

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Public* DEPARTMENT.

|          |       |                          |
|----------|-------|--------------------------|
| G.O. No. | 1163  | Press<br><del>Mis.</del> |
| Dated    | 8-11- | 1965                     |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 33. Read the following letter from the Members of the Civil Hospital Committee, Ootacamund; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 25th October 1865.

We have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to lay the following appeal to Government, for a grant for the building of a new Hospital at Ootacamund, before His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. The large resort of visitors to the Station of Ootacamund, together with the increasing demand for Hospital accommodation, and especially on the part of destitute Europeans, has forced more and more upon the attention of the Committee of the Civil Hospital the absolute necessity for the erection of a new Asylum for the sick poor, and this emboldens them to press the subject upon the earnest consideration of Government, and they seize the present as the most favorable opportunity of doing so, because of the presence on the spot of the Members of the Government, who are thus able to institute a personal inquiry into this important subject, when the Committee feel confident of a result that shall fully confirm the urgency of the want.

3. The Committee are constrained to observe that the present Civil Hospital is objectionable in its every feature for the purpose it is made to serve. Badly situated, alike as respects health and position, utterly inadequate in size and in accommodation, without conveniences for Surgical operations, health is restored under grave difficulties, and amidst unavoidable discomfort of a very aggravated kind. Europeans, East Indians, Hindoos, and all the not very cleanly tribes of the Hills are huddled together in a general mass, the limited space rendering classification and separation impossible, there being only two wards and a small closet for all the sick. There is no special ward where critical cases can be treated.

4. Since the establishment of the present Dispensary in 1855, the number treated up to the present date has been 37,878. In the first year of its working, the cases admitted in all were 2510 in and out-patients; this number has risen in the past twelve months to 4400, being 303 in-patients and 4097 out-patients, but the former shows only a proportion of the cases which would have come under that head had there been a sufficiency of decent accommodation: and it is painful to reflect how much prolonged suffering must have been endured by the sick poor from inability to gain admission into the Hospital where they might have proper care and supervision, as well as the comparative comfort which an Hospital affords. As it is, the melancholy fact remains that it is, generally speaking, only the very worst cases of disease that seek admission into the Hospital, and many of those only in despair of recovering otherwise.

5. The classes who seek relief consist of the following, viz.:—

*First* may be mentioned Natives from the bazaars and domestic servants: the latter usually belonging to families and individuals visiting the Hills, and the great majority of whom are members of the public service. The servants of permanent residents, from being acclimatized, are not exposed to suffering from climate in the same degree.

*Second*, the people of the Hill tribes, who are showing an increased desire to partake of the benefits of the Hospital.

*Third*, coolies and laborers; and *Last*, Europeans and East Indians, whose cases are the most painful, inasmuch as (especially the former) they are left side by side with all classes of Natives, and their habits of life constantly outraged.

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8th November 1865.*

6. To this sad state of things the application of a remedy seems vitally necessary.

7. The Committee are compelled to say that to expect a proper Hospital to be built from private contributions is simply impossible. By strenuously seeking the aid of such a resource, and by careful and economical management, a sum of about 3000 Rupees has been got together, and it is confidently hoped that 2000 Rupees or more can be raised by the sale of the present Hospital; but they dare not anticipate any great augmentation of this sum. They would, however, desire to press the question respectfully upon the consideration of Government in this point of view. The recipients of the benefits of a Hospital at Ootacamund are in the greatest degree those who, through the members of the public service, are as it were connected with the Government. The helpless Europeans are for the most part those who have served their country as soldiers, and have disease often engendered by wants arising from their failing to gain the employment which they come to the Hills to seek. And the Committee hope it is not presumptuous to urge, that as the Government represent the landlord's proprietorship over the whole plateau of the Hills, there is a corresponding absence of that class of landed proprietors from whom under other circumstances large contributions of such an object as an Hospital might be looked for.

8. These considerations induce the Committee to hope that the Government may be pleased to assist the object in view by a grant of 12,000 Rupees; with this sum they entertain a confidence of being able to raise a sufficiency of funds in all to accomplish the erection of a plain, substantial, and roomy Hospital, presenting all the requirements of ventilation and comfort so indispensable in the treatment of sick; and they do not doubt that with such a building the Institution will continue to be (as it has been since January 1864) self-supporting by a system of subscriptions to secure benefits for servants, &c., by charitable contributions, and by a scale of charges for those whose circumstances place them above the class of the sick poor.

9. It should be added, that the Hospital proposed to be built is intended to embrace wards for Europeans and Natives, both male and female, each class being separate, and also smaller wards for special cases, together with a Surgery, or operating room, also a laboratory, or dispensing room.

10. The Committee may add, that they have examined a site on land belonging to the Government near the Jail, which seems exceedingly well adapted for the object in view, and that should it be the wish of Government they will undertake the construction of the building under their own supervision.

|          |                                                           |                                                  |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| (Signed) | J. OUCHTERLONY.                                           | } Members of the<br>Civil Hospital<br>Committee. |
| ( „ )    | T. DEALTRY,<br>Archdeacon of Madras.                      |                                                  |
| ( „ )    | H. R. DAWSON.                                             |                                                  |
| ( „ )    | A. W. PHILLIPS,<br>Judge of Ootacamund.                   |                                                  |
| ( „ )    | J. MILLER, M. D.,<br>Senior Medl. Officer,<br>Ootacamund. |                                                  |
| ( „ )    | C. SMITH, M. D.,<br>Medical Officer, Ooty.                |                                                  |

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
8th November 1865.*

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 8th November 1865, No. 1163.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council resolves to sanction a grant of Rupees 12,000 in aid of the erection of a new Hospital at Ootacamund, the erection of which will be entrusted to the Civil Hospital Committee, who will obtain from the Executive Engineer, and will submit for the approval of Government, a plan of the projected building.

(True Extract).

*Chief Secretary.*

To the Committee of the Civil Hospital, Ootacamund.

„ Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

„ Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Pro 10 January 1865 No 53/4

22/2/66

26-4-65 ✓

1 1865

30/9/66 ✓

17-7-12 ✓

1 1865

Pro. of Govt  
Public 1865 Defacto  
1163

From  
the members of the  
Civil Hospital  
Committee.  
Cotacambú

79 1/2 1862.  
79 1/2 1866/68

27 25 } Oct/65  
29 23 }

1388

Applying for a  
grant in aid of the  
erection of a new  
Hospital at Cota.  
-camand.

33-34

Recd from City 28/10

with an order

8 October 1865 No 1163.  
Under the circumstances represented  
in the foregoing letter the  
former in Council resolved  
& sanctioned a grant of  
Rs 12000 in aid of the  
erection of a new Hospital  
at Government the erection  
of which will be entrusted  
to the Civil Hospital Committee  
who will obtain from the  
Sanitation Engineer a bill  
submit for the approval  
of Govt a plan of the pro-  
posed - joint building.

By order of the Civil Hospital  
Committee  
General Secy. of the  
Public Works Dept -