P. No. 6 Ja. 7472

Govt. of {1881} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

To

THE SURGEON-GENERAL, WITH
THE GOVT. OF MADRAS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 6*th*.

Issued

Recd. 19 Dec: 81. *Encl.*

G.O., 6th December 1881, *No.* 2499.

F. S. C.

Entd. in Receipt Regr.

DECEMBER.

No. 3148 W 20 Dec/81

Recorded.

Lunatic Asylums.—The report on the Lunatic Asylums of this Presidency for the year 1880-81 reviewed.

Note. It is not apparent why the order has been communicated to the S. W. Dept.!

Sec 21/12

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

6th December 1881, No. 2499.

Lunatic Asylums.

Read the following paper :—

From Surgeon-General W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., C.I.E., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 14th September 1881, *No.* O-122 [*Current No.* 2723].

ABSTRACT.—Forwards Medical Officers' reports on the Lunatic Asylums for 1880-81.

ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1881, No. 2499.

The Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras submits the annual report on the Lunatic Asylums of the Presidency for the year 1880-81.

2. The more important results in all three Asylums, for the year under review, contrasted with the previous year, are shown below :—

	1879-80.			1880-81.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining at the beginning of the year.	227	83	310	244	86	330
Admitted	136	36	172	137	45	182
Total Treated ..	363	119	482	381	131	512
Deduct—						
Died	35	9	44	35	10	45
Discharged—						
1. Cured	55	17	72	57	18	75
2. Transferred to friends (*a.*) Improved ..	15	6	21	13	6	19
(*b.*) Not improved	2	..	2	..	..	..
3. Otherwise	12	1	13	10	..	10
Total Discharges ..	84	24	108	80	24	104
Total Deductions ..	119	33	152	115	34	149
Remained at the end of the year ..	244	8	6	266	97	363
Daily average strength	244·67	82·41	327·08	260·98	90·15	351·13
„ „ sick	16·88	3·71	20·59	22·40	10·42	38·82

for the order.

Notwithstanding the increase in the number of patients treated during the year the accommodation in the Asylums was sufficient. Efforts, it is observed, are being made to keep down the accumulation of chronic cases of a harmless character by relegating them to the care of friends willing to undertake the responsibility.

3. The proportion of recoveries to admissions in 1880-81 was 41·20 per cent., and of deaths to daily average strength 12·81. The general rate of mortality was much below the average of the five preceding years, while a considerable improvement is reported in the general physical condition of the lunatics. All the Asylums were free from epidemic disease.

4. With regard to the *Criminal lunatics* under confinement, the Surgeon-General observes that "Amongst this class there are detained in the Madras Asylum several persons who have never been pronounced insane by professional experts, and that, as recent experience has shown, their supervision and custody is attended by grave risks and embarrassment." This statement is calculated to create misapprehension. It is only in the case of criminal lunatics, convicted of *murder* or murderous assaults and acquitted on the ground of insanity, that the principle of perpetual detention—recently reiterated in G.O., 27th July 1881, No. 1500—is insisted on; ordinary criminal lunatics may always be released on recovery, or, in cases of harmless mania, on their relatives or friends consenting to take charge of them. The total number of this class treated in the year under review is shown as 92, against 95 in the preceding year, and 106 in 1878-79.

5. The total number of patients (criminal and non-criminal) admitted in 1880-81 was 182, or ten in excess of the previous year; and the total treated being 512 against 482. Of the cases treated, 135 were said to owe their origin to physical, and 53 to moral causes, but in the majority of cases nothing is known. The abuse of narcotic drugs, it is observed, still holds the first place.

6. *Sickness and Mortality.*—The increase in the percentage of sick* over last year is apparent only, and due to the innovation in the Madras Asylum of entering *all* cases of sickness in the books, and not serious ailments only.

	1880-81.	1879-80.
*Daily average sick ..	33	21

The percentage of deaths to daily average† strength fell by over a half per cent. below the figure for the previous year. The Government are glad to note that, in the Madras Asylum, the death-rate was "lower than in any year since 1872, and but for two deaths from violence would be lower than in any year on record." The abnormally high mortality at Waltair—39·5 to daily average strength—is ascribed to the fact that "only hopeless and incurable cases are retained in the Asylum," many of whom are feeble, of impaired constitution, or afflicted with organic disease, and that "a large proportion of the fatal cases were admitted in very bad or indifferent health."

†1878-79	21·73
1879-80	13·45
1880-81	12·81

7. With reference to paragraph 20 of Dr. Cornish's letter, it is observed that the Government accepted‡ the recommendations of the Committee appointed to report on the sufficiency of the establishments at the Madras Asylum to secure efficient management. These new arrangements will, it is trusted, conduce to render supervision more effective, and prevent the recurrence of such a catastrophe as that referred to in paragraph 19 of the letter above quoted.

‡ G.O., 27th July 1881, No. 1500, Judicial.

The Government are glad to receive the Surgeon-General's testimony to Dr. Leapingwell's skilful management of the insane, and to the able manner in which he discharges the delicate and trying duties of his office.

8. The remarks* in paragraph 17 of Dr. Cornish's letter as to the advantages of early treatment in cases of insanity will be communicated to District Officers, who should, where opportunity offers, impress the people with the advantages of early removal to an Asylum where their friends or relatives show symptoms of insanity.

* 17. Dr. Leapingwell properly points out in his report the advantages of early treatment in attacks of insanity, and instances the fact that of six sepoys admitted for acute mania, no fewer than five made good recoveries. In the army, attacks of mental disease are speedily recognised and measures taken for the treatment of the patients, but unfortunately the same prompt action cannot be enforced in civil life, and as a consequence the proportion of recoveries is not so great as it would be if civil and criminal insanes could be subjected to treatment in earlier stages of maniacal excitement.
Probably District Officers and local authorities might be able to direct the attention of friends and relatives of the insane to the advantages of early removal to an Asylum in cases coming under their observation.

	Recoveries.	Manufactures and Miscellaneous.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
†1879-80 ..	11,874	937	12,811
1880-81 ..	15,215	1,640	16,855

9. The financial operations of the year are very satisfactory. The gross charges for the Madras Asylum during 1880-81 amounted to Rs. 55,929, against Rs. 70,621 in 1879-80. The total charges in all three Asylums were Rs. 76,299 against Rs. 84,494 in 1879-80. The average monthly cost for a European patient was Rs. 18-6-9 against Rs. 26 in the previous year, and of a native patient Rs. 9-8-3 against Rs. 14-13-11, rates lower than in any previous year. The Government also remark that the recoveries† for dieting patients and the proceeds from manufactures in Asylums have been larger than in any preceding year.

The report is on the whole very satisfactory.

(True Extract.)

H. Cousins
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
„ all District Magistrates.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Inspector-General of Jails.
„ the Sanitary Commissioner.

Exd. J. Wright.

P. W. C. No 7442

FROM THE EXAMINER P.W.ACCOUNTS,

MADRAS.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

P.W.DEPARTMENT.

No. 180. W.

DATED 16th DECEMBER 1881.

RECD. 17

B No 3147 Way 20 Dec 81

UPPER SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT--
INFORMS THAT THE SCALE OF---IS
COMPLETE AND NO PERMANENT PROMO-
TIONS CAN BE MADE IN THE--

for the order.

B No 3147 Way 20 Dec 81

B/

Recorded.

Note.
No action seems called for.
R.S.
17-12.

19.12.81

19/12/81

Cgo Nos 2901 - 3-12-81
2916 - 5-12-81
2932 - 5-12-81
3021-2 - 14-12-81
Sos 29990 - 1-12-81
30324 - 6-12-81

Jo 21/12

FROM THE EXAMINER P.W.ACCOUNTS,

MADRAS.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

NO. 180.W. MADRAS, 16th DECEMBER 1881.

SIR,

WITH REFERENCE TO THE ORDERS CONTAINED IN THE G.OS QUOTED IN THE MARGIN.

NO.2999.W DATED 1ST.DECEMBER 1881.
NO.3030.W DATED 6TH. DECEMBER 1881.
CHIEF ENGINEER'S (P.W.DEPARTMENT) MEMO NO.2932 DATED 6TH.DECEMBER 1881.

} AND OMITTING FROM THE CALCULATION THE LATE MR.SUPERVISOR

ARBUTHNOT WHOSE DEATH WAS COMMUNICATED IN CHIEF ENGINEER'S (P.W.DEPARTMENT) MEMO NO.1111.W DATED 10TH.DECEMBER 1881, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REPORT THAT THE FOLLOWING TABLE COMPARES THE EXISTING ESTABLISHMENT, WITH THE SANCTIONED SCALE OF THE PROVINCE.

			SANCTIONED SCALE.	EXISTING ESTABLISHMENT.
SUB ENGINEER	1ST.	GRADE	9	9
DO	2ND.	DO	9	9
DO	3RD.	DO	17	14
SUPERVISOR	1ST.	DO	22	18
DO	2ND.	DO	36	37
OVERSEERS	1ST.	DO	28	35 — 35
DO	2ND.	DO	28	43 — 42
DO	3RD.	DO	36	
		TOTAL.	185	185

No excess

2. THE ORDER OF GOVERNMENT THAT ANY EXCESS IS TO BE MET

MET FROM SAVINGS IN THE UPPER SUBORDINATE ESTABLISHMENT, DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE LAID DOWN IN PARAS 78 AND 100 OF THE P.W.CODE, AND NOW THAT THE SCALE IS FULLY WORKED UP TO, NO FURTHER APPOINTMENTS SHOULD IT IS THOUGHT BE MADE UNLESS IN A PERMANENT VACANCY.

Nothing of this kind is contemplated

3. ,S.KRISHNAMACHARRY SUPERVISOR, HAS RETURNED TO THE P.W.DEPARTMENT WITH EFFECT FROM 7TH. NOVEMBER 1881, THE TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT MADE IN HIS STEAD SHOULD THEREFORE BE CANCELLED FROM THAT DATE.

The S.E has attended to this vide para 2 of this letter No 1462 T.d 26 Nov: 81.

I HAVE THE HONOR TO BE,

SIR,

YOUR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT.

D. C. Sundaram

EXAMINER P.W.ACCOUNTS.

D. 15
16/12

16/12