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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	860	Press
B.P. - No.		Mis. -
Dated	1-4-195	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st April 1875.*

No. 1. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department, dated 4th March 1875, No. 508 :—

ABSTRACT.—*Calicut Lunatic Asylum.*—The necessity for providing the proposed
additional blocks of rooms, recognized; but inability expressed to provide funds
for the purpose at present.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1875, No. 860.

CIVIL WORKS, No 1.

COMMUNICATED to the District Engi-
neer, Malabar, who will supply an
abstract estimate showing the cost for
six male and three female wards separately, and with deductions on account of the
convict labor it is proposed to employ. Considerable savings might probably
be made if the cells were built back to back if that arrangement is compatible with
thorough ventilation.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Malabar
Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T Austin.
Spare Copies

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1875.*

Lunatic Asylums

No. 18 Read the following letter from Surgeon-General E. G. BALFOUR, Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 23rd February 1875, No. 93:—

I have the honor to submit the marginally indicated documents for the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

1875, 31st January, No 30, Superintendent's letter with plan and estimate
1873 to 1875, Extracts from Visitors' Book
1875, 5th February, No 376, Deputy-Surgeon General's letter
Plan.

2. In these documents the Superintendent of the Calicut Lunatic Asylum recommends the construction

of a block of twelve rooms, $7\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 feet each, for men patients, and another block of six separate rooms for women patients, the cost of which is estimated at Rupees 6,600, and he proposes to employ convicts in erecting the two blocks, and to under-

take the work himself. The Orders of Government, as per margin, arranged for the opening of this Asylum, but the accommodation for the inmates was in the form of general blocks, and that now

1871, No 1594, of 28th November
1872, .. 182, of 22nd January, Public Works Department
1872, No. 790, of 6th June
1873, .. 188, of 3rd February.

asked for by the Superintendent, with the concurrence of the official visitors and the Deputy Surgeon-General, are, as above mentioned, two blocks of separate rooms, one with twelve rooms for men and one with six rooms for women, at a cost of Rupees 6,600.

3. The necessity for such separate accommodation for the patients in Asylums has so fully been described in my former communications as regards the Madras Asylum that I need now only refer to those documents.

No 66, dated 11th March 1872, in G.O., No. 469, 5th April 1872, Judicial Department
No 103, dated 8th April 1872, in G.O., No. 540, 15th April 1872, Judicial Department.

From Surgeon-Major W. H. ROBERTS, M.D., Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Calicut, to the Deputy Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, Malabar and Canara, dated Calicut, 31st January 1875, No 30

I have the honor to forward a plan and estimate for the separate accommodation required for the Calicut Lunatic Asylum

2. These have been circulated among the official visitors. Their remarks are attached.

3. If Government sanction the expenditure, I propose that I may be permitted to take in hand the building of these rooms with convict labor

4. I am confident I shall do the whole work within or under the estimate. I shall have good work for the convicts, and I shall be able to utilize convict labor in improving the Asylum grounds, which, as you know, require such treatment very much.

5. I am confident of being able to do what I propose to do. All the official visitors are also aware of this, and second my proposition. I beg you will be so good as to forward the plan to Government, through the Surgeon-General, with your recommendation.

1873-74.

Extracts from Visitors' Book.

Inspected the Asylum this day. The number of patients is now thirty-nine, or nearly double what it was on my former visit, twenty-six being males and thirteen females. No improve-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1875.*

ment has been effected in regard to the latter, the inoffensive women being kept all day in the same ward with a raving lunatic. It seems hopeless to expect successful treatment under such circumstances. I would suggest the hospital being utilized as a female ward in addition to the buildings now used. The hospital accommodation is far in excess of what is required, and a smaller building might be erected in one of the male wards.

The grounds surrounding the buildings has been greatly improved, and a vegetable garden formed. Flowers might also be advantageously added.

The patients appear well cared for and contented.

1st July 1873

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Magistrate

Inspected the patients, buildings, &c. The number under treatment has risen to forty three, which is the largest number yet reached. The grounds have been greatly improved by the addition of flower beds, and the patients appear to take to their cultivation, and are, as a rule, much more quiet. Weaving is, I hear, about to be introduced.

The women are to some extent employed in coin-twisting, and one spinning wheel has been started, a greater variety in the way of occupation might advantageously be introduced. Separate accommodation for some of the worst cases among the female lunatics is urgently required. As long as the whole body are indiscriminately herded in one ward, much benefit from treatment among the hopeful cases cannot be expected.

On the whole the Institution is making progress, and the management is satisfactory.

29th October 1873.

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Magistrate

On this date the undersigned inspected this Asylum. During the ten months that have elapsed since its last inspection, a marked improvement is very evident in its general management and internal economy, e.g., the low scrub-jungle that once obstructed the grounds within the walled area has been for the most part cleared, and its place taken by garden and kitchen produce. This work has been effected entirely by the lunatics themselves, and has proved a boon to them; for where once confusion and a babel of incoherent tongues were rife, now comparative calmness, not to say tranquility, rules. The contrast is very marked, and most suggestive of what can be done by a man whose heart is in his work, as it is with the Superintendent. There is a defect, and a great one too, which militates greatly against the successful working of this asylum—the want of separate detached buildings for the segregation of refractory, noisy lunatics. Both sections of the Asylum, male and female, are equally in need of these buildings. It is not too much to say that a very large proportion of cases of meanness may be restored to mental health under judicious treatment, but such a treatment is simply impossible under existing conditions—exposure to the continuous turmoil of companionship with the driving idlers and incoherent outcasts of the hopeless insane. It is to be remembered that the time for treating the insane is limited, for the most part, to the first few months of its inception, and the more protracted the case, the less hope is there of a successful result. Let me therefore trust that the other official visitors will see the matter in this light, and seek to give to this asylum the means of enabling him (the Medical Superintendent) to grapple with some chance of success with the cases of the stricken creatures forming his charge. The bedding is not sufficient, and a new supply is needed. Structurally, the buildings are in tolerable condition, but the difficulty in keeping this up is greatly enhanced owing to the faulty materials originally employed in their erection.

CALCUT,
24th December 1873.

(Signed) W. JOHNSTON, M.D.,
Dy. Surgeon-Genl. Indian M.D. Dept.,
Southern District.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1875.*

1874-75

On visiting the Asylum to-day, I was much struck with the quiet and good order everywhere apparent. Everything connected with the Institution seems in a very satisfactory state, with the exception of the want, several times previously pointed out, of separate accommodation for noisy patients within the male and female wards. The roofs are all in a leaky condition, and should be at once repaired as the rainy season is close at hand.

There remains accommodation for three more females only.

(Signed) C. O'NEILL, Surgeon,
In Medical Charge, 45th L. I.

CALCUT,
29th July 1874.

I inspected every part of the Asylum to-day, and found all in a very satisfactory state. I saw forty-one male and twenty-one female lunatics, of whom six males and four females were criminal lunatics, they all appeared in excellent health, and there were no patients in hospital.

I hear that an estimate for separate accommodation for violent males and females has been sent in, and this is urgently required.

Three men were brought before me, all of whom were fit for discharge.

(Signed) FRANK POUT,
Surgeon-Major, A. M. D.

CALCUT,
29th July 1874.

Inspected the Asylum and patients. There are forty-one males and twenty-one females. All seem well cared for, and the treatment in recent cases seems to work satisfactorily. There are many old established cases, apparently hopeless, and further accommodation is very necessary to prevent them from interfering with the care of cases susceptible of treatment.

The following men were brought up for release, and appear fit for discharge—

T. Ramooty, Kunhi Royen, and Imluchally, also the female Chakki. The female lunatic, Joaquina, is also apparently in a state to be put on her trial.

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Magistrate

8th August 1874

Visited the Asylum to-day, and found everything in good order. Sixty-four inmates—forty-two males, twenty-two females—and nine criminal lunatics. Two males brought up as recovered and appear fit for release. Up to date there appear to have been no steps taken to provide the separate accommodation spoken of as being urgently required on former visits.

(Signed) FRANK POUT,
Surgeon-Major

21th October 1874

From Deputy Surgeon-General W. JOHNSTON, M.D., Deputy Surgeon General, Indian Medical Department, Southern District, Malabar and Canara, Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General Indian Medical Department, Fort St George, dated Trichinopoly, 5th February 1875, No 376.

In forwarding the documents marginally noted which deal with the necessities of the Lunatic Asylum, Calcut, in respect of accommodation to admit of the possibility of curative means being had recourse to in the cases of certain of the insane inmates, and which, according to

Plan and Estimate; opinions of the official visitors; extract from Visitors' Book; and letter, No 80, dated 31st ultimo from the Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Calcut

existing arrangements, is now all but impossible, I have the honor to observe that, in all that has been said by the other official visitors, equally with the proposition submitted by the Superintendent, Surgeon-Major Roberts, to meet the necessities of the Institution, I fully concur, and beg to suggest that his plan, and means of executing it, should be complied with.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th March 1875.*

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 4th March 1875, No 503

The Governor in Council recognizes the necessity for providing the blocks of rooms proposed to be built at the Lunatic Asylum at Calicut, but is unable to assign funds for the purpose at present

2 It will be sufficient to erect, in the first instance, six rooms for males, and three rooms for females, which may be added to hereafter

(True Extract)

[Handwritten signature]

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.

„ Public Works Department, with plan and estimate.

„ Magistrate of Malabar.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

Read the following —

Pro. of the Madras Govt. } (N. E. No. 508 of 4th March 1875)
in the Jud. Dept. }
8th

Communicated to the District Engineer Malabar who will supply an abstract estimate showing the cost for six male and three female wards separately, and with deductions on account of the Convict Labour, it is proposed to employ - (considerable) savings might probably be made if the Cells were built back to back if that arrangement

Is not the good ventilation will be possible on the back to back plan & would call the attention of the High Commission to this

MR

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PUBLIC WORKS.

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S. T. Engineer
Malabar.

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Direct Senate Chamber

No. 100. Dept. regarding
the provision of additional
black rooms for lat-
rine to the Dist. Eng.
Malabar with view