

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 6
 (2) புதிர்க்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 1/90
 (3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 6/90

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

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P.W.D. துறை

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

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19TH DECEMBER 1890, No. 2067, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated Fort St. George, 9th September 1890, No. 686.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting the annual report and statistics showing the working of the Lunatic Asylums in the Presidency for 1889.

ORDER—dated 19th December 1890, No. 2067, Judicial.

The report on the administration of Lunatic Asylums during 1889 discloses no facts of particular importance and calls for but few remarks.

2. A prominent feature of the report for 1888 was the decline in admissions, and in its review the Government observed that this decrease must be ascribed solely to the want of accommodation; the same circumstance was again noticeable in 1889 and was no doubt due to the same cause. This matter will be referred to again in connection with criminal lunatics.

3. Statistics in regard to the lunatic population under treatment in the asylums appear in the following statement :—

Population remaining on 1st January.		Admitted.		Total population.		Discharged.		Died.		Remaining.	
1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
627	647	168	145	795	792	109	109	39	51	647	632

The next table contains particulars of the results obtained in the three asylums viewed as curative institutions :—

Asylum.	Percentage to daily average strength.						Percentage to admissions.					
	Cured.			Died.			Cured.			Died.		
	1889.	1888.	Last 10 years (average).	1889.	1888.	Last 10 years (average).	1889.	1888.	Last 10 years (average).	1889.	1888.	Last 10 years (average).
Madras ..	13.68	8.10	14.69	9.49	7.03	7.30	54.38	29.92	38.93	37.71	25.98	20.12
Vizagapatam ..	3.57	5.62	16.79	0.00	1.87	11.14	40.00	33.33	54.83	0.00	11.11	29.27
Calicut ..	2.98	16.30	17.76	5.95	4.07	6.56	15.38	62.50	55.42	30.77	15.63	17.12
Total ..	10.57	9.45	15.43	7.92	6.04	7.53	46.89	36.30	42.05	35.17	23.31	20.73

On the whole, these results are not entirely satisfactory, for, although the proportion of cures was higher than in the preceding year, it was lower than the average of the decade; the death-rate was also unusually high. But in spite of the fact that 1889 contrasted unfavorably with the preceding years, a comparison with the results obtained outside the Presidency proves that the sanitary conditions of the Madras

		Percentage to daily average strength.	
		Cured.	Died.
Panjab	Lahore	11.12	14.69
	Delhi	28.04	6.23
Bombay		7.6	9.5

asylums are generally satisfactory and that the proportion of patients discharged as cured is not especially low. This will be apparent from the marginally-noted figures. If the statistics in respect of cures are to be trusted, the results of treatment in the Madras asylums would seem to be more successful than those obtained even in England, for, while the Madras asylums show as cured 42.05 per cent. of the total admissions during the decade ending 1889, the corresponding proportion in the English asylums for the ten years ending 1888 is only 39.91* per cent.

* Idiot establishments are excluded.

There is little doubt that the apparent superiority of the Madras asylums is due partly to the greater caution exercised in England in regard to release and partly to the larger number of cases of toxic insanity—a form which yields readily to treatment—in the Indian asylums. The average death-rate in the Madras asylums during the decade ending 1889 was 7.53 per cent. of the daily average strength—a result which must be regarded as satisfactory, seeing that the average proportion in similar English institutions in the ten years ending 1888 was 9.55 per cent. The cause of this decided difference in favor of Madras is not obvious.

4. The death-rate among the female patients in the Madras asylum is noticeable as being the highest that has occurred for several years; the mortality in the preceding year was also heavy. The Superintendent, it is observed, finds the cause in a contaminated water-supply, but it has not been stated when and how the contamination took place; it is presumed that the water has been analysed and the well closed for drinking. Considering the large percentage of deaths among the female inmates of the Madras asylum, it is somewhat remarkable that the daily average sick should have been only 4.66.

5. A large proportion of the admissions into hospital are ascribed to intestinal complaints. In this respect there is no very marked difference between the various asylums, all alike exhibiting high percentages; thus diarrhoea and dysentery accounted for 34.7 per cent. of the admissions into hospital in Madras, 36.3 per cent. in Vizagapatam, and 43.2 per cent. in Calicut. In other respects, however, there seems to be a considerable difference between the asylums as regards the health of the inmates, for in Madras no fewer than 3.7 per cent. of the average strength was daily on the sick list, while in Vizagapatam the proportion was only .8 per cent.; Calicut occupied an intermediate position with 2.9 per cent.

6. The criminal lunatic population continued to rise, the average daily strength during 1889 being 140.97 against 139.09 in 1888; it has more than doubled since 1879-80, when the figure was 61.77. The increase over 1888 took place entirely in the Calicut asylum, the average daily strength of lunatics in the Madras and Vizagapatam asylums having declined. It is thus obvious that no steps have yet been taken in view of carrying out the policy of concentrating insane criminals in the Madras asylum. Until increased accommodation has been provided in that institution the concentration cannot be effected, and the Surgeon-General is requested to expedite the estimate called for in G.O., dated 13th January 1890, No. 34, Judicial.

7. Out of a total number of 145 lunatics admitted during the year under review, 17 are entered as persons of unknown occupation; this figure is considerably lower than that (54) in the preceding year, but the decline cannot be regarded as evidence of improving registration, for the number returned as "unknown" fluctuates largely, being, for example, 22 in 1887, 14 in 1886, and 60 in 1885. As usual, the largest number of admissions appears under the classes of "coolies," "private soldiers" and

"persons of no occupation"; as usual also the great majority of the patients admitted were of or below the age of 40, the actual proportion to the total number of admissions being 69 per cent., against 81 per cent. in 1888 and 78 per cent. in 1887.

8. The Surgeon-General has failed to comply with the instructions of the Government of India communicated to him in G.O., dated 29th May 1890, No. 906, Judicial, in regard to the preparation of Statement VI, presumably on account of the difficulty of re-classification at so late a date. From this statement it appears that out of 792 patients treated, no fewer than 455, or 57.4 per cent., were suffering from dementia. The next largest group was formed by persons afflicted with mania; these numbered 199, or 25.1 per cent. of the total. Among the larger groups, the rate of cure varied from 11.5 per cent. in the case of mania to 3 per cent. in epileptic insanity; particulars appear in the margin.

	Percentage cured to total treated.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Dementia	4.8	9.9	5.9
Mania	14.7	4.7	11.5
Epileptic insanity ..	3.8	0.0	3.0

9. In the following table the patients treated are classified with reference to the more important causes of insanity:—

Cause.	Percentage to the total number of cases ascertained to be due to a physical cause.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
(a) Physical—			
Ganja smoking	21.7	0.0	17.2
Spirit drinking	10.1	1.8	8.4
Congenital type	7.7	12.7	8.8
Epilepsy	7.7	9.1	8.0
Hereditary taint	10.1	27.3	13.7
Privation	9.1	5.4	8.4
"Other diseases"	8.2	20.0	10.7
Cause.	Percentage to the total number of cases ascertained to be due to a moral cause.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
(b) Moral—			
Grief	20.2	24.1	21.1
Family quarrel	17.2	20.7	17.9
Proportion of cases due to a physical cause to the total number of cases treated ..	34.6 per cent.	28.3 per cent.	33.0 per cent.
Proportion of cases due to a physical cause to the total number of cases the cause of which is known	67.6	65.5	67.2

A knowledge of the cause of insanity being undoubtedly a matter of great importance, the improvement in this respect which has occurred during the last few

	Percentage to total treated of cases due to an unascertained cause.
1885	69.7
1886	69.4
1887	57.7
1888	52.4
1889	50.7

years in the Madras asylums is a satisfactory feature of their administration. The figures given in the margin show how steady this advance has been. In respect of the registration of causes, the results obtained during 1889 in the Madras asylums lie midway between those obtained in Bengal and Bombay and those in the Panjab; thus the percentage of cases in which no cause was ascertained to the total number treated was, in the year under review, in Bengal 48.4, in Bombay 48.6, in Madras 50.7 and in the Punjab 52.2. On the other hand, in England, in the 10 years ending 1887, the proportion to the total number of patients admitted into the

various institutions of those in whose cases the cause of insanity was unknown was only 20·7 per cent., so that there is obviously room for considerable improvement in this Presidency.

The sub-divisions adopted in Statement VII under the two main heads "Physical causes" and "Moral causes" seem in several cases open to objection. When reviewing the report for 1888, the Government commented upon the unsatisfactory character of the term "Foreign service" when used to denote a cause of insanity, and the Surgeon-General now admits the inaccuracy of the expression, but nevertheless the expression is again used; some more definite term should be used in future. "Dissipation" appears as a sub-division of the "Moral Cause" division, but "Intemperance" and "Irregular Habits" are shown as "Physical" causes, and in the Bengal report "Debauchery," which signifies much the same as "Dissipation," is also viewed as a physical cause; this classification seems to call for amendment. It is manifest, moreover, that such a head as "Congenital" affords information of the type, rather than the cause, of insanity, and that the boundary between it and the head "Hereditary" must be very ill-defined.

10. From Statement IX it appears that there was again a decline in the cost of maintaining the lunatic asylums during the year under review. Taking the totals of columns 16, 29, 30 and 31 of the above-mentioned statement, the actual cost seems to have amounted to Rs. 83,562, against Rs. 86,463 in 1888 and Rs. 88,249 in 1887; the cause of the decrease in 1889 has not been stated and is not obvious. Local and Municipal bodies were relieved of all contribution towards lunatics in Government asylums from the 1st April 1889, and there was consequently a very large decline in the receipts from that source. The percentage of expenditure from the treasury on the principal items of charge to the total expenditure from the treasury appears in the following table:—

Asylum.	Establishment.		Diet.	Contingencies proper.
	Establishment proper.	Superintendence.		
Madras	27·04	11·14	49·55	4·71
Vizagapatam	36·93	9·87	38·06	4·46
Calicut	29·10	4·37	49·98	2·02

On the whole, the expenditure on Establishment amounted to 38·04 per cent. of the total expenditure from the treasury, and varied from Rs. 52·10·2 per head of average daily strength in Madras to Rs. 50·13·2 in Vizagapatam and Rs. 34·2·9 in Calicut, the difference between the two last-named asylums being probably ascribable to the small population of the Vizagapatam institution.

11. The total expenditure upon diet amounted to Rs. 40,100, which represents a charge for diet in the Madras asylums of Rs. 62½ per annum per head of average daily strength; in Bombay the figure seems to be still higher—Rs. 67½, but in Bengal and the Punjab the cost is only Rs. 33½ and Rs. 40 per head, respectively. It is possible that there is some reason which accounts satisfactorily for this great difference, but none is apparent on the face of the statements and the figures seem to denote a want of economy in this Presidency. The Surgeon-General will give the matter his careful attention, and will report whether any reduction in expenditure is possible.

12. Statement XI contains a memorandum of the actual profits accruing from manufactures in the Madras asylums; a comparison of this table with the corresponding figures for other Provinces decidedly suggests the inference that manufactures are greatly neglected in this Presidency. The mean lunatic population being 641 and the net receipts from manufactures Rs. 758, it may be said that each patient earned on the average Rs. 1·17 in the year; but in Bengal the corresponding figure

for 1889 is Rs. 2½, and in Bombay and the Panjáb the average earnings amounted to no less than Rs. 5½. This suggests a defect in management which calls for careful consideration on the part of the Surgeon-General; he will accordingly investigate the matter and report his views to Government.

(True Extract.)

Redmitchell
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
" District Magistrate, Vizagapatam.
" Malabar.
" Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.
" Inspector-General of Jails.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Superintendent, Government Press.

Exd. A. Raitt.

No 418
G.O. of {1890} Madras.
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No. 13154/16 Jan'y 1891

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G.O., 19th Dec. 1890, No. 2067.

DECEMBER.

Lunatic Asylums.

Reviewing the report on the administration of
- during 1889.

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