M.R.O. (—32,400—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1044 Press Mis.

Dated 23-5- 18 8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

I

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 2nd June 1857.

No. 11. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 4th May 1857, No. 71.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for submission to Government, a design for buildings to be erected on the site of the present General Hospital and ground adjoining, to serve as Hospitals for Military men and Civilians.

2. These plans have been prepared by the Civil Architect under orders* of Government transmitted to him upon the 7th March 1856. The Hospitals consist of three detached blocks connected by low arcaded passages, and the buildings themselves may be described as consisting of an upper story with a colonaded verandah upon an arcaded Basement story of the Tuscan style of architecture.

* Extract Minutes Consultation No. 194, dated 21st February 1856.

3. The Hexastyle portico in front should be of the same order, and should project so as to form a porte Cochere A. instead of being Ionic with a low porte Cochere as in the original design.

4. The ends of the main buildings should also for uniformity sake be as proposed see sketch B. pasted on the original drawing.

5. With the above alterations, the building as a whole will I think have a good effect, being sufficiently broken up to produce broad masses of light and shade, though perhaps the blocks themselves might have had greater projection at their wings.

6. There appears to be no provision for draining or ventilating (by tubes or other methods) the building, and the attention of the Civil Architect will be directed prominently to these essentials.

7. The buildings are now submitted to Government, for their preliminary approval as to style, site &c. that no longer time may be consumed in alterations before making the estimate, which can at the present stage be easily carried out.

8. The buildings are to be.
   1st. A Military Hospital.
   2nd. A Civil Do. for Europeans and East Indians.
   3rd. A Civil Hospital for Natives.

9. Each block will accommodate 160 patients, which though differring somewhat from the numbers and disposition of the patients proposed by the Medical Department, is approved generally by the Medical Board. The site and disposition of building in three separate portions in one line also have their approbation; but they are desirous of having the front altered from a due south to a south east direction, so that the buildings may have the benefit of the sea breeze. The Board are further of opinion that the centre Hospital might be somewhat thrown back.

10. If the above modifications are considered advisable, the direction might be somewhat changed, and the wings A. C. slightly thrown forward, which would have the same effect, and would leave the present Hospital intact, a consideration of importance, as it is understood that the present Hospitals are particularly good, and they might be retained as Cholera Hospitals, or in case of any other casualty rendering separate wards a desideratum.

also

11. Some further instructions as to the wishes of Government are required with reference to the building now used as a Medical school, and as such a diversity of opinion exists on the subject amongst the Medical Officers connected with it, I would suggest that a Medical Committee be appointed to report finally with reference to its alteration, or to its being altogether rebuilt.

12. Suitable accommodation for a Dispensary Surgery Operating room, Consulting room and Store rooms &c. appear to have been provided, and the wards are spacious, the height of the lower rooms is 16′ 9″, and that of the upper rooms is 18 feet.

13. The Civil Architect has given no approximate cost of these buildings, but on a rough calculation they will probably cost about five lacs of Rupees.

14. On receipt of the orders of Government complete plans with detailed estimates shall be prepared and submitted for final disposal.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, No. 1014; dated 27th May 1857.

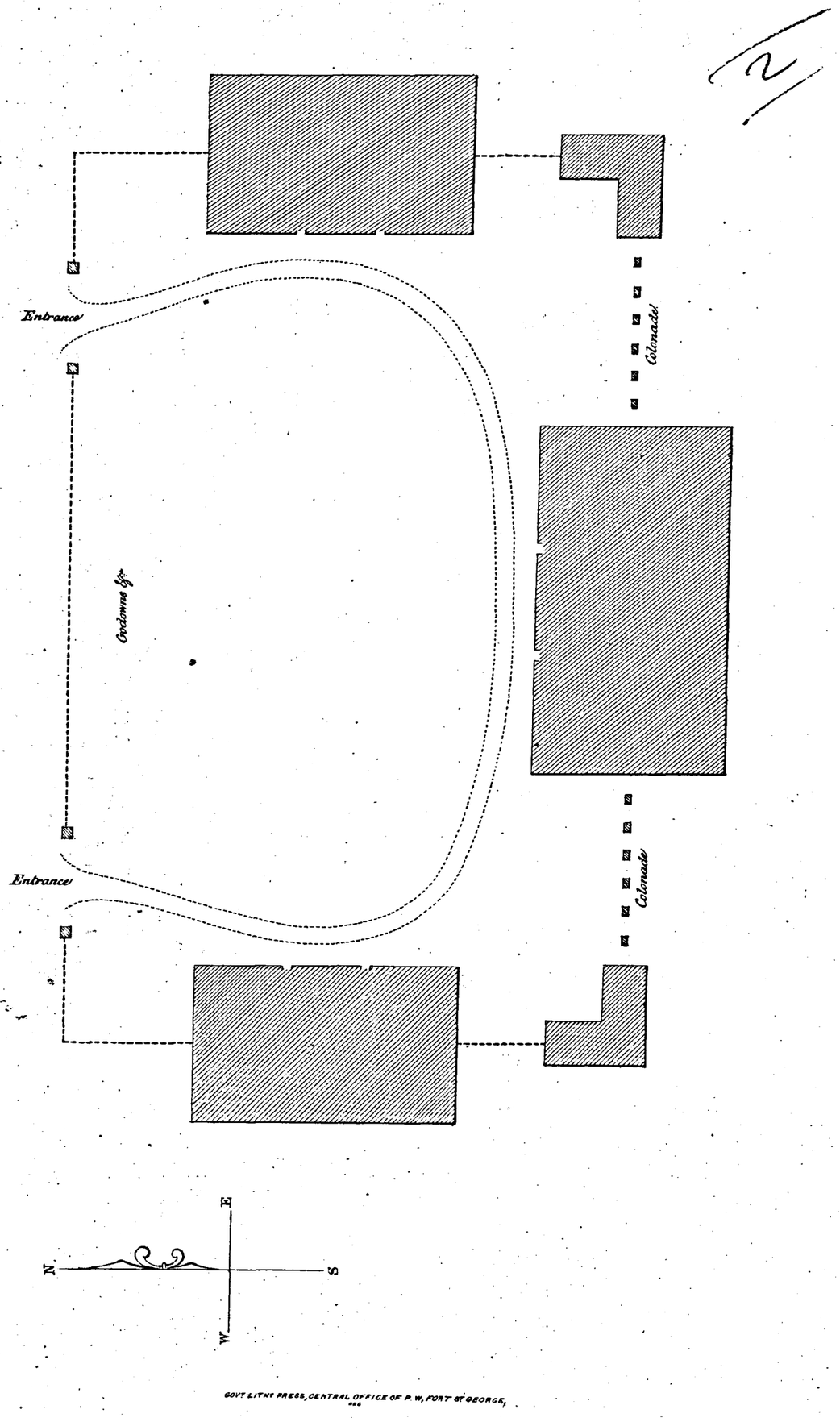
With the letter above recorded, the Chief Engineer submits one to his address from the Civil Architect, with plans of the buildings proposed for a new General Hospital at the Presidency.

2. The Chief Engineer has suggested some alterations in the general design of the building, which are improvements on the structure proposed by the Civil Architect, but the Government are of opinion that the whole plan may be greatly improved, by the adoption of certain alterations which they will now proceed to point out.

3. The Government are of opinion that it is essentially requisite that an Hospital should be constructed so as to give the freest possible circulation of air to every part of the building, and to ensure this end, it is obvious that the blocks should be so placed that one should not intercept the passage of the wind to any other. With the blocks placed as the Civil Architect proposes, the whole building facing the south, the east and west-winds will be felt in only one third of the Hospital, and this would be a serious evil. The east wind direct from the sea, is the most refreshing wind that blows on this coast, and must be invaluable to the invalid, while the west wind, which prevails in the hottest weather, can, by artificial means, be rendered cool and pleasant, so that, a time of year which would otherwise be enervating, may, if the wind has free access, be turned to the patients benefit.

4. The Government would therefore wish that the plan for the Hospital should be re-cast, that the centre block for male patients of all classes excepting Military, for the Dispensary, Surgery, Store room, Operating room, and other general purposes, should face the south, and that two separate blocks, one to the west for females, and the other to the east, solely for the Military, should be thrown back, one at each rear angle of the main building, but clear of it, so as not to intercept the wind,—they will face east and west, and be so far apart as not to interfere with each other.

5. The following diagram which is not however drawn to scale, will put the Chief Engineer in possession of the meaning of Government.



GOVT LITHO PRESS, CENTRAL OFFICE OF P. W, FORT ST GEORGE,

The small blocks at the south-east and south-west corners may be appropriated to purposes for which the Civil Architect's plan has otherwise provided.

6. The arrangement of the building now proposed, will allow of each block receiving wind from every quarter, and will obviate the necessity for placing the line in echellon as proposed by the Medical Board, a plan which, in the opinion of Government, would entirely destroy the architectural appearance of the structure.

7. The Chief Engineer will be so good as to provide that, in the eastern block, the accommodation for the sick of the European Regiment in garrison, shall be separate and distinct from that afforded to other Military men, he will remember that privacy and quiet are essential, and will endeavor so to arrange the approaches and the entrance, as to give room for the least possible disturbance and annoyance to the inmates of the Hospital.

8. It is observed that the Chief Engineer in the 12th paragraph of his letter, gives the proposed height of the wards as 16'-9" for the lower story, and 18' for the upper, a distinction which, if any be made, it is the opinion of Government, should be reversed, the upper story will obviously be more airy than the lower, and will therefore the less need increase of height, but the Government wish that each story should be fully 18 feet in height. It further appears to Government doubtful whether provision has been made for a sufficient number of patients,—as its accommodation and comfort are increased, it is only reasonable to anticipate that the Hospital will be more generally attended, and a considerable increase on the present average number of patients should therefore be provided for.

9. With these observations, the Government resolve to return to the Chief Engineer the plans received with his letter under review, and to request that he will obtain from the Civil Architect, and submit at his early convenience, a fresh plan prepared in accordance with the views expressed above.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

3

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George,
4 May 1857.

No. 71.

From,

The Chief Engineer,

Medical Buildings To,

The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

71.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for submission
Encl. Original 1. to Government, a design for buildings to be erected on the site
1 } to
and of the present General Hospital and ground adjoining, to
3 Plans serve as Hospitals for Military men and Civilians.
4

Ex. Mins. Cons. No 94. dated 21st February 58

2 These plans have been prepared by the Civil Architect under orders of Government transmitted to him upon the 7th March 1856. The Hospitals consist of three detached blocks connected by low arcaded passages, and the buildings themselves may be described as consisting of an upper story with a colonaded verandah upon an arcaded Basement story of the Tuscan style of Architecture.

3 The Hexastyle portico in front should be of the same order, and should project so as to form a porte Cochère A instead of being Ionic with a low porte Cochère as in the original design.

4 The ends of the main buildings should also

for uniformity sake be as proposed See Sketch **B** pasted on the original drawing.—

5 With the above alterations, the building as a whole will I think have a good effect, being sufficiently broken up to produce broad masses of light and shade, though perhaps the blocks themselves might have had greater projection at their wings.

6 There appears to be no provision for drawing or ventilating (by tubes or other methods) the building, and the attention of the Civil Architect will be directed prominently to these essentials.—

7 The buildings are now submitted to Government, for their preliminary approval as to style, site &c. that no longer time may be consumed in alterations before making the Estimate, which can at the present stage be easily carried out.

8 The buildings are to be

1st a Military Hospital.——

2nd a Civil Do. for Europeans and East Indians.——

3rd a Civil Hospital for natives.——

9 Each block will accommodate 160 patients, which though differing somewhat from the numbers and disposition of the patients proposed by the Medical Department is approved generally by the Medical Board. The site, and disposition of building in three separate portions in one line also

also have their approbation; but they are desirous of having the front altered from a due South to a South East direction, so that the buildings may have the benefit of the Sea breeze.— The Board are further of opinion that the centre Hospital might be somewhat thrown back.

10 If the above modifications are considered advisable the direction might be somewhat changed, and the wings be slightly thrown forward, which would have the same effect, and would leave the present Hospital intact, a consideration of importance, as it is understood that the present Hospitals are particularly good, and they might be retained as Cholera Hospitals, or in case of any other casuality rendering separate wards a desideratum.

11 Some further instructions as to the wishes of Government are required with reference to the building now used as a Medical School, and as such a diversity of opinion exists on the subject amongst the Medical Officers connected with it, I would suggest that a Medical Committee be appointed to report finally with reference to its alteration or to its being altogether rebuilt.—

12 Suitable accommodation for a dispensary surgery operating room, consulting room and Store Rooms &c. appear to have been provided, and the wards are spacious, the height of the lower rooms is 16' 9", and that of the upper rooms is 18 feet.—

13 The Civil Architect has given no approximate

cost of these buildings, but on a rough calculation they will probably cost about five lacs of Rupees.

4. On receipt of the orders of Government, complete Plans with detailed Estimates shall be prepared and submitted for final disposal.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obt Servt

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George,
4th May 1857.

Colonel
Chief Engineer.

For Orders.

Public Works Department No 911.

From the Chief Engineer 4th May 1857.

Forwards a Plan and Elevation of a new Hospital for Civil and Military Patients to be erected instead of the present General Hospital and on its immediate vicinity.

Solicits final instructions as to the Building and on the subject of the Medical School.

Returned

Forwarded for the orders of Government a Plan and Elevation of a new Hospital for Civil and Military Patients to be erected instead of the present General Hospital and on its immediate vicinity.

Solicits final instructions as to the Building and on the subject of the Medical School.

Public Works 1857 Department
Dto Dec 2d Inwd No 911
From
The Chief Engineer.
To The Secretary to Government C.W.D.
Dated 4th May 1857.
Received 5th
No 911.
S.G. No 1014 27th May.
Enclosures.

6 ... 26th July 56. No 166-167
do 8th Jany/58 ... 1862.

No 11.

C/ 7th May R12th C14th R15th

cj. Thur. 12. C14. 1815.

Southern front [illegible] entirely
destroying the principal Staircase
& was intended [illegible]

The Publication of Specifications
by Lottery appears to many persons
Objectionable & [illegible]
Buildings [illegible]
&c. I do not perceive any objection
to Buildings [illegible]
should it [illegible]
The Under Secretary [illegible]

[illegible] proposed appear [illegible]
any objectionable [illegible] public
Office [illegible] Architect [illegible]
can be appointed [illegible]
I think [illegible] to [illegible]
the Public Building larger than
the others [illegible] sufficient for large
for European [illegible] Public
Buildings [illegible] that the [illegible]
& that the Public [illegible]

distinct separation in the latter
being made between that portion
which is to be kept for gunpowder
& strictly medical purposes
of the Hospital - it must be remembered
that they will probably increase
greatly with improved accommodation
for
[illegible]
I quite concur - but if
the Secretary of State's complaint was of the Hospital
Sabrina & that their Hospital is not wholly distinct
& separate from the others & there is much reason
the objection -

the buildings appear to me to be crowded
into too small a space - if as proposed
and as they seem to be necessary they should
be enlarged there will certainly still
be a deficiency of fresh air &
ventilation.

This is a matter of such
total importance as a climate like
this that two sacrifices seem often
[illegible] to secure it.

The plans appear to be of such extensive
& much improvement -

No 1014.

Extract from the Secretary of Govt. under date the 27th May 1857.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer.

Secretary to Govt
No 71
27th May/57.

With the letter above recorded, the Chief Engineer submits one to his address from the Civil Architect with plans & the buildings proposed for a new General Hospital at the Presidency.

The Chief Engineer has suggested some alterations in the general design of the buildings which are in process of erection from the structure proposed by the Civil Architect.

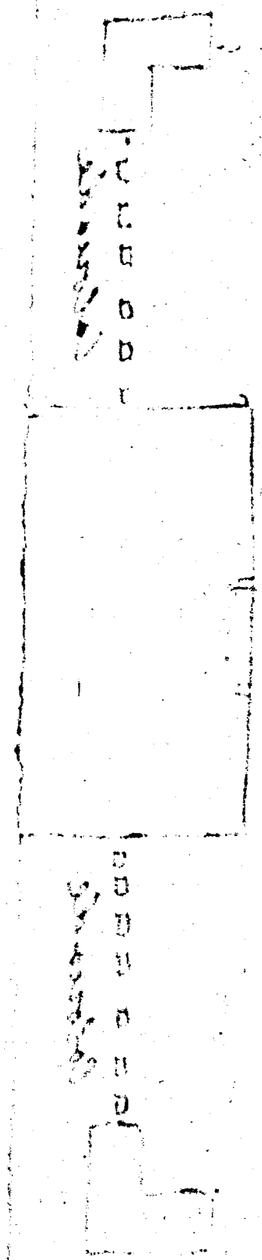
but the Government
are of opinion that
the whole plan may
be greatly improved
by the adoption of
certain alterations
which they would
proceed to point out

2nd The Government
are of opinion that
the Hospital it is essen-
tially requisite that
an Hospital should be
constructed so as to
give the freest possible
circulation of air to
every part of the
building and to
ensure that end
should be detached but the
blocks should be so
placed that one

should not intercept
the passage of the wind
to any other - with
the blocks placed as
the Civil Architect
proposed, the South
building facing the
South, the East and
West winds will be
felt in only one third
of the Hospital, and
this would be a serious
evil - The East wind,
direct from the Sea,
is the most refreshing
wind but that on
this Coast, and must
be invaluable to the
invalid
~~sick~~, while the West
wind, which prevails
in the hottest weather,
can by artificial
means, be rendered
cool and pleasant

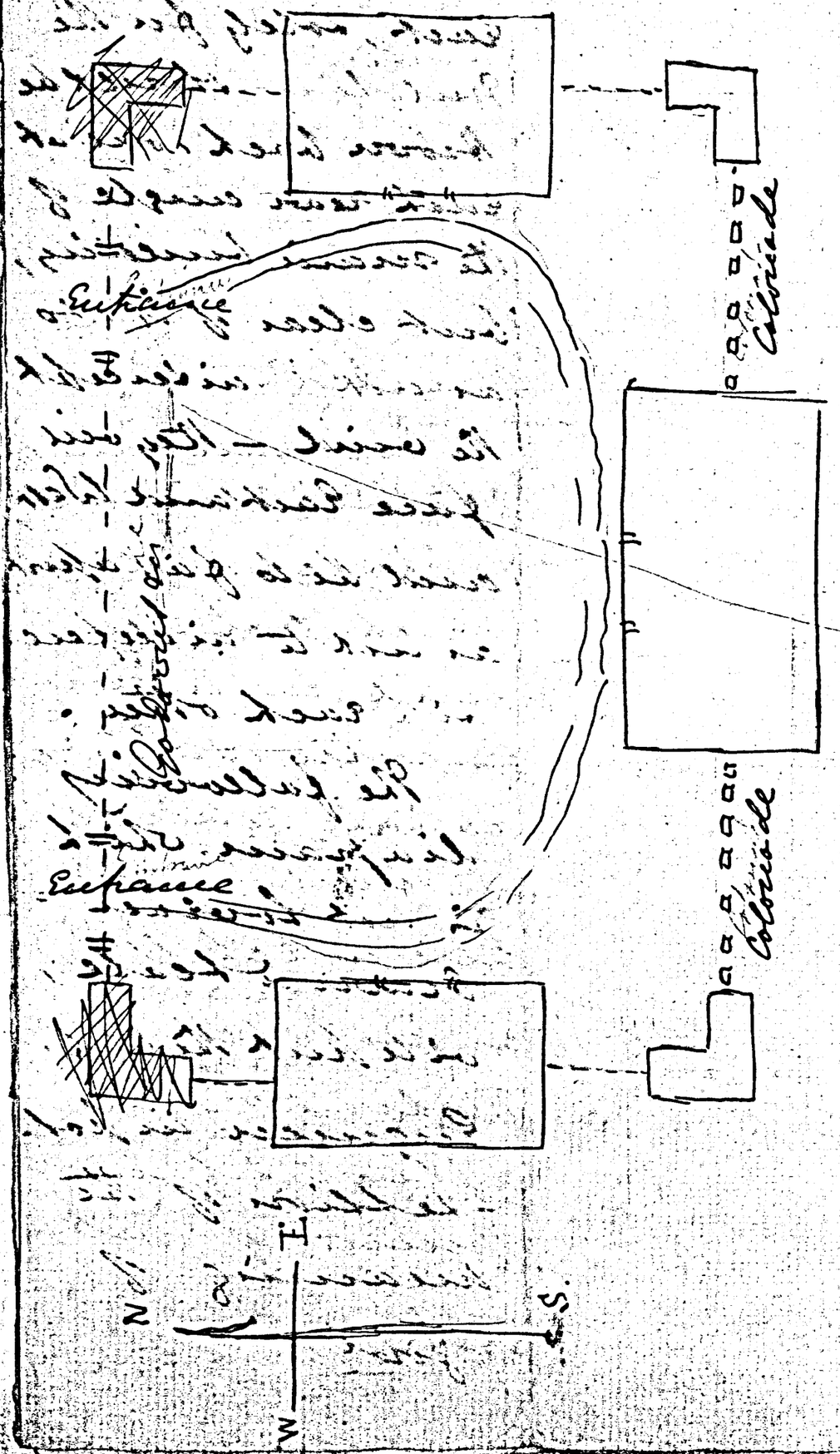
do. But, a small B Ward
which, owned otherwise
be encroaching away,
if the wind has free
access, be turned to
the patients benefit.

The Government
owned therefore will
but the plan for the
Hospital should be
re-cast, but the
central block for
middle patients. B.
& C. Lapsed arrestling
Military, for the
Dispensary, Nursery,
Store room, Working
room in and Store
Room, and their
General Privates,
should face the South,
and but two separate
blocks, one to the
West for females,



and the other to the
East, solely for the
Military, should be
Brown back, one at
each rear angle of
the main building,
but clear of it, so
as not to intercept
the wind — they will
face East and West,
and be so far apart
as not to interfere
with each other.

5- The following
diagram shows
in what manner
drains to treat,
will best the Chief
Engineer in Not-
-withstanding of the
meaning of
South



the Infirmary blocks at the South East North West each corner may be appropriated to Infectious for Sick the Civil Architect Plan has otherwise provided.

The arrangement of the Buildings and Detached Offices from every Quarter and the Necessity for placing the Sick in Echellon as specified by the Medical Board, appear to require a Plan which in the Junction of four, opened entirely destroy the ar-

Architectural appearance
of the Structure. In
the Ch. Engr. will be of good use
to provide Buttresses in the
Eastern block, the
accommodation for
the Sick & the Guard Room
Depositories & Garrison,
shall be separate and
distinct from the But
afforded to Officers.
It may then be
well considered but
privacy and Quiet
will be essential, and
it will endeavour to
arrange the Approaches
and the Entrance,
as to give room for
the least hostile

distinctness and
annoyance to the
inmates of the
Hospital.

It is observed by
the Ch. Engr. in the
12th paragraph of his
letter, given the pro-
posed height of the
towers as 16' - 9" for
the lower story, and
16' for the upper, a
distinction which, if
any be made, it is
the opinion of Govt.
should be reversed
— the upper story
will obviously be
more airy than
the lower, and will
require the less
increase of height,
but the Govt. wish
that each story
should be fully
16 feet in height.

It seems to appear that the Govt. Provision has not been made for a sufficient number of patients — as its accommodation and comfort are increased, it is only reasonable to anticipate that the hospital will be more generally attended, and a considerable increase in the present number of patients should therefore be provided for.

I will therefore request Dr. Watson to state for the consideration of the Ch. Engr the plans received with his letter under cover, and to request Dr Lole will obtain from the Civil Architect, & submit at his early convenience, a fresh plan prepared in accordance with the views expressed above.

14 - 5 - 57.

I Copies to the Chief Engr. with 4 Enclos. Dispd 29

Public Works 1857 Depart.t
Dr. to Cons. 2nd June

No. 1014

Extract Mins. of Cons.
29/27th May/57.

No 1182.

Resolving to return to the Chief Engineer, the plans of a new Hospital, &c. for Civil & Military patients to be erected, instead of the present general Hospital, and requesting him to obtain from the Civil Architect and submit a fresh plan prepared in accordance with the views therein expressed. —

C. 14th Gray R. 15th