

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Rudie DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>1127</i>	Press Mis.
Dated	<i>26-10-</i>	<i>1965</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
26th October 1865.*

No. 148. Read the following letter from the Magistrate of Madura, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madura, 16th October 1865, No. 487.

With reference to the enclosed copy of a letter* from the Zillah Surgeon of Madura, I have the honor to request Government will sanction the construction of a dead house at Madura, according to the enclosed plan and estimate, for the purpose of examination of bodies being made by the Surgeon, and that the Superintending Engineer be directed to furnish funds for the construction of the same.

* Dated 13th May 1865, No. 25.

From the Zillah Surgeon of Madura, to the Magistrate of Madura; dated Madura, 13th May 1865, No. 25.

I have the honor to inquire whether you can give me any room, shed, or small building, in which dead bodies sent to me for examination may be kept, and the *post mortems* made?

2. At present these bodies are brought to the Civil Dispensary. I think this proceeding is highly objectionable for three following reasons:—

1st.—Because these bodies are always more or less decomposed, and evolve a most horrible effluvium, which penetrates every part of the building. This is, I think, very likely to prove injurious to patients, in most of whom the vital powers are already low.

2nd.—Because there is no private place in the Dispensary for this purpose,—consequently it has to be done immediately under the observation of such patients as may choose to notice it.

3rd.—The proceeding cannot but be revolting to the feelings of most people, and is likely to deter persons from coming to Hospital, and to cause a general prejudice against the institution; even if there were a secluded place for the purpose, then it would be well known what is going on.

3. I, therefore, feel bound strongly to advocate the provision of a separate place, for the reception and examination of these bodies.

4. Yesterday a body was brought in a very advanced state of decomposition,—immediately the whole place was permeated by a most powerful and disgusting effluvium, and at the time of examination every patient must have known what was being done.

No. 149. ORDER THEREON, 26th October 1865, No. 1127.

The Government consider that it will be an appropriate addition, and an improvement to the Madura Dispensary, if a dead house were built near it, so as to be available as well for the deposit of the bodies of dead patients, awaiting removal by their friends, or burial, as for the examination of corpses sent in by the Police or Magistracy.

2. Before, however, sanctioning the measure, the Government desire to have before them the joint opinion of the Collector and Zillah Surgeon, as to whether any objection exists to such an arrangement; also, whether an enlargement of the *Jail* dead house would not equally answer Dr. Rule's purpose.

(True Extract).

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Madura.

„ Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

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148.

1865. Madras Sept.
~~Public~~ ~~Office~~
 second Pro. Secy
 The Magistrate of
 Madras
 To the Chief Secy
 to Govt.
 Madras

Dated 16th Oct. 65
 Recd 20

1372 No. 487
 C. 20 Oct. 65

Requesting sanction
 for the construction
 of a dead house at
 Madras where
 dead bodies may
 examination & be
 kept & the post
 mortem made
 by the surgeons.

The proposal is
approved. The plan is retained
with the same grounds to
J.S.W. for disposal.

It would be ^{an} appropriate
addition and, I think, an improvement to
the Madras Dispensary, if a dead house
were built near it - so as to be available
as well for the deposit of dead patients
awaiting removal to their friends or burial,
as for the examination of corpses sent in
for the Police or Magistrate, and before
burial. This, I think, could be very much
deemed that the house, the way to, has had
down his hands since the 13th inst. last
I would ask for information whether
any system exists to such an arrangement.
The Govt. & Dr. Thomas both have
their say in the matter. But it seems

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Recd the following letter
from the Magistrate of Madura.
Here enter 16th October 1865 N^o 487.

Order thereon 26 October 1865 N^o 1127.

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that it will be an appropriate
addition and an improvement
to the Madura Dispensary, if a
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2 Before, however, sanction-
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them the joint opinion of the
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as to whether any objection exists
to such an arrangement,
also.

~~arrangement~~ also, whether an enlarge-
ment of the tail bear-house
would not equally answer Dr
Tule's purpose. J.

L.B.

To the Collector of Madras
" Medical Department

Sept 28/60

Recd 31 Oct 1865

Pro. of Gov. of
Public 1865. Department.

No. 1127.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Date 26 Oct 1865.

39th 3 of 1865