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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 1st May 1893, No. O-43.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting the annual report on Lunatic Asylums in the Madras Presidency for the year 1892, and stating that the complete report was sent to the Press on the 29th March and the interval has been taken up in printing it.

ORDER—dated 27th May 1893, No. 1080, Judicial.

The Surgeon-General must see that the report upon the administration of Lunatic Asylums reaches Government by the date fixed (15th April); it has again been received late, and on this occasion the delay is said to have occurred in the Press.

2. In paragraphs 2-6 of the report, the Surgeon-General suggests certain improvements in the Madras Asylum buildings. With reference to paragraph 3 he will observe that further information has been called for in G.O., dated 21st March 1893, No. 604, Judicial. Proposals regarding the construction of day-sheds near the kitchen and the extension of the drainage-system are awaited; the latter should be expedited, the matter has already been under discussion too long. The attention of the Public Works Department will be invited to the Surgeon-General's remark that the filter, the construction of which was sanctioned in G.O., dated 16th August 1892, No. 1506, Judicial, has not yet been completed; the work is of an urgent character and should receive early attention.

3. The figures in paragraph 7 of the report show that the accommodation available at the Madras Asylums is largely in excess of requirements, and the Government hopes that it will be found possible when the East Coast Railway is completed to abolish the Asylum at Waltair and transfer all lunatics from the Northern Districts to Madras. It is observed that in the paragraph referred to above the Waltair Asylum appears as capable of accommodating 55, whereas in Statement I the figure given is 63; the difference should be explained.

4. Some particulars regarding the population of the Asylums during the last 5 years appear below:—

Year.	Number admitted.	Total population.	Daily average strength.	Percentage of deaths to daily average strength.
1888	168	795	644.98	6.04
1889	145	792	643.23	7.92
1890	197	829	620.17	18.38
1891	213	810	613.59	18.67
1892	245	837	570.64	18.22

The most noticeable points about this statement are the continuous decline in the daily average strength and the extraordinarily high death-rate of the last three years; the former is, no doubt, the result of the latter. As regards the Madras Asylum, the death-rate in 1892 (17.34 per cent.) was considerably below that in 1891 and slightly below the figure in 1890, and this decrease combined with the very large increase in the daily average number of sick suggests more careful medical supervision of the patients; but the mortality was still regrettably high. Calicut and Waltair, on the other hand, show a very large advance as compared with 1891 in the rate of mortality. The most fatal diseases during the past five years are set out in the following statement:—

Year.	Madras.								Waltair.		Calicut.				
	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Debility.	Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Diarrhoea.	Epilepsy.	Influenza.	Dysentery.	Beg-Bori.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Atrophy.	Phthisis.	Diarrhoea.
1888	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1889	1	5	2	1	9	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1890	15	6	2	2	8	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1891	8	9	2	2	5	11	2	19	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
1892	8	11	9	5	8	34	8	3	..	..	12	..	..	..	..
	8	13	9	8	17	4	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..

The numbers concerned in the above are scarcely

The numbers concerned in the Waltair and Calicut Asylums are so small as scarcely to admit of any general observations; the constant recurrence of deaths from atrophy in the latter institution is, however, noticeable. Some explanation of this should have been afforded.

As regards Madras, it is necessary in comparing one year with another to exclude from consideration those diseases the occurrence of which can hardly be assigned to the defective sanitary arrangements of the Asylum; such are cholera, phthisis, epilepsy and influenza. The remaining diseases which proved most fatal during the last five years are dysentery, debility, pneumonia and diarrhoea. The deaths from these four causes have stood at the following rates during the quinquennium:—1888, 2.3 per cent.; 1889, 3.9 per cent.; 1890, 5.5 per cent.; 1891, 13.1 per cent.; 1892, 8.3 per cent. It thus appears that the increase in the mortality during the last three years is in part to be ascribed to preventable causes, but it is, no doubt, true that the recent scarcity was the cause of a lowered vitality and consequent predisposition to disease on the part of many of the newly-admitted patients, and it is impossible to judge from the statistics how far the excessive mortality from dysentery, debility, pneumonia and diarrhoea ought to be attributed to this fact. On the whole, and having in view the fact that the last few years have seen a similarly marked rise in the death-rate among convicts in jails, the Government is disposed to think that the heavy mortality is mainly due to causes which have affected the Presidency generally. Various other reasons have been suggested, such as the introduction of Red Hills water into the Asylum and the consequent water-logging of the ground, the inferior quality of that water, the bad drainage of the female enclosure, and the substitution of gingelly and coconut oil for ghee in the diet-scale. All these reasons may have had some effect and the Government has endeavoured to remedy them by limiting the number of water-taps in the Asylum, by directing the construction of a filter in order to improve the quality of the water, by extending the drainage system, and by ordering a reversion to the ghee diet. But, as observed above, the Government doubts whether the rise in the death-rate can be assigned in whole to any purely local cause. At the same time, the health of the Madras Asylum is a matter which requires the unremitting attention of the Superintendent.

5. The figures under the head "Unknown" in Statement IV and the increase in the proportion of cases where the cause of insanity was traced are satisfactory; the latter especially. The number of cases of insanity attributed to "Privation and starvation" among the patients admitted during 1891 and 1892 is noticeable.

6. The increase in the expenditure under the head of "Establishment" has been explained in the report. The outlay per head of daily average strength upon other items is compared for a period of five years in the following statement:—

Year.	Diet.			Clothing and Bedding.			Medicines.
	Madras.	Waltair.	Calicut.	Madras.	Waltair.	Calicut.	Madras.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	* 8
1888	RS. A. P. 73 7 0	RS. A. P. 41 2 0	RS. A. P. 56 9 0	RS. A. P. 3 13 0	RS. A. P. 2 0 0	RS. A. P. 4 10 0	RS. A. P. 5 12 0
1889	68 5 0	41 5 0	51 0 0	4 5 0	1 3 0	5 9 0	6 14 0
1890	69 7 0	38 6 0	47 11 0	10 3 0	2 8 0	5 6 0	7 11 0
1891	72 10 0	34 12 0	45 10 0	9 5 0	3 1 0	4 11 0	7 2 0
1892	84 10 0	43 4 0	49 10 0	11 5 0	4 1 0	3 6 0	8 7 0

Year.	Medicines—cont.		Contingencies.			Total of preceding columns.		
	Waltair.	Calicut.	Madras.	Waltair.	Calicut.	Madras.	Waltair.	Calicut.
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1888	RS. A. P. 0 8 0	RS. A. P. 8 9 0	RS. A. P. 5 6 0	RS. A. P. 5 5 0	RS. A. P. 7 15 0	RS. A. P. 88 6 0	RS. A. P. 48 15 0	RS. A. P. 77 11 0
1889	0 7 0	8 14 0	7 7 0	15 9 0	7 15 0	86 15 0	58 8 0	73 6 0
1890	0 9 0	7 4 0	6 14 0	9 9 0	10 9 0	94 8 0	49 0 0	70 14 0
1891	5 5 0	7 12 0	4 13 0	2 7 0	6 10 0	93 14 0	45 9 0	64 11 0
1892	2 15 0	9 1 0	14 14 0	16 11 0	8 10 0	119 4 0	65 15 0	70 11 0

These figures must be regarded as far from satisfactory and particularly so in the case of the Madras Asylum. It is now several years since the attention of Government was specially attracted by the excessive cost of lunatics in Madras and on many occasions the Surgeon-General has been directed to enquire into the matter and explain the cause. The Surgeon-General has made various suggestions on the subject and in every case his explanation has been found to be insufficient or erroneous. The item in which least economy appears to be exercised in Madras is that of diet. To some extent the high cost of rationing is due to the presence of European and East Indian lunatics in this institution, but this fact is by no means a complete explanation, although it is not possible to ascertain the exact degree to which it is insufficient in the absence of any information in the report as to the number of European and Eurasian and Native paying patients. This should in future be supplied as well as the average cost of dieting such patients. It is, however, stated that, whereas the average cost of feeding a pauper Native patient at Calicut was Rs. 3-15-4 per mensem, at the Madras Asylum the corresponding rate was Rs. 5-13-10; the exact rate per pauper Native patient at Waltair has not been given, but it was lower even than at Calicut.

It is true that the daily average number of sick was abnormally large in the Madras Asylum in 1892 and that prices ruled unusually high, and no doubt both these causes helped to raise the rate per head, but they do not seem sufficient to account for the difference between the Madras Asylum and the two mufassal institutions.

The Government, therefore, remains of opinion that sufficient economy is not exercised at Madras and is disappointed to find that the comments made in previous orders have had no effect in the way of reducing expenditure. It has already been decided to revise the diet-scales and to substitute largely dry grains for rice, and the Government hopes to pass final orders on the subject shortly, so that no further remarks are now called for. It is, however, observed that patients engaged on labour have been receiving extra rations, and when submitting the new scales the Surgeon-General will consider the advisability of making a difference between the dietary of labouring and non-labouring patients. The extent to which the departmental system of supply was applied during the year is not apparent from the Report; as the entertainment of Storekeepers in Asylums has only recently been sanctioned it is presumed that rations continued to be supplied on contract during 1892; the Surgeon-General will explain.

It is observed that the outlay or contingencies at the Madras Asylum was Rs. 6,081, against Rs. 2,031 in 1891 and Rs. 2,969 in 1890; the increase in 1892 is stated to have been mainly due to the payment of taxes for two years during the year. The Government desires to have details of the contingent expenditure in 1892; the explanation afforded seems altogether insufficient. The increase in the expenditure on contingencies in the other Asylums appears to have been principally the result of the transfer of all criminal lunatics to Madras during the year.

7. The following statement exhibits statistics relating to manufactures for three years:—

Asylum.	Percentage of average number employed to daily average strength.			Profits on manufactures as per column 17 of Statement XI.			Amount of profits per head of average number employed.		
	1890.	1891.	1892.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Madras	53.0	63.8	67.2	Rs. 2,786	Rs. 4,703	Rs. 5,595	Rs. A. 12 3	Rs. A. 17 9	Rs. A. 20 6
Waltair	84.6	68.4	67.6	42	81	59	0 15	2 4	3 1
Calicut	8%	84.5	72.3	202	661	795	18 6	5 9	9 4

These figures, if they can be accepted as correct, show a creditable improvement in the operations of the manufacturing department, but it is understood that the figures reported from Calicut in 1890 relate to the manufacture of cloth and coir-mats alone, so that the advance made by this Asylum is in part apparent only. Statement XI-A is new and has been prepared in accordance with instructions conveyed in G.O., dated 24th March 1892, No. 607, Judicial. The object of it is to enable Government to ascertain the average earnings per head of those employed in the manufacture of articles which admit of appraisement, this being the only method of estimating the position of manufactures proper. The Government does not, however, understand how the sums given in the fourth column of the statement are arrived at; they do not correspond apparently with the statistics in Statement XI. This should be fully explained and it should be stated why the profits of gardening at Madras, Vizagapatam and Calicut are shown as Rs. 3,851-7-0, Rs. 69-2-10 and Rs. 229-11-0, respectively, while in paragraph 21 of the report the value of garden produce in the three Asylums named is returned as Rs. 180-11-11, Rs. 74-8-11 and Rs. 267-5-0. The whole system of valuing manufactures adopted in this report should be fully explained; it is probable that some uncertainty prevails on the subject among Superintendents. An item "Cooly work" appears under the head "Remunerative" in the case of the Calicut Asylum; the nature of this should be explained; it is not one of the industries classed as remunerative under G.O., dated 10th December 1892, No. 2283, Judicial, and the classification therein laid down should in no case be departed from without the sanction of Government.

(True Extract.)

To the Surgeon-General.
 " District Magistrate, Vizagapatam.
 " " Malabar.
 " Sanitary Commissioner.
 " Public Works Department
 (with reference to paragraph 2).
 " Inspector-General of Jails.
 Editors' Table.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 27th May 1893, No. 1081, Judicial.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

J. F. PRICE,
 Chief Secretary.

Gobt. of {1893} Madras.
JUDICIAL.

26.8.92. 2391

Issued 10.5.93

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G.O., &c., 27th May 1893,
Nos. 1080, 1081.

MAY.

Lunatic Asylums.

Reviewing the report on the administration of
— in this Presidency during 1892.

1545 W of 10 June 1893

Communicated in
Continuation of G.O.
No 2391 W of 26 Aug
1892 to the Comdg.
Architect for early
report as to what
progress has been made
in the construction of
the filter referred
to.

RECEIVED
7.6.93

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10 JUN. 93

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05.6.93

C.A. to Comdg.
annual report
29/6 1 copy of annual
report

2.C.12/11