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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.
Can. 21/10/59

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<u>34</u> Dated <u>5-10-1859</u>	

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
from 5th to 21st October 1859.*

No. 3. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 24th September 1859, No. 1476.

Ordering that the proposed temporary accommodation for the sick in the low ranges of the general hospital be provided at once. } (Vide Public Proceedings from 24th September to 4th October 1859, Nos. 7 at 14.)

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 5th October 1859, No. 2374.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer for information and guidance with reference to proceedings dated 1st August last No. 1849. Colonel Bell is requested to issue orders for the immediate execution of the work sanctioned in paragraph 3.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 5. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George ; to Colonel BAIRD SMITH, c. B., Secretary to the Government of India, D. P. W., dated 5th October 1859, No. 2375.

1. I am directed by the Governor in Council to submit for the consideration of the Government of India the accompanying correspondence relating to certain improvements proposed to be made to the General Hospital at Madras.

Minute by the Honorable the President dated 26th July 1859.
Do. by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief dated 26th July 1859.
Order Public Department 30th July 1859 No. 1165.
Do. Public Works Dept. 1st August " " 1849.
Letter from Committee, 26th do.
Order Public Department 24th September 1859 No. 1476.
Do. Public Works do 5th October " " 2374.
5 Plans.
2 Abstract estimates. } To be returned.
1 General abstract estimate.

2. These improvements originated from certain suggestions made by the Honorable the President after visiting the hospital ; and his views are concurred in by His Excellency the

Commander-in-Chief, as will be seen from the accompanying Minutes, to which the special attention of the Government of India is solicited, Major Horsley Deputy Chief Engineer was accordingly instructed through the Chief Engineer to prepare the requisite plans and estimates in communication with the Director General of the Medical Department, the Inspector General of Hospitals, the Garrison Surgeon and the Physician of the General Hospital. These Officers formed themselves into a committee, and submitted a report on the subject dated 26th August 1859, to which also particular attention is solicited. It furnishes full information as to the defects of the present building, and gives a sketch of the plan for remodelling and in part reconstructing the hospital so as to render it capable of affording proper accommodation for the sick of the various classes and departments for which it is designed.

3. This plan is so arranged as to admit of what is most indispensable and emergent being done at once and at a moderate cost ; while each successive section of the work, taken by itself, will be not only a substantive improvement, but a component part of the entire scheme for the reformation of the building. The several parts of the scheme are specified below.

	Rs.
✓ 1st.—Erecting temporary buildings for the accommodation of the sick.....	3,100 ✓
2nd.—Additional ward &c. in the lower story of the hospital...	66,500
3rd.—Erecting an upper story.....	1,22,900
4th.—Converting the present Medical College into quarters for the Medical Officer of the European Regiment.....	3,000
5th.—Erecting quarters for the Medical Officers and Subordinates attached to the General Hospital.....	44,500
6th.—Constructing Medical College and Dissecting rooms.....	35,000
Total Rupees.....	<u>2,75,000</u>

As the state of the hospital called for immediate relief, and there was barely time before the setting in of the north-east monsoon to provide the temporary accommodation for the sick contemplated in the first of the above estimates amounting to Rupees 3,100, this Government have sanctioned the work for execution on emergency; and they desire me to report the proceeding for approval.

4. I am desired to solicit at the same time the sanction of the Government of India to the carrying out of the second part of the scheme, viz. the construction of an additional ward and out-houses &c., with other improvements in the lower story of the hospital. The total estimated cost of this work is Rupees 66,500; but as the Chief Engineer does not consider it possible to do more in the current official year than clear the ground and lay the foundations, sanction is requested for the expenditure of such a sum only as may suffice for the purpose. The other parts of the scheme proposed to be effected at a still further cost of Rupees 2,05,400, I am directed to state, have for the present been postponed.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Committee appointed to report on the improvement of the Madras General Hospital; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 26th August 1859.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, and the Order thereon, dated 30th July 1859,* which directs us "to act in the closest * No. 1165. concert with the view to the formation of a plan for the improvement of the present General Hospital and to the introduction into the proposed new building, of the many important improvements, the necessity of which have been established by the labours of Miss Nightingale and Mr. Sydney Herbert." We have communicated freely with each other, and have very carefully examined the building, and grounds around, and we beg now to submit the results of our enquiries in a combined report.

2. We beg to premise, that the General Hospital is intended for the accommodation of

*Gun Powder Manufactory.
Artillery Veteran Company.
Time expired and discharged
men.
Camp Equipage Department.
Ordnance Department.
Gun Carriage Manufactory.
Commissariat Department.
Pension Establishment.
Quarter Master General's
Department.
Engineer's Department.
Department Public Works.*

1st.—The sick of the European Regiment stationed in Fort Saint George.

2nd.—The sick of the crews of Ships in the roads, or wrecked seamen, European and Native.

3rd.—The sick of all denominations at Presidency Head Quarters, European and Native, attached to public Departments as per margin.

4th.—The sick of the European and Eurasian Civil community at Madras.

5th.—The sick of Detachments of troops, European and Native, temporarily residing at Madras.

6th.—European and Native sick and wounded soldiers returning to the Presidency from service beyond sea.

3. We learn that the present building was erected as a Dutch factory for goods, 135 years ago. The objections to it are, that it is wanting in ventilation and in conveniences of every sort; that both the superficial and deep drainage are insufficient; that it is cramped up on all sides by poorly constructed buildings, with low tiled roofs, which, from deficiency of space within the main building, are occupied as apartments for the sick; that the privies and College dissecting room (erected without due regard to sanitary considerations) obstructs the sea breeze and pollute the air as it passes to the apartments occupied by the Surgeon of Her Majesty's Regiment and the wards of the Hospital; that high, prison-like walls nearly surround the space; that it has in close contiguity to it a range of low brothels and grog shops, and finally, that in its present condition, it is ill adapted for the proper classification of the sick and for the successful treatment of disease.

4. A small ill adapted range of Officers' Quarters is attached to the General Hospital, where unfortunate Officers, who may be devoid of reason, friendless or disabled from mental or bodily disease, are received and attended to by the Officers of the Institution. These quarters are so contiguous to the dissecting room of the College, as to be almost uninhabitable, and they are also open to the many other objections which render them quite unsuited for the uses to which they have hitherto been applied.

5. The necessity for the erection of an appropriate building, suited to the wants of the chief city of this vast Presidency, has long been recognised by Government. In Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th December 1854, No. 1312, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council observed, "the site of the present Hospital is suitable in every respect, and when the ground on which the House of Industry now stands, can be made available, the Governor in Council believes there will be ample space for the requirements of a General Hospital."

6. In the Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works, dated 5th February 1856, the Superintending Engineer, Presidency Division, records his opinion, "that an upper story can with safety be added to the present building," and in Minutes of Consultation, No. 600, dated 23rd May of the same year, a proposal for the erection of an entirely new Hospital was entertained by Government, and plans and estimates for the purpose were prepared; but the order which affected the construction of all Public Works, some time after that date, caused this work, also, to be temporarily deferred.

7. The many grave objections which have so often been urged against the present arrangements not only still exist, but have increased; additional temporary structures have sprung up, and a Native Infirmary attached to the Hospital last year, has still further crowded an already limited space; the dissecting room of the College is pronounced perfectly offensive; the Hospital privies are unbearable, and the canal and Coom river in close proximity to the Hospital, have also become most offensive, partly from the drainage from the General Hospital and from the low reputable houses in the neighbourhood.

8. We unanimously accord with the views expressed in His Excellency the Governor's Minute, that the period has arrived which enforces the necessity for immediate action, and we beg to append an outline sketch of a plan for re-modelling and in part re-constructing the present building, so as to constitute it a satisfactory General Hospital, capable of accommodating the sick of the various classes and departments for which it is required. The plan provides for separate accommodation:

1st.—For the sick of the European Regiment in the Fort, with the women and children of the Regiment.

2nd.—For the European and Eurasian (male and female) sick of the Public Departments, of the shipping and the community of Madras, generally.

3rd.—Separate accommodation for the Native Military sick and those attached to Public Departments; with wards for cases of accidents and emergent diseases of the community in general.

9. To effect this, we propose in the first instance to remove all the low ranges now placed around the main building, erecting temporary accommodation for the sick occupying them on the esplanade in the neighbourhood. This will at once give sufficient space to extend the latter, by the addition of a wing into which the sick in the present out-buildings on the south-side will be removed, while an upper story is being placed over the whole building.

10. Accommodation will thus be provided for sick officers, for European patients afflicted with eye diseases and for "day-wards" in which books, maps, drafts, chess, &c. may be provided for convalescents, in accordance with the plan now recognized in all well founded Hospitals.

11. We propose to remove every building which obstructs the pure and health-restoring sea breeze, including the present quarters for the Surgeon of the Regiment, stationed in the Fort, and also the sick Officers' quarters. The quarters for the Medical Officers of the General Hospital, which are ill placed, are an obstruction to free ventilation of air in the wards, and the timbers of which are partially affected with dry rot, we propose also to remove and to occupy its site with store rooms, and other offices, so constructed, as not to interfere with free circulation. Finally we propose to convert the present Medical College into a suitable dwelling for the resident Medical Officer of the European Regiment, stationed in the Fort, and erect buildings for the College and for the Medical Officers of the General Hospital in more appropriate positions.

12. In carrying out the proposed changes, the following views of Miss Nightingale, in assigning space for the sick, will be borne in mind. "It never can be sufficiently repeated, that the amount of cubic space is not so important as the ensuring a constant change of air in that space. Not less than 2,000 cubic feet of air should be supplied to each patient every hour."

13. A complete system of drainage will be established, to convey direct to the sea, the sewage from the Hospital and Medical College. On the removal of the objectionable houses referred to in the Minute, we propose to erect on this site, quarters for the Medical Subordinates and Matron attached to the Hospital, the sewage from which will also fall into the main

drain, measures, which conjoined with the proposed People's Park, and the Villas opposite to it, will, to some extent, tend to the purity of the "Coom," so strongly and justly urged in the Minute of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, dated 26th July. But we beg to observe, that until a thorough system of drainage is established in the populous districts contiguous to that river and canal, their present offensive state must still to some extent continue.

14. When the objectionable houses in the vicinity are removed, space will be secured to turn the traffic which now passes close by the Hospital, (enveloping it in continual clouds of dust, and disturbing the repose of the sick) to a distance, thus permitting the present high wall which effectually obstructs ventilation, to be replaced by an iron railing.

15. In carrying out the improvements in the order proposed, each section will be both a component part of the general plan, and also a substantial improvement in itself.

In conclusion, we beg to enclose estimates,

Rupees	3,100.	1st.—For the erection of temporary buildings.
"	66,500.	2nd.—For the erection of the new wing.
"	1,22,900.	3rd.—For the erection of the upper story over all.
"	3,000.	4th.—For converting the present College into quarters for the Medical Officer of the European Regiment.
"	44,500.	5th.—For the erection of quarters for the Medical Officers and Subordinates attached to the General Hospital; and buildings for the Medical College.
"	35,000.	

(Signed) GEO. PEARSE, M. D.,
Director General, Medical Department.

(") DUNCAN MACPHERSON, M. D.,
Inspector General of Hospitals.

(") W. H. HORSLEY,
Deputy Chief Engineer.

(") H. W. PORTEOUS,
Acting Garrison Surgeon.

(") A. BLACKLOCK,
Acting Physician, General Hospital.

ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1859, No. 1476.

Director General, Medical Department.
Inspector General of Hospitals.
Deputy Chief Engineer.
Acting Garrison Surgeon.
Acting Physician, General Hospital.

In pursuance of the Orders of Government, 30th July last, No. 1165, the Officers referred to in the margin, submit in the foregoing report their views for the improvement of the Madras General Hospital.

2. The plan proposed by them, has been so arranged that, while what is most indispensable and emergent can be done at once and at moderate cost. Each successive section of the work will not only be a substantive improvement, taken by itself, but a component part of the entire scheme for the reformation of the building.

3. As the state of the Hospital calls for immediate relief, and there is barely time before the North East Monsoon sets in, to provide the temporary accommodation into which the sick from the low ranges surrounding the main building, are to be removed, the Honorable the Governor in Council directs that this work be done at once, as one of an emergent nature, at the estimated cost of Rupees (3,100) three thousand one hundred.

4. This outlay will be reported to the Government of India in the Department of Public Works, and their sanction will at the same time be sought for the construction of the additional Ward with out-houses, &c., and making other improvements in the lower story of the Hospital.

The total estimated cost for this work is Rupees 66,500, but it is considered by the Chief Engineer, that it will not be possible to do more in the present official year than clear the ground and lay the foundations, and the sanction of the Supreme Government will be asked for such a sum only as may suffice for this purpose.

5. The other works connected with the improvement of the Hospital, to be effected at a still further cost of Rupees 2,05,400 will, for the present, be postponed.

6. The present offensive state of the river and canal in the immediate neighbourhood of the Hospital is, it is observed, caused by an *open* brick drain which carries the sewage of the Hospital and of the punch houses beyond it to the river Cooum. As the other three sides are already regularly built, it may, it is presumed, be covered at a small expense. Steps will accordingly be taken for its being so covered immediately.

7. The plan recommended by the Committee in paragraph 13 of their report includes, it is observed, a complete system of drainage for the General Hospital. This is proposed to be effected by a branch drain terminating in the existing main drain which discharges itself into the Sea, at the North East angle of the Fort.

(True Extract.)


Chief Secretary.

To the Committee appointed to report on the improvement
of the Madras General Hospital.
,, Department Public Works, with 5 Plans and 3 Estimates.
,, Accountant General.
,, Civil Auditor.

Plans, Estimates, and Reports
 of the Committee on Public Works
 for the year 1860
 Chief Engineer
 21st January 1860
 Office of the Chief Engineer
 Public Works Department

The Chief Engineer

The Secretary

to Government D.P.W.

Public

With reference to the Order
 of Government of the 6th Instant No. 45,
 I have the honor to request that you will be so
 good as to forward to this Office the Plans
 and Estimates submitted by the Committee
 therein referred to with their report of the 26th August
 last, reviewed by Government in their Order in the
 Public Department under date the 24th September,

No. 1476

and

21st January 1860

1001

Chief Engineer

Public Works

Department

21st January 1860

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Chief Engineer

Public Works

Department

21st January 1860

1001

and communicated in the Public Works Department

on the 5th October 1859. -

N^o 2374

Central Office of P.W.
Sephakham
21st January 1860.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

L. A. Smith
Asst. Ch. Eng. Central Office

M. L. W. Smith
Chief Engineer

P. S.

Dr. Am. 5: Augt/59 in
Copy in addition to Aug 20-51
18: July 1852 at 66.

Dr. 10. Feb 28/44 of 23 Oct
1860. CR 2535.

From the Copy Aug 1860
Foot of Am 10 29/12
Dec 1860 CR 3386

From the Copy Aug 1860
Foot of Am 10 29/12
Dec 1860 CR 3386

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1860. In 91-92.
From the Copy Aug 1860
Foot of Am 10 29/12
Dec 1860 CR 3386

From the Copy Aug 1860
Foot of Am 10 29/12
Dec 1860 CR 3386

Dr. 10. Feb 28/44 of 23 Oct
1860. CR 2535.

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