

1. Number of Pages
2. Date of receipt
3. Initials of Referencer.

M.R.O. 1-30,000-10-10-20.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

**Government of Madras.**

*Public* **DEPARTMENT.**

|          |        |               |
|----------|--------|---------------|
| G.O. No. | 1466   | Press<br>Mis. |
| Dated    | 26-11- | 1957.         |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,*  
*26th November 1867.*

Read the following :—

No. 159. Proceedings of the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Simla, 10th October 1867, No. 2923.

*Expenditure—Medical.*

Read again the endorsement from the Home Department, No. 2389, dated 8th March 1867, on a letter from the Government of Madras, relative to the grant of an allowance of Rupees 125 per mensem to the Medical Officer in charge of the Lunatic Asylum at Madras.

Read also Financial Order, No. 1537, dated 27th March 1867, inquiring why the Asylum should not form the charge of the Presidency Surgeon of the District in which it is situated.

Read endorsement from the Home Department, No. 2733, dated 25th July 1867, forwarding an explanation from the Government of Madras that the arrangement suggested is quite impracticable, and that the Asylum should be constituted a separate medical charge under a separate Medical Officer.

OBSERVATIONS.—The Governor General in Council observes that originally the Madras Lunatic Asylum formed an extra medical charge, which was held, *ex-officio*, by the Medical Store-keeper at Fort Saint George.

2. Afterwards it was held by a member of the Subordinate Medical Department.

3. On his death, it was again held as an extra medical charge by the Professor of Materia Medica in the Medical College.

4. The Committee of 1865-66 for the revision of Civil Medical salaries, over which Mr. Strachey presided (in which Committee the Madras Medical Department was represented by the Secretary to the Principal Inspector General, Madras Medical Department), also considered that the Lunatic Asylum might fairly constitute a mere extra medical charge with its then small number of lunatics, about 60 to 70 patients.

5. The following testimony of Dr. Payne, the Medical Officer in charge of the Bhowanipore and Dallunda Lunatic Asylums, Calcutta, to the ease with which the medical charge of a large number of lunatics in an Asylum may be combined with the duties of a Presidency Surgeon, still more fully confirms the opinion that it is not necessary to treat the Madras Lunatic Asylum as a sufficient or proper medical charge for a separate Officer who is to give his whole time to the Asylum. Dr. Payne observed—" I have seen, with very great regret, that an erroneous idea has prevailed regarding the necessity for prohibiting private practice to the Superintendents of Insane Asylums. If facts be examined, they will show, beyond dispute, that there is not in all Calcutta a medical charge which so little needs such a restriction. It has been thought that the Superintendent should at all times be near the institution to answer sudden calls; but no such precaution is thought necessary in any other Indian Asylums. Civil Surgeons live, in such cases, at a distance of miles from their Asylums. The duties of my own charge have, during my absence in Europe, been most efficiently discharged by Dr. Palmer—an Officer engaged in extensive private practice; and it is a fact that, during an incumbency of upwards of four years, I have not a single summons to the Asylum after regular hours for any reason but the bodily sickness of an inmate, and instances of this

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
26th November 1867.*

"have not exceeded three or four in the period infinitely less than fall to the lot of every Medical Officer attached to an Hospital. There is, perhaps, no institution where discipline and routine are so unbroken as in a well ordered Lunatic Asylum, and none accordingly where extraordinary calls on the Superintending Officer are so few."

6. Dr. Payne's remarks are confirmed, to the full, by the fact that the several Lunatic Asylums in the interior of the Bengal Presidency are, one and all, under the charge of the Civil Surgeons of the stations.

7. The Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Madras, also confirmed Dr. Payne's views. In reporting on the establishment of Officers for the Medical Staff at Fort Saint George, he observed as follows, with respect to a proposition for employing the Medical Store-keeper as Professor of Materia Medica in the Medical College:—"This system of combining the charge of the stores with another appointment was introduced when Dr. Fleming gave up the Assay Mastership under very honorable circumstances; and as Government had no other means of compensating him for the loss of the Assay allowances, the charge of the Lunatic Asylum was added to that of the Medical Stores. To this arrangement no objection could be offered, *rarely more than a morning visit is required at the Lunatic Asylums.* This did not interfere with the Store-keeper's proper attendance at his office, and the duties were carried out most satisfactorily by Dr. Fleming and those Officers who followed him, until, in 1854, when the Professor of Chemical Examiner was, in addition to these, appointed Medical Store-keeper with its dependant charge of the Lunatic Asylum."

8. The words italicized confirm the testimony of Dr. Payne, founded on experience of the large Lunatic Asylums in Calcutta, that the charge of such Asylums can be easily held in conjunction with other duties.

9. The Madras Principal Inspector General consistently recommended that the Lunatic Asylum should be held in conjunction with the Medical Store-keepership, whether held in conjunction with that or with another appointment—a charge which is generally fulfilled by a morning visit does not apparently require a separate Medical Officer.

10. The transfer of presumably harmless idiots from the Choultry, at Monegar, to the Lunatic Asylum at Madras cannot be held to invalidate the testimony of Dr. Payne, and the other considerations above set forth; and even if these idiots made the charge too difficult for a Medical Officer who has other duties to attend to, the point to be then considered would be, not merely the need and the expense for a separate Medical Officer, but also why a transfer, creative of this expense, has been arranged with regard to idiots who are not shown to have been badly cared for in the Monegar Choultry which is an endowed institution, and whether the general revenues have received any set off to the amount of contribution hitherto made from the endowments of the Choultry towards the expenses of the idiots.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing observations be communicated to the Home Department, and a transcript thereof to the Accountant General, Madras.

(Signed) E. H. LUSHINGTON,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
26th November 1867.*

No. 5856A.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George, with reference to letter thence, No. 749, dated 27th June last.

(By Order,)

HOME DEPARTMENT, SIMLA,  
25th October 1867.

(Signed) A. H. HARRINGTON,  
*Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 160. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 26th November 1867, No. 1466.

I am directed by the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of the Observations, dated 10th October 1867, No. 2923, Financial Department, on the proposal of this Government that the Lunatic Asylum at the Presidency Town should be constituted a separate medical charge under a separate Medical Officer.

2. The necessity for this arrangement is fully detailed in the letter addressed to the Government of India on the 27th June last, and I am desired to add that, on further consideration, the Governor in Council is unable in any way to modify his opinion, that the Lunatic Asylum should be separated from the medical charge of the district, and that the whole time of a Medical Officer, specially chosen for that duty, should be devoted to the Institution. I am desired to state that, on the completion of the new Lunatic Asylum now under construction, the treatment of the insane will be assimilated much more closely than is at present possible to that which has been found in Europe so successful; but for this purpose the persons in immediate charge of the insane patients will require careful training and the constant supervision of the Medical Officer in charge of the Asylum.

3. The Governor in Council is satisfied that these results would not be obtained by the morning visits of a Medical Officer who has also the heavy work of a Presidency Surgeon assigned to him. The remarks contained in paragraphs 4, 7, 8, and 9 of the Observations under reply appear to the Governor in Council to be only applicable to the Madras Lunatic Asylum when it was under very different conditions, when the number of lunatics was limited to 60 or 70, and when the system under which insane patients were treated was much less perfect than that which it is proposed to establish at the new Asylum, which will, when completed, contain 264 inmates.

4. I am desired, with reference to paragraph 10 of the Observations, to observe that it was explained in Mr. Chief Secretary Arbuthnot's letter to the Government of India, dated 11th October 1867, that, since March 1859, the inmates of the Idiot Asylum attached to the Monegar Choultry have been maintained solely at the Government expense. The Madras Government, in 1859, recognized the force of the representations made by the Directors of the Monegar Choultry, that the maintenance of an Idiot Asylum pressed unduly upon their resources, and that the support of these idiots did not fall within the legitimate scope of the Institution. It was, therefore, decided that the Asylum should be solely at the charge of the Government, although it remained under the supervision of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry. The circumstances that led to the removal of the idiots, many of whom were really insane and not mere harmless idiots, from the Monegar Choultry, and to their being placed under the Medical Officer in charge of the Lunatic Asylum, are fully

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
26th November 1867.*

detailed in the Proceedings of this Government, Nos. 70 and 71, dated the 12th March last, which accompanied Mr. Chief Secretary Arbuthnot's letter, No. 1264, dated 11th October 1867.

5. From these Proceedings it will be seen that the Directors were convinced that the supervision hitherto exercised over the idiot and insane patients at the Monegar Choultry Asylum was dangerously insufficient: in support of this statement they cited a recent case where one of the patients, supposed to be harmless, had killed another, under circumstances which showed lamentable carelessness on the part of the keepers. The Directors begged to be relieved from the responsibility of the Asylum, which was at that time an extra charge of the Medical Officer of a District, whose numerous duties necessarily interfered with the close supervision of the insane patients.

6. The Governor in Council trusts that this further explanation will show that there was very sufficient reason for the transfer of the idiots from the Monegar Choultry; that it was not possible to assign any portion of the endowment of the Choultry to the support of this class of insane patients; and that, for the reasons above stated, the proposal which has been made, that the Madras Lunatic Asylum should be constituted a separate medical charge, under a separate Medical Officer, on the same footing as that of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Bombay, will receive the sanction of the Governor General in Council.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,  
Chief Secretary.

*marked for the  
reference in relation with  
Monegar for reference  
I beg to circulate  
draft of a reply  
to the letter a paper  
from the Govt of  
India on the subject  
objecting to  
the Lunatic Asylum  
forming a separate  
Medical charge.  
The Observations of*

*Memorandum of the  
written on a separate  
sheet of paper  
plans furnished  
by the Madras  
Govt. to the  
Home Department*

*Memorandum*

No. 2923.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

**Expenditure—Medical.**

SIMLA, the 10th October 1867.

In the endorsement from the Home Department, No. 2359, dated 8th March 1867, a letter from the Government of Madras, relative to the grant of an allowance of Rs. 125 per mensem to the Medical Officer in charge of the Lunatic Asylum at Madras.

Financial Order No. 1537, dated 27th March 1867, enquiring why the Asylum should not form the charge of the Presidency Surgeon of the District in which it is situated.

Endorsement from the Home Department, No. 2733, dated 25th July 1867, forwarding explanation from the Government of Madras that the arrangement suggested is not practicable, and that the Asylum should be constituted a separate medical charge under a separate Medical Officer.

**REMARKS.** The Governor General in Council observes that originally the Madras Lunatic Asylum formed an extra medical charge, which was held, at first, by the Medical Store-keeper at Fort St. George.

Afterwards it was held by a member of the Subordinate Medical Department.

On his death, it was again held as an extra medical charge by the Pro-Materia Medica in the Medical College.

The Committee of 1865-66 for the revision of civil medical salaries, over which Dr. Strachey presided (in which Committee the Madras Medical Department was represented by the Secretary to the Principal Inspector-General, Medical Department), also considered that the Lunatic Asylum might constitute a mere extra medical charge with its then small number of patients, about 60 to 70 patients.

The following testimony of Dr. Payne, the Medical Officer in charge of the Ripore and Dallunda Lunatic Asylums, Calcutta, to the ease with which the charge of a large number of lunatics in an Asylum may be combined with the duties of a Presidency Surgeon, still more fully confirms the opinion that it is not necessary to treat the Madras Lunatic Asylum as a sufficient or separate medical charge for a separate Officer who is to give his whole time to the Asylum. Dr. Payne observed,—“I have seen, with very great regret, that a erroneous idea has prevailed regarding the necessity for prohibiting private practice to the Superintendents of Insane Asylums. If facts be examined, they will shew, beyond dispute, that there is not in all Calcutta a medical

"charge which so little needs such a restriction. It has been thought that the Superintendent should at all times be near the institution to answer sudden calls; but no such precaution is thought necessary in any other Indian Asylums. Civil Surgeons live, in such cases, at a distance of miles from their Asylums. The duties of my own charge have, during my absence in Europe, been most efficiently discharged by Dr. Palmer—an Officer engaged in extensive private practice;—and it is a fact that, during an incumbency of upwards of four years, I have not a single summons to the Asylum after regular hours for any reason but the bodily sickness of an inmate, and instances of this have not exceeded three or four in the period infinitely less than fall to the lot of every Medical Officer attached to an Hospital. There is, perhaps, no institution where discipline and routine are so unbroken as in a well ordered Lunatic Asylum, and none accordingly where extraordinary calls on the Superintending Officer are so few."

6. Dr. Payne's remarks are confirmed, to the full, by the fact that the several Lunatic Asylums in the interior of the Bengal Presidency are, one and all, under the charge of the Civil Surgeons of the Stations.

7. The Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, Madras, also confirmed Dr. Payne's views. In reporting on the establishment of Officers for the Medical Staff at Fort Saint George, he observed as follows, with respect to a proposition for employing the Medical Store-keeper as Professor of Materia Medica in the Medical College:—"This system of combining the charge of the stores with another appointment was introduced when Dr. Fleming gave up the Assay Mastership under very honorable circumstances; and as Government had no other means of compensating him for the loss of the Assay allowances, the charge of the Lunatic Asylum was added to that of the Medical Stores. To this arrangement no objection could be offered, rarely more than a morning visit is required at the Lunatic Asylums. This did not interfere with the Store-keeper's proper attendance at his Office, and the duties were carried out most satisfactorily by Dr. Fleming and those Officers who followed him until in 1854, when the Professor of Chemical Examiner was, in addition to these, appointed Medical Store-keeper with its dependant charge of the Lunatic Asylum."

8. The words italicized confirm the testimony of Dr. Payne founded on experience of the large Lunatic Asylums in Calcutta, that the charge of such Asylums can be easily held in conjunction with other duties.

9. The Madras Principal Inspector General consistently recommended that the Lunatic Asylum should be held in conjunction with the Medical Store-keepership, whether held in conjunction with that or with another appointment—a charge which is generally fulfilled by a morning visit does not apparently require a separate Medical Officer.

10. The transfer of presumably harmless idiots from the Choultry, at Monegar, to the Lunatic Asylum at Madras cannot be held to invalidate the testimony of Dr. Payne, and the other considerations above set forth; and even if these idiots made the charge too difficult for a Medical Officer who has other duties to attend to, the point to be then considered would be, not merely the need and the expense, for a separate Medical Officer, but also why a transfer, creative of

this expense has been arranged with regard to idiots who are not shewn to have been badly cared for in the Monegar Choultry which is an endowed institution, and whether the general revenues have received any set off to the amount of contribution hitherto made from the endowments of the Choultry towards the expenses of the idiots.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Observation be communicated to the Home Department, and a transcript thereof to the Accountant General, Madras.

(Signed) E. H. LUSHINGTON,  
Secretary to the Government of India

Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

The necessity for this arrangement is fully detailed in the letter addressed to the Government of India on the 27<sup>th</sup> June last, and I have desired to add that in further consideration the

McIntosh

himself in any way,

~~reason~~ to me myself his  
opinion, that the Lunatic  
Asylum should be separated  
from the medical charge  
of the District and that  
the whole time of a medical  
officer specially chosen for  
that duty should be devoted  
to the institution. I am desirous  
to state that in the com-  
pletion of the new Lunatic  
Asylum, now under con-  
struction, the treatment  
of the insane ~~will~~ be  
superintended much more  
closely than is at present  
possible, to that which  
has been found in Europe  
to be successful; but for  
this purpose ~~there~~ ~~also~~  
~~an~~ immediate change  
of the insane patients  
will require careful man-  
aging and the constant  
supervision of the Medical  
Officer in charge of the  
Asylum

should say  
"is unable to say  
any"

g

the persons in

Asylum.

The Governor in Council  
is satisfied that these results  
would not be obtained by  
the morning visits of a  
medical Officer who has  
also the heavy work of a  
Residency Surgeon assigned  
to him. The remarks contained  
in paras 4, 7, 8 and 9 of the  
observations under reply appear  
to the Governor in Council  
to be only applicable to the  
Madras Lunatic Asylum  
when it was under very  
different conditions, when  
the number of Lunatics  
was limited to 60 or 70, and  
when the system under which  
insane patients were treated  
was much less perfect than  
that which it is proposed  
to establish at the new  
Asylum which will, when  
completed, contain 264  
inmates.

with reference to para 10 of the  
observation, to observe that  
it was explained in Mr.  
Secretary Arbutnot's letter  
to the Government of India  
dated 11 October 1867 that  
since March 1859 the  
inmates of the Asylum  
attached to the Madras  
Choultry have been maintain-  
ed solely at the Govt.  
expense. The Madras  
Government in 1859 recog-  
nized the force of the  
representations made by  
the Directors of the Madras  
Choultry that the main-  
tenance of an Asylum  
imposed unduly upon their  
resources and that the  
support of these Asylum  
not fall within the legitimate  
scope of the institution.  
It was therefore decided  
that the Asylum should  
be solely at the charge  
of the Government, although  
it

many of whom  
were really insane  
and not mere  
harmless idiots  
by H.

It is and

it remained under the super-  
vision of the Directors of the  
Madras Choultry. The circum-  
stances that led to the  
removal of the Asylum from  
the Madras Choultry and  
to their being placed under  
the <sup>charge of the</sup> ~~charge of the~~  
Madrass Asylum are fully  
detailed in the Proceedings  
of this Government No. 70871  
dated the 12<sup>th</sup> March last,  
which accompanied Mr.  
Secretary Arbutnot's letter  
No. 1264 dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 1867.

From these Proceedings  
it will be seen that the  
Directors were convinced that  
the supervision hitherto ex-  
ercised over the <sup>insane</sup> ~~insane~~  
patients at the <sup>Madrass Choultry</sup> ~~Asylum~~  
was dangerously insufficient.  
In support of this statement  
they cited a recent case  
where one of the patients,  
supposed to be harmless,  
had killed another, under  
circumstances which showed

lamentable carelessness on the  
part of the Super.

The Director begged  
to be relieved from the  
responsibility of the asylum  
which was <sup>at that time an</sup> ~~then~~ extra charge  
of the Medical Officer of  
~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> District, ~~unavoidable~~  
~~unavoidable~~ whose name -  
and duties necessarily in-  
terfered with the close  
superintendence of the Insane  
patients. ~~at that time~~  
~~referred~~ The Director  
in Council says that this  
further explanation will  
show that there was very  
sufficient reason for the  
transfer of the Idiots from  
the Marine Chantry  
that it was not possible  
to assign any portion of  
the endowment of the  
Chantry to the support of  
this class of Insane patients,  
and that for the reasons  
above stated, the proposal  
which

which has been made that  
the Madras Lunatic Asylum  
should be constituted as  
separate medical charge  
under a separate medical  
Officer - the same being  
as that of the Superintendent  
of the Lunatic Asylum  
at Bombay will require  
the sanction of the Governor  
General in Council.

Fort St George  
26 Nov: 1847

20-5-15  
22-6-5

Publicly reported

14th

to

The Secretary of India  
Home Department

Letter of 14th November 1915

14th November 1915

It has been explained to the  
Commissioner of the  
District & can be taken to  
the District, since the  
system is similar to  
the one in charge under  
a separate member of  
the