

Public Department

Memo No. 2328 d/23/11/94

The attention of
the Surgeon General
is invited to the
article headed "The
Lying-in-Hospital"
at page 2 of the Madras
Times of the 13th inst
from orders.

S.S.B.
20/11

S.S.
22/11/94

Surgeon General disps
23/11/94

No
Encl.

672

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Madras, 12th December 1894.

No 632.

Govt. Lying-in Hospital
Madras 28th November 1894

The article in question, is true in some points. I did stop visitor's carriages coming into the Hospital on the 10th June, and I consider I did so on very good sanitary grounds. Last year I noticed the bad smell in the porch. Dr. Bramfort has been very careful regarding the nuisance caused by horses and the ground under the porch was continually being dug up and fresh Kunika put down. This hot weather I noticed the smell very much. going into the labour wards at night, the stench was most abominable, in spite of the ground being dug up, and in the interests of the patients in the labour wards I prohibited the carriages of visitors from coming into the Compound. The writer of the article compares the treatment of visitors at the Lying-in to that of the General Hospital there can be no comparison. Our labour ward is contiguous with the

part of my duty is to my patients, not to the general public. I endeavour to shield the women in the labour ward at the time they are most liable to poison from infection, and if I can prevent horses staling &c just outside the labour wards and so bringing poison into the labour wards, I consider I am rightly acting. To speak of "Autoeratic tendencies" and that "the rule about carriages was partly intended to drive visitors away" is simply childish.

2. The ruling was made in June, nothing was said until a patient became an inmate of the private wards about the middle of October. Her friends objected to walk from the gate to the porch, a distance of about 150 yards. This patient came to the Hospital expecting to be treated as in a "Home" in England. She objects to the noise of the women in labour. I don't see how this can be helped. I hear it in my own house, & the people at the road also

complain. She says she "Shudders" when going downstairs on passing the labour ward, but there is no other way. A Surgeon Major's wife occupied the same room previously. She remained in hospital over two months; her friends did not at once write to the papers about having to walk from the gate. I told her husband the reason why the order was issued - and he said, he thought I was very right.

3. Regarding the discourtesy to visitors in not informing them where their friends are located. I would beg to point out that there is no alteration in the rules since the erection of the hospital in 1881. There is only one apothecary on duty, who may be called to emergent cases at any hour; he cannot be always on the spot to give information. There is no waiting room in for visitors to make use of until the desired information is forthcoming and patients would probably not care to have this no...

in which they were.

4. So far from discouraging patients from coming into the paying wards, I have induced several to come, and the wards have never been fuller than they have this year.

5. I had not seen the article (although I had heard of it) until forwarded with your Minute No. 7729. I must say that I feel it unjust that an anonymous writer should make these ex parte statements on the word of a dissatisfied patient without an enquiry as to the cause of the obnoxious order. I spend most of my time in hospital and I take a very great interest in its working, and to be abused without reason seems me particularly hard.

/Signed/ A. J. Sturmer.

Surg. Major
offg. Sup^t Lynggin. Hsptl.

(True Copy)

Robert St.

Chief Secretary
Government of Madras

OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL

WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras, 12th December 1894.

No

Encl. /

From

SURGEON MAJOR-GENERAL C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.S.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

THE HONORABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public Department,

SIR,

With reference to your Memo No. 2328 of 23rd November 1894, I have the honor to report for the information of Government that some of the statements in the Article had previously been brought privately to my notice and that on two or three visits to the Hospital during October and November I issued such orders as I considered would conduce to bring these private wards for patients in this Hospital on an equality with the Officers' Quarters in the General Hospital.

2. On receipt of the above memo I referred the correspondence to the acting Superintendent for any remarks he wished to make and now I attach a true copy of his reply. I fully concur on sanitary grounds with his order regarding Carriages.

carriages not entering the grounds of the Hospital. The order was as follows "Carriages are not allowed into the Hospital Compound unless to bring or take away patients." I have directed him to modify this by the addition of the words "Except during rainy days." I have also directed him to submit proposals for the erection of a proper receiving room and porch at the entrance of the Hospital, where visitors will be able to obtain any information that is necessary regarding the patients. The gate-keeper will be supplied with a list showing their distribution.

3. As regards patients being discouraged from entering the paying wards such I feel sure from enquiry is not the fact and as a matter of fact the wards are always full and appear to be well appreciated. and on the whole I have every reason to be satisfied with Surgeon Major Sturmer's professional management of the Hospital and care in its administration.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedt. servant.

Chas. L. ...
Surgeon Major General
Surgeon General
with the Govt.

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Public (1894) DEPARTMENT.

From

SURG. MAJOR-GEN. C. SIBTHORPE, *F.R.C.S.*
SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

No. 672

ENCLOSURES.

Dated 12th } December 1894
Recd. 13th
Desd 14th
Encl. 1. No.

Subject.

Reporting on the state
of the hospitals mentioned in
article regarding the
management of dyin
Hospital Madras

stul.

Submitted. No report
was called for.

35B

do

15/12/94

Order D22 Dec 1894 N^o 977

Received with the
remark that the Govt.
did not desire or ask
for a report, the matter
being one for the S. G.'s disposal
from orders (W) (18/12/94)

35B

do

21/12/94

Sl. 510/94
M.S.

BACK PAPER, No.

of 189

FURTHER PAPER, No.

3773

of 1894

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No. , MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT. A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged)

N.B.—

A — Copy in full.
B — Not to be copied.
P — Copy abstract only.
Q — Copy heading only.

19. 3. 1904. WITH ORDER

Major General

ORDINARY, MS.

Pub	DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 22 Dec 1894	
No.	977

INDEXED.

When given for copying. 22/12

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording the Surgeon-
Genl's report with reference
to the article in the Madras
Times regarding the exhi-
sion of visitors' carriage
from the compound of
the Ling - a Hospital,
Madras.