

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	614	Press Mis.
Dated	10 - 5 -	19 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

29.4.37

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th May 1871.*

No. 41. Read the following letter from the Inspector-General, Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Fort Saint George 15th March 1871, No. 87 :—

I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that the Acting Physician, General Hospital, has brought to my notice the increasing unhealthiness of the quarters of the Resident Assistant Surgeon, and more especially of the Hospital Serjeant of that Institution.

2. The subject was already laid before Government in 1869, by Dr. Smith, whose letter is recorded in Proceedings of Government, No. 1170, of the 19th August 1869. Mr. Chipperfield fully endorses the opinions therein expressed, and adds that the health of the Hospital Serjeant has so very much deteriorated—solely, he believes, from the unhealthiness of his present quarters—as to lead to his frequently coming under treatment, and seriously to interfere with the performance of his duties.

3. I am aware that the previous Resident Assistant Surgeon Mr. Thomas ascribed much of his ill-health, which led to his resigning his appointment in the General Hospital, to these quarters, and the present Assistant has lately shown some signs of failing health, which Dr. Chipperfield ascribes, in some degree at least, to the same cause.

4. I have myself repeatedly examined the quarters, and consider it highly essential, on sanitary grounds, that new buildings should, if possible, be provided, but the difficulty arises as to obtaining a suitable site within the limited area of the Hospital compound. Meanwhile, I would observe that the unhealthiness of the present quarters is, in my opinion, to a considerable extent, due to their close proximity to the Latrine and Dissecting-room of the Medical College, and to the Cook-room of the Regimental Hospital. The two former stand immediately between them and the sea, and, in spite of every precaution, offensive and dangerous emanations are conveyed from both, by the prevailing winds, into the dwelling rooms. The cook-room again stands to the west and within a few feet of the Assistant Surgeon's quarters, proving a constant source of annoyance from smoke, smells, and noise.

5. If new quarters cannot immediately be provided on a more appropriate site, it will, at least, be necessary to get rid of the nuisances just specified, which might be effected by erecting a new dissecting-room and latrine to the south of the College, on the banks of the Cooum, and providing a new cook-room in some other part of the Hospital compound.

6. These, and some alterations in the ventilation of the quarters, would, I have no doubt, be of very considerable benefit in improving their sanitary condition, and I would beg further to suggest the planting of a triple screen of quick growing trees (such as the Alexandrian Laurel) between the buildings and the Cooum, so as to afford some protection against the effluvia arising from the river.

7. As the subject seems now to be a very pressing one, I trust it may meet with the early and favourable consideration of Government.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1871, No. 614.

Resolved that the Inspectors-General of the British and Indian Medical Departments be requested to associate themselves with the Secretary to Government in

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
10th May 1871.

the Department of Public Works as a Committee to inquire and report whether quarters for the House Surgeon of the Civil Hospital may not be provided in the General Hospital itself, where, it is believed, that, at present, a much larger share of accommodation is assigned to the British Department than is really necessary.

2. The Government desire that the Hospital authorities may be instructed to insist on the extremest care being observed by the subordinates who are responsible for keeping the Latrines and Dissecting-rooms of the Medical College in the most perfect state of cleanliness attainable, and that measures may be adopted for preventing the Hospital servants from fouling the banks of the Cooum, which (it is understood) they recently converted into an offensive nuisance.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary

To the Inspector-General, British Medical Service.

.. .. Indian Medical Department.

To Colonel J. Carpendale, R.E., Secy. to Govt., P. W. Department.

.. Sanitary Commissioner.

No 87

Office of Insp^r General Ins^r
Fort Saint George 15 March 1871

From

The Inspector General Ins^r
Fort Saint George

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George

Sir

I have the honor to report for
the information of Government, that the
Acting Physician General Hospital
has brought to my notice, the increasing
unhealthiness of the quarters of the
Resident Assistant Surgeon, and more
especially of the Hospital Sergeant
of that institution.

2 The subject was already laid
before Government in 1869, by Dr. Smith,
whose letter is recorded in Proceedings
of Government No 1170 of the 19th June 1869.
Mr. Chipperfield fully endorses the opinions

therein

Govt. of 1871 31 March

PUBLIC.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL
BRITISH MEDICAL SERVICE

United May 10th

Recd

G. O. Fort May 1871 No 101

MAY.
Nos. 41-42.

Appointing a Committee to inquire
whether quarters for the House Surgeon of the
Civil Hospital may not be provided in the General
Hospital itself.

therein expressed and adds, that the health of the Hospital Surgeant has so very much deteriorated - solely he believes from the unhealthiness of his present quarters - as to lead to his frequently coming under treatment, and seriously to interfere with the performance of his duties.

3. I am aware that the previous Resident Assistant Surgeon Mr Thomas ascribed much of his ill health, which led to his resigning his appointment in the General Hospital, to these quarters, and the present Assistant has lately shown some signs of failing health, - which Dr Chipperfield ascribes, in some degree at least, to the same cause.

4. I have myself repeatedly examined the quarters, and consider it highly essential, on sanitary grounds, that new buildings should, if possible, be provided, but the difficulty arises as to obtaining a suitable site within the limited area of the Hospital compound. Meanwhile I would observe, that the

unhealthiness of the present quarters is, in my opinion, to a considerable extent, due to their close proximity to the latrine and dissecting room of the Medical College, and to the Cook room of the regimental hospital. The two former stand immediately between them and the sea, and in spite of every precaution, offensive and dangerous emanations are conveyed from both, by the prevailing winds, into the dwelling rooms. The Cook room again stands to the west and within a few feet of the Assistant Surgeon's quarters, proving a constant source of annoyance from smoke, smells and noise.

5. If new quarters cannot immediately be provided on a more appropriate site, it will, at least, be necessary to get rid of the nuisances just specified, which might be effected by erecting a new dissecting room and latrine to the South of the College, on the banks of the Croom, and providing a new Cook room in some other part of the hospital compound.

6. These, and some alterations in the ventilation of the quarters, would, I have no doubt, be of very considerable benefit in improving their Sanitary Condition, and I would beg further to suggest, the planting of a triple screen of quick growing trees, (such as the Alexandrian Laurel) between the buildings and the boom, so as to afford some protection against the effluvia arising from the river.

7. As the subject seems now to be a very pressing one, I trust it may meet with the early and favorable consideration of Government.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt Servant

W. MacKenzie Esq.

Inspector General
Ind. Med. Department.

97
The Govt are of opinion that the costs
brought to notice in the letter above recorded
can be met speedily and economically
remedied by the construction of a discharging
room and latrine, for the use of the
Medical College on a suitable site
on the edge of the river. and the
removal of the Cook room complained
of to a more suitable position. There
is a ~~very~~ suitable portion. There
buildings need not be of an expensive
character. -
The correspondence will be comd to

117
The Dept. of Public Works. with
a view to the necessary plans &
estimates being prepared by
the Supt Engineer in communication
with the Physician General Hospital
& the Chemical Examiner.

The latter officer will explain to
the Supt Engineer the additions which
will be required for carrying
on the assay work. so that the
plans & estimates may embrace

the removal provision of a depositing
room & a new stockroom in stead
of the present buildings. and the
addition to the laboratory of the
Medical College required for the
assay work. It is possible that
the existing depositing room may
be utilized for the addition required
to the laboratory. W.H.

Attest
Supt. of Med. Dept.
Chemical Examr.
Financial Dept.
Director of Med.

Feb 11th Oct 14 1859-18
19 Aug 1858-1859 Public 1871 Dept.

From
Surgeon General
No 87

15-3
15-3

Recommending
to provide quarters
for the Resident
Surgeon & Sergeant
of the Civil Hospital.

~~Surgeon~~

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from
the Inspector General, Indian
Medical Department dated 15th
March 1871.

Order thereon No 844 - 10 May 71.

Resolved that the
Inspectors General of the
British and Indian Medi-
cal Departments be re-
quested to associate
themselves with the Secretary
to Govt in the Department
Public Works, as a Com-
mittee to enquire and report
whether quarters for the
House Surgeon of the
Civil Hospital may not
be provided in the General
Hospital itself, where,
it is believed, that at
present, a much larger
Share

N.
A.
J. A.

share of accommodation
is assigned to the British
Department than is really
necessary

2. The Govt. desire
that the Hospital autho-
-rities may be instructed
to insist on the strictest
care being observed by
the subordinates who are
responsible for keeping
the latrines and dissecting
rooms of the Medical
College in the most per-
fect state of cleanliness
attainable (under the
circumstances) and
that measures may be
adopted for preventing
the Hospital servants
from fouling the
banks of the Coom
which ^{it is understood} ~~at present~~ they ~~use~~
convert into ~~an~~ (most) offen-
-sive nuisance.

L.R.

To
The Director Genl. British India
S. L. Dept.
" Secy to Govt. P. W. Dept.
" Sanitary Commissioner

I have inspected the quarters of
the House Surgeon and the
Hospital Sergeant Major & the
Civil Hospital in connection with
the various sources of nuisance
complained of and I am satisfied
that no matter how strict the
quarters must be enforced and
unwelcome.

The sources of offence may be
enumerated as follows.

- 1. The proximity of the Coom river.
- 2. The abuse of the banks of the
Coom not unfrequently used for

the purpner of nature by the
Hospital servants and others:

3. The foulness of the adjacent
ground.
4. The existence of a nuisance
a palisaded enclosure where
animal matter is allowed to decay
for scientific purposes.
5. The Proximity of the latrine
of the Medical ~~Hospital~~ College
6. The Proximity of the Dissecting
room of the Medical College
7. The Proximity of the working room
of the Chemical Examiner.
8. The existence of a small ditch

bank in the grounds of the Medical
College for which there is occasionally
a disgusting effluvia.

9. The neighbourhood of the Lashroom
of the Hospital of the British
Regiment which is due to the urinals
of the Surgeon's Quarters.

I don't doubt that much might
be done to mitigate all these
sources of annoyance by greater
care yet undoubtedly something
would remain under every
precaution. It is desirable that
the House Surgeon should have
more healthy quarters. Before
however asking for the plan

Estimates suggested by Mr Ellis I
would direct the Inspectors General
of the British & Indian Departments
to confer together with the assistance
of the Secretary for the D. P. W.
with the view of ascertaining whether
quarters for the Home Surgeon of
the Civil Hospital might not be
provided in the General Hospital
itself where it is believed is
present - much larger.

of accommodation is awarded to
the British Dept. than is necessary.
There are in fact four or five rooms
in that Dept. standing vacant.

13x
The Home Surgeon could be
accommodated in the main building;
his present quarters might be
given to the Sergeant and I believe
that a scrupulous attention to
cleanliness in all the localities
enumerated above would render
the upstairs rooms of the
present Surgeons quarters much
more tolerable than they are at
present.

Several orders should be issued
to keep the latrines & dissecting
rooms of the Medical College
in a perfect condition of cleanliness.

The latrines were recently in a
very neglected state according to
the testimony of Inspector J. B. Balfour.

The banks of the river were also
covered with ordure which might
be easily prevented by the enforcement
of proper discipline among the
hospital servants.

Even today the banks of the
river are unsuitable for
of contamination.

May 1871

917
I would like to have this matter
brought to the attention of the
Committee of the Board of Health
for the adoption of the (third) sanitary
suggestion.

April
5th 1871

He gives
N

1/5

Oct. of 1871 M. M. M. M.

To

Public.

The undersigned, find, that
the said service
has

Dated *May 10* }
Recd. 1871, No. 474.

Nos. 41, 42.

William H. Brown.
-wishes to sign and
sign under the name
for the same purpose
the said Hospital may
not be provided in
the General Hospital
only.

29-1-72