

N^o 1553 Wd/9th June 1887

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S. E. T Circle in view
of the early submission
view to the early
Government
submission to
an estimate
for converting the
date for converting
two unused work-
shops into single
workshops into
quarters.

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to repairs urgently
needed

The plan and
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two rooms at the
Asylum with the
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1/6/87
S. E. T Circle
S. E. V. C.
with plain estimate
(4 enclosed)
1.6.87

P/MC No 4122
Govt. of 1887 Madras.

JUDICIAL

Issued

Recd. 31.5.87

Encl. 4

G.O., 6th May 1887, No. 976.

B. N^o 1553 Wd/9th June 1887

MAY.

Lunatic Asylum, Madras.

Approving certain proposals to remedy the
deficiency in separate accommodation for the
inmates.

one copy to city

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

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, 17th March 1887, No. 157.

I have the honor to attach a copy of the remarks made by the Right Honorable the Governor on the state of the local Lunatic Asylum at the time of his visit, viz, on the 22nd February 1887.

2. With reference to His Excellency's remarks as to the great need for an increase in single cell accommodation, I quite agree that this is very necessary, and have to mention that the want has been already brought to the notice of Government both in the proceedings of the official visitors and in annual reports.

Paragraph 10 of Official Visitors' Report of 23rd March 1886.
Pages 8 and 10 of Annual Report on Lunatic Asylums for 1881-82.
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3. The total nominal accommodation on the civil side of the asylum provides for 304 males and 131 females, and of this 35 are single rooms, viz., 24 for males and 11 for females. This gives one single room for about every $12\frac{3}{4}$ male inmates and for every $11\frac{1}{4}$ female patients.

4. As will be seen from the attached letter from the Superintendent of the Asylum, he is of opinion that at least one single room for every five patients should be provided, and in this I agree. This, reckoning population according to existing accommodation, would necessitate the provision of 60 single rooms for males and 26 for females on the civil side. But as already mentioned there exist 24 single rooms for men and 11 for females, so that the actual requirements for the two sexes are 36 and 15 respectively.

5. To meet this demand it is proposed to convert two work-sheds not in use, viz., one on the male and one on the female side, into single rooms. By these alterations, according to Dr. Armstrong's statement, 16 additional solitary quarters would be obtained on each side, leaving a balance of 20 to be constructed for males, but fully meeting the immediate wants of the women.

6. To obtain the additional single accommodation required for males, Dr. Armstrong proposes to divide each of the existing single rooms, which measure 13×10 feet, into two; but taking into account the high temperature of Madras and the filthy habits of lunatics, I cannot agree to this proposal. It will be necessary therefore to provide in some other way for the remaining single rooms needed for male inmates.

7. With reference to Dr. Armstrong's remarks that 16 insanes are too many to lock up together in one room at night, I have to observe that this objection is not of so much importance in the case of natives as it would be in that of Europeans, as the latter are usually so much more troublesome and dangerous than natives. At the same time I think that there would be no objection to having each of the larger cottages divided into two compartments, each of which would contain eight insanes. Of course a change of this kind would involve less thorough ventilation.

8. Dr. Armstrong's other remarks as to repairs and slight alterations do not require any special notice.

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