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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works.

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	189	Press
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373-374		
Dated	27-1-1874	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th January 1874.*

No. 373. Read the following Circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads—Military,) dated Simla, 7th November 1873, No. 65:—

Copy of the following forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted, for information and guidance, and to the Military Department, the Adjutant-General, the

The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.
The Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, Oudh, and British Burmah.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Agents to the Governor-General for Central India and Rajpootana.
The Chief Commissioner of Port Blair.
The Inspector-General of Military Works.

Quartermaster-General, and the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, for information.

(By order,)

(Signed) J. STEEL, Major, R.E.,
For *Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

From Colonel H. K. BURNE, Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Quartermaster-General, dated 27th October 1873, No. 878.

Medical Department.

Hospital Equipment.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,576 "Buildings—Native Troops," dated the 7th May 1873, representing the requirements of hospitals of Native Regiments, and submitting for approval the draft of a General order proposed to be issued by the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief directing the supply of the articles necessary.

2. In reply I am to request that you will be good enough to convey to His Excellency the approval of the Government of India to the publication of the draft order submitted, but I am to observe that the articles now authorized are to be the entire hospital equipment for a Native Regiment, and are not to be extra to, but to include, the articles, viz., tub, ghurrahs, etc., supplied under existing orders. The degchie should be of brass, which would obviate the need of tinning.

3. With reference, however, to the article firewood, I am to suggest for His Excellency's consideration whether the existing allowance, viz., 2 maunds for a Regiment of Infantry and 1 maund for a Regiment of Cavalry per month, would not be more convenient than the 5 seers per bath proposed, as it is understood that this wood is used for cooking soups, sago, and medical comforts, and that the surplus is used for hot-baths, and is generally found sufficient, while any excess requirements can be, and it is understood always are, indented for as extra issues in the usual manner.

4. The Public Works Department will be addressed with a view to the necessary alteration being made to convert one of the existing end-rooms into a bath-room.

No. 879.

Endorsed by Military Department.

Copy of the above, and of that to which it is a reply, forwarded to the Public Works Department for information.

From Lieutenant-Colonel F. ROBERTS, Officiating Quartermaster-General, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 7th May 1873, No. 1,576.

Buildings—Native Troops.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief to make the following representation for the early consideration of Government.

2. During his inspections of stations, His Excellency found the patients in the hospitals of many Native Regiments in a very uncleanly condition, owing in some cases to the habits of

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the men themselves, and also to there being no bath-room, and means provided in the hospitals for their performing the simplest ablutions.

3. Those patients whose caste rules render ablutions imperative, usually perform them at the hospital well, a practice which endangers the purity of the water, and the exposure during which must often be injurious to men seriously ill; when, moreover, a man is too feeble to have recourse to the well, there are no means, however necessary a bath may be, of supplying one.

4. In some instances where the patients were mainly composed of Pathans or Hill races, His Excellency found them in a highly offensive state. This must have been injurious to the men, and would be liable in a full hospital to promote the rapid spread of gangrene or cutaneous diseases.

5. The Commander-in-Chief regretted to find that, in some cases, this state of matters was acquiesced in as inevitable, or justified by the absence of means of purification; but where means of ablution have been furnished to Regiments, and the Commanding Officers have become sensible of their obligations to improve the habits of the men, His Excellency was gratified to find that a most beneficial improvement had taken place.

6. In the former standard plan of Native hospitals a bath-room was provided, but in the revised plan issued with Public Works Department Circular No. 43, dated 3rd August 1871, that necessity has apparently been overlooked. The Commander-in-Chief therefore trusts that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council will sanction the annexed draft order being published in view to the necessary means of ablution being provided in those hospitals where they do not exist.

7. To provide a bath-room, His Excellency considers that a slight alteration in the slope of the floor of one of the small corner rooms of the hospital, with an opening for the escape of waste-water, is all that will be necessary, and as fuel for the hot bath will only occasionally be required, a portion of the stock on hand for cooking purposes can be used in the first instance, and replaced by indent when necessary.

8. The articles specified in the draft order were recommended by the Principal Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, Dr. C. Brown, c.b., in his letter No. 1,491, dated 27th March 1873, hereto annexed.

Draft General Order by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief No. — Furniture (Quartermaster-General).

It being considered advisable to provide bathing accommodation in the hospitals of Native Troops, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is pleased, with the sanction of Government, to notify that the issue of the following articles per hospital is authorized, viz. :—

To be provided by the Public Works Department—

Baths, on wheels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stand, wooden, to hold eight ghurrahs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gratings, wooden 8 x 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

To be provided by the Commissariat Department—

Tubs, half casks (one each for Mussulmans and Hindoos)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Degchies, 4 gallons, for heating water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ghurrahs (monthly renewals at 20 per cent.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Firewood, hot-bath. A supply at the rate of 5 seers per hot-bath when required.

These articles are to be placed in one of the small wards (12' x 12') at the end of each Native Cavalry and Infantry Hospital, which room is to be fitted up and used for bathing purposes.

Commanding Officers are directed to take the necessary steps for the provision of these articles with the least possible delay, and to endeavour by their personal influence to persuade the patients in hospital to make free and constant use of the means of washing thus afforded to them.

(Signed) F. ROBERTS, Lieut.-Colonel,
Offg. Quartermaster-General.

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27th January 1874.*

From Dr. J. C. BROWN, c.b., Inspector-General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, to the Quartermaster-General, dated 27th March 1873, No. 1,491.

In returning the enclosures of your letter No. 72-C., dated the 6th January 1873, on the subject of bathing requisites for Native Regimental Hospitals, I have the honour to state that, after considering the matter in communication with the Deputy Inspectors-General of Hospitals, I would recommend the provision of the following articles, viz. :—

The present bath, on wheels.

Two tubs (half-casks), one for Hindoos and one for Mussulmen.

Eight ghurrahs, on wooden-stands.

A large degchie, capacity 3 or 4 gallons.

A wooden grating, 8 x 6.

An allowance of firewood will have to be given for warm-baths when required, say 5 seers for each hot-bath.

The means of drying and soap might be left to the men themselves; they will prefer their own lotahs for pouring water to any other vessel.

No. 374. ORDER THEREON, 27th January 1874, No. 189.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 10.

COMMUNICATED to the Military Department and to District Engineers.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Military Department.
Inspecting Engineer for Building
To District Engineers.

Santh Coll. Remm

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Snare Copies

Pub. Works 1873 Department

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

BUILDINGS & ROADS.

Military.

To

CIRCULAR No. 65 PUBLIC WORKS

Dated SIMLA, November 7, 1873.

Received *Dec 16.*

Requirements of Hospitals of Native
Regiments.

P. W. D. Press—8-12-73—518.

With enclosure

173
To Mr. Deptt
for the Public Works
Department
1873

Mr. 189
Comd to the Mr. Deptt, and to Mr. Sindhu
Amir

Ch 6778
Govt. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

The Military Department

18/12/73

Recd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 27th Aug 74 No. 189.

Nos. 373 & 374

Hospitals. Circular from
the Govt of India regarding
the ~~provision~~ provision of
certain articles for
Hospitals of Native Regts.
Comd to the ~~Trinity~~ ~~Trinity~~ ~~Trinity~~
2 to 31 Aug.