

- (1) Number of pages _____
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1852	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
350-351		
Dated	21. 7.	18 73.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st July 1873.*

No. 350. Read the following endorsement of the District Engineer, Presidency, dated Fort St. George, 2nd July 1873, No. 1,467:—

From Deputy Inspector-General J. L. RANKING, Acting Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. GODDARD, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, dated Fort St. George, 1st July 1873, No. 4,338.

ADVERTING to our conversation a few days back, and to your demi-official of this date, in regard to the reference made in paragraph 15 of the Order of Government, No. 780, of 16th May last, to the escape of three criminal lunatics owing to the want of a proper enclosing fence, I have the honour to state that some misapprehension appears to exist on the subject. The escape of the two criminal lunatics was not due to the want of a proper enclosing fence to the general grounds, but to insecurity of the criminal enclosure itself, owing to the too close proximity to the surrounding wall of an out-house, by which, it is inferred, access was gained to the top of the wall itself. This has since been remedied, and from personal examination I am of opinion escape from this enclosure is now effectively guarded against.

2. In regard to the general enclosure of the grounds no ordinary fence will prevent the escape of any lunatic determined to effect his liberty. Nothing but a high wall can afford perfect security against escape, and the cost of this would be so great as to put it, I apprehend, quite out of the question.

3. A copy of the Superintendent's reply to my communication on the subject is appended for your information.

From Surgeon J. MURRAY, M.D., Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Madras, to W. H. S. BURN, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, Presidency and Northern Districts, dated Madras, 28th June 1873, No. 188

As desired by the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, in his docket memorandum, dated 23rd instant, No. 4,215, herewith returned, I have the honour to report, with reference to paragraph 15 of G. O., Judicial Department, No. 780, of 16th May 1873, that only two out of the three patients therein alluded to, as having escaped from the Lunatic Asylum, were criminals.

In the first instance the escape took place only a few days after the transfer of the patients from the old asylum, and before proper arrangements had been made for the due security of the criminal patients. In the second case the criminal patient's absence was noticed during the afternoon, and how his escape was effected has never been rightly ascertained. In all probability the door of the criminal enclosure was carelessly left open.

Increased precautions for the safe custody of the criminals have since then been enforced, and except through the grossest negligence or deliberate connivance on the part of the native attendants, it is exceedingly improbable that any further escapes will occur among the patients of this class.

2. It may, however, be anticipated that among the ordinary patients escapes will now and then continue to occur, as the fence bounding the general enclosure is by no means efficient. It consists partly of the criminal and female enclosure walls, and for about 1,400 yards in extent of an earthen embankment surmounted by a dwarf aloe hedge. This aloe hedge will doubtless improve in time, and will constitute a more efficient fence than it does at present. But it will never be sufficient to prevent the escape of a lunatic who has made up his mind to leave the asylum. In fact, no description of fence, except a high wall, would prove really effective, and I would hesitate to recommend a measure necessarily involving such an enormous outlay.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st July 1873.

No. 4,271.

FORWARDED for submission to the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department.
MADRAS,
30th June 1873.

(Signed) W. H. S. BURN,
Deputy Inspector-General, I. M. Dept.

SUBMITTED to the Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, in reference to G. O., dated 21st June 1873, No. 134. It appears nothing is required.

(Signed) J. GODDARD, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
District Engineer, Presidency.

No. 351.

ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1873, No. 1,854.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 17.

COMMUNICATED to the Judicial Department.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Presidency.
,, Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings.
,, Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

No. 188.

Madras 28th June 1873.

Thorn,

The Superintendent

Lunatic Asylum Madras

To, The Deputy Inspector General

I. M. D. Presidency & Northern Dist.

Sir, As desired by the Inspector General

I. M. D. in his docket Memo. dated 23rd

Instant No. 4215 (herewith returned) I

have the honor to report with reference

to para 15 of G. O. Judicial Department

No. 780 of 16th May 1873 that only two out

of the three patients therein alluded to

as having escaped from the Lunatic

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Increased precautions for the safe custody of the criminals have since then been enforced, and except through the grossest negligence or deliberate connivance on the part of the native attendants it is exceedingly improbable that any further escapes will occur among the patients of this class.

2. It may however be anticipated that among the ordinary patients escapes will now and then continue to occur, as the fence bounding the general enclosure is by no means efficient.

It consists partly of the criminal and female enclosure walls, and for about 1400 yards in extent of an earthen embankment surmounted by a dwarf aloehedge. This aloehedge will doubtless improve in time, and will constitute a more efficient fence than it does at present. But it will never be sufficient

to prevent the escape of a lunatic who has made up his mind to leave the Asylum. In fact no description of fence except a high wall would be really effective, and I would hesitate to recommend a measure necessarily involving such an enormous outlay.

I have &c.

/Signed J. Murray M. D.
Superintendent L. A.

No 4271.

Forwarded for submission to the
Inspector General M. D.

Madras 30th June 1873
Signed W. H. P. Burw.

Dy. Inspector General
M. D.

/True copy/

J. Murray
Asst. Inspector General
M. D.

P. W. 1843 Depart
No. 8781.

From
The Dist. Engineer
Presidency

Dated 21 July 1873
Recd 8th }
1st 1467.
Encl.

Submitting
a letter from the
Supt. Genl. Indian
Medical Dept
relating to the
escape of criminal
prisoners from
the Lunatic
Asylum at
Madras.

W. Wells orders

Department

38
117

Encl.

Not 1854. Communicated to the Judicial Com.
Encl. 11/73

To Mr. J. E. Hargreaves
J. J. Esq. for Building
the Dist. Engineer
Encl. 28/7/73

No. 351-51.

10/10/73 10/10/73

P. W. 8781/73

No. 1467.

Encl. Submitted to the Chief
Supt. General and the
Supt. Genl. Indian
Medical Dept.
Encl. 28/7/73 to 13/11/73
At a public meeting
held -

Mr. J. E. Hargreaves
Dist. Engr. Madras.

20 July 1873.

Cp. 5781
Govt. of 18731 Madrid.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Com.
Presiding

Recd
21 July 1873. 1854.

Nos. 13509, 1351
Sancti Asylum

Madrid. Papers,
submitted by the
Genl. Presidency,
affording informa-
tion as to the escape
of ^{criminals} three inmates

from the Asylum
for want of proper
fences, Comd. of the
Genl. Depk.