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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public work DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1080	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	9-4-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Enclosure to Circular No. 21 Public Works.

Extract from a letter from J. STRACHEY, Esq., President of the Sanitary Commission for Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,—No. 389 G, dated 13th October 1865.

"PARA. 3.—The general 'principles of construction for barracks for single and married men,' having been determined by the Government of India in Public Works Department Circular No. 89 of the 16th December 1864, it appears to the Commission that all that is necessary is to consider in what respect these principles require any modification, so as to suit the peculiar circumstances of Hill Stations.

4. The conclusions of the Government under the first three proposals apply equally to barracks in the Hills and the Plains.

5. In the 4th conclusion, under Proposal IV, it is laid down "that in Hill Stations it is not obligatory to provide upper-stories, but that when circumstances render it convenient to adopt buildings of more than one story in height, there is no sanitary objection to the occupation of the lower as well as the upper floor as dormitories." On this the Home "Army Sanitary Commission" remarks—"At lofty stations, such as those at the Neilgherries and on the spurs of the Himalaya, where the climate resembles the climates of the south of Europe, there would be no objection to two-storied buildings in which both floors are used for dormitories, provided the lower floors were raised a few feet above the level of the ground with ventilation below." In this opinion we generally concur. The provision of ventilation in the basement however will not, we think, be invariably necessary, although it should be adopted whenever the foundations of the barracks cannot otherwise be thoroughly well protected from damp.

6. The amount of wall space, of superficial and of cubic space to be allowed per man, as well as the width and height of the wards, have been determined in the conclusions of the Government under Proposal V. With regard to doors, which have been referred to under this proposal, we concur in the opinion of the Home Commission, that "wherever local circumstances admit of windows being used instead of doors, it would be advisable," as having too many doors exposes men to hurtful draughts. In India we believe these local circumstances are to be found only in the hills, and there the relative proportion and position of doors and windows shewn in Plate III, Fig. I of the Home Commission's remarks, might be adopted with advantage. In this plan, in a barrack room to contain 24 men, there are on each side two doors and four windows.

7. The conclusions under Proposals VI and VII do not call for any remark.

10. Fire-places should be provided in Barracks erected in Hill Stations more abundantly than in those designed for other parts of India. In each room one fire-place will always be necessary, and if the room be large or the situation either particularly high or much exposed, there should be two. Proper fire-places and means of throwing the heat into the rooms are much required. The rooms would be then better warmed, and fuel at the same time economized.

11. With regard to sites the Home Commission remarks—"The best barrack sites are unquestionably those which occupy the summit level of the ground—and such should always be selected when possible. In proportion as sites are selected at a lower level, with high ground rising close behind them, will sites, even on the hills, be found to be less and less healthy. Sites on terraces constructed on slopes, should be avoided unless under the pressure of necessity. But where such sites must be occupied, care should be taken that the drainage of the higher ground should be completely cut off from the sites, and that no part of the barrack room be nearer the slope than 20 or 30 feet. The ends of the rooms should face the slope, but never the sides." In these remarks we fully concur, and would only add on the question of sites, that barracks in the hills, especially such as are intended for winter occupation, should invariably have a southern aspect if possible.

13. For married quarters, the specimen plan referred to in Circular No. 89 of 1864, might be slightly modified according to the above recommendations. In all essential respects, the plans for family quarters that have been sanctioned for the Plains, are equally applicable to Hill Stations."

CIRCULAR No. 21 PUBLIC WORKS.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Military Works.

To

*The Secretary to Govt. of Madras
in the M. Works Deptt.*

FORT WILLIAM, MARCH 9, 1866.

SIR,

In continuation of Public Works Department Circular Resolution No. 89, dated 16th December 1864, regarding principles of barrack construction, I am directed to forward, for information and guidance, the accompanying extract of a letter* from the Sanitary Commission for Bengal, on the subject of the proper form of barracks to be adopted at Hill Stations generally with special reference to their occupation in winter.

2. Specimen plans of barracks suitable for Hill Stations, and which have been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, are also forwarded for guidance.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Col., R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Captain, R. E.,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

*To J. D. M. S. Esq.
Secy. of Govt. for Public Works.
10/10/82.*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
MILITARY WORKS.

*Specy. All Govt. Secy.
10/10/82.*

CIRCULAR No. 21 PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March 9, 1886.

Received

By Secy.

Forwards, for information and guidance, extract from a letter from the Sanitary Commission for Bengal, on the subject of the proper form of barracks to be adopted at Hill Stations generally, together with specimen plans.

Enclose

21/10/80.

Wm. J. M. Esq.

Command & the

Military Department

and to the Secy. Secy.

for information and

guidance, with reference

to the rules of Govt.

and to the Secy.

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