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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1145 Press Mis.

514-515

Dated 21-6- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st April 1864.

No. 514. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department :—

Requesting the preparation of a Plan and Estimate for the erection, in Locock's Garden, Presidency District, of a Lunatic Asylum on the scale proposed by the Principal Inspector General Medical Department. (Here enter 15th April 1864, No. 444.)

No. 515. ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1864, No. 1,145.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, for early attention.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, with two sketches.

Exd. S, T. Augustin.

No. 71. Read the following letter from J. SHAW, Esq., Inspector General of Hospitals, for Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Fort Saint George; to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort Saint George, dated 24th March 1864, No. 92.

Referring to Orders of Government as per margin, I have the honor to submit herewith a few suggestions regarding the erection of a Lunatic Asylum at the Presidency.

No. 157, dated 11th February 1864, Public Department.

2. The grounds at Locock's garden are very spacious, and well wooded, secluded from observation, and capable of thorough drainage, and are in every respect well suited for the erection of buildings for the reception and treatment of lunatics.

3. With regard to the arrangement and style of the buildings, Mr. Cole and myself have had under consideration various plans of Lunatic Asylums in Europe, but these do not give much assistance in devising buildings suitable for a tropical climate and people of simple habits.

4. The arrangement of the Asylum in *separate blocks*, although it will involve the necessity of more labor in superintendence, is the form of building most in accordance with the present state of sanitary science, and with the large area available at Locock's garden, it will undoubtedly be the best.

5. It is not easy to calculate the number of persons of unsound mind, for whom accommodation will be required, but now Provincial Asylums have been sanctioned, the Presidency institution will only be required to accommodate the insane from North and South Arcot, Nellore, and Madras Districts including the Presidency town.

6. The population of these Districts may be reckoned probably at five millions. In most countries it is thought that about one person in a thousand of adults is of unsound mind, but it is not likely that accommodation will be required for any thing approaching to that proportion. An Asylum to contain 500 lunatics would provide for one lunatic out of eight or ten thousand of the population; but as the Natives of this country are not in the habit of applying to have their insane taken care of except when violent and dangerous, I am of opinion that a considerable time must elapse before accommodation will be required for so many, and that an Asylum to hold about 350 will, for many years to come, suffice for the wants of Madras and its neighbourhood.

7. The proposed arrangements are as follows:—

(*a*) 1 Block for Native males to contain 80 patients.
(*b*) 1 Do. do. 80.
(*c*) 1 Do. Native females do. 75.
(*d*) 1 Do. European and East Indian males, 50.
(*e*) 1 Do. European and East Indian males of better class, who could pay for their accommodation, 12.
(*f*) 1 Do. European and East Indian females, with superior accommodation for six patients, who could pay for their support, 12.
(*g*) A small Infirmary capable of accommodating 20 bed-ridden and helpless patients without houses and places for the examination of the dead.

(*h*) Quarters for a resident Medical Officer distinct from the accommodation for patients, with a reception room for public visitors.
(*i*) Medical subordinates ... do.
(*j*) Quarters for native attendants, overseers, &c., attached to the Asylum.
(*k*) Sheds for employment of the lunatics in basket making, and other useful works, and to afford shelter in the heat of the day for those permitted to be out of doors.
(*l*) A-ha-ha fence around the entire property. Although the total number of patients for whom accommodation is here laid down is only 500,* yet it would be well to provide for 350 as suggested in paragraph 6.

* Sic in original.

8. In the construction of the buildings, the question of separate accommodation has to be considered with especial reference not only as to cost, but also with regard to the safety of the attendants, as well as the comfort and prospect of recovery of the patients themselves. Most authorities agree that separate accommodation should be provided for at least one-half of the lunatics in an Asylum. Dr. Conolly says two-thirds.

9. In the sketch plan accompanying, which was kindly drawn up by Captain Wood, Royal Engineers, at Mr. Cole's request, the distinct arrangements for each block are not shown. Since the plan was sketched some modifications as to the size of the various blocks have been made, and the following specifications will, it is hoped, enable the Department of Public Works to prepare plans and estimates for the building required.

10. In Block *a* accommodation is required for 80 dangerous or criminal Natives males, each having separate cells or rooms. These, it is proposed, should be arranged as in the plan, each to be 13 feet long by 8 in width, and with an elevation of 12 feet; six of these rooms should have the walls padded for the reception of violent patients.

11. Block *b* is intended for quiet and harmless Native lunatics, and might be arranged so as to give accommodation for *eight* in each room. Each of these blocks should contain an apartment for the Warder on day and night duty.

12. Block *c* to be for Native females on the same general plan as that for males, and should have accommodation for 75: Say 50 in separate rooms, and 24 or 25 in 4 rooms, each to contain 6 or 7; also separate accommodation for the Native female attendants on duty.

13. The accommodation for European and East Indian males, block *d*, should be somewhat superior, and the scale laid down for separate cells in Captain Wood's sketch plan would be ample, viz., a superficial area of about 130 square feet, and about 2000 of cubical space to each apartment. Twenty-six separate cells will be required, two of these to be padded, the remainder might be accommodated in four small apartments, which would allow space for a common dining room, without encroaching upon the general space of the block.

14. The accommodation forprivate patients, blocks *e* and *f*, should be more liberal as regards the size of the rooms, and there should be a bath-room to each. In the buildings for the male patients, it is proposed that there be quarters for an Overseer, and in that for the females for a Matron or head Nurse.

15. These are the main outlines of the proposed plan; but there are many points of detail which cannot be settled, until the ground plans of the various blocks, drawn to scale, are furnished to this Department, and in the preparation of which I have the honor to request the assistance of the Department of Public Works.

16. The cost of the construction of these buildings is not likely to exceed two lacs of Rupees; may I therefore beg most respectfully to urge that if funds be available, a work so urgently required at the Presidency may be at once commenced upon; if so, the foundations of the buildings might be laid before the wet weather sets in.

17. The baths, latrines and urinals would be arranged as marked in Captain Wood's plan. The conservancy is to be generally on the improved dry system, but all detailed specification of requirements will be furnished on receiving the block plans, or in consultation with the Superintending Engineer of the District.

No. 72. ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1864, No. 414.

Resolved that the foregoing letter and the sketch which accompanied it be forwarded to the Department Public Works, in view to the preparation by the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, in communication with the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, of a plan and estimate for the erection in Locock's Garden of a Lunatic Asylum on the scale proposed, to accommodate 350 patients. The plan should include the buildings (*h, i, j, k,*) indicated in paragraph 7 of Mr. Shaw's letter.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Department Public Works, with two Sketches.
Principal Inspector-General, Medical Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

1864 Dated
Pro. of Govt. Con. April
f: 165

Pro. of Govt. in the
Public Depts.

Dated 18 April
Received 18

82 No. 444

No. 1145 – 21st April/64.

Requesting the prepa-
ration of a plan & estimate
for the erection, in Lock's
Garden, Priory Rds., of a
Lunatic Asylum on the scale
proposed by the Rl. Insptr.
Medl. Depts.

No. 574. 575

Written Order.

No. 1145

Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer 4th Dn.
for early attention.

Chepstow
21st April/64

To The Supg Engr. 4th Dn. with 2 Sketches
X'87

Dept. 22nd April.