

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From G. BIDIE, Esq., M.B., C.I.E., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 16th November 1886, No. 364.

In paragraph 4 of this office report on Lunatic Asylums for the nine months ending the 31st December 1885, it was remarked: "The admissions, viz., 179 in nine months, were proportionately more numerous than 214 in the preceding twelve—a result which shows that, as in past years, the number of insanes sent for treatment is steadily increasing. From this, however, it need not be inferred that lunacy is getting more common, but only that greater attention is being paid to the subjects of it, and that the benefits of skilled treatment are getting more generally known and appreciated."

2. On this the Government, in paragraph 3 of their order, No. 2816, of 18th October 1886, remarked "that both the facts of the Surgeon-General and his deduction from them are incorrect. Past years have not shown an increasing number of insanes sent for treatment."

3. With reference to these observations, I have the honor respectfully to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council a statement showing the admissions into the asylums during each of the past fifteen years, and also, for convenience of comparison, the average annual admission rates in triennial periods during these years.

4. From these figures, it will be seen that the average admissions have gradually risen from 161 in the triennium ending 1873-74 to 192.3 in that terminating in 1882-83, and that if the admissions had gone on for a year at the rate at which they did for nine months of 1885, the last triennium of the fifteen years would have shown an average admission rate of 223.6 per annum. Practically, therefore, in fifteen years the average number of admissions rose from 161 to 223 per annum, without taking into account the considerable number of insanes kept in custody in jails, for want of accommodation in asylums.

5. It will be seen, therefore, that I was fully justified in the remarks made as to increase of admissions in paragraph 4 of my report. The fact that our asylums are getting crowded owing to the accumulation of chronic cases was not unknown to me; but that is one question, and admissions are another. With this explanation before them, I trust Government will feel able to circulate my letter to the various authorities who received copies of their order under reference.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the number of admissions in the three asylums of the Madras Presidency during the last fifteen years.

Year.	Number of admissions.	Remarks.
1871-72	153	Famine years.
1872-73	153	
1873-74	177	
1874-75	170	
1875-76	177	
1876-77	172	Famine years.
1877-78	150	
1878-79	176	
1879-80	172	
1880-81	182	
1881-82	175	For nine months, or For the year.
1882-83	220	
1883-84	218	
1884-85	214	
1885	179	
	239	

ORDER—dated 8th December 1886, No. 3238, Judicial.

It is matter for regret that the Surgeon-General did not submit with his report the statement now furnished as to the admissions during the last fifteen years. The remark in the Order of Government to which Dr. Bidie takes exception was based upon the figures for 1882-83 and succeeding years; and these justify the conclusion arrived at. The letter read above will, however, be circulated as requested by Dr. Bidie.

(True Extract.)

H. P. Stokes
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
" District Magistrate of Calicut.
" of Vizagapatam.
" Public Works Department.
" Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Raitt.

2854 w 1-11-56.

M.L. 9843 ✓

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

B. No 3339 H. A. 17 Dec/86

Recorded, in
continuation of G. O.

No 2854 H. A. 1st November
1886.

16.12.56

17/12/86.

Issued

Recd. 15/12/86

Encl.

G.O., 8th Dec. 1886, No. 3238.

B. No 3339 H. A. 17-12-86

DECEMBER.

Lunatic Asylums.

Passing orders on a letter from the Surgeon-General submitting explanation with reference to certain point noticed by Government in their review of the annual report on — for the nine months ending 31st December 1885.

2 Copies to copy

18/12

8TH DECEMBER 1886, No. 3238, JUDICIAL.

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JUDICIAL.

B. No 3339 h d/17-12-86.

Recorded in con -
- termination of G.O. No
2854 h d/1st November/86.

H. J. J. O. H.
W.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 8th Dec. 1886, No. 3238.

B. No 3339 h d/17-12-86.

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