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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1866.*

No. 420. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

Passing orders on certain correspondence
relative to the Artillery Hospital, &c., at Saint Thomas' Mount. (Here enter 13th June 1866, No. 1,998.)

No. 421. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1866, No. 1,921.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 27.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, with a request that plans and estimates may be submitted to Government at an early date for the works mentioned in paragraphs 3 to 5.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Erd. S. T: Augustin.

3

Extract from a letter from the Quarter
Master General, dated 23rd May 1866. No. 162
507

Para 4. The Commander-in-Chief
thinks that upper stories to the North and
South Barracks are very desirable, but
the cost of erecting them will be so great,
that there can hardly be any hope of its
ever being done, while so much already
ordered remains to be put into execution.

9 The case of Saint Thomas ~~Mann~~
may be cited as an example, though others
might easily be given. In last year's Budget
the sum asked for to erect new buildings
or to improve old, was entered at Rs 16,74,15.
The sum granted for original works, is Rs
nil, vide Proc. of Govt. P.W. D. No. 367 dated
31st January last and if the Budget itself
be scrutinized, it will be seen that a
large number of the works required, namely,
for completing the Buildings for two
Eight Field Batteries of Artillery were
sanctioned by Government so far back
as

as 1863; the item having been repeated
in every Budget since - Notwithstanding
these very essential and important
works have not nearly been completed
and yet enormous additional demands
are now made upon Government
by the Sanitary Commission, which,
if sanctioned, would supersede
or alter previous reports and sanctions
and would add yet another source of
embarrassment to an already embarrassed
state of things.

12. Before anything else is
done at the Maim, the Commander-in-Chief
wishes the Barracks for the two Light Field
Batteries to be completed. Except the
lavatories and latrines there is not really
anything of immediate or emergent con-
sequence to be attended to.

(True Extract)

Mumilton. Col.

Deputy Secy to Govt.

Ed

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

From the Offg. Prinl. Insp. Genl. Medl. Dept. Here enter 16th April 1866, No. 140.

„ Quarter Master General,..... „ 23rd May „ „ 152
5017

From the Officiating Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, 16th April 1866, No. 140; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In obedience to the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4 of the Order of Government, No. 1190, 4th April 1866, I have the honor to make the following observations.

2. Upon the 10th and 13th instant, I visited the Artillery Hospital and entered into a minute consideration of the several points remarked upon in the communication from the Members of the Sanitary Commission.

3. To facilitate reference, I have noted marginally the paragraphs of the Report upon which I have offered an opinion.

4. The Hospital has a basement of 5 feet high, but the advantage of this is much decreased by the high prison like wall which surrounds it. There can, I think, be no difference of opinion as to

Paragraph 101.

the propriety of removing the wall and substituting a light railing.

5. Abutting from it on its inner side are several buildings which ought all to be removed; first, a Guard-room which is not used, as the Sentry is relieved direct from the Main Guard, only a few yards distant; second, the quarters for the Hospital Serjeant, the nurse and the writer, some of these approach within ten yards of the Hospital.

6. I fully agree with the Commission in their remarks upon the Female

Paragraph 124.

„ 127.

„ 128.

Hospital, and the propriety of its removal, both on sanitary and moral grounds. It is placed near the centre of the compound, and surrounded by walls ten feet high,

which at either end are within four feet of the building from the upper male wards.

7. The Commission propose that the present cook-houses be pulled down and

Paragraph 128.

also the walls of the Female Hospital, and that one portion of the latter be converted into the Hospital kitchen supplied with

proper cooking ranges; they also suggest that the piece of ground between the compound and the laboratory be thrown into the Hospital compound. This would admit of the new Female Hospital being placed at one of the angles near the laboratory, a situation which would afford sufficient privacy for its inmates. These propositions are, in my opinion, well worthy of consideration.

8. It would be well that the different offices, store-rooms, &c., should be removed from the interior of the Hospital, and a block for these and all administrative offices built, in which there might also be quarters for the Apothecary. I consider it a point of great importance that the Senior Medical Subordinate should reside in the Hospital, so that his services are always available, which they cannot be, if he lives away from the Hospital. In my report of 1863, I recommended this, but the answer was, “no funds.”

J N 2468/H.

9. The two central wards considered under the paragraphs noted in the margin are not such as would be built in the present day, instead of each being twenty-six feet broad, they are only seventeen, and are separated by a very thick wall, which has only two openings, and by which it is divided into three portions, the two end ones being about fifteen feet, eight inches, and the centre seventeen feet in length.

Paragraph 102.
" 105.
" 106.
" 107.

10. So much dead wall necessarily gives a somewhat gloomy appearance to the wards, and it would be an improvement to have more openings. If four are to be made, for uniformity sake, it will

I fancy, be necessary to fill up the present openings, and as the wall is sixty feet long four of five feet each, would occupy twenty feet, leaving forty feet of wall space, or eight feet for each of the five cots on that side. I recommend that the frames, with the rattan windows, be removed, they are of no use and only harbour dust.

11. Upon the days of my visits, there were thirty-six and thirty seven patients, respectively, not including three men who were detained for the day in Hospital.

12. Each of the lower central wards has 1,023 feet superficial area, and 20,460 of cubic space, sufficient for ten cots, giving respectively 100 feet of the former, and upwards of 2,000 of the latter. In the upper wards, the allowance is somewhat greater. In the Hospital, including special wards, there is accommodation for forty-five patients at the above rates, the Medical Officer informed me that he has never had occasion as yet to use either of the verandahs permanently for the sick, nor does he, with the present strength (472,) anticipate the necessity; but should the force be increased, further Hospital accommodation will be required. In the event of an epidemic, the ordinary sick would be moved out at once.

13. There are double verandahs on either side of the Hospital. I know not whether they were originally built to increase the sick accommodation or not, my impression is that the outer ones

which have sloping roofs were added for shelter from the morning and evening sun. I do not recommend the removal of the outer verandah or even of the venetians, they in no way obstruct the free circulation of air, and protect the wards from the oblique rays of the sun. As an illustration I may mention that when drafting this letter, Dr. Mackenzie, Deputy Inspector General, Mysore Division, called, and speaking to him as to the advantage or otherwise of double verandahs, he related to me the following incident:—

Paragraph 102.
" 106.

"Recently, he said, when visiting the Artillery Female Hospital at Bangalore, which has a single verandah to the rear and front, he found the patients huddled together into one corner of the ward to escape from the rays of the sun, which (8 A. M.) were streaming over more than one-half of the ward, to the great discomfort of those who occupied beds in the east side." Dr. Mackenzie brought the circumstance to the notice of the Divisional authorities for the purpose of having sun shades erected, but which he considers will be a very imperfect protection. During the very hot weather, we always find in our own houses that the inner rooms, being the best protected, are the coolest.

14. If it be determined to remove them, it will be necessary to enclose completely the inner verandahs, at present they are only partially enclosed. One effect of this will be to diminish *pro tanto* the amount of atmospheric air.

15. No one is more opposed than I am to the massing of numbers of sick under one roof, but the question of double verandahs can have nothing to do with this in a properly regulated Hospital; they are of the greatest advantage, and in no way obstruct the proper perfilation of air.

16. At present, one of the inner verandahs, both upstairs and downstairs, is used as a dining-room for such patients as are able to leave their beds. These dining-rooms would be better at the end

Paragraph 104.

of the building than at its sides, and this may possibly be done, if the block for the administrative offices recommended by me be built.

17. The two upper wards correspond in size with the lower ones, but the party wall being thinner, they are each a foot wider. I concur with the Sanitary Commission that the introduction of

Paragraph 110.

louvered windows would be an improvement.

18. The arrangement of the night chairs is not good. I strongly recommend the introduction into all European Hospitals of hermetically sealed pails, such as those called in London "Fyfe's pails." I have known these pails for the last ten years, and they are much superior to the night chairs in present use, they are simple, being merely zinc pails with two rims which form between them a small channel, about an inch in breadth, and the same in depth—this channel is filled with water, and the edges of the lid being immersed in it, they are thus hermetically closed and perfectly inodorous, and can be kept in the ward without being offensive to the other patients.

19. There is a small cistern outside of the bath-room, from the upper part of which a pipe pierces the wall and is continued into the bath-room, but it is much too small, and the water having no fall, a long time is required before a sufficient quantity is given off to fill a moderately sized tub. The water supply to the Hospital generally is very unsatisfactory.

20. The latrine alluded to under this paragraph was decidedly offensive, and will always be so until the dry earth system is adopted.

Paragraph 118.

21. In conclusion, I may state that generally I agree in the recommendations of the Sanitary Commission, with the exception of the second, "That the outer verandah, or the venetian work of the lower verandah be removed." My reasons for differing upon this point with the Commission are fully given in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of this letter. In addition to the recommendations of the Commission, I beg to add the following:—

1st.—That the store-rooms, &c., within the Hospital be removed, and a block built to contain all the administrative offices, and also quarters for the Apothecary.

2nd.—That the night chairs be re-placed by zinc inodorous pails, (paragraph 18 of my letter) and that earth sewage be introduced."

4
From the Quarter Master General.

Offering certain remarks, relating to the
Sanitary Commission's Report on } Here enter 23rd May 1866, No. ¹⁵³₅₀₁₇.
Saint Thomas' Mount.

ORDER, No. 1998, 13th June 1866.

No. 1190, dated 4th April 1866.

The foregoing papers are the reports called for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Order of Government noted in the margin.

2. The first to be dealt with is that from the Officiating Principal Inspector General, regarding the Artillery Hospital at the Mount. Mr. Shaw concurs in the recommendations made by the Sanitary Commissioner regarding the building in question, as entered in the summary following paragraph 132 of the report of the late Sanitary Commission, with the exception of the 2nd, viz, "that the outer verandah or the venetian work of the lower ward be removed," which, for the reasons given in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of his letter, he considers inadvisable. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council concurs with this view. Mr. Shaw adds two suggestions to those proposed by the Sanitary Commissioner. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief "has no doubt that the suggestions made for the improvement of the building would add to the comfort of the sick and to the convenience of the management of the Establishment."

- 1st. Lowering the wall round the Artillery Hospital, and substituting a light railing.
- 2nd. The division wall between the wards to have the archways enlarged or 4 doors made in it.
- 3rd. Ventilation being introduced to the upper ward similar to those below.
- 4th. Urinals placed in the bath-rooms.
- 5th. Reconstruction of the latrine on the dry earth system.
- 6th. The urinal pipes in the upper Verandah removed, and other arrangements adopted.

3. Instructions will accordingly be issued in the Department Public Works, in view to the points noted in the margin being taken in hand, as early as practicable, in communication with the Military Authorities on the spot.

4. Attention being called also to paragraph 19 of the Principal Inspector General's letter, regarding the water supply stated to be "generally very unsatisfactory."

5. Plans and Estimates for a new Female Hospital, and a block for the office and storerooms, and quarters for an Apothecary, will also be prepared and submitted to Government.

6. Mr. Shaw will ascertain the cost of the zinc pails he proposes to introduce, and inform Government whether they are obtainable or could be made up in the country.

7. Consequent on the heavy outlay attending the building of upper stories to the Artillery North and South Barracks, referred to in paragraph 4 of the Quarter Master General's letter, the Governor in Council resolves that the measure lie over for the present—paragraphs 9 and 12, however, being communicated to the Department Public Works, in view to the Commander-in-Chief's wishes being complied with.

8. The Budget Estimates may be supplied, as proposed, for which purpose extra copies will be furnished to the Quarter Master General, for distribution to those concerned.

11
9. With reference to the observations of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, concerning the accumulation of conflicting propositions for Public Works, and Sanitary improvements emanating from a variety of sources, it is certainly true that the result often bears a very slender proportion to the labor bestowed on inquiry and suggestion.

10. It is hoped, however, that the questions at issue are more thoroughly sifted and illustrated, and that when the period for action (often too long deferred) at last arrives, Government is enabled to decide, with the fullest possible knowledge of subjects which attract a prominent share of public attention at the present time.

11. The Governor in Council cannot but share the opinion expressed by the Commander-in-Chief that there are many purposes to which the large sums destined for the construction of the Lawrence Asylum might have been better devoted, but the object alluded to is itself a good one, it has obtained the sanction of the Supreme Government, it possesses a large share of public sympathy, and the design has been now carried so far that it could not be abandoned without causing disappointment and even some sacrifice of expenditure already made.

(True Extract.)

Hamilton Col.
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Principal Inspector General Medical Department.

- .. Quarter Master General.
- .. Adjutant General.
- .. Sanitary Commissioner.
- .. Public Works Department, with paras. 4, 9 and 12 of Quarter Master General's letter.
- .. Controller of Military Accounts.

Exd. A. W. Cooke.

Revised Copy



forwarded to Mr. J. H. Rogers of the
Lodge, with a request that plans and ~~the~~ estimates
may be submitted & printed at an early date from
the works mentioned in papers 3 & 5.

J. H. Rogers

Sept 8th 1890
New York City

420-421