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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

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Dated 7—10— 1857

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

No. 28. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department, dated 27th September 1859, No. 3443.

Passing orders as to the establishment of Hospitals for the treatment of diseased females at all stations occupied by European troops. (Vide Military Proceedings from 24th September to 4th October 1859, Nos. 82 at 87.)

No. 29. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1859, No. 2387.

Ordered that the foregoing Proceedings be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 18th March 1859, *No.* 257; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor by order, to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from Minutes of Consultation dated 24th ultimo No. 766, referring for the reconsideration of the Commander-in-Chief, the question of establishing Lock Hospitals at Trichinopoly and Secunderabad, and requesting His Excellency's views on the question of Police interference.

Government are aware of the circumstances under which the Lock Hospital at Bangalore was established, and the success which has attended that Institution.

At Secunderabad there was no Lock Hospital, but simply a Ward set apart in the Civil Dispensary for the treatment of diseased females, while at Trichinopoly, nothing was done in this way.

The circumstances which induced His Excellency to recommend the establishment of Lock Hospitals at Trichinopoly and Secunderabad are these.

7th, Venereal disease amongst European Troops— "Question of Lock Hospital and Civil Dispensaries for the reception and treatment of "diseased women, the latter work well and "should be made use of at all large stations "for the purpose, but the measure proposed "should be enforced by the order of authority, and not left to the will of Commanding "Officers of stations."

In September last, a Return of sick of the 2nd European Light Infantry was received from Trichinopoly, shewing a large number of men under treatment monthly for venereal disease, and about the same time the letter from the Director General Medical Department, dated 21st September 1858 No. 173, extract from which was annexed to my letter dated 10th November 1858 No. 4317, came under the Commander-in-Chief's consideration.

It will be observed that the Director General in alluding to the question of Lock Hospitals and Civil Dispensaries for the reception and treatment of diseased women, stated that the latter worked well, and should be made use of at all large stations for the purpose, but that the measure proposed should be enforced by the order of authority, and not left to the will of Commanding Officers of stations.

The institution at Secunderabad was of the latter character, while the Hospital at Bangalore was one established under special authority of Government, and the late Court of Directors. The Commander-in-Chief was however not prepared to take any decided measures on the subject until he had full information before him.

Accordingly, the Officer Commanding the Mysore Division and Hyderabad Subsidiary Force were called upon to report what arrangements were in force for the prevention of venereal disease among the European Soldiery; and with what success attended.

The report from the Officer Commanding Mysore Division dated 25th October 1858 No. 140, copy of which is annexed, decided the course which the Commander-in-Chief thought it right to pursue on the question of Lock Hospitals, and His Excellency accordingly submitted the recommendation in my letter of the 10th November 1858 No. 2263, to which Government accorded its sanction in Minutes of Consultation 30th November 1858, No. 4317.

marked A.

The report from the Officer Commanding Hyderabad Subsidiary Force was received subsequently, but it is likewise annexed for the information of Government.

Dated 27th November 1858, *No.* 206. *marked B.*

It will be seen from this report, what beneficial results had attended even the simply setting apart a Ward of the Civil Dispensary for the treatment of diseased women, but it appeared to the Commander-in-Chief, that something of a more permanent character was required, viz. a regularly authorised Institution, as supposed to be advocated by the Director General in the extract from his letter dated 21st September 1858 No. 173 already quoted.

As regards Secunderabad, the Officer Commanding Hyderabad Subsidiary Force so far back as April 1856, recommended the establishment of a permanent Lock Hospital, and solicited that the Medical Officer in charge should be remunerated for the duty, Lieutenant General Beresford who was then in temporary Command of the Army, did not think it necessary to accede to this recommendation, but the views of Major General Coffin in favor of a regular Lock Hospital so accord with the Commander-in-Chief's, that I am instructed to submit a copy of that Officer's letter on the subject. His Excellency must say that he fully concurs in opinion with Major General Coffin, that a Ward in a Civil Dispensary is not the proper place for the treatment of diseased women.

Dated 24th April 1856, *No.* 47. *marked C.*

Lieutenant General Sir P. Grant continues to think, that coercive measures on the part of the Police is strongly to be deprecated.

As regards the financial phase of the question, the Commander-in-Chief has instructed me to observe, that the saving one British Soldier to the service, more than repays all the out-lay involved in the establishment of Lock Hospitals.

Lieutenant General Sir P. Grant has already stated in my letter dated 14th August 1856, No. 656, that he considered it was a mistake, and a very grave one abolishing Lock Hospitals, and His Excellency still adheres to that opinion.

A.

From Lieutenant General M. Beresford Commanding Mysore Division Bangalore, 25th October 1858, No. 140; to the Adjutant General of the Army, Ootacamund.

No. 2088 18th October relative to prevention of Venereal disease.

In reply to your letter as per margin, I regret to say that I have no means of preventing the spread of venereal disease amongst the European Soldiers here.—This disease has become the curse of this country, and I understand is very prevalent in the adjacent villages, as well as in the Cantonment—The history of the Lock Hospital is very easily given; there have been since January, 94 admissions, and 87 of these discharged cured—Compulsory entrance has been deemed unadvisable by persons of much experience and sound judgment—It would give such an opening to the villainous extortion of Peons and other Native Subordinates who would have to be employed—There are Lord William Bentinck's reasons on record also for abolishing extensive Lock Hospitals, so I need not enter into this part of the subject—The Physicians here think this small Lock Hospital very useful, and I suppose would strongly remonstrate against its abolition. There is no doubt, that the 87 cured prostitutes stand forth as proving, that the injury they would have done, if they had followed their dreadful trade without cure, has been saved by this Lock Hospital—I at one time had Peons without their Badges stationed in front of the Barracks to drive off the prostitutes, always the worst description who collect there just previously to Tattoo, and entice Soldiers, returning perhaps half tipsy to their Quarters, but I soon found that this was of no use. His Excellency can well believe that a Native Peon soon learnt the danger of interfering with the European Soldier when influenced by lust and drink. I have no power whatever over the Bazars here, which are under Civil authority, and so nothing that I could devise beyond curing the disease could be effected—at least no prevention. I believe in Bengal some great prevention has been caused by a systematic supervision in Bazars, requiring these prostitutes to live in a locality set apart for them, and placing some Native woman in charge, making her responsible under penalty of fine, for the health of all women under her charge. This system would be open to the charge of "encouraging vice." If however it would tend to save the European Soldier from this disease, which I believe is more fatal to his health and efficiency than war or climate. I should pay little heed to such appearance or observation if I could save any Soldier from this affliction at Bangalore, this could only be done with the approval of the Commissioner. His Excellency might like to see the numbers monthly admitted into Hospital (of both Regiments) afflicted with this disease, which I will give from the date of my last Inspection, viz. March inclusive.

King's Dragoon Guards.			*Rifles.*		
	Admitted.	Strength.		Admitted.	Strength.
March	21	503	March...	43	892
April...	11	506	April...	43	968
May...	18	503	May...	49	961
June...	11	531	June...	40	961
July...	22	535	July...	24	600*
August...	22	535	August...	21	596
September...	19	570	September	29	602
	124			249	

* Detacht. of 300 sent to Bellary end of June.

This leaves a fearful proportion of victims to the disease. I have no doubt this will decrease somewhat; these Regiments have come without their wives, and have recently arrived—after some time, Soldiers cease to be so promiscuous in their intercourse with women as at first, and though this does not lessen the immorality, it certainly does the disease.

I trust His Excellency will think I have given all the information in my power, and I will therefore not trespass further on his time.

B.

From the Officer Commanding Hyderabad Suby. Force Secunderabad, 27th November 1858, No. 206; to the Adjutant General of the Army, Ootacamund.

No. 2089—To report what arrangements are now in force to prevent venereal disease.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo number and subject as per margin, I have the honor to inform you, that soon after my assuming command of this Force at the close of 1855, my attention was drawn to the rapid spread of this infectious disease among the young men of the 3rd Madras European Regiment, then a Regiment of Recruits, many of whom had their health entirely ruined by the virulent character of the disease.

I took steps immediately with the Regimental, Medical and Police authorities to arrest the ravages of this fatal disease, and I am happy to say, with great success.

The Regimental authorities were to do all in their power to get the sufferers to point out the women who had diseased them, and failing in this, the Provost knew well the haunts of the men of the Regiment, and could generally point out the houses they had frequented.

The Superintending Surgeon arranged for the reception and treatment of all diseased women in a separate Ward of the Civil Hospital, Captain Webb the Superintendent of Police, gave his effective aid to eradicate this great evil.

The result has been, as shewn in the Superintending Surgeon's report (*a*) herewith forwarded, that there is less venereal disease at this large Station, than in most Stations of the Army, and that the virulent form of the disease which was so destructive at one time, has almost entirely disappeared.

(a) dated 21th instant.

I am happy to think this great blessing has been conferred on the unfortunate women themselves without any undue interference with their liberty on the part of the Police; for, during nearly three years it has been in force, not a complaint on the subject has reached me; and the benefit to our Soldiers as well as to the Government, is beyond estimate.

From the Superintending Surgeon H. S. Force, Secunderabad, 21th November 1858, No. 392; to the Assistant Adjutant General Hyderabad Subsidiary Force, Secunderabad.

With reference to the official Memorandum No. 808 dated 28th ultimo. from your Office, with accompanying original letter* from the Adjutant General of the Army, calling for information as to the arrangements in force at this Station for the prevention of venereal disease among the European Soldiers, I have the honor to state, that I have instituted enquiries on the subject, and to report as follows.

* *Herewith returned.*

1. A strict surveillance is maintained by the Police under the orders of the Superintendent, over the women known to cohabit with the Soldiers, and all such are taken to the Civil Dispensary for inspection by the Surgeon, who detains for treatment all diseased persons—Previous to being so taken, the Superintendent's orders are, that they shall be taken before him, and that Officer by questioning them, elicits whether any exactions or undue means of compulsion have been employed by the Peons—This acts as a check against unfair practices, of course the usual Regimental inspections are made, and, should a Soldier become diseased, he goes accompanied by the Regimental Cutwall, to the house of the woman who infected him, and she is taken to the Dispensary. Thus these poor creatures are, by a salutary amount of coercion, for their own benefit, as well as to prevent extension of disease to others, compelled to subject themselves to care and treatment.

2. These sanatory measures have been productive of most marked good effects—It appears from my Records, that very soon after the adoption of Police intervention, a decided improvement took place, not only as to the number of venereal cases, but, what is perhaps of more consequence, as to the character of the disease itself, the more virulent form produced by filth and neglect, being almost unknown from the adoption of cleanliness and Medical treatment early. This amendment continues up to the present time—The Surgeon in charge of the Civil Dispensary reports, that "there has been a steady decrease during the past two years," and that "very few cases of a virulent character have been admitted, and the cases readily yield to the "usual treatment," while the Surgeon of the Royal Regiment states, "I think there is far less venereal disease at this Station at present, amongst the European Troops than there would be amongst an equal number of men on any Home Station." It is worthy of remark too, that this Corps, upwards of 1200 strong, was unaccompanied by the wives of the married men. The Surgeon of the 12th Royal Lancers also reports. "The admissions from this disease average "much less than at any other Station or Country I have been in," and the Surgeon of the Madras Artillery states "during the past three years, venereal disease amongst the European "Artillery at this Station has decreased in number to that of previous years, and their character in no instance unusually virulent."

3. The letter of the Adjutant General only calls for a report on the arrangements made here to prevent disease, but I hope I may be pardoned for having gone further into the subject, affecting as it does so very materially the welfare of our Soldiers, and the efficiency of our Armies—I beg permission to state further my opinion, that in a matter like this, our notions of "the liberty of the subject" are carried too far, and that an amount of salutary compulsion, like what is practised here, is desirable to be carried out in every station in India where European Troops are located, and, even if some abuses do creep in from the conduct of the Police Agents, the advantages to the community vastly preponderate, as well as benefit to the State.

C.

From the Officer Commanding Hyderabad Subsidiary Force, Secunderabad, 24th April 1856, No. 47; to the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George.

In reply to that part of your letter No. 1773 of the 18th instant, calling on me to report whether there are any buildings available as a Lock Hospital, I have the honor to inform you that there is no Government building that can be so appropriated.

I have much gratification in being able to report to the Commander-in-Chief, that the disease which has been so ruinous to the young Soldiers of the 3rd European Regiment, has been greatly diminished the last month or so, which is attributable to the strenuous and praiseworthy exertions of the Regimental authorities, the Police, and Medical Departments. Still the evil exists, and to keep it within bounds as it were, some regular system should be established, and for this a Lock Hospital is indispensable.

The unfortunate females afflicted with the venereal disease are at present received into one of the Wards of the Civil Hospital, but this appears to me an objectionable arrangement, as it must and does prevent respectable females, except in extreme cases, coming to the Hospital for treatment. This might be obviated by the erection of a separate Ward within the Civil Hospital compound, for the treatment of these cases, and the Medical Officer in charge of that Hospital would continue to treat them as at present.

The expense of erecting such a Ward is not to be compared to the loss the Government now sustains from being deprived of the services of so many European Soldiers, as will be seen from the following Statement.

In one year, viz. from March 1855 to March 1856—the admission into the 3rd European Regiment Hospital from Venereal alone, was .. .. 655.
Say that each patient is 1½ months in Hospital, and his Pay 12 Rupees per month... ... 18.
Total loss to Government during 1 year, Rupees... ... ... 11,790.

With much deference I would suggest, that the Medical Officer should be remunerated for this most offensive and unpleasant duty, for it is a well known fact, that a duty a man is not paid for, is too often very imperfectly performed. I must add in justice to Mr. White, who is now performing the duty in a most satisfactory manner, that he has never spoken to me on the subject of an allowance being given to him for this duty.

Referred to the Director General Medical Department.

25th March 1859.

From the Adjutant General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 8th September 1859, *No.* 981; *to the Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor by order of the Commander-in-Chief, to request you will be good enough to bring the following under the consideration of the Honorable the Governor in Council.

2. In May last, the attention of the Brigadier Commanding Cannanore having been drawn to the number of admissions into Hospital of H. M.'s 66th Regiment, on account of venereal disease, viz., 99 in 21 weeks ending 16th May, with an average of 25 under treatment during that period; that Officer, with a view to restrict the disease as far as practicable, made arrangements with the Medical Officer in charge of the Garrison Hospital, and the Superintendent of Police, for all women known to be diseased, being in the first instance reported, and if willing, received into the Garrison Hospital for treatment.

3. This arrangement came into operation from the 1st June last, and the expenses attending the admission of diseased women for their food and necessary attendance during that month, amounted to Rupees (133-2-7) one hundred and thirty three, Annas two and Pice seven, which sum the Officer Commanding directed to be defrayed from the Fine fund.

4. Brigadier FitzGerald in reporting the arrangement for approval, brought to notice the uncertainty of the Fine fund to meet future expenditure, and solicited permission to send in a contingent Bill for the amount expended in excess of what he could pay out of this fund—Further, that out of 57 women received into Hospital from 1st June to 14th July, 38 have been discharged as cured, and that he anticipated much good to arise if Government would sanction the necessary expense in the manner proposed.

5. Before deciding upon this request, the Commander-in-Chief wished to have the views of the Director General Medical Department, to whom accordingly the subject was referred on the 26th July last.

6. The Director General Medical Department thinks, that the system of supervision of prostitutes at Cannanore has not been sufficiently long in operation, to enable him to judge fully of its effects in arresting the progress of venereal affections amongst the European Soldiers—that the admissions from venereal in H. M.'s 66th Regiment have been but slightly affected, and the measure has as yet had no perceptible effect on the health of the native Troops in Garrison.

7. The Director General also considers that Garrison Hospitals are not suitable institutions in which to treat diseased prostitutes, and as there is no Civil Dispensary at Cannanore where a European Regiment is permanently stationed, he is of opinion that a Lock Hospital as lately sanctioned for Bangalore, Secunderabad and Trichinopoly, should be opened at Cannanore, and in all other Cantonments permanently occupied by European Troops, the Presidency excepted.

8. Lieutenant General Sir Patrick Grant has instructed me to express his strongest recommendation in support of the proposal of the Director General Medical Department to establish a Lock Hospital at every Station where there is a Regiment of Europeans.—His Excellency feels sure, nothing short of this will suffice to check the progress of that frightful disease which costs the State so large a proportion of British Soldiers annually.

9. The Commander-in-Chief directs me to add, that the Lock Hospital sanctioned for Trichinopoly in Minutes of Consultation 30th November 1858 No. 4317, has not yet been established, in consequence of there being no buildings, public or private, available for the purpose.

10. His Excellency further requests that the Brigadier be authorised to submit a contingent Bill for any expenses in excess of what the Fine fund may be able to meet, as described in the accompanying correspondence.

ORDER, No. 3443, *27th September* 1859.

The Governor in Council concurs generally with the Commander-in-Chief, as to the necessity of establishing Hospitals for the treatment of diseased females at all stations occupied by European Troops.

2. He accordingly requests the Director General Medical Department to furnish a Statement, shewing the several stations at which such Hospitals are required, with an estimate of the probable monthly cost of the Establishment and incidental expenses, including rent, (where it has to be incurred), &c.

3. Public Buildings, where available, will be provided for the purpose, where there are no public buildings, suitable private buildings will be engaged, if procurable on moderate rent; and where neither public nor private buildings are to be had, temporary structures will be erected until the present financial difficulties are removed; plans and estimates for temporary buildings of wattle and daub will be accordingly prepared in such cases by the Engineer Department on requisition, from the station authorities, and submitted to Government through the Chief Engineer.

4. Pending final arrangements, His Honor in Council sanctions the expenses that have been incurred, as well as those that may be hereafter incurred under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief, for the treatment of diseased females at Cannanore; but he observes that the appropriation of Police Fines, unless legally authorised, was ordered to be discontinued in G.O. G. 22nd July 1859, No. 293.

(True Extract.)

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Adjutant General.
" Director General Medical Department.
" Quarter Master General.
" Department Public Works. With 20 spare Copies.
" Chief Engineer.
" Military Auditor General.
" Accountant General.

Exd. J. Davis.

P.W.- 1859 Départt.
Pro: of Govt 21st Octr.
No.- 2601.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Military Départt

Dated 27th Sept.
Recd 5th Octr. } 1859.

No. 3643.
No. 2387. 7th Oct. No. 1859.
Passing Orders as
to the Establishment of
Hospitals for the treat=
ment of diseased female
at all Stations occupied
by European Troops.

No. 2387.
To be recorded
Fort St George
7th Octr 1859

Pro: of the Madras Govt in the
Mily Départt 2/19th April/60
C. No. 1044 in Pro 30.
No 891
Pro: of — Do — 1st June/60
C. No. 1184 in Do.
No 2809.