

(1) Number of pages 10(2) Date of repair 18-10-1867(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3226.	Press
362-363.	~~Mis.~~
Dated 18-10-1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th October 1867.*

No. 362. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department :—

Passing orders on the subject of the additional } (Here enter 8th October 1867, No. 1,596.)
accommodation required in the Jail at Kurnool. }

No. 363. ORDER THEREON, 18th October 1867, No. 3,226.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 31.

Communicated to the Superintend-
ing Engineer of the 3rd Division, who
will submit revised plans and estimates

with reference to the Orders in paragraph 3.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, with three Plans and three Estimates.
" Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
8th October 1867.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 47. From the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Fort Saint George; dated Kurnool, 20th November 1866, No. 2578.

With reference to G. O., No. 1710, of 30th May 1866, calling for plans and estimates for improvements to the Jail at Kurnool, I have the honor to inform you that I have just inspected the Jail in company with the Sanitary Commissioner, who has requested me to keep the plans, &c., in abeyance until such time as Government shall pass orders on the report he is about to submit on the Kurnool Jail.

2. Since my inspection of this Jail in February last, cracks have shown themselves in the walls of the wards built only last year.

Transferred to the Judicial Department, with reference to the orders in that Department, No. 798, dated the 23rd May 1866.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
27th November 1866.

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

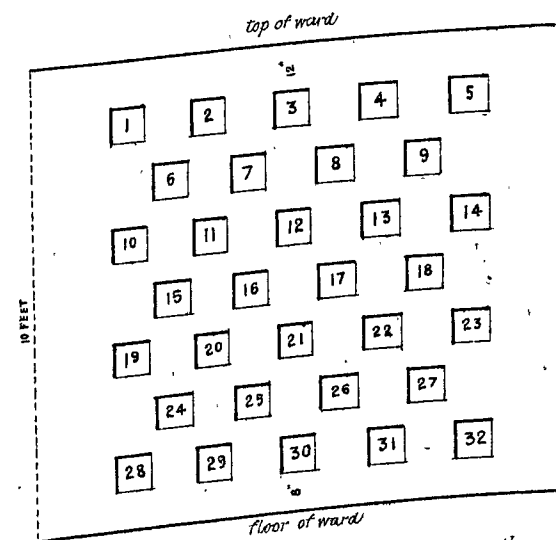
No. 48. From R. S. ELLIS, Esq., C. B., Sanitary Commissioner, on special duty at Kurnool, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Kurnool, 20th November 1866, No. 288.

I have the honor to report that I have, on the 18th and 19th of the current month, inspected the Jail at Kurnool.

2. On the morning of the 19th the prisoners had not quitted their cells, so that, at the time of my visit, I was able to judge of the condition of the prisoners, as regards the ventilation of the wards, and the atmosphere in which they pass many hours.

The Jail was throughout very much overcrowded, but, owing to the new wards having their front and end walls perforated by honeycomb openings (as shown in the margin), and in consequence of the substitution of a stout wooden railing in lieu of the front wall of the old wards, they were all found singularly free from the sickening smell experienced in crowded buildings which have been occupied during the night time.

The honeycomb openings commence within 8 inches of the floor on which the prisoners sleep, and extend to within 12 inches of the roof. Seven tubu-



1 to 32 Ventilating openings each 8 inches square: the wall is three feet thick.

2 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,*
8th October 1867.

lar roof-ventilators are also introduced, and carry away vitiated or heated air, and a constant supply of fresh air reaches the ward through the honeycomb openings, of which there are seven sets in each ward.

Although the senses were not offended by noxious smells, it is very undesirable that large numbers of prisoners should sleep so closely packed.

3. It is not any exaggeration to say that, except a few, who in the old wards slept on raised earthen platforms by the sides of the wards, all the prisoners were sleeping with their bodies in actual contact.

This is very deleterious to health, the emanations of the human body thus immediately taken into the lungs, as they must be with men so closely packed, having, as is well known, an almost poisonous effect.

4. Allowing the minimum space prescribed by Government to each prisoner, i. e., 36 square feet superficial area, and 648 cubic feet of breathing air, the entire present Jail wards are only capable of containing 78 prisoners. At the time of my visit, there were 227 prisoners in confinement in the wards, or nearly three times the proper number. The Hospital, capable of holding only ten persons, held 24. A workshed, temporarily used as a ward, and only affording sufficient space for nine persons, held 52, and the atmosphere was sickening to a degree; and, lastly, four female prisoners (one of them a civil debtor) slept in an open cookshed.

5. But the foregoing statement feebly represents the past condition of this Jail as to overcrowding; for seven tents belonging to the 23th Regiment, Madras Native Infantry, have been lent since the 4th of November to the Jail Superintendent, and in these 172 prisoners slept. These tents were close, and the air offensive.

6. But these tents can only be regarded as a temporary means of relief. Should anything occur to make it necessary to move the Regiment, these tents must at once be given up; and if this were now to happen, there would be no means of accommodating these prisoners. It seems, therefore, emergently necessary, in the first instance, to make provision against the withdrawal of these tents.

In order to save time, and in anticipation of the sanction of Government, I have suggested to the Magistrate, Mr. Pochin, that the Moonsiff's Court-house, opposite the Jail, should be converted into temporary Jail wards, and that two houses, not far from the Jail, should, in like manner, be adapted as prison wards—two spacious wards being also erected in the compound of one of these houses. The Moonsiff's Court could be temporarily transferred to another hired house. The rent demanded for these three houses (52 Rupees) is not high, and there are no public buildings available which could be cheaply converted into wards for prisoners. This arrangement will provide for all the prisoners now in tents, which, as I before stated, may be at any time required by the Regiment.

7. But this will not relieve the actual overcrowding which is now taking place. When 227 prisoners are confined in wards capable only of holding 78 prisoners; when 52 prisoners are placed in a workshed suited only to hold nine; and when the Hospital is greatly overcrowded—something must be done.

When the Central Jails were proposed, it was calculated that provision should be made in the Kurnool District Jail for about 100 prisoners.

The Local Committee appointed to report on the alterations and additions required in this Jail, and who submitted their report on the 20th November 1865, foreseeing that there would be delay in the completion of the Central Jail, proposed the construction of four new wards, so as to provide for 266 prisoners in the whole Jail. But the Committee only allowed, both in existing and in proposed wards, to each prisoner 300 cubic feet of breathing air, in lieu of the prescribed allowance of 648, and they did not calculate the superficial area at all.

According to the regulation standard fixed by Government, the proposals of the Committee would only provide for 142 prisoners, if the necessary superficial area is given, and for 114 with prescribed cubic space. The Committee further provide no increase to the female wards, in which, at the time of their report, twenty-one female prisoners were located in a ward suitable for only six if we regard superficial area, and for only three or four if they are to be allowed the regulated cubic space.

8. At the time of the report of the Local Committee, there was, as there is now, Hospital accommodation for 10 persons. There was, and is, however, no Hospital for females, nor does any such appear to be contemplated in the report of the Committee.

The Inspector General of Jails, in paragraph five of his letter to Government, dated 12th May 1866 No. 7, does not propose to alter the ward for females, or to provide for a Female Hospital; nor does he notice the insufficiency of the present Hospital accommodation or the want of space in existing wards.

9. He somewhat alters for the better the proposal as regards the four new wards, for he suggests the following dimensions for the new wards—60' x 11' x 15'. The Government have adopted Colonel Wilson's recommendations.

If these are carried out, provision, at the minimum rate of accommodation prescribed by Government, would be afforded to 14 prisoners, instead of 266, as contemplated by the Local Committee.

10. Colonel Wilson does not, in his letter referred to above, indicate what number of prisoners he would propose to provide for in the Kurnool Jail, or whether he adheres to the standard of space laid down by Government Order, or to that proposed by the Local Committee: this latter has been shown to be insufficient.

11. Under these circumstances, I have suggested to the Superintending Engineer to delay the preparation of estimates until the decision of the Government can be obtained as to the probable number of prisoners who will require accommodation in the Jail at Kurnool until a Central Jail is completed.

These numbers have been variously estimated—at 96 by the Superintending Engineer; at 266 by the Local Committee; and, if I judge correctly from the dimensions suggested for new wards, by the Inspector General of Jails at 142—but it is, I think, necessary that the Superintending Engineer should have this point clearly determined before preparing plans and estimates.

12. I would also earnestly deprecate, whatever may be the form of construction of new wards, any material alteration in the prescribed minimum space allowed to each prisoner. Any departure from this principle creates uncertainty in the

minds of Officers in charge of Jails, and seems to sanction further and dangerous reduction in the accommodation of prisoners.

13. As regards the construction of the new wards, I think the honeycomb openings in the walls of the four wards, which I have described above, should be imitated. The ventilation in these wards is remarkably good, when their small size and crowded condition are considered, and this method of ventilation is probably the most economical in districts where the use of wood and iron is very expensive and entails much delay.

But more care must be taken in any new wards that are built than was given to the four wards described above. They have not been built much more than one year, and their walls are cracking in a manner to make these wards very unsafe.

14. I have also to bring to notice that there is not sufficient space within the present Jail enclosure for the four additional wards which Colonel Wilson proposes to build, without unduly crowding the present Jail area.

There is, however, space available both on the eastern and northern sides of the Jail. It will be necessary, therefore, to enclose a sufficient space for the site of the new wards. This additional expense of removing and rebuilding one or more of the Jail enclosing walls would perhaps be a subject of objection if the enclosure wall were in good order, but this is not the case: it is cracking in many places, and is so badly constructed that a prisoner was able recently to break through the wall and effect his escape.

15. I trust that the Government will accord their sanction to the conversion of the Moonisiff's Court and two rented houses into Jail wards, as described in paragraph 6, which, at my request, the Magistrate is making; and I venture to suggest early orders as to the additions required in the Jail at Kurnool, so that estimates may be framed without delay.

16. I append to this letter three statements showing in detail the present state of the Jail at Kurnool and the dimensions of existing buildings, and of the proposed additions to them while employed as Subsidiary Jails.

APPENDIX A.

Present state of the prisoners in Kurnool Jail.

Classes of Prisoners.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
Convicts.....	406	12	418	The accommodation afforded to these prisoners is detailed in Appendix B of this report. There is no special accommodation for insanes, of whom two were in Jail at the time of inspection. They are usually kept in the workshed, which is now occupied temporarily as a ward. It has been thus employed since 26th October 1866.
Security.....	48	.....	48	
Under trials.....	2	.....	2	
Insanes.....	10	1	11	
Civil Defaulters.....	.....	.....	.....	
Total.....	466	13	479	

KURNOOL, 19th November 1866.

APPENDIX B.
TABLE showing capacity of all existing buildings in the Jail at Kurnool, and of all rooms occupied by prisoners sleeping in Jail buildings; also the number of prisoners to be accommodated at the regulation standard, and the extent of overcrowding in all buildings.

Block.	Room.	To what use ordinarily appropriated.	Dimensions.		Area.	Cubic contents.	Regulation number of occupants.	Number on 18th November.	Number present in excess of regulation percent.	Doors.	Windows.	Ventilation.	Ventilation openings in walls.			Roof Ventilation.	Remarks.
			Length.	Breadth.									Number.	Breadth.	Height.		
1	1	Guard Room	16	8	128	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	None.	Old Ward.
2	2	Do.	11	8	88	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	do.	do.
3	3	Granary	9	6	54	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Three others in Jail (vide below).
4	4	Civil Debtors (Male)	24	8	192	2,152	3	10	283	200	1	Good.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old Wards.
5	5	Prisoners' Ward (Female)	24	8	192	2,152	3	9	200	1	1	Good.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
6	6	Do. (Male) No. 1	55	10	550	6,768	10	26	160	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
7	7	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	6,768	10	26	160	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
8	8	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
9	9	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
10	10	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
11	11	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
12	12	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
13	13	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
14	14	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
15	15	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
16	16	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
17	17	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
18	18	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
19	19	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
20	20	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
21	21	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
22	22	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
23	23	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
24	24	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
25	25	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
26	26	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
27	27	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
28	28	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
29	29	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
30	30	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
31	31	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
32	32	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
33	33	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
34	34	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
35	35	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
36	36	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
37	37	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
38	38	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
39	39	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
40	40	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
41	41	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
42	42	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
43	43	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
44	44	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
45	45	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
46	46	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
47	47	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
48	48	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
49	49	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
50	50	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
51	51	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
52	52	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
53	53	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
54	54	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
55	55	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
56	56	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
57	57	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
58	58	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
59	59	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
60	60	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
61	61	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
62	62	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
63	63	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
64	64	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
65	65	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
66	66	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
67	67	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
68	68	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
69	69	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
70	70	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
71	71	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
72	72	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
73	73	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
74	74	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
75	75	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
76	76	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
77	77	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	New do.
78	78	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.	.....	.....	.....	.....	Old do.
79	79	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.					New do.
80	80	Do. (do.)	55	10	550	4,950	8	26	225	1	1	do.					

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APPENDIX C.

Table showing capacity of houses proposed to be used as Subsidiary Jails to relieve overcrowding, and to render unnecessary the continued use of tents in the Jail at Kurnool.

House.	Room.		Dimensions.			Area.	Cubic contents.	No. of prisoners at regulation standard.	
			Length.	Breadth.	Height.				
1	1	Moonsiff's Court.....	42½	12	11	510	5,610	9	} To be built with pillars down the centre.
	2		42	11	11	462	5,082	8	
	3		57	11	11	627	6,897	11	
2	1	Private house of a Native.	18	12	10	216	2,160	3	
	2		40	13	11	520	5,720	9	
	3		40	8	10	320	3,200	5	
3	1	Do. do...	29	28	11	812	8,932	14	
	2		28	11	10	308	3,080	5	
	3		18	16	10	288	2,880	5	
		Outbuilding.....	35	20	10	700	7,000	11	
		Two temporary wards to be built to accommodate 92 prisoners.						80	
			72	23	18	1,656	29,808	46	
			72	23	18	1,656	29,808	46	

Referred to the Inspector General of Jails, for early report.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
 18th December 1866. Chief Secretary.

No. 49. From Lieutenant Colonel W. J. WILSON, Inspector General of Jails, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Ootacamund, 17th September 1867, No. 95.

I have the honor to return the report of the Sanitary Commissioner on the Jail at Kurnool, dated 19th November 1866, together with the letter of the Superintending Engineer of the 20th idem, received therewith, and to forward another on the same subject from the Magistrate of Kurnool, as noted in the margin, which was transferred to this Department by the Honorable Mr. Ellis. Four plans have been dispatched by banghy this day.

2. Mr. Ellis found 479 prisoners in confinement at the time of his visit. Matters were then at the worst, and just beginning to improve. By the end of the succeeding month there was a decrease to the extent of 75 prisoners, and on the 31st ultimo the number had fallen to 221 of all classes, being less than half of that in November. I, therefore, concur with Mr. Chase in the opinion that it will not be necessary to carry out all the measures suggested by Mr. Ellis, and that, with the exception of the adaptation of Kuttal Saib's house, and the completion of the two Barracks in the compound thereof, nothing ought to be done beyond the limits of the Jail.

3. When reporting in my letter, of the 12th May 1866, to your address, on the proposals of the Local Committee, I looked forward to the probable necessity for entirely remodeling the whole Jail at an early date, as the existing buildings were

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of the most inferior character, and had been condemned by Messrs. Rohde and Ellis in their report of the 10th April 1865. I was, therefore, unwilling to propose any expensive measure until I should be able to form some more accurate opinion as to the number of prisoners of each class for whom accommodation would be required, and I, accordingly, recommended the erection of four additional wards, which I believed, judging from those which had been recently built by the convicts, might be completed at a cost of 600 Rupees or thereabouts, and in a much shorter time than buildings of a more substantial description. Mr. Ellis states that there is not sufficient space within the present enclosure for these wards, and I admit the force of the objection to a certain extent; but it was not contemplated that they should be permanent, and it will be seen from the accompanying plan of the Jail that there would have been more space available there than in the compound of Kuttal Saib's house, where the new Barracks are only 24 feet apart.

4. The accommodation, as at present existing, consists of—
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 4 Wards to contain 10 each..... | 40 |
| 4 " " 8 " | 32 |
| 1 Ward for Females | 3 |
| 1 " for Debtors..... | 3 |
| Hospital—1 Ward to contain..... | 6 } 10 |
| 1 " " | 4 } |

Kuttal Saib's house will contain 35 prisoners, and the two Barracks in the compound 46 each, but it is not desirable to continue for any length of time an arrangement which will involve the expense of extra guards, and which is also objectionable in other respects, and I, therefore, suggest that the Jail should be entirely reconstructed. The undermentioned is the number for which I propose that permanent accommodation should be provided.

	Males.	Females.
Convicts.....	80	8
Under-trial prisoners.....	15	4
Debtors.....	8	2
Insanes.....	2	1

If the Jail area is extended to the north and east, there will be sufficient space for all the necessary buildings, Hospital included. Four wards, each measuring 36' x 23' x 18', will contain the male convicts. They ought to be built in two blocks, so placed as to admit the addition of a third ward to each, should such be required. With regard to their character, I would adhere to that of the present buildings, merely improving the dimensions, as recommended by Mr. Ellis, and I have retained these, with the exception of the length, which has been reduced to suit the number of prisoners to be confined in each ward, viz., 20, which has been fixed upon as bearing a proper proportion to the total number, and as being convenient in itself. The breadth, viz., 23 feet, may appear too great, but as there are to be pillars along the centre, the space occupied by them must be deducted, and more width is consequently required.

5. Ordinary Hospital accommodation for 8 males and 2 females will suffice for the number of prisoners mentioned above, but it will probably be better to pro-

