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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

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Dated

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
9th December 1867.*

No. 57. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 23rd November 1867, No. 3631.

Considering the erection of a reservoir at } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Depart-
the General Hospital to be unneces- } ment, dated 23rd November 1867,
sary. } Nos. 499 & 500).

No. 58. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1867, No. 1539.

To be recorded.

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

Exd. J. Tulloch.

No. 499. Read the following letter from the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 5th November 1867, No. 435 :—

1. In submitting, for the consideration of Government, the enclosed letter from Surgeon Paul, relative to the erection of a water-cistern at the General Hospital, I have the honor to state that, on its receipt. I visited that institution, and in company with the Deputy Inspector General of the Division, my Secretary, and the Medical Officers of the establishment, inspected the present arrangements for the supply of water to the building, and made myself thoroughly acquainted with those contemplated by the Acting Superintending Engineer.

No. 410, dated 15th October 1867.

2. The Engineer Department was represented on the occasion of my visit by Mr. Walsh, who informed me that so far as he knows, the *sole* object of the proposed cistern is to *measure* the quantity of water used by the three institutions, which are to be fed by it; and I therefore trust I am right in concluding, that there is no intention of *limiting* the supply. Any restriction in this respect (which would be considered highly undesirable even in a temperate climate) would, in my opinion, be wholly incompatible with the sanitary requirements of a Hospital in the tropics.

3. Assuming then that the object in view is merely to ascertain the quantity of water consumed, I must, after full and careful consideration of the subject, express my opinion, that the advantage to be gained is not commensurate with the expense to be incurred in the erection of the proposed cistern: and I fully concur with Dr. Paul in thinking, that while it must necessarily fail to indicate where any excessive expenditure may have occurred, it can hardly fail to become a source of disagreement between the Medical Officers of the two hospitals and the Principal of the Medical College. Engineering skill can, I have no doubt, devise some simpler and less expensive plan for gauging the total water supply at the fountain-head.

4. If any reservoir is to be erected, I venture to suggest that it would be far better, and, in the end, more economical, at once to build a water-tower, from which pipes could be laid on to the upper, as well as to the lower story of the building. Such a tower, with the requisite forcing machinery, would fit into Mr. Fraser's or any other general water scheme for Madras that may hereafter be adopted, and it would at once remedy the very unsatisfactory state of things described in paragraph 5 of Dr. Paul's letter.

5. I may add that I am aware the subject of a water-reservoir at the General Hospital was considered some time ago by the Sanitary Commissioner, who I believe was in favor of the project I am now advocating, viz., a water-tower.

6. In conclusion, I beg to observe that a reservoir on the site now proposed is, in my opinion, objectionable on sanitary grounds, as bringing a mass of building in close proximity with the sea front of the hospital, which it is desirable to keep as open as possible.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd November 1867.*

From Surgeon J. L. PAUL, M. D. and M. A., General Hospital, to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Indian Medical Department, Presidency Division, dated Madras, 15th October 1867, No. 410.

1. With reference to the proposal set forth in letter No. 2,927, from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, and the Order of Government thereon, (sent for my information,) for the erection of a water-reservoir at the General Hospital, capable of containing two days' supply, with the view of measuring the expenditure of water and regulating its supply at that institution, I have the honor to remark that when the project is completed, the Military Hospital, Civil General Hospital, and the Medical College, will be supplied with water from the same source. There will, therefore, be no means of ascertaining where the expenditure has actually occurred, and the common reservoir will become a fertile source of disagreement between the Officers of the two Hospitals and the Principal of the Medical College.

2. With regard to the saving contemplated in paragraph 5 of the Engineer's letter, by the reduction in the number of turn-cocks, I beg to state that all the taps in the Civil General Hospital have fixed handles, and no turn-cocks are required. Some mode of measuring the quantity of water consumed is alone needed, and some simpler device might, I think, be practicable than the building of a large brick reservoir of known dimensions.

3. The cistern is estimated to contain two days' supply for the Medical College and the two hospitals. Deducting the Medical College's supply, the daily supply to each hospital will be 2,900 gallons.

On the allotment of the Sanitary Commissioner, the Civil General Hospital contains 114 beds for Europeans, so that the cistern will contain, when all the beds are full, an allowance of about 25 gallons per head; and I think the allowance of 25 gallons sufficient, viz.:-

- 3 Gallons for cooking and drinking.
- 18 Do. for personal washing, baths, &c.
- 4 Do. for cleansing hospital and utensils.

Total 25, although Professor Parkes states that from 40 to 50 gallons per head daily is the least that should be used in a good hospital.

4. The cistern, therefore, appears to make no provision for the Native patients in the General Hospital, who require water for drinking, cooking, and personal cleanliness as well as the Europeans. Yet the water is brought into their lavatories, and the stand-pipes are adjacent to their wards, while they are far removed from the European wards and inaccessible by the European patients.

5. The cistern, as at present contemplated, will supply only the stand-pipes in the basement from which the water to the European wards must be conveyed in the most primitive fashion, viz., in water-pots on men's shoulders. The establishment available for this purpose consists of two men. Each water-pot contains about four gallons. Suppose that each waterman-made 30 or 40 journeys upstairs daily, the quantity transported would not exceed 240 to 360 gallons at most. Allowing the quantity of 60 ounces or 3 pints per man as drinking water, exclusive of the quantity used in cooking (eight pints are allowed in the tropics on boardship for both purposes,) nearly 43 gallons would be consumed in drinking. Allowing two gallons per head for personal ablution in the bath, no European inmates of the hospital could have baths. Baths are scarcely considered a luxury for Europeans in Indian life, and in hospital they are often a necessity. The hospital cannot, therefore, be considered in a satisfactory state while the European wards are so inadequately supplied with water, that baths cannot be given to at least one-fifth of the inmates daily, even pending the general introduction of water into the town; and it seems most undesirable to build any reservoir within the walls which does not contemplate the ample supply of the European wards with water.

6. Viewing the reservoir in the light in which it is contemplated by the Superintending Engineer, viz., as a water-gauge, it seems to me that it must fail in the object contemplated; first because no allowance is apparently made for the Native department of the hospital which must be supplied with water equally with the Europeans; and second, because the gauge (i. e., cistern) will not show where the expenditure takes place, and consequently will fail in limiting the expenditure.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd November 1867.*

7. It seems to me very desirable that the Head of the department should represent the matter to the Government before this reservoir is commenced, and if he concurs with what I have stated, I have the honor to request that this letter may be forwarded for the information of Government.

No. 500. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1867, No. 3,631.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 67.

1. Under the opinion expressed by the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, the Government consider the erection of a reservoir at the General Hospital to be unnecessary, and they accordingly resolve to cancel the sanction conveyed in their Order of the 23rd September 1867, No. 2,958.

2. The question of erecting a water-tower for the supply of the Hospital is reserved for subsequent consideration.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Colonel, R. E.

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

- .. Accountant General.
- .. Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- .. Public Department.
- .. Military do.

Inspector General of the Indian Medical Dept.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 30 Sept 1891 from 235-236
to 11 Dec 1891 - 235-236

Madam Sir

Profruct 11/11/1891
No 3131

Jul 9/11 Dec

11/11/1891
No 3131

11/11/1891

No 1130

Overriding the question
of a woman at the
General Hospital the
same day.
9th December 1891
Read