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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Int-600

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

120

Press

Mis.

Dated

3-5-19

1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
31st May 1869.

No. 214. 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, 13th May 1869, No. 195.

In obedience to the orders of Government, dated 10th March 1869, No. 294, I have the honour to submit, in detail, the requirements of a Cholera Hospital.

It seems very doubtful whether any positive advantage is to be gained by the collection of a large number of patients affected with a malady like cholera under one roof. Indeed the weight of experience is decidedly against such a measure; and, therefore, the propositions I shall have to make will not involve any very great cost in the provision of a building.

2. A Cholera Hospital should, I conceive, occupy a convenient locality in the heart of the town, or of the part of the town which is most frequently attacked by cholera epidemics. If the situation is not central much valuable time would necessarily be lost in removing persons stricken by the disease.

3. The simpler the style of building the better. Nothing can have been more satisfactory, in a sanitary point of view, than the temporary sheds erected some years ago in the General Hospital grounds, and which are now used as contagious wards. The building is merely a raised platform, with thatched roof, the walls and partitions being constructed of split bamboo.

Buildings of this description are light, airy, cool, and thoroughly ventilated; when necessary, the walls and partitions can be renewed, from time to time, at a very moderate cost.

4. The hospital for the Black-town district should be arranged in a suitable locality so as to afford accommodation for from forty to fifty patients. Four distinct sheds, each to hold twelve patients, and each shed divided by a bamboo partition, so as to have no more than six persons in each ward, would probably answer every purpose. With this amount of accommodation, it would be practicable to provide for the separation of the sexes and the classification of the cases under treatment. I would stipulate for the raised flooring of the sheds being coated with asphalt, so as to permit of the most scrupulous cleanliness.

5. In addition to the cholera sheds, it would be most desirable to provide quarters of a more permanent and substantial character for the accommodation of a resident medical attendant of the warrant grade. In these quarters should be provided a comfortable room for the Medical Officer in charge, as also a place for the dispensary and stores. A kitchen with apparatus for heating water, sand, &c., should be built in connexion with these quarters for the use of the patients. Latrines on the dry-earth system would be needed for convalescent patients.

6. As cholera is not always present, a hospital of this character might be used for the reception of cases of small-pox, supposing that disease to be prevalent at a period of the year when there was no cholera.

7. In order that medical treatment might be had recourse to without loss of time, it would be well to employ medical students attending the College in house-to-house visitation in the districts affected, with instructions to give medicines in slight cases, and to send the bad ones into hospital. A set of bearers should

be attached to the hospital, for the purpose of bringing in those unable to leave their homes.

8. Every appliance and aid which modern medical research has suggested should be placed at the disposal of the Medical Officer appointed to the charge of a Cholera Hospital. The Head of the Medical Department might be requested to lay down definite instructions as regards the systems of treatment to be carried out. The results of treatment should be most faithfully recorded, and a report should be drawn up for publication at the end of each epidemic.

9. The establishment suited for a Cholera Hospital is not, in the absence of all experience, an easy matter to settle. During the last three years cholera has almost entirely disappeared from the presidency town, and a Cholera Hospital, if one had been in existence, would have been empty for many months together. On the other hand during the period included from June 1860 to the middle of 1864, cholera was scarcely ever absent from some part of Madras in an epidemic form.

I do not know that the conditions favourable to outbreaks of cholera are any different now to what they were when the disease prevailed so extensively, and I imagine that, when the disease does reappear, it will be no less severe in its future ravages than it has been in the past. The fixed establishment of a Cholera Hospital, therefore, must be based upon our knowledge of former requirements.

10. I would venture to suggest, that, bearing in mind the uncertain duration of cholera epidemics, and the variations which occur from year to year in their severity, that it would be well, in the first place, merely to select from our Medical Officers, commissioned and warrant, and trained hospital servants, such persons as would be most suited to perform the various duties, leaving them attached to their present posts until actually required, and allowing them to revert to their usual duties on the passing away of an epidemic. An establishment so selected could, of course, be deputed to any town or district in which cholera was prevailing, if Government thought it desirable to constitute it a flying establishment, but even then it is doubtful whether employment would be found for such an establishment all the year round. When cholera prevails in Madras it is usually severe in adjoining districts, and when, as at the present moment, the presidency town is free of it, there is a general immunity throughout the presidency.

11. The establishment I would propose, therefore, is one that shall be always ready for special duty, but which in ordinary times shall perform ordinary hospital duties elsewhere.

12. The service is one of more than ordinary risk and danger. I think it will be necessary to offer some special inducement to trained servants, Hospital Assistants, and Apothecaries, who may be selected to carry out the duties. I would propose that, while engaged in Cholera Hospitals, they should be granted double pay, reverting to ordinary pay on returning to their ordinary duty.

13. Some of the best trained servants of the General Hospital or other Presidency Hospitals, for instance, might be asked to volunteer for duty in the Cholera Hospital. On the outbreak of an epidemic they would be ready to begin their duties, and on the termination of the special service, they would revert to their original places, which meanwhile would be filled by temporary substitutes. A register of the cholera establishment of servants, Hospital Assistants and Apothe-

11. The Government approve also of Dr. Mackenzie's proposal to appoint a Committee of Medical Officers, to whom will be entrusted the preparation of instructions for the guidance of the officers in charge of the Cholera Hospital in pursuing their inquiries.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department.

- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Accountant General.
- „ Examiner of Medical Accounts.
- „ Sanitary Commissioner.

caries should be kept, and on the appearance of an epidemic the several members would be warned to be at their posts.

14. The establishment I would venture to suggest, in accordance with the foregoing explanation, is—

One Assistant Surgeon.
One Assistant Apothecary.
One Hospital Assistant.
One Cook.
One Waterman.
One Dhoby.
Six cooly Nurses.
Four Bearers.
Three Toties.

All these ranks could be added to whenever necessary, but these would be a sufficient nucleus for extending the establishment, if thought desirable.

15. I propose, should Government sanction the formation of a Cholera Hospital, to assemble a Committee of Medical Officers to lay down, for the guidance of the Medical Officer selected for the charge, a course or courses of inquiry as regards medical treatment, which might be profitably pursued. As the object in establishing a Cholera Hospital is the advancement of our knowledge of the disease, as well as the relief of the sufferers, the whole procedure must be entered upon in a spirit of scientific inquiry. With this view I am of opinion that a young Medical Officer, capable of observing and noting what he sees, would be better suited to carry out a course of investigation, than one who has already had much to do with cholera, and who has already determined in his own mind on what he conceives to be the most effectual treatment of the disease.

16. If a Cholera Hospital should be sanctioned in Madras according to the scale indicated in paragraph 14, it will be necessary to provide for it the usual equipment for a hospital of from forty to fifty native patients. European patients might be received in it, if desired, but I apprehend that the great bulk of the admission would be natives.

No. 215.

ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1869, No. 720.

In the letter above recorded the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department submits a detailed plan for the establishment of a Cholera Hospital having for its main object the experimental trial of old and new methods of treatment under circumstances favourable to the scientific investigation and record of all the phenomena of the disease.

2. Having in view the immunity from violent cholera epidemics which this presidency has enjoyed during the last few years, Dr. Mackenzie is not of opinion that it is desirable to establish permanently a special Cholera Hospital with an expensive staff, but he would provide an inexpensive range of tiled sheds as cholera wards on a site to be chosen in that part of the town of Madras which is known to be most subject to the visitations of cholera in an epidemic form. These sheds, which experience has shown to be admirably suited to the climate of Madras, should be four in number, each containing twelve patients.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
31st May 1869.

3. Accommodation should also be provided for the Medical Officer in charge of the hospital. A place for the dispensary and stores, a kitchen, and the usual subsidiary buildings should also be added.

4. During the seasons of the year when cholera is seldom prevalent the hospital sheds might, if required, be utilized on the occasion of an out break of small-pox or other epidemic diseases.

5. A building having been provided for the Cholera Hospital, and all the appliances required for the treatment of cholera being kept in readiness, Dr. Mackenzie proposes to select the Medical Officers and subordinates to be attached to the hospital on the outbreak of an epidemic. They will be informed that they have been selected for this duty; but that they will, until their services are required, continue in their present appointments, to which they will revert as soon as it may be possible to close the Cholera Hospital on the termination of the epidemic.

6. The establishment required for the special Cholera Hospital is noted marginally, and Dr. Mackenzie suggests that if the Government think fit the entire establishment with its appliances might be sent to any part of the presidency accessible by sea or railway on the occurrence of a severe outbreak of cholera. Dr. Mackenzie considers that during the time that the subordinates of the Cholera Establishment are employed on their special duties they should draw double pay.

The Government will also be prepared to consider favourably a recommendation by the Acting Inspector General of special allowances to the Commissioned Medical Officers while employed in the Cholera Hospital.

7. The Government consider that the scheme proposed by the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department provides, at a moderate cost, the means of making a careful special study of cholera, and that no time should be lost in giving effect to Dr. Mackenzie's recommendation. The only immediate outlay involved is the erection of the hospital-sheds and subsidiary buildings in a suitable locality.

8. The selection and separation of medicines, medical stores, and other appliances specially required for the treatment of cholera, will be a matter of departmental arrangement. In making these arrangements, Dr. Mackenzie will bear in mind the probability that the first experiment will be made at some town or station in the provinces, and careful consideration should be given to having all that is necessary for the establishment of a flying Cholera Hospital so arranged as to be easily portable and available at the shortest notice. It will probably be necessary to have tents specially assigned for the hospital, and Dr. Mackenzie will report to Government the number and description of tents which will be required.

9. The Public Works Department will, in communication with the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department, select a suitable site and prepare plans and estimates for the Cholera Hospital and its subsidiary buildings.

10. The Inspector General will select two or more Commissioned Medical Officers, and a sufficient number of medical subordinates, who will, on occasion arising, be detached for duty at the Cholera Hospital.

Fort Saint George, 13th May 1869.

From

The Inspector General, Indian Medical Department,

Fort Saint George,

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Public Dept.
Fort Saint George.

SIR,

In obedience to the orders of Government dated 10th March 1869. No. 294, I have the honor to submit in detail the requirements of a Cholera Hospital.

It seems very doubtful whether any positive advantage is to be gained by the collection of a large number of patients affected with a malady like cholera, under one roof. Indeed the weight of experience is decidedly against such a measure, and therefore the propositions I shall have to make will not involve any very great cost in the provision of a building.

2. A Cholera Hospital should I conceive occupy a convenient locality in the heart of the town, or of the part of the town which is most frequently attacked by

by cholera epidemics. If the situation is not critical much valuable time would necessarily be lost in removing persons stricken by the disease.

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Buildings of this description are light, airy, cool and thoroughly ventilated;—when necessary the walls and partitions can be renewed from time to time at a very moderate cost.

4. The Hospital for the Black Town district should be arranged in a ~~suitable~~ ^{convenient} locality so as to afford accommodation for from 40 to 50 patients. Four distinct sheds, each to hold 12 patients, and each shed divided by a bamboo

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5. In addition to the cholera sheds, it would be most desirable to provide quarters of a more permanent and substantial character for the accommodation of a resident medical attendant of the warrant grade. In these quarters should be provided a comfortable room for the medical officer in charge, as also a place for the dispensary and stores—a kitchen with apparatus for heating water, and you should be built in connection with these quarters for the use of the patients. Patience on the dry earth system would be needed for convalescent

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6. As cholera is not always present, a Hospital of this character might be used for the reception of cases of small pox, supposing that disease to be prevalent at a period of the year when there was no cholera.

7. In order that medical treatment might be had, recourse to, without loss of time, it would be well to employ medical students attending the College in house to house visitation, in the districts affected, with instructions to give medicines in slight cases, and to send the bad ones into Hospital. A set of bearers should be attached to the Hospital, for the purpose of bringing in those unable to leave their homes.

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might be requested to lay down definite instructions, as regards the system of treatment to be carried out. The results of treatment should be most faithfully recorded, and a report should be drawn up for publication at the end of each epidemic.

9. The establishment suited for a cholera Hospital is not, in the absence of all experience, an easy matter to settle. During the last three years cholera has almost entirely disappeared from the Presidency Town, and a Cholera Hospital, if one had been in existence, would have been empty for many months together. On the other hand during the period included from June 1860 to the middle of 1864, cholera was scarcely ever absent from some part of Madras in an epidemic form.

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One Assistant Surgeon

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15
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One Hospital Assistant
One Cook
One Matron
One Stoker
Six Cooky maids
Four Nurses
Three Porters

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Yours Most Obedt^{ly} Servt^t

J. Macleod, Esq.
Inspector General
Indian Med. Deptt.

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Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Inspector General, Indian Medical Dept.
(Here enter 13th May 1869 No 195)

Order thereon 31st May 1869 No 720.

In the letter
above recorded the Inspector
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Having

N.
M.A.
W.A.

Public Dept. 1869
August 1869 No 27

Public 1869
May 1869
The Inspector General
Indian Medical Dept.
Fort Saint George

The Secy to Govt
Public Dept.
Fort Saint George

Dated 13th May
No 14
No 195
District details
of the Cholera Hospital
proposed to be esta-
blished in Madras.

7/11/1438
196 of 1870

18-11-1869
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2 Having in view the immunity from violent Cholera epidemics which the Presidency has enjoyed during the last few years, Dr Mackenzie is not of opinion that it is desirable to establish permanently a special Cholera Hospital with an expensive Staff, but he would provide an inexpensive range of tiled sheds as Cholera wards on a site to be chosen in that part of the Town of Madras which is known to be most subject to the visitations of Cholera in an epidemic form.

These sheds, which experience has shown to be admirably suited to the climate of Madras, should be four in number, each containing 12 patients.

Accommodation

This work will also be prepared to consider favourably, as soon as recommended by the Ag. Inspector General & special allowances to the Comd. Medical Officer while employed in the Cholera Hospital.

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The Government consider that the scheme proposed by the Inspector General of the Indian Medical Department provides at a moderate cost the means of making a careful special study of Cholera, and that no time should be lost in giving effect to Dr Mackenzie's recommendation.

The only immediate outlay involved is the erection of the Hospital Sheds and subsidiary buildings in a suitable locality.

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4. During the season of the year when Cholera is seldom prevalent the Hospital sheds might, if required, be utilized on the occasion of an outbreak of small pox or other epidemic diseases.

5. A building having been provided for the Cholera Hospital, and all the appliances required for the treatment of Cholera being kept in readiness, Mr Mackenzie proposes to select the Medical Officers and Subordinates to be attached to the Hospital on

on the out-break of an epidemic. They will be informed that they have been selected for this duty; ^{that} but they will, until their services are required, continue in their present appointments, to which they will revert as soon as it may be possible to close the Cholera Hospital on the termination of ~~the~~ ^{the} epidemic.

6. The establishment required for the special Cholera Hospital is noted marginally, and Dr Mackenzie suggests that if the Government think fit the entire establishment with its appliances might be sent to any part of the Presidency accessible by sea or Railway on the occurrence of a

1 Assistant Surgeon.
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5 Litters.

and Dr Mackenzie will report to Government the number & description of tents which will be required.

9. The Public Works Department will, in communication with the Inspector General, Indian Medical Department, select a suitable site and prepare plans and estimates for the Cholera Hospital and its subsidiary buildings.

10. The Inspector General will select two or more Commissioned Medical Officers, and a sufficient number of medical subordinates, who will, on occasion, aiding, be detached for duty at the Cholera Hospital.

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Pub. Works Dept. 10-
 August 1869 No. 27
 where in Sanitary
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of the officers in charge of
 the Cholera Hospital in
 pursuing their enquiries.

Govt. of 186 } **Sanitary**
 Public

The Sanitary Dept. List No. 1438

May 31. } 1869, No. 20
 No. 796 of 1870

Nos. 214, 215

Having orders in regard
 to the establishment of a
 Cholera Hospital at
 Madras.

Inspector General Indian Medical Dept.
 Public Works Dept.
 Accountant General.
 Examiner of Medical Acts
 C-18 Sanitary Commissioner
 R. 25

Dept. of