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2. Date 12-3-1867
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>262</i>	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated	<i>12-3-</i>	<i>1867.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Mad Government, Public Department,
12th March 1867.*

No. 70. Read the following letter from T. G. CLARKE, Esq., Treasurer, Monegar Choultry, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Madras, 23rd February 1867.

I have the honor, by desire of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry, to submit to the Government the difficulties under which they are laboring in the management of the Idiot Asylum attached to the Institution.

2. Although it was originally intended that only idiots should be admitted into the Asylum, there have been admitted, for some time past, lunatics, or persons who are suffering from Dementia. At present the inmates of the Asylum may be classed as

<i>Lunatics</i>		Total
Males 40—Females 17		57
<i>Idiots</i>		
Males 5—Females 2.		7
		64

and this fairly represents the usual condition of the Asylum.

3. It will thus be seen that a large proportion of the insane inmates are lunatics.

4. There is clearly a marked distinction between the two classes of insane persons, lunatics and idiots, and the treatment they require is very different.

5. Idiots are persons who, either from their birth are deficient in intellectual development, or who have become intellectually deficient from accident or disease. These are in almost all cases incurable, and are generally harmless.

6. Lunatics are persons who, from some injury to the brain, caused by constitutional or hereditary disease, or by accident, have become insane.

7. These unfortunate persons are often dangerous to themselves and others, and, on this account, require most careful watching. A considerable proportion of these cases admit of cure by treatment, when placed under favorable circumstances, and under the care of a skilful Physician.

8. Very recently, in the Asylum attached to the Monegar Choultry, one lunatic, supposed to be harmless, killed another insane patient. It is supposed that this lunatic, who had become suddenly violent, caused the death of the deceased, by crushing him between a door and the wall of the ward.

9. The evidence offered on the Coroner's Inquest was very unsatisfactory.

10. One of the keepers alleges that he saw the lunatic push the other down, and it was attempted to prove that the death was caused by the fall. The only evidence in support of this statement was given by an insane inmate ; but as the deceased man's ribs were found most extensively fractured, both in front and behind, it is certain that the account given as to the manner of his death was false.

11. The Directors are convinced that the supervision hitherto exercised over the idiots and lunatics has been dangerously insufficient.

12. They have, therefore, increased the number of keepers, but they are still very insufficient in number, namely, one keeper to 15 insane patients ; whereas, in the Government Lunatic Asylum, the proportion of keepers is one keeper to three insane patients.

of the Insane inmates are Lunatics.

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13. The Directors are aware that the Government propose to build in Locock's Gardens a Lunatic Asylum for about 200 inmates; and they take this opportunity to suggest that, when the new Asylum is completed, all insane persons, whether lunatics or idiots, should be removed from the Monegar Choultry, where there are no means of treating patients with any probability of cure or alleviation of their malady.

14. The Directors feel how serious is the responsibility imposed upon them until the new Lunatic Asylum is completed, and they venture to suggest to the Government that, as a temporary measure, a house situated near the Government Lunatic Asylum should be hired, and that the insane inmates, both lunatics and Idiots, should be removed altogether from the Monegar Choultry, and transferred to the sole care of Dr. Bidie, the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum.

15. The wards thus vacated by the idiots would add most usefully to the present deficient Hospital accommodation of the Monegar Choultry.

16. A large proportion of the persons received into the Monegar Choultry is transferred after a few days' residence to the Hospital, where they die of old age and disease. A large number of persons belonging to Black Town and its neighbourhood is admitted direct into the Hospital, suffering from epidemic and other diseases, or from severe wounds and accidents, and of these a large proportion die.

17. Thus, for the past year (1866), 98 males and 127 females were transferred from the Poor House to the Infirmary, of whom 37 males and 44 females died.

18. There were during the year 1421 direct admissions to the Infirmary, and of these 352 died.

19. The present Hospital accommodation is sufficient for 29 males, 3 idiots, 6 cases of epidemic diseases, and 26 female patients—64 in all.

20. The Directors have resolved to expend Rupees 16,900 in enlarging the accommodation of the Poor House. They also are most desirous to enlarge the Hospital accommodation, which will be more than ever necessary when the Directors receive into new buildings an increased number of paupers, as the majority of these will require medical treatment.

21. If the idiots and lunatics are transferred, as proposed above, to a hired building, and placed under the care of the Superintendent of the Madras Lunatic Asylum, 6 Wards, with suitable out-buildings, will be added to the Hospital accommodation, and provision will be made for the complete separation of cases of contagious disease, which is now impossible.

22. The erection of new buildings, to give increased accommodation to the Poor House, and the improvement and repair of existing buildings, will exhaust all the funds at the disposal of the Directors; and, unless the buildings now used as an Idiot Asylum are placed at their disposal, they are unable to increase the accommodation for the sick, which is so urgently required in an Institution where a large number of the cases treated are Cholera or Choleraic Diarrhoea.

23. The Idiot Asylum, which is affiliated to the Monegar Choultry, has, since 1859, been entirely supported by the Government.

24. The additional expense involved upon the Government by the proposal which the Directors suggest will only consist in the hire of a house, as a temporary measure, until the new Lunatic Asylum is completed.

25. Mr. Ellis, one of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry, has placed himself in communication with Dr. Bidie, the Medical Officer in charge of the Madras Lunatic Asylum, and has ascertained that a house in the neighbourhood of the Lunatic Asylum is available, at a rent of 110 Rupees per mensem. The temporary alterations required would entail but a small expense, for Dr. Bidie would transfer to the house those insane persons who are least subject to become violent.

26. The grounds upon which the Directors venture to solicit the consent of the Government are—

1st.—That the present superintendence of the lunatics at the Monegar Choultry is insufficient, and that the insane inmates cannot, in the present buildings, and under the present system, receive that careful and detailed observation necessary for their safety and for their cure.

2nd.—That the removal of the insane persons, as proposed, will give the increased Hospital accommodation which is emergently required, and which the funds of the Monegar Choultry are insufficient to provide.

27. The Directors propose shortly to convene a Public Meeting to endeavour to procure an increase to the subscriptions for the support of the Poor House.

28. They hope to convince the Native portion of the community that, when the new buildings, for which the Directors are about to spend nearly 17,000 Rupees, are completed, Native paupers, of all classes, can be received, without offending caste prejudices; and that the objection to aid the Monegar Choultry, which has been felt by many wealthy Natives, on the ground that no caste pauper could derive benefit from the Institution, will be removed.

29. But any increase to the subscription list will be absorbed by the increased numbers received into the Poor House, and will not enable the Directors to add the buildings necessary for the accommodation of the sick.

30. Should the Government resolve to continue the Idiot Asylum, as at present, as a part of the Monegar Choultry, the Directors request the Government to sanction an increased expenditure of Rupees 63* per mensem for keepers, being in the same proportion, namely, one keeper to 3 insane persons, which is found necessary in the Lunatic Asylum under Dr. Bidie's charge.

31. Appendix A gives a detailed history of the Idiot Asylum attached to the Monegar Choultry, prepared by me, as one of the Directors, who has been connected with the Monegar Choultry for many years.

	RS. A. P.
* Average number of male lunatics 40—in proportion of 1 keeper for 3—13 keepers, each at 5 Rupees per mensem.	65 0 0
Average number of female lunatics 17—in proportion of 1 keeper for 3—6 keepers, each at 4 Rupees per mensem.	24 0 0
Total...	89 0 0
At present only 3 keepers are employed for male patients, and 2 for female, at an aggregate cost of	26 0 0
	63 0 0

APPENDIX A.

Memorandum on the Idiot Asylum attached to the Monegar Choultry.

Previous to the construction of separate buildings and wards for the accommodation of Idiots, such unfortunate subjects as were found at large by the Police used to be sent by the Magistrates to the Monegar Choultry, as the only place of refuge.

2. In the month of November 1838, there were 35 persons of this description, male and female, in the Choultry; and from want of some suitable accommodation, they were suffered to be at large indiscriminately with the paupers. Some of them, both male and female, were in the habit of stripping themselves, and going about in a nude state.

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12th March 1867.*

3. About this time, the Medical Board applied to Government to be allowed to transfer to the Choultry four "harmless lunatics," there being no accommodation for them in the Government Lunatic Asylum. Advantage was taken of this by the Directors to bring to the notice of Government the want of suitable accommodation in the Choultry for such subjects, and they urged upon their consideration the necessity of erecting a separate building for the express purpose of accommodating idiotic paupers.

4. From this time, up to May 1840, upwards of a year and a half, the subject appears to have been either under the consideration of Government or the Directors, from letters which passed between them, to the particulars of which it is unnecessary here to refer, beyond stating that, on the 19th May 1840, the Government sanctioned the estimate eventually submitted by the Directors for the construction of additional

Sanction for construction of Idiot Wards.

accommodation for idiots, amounting to Rupees 5564-8-0.

5. From May 1840 up to August 1841, for nearly 15 months, the additional buildings for the accommodation of idiots appear to have been under construction; and, finally, on the 31st August of that year, the idiots were removed from the Choultry to the new buildings, which consisted of two separate wards and cells for male and female idiots.

6. The buildings were then erected on the ground more to the north of those now in existence.

7. This appears to be the origin of the Idiot Asylum as a distinct Institution; and the manner in which it was affiliated to the Monegar Choultry, an Institution which it is unnecessary to observe is intended only for the most abject paupers.

8. When the ground on which the original buildings stood was required for Railway purposes, advantage was taken of this by the Directors, in assigning over the ground to the Railway authorities, by inducing the Government to re-build larger and better ventilated Wards than those originally constructed, when the present ones known as the Idiot Asylum were erected.

* 1853-54.

9. These buildings were intended for the accommodation of *idiots* only, not lunatics; and, besides, the Government admit the fact in their letter, dated 19th February 1839, paragraph 4, by observing, "but in regard to pauper idiots, His Lordship is of opinion that, when no Asylum is open to them, they possess a strong claim upon an Institution like the Monegar Choultry."

10. Notwithstanding the original intention of accommodating only idiots, but owing to the difficulty of discriminating between idiots and lunatics when first brought up by the Police, all persons apparently of unsound mind were indiscriminately admitted into the Asylum. This may account for lunatics being superadded.

11. In their report, however, to Government for the year 1856, the Directors brought the fact of the crowded state of the wards of the Idiot Asylum to notice, in paragraph 15, as per margin, and solicited sanction for the removal of all confirmed lunatics to the Government Institution, observing that the wards were intended only to accommodate and secure all Natives found by the Police laboring under mental derangement or idiocy.

We beg to take this opportunity of forwarding copy of a communication addressed to the Visiting Members of the Monegar Choultry by the Surgeon (Dr. Mudge), relative to the crowded state of the wards of the Idiot Asylum. There are at present two distinct buildings for males and females, each consisting of one ward, with eight cells attached to each ward. Rather than recommend that measures be taken for enlarging the means of accommodation for this unfortunate class, we deem it our duty to bring to the notice of Government that, when this branch of the Institution was originally established, it was never intended to render it a place of permanent reception for confirmed lunatics, but merely to provide the means of accommodating and securing all Natives found by the Police at large, laboring under temporary mental derangement or idiocy; but as there are now many confirmed lunatics in the Institution, their removal to the Lunatic Asylum would probably save the necessity of enlarging the accommodation. We, therefore, respectfully solicit the authority of Government to enable the Directors to make such removals when found necessary.

12. The Government, in Extract Minutes of Consultation, under date the 15th June 1857, in reply, observe "that instructions will be issued authorizing the transfer of this class of patients to the Lunatic Asylum."

13. Since 1838, when the Medical Board obtained the sanction of Government for the

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transfer to the Monegar Choultry of "Native patients, not originally criminal lunatics, whose cases had degenerated into a state of harmless idiocy, with the view of providing for the reception of violent and unmanageable patients in the Government Lunatic Asylum, 136 men and 35 women appear to have been transferred to the Idiot Asylum, and only 22 men and 18 women from the latter to the former Institution. To this cause, no doubt, the constant crowded state of the Idiot Asylum is attributable.

14. The circumstances under which the Idiot Asylum originated, and the manner in which it was affiliated to the Monegar Choultry, having been stated, it might, perhaps, be as well to observe that, from its earliest institution, the cost of the maintenance of the Idiot Asylum pressed heavily upon the funds and resources of the Monegar Choultry and of the Native Infirmary.

15. In five years, from 1854 to 1858 inclusive, no less a sum than Rupees 18,013-14-0 was disbursed for the mere maintenance, clothing, and establishment on account of the Institution, averaging per annum about Rupees 3602-12-4.

16. To meet such extra calls, it was necessary to draw largely from the original funds of the Choultry and Infirmary; and with the prospect of encroaching more largely upon the capital, and ultimately exhausting it, the Directors were induced, in their Report to Government for the year 1858, to bring the circumstances to their special notice, and to urge upon their consideration the necessity of entirely relieving the funds of the Choultry and the Infirmary of the expenses of the Idiot Asylum.

17. The Government, in their Order, dated 25th March 1859, were pleased to relieve the funds of the Monegar Choultry of all expenses on account of the Idiot Asylum, and since then the cost has been borne entirely by Government.

Cost of Idiot Asylum borne entirely by Government, 1859.

18. No doubt, the maintenance of such an Institution as the Idiot Asylum in connection with the Monegar Choultry is a great convenience for the ready accommodation of such subjects found at large, and brought up by the Police Authorities; but, at the same time, it must be observed that it was never intended, when the Monegar Choultry was first established, upwards of 55 years ago, that such an Institution as the Idiot Asylum should be connected with it; and as the Government are now erecting a Lunatic Asylum in Locock's Gardens, it would be as well to press upon their consideration the desirableness of constructing, at the same time, separate Wards and Cells for the accommodation of such subjects as are at present admitted into the Idiot Asylum, disconnecting it entirely from the Monegar Choultry and Native Infirmary, and thereby affording more accommodation for the poor and the sick.

MADRAS, 31st January 1867.

(Signed) T. G. CLARKE.

No. 71. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1867, No. 262.

Under the circumstances represented in the foregoing letter, the Governor in Council concurs in the opinion of the Directors of the Monegar Choultry as to the expediency of placing inmates of the Idiot Asylum under the charge of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, thereby setting free the building now used as an Idiot Asylum for use as a Hospital. The Government accordingly authorize the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum to hire the house referred to in the 25th paragraph of the foregoing letter, at a rent of Rupees 110 per mensem; this arrangement to remain in force until the new Lunatic Asylum is completed.

(True Extract).

To the Directors of the Monegar Choultry.

,, Principal Inspector General, Medical Department.

,, Accountant General.

,, Examiner of Claims.

Edw. J. H. Burns.

Chief Secretary.

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Madras Monegar Choultry
23 February 1867.

From

J. G. Clarke Esquire
Treasurer. Monegar Choultry

To

The Honorable A. J. Arbutnot
Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort Saint George

Sir.

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I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
M. C. A. D.
Treasurer

* Average number of Insane inmates 40 in proportion of 1 keeper to 3. 10 keepers, each at 500 Rs per year = 5000 Rs. The present number of Insane inmates is 124. 24 Rs per person = 2976 Rs. Total Rs. 7976. It is found necessary to employ 3 keepers more and 12 Rs per person = 36 Rs. Total Rs. 8002. The present number of Insane inmates is 124. 24 Rs per person = 2976 Rs. Total Rs. 7976. It is found necessary to employ 3 keepers more and 12 Rs per person = 36 Rs. Total Rs. 8002.

Memorandum on the Idiot Asylum attached to the Monegar Choultry.

1. Previous to the construction of a separate Buildings and Wards for the accommodation of Idiots, such unfortunate subjects were found at large by the Police, used to be sent by the Magistrates to the Monegar Choultry, as the only place of Refuge.
2. In the month of November 1838 there were 35 persons of this description - Male and Female, in the Choultry; and from want of some suitable accommodation, they were suffered to be at large indiscriminately with the Paupers. Some of them both male and female, were in the habit of stripping themselves and going about in a naked state.
3. About this time, the Medical Board applied to Government to be allowed to transfer to the Choultry four "harmless Lunatics," there being no accommodation for them in the Government Lunatic Asylum. Advantage was taken of this by the Directors to bring to the notice of Government the want of suitable accommodation in the Choultry for such persons and urged upon their consideration the necessity of erecting a separate Building for the express purpose of accommodation.

accommodating Idiotic Paupers.

4. From this time up to May 1840, upwards of
years or half, the subject appears to have been
either under the consideration of Government, or the
Directors, from letters which passed between them;
to the particulars of which it is unnecessary here to refer,
beyond stating that on the 19th May 1840, the Government
sanctioned the Estimate eventually submitted by the
Directors for the construction of additional accommodation
for Idiots, amounting to Rupees 5,564-8-0.

Sanction for
construction of
Idiot Wards.

5. From May 1840 up to August 1841, for nearly
15 months, the additional Buildings for the accommodation
of Idiots appear to have been under construction, and
finally on the 31st August of that year, the Idiots were
removed from the Choultry to the new Buildings,
which consisted of two separate Wards and Cells
for Male and Female Idiots.

6. The Buildings were then erected on the
ground more to the North of those now in existence.

7. This appears to be the origin of the Idiot
Asylum as a distinct Institution, and the manner
in which it was affiliated with the Monegar Choultry,
an Institution which it is unnecessary to observe, intended
only for the most abject Paupers.

origin of affiliation
of Idiot asylum
to Monegar Choultry

8. When the ground on which the original
Buildings stood, was required for Railway purposes,
advantage

* 1853/54.

6. Advantage was taken of this by the Directors in affixing
over the ground to the Railway authorities, by inducing
the Government to rebuild larger and better ventilated
Wards than those originally constructed, when the
present ones known as the Idiot Asylum were erected.

9. These Buildings were intended for the
accommodation of Idiots only, not Lunatics, and
besides the Government admit the fact in their
letter dated 19th February 1839, Para 4, by observing
"but in regard to Pauper Idiots, His Lordship is of
opinion that when no asylum is open to them they
possess a strong claim upon an Institution like the
Monegar Choultry."

10. Notwithstanding the original intention
of accommodating only Idiots, but owing to the difficulty
of discriminating between Idiots and Lunatics, when
first brought up by the Police, all persons suffering
of unsound mind were indiscriminately admitted
into the Asylum. This may account for Lunatics
being superadded.

11. In their Report however to
Government for the year 1856, the Directors bring
the fact of the crowded state of the Wards
of the Idiot Asylum to notice in Para 10.

as per margin; and solicited
the sanction for the removal of
all confirmed Lunatics to
the Government Institution,
observing that the Wards
were intended only to
accommodate and secure
all natives found by
the Police labouring under
mental derangement
or Idiocy.

12. The Government in Extract Minutes of
Consultation, under date the 15th June 1857, in reply
observe that Instructions will be issued authorizing
the transfer of this class of Patients to the Lunatic
Asylum.

13. Since 1838, when the Medical Board
obtained the sanction of Government for the transfer
to the Monegar Choultry of native patients, no originally
"Criminal Lunatics, whose cases had degenerated
into a state of harmless idiocy with the view of providing
for the reception of violent and unmanageable patients
in the Government Lunatic Asylum - 136 men and 88
Women appear to have been transferred to the Idiot
Asylum; and only 22 men and 18 women from the latter
to the former Institution. So this cause, no doubt, the
constant

We have to take this opportunity of forwarding copy of a
communication addressed to the existing members of the
Monegar Choultry by the Surgeon (Dr. Bridges) relative to the
crowded state of the Wards of the Idiot Asylum. There are at
present two distinct Buildings for males and females, each
consisting of one Ward with 8 Cells attached to each Ward.
Rather than recommend that measures be taken for enlarging
the means of accommodation for this unfortunate class, we deem
it our duty to bring to the notice of Government, that when this
branch of the Institution was originally established, it was
never intended to provide a place of permanent reception
for confirmed Lunatics, but merely to provide the means of
accommodating and securing all natives found by the Police
at large, labouring under temporary mental derangement, or
Idiocy; but as there are now many confirmed Lunatics in the
Institution, their removal to the Lunatic Asylum, would probably
save the necessity of enlarging the accommodation there. We therefore
respectfully solicit the authority of Government to enable the Directors
to make such removals when found necessary.

constant crowded state of the Idiot Asylum is attributed.

14. The circumstances under which the Idiot
Asylum originated; and the manner in which it was
affiliated with the Monegar Choultry, having been
stated, it might perhaps be as well to observe that
from its earliest institution the cost of the maintenance
of the Idiot Asylum pressed heavily upon the funds
and resources of the Monegar Choultry and of the
Native Infirmary.

15. In five years from 1854 to 1858 inclusive, no
less a sum than Rupees 18,012-14-0 was disbursed for the
mere maintenance, clothing and Establishment on
account of the Institution, averaging per annum about
Rupees 3602-12-4.

16. To meet such extra calls it was necessary
to draw largely from the original funds of the Choultry
and Infirmary; and with the prospect of encroaching
more largely upon the Capital, and ultimately exhausting
it, the Directors were induced in their Report to Government
for the year 1858, to bring the circumstances to their special
notice and to urge upon their consideration the necessity
of entirely relieving the funds of the Choultry and
the Infirmary of the expenses of the Idiot Asylum.

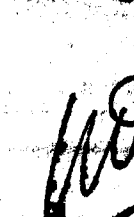
Cost of Idiot
Asylum borne
entirely by Govt. 1859.

17. The Government, in their order dated
25th March 1859, were pleased to relieve the funds of the
Monegar Choultry of all expenses on account of the
Idiot

1. *Handwritten text, likely a signature or name, possibly "J. L. ..."*

Read letter from Apr. 7. L. C.
Treasurer Inwagen & Hamilton

reproduced in the



100

a

2/22/2005
 Dr. Charles E. Hughes
 The American Phrygian Society
 I have done my best
 Sent with great

No. 52

[illegible]

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from Mr. J. G. Chetty
Treasurer Money and Accounts

order thereon. 12 March 1867.

represented in the
letter, the Governor in
Council concurs in the
opinion of the Director
of the Money and Accounts
as to the expediency of
placing inmates of the
Idiot Asylum under
the charge of the Superin-
tendent of the Lunatic
Asylum, thereby setting
free the building now
used as an Idiot
Asylum for use as
a

JP
WOM

Feb 1867. All the

from 12 March 1867.

J. G. Chetty Esq.

Treasurer Money and Accounts

to the Honble J. G. Chetty Esq.

Chief of the Money and Accounts

to the Honble J. G. Chetty Esq.

to the Honble J. G. Chetty Esq.

to the Honble J. G. Chetty Esq.

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to the Honble J. G. Chetty Esq.

to the Honble J. G. Chetty Esq.

a Hospital. The Govt.
accordingly authorize
the Superintendent of
the Lunatic Asylum
to hire the house referred
to in the 25th para of
the foregoing letter
at a rent of Rs 110
per annum; this
arrangement to remain
in force until the new
Lunatic Asylum is
completed.

Establishment and
brick masonry chawls
with now have to be
demolished.

To the Directors of the
Monegar Choultry }
P. I. G. Med. Deptt. }
Accto. General. }
disd 12/3.

7-3-44

Public 1867. Department.

No. 352

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 13th Dec 1870.

792.524.
" " 411.
" " 1019.
" " 1870.

The Superintendent of the
Domestic Registry authorities
to give a horse in the reg-
-isters of the Registry and
to 100 per centum, in the
minutes of the 1019 Registry
until the new Domestic Registry
is completed.

70-71.