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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	308	Press
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<i>408-409</i>		
Dated	25-2-	18 62.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th February 1862.*

No. 408. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 22nd February 1862, No. 238 :—

Referring for revision Estimate for the repair of the present } (Vide Public Proceedings, 22nd February
Lunatic Asylum at Madras and for the erection of certain } 1862, Nos. 130 @ 132.)
additional Cells, Guard rooms, &c.

No. 409. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1862, No. 308.

Communicated to the Deputy Chief Engineer Central Circle for early attention, with reference to paragraph 7 of the orders in the Public Department.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again Despatch in the Public Department, from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, dated 16th July, No. 31 of 1861, paragraph 3.

Read also the following papers:—

From R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 24th December 1861, No. 204.

Referring to Proceedings of Government in the Public Department, noted marginally, I have the honor to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, that I have, in obedience to Orders, considered, in concert with the Chief Engineer of the Department Public Works, the subject of a site for a Lunatic Asylum, and have come to the conclusion, that the property called "Locock's Gardens" is as eligible in every point of view, as any site that can be found in or around Madras, and more fit in some respects; moreover it is Government property, having been purchased, for a very considerable sum, for this very purpose.

2. Referring to the opinion that my predecessor Dr. Pearse gave, that this situation "appeared low and swampy, probably the lowest to be found in the vicinity of Madras,"*

* Letter from Dr. Pearse to Chief Secretary to Government, 7th August 1860.

I have had the advantage of data to form a judgment on this point, which were not before Dr. Pearse, or he would have certainly come to a different conclusion. Colonel Horsley has shown me a report (copy of which accompanies) from the District Engineer Presidency, Colonel Hitchins, with a sketch of levels taken by that Officer, both across "Locock's Garden" in all directions, and along the bed of the *Wootary* Nullah to the Gun Powder Manufactory, a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the fall being at the rate of one foot a mile, and the highest point of *Locock's Garden* being ascertained to be 12.95 feet above the general level of the site on which the Powder Mills stand.

3. The enclosure itself of the property in question, had, at the time of my visit, no appearance of being swampy, but the reverse; the soil being of a light, dry, sandy character, without any indication of water having lodged in any spot during the late monsoon; and in every direction it was palpable that a natural drainage existed, chiefly towards the closely adjoining *Wootary* Nullah, the neighbourhood of which is an advantage, as it ensures water running off, and will facilitate sewerage when the ground comes to be occupied.

4. Tanks exist, one to the front, another to the rear of the property. They are both small, one nearly dry and the other quite so, when I was there, and they might, as Colonel Hitchins observes, be drained off into the Nullah, should their proximity be considered undesirable. The rear one Colonel Horsley thought might be usefully employed to store water in to flush the drains; that in front is the only spot having a swampy appearance, the bed being broken and irregular, having been dug into holes near the road side, apparently to take the soil away for some purpose, but this might be easily remedied by deepening the centre, and filling up the sides.

5. Other advantages of the site are, that it is not far removed from the occupied parts of Madras, and the dwellings of the officials who have to visit the Asylum; yet it is quite sequestered, so that the inmates will have quiet and privacy, and their vicinity will not be an annoyance to any inhabitants. The water is good and abundant, there being several wells and a small tank on the premises. There are a great number of very fine trees on the ground, advantage of which might be taken to form shaded exercise grounds for the inmates of the Asylum; much of this wood must be felled to make room for the buildings to be erected; but I would earnestly plead, that this should be done with care and discrimination, so that a sufficient number of trees should be left to afford ample shade. Not an insignificant advantage in the site is,

that the Asylum will be within an easy distance from the Railway, one of the Station Houses being in sight; so that Lunatics, being sent from the interior, might be spared from passing through the noise and bustle of the city of Madras.

6. Seeing that the necessity of providing new accommodation for the Insane has been admitted for so long a time past, the utterly insufficient and highly objectionable character of the present Asylum being fully recognized; on which latter point I beg to refer to my report on the Institution which accompanies this letter; I most earnestly recommend that the plan already sanctioned be carried out with the least possible delay. The post cannot now be entered in the already prepared Budget of 1862-63, but it may be provided for in the Estimates of the following year; and I am informed by the Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, that the Reserve Fund of his Department will permit of a sufficient sum being assigned to this work, to allow of the buildings being commenced at an early period, which measure, I beg to be permitted to urge the sanction of Government should be accorded to.

7. The original plan for a new Asylum was drawn out so long ago as 1846, since which date, great ameliorations in the management and treatment of the Insane have been adopted, rendering necessary some modifications of the details, on which I beg to be permitted to confer with the Engineer, who has the construction of the edifice; but the alterations I should advise would involve no additional expense.

From R. COLE, Esq., Principal Inspector General Medical Department, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 8th January 1862, No. 3.

Referring to Proceedings of Government and Order thereon, dated 26th August 1861, No. 1,230; conveying the Orders of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, communicated in his Despatch, dated 16th July last, No. 31, paragraph 3, I have the honor to submit a Report on the buildings of the present Lunatic Asylum.

REPORT.

1. The representations regarding the present Lunatic Asylum resolve themselves under two heads, the inadequacy and unfitness of the accommodation for the management and treatment of the Insane, and the old and bad construction of the edifice itself, and date back so long as 1845, when the necessity of repairing and adding to the old structure, or erecting a new Asylum was fully recognized. The latter alternative was wisely determined on; for it is as impossible to strengthen the old structure, as to render it by any alterations or additions fit for the reception and treatment of the unhappy sufferers who occupy it, according to modern notions of the management of the Insane.

2. The building has been declared by Engineer Officers unsafe, and this is evidenced by rents and fissures in the walls, which are from time to time plastered up, but re-open. The original construction was faulty, and the materials employed bad; the plan, also, one that could only have been originated when all that was thought necessary for the accommodation of the Insane, was a place to ensure their safe detention. According to modern ideas it would be considered an unfit place for the custody of criminals. None of the modern refined methods of treating mental disease can be carried out therein; no classification of the various forms which Insanity assumes can be instituted; so that the violent maniac and the timid imbecile, and those afflicted with all the varieties and shades of lunacy, consort together, and re-act unfavorably one on the other; nor can the maniac be subjected to the tranquillizing methods of treatment now adopted, but, if he is violent, forcible restraint alone can be practised, by the strait waistcoat or the chain.

3. The cells are all single, an individual patient being assigned to each, which is contrary to the principle now followed; it being thought better to associate, in one apartment, several who are affected with the milder forms of mental disorder. Each cell for Europeans contains 2,033 cubic feet of atmosphere; a minimum amount, in an apartment which is not very well ventilated, and, owing to the condition of the occupant, liable to be kept more closed, than in

rooms occupied by other people. The dimensions of the cells for Natives are much smaller; the cubic area of the single cells being 803 feet only, and of the double cells 1,338; these latter thus affording only 669 feet of atmosphere to a patient. The 4 double cells seem to have been formed at some former period, to provide increased accommodation for single inmates, by a simple and ingenious device; a single door in front, and one window to rear, existed in what seems formerly to have been but one room; from the centre of the doorway to the middle of the window a wall of partition was thrown across, so that the same door closes two cells, and one window ventilates the two!

4. This statement will be sufficient to demonstrate the impossibility of attempting to remedy the serious evils which have been represented for a series of years to exist, and which the Right Honorable the Secretary of State enquires whether any steps have been taken to mitigate.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd February 1862, No. 238.

1. In the letters above recorded the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, submits his views on the proper site for a Lunatic Asylum at Madras, supposing that a new one is to be built, and furnishes a report upon the present Asylum.

2. His Excellency the Governor has, since the receipt of these letters, visited and inspected the existing building in company with the Honorable Mr. Morehead, and Dr. Mayer for several years the Medical Officer in charge of the Institution. He finds that in 1859 it was suggested to Government to purchase and enlarge the present premises.

From Superintending Surgeon, Presidency, to Chief Secretary, 6th June 1859, No. 105.

3. The plan as then suggested by Dr. Mayer was this:—The present Asylum will accommodate 56 patients. Mr. Mayer proposes to build 45 additional cells, 16 for Natives, 29 for Europeans and East Indians. He proposes to use the present cells, put in thorough repair altogether for Natives, and thus give accommodation for 101 insane patients instead of 56. The new cells would be spacious and well ventilated. The buildings would be so arranged, that the male and female patients, European and Native, would be kept distinct; and arrangements might be made for the classification of patients according to the severity or otherwise of their diseases.

4. The cost of the plan according to an estimate checked in the Public Works Department for the purchase and repair of the present Asylum and for the erection of the 45 additional cells, guard-room, &c., was Rupees 64,940. About Rupees 30,000 would be required in addition for cook-rooms, store-rooms, Apothecary's quarters, &c. In all, the expense would be under one lac of Rupees.

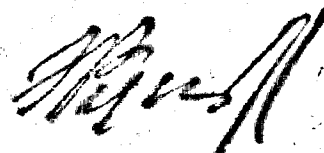
5. His Excellency and Mr. Morehead cannot concur in the condemnation of the present building by the Principal Inspector General. On the contrary, it seems to them that when it has been enlarged, and repaired according to the plan of 1859 it will be well adapted to its purpose, and that the Government would not be justified in constructing a new Asylum. The estimate for this building, it is observed, is Rupees 2,65,200, and if the price of Locock's Gardens (Rupees 36,000) bought as the site for it, be added, the total cost will be more than three lacs of Rupees.

6. The Government adopt this view. They cannot consider that a building constructed with all the expensive arrangements usual in English Asylums is at all required for the reception of Lunatics at Madras, the majority of whom will be natives. It is not possible to pursue the same course of mental treatment with these as would be followed in England by English Medical practitioners towards Lunatics of their own countrymen. Little more can be done in India with Native insane patients than to provide for their secure detention, and for their being kept in health and in such comfort as their state admits of.

7. Under these considerations the Government have instructed Dr. Mayer to communicate with the Agent for the present Asylum premises and ascertain at what price they would be sold. As the estimate already referred to was prepared 4 years ago and prices have greatly risen since that time, the Government resolve to refer it to the Public Works Department in order that it may be there revised according to current rates.

8. On this being done further orders will be passed. In the event of its being decided to buy and add to the present Asylum it will have to be considered what shall be done with Locock's Gardens, whether they should be sold or should be made available for any other public purpose.

(True Extract.)



Chief Secretary.

To the Department Public Works.

„ J. Mayer, Esq.

To the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department

Public Notice 1862 before the
 Pro. of Court for February
 No. 529.
 Pro: of the Charles Court
 in the Public Department

Public Notice 1862
 Dec 24th February 1862
 No. 238.

Resolving for business
 estimate for the year
 of the same estimate
 as before as Charles and
 for the election of certain
 additional Cattle, from
 200000 to 250000

No. 308.

Communicated to the
 Deputy Chief Engineer & Co. for
 for early attention with re:
 reference to the Board of the Order
 in the Public Department

Order of the Engineer
 25th Feb 1862 }
 13th Apr 1862 }
 26th Apr 1862 }
 25th May 1862 }
 25th June 1862 }
 25th July 1862 }
 25th Aug 1862 }
 25th Sept 1862 }
 25th Oct 1862 }
 25th Nov 1862 }
 25th Dec 1862 }

The Dy. Chief Eng. & Co. for the 25th

No. 408 & 409.

With an Order 1 X 88.
 No. 308-25 February.

25th Feb 1862