

1. Number of pages *24*
2. Date of receipt *27-1-37*
3. Initials of Reference *J*

M.R.O. 1-32,400-22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. <i>1170</i>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated <i>19-8-</i>	<i>1869</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
19th August 1869.

No. 158. Read the following letter from W. MACKENZIE, Esq., M. D., Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Fort Saint George, 12th August 1869, No. 303.

I have the honour to forward, for submission to Government, the enclosed letter from Surgeon Major Duff, giving cover to a communication from the Physician, General Hospital, relative to the dangerous state of the Cooum river.

2. Dr. Smith's report is so complete in itself that it seems to me more desirable to submit it in its entirety than to offer any "summary" of it, nor have I anything to add except that, from personal observation, I can bear testimony to the correctness of Dr. Smith's statement regarding the atmosphere of the General Hospital.

3. The recent fall of rain has, it is true, covered the river bed, and thus, in a great measure, obviated immediate danger from that source; but it is not the less desirable that, in order to prevent the periodical recurrence of the conditions described by Dr. Smith, the question of the sanitation of the Cooum should be referred to the Engineer of the Division.

4. With respect to the quarters referred to in paragraph 8 of Dr. Smith's letter, I quite agree with him as to their unhealthiness and as to the necessity of providing other accommodation for the resident Medical Officer and the Assistant Surgeon doing duty at the hospital.

5. There are rooms in the central block of the main building, at present attached to the British Hospital, but unoccupied; and, if these are not required (as, I believe, they are not) by the British Medical Department, I would suggest that Dr. Hadaway be requested to make them over to this Department for the accommodation of the officers above named, who would thus be provided in the meantime with suitable quarters at little or no additional expense to Government.

From Surgeon Major C. M. DUFF, M.D., in charge Office of Deputy Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, Presidency Division, to the Secretary to the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 2nd August 1869, No. 3441.

I have the honour to forward letter, No. 89, dated the 18th ultimo, from Dr. Smith, Physician, General Hospital, regarding the very insanitary condition of the river Cooum which bounds the hospital grounds on the east and west.

2. It was my intention to have supported Dr. Smith's letter more fully some time ago had many pressing daily duties not prevented me.

3. I find, however, that Dr. Smith, in another exhaustive letter on the subject, (No. 146 of the 30th ultimo,) also enclosed, anticipates my intention in nearly everything I could have wished to state on the subject.

4. As Surgeon in charge of the Penitentiary I beg to urge very strongly on the Inspector General of the Department that steps be taken to conserve also the banks of this river opposite this large jail.

5. Fortunately the rain which has fallen lately has covered to a considerable extent much of the fetid banks of this most dangerous ditch; but in a little while, by the daily evaporation which goes on, the same will become exposed again, and greater evils may follow.

6. It is supposed that the conservancy asked for would cost a sum much too large even to think of—quite the contrary:—all that is needed is a sunk wall of say from two-and-a-half to three feet high with a foundation of two more, to be built in easy curves along each side of the river where

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adjoining quarters occupied by the Hospital Sergeant should be abandoned and altogether removed, and that accommodation for the resident Assistant Surgeon, for the junior Assistant Surgeons, and for the Hospital Sergeant, should be found elsewhere, either in the hospital itself or in quarters erected close to, but not within, the hospital enclosure, except in the case of the Hospital Sergeant, the position of whose quarters I have indicated elsewhere.

12. I have to request that this letter may be considered in connexion with my communication to your address, No. 63, dated 14th June 1869.

No. 159. ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1869, No. 1170.

The correspondence above recorded will be sent to the Acting Sanitary Commissioner, who will, in communication with Dr. Mackenzie, Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, and Dr. George Smith, Physician of the General Hospital, prepare a report on the best means of alleviating the evils arising from the Cooum river during seasons of drought.

2. Dr. Mackenzie is requested to report whether the symptoms of unhealthy ulceration and diarrhoea attributed to the exhalations from the Cooum manifested themselves in the upper or lower stories of the hospital wards or in both, and whether both European and Native patients were affected.

(True Extract).

To the Acting Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department.

N^o 303.

Office of Insp^t: Gen^l: Sur^g: Medical Depart^t:
Fort St. George 12th August 1864

From ^{the} Inspector General Sur^g: Med^l: Dept^t:
Fort St. George.

To The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort St. George

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Govt. of India Madras.

To

THE ACTING SECRETARY COMMISSIONER

Dated August, 1864

Recd.

G. O. 1974 August 1864 No. 1170.

AUGUST.

Nos. 158-159.

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meantime, with suitable quarters at little or no additional expense to Government.

Have the honor to be,
Sir

Your most obedt. Servant

J. MacKenzie

Inspector General

Surgeon-Medical Department

Part of 17839

Public

The St. Sanitary Comm^y
1864

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Forwards correspondence
on the subject, & directing
the St. Sanitary Comm^y, in
communication with Dr.
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of