

1. Number of pages.
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	560	Press Mis.
Dated	5/6	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

my
18-6-51

5th June 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 23. From the Officiating Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 21st May 1866, No. 178.

Referring to Order of Government as per margin, I have the honor to explain that the Regulations for the admission of all Assistant Surgeons to the Indian Medical service prior to 1859 required,

No. 155 of date 2nd May 1866, Public Department.

amongst other things, "a Certificate of having attended for three months the practical instructions given at one of the Public Asylums, for the treatment of the Insane." In 1860, it was decided that there should be no separate Indian Medical Service, and the British Army Regulations do not apparently require any Certificates of attendance upon the practice of Lunatic Asylums.

2. As the Indian Medical Service has again been declared a separate establishment from that of the British Army, I think the old rule, as regards attendance upon Lunatic Asylums and Ophthalmic Hospitals, should again be declared to be in force with regard to all candidates for the Indian Service.

3. It would, however, be advisable to require a more extended course of attendance, in the case of the Officer to be appointed to the charge of the Presidency Asylum, when the establishment is enlarged. It sometimes happens that Medical Officers, before coming into the Indian Service, have acted as Resident Medical Officers of public Lunatic Asylums in Great Britain.

4. Should the appointment of Medical Officer of the Presidency Asylum be hereafter placed on such a footing as to make it desirable in a pecuniary point of view, I have no doubt that many Officers of the Department would take advantage of their furlough or leave on Medical Certificate to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the modern management of Lunatic Asylums, holding in view the prospect of being selected for the appointment.

5. With reference to sending young East Indian lads to be trained in British Lunatic Asylums, it is difficult to give any thing approaching to a decided opinion. I fear that few of this class, to whom service such as Warders would be an object, are likely to possess the moral and physical qualities required in those who superintend the Insane. I have consulted some Officers of the Department, they, like myself, are not sanguine that the experiment would turn out a success; however, there is no reason why it should not be tried.

6. Perhaps the more satisfactory, and in the end the cheaper plan would be to engage one or two trained European attendants under an agreement as to salary and pension, and to entrust the special education of East Indian or Native Warders of the Presidency Asylum to them.

7. I infer that no difficulty need be found in getting suitable persons to engage to serve the Madras Government for a term of years, provided that fair salaries and pensions be sanctioned.

8. I am inclined to believe that the Natives of India will, under proper training, make better attendants for the Insane, than East Indians. As Hospital attendants they have great patience, gentleness, and physical ability to withstand fatigue, and in the latter quality I believe they are likely to excel any other class of attendants to be found in India.

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9. To secure trustworthy persons of this class, it will be necessary to offer not only fair wages, but to make distinct provision for a suitable superannuation allowance to those who have served faithfully for a definite period. This subject was lately brought to the notice of Government in the report on Civil Medical Establishments at the Presidency, No. 117, of 8th April 1865.

Extract from Messrs. Mackay and Cornish's Report.

"We think it right to add that in British country Asylums, all the attendants are entitled to pension after a certain period of good service. We have no doubt that if a similar rule was adopted here, it would tend to keep up a good class of Warders, and to make them more faithful and worthy in what is admitted to be a most disagreeable duty."

Order, No. 1016, 28th September 1865.

Government do not consider that the keepers, none of whom will draw more than 8 Rupees a month, can be admitted to pension.

10. The Extract marginally given shows the recommendation and how it was disposed of.

No. 24. From the Officiating Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort Saint George, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 26th May 1866, No. 189.

Since the despatch of my letter No. 178 of date 21st instant, I have the honor to state that I have received the accompanying communication from Mr. Mason, the present Medical Officer of the Lunatic Asylum.

2. Mr. Mason approves of the suggestion to select East Indian youths to be trained in England as Warders. My own views are already before Government.

From S. MASON, Esq. Surgeon, Lunatic Asylum, to the Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 24th May 1866.

I have carefully considered the suggestion of His Excellency the Governor in Council of sending a limited number of East Indian young men to be trained as Warders in one of the Asylums, and am persuaded from the present imperfect management which obtains in similar Institutions in India, that the measure is highly expedient, and calculated to obviate the imminent risk to life and limb to which all who have to do with these Institutions are exposed.

2. The watching and restraining force employed in the Asylum under my charge consists of Natives, aided by an European keeper, which answers well enough on ordinary occasions, but can never be depended upon when violent outbreaks occur, which require considerable more tact and firmness to overcome than Natives are capable of bringing into play, whatever may be the length of their experience. Bodily injuries and mutilations are not of uncommon occurrence, and are occasionally of a very serious nature, but most of these might have been avoided if the keepers were able to acquaint themselves with the daily habits and dispositions of the patients, and exercise greater presence of mind and dexterity in warding off attacks of violence. Not many months ago, an European patient, homicidally inclined, made a sudden and furious rush out of his cell, and with a stunning blow brought down one of the Native keepers to the floor, where he lay insensible for nearly an hour. The other keepers dispersed leaving the European keeper and the Apothecary at the mercy of the maniac, and who but for the immediate return of one of them (a barrack boy) to their rescue, might have been seriously injured.

3. Several of the Medical Officers who preceded me, as well as Dr. Mackaulay, have suffered more or less severely by abrupt attacks of violence in unguarded moments, and two of them, Drs. Flemming and O'Neill, narrowly escaped with life.

4. East Indians inured from their birth to a tropical climate, and trained and educated in the language and religion of their fathers, with English habits and feelings, appear to be the best fitted as candidates for the post contemplated, and if a careful selection be made from their body of steady young men of good muscular development and possessing a suitable amount of knowledge and intelligence for training in England, the benevolent expectations of His Excellency the Governor are never likely to be disappointed. Acquiring as the young men will do a knowledge of the

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system of training from the first source, observing and perhaps sharing in its practical operation, on the details of the management of an Asylum will necessarily be more deeply impressed upon their minds and hearts than by a mere course of instruction.

5. Thus qualified by actual experience and possessing discrimination and tact, with the moral strength, courage, firmness and humanity for managing the most unruly patients, they will return prepared to fill the subordinate but important post in a Lunatic Asylum in this Presidency for which they are designed, with credit to themselves and honor to the Government.

6. Salaries in proportion to the importance and danger of the post will be expected, but any increased expense will be amply repaid by the immense benefits likely to be secured for the more efficient management of Lunatic Asylums, the prevention of bodily injuries, and protection to life, the confidence; the presence of a well-trained Warder will inspire encouraging freedom of action on the part of the Native servants of the Institution, and also in the opportunity which will be afforded of training and qualifying Natives for employment in similar Institutions in the country.

7. I would have sent this earlier but was not in health to do so, and hope to be excused for the delay.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1866, No. 560.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

(True Extract).

J. D. SIM,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following
letters from the M. Major Genl. Mac
Donnell.

Here enter 21st and 26th May 1866. 1704
109.

Order thereon 5 June 1866 No 560.

Ordered that the
foregoing letters be recorded.

[Signature]

Sent of 19 June 2

Public 1868. Department.

No. 560

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 5 June 1866.