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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	433	Press
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Dated	14-2-	1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Office of Sup^r Engineer 4th Divⁿ
Camp Colaba, Bombay 1867.
N^o 4263

From,
Colonel A. J. Mc. Boileau R.E.
Superintending Engineer 4th Division

To,
Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,
In compliance with the Order of Govern-
ment dated 22nd November 1866, N^o 3732, I have
placed myself in communication with the
Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal
Inspector General of the Medical Depart-
ment, with a view to the preparation of
plans and estimates for the proposed Lunatic
Asylum at ^{Madras} with reference to the
standard plan furnished and the re-
marks of the Government of India re-
garding the description of materials to be
used in the construction of such buildings.
2. The Governor General has authorized
the adoption of the plan furnished by the
Sanitary Commission for Bengal as a
standard for Lunatic Asylums in India.
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a boundary wall, and

3. There are some minor details, however, which the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department and the Sanitary Commissioner think require modification, and regarding which I, agreeing with these officers, request the orders of Government.

4. The Bengal Sanitary Commission referring to the great improvements which have been made in Europe in treating the Insane, insist strongly upon the principle that "The less the insanes are dealt with as prisoners the better; their safe custody must be made to depend on no high walls but on the attention of kind and vigilant assistants."

5. The Bengal Commission therefore lay down that the enclosing wall round the entire space occupied by the cottages of the lunatics should not be more than five feet high and concealed by shrubs.

According to the Bengal standard plan the dwellings of the Insane will consist of detached cottages.

Out of every six cottages one only will have iron barred doors and windows for the insane who most require restraint.

The doors of the other cottages will be

of

of battens, the lower half of each being spaired for ventilation.

The Criminal Lunatics only, are separated from the other Insanes by a high wall.

6. The Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, are of opinion that to secure the safe custody of Lunatics in India and to protect the public from danger from escaped Lunatics, more efficient restraint is required than is afforded in the standard plan furnished from Bengal for the Lunatics who are not criminals.

7. It would be necessary on account of the heat, during the greater part of the year to keep the batten doors open, and there would be no impediment, except the vigilance of the assistants or keepers, to the escape of the inmates of the Asylum during the night.

8. A system of vigilance which is possible in Europe with efficient and well paid European agency, cannot with safety be adopted in this country when such agency can with difficulty and only at an enormous expense be obtained.

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9. The Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, suggest, that the doors should be iron barred, with an outside shutter (with ventilating apertures) in case of rain. They are supported in this view by the opinion of Dr. A. Payne, the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylums at the Bengal Presidency, who is an officer of great reputation and experience in the treatment of the Insane in India.

10. Dr. Payne says, "whatever may be said against iron bars for Asylums in Europe when such things are not seen out of jails, they afford, in my opinion, by far the best means of occupying the space devoted to doors and windows in India."

"The Native so frequently employs them in his own house that the sight of them can awaken no unpleasant association, and it may not be generally known that even to an European an iron barred window loses all its gloomy repulsiveness if it be painted green or white instead of black as it almost invariably is - while the advantages attending the use of

of iron bars in India are indisputable?"
11. If barred doors and windows are provided for the cottages, it will probably not be necessary to provide a high enclosing wall. An earthen embankment surmounted by a thick hedge would be an economical substitute for a high wall. If it is decided that as a rule the cottage doors and windows are not to be iron barred, I concur with Dr. Shaw and Mr. Ellis in thinking that a high enclosing wall is absolutely necessary for the safe custody of the Lunatics.
12. That there is a strong tendency on the part of the Insane to escape from custody is shown by the returns of the Idiot Asylum attached to the Monggar Choultry.

Although this is called an Idiot Asylum, the majority of the inmates are Lunatics, for out of 70 patients only ten are Idiots, the remaining 60 being Lunatics.

The number of escapes from the Asylum during the past year was 18.
13. In the Bengal standard plan no provision would seem to have been made for Verandahs to the cottages, for it is stated that the quarters occupied by night ought not to be used during the day.
Galleries

a boundary wall, and

Galleries and sheds are provided for working and exercising the Lunatics in wet weather and at other times they should take exercise under trees.

14. I agree with the Sanitary Commissioner and the Principal Inspector General in thinking that Verandahs six feet in width should run the ^{whole} length of the cottages.

In certain cases it might be necessary to humour some of the Insane who are disinclined to use the sheds. Some may from infirmity be unable to leave the cottages, and a small verandah while it would greatly add to the comfort of this class of insanes, would also protect the cottage in rainy weather.

Dr. Payne advocates narrow verandahs on either side of the building and suggests that curtains of canvas or gunny may be made to hang from the eaves of these verandahs to be used when required.

15. The Hospital accommodation provided according to the Bengal Standard Plan is small, and it may often be necessary to treat minor cases of illness in the cottages themselves, reserving the hospital for graver cases.

There can be no objection to this course, but

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but it is an additional reason for providing the cottages with the verandahs we have suggested.

16. In the report of the Bengal Sanitary Commission, it is stated that in addition to the dwellings for the insane, a separate quarter for the criminals, and another for women with the sheds for exercise and work. Every Lunatic Asylum should have a hospital calculated to contain five per cent of the population, with quarters for the Resident Medical Attendant, a house for the Deputy Superintendent, an office and store rooms for clothing, raw materials and manufactured goods, privies, wells and cookrooms.

It seems doubtful what is the rank of the Resident Medical Attendant for whom quarters were to be provided. In the standard plan which accompanied the Report of the Bengal Sanitary Commission a house is provided for the Deputy Superintendent, an office for the Superintendent, and a small house for a Native Doctor who would seem to be the only Resident Medical Attendant.

17. I have therefore to request the decision of

a bound wall, and

of the Government as to the nature of the quarters
required for the Resident Medical Attendant
of the Madras Lunatic Asylum.

18 The bungalow in Locock's gardens
would serve for a residence for the Superin-
tendent if he is required to reside on the
premises, or it could be converted into a
Hospital for Male Lunatics.

It is unsuited from its size for the
quarters of a native medical subordinate.

19 The Principal Inspector General, Medi-
cal Department, taking it for granted
that the Superintendent of the Madras
Lunatic Asylum will be a Medical
Officer and considering the distance
from Madras of Locock's Gardens, is
of opinion that the Superintendent should
reside at the Asylum, and that a suitable
house should be provided for him; As
shown above, the existing bungalow can
be repaired and made use of for this purpose.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

A. B. Leach (Colonel R.E.)
Super Engineer, 4th Division.

Cottages House, Lan. Gardens

G.P.O.

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4/10/2017 10:00 AM

Public Works Department.

e150433

Under date the 14th July/67.
Read the following

(Here enter No. 4263 dated 29 January/67)

ORDER THEREON,

N.

g

100

The Duke of Devonshire

Cherbourg 10 Sept
1870.

March 29th 1863
Read the following
J. H. 1263.

4263

On the subject of the
proposed donation to
have at Bradford with
reference to the stand and
plans for making the
remains of the spot
of Andia regarding the
the erection of a statue,
to be used as the cen-
-tration of such
buildings. Spd
Oct 11-33 - 14th Feb 1867
Hon Orono. A

*Circulated for the
orders of Government.*

Wm. H. Burr
Coll. 22
Very Respectfully

Very Truly
yours

I would grant the war has not
distance with the high endurance
walls. The walls - Beauregard will
the kind's great repair and the
of your & the superintendent
of the school press? A. Wm. and

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His Lordship in
Council sanctions this
arrangement, as well
as the abolition of a
narrow verandah
along the whole length
of the Cottages, both in
front and rear.

The bungalow re-
ferred to in para 18
should be put in good
repair, and be appropriated
to the accommodation
of the Superintending
Medical Officer -

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Resp-15/2/67

To
6 The S. Dy. 4th Div ✓
11 " Public Dept ✓
3 " Sanitary Commissioner
3 " Pl Insp Genl ✓
checked S. N. D.

Pub. Works 1864 Cyprianus

Pro. of Govt. for February

No. 433

Pro. of the Madras Govt.

Of 14th February 1864

For the Govt. of Madras

Passing orders on
a letter from the Supy
Engg. of the 4th Division,
on the subject of Sanitation
Asylum (Proposed) at the
Presidency.