7th October 1897, the adoption of the plans for the reconstruction of the Native Infirmary *on its present site—the Monegar Choultry*. In approving of this site in spite of its limited area, I was influenced solely by the consideration that it was the only site then available for the purpose.

2. I now understand that the Infantry lines and the connected buildings lying north and south of the Old Jail Street which were occupied by the Military Department have now become vacant. Dr. Lee now in charge of the First District as well as his predecessor Dr. Walker (to whose exertions the proposal for the construction of a new hospital for Black Town mainly owes its success), advocate this new site, and I strongly support their view in the event of the site being available for the purpose.

3. The new site is more spacious and healthy, more airy and convenient of access than the old one, and its acquisition would obviate the necessity for demolishing the existing buildings of the Native Infirmary. The Infantry barracks can serve as hostels and the drill-ground as a recreation ground for the students of the clinical classes. The construction of the hospital on the new site which is exactly at the southern end of Mint Street may induce Mr. Lod Govindoss to liberally subscribe to it in pursuance of his original offer of a lakh of rupees for an hospital in the said street.

4. Other advantages that will follow from the adoption of this site are (1) the reversion of the Native Infirmary building to the Monegar Choultry, (2) the transfer into it of the pauper inmates of the Venkatagherry Choultry, and (3) the addition of the Venkatagherry Choultry building with its ground to the Leper Hospital which is at present overcrowded and needs an extension.

5. The new site has also this advantage, that a suitable place can then be formed for the construction of a dissecting room in connection with the proposed Medical school at Royapuram referred to in paragraph 3 of my letter, No. T. 160, dated 4th June 1898. Either a new dissecting room can be built between the proposed hospital and the proposed school, or the old dissecting room which still exists can be altered and adapted to requirements.

6. In this connection, I beg to urge on the favourable consideration of Government Dr. Lee's suggestion to open an ophthalmic institution at Royapuram. An extract from his report fully dealing with the matter is enclosed. Dr. Walker also takes the same view of the case and I fully concur with both of them. I trust that Government will be pleased to accord sanction to a proposal so conducive to the interests both of the public and of the Medical Department.

Enclosure.

Report on proposal to open a Medical school in the old Bullet Factory, Royapuram.

* * * * *

3. *Opthalmology.*—With regard to instruction in the treatment of diseases of the eye, I observe that in the report of the Committee on the reorganization of the Medical College a proposal to open an Ophthalmic dispensary at Royapuram was considered (*vide* page 16, G.O., No. 654, Educational, dated 22nd October 1896) and that the Superintendent, Government Ophthalmic Hospital, was consulted on the matter. This officer is said to have regarded such a measure as most objectional, though, as his reasons for this belief are not summarised, it does not appear on what grounds it was based. The Committee seems to have endorsed this opinion, by recording the view that the opening of an ophthalmic department under that designation would prejudice the confidence of the public in Western methods of treatment, and that the training of hospital assistant pupils should be limited to the diagnosis and treatment of superficial lesions (*i.e.*, surface wounds or injuries) of the eye. This is a euphemistic way of saying that the working results of such an institution would compare very unfavourably with those of

the Government Ophthalmic Hospital and is an illustration of the old baneful tendency that has rendered ophthalmic work so remarkably backward in this Presidency contrasted with other parts of India, viz., to make it the monopoly of a specialist—a cult as it were, to be jealously guarded from diffusion,—with the result that according to my lengthy experience as a District Medical Officer a most deplorable lack of knowledge of eye diseases prevails among the large majority of medical subordinates of every grade or class, and I have witnessed in my own practice several unfortunate examples of such ignorance, due, I am forced to conclude, to want of sufficient facilities for acquiring a knowledge of this important subject. There is no reason to suppose that many medical subordinates in independent charge would not, with efficient training, become expert in cataract extraction, and there is a wide field for such work everywhere among those who are now the prey of the quacks and impostors that ruin most of the eyes subjected to their barbarous treatment. It is doubtless the case that not a few Medical officers now serving are fully competent and possess the requisite experience to teach practical ophthalmology, and these might reasonably resent the imputation of the Committee on their capacity to do so.

* * * * *

II.

III. It may perhaps be argued that there is no scope for a second eye institution in this large extensive and populous city, but judging from the analogous success of the Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar Lying-in Hospital it is reasonable to suppose that an eye hospital in North Black Town would not be less popular or less likely to fulfil a public want : at all events, until satisfactory proof to the contrary is afforded it is idle to contend that the field for ophthalmic work is already fully occupied.

* * * * *

18th February 1898. (Signed) W. A. LEE, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,
Surgeon, 1st District, and
Supt., Clinical Hospitals.

Order—No. 870 M., dated 20th June 1899.

With his letter disposed of in the Government Order read above, the President of the Municipal Commission, Madras, submitted plans and estimates of a municipal hospital proposed to be constructed in Black Town on the site of the buildings occupied by the Native Infirmary, which the Directors of the Monegar Choultry agreed to hand over to the Municipal Commissioners for the purpose, and also an extract from the proceedings of the Commissioners, dated 26th July 1897, in which they requested to be informed what assistance the Government was prepared to give towards the construction and maintenance of the proposed hospital. The cost of construction was estimated at just over two lakhs and that of maintenance at Rs. 30,000 per annum, and in his memorandum to the Commissioners, the President pointed out that including the annual payment on account of interest and sinking fund on the loan which would have to be raised to meet the initial cost of the buildings, the total annual expenditure on account of the hospital would be Rs. 40,000, that the Government might fairly contribute towards the construction of the "operation theatre" and the "mortuary" costing Rs. 7,518 which were practically intended for Government educational purposes, that as the new hospital would supply a want that Government had long felt for educational purposes, a portion of its maintenance charges might also be met by Government, and that in view of the hospital being a municipal institution, the Municipality might fairly expect to be relieved of some portion of the annual contribution of Rs. 74,500, which it paid to Government on account of hospitals, Medical College, &c.

2. The Surgeon-General who was consulted in the matter, while observing that the plans and estimates of the proposed hospital buildings might be adopted with the exception of the provision made for nursing, which he considered to be inadequate, stated that as the proposed hospital would be the clinical school for students of the hospital assistants' class attending the proposed Medical school at Royapuram and as it was therefore most important that it should be well organized and made a model hospital, the Government should assist the Municipality to the best of its ability and that the "operation theatre" and "mortuary" were practically for educational purposes. The Director of Public Instruction also agreed with the Surgeon-General in considering that the hospital deserved the support of Government and that the cost of constructing the "operation theatre" and "mortuary" should be borne from Provincial Funds, and pointed out that the proportion in which the cost of the upkeep of

this hospital should be met annually by Government in view of the proposal to utilize it for the clinical instruction of the pupils attending the proposed Medical school at Royapuram, could be satisfactorily worked out only after orders had been passed on the scheme for the establishment of Provincial Medical schools and after the hospital had begun to work on the lines chalked out.

3. As recommended by the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Instruction, the cost of constructing the "operation theatre" and "mortuary", which is estimated at Rs. 7,518, will be contributed from Provincial Funds; but no reduction can be made in the annual contribution of Rs. 74,500 paid by the Municipal Commissioners to Government, towards the maintenance of the police force and the cost of the Government hospitals and the Medical College in the city. The only help that the Government can give towards the upkeep of the proposed hospital, which it will use as the training ground for medical students of the hospital assistants' class, is to supply medical officers free of charge, and this will be borne in mind when passing orders on the revised estimates of the cost of the Medical school at Royapuram called for in G.O., No. 481, Educational, dated 5th August 1898.

4. The Municipal Commissioners are requested to state whether they have any objection to the site of the Infantry lines and the connected buildings being utilized for the construction of the proposed new hospital, as suggested by the Surgeon-General in his letter read above.

5. From the President's memorandum of the 15th July 1897, and his letter, dated 28th February 1898, recorded in G.O., No. 1278 M., dated 15th July 1898, it will be seen that it is proposed to discontinue the expenditure of Rs. 13,886, which is now being annually incurred on the Native Infirmary from the Monegar Choultry funds, when that institution is taken over by the Municipal Commissioners, the Monegar Choultry restricting itself to the care of paupers and incurable cases. It is, however, observed that about three-eighths of the funded capital of the Monegar Choultry, the greater portion of which was contributed by Government, appertains to the Medical or Infirmary fund, and the remaining five-eighths to the poor fund, that is the fund devoted to the assistance of paupers and incurable cases. But for a long time past, nearly two-thirds of the income has been spent on medical relief and one-third only on the latter object. The Government cannot therefore agree to the proposal that the expenditure on medical relief from the funds of the charity should be altogether discontinued and thrown on the Municipality and that the whole of the available resources (about Rs. 22,000 per annum) should be spent on the relief of pauperism and on incurable cases. If the Municipality takes over the medical part of the Monegar Choultry's work (as no doubt it should) and establishes an efficient hospital in Black Town, it should in the opinion of Government be assisted by a contribution from the funds of the charity of a sum equivalent to the current rate of expenditure on the objects the management and care of which are transferred. The President is accordingly requested to enquire of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry if they are willing to contribute annually to the Madras Municipality towards the cost of the upkeep of the new hospital a sum of Rs. 14,000, which is about the expenditure they have been, and are now, incurring on the Native Infirmary, and report the result to Government.

6. The suggestion to open an ophthalmic institution at Royapuram, made by the Surgeon-General in paragraph 6 of his letter, will be considered in the Public Department.

(True Extract.)

C. J. WEIR,
A g. Secretary to Government.

To the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
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" Surgeon-General.
" Public Department. ✓
" Educational Department. ✓

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