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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***P. W.***DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1136	Press
208-9		Mis.
Dated	16-4-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th April 1863.*

No. 208. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department:—

Passing orders on Minutes by the Right Hon-
orable the President and Members of Govern-
ment on the subject of the General Hospital } (Here enter 1st April 1863, No. 412.)
at Madras.

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1863, No. 1,136.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 26.

1. Communicated to the Super-
intending Engineer of the 4th Division,
who will, with reference to the Order of
the 24th March 1863, No. 943, submit the report required in paragraph 3,
together with any suggestions that he may have to offer.

2. The orders in paragraphs 4 and 5 should be promptly attended to.
(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
„ Public Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st April 1868.

Read the following papers:—

No. 3. MINUTE by the Right Honorable the PRESIDENT, dated 26th March 1868.

I circulated a Minute a few days since, advocating the nomination of a Committee proposed by the Commander-in-Chief for the selection of a site for a new Military Hospital. Since I submitted my views on this subject to my colleagues I have inspected the General Hospital in company with General McCleverty, and the sentiments which I had previously expressed have been confirmed by what I there witnessed.

2. In the Civil department of the Hospital 245 East Indians, Europeans, and Natives were placed in wards of which the regular allotment would be 176. On several occasions it has been impossible to receive Native male patients, and the Inspector General informed me that if the whole Hospital was devoted to Civil patients "he could fill it in a moment."

In the Civil Female Hospital the Medical Officer in charge had been "repeatedly obliged to refuse both Europeans and Natives."

In fact the Native female department at the General Hospital can hardly be said to exist, while the female department for Europeans and Eurasians is most unsatisfactory and inadequate.

3. On the other hand, both in the male and female departments of the Military Hospital, there was a good deal of spare room, but that room cannot, of course, be devoted to Civil patients, as the two classes of Military and Civil are permanently divided.

4. I may say in general that there has been, during the past year, a great improvement in the general appearance and furniture of both departments of the General Hospital, Military and Civil, owing to the completion of the latrines and bathing rooms, and to the supply of various articles and apparatus which were wanting before. The completion of the new cook-house, dead-house, and other subsidiary buildings, the growth and good order of the gardens, and the removal of the Native houses in front of the Hospital, all combine to make the external aspect of the place much more cheerful. But there are some defects or desiderata which I think it my duty to notice.

5. In the Military department the bedding seemed to be very much stained and torn, and the unoccupied beds, or at least several of them, were swarming with insects which are said to be young cockroaches. These insects are said to devour the bugs and to avoid the beds which are occupied by patients. I cannot, however, help thinking that the bedding ought not to be so dilapidated, and that there ought to be neither cockroaches nor bugs in the wards. The Medical Officer in charge informed me that it was his intention to address a requisition for new covers for the mattresses at once. It appears that the stuff is very rapidly consumed by contact with iron bars of the bedsteads, which, though painted with oil colour, continue to rust. It might be worth considering whether a stouter kind of canvas might not be procured for the mattresses, and whether tar might not be substituted for oil paint.

6. A drain has been formed all round the basement of the Hospital buildings to carry off superficial water. It has already been reported to Government that this drain is not working satisfactorily. I can bear testimony to the fact that the

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1st April 1868.*

water is motionless. It lies and stagnates there to the dissatisfaction of the Medical Officers and, as it appears to me, to the confusion of the Officer who executed the work.

7. There is a great hole in the compound which was dug with a view to the formation of a cistern which has since been abandoned. This hole is an unsightly object; the Department of Public Works ought to fill it up again without delay.

8. There is a wall running along the boundary of the compound between the Hospital and the Medical College. This wall is no longer necessary, the true fence being an iron railing a little outside of it. The wall has long been condemned, and should be removed at once. It is useless, unsightly, and impedes access.

9. I found a universal concurrence among the Medical Officers, both Civil and Military, in the opinion that no permanent satisfactory arrangement could be made until the Military and Civil departments were accommodated in separate buildings, and that the Military department was the proper one to be placed elsewhere.

10. I was happy to learn from Dr. Mackenzie that such good progress is being made in the building in Black Town, destined for a Lock Hospital, that in little more than a month the female venereal cases may be moved there from Vepery. When this is effected the European and Native women will go from the General Civil Hospital to Vepery, where a convenient and respectable Female Hospital will be formed.

11. I was happy to find the Medical Officers in both departments engaged in forming or improving Hospital libraries for the use of the sick, and I think that on being applied to Government might very properly supplement their kind exertions in this respect.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 4. MINUTE by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, dated 26th March 1868.

I accompanied Lord Napier in his visit to the General Hospital, Civil and Military, yesterday morning, and can corroborate what he says. It is in contemplation to substitute canvas for the present indifferent ticking for the beds, and till arrangements are made for this finally, through the Commissariat Department, I would suggest that the change of bedding be deferred.

A proper supply of good water is urgently required; the drainage is most defective; the masonry used is very defective and of bad materials; and drains apparently are made to run to a higher level.

There is but one dead-house for the Civil and Military classes, and the carrying of a body so great a distance, passing by all the wards, is very undesirable. There should be a separate dead-house for each.

Coal tar might be substituted with advantage for the present inferior description of paint.

I would especially draw attention to the insufficient accommodation afforded in the Civil Hospital; yesterday there were 70 patients in excess of proper accommodation, and if all those who ought to be admitted were accommodated they would fill the Civil and Military divisions; it is, therefore, necessary to provide additional accommodation, and this would be best done by the erection of a Military Hospital separately elsewhere.

The minor points detailed by his Lordship should be attended to.

(Signed) W. A. McCLEVERTY.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
1st April 1868.*

No. 5. MINUTE by the Honorable H. D. PHILLIPS, dated 26th March 1868.

The attention of the several departments concerned may be drawn to the points noticed in His Lordship and His Excellency's Minutes.

2. In regard to the deficient accommodation for Civil patients, I feel doubtful whether the provision of what additional space is wanted forms a just and legitimate call on the Government alone. If the resources of the State are to be taxed to the extent of building new Hospital wards for all those who may be willing to come, occupy them, and be treated therein, arrangements ought, I think, to be made for levying a rate on the inhabitants of the Town, or for legalizing the appropriation to such a purpose of part of the Municipal funds raised under the existing law. The further question arises of how medical and surgical attendance is to be provided. Is the Government to augment its Medical establishment in proportion to the increased readiness of educated Natives to come and take Government physic at the hands of highly paid and pensioned Government Doctors.

(Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS.

No. 6. MINUTE by the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, dated 27th March 1868.

I concur in the remarks of His Excellency the Governor. I have no doubt that a separate Military Hospital is much wanted, and that it ought to be provided without further delay, the whole of the present General Hospital being made available for Civil patients. The attention of the proper departments should be called to the several minor points alluded to by His Lordship.

2. I do not think that the time has yet come for legalizing the appropriation of any part of the funds of the Municipality to the provision and maintenance of Hospitals for the sick. Those funds are wanted for other important purposes, and I am of opinion that the Government may reasonably be requested to defray out of the general revenues the cost of maintaining at the Presidency Town one large General Hospital for male patients of all nations and castes, one Female Hospital, one Lock Hospital, and a Lunatic Asylum, in addition to the Military Hospital required for the Troops. To any local Hospitals or Dispensaries, which the inhabitants of particular localities may wish to see established, they may very properly be required to contribute; and eventually it may be advisable to legalize the appropriation of Municipal funds to such purposes; but for the present I would limit the Municipal expenditure at Madras to the purposes to which it is restricted by the Act passed last year.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1868, No. 412.

The condition of the bedding in the wards of the Military portion of the General Hospital at the time of the inspection by their Excellencies the Governor and Commander-in-Chief was unsatisfactory, being much stained and torn, and the unoccupied beds infested with young cockroaches. The attention of the Inspector General, British Medical Department, will be called to the state of the bedding. It is that tar might advantageously be substituted for the paint now used on the iron bedsteads, and which does not prevent rust.

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2. The Government are aware that it is in contemplation to improve the bedding in Military Hospitals by substituting canvas for the indifferent ticking now used, and request that the Commissariat Department will report what steps are being taken for carrying this improvement into effect.

3. It was also observed that the open drain, which has been recently constructed round the basement of the Hospital buildings to carry off the rain water, is not working satisfactorily, as from the imperfect levels taken the water does not flow along the drain but remains stagnant. A report on this drain, and suggestions on its alteration, will be furnished by the Public Works Department.

4. The attention of the Engineer Officer in charge of the works at the General Hospital will be called to the unsightly hole in the compound, which was dug with a view to the formation of a cistern which has since been abandoned. This should be filled up without delay.

5. The wall running along the boundary of the compound between the Hospital and the Medical College should be at once removed. It is no longer required, the true fence being the iron railing a little outside of the wall.

6. The progress made by the Medical Officers of both Civil and Military Departments in forming and improving Hospital libraries for the use of the sick is very creditable to them. The Government will be prepared to take into consideration any application which may be made to aid these useful institutions.

(True Extract)

Rever
Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General, British Medical Department.
 „ Inspector General, Indian Medical Department.
 „ Military Department.
 „ Commissary General.
 „ Public Works Department.

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Command. J. H. C.

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24 March 1888, No 948,

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P. W. of the Madras Govt
Public Depo

of 1st April 1868
No 40
No 412

Passing orders on the
"notes by the Right Hon
the President & Members
of Govt on the subject of
the General Hospital
at Madras.

ex. 1136 - 16 April 1868

With an Order

Ch 208-209