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7 Cops

Diets in Hospitals and
Lunatic Asylums.

Passing orders on
letter from the Surgeon-
Genl. submitting
a comparative
statement showing
the cost of the depart-
-mental and Contract
system of supplies
in the Pres^t Gov^t.
Hospitals and
Lunatic Asylums.

T 4/10

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18, No.

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3675 of 95

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ENCLOSURE

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NOTE FOR THE

May 1910
He & wife
not want to see
again

256.

4/10

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OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL

No. *1004*
Encl. *38*

WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Camp Cuddalore 29th November 1894.

From

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

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

THE Honorable the Chief Secretary
to Government.

Financial Department.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 326 dated the 12th February 1894 Judicial, I have the honor to submit herewith a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental and contract system of supplies in the Presidency Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums including therein expenditure on establishments and buildings as desired by Government. It should be explained here that the contract system was in force until 31st March 1892 in all the Presidency State Hospitals with the exception of Lunatic Asylums where the purveying system was commenced during 1890-91 and continued until the introduction of the present departmental system.

2. It will be seen from this statement

that the cost on rations under the new Departmental supply system setting aside the outlay on establishment and buildings is in excess of that under the old contract system to a very slight degree. The reasons of this increase as explained by the Medical Officers concerned are summarized below.

General Hospital Madras, The Senior Medical officer reports that the increase in cost is partly due to the advance in prices in the market of many of the articles but on the whole the contract system appears by experience to be cheaper than the purchase system. In the point of efficiency however he is in favor of the purchase system as the articles thus procured are undoubtedly of better quality. This he considers the essential point with regard to the sick and the difference in cost he thinks should be disregarded.

Leper Hospital, Surgeon Lt. Col. H. D. Cook reports that the rates of articles under the departmental system are higher. The reason is the separation of diet articles into two or more groups. By this method the Contractor runs the risk of increasing loss if the market rises in any of the articles and therefore fixes a profitable rate to each. Under the old system the contractor fixed a lower

lower rates than those in the market to some of the articles with a view to make it good in other articles. Some of the articles such as sugar, salt, tamarind, rice &c. which contain moisture lose weight after a period of three or more months storage and last year 1869 this of rice had to be written off as wastage as it got damaged.

Surgeon Major Reeves acting Superintendent states that the present departmental system is much more expensive than the old contract system, the chief reasons being wastage in storing, additional establishment and often unavoidably high rates. If very large quantities were purchased not at fixed times but when a particular article is cheaper, and also if the articles were purchased in the market by the storekeeper and not through a contractor, the new system would contrast favorably with the old. In another report he says that there is really but little difference, as far as the contract is concerned, between the two systems, formerly non perishable articles were tendered for one year and supplied daily by a contractor. Now the contract is for six months and the whole supply is stored up at once. Under the new system the contractor receives his money

The contract system
is thus still in
favor.

however the system
remaining practically
unchanged.

not so formerly.

Ophthalmic Hospital. The Superintendent reports that the increase in the value of the diets may be seen to be due to the rise in value of the chief ingredients of the diets eg. coffee rice and dholl &c and the prices of almost all the articles of diet during the two years the departmental system of purchase has been in force have been unusually high owing to unfavorable seasons.

Women & Children Hospital. The Medical officer in charge writes to say that no supplies are purchased from the local markets all such articles being taken over from the contractor.

Voluntary Venereal Hospital. The Superintendent says that the supplies (non perishable) are purchased for him by a contractor once in every three months, and so far as he could make out the prices are not in excess of the usual market rates.

Lunatic Asylum Madras. The Superintendent states that under the new system the expenditure rose on account of wastage, establishment.

No attention has been
appears to have been
paid to the order of
No. 2

The contract
system again.

establishment, buildings, contingencies and advanced rates, and a greater loss would probably have occurred if the articles of diets were stocked to the extent of a six months supply, but no building were available until only lately for this purpose. The contract system is after all probably the most economical. In subsequent reports he says that no fair comparison can yet be made between the old and the new system. The completion certificate of the store room was only signed on the 8th May and the system was not fully adopted till June 1894 and cannot be so until existing contracts terminate. Cost of dieting in 1893-94 was higher than the previous years. considerable saving will be effected in 1894-95 the amount of which cannot yet be stated.

Lunatic Asylum Calcutta. The Superintendent reports that the departmental system was carried out, but in the absence of a store room and a storekeeper only small quantities were purchased at a time and consequently there was not much wastage or dryage. In an another report

the system of contract for perishables. Though there is not much difference in the rates under the old and new system yet the former if reintroduced will be productive of an advantage in that the cost of wastage and store establishment will be saved. The cost of store establishment, and of constructing store godowns were added to the dieting expenses and the total cost in 1893 was more than in 1892, while on the other hand the daily average strength of inmates was much smaller.

Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam. The Superintendent says that no contracts of any sort is given since 1st August 1892 - Dry grains are purchased in bulk through the Revenue authorities of the Division and all other articles are purchased by the Hospital assistant in charge of the Asylum from the local market; he further says that the system has worked satisfactorily and thinks that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old system.

Lying in Hospital. The Superintendent, who had only lately taken over charge, states that the rules have been strictly carried out and points out that the expenditure has been somewhat higher on the new system which I know was appreciated by Surgeon Lt. Col. Bransford the permanent incumbent and who worked it to the best of his ability.

3. General remarks. From the above remarks it is quite clear to me that many of the responsible medical officers had not properly appreciated the orders of Government and that they were working a system which was only the old contract one veiled under a new name. I have called their attention to this and directed that the orders of Government must in future be thoroughly carried out. There is no doubt also that some of them met with great opposition in carrying out the new system. It was altogether a new departure placing such responsibilities on medical officers duties that in cases of large institutions take

take up a great deal of their time - which some thought could be better spent on professional work. From my recent visits to the hospitals I am convinced that in the General Hospital, the Ophthalmic hospital and the Lying-in Hospital, where the rules have been intelligently carried out, the supplies are on the whole better, that medical officers have less reason for complaints about them and that the time of the medical officer was well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with these supplies, the system will be properly appreciated when all see how much better supplied the sick are. I am also convinced that there is great necessity for some uniform rules to guide medical officers in making such contracts and of uniformity in the forms submitted to my office in order that the necessary check may be facilitated. With this view I have appointed a Medical Committee to draw up some rules on the lines of those in force in the Commissariat and Military accounts Department.

Brigade Surgeon Lt. Col. W. Price M.D. President.
 Surgeon Major J. J. Turner. Members
 do J. W. Evans

officers as to the prevailing prices of grains, a copy of the weekly season report is sent to each from my office, and I have circulated comparative statements of the rates which have been accepted for each of the hospitals for the information of all those concerned and for future guidance.

4. It must be remembered that this system was a complete departure from any system of obtaining supplies to which medical officers had been accustomed. No attempt was made in G. O. N^o 330 dated 13th May 1892 Public, to explain the system and the orders in G. O. N^o 2286 Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, para 27 were not communicated to the officers concerned. Nor were they aware of the results of the investigations of Drs. Walker and Lethbridge, and Mr Cardew as regards Jail administration in Madras. The subsequent orders threw very little light

This is the L.G. fault, he had a copy of the order

on

on the principles on which the change of system was founded.

5. I am confident that the results two years hence will be more reliable and profitable, as medical officers will then have gained experience in the working of the new system and those disadvantages which have contributed to the rise in expenditure will have disappeared.

6. I enclose for the information of Government a comparative statement showing the prices of some of the chief articles of diet during the 4 years ending with 1893-94.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

C. S. Thorpe

Surgeon Major General
Surgeon General with The
Government of Madras.

12

Financial (1894) DEPARTMENT.

From

SURGN. MAJOR-GENL. C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

No. 4014
38

ENCLOSURES.

Dated 29th Nov 1894.
Recd 1/12
Encl-2

Subject.

Submitting a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental & contract system of supplies in the Presidency Govt. Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums &c.

No. 6390

From

The Surgeon General

Dated

189 ,

FOR ORDERS.

The papers do not seem to me to have been sent up in a satisfactory manner. In the first place, the file is incomplete - In the next, a history of the case is given nor is an attempt made to bring out the weak points of the S.G.'s case by a comparison either with prices listed or with Mr. Cardew's results in G.O. 1280 - The C.S. seems to be satisfied because an improvement in the quality of the supplies is reported from one hospital; but it seems to me that there is ground for great dissatisfaction in the fact that the expense has increased. The fact that brought out a saving. Why not the medical? I don't understand the system in force. In G.O. 330 it was laid down that perishable articles might be bought on contract, while non-perishable articles should be bought by tender, the contracts to be for fixed periods & the tender to be for articles in bulk. But from a statute in para 4 of the S.G.'s letter it appears that that G.O. was in some way affected by a G.O. of Nov. 6, 1894. How an earlier order can have affected later, I can't make out in the absence of the earlier order. How can I understand the allusion.

The delay in submitting the current which has received in the beginning of December is regretted. It is due to a vain endeavour to obtain satisfactory means of testing the fairness of the dieting rates mentioned in the Surgeon General's comparative statement.

2. The current is the reply to G.O. of 12 February 1894 No. 326. - The reply from the Inspector General of Prisons which was admirably clear was received with an expression of the satisfaction of Govt in G.O. of 25 May 1894 No. 1280. - This current though received nearly 8 months later consists merely of a resume of the subsidiary reports received from various medical officers in charge of the various institutions accompanied by a few general remarks, & a comparative statement showing the cost of dieting patients & of purchasing particular items of diet during the past four years. The resume of the subsidiary reports shows that the orders of Govt have been more 'honoured' in the 'breach' than in the observance; the old contract system having been allowed to remain in existence. Any general

No.

From

Dated

189 ,

FOR ORDERS.

is that fraud was much more easy under the contract system.

5. At this stage, in ignorance of the exact period from which the ^{new} contract system was introduced in these institutions, & with the scanty information afforded by the Surgeon-General's report it is of little use to ~~work~~ attempt to work out any comparison. - The Surgeon-General is now drawing up a set of rules to ensure uniformity in the working of the new system; & as he says it will be possible to obtain statistics more reliable in another two years time.

6. It is to be considered however whether some notice should not be taken of the disobedience of Govt orders by the many of the medical officers mentioned in this report. Nothing can be said (definitely) now, as the information contained in the report is too meagre.

Perhaps it would be sufficient to record the communication with the remarks that the L.G. should submit to Govt. in that delay the rules which his Committee are drawing up to secure uniformity in the system of supplies, that his predecessor is greatly to blame for not having taken steps to see that the orders of Govt. were carried out in their

But as a fact ~~that~~ was there disobedience or only stupidity - The L.G.'s remarks in the margin of the S.G.'s letter seem to show that he has not appreciated the fact that the S.G. of May 1892 permits contracts for some articles, while it is almost possible that in part of the S.G.'s letter he means "tenderer" when he writes "contractor".

Comparison of the results would ^{therefore} this play be altogether fallacious. ^{to Dr Walker & Littlebridge & Mr Carden.}

3. From the Surgeon-General's letter it ^{The whole case seems to} ^{be reasonable and a first-rate} ^{be a summary.} ^{RA} ^{8/2/95}

It appears that it is only in the Vizagapatam System, the General Hospital, the Dying in Hospital & the Ophthalmic Hospital that the new rules have been intelligently carried out. The testimony as to the success of the new system in these institutions is clear.

4. The following table shows the average daily cost per head of rations in the case of natives in these institutions:-

	1890-91	1891-92	1892-93	1893-94
General Hospital	Rs. 4.0	Rs. 4 1/4	Rs. 4 1/2	Rs. 4 1/3
Dying in Hospital	3.4	3 10	3 8	3 9
Ophthalmic Hspl	3.6	3 5	3 10	3 8
Vizagapatam System	1.4	1 8	1 10	1.6

Instituting a comparison between the year 1890-91 & 1893-94 when the new system may be said to have been in full swing, there is not much variation in the cost of dieting. Prices generally have however risen during the intervening period. Rice for instance - one large dieting constituent averaged 15.8 aers per mace in Vizagapatam in 1890-91, & only 12.9 aers in 1893 - an increase of nearly 23 per cent.

Pices in Madras have been much more stationary, but the Surgeon-

General's statement shows that in 1893-94 the price paid for rice in the three Madras

institutions mentioned above averaged 1 anna per lb. against 9 pices in 1890-91. The price paid for every other

article of diet specified by him in those institutions has risen in the same period

yet the daily average cost of dieting has fallen. The explanation of this I suppose

is that ^{nevertheless the} ^{cost has been reduced} ^{why not the Hospital?} ^{RA}

on the contrary it has risen in every case ^{in the} ^{to itself} ^{shows} ^{RA} ^{4-1 1/2} ^{4-1 1/2} ^{3.9} ^{3.4} ^{3.8} ^{3.4}

entirely, that it is satisfactory to note that in the few institutions where the system was really introduced the results were good. - It does not seem that any further steps can be taken at present. H.S.G.

$\frac{2}{3-2}$

Whereas a weak officer has been at-

the head of affairs the contract system has survived. It seems reasonable to think it would be in many respects to many articles of which pay of the S.G. or one Officer say the the Principal Med Officer of the General Hospital responsible in place - for the purchase of these for the purchase of these and then divided the supply between the different Med institutions in Madras. well, say the Officer says that a such idea could surely be bought in one lot and divided. A seller surely would let me have 5 lbs. of tea much cheaper than he would say 50 lbs. so too in the case of anything else which I saw he bought in bulk. Another plan would be to let the Capt. of the Madras Regt. on when purchasing for his own use. distribution could then be made when taking delivery from the vendor.

Apparently one of the effects of having in the head the thought of purchasing the contract system has been that the quality of the articles supplied has improved. This is what S. Branstetter told me. He said that there was practically no saving as to price per lot but that buying was far better than in the contract days. He is now in strong favour of the purchase system as he was when it was introduced against the

Dieting system Hospital & Dispensary

Immediately if any such scheme as this would work. The doctor selected

H.M. For orders. As a buyer would naturally agree that he was asked to do what was not his business, & I think he would so argue rightly. It is rather a stretch of authority to make doctors responsible for the supplies of their own hospitals, where for other men's hospitals. If the Jail Capt. was employed as purveyor, how long so it be before the two departments came to a head?

H.S.

From

No.

Note for C.S.

Dated

189

FOR ORDERS.

Please see H.M.'s note of 8th inst. H.M. has remarked that the papers were "not sent up in a satisfactory manner"; some explanation is therefore due from the writer of the note for order.

2. The first fault pointed out is that the file was incomplete. It is not stated in what respect the file was incomplete but I gather from H.M.'s remarks that he refers to the absence of G.O. of Nov. 6th 1891, No. 2286. If so, it is respectfully submitted that this order was in the file when sent up by me to C.S., & when received back from circulation. It is the reverse of Mr. Candover's report on Jail administration in Madras published in book form with the report, & it is conjectured that H.M. overlooked its presence as - being in book form - it was probably at the bottom of the file instead of in between docket G.O.'s of July 91 & May 92. The size of the book rendered this disarrangement desirable.

3. The second fault to which attention is drawn is the omission to give a history of the case. It is respectfully submitted that no history of the case was given, because it was thought that H.M. merely wanted a brief statement of the results of the

It was in the file when it left me.

Quite so. How was I to know that the G.O. was in the book? I see now the fault is stated on the cover. But small print of the envelope notice.

system as contrasted with the old. - The current, as was stated, was the reply to G.O. of 12 February 1894 No. 326. The information was called for merely in order to answer the question implied in H.H.'s note in that order vizt.

"I suppose the general results (including cost of add^d establishments) of the new system of supply to jails, Hospitals &c has been summed up somewhere. If so, I should like the results as compared with the old system to be briefly stated."

This is the whole history of the genesis of the current, & it is submitted with the difference that it was a history of the changes of the system of supply to hospitals ~~would have~~ under the circumstances been out of place; as H.H. had only asked for a brief statement of the results of the two systems.

~~Had it been~~
4. The third defect in the note is that "no attempt was made to bring out the weak points of the P.G.'s case by a comparison either with price lists or with Mr. Carde's report of G.O. 1280." 25-5-94

It is respectfully submitted that no general or exhaustive comparison was attempted for three reasons - as stated in various parts of the note vizt.

(i) No satisfactory means of testing the fairness of the Dieting rates mentioned by the Surgeon General was available (vide para 1. of the note). It will be seen that the articles for which the prices were given are coffee, rice, arrow-root, salt, chickens, milk & mutton. The price lists available do not show coffee, arrow-root, chickens, milk or mutton. Salt is an almost inappreciable element

Dieting system in
hospitals

yes, if satisfactory results had been disclosed as in the case of the jails - no, otherwise, for it has been evident that the matter could not have been allowed to drop.

What is now wanted, I think, is a clear statement of (1) the system in force before May 1892, (2) the system now in force, (3) the date of the change, (4) explanation of any delay there may have been. I cannot see any want of change in the P.G. of May 92 and as for that of Nov. 91 the S.G. had it - Why did he not communicate it to the officers concerned? That is the question. The old system was that characterized as the worst form of contract. The question is, in what way does the present system differ from it? Very little, I think. While the leaf of the Gazette put up, from which it appears that groups are now given on contract - But this is the old system in essence, the only difference being that there are now several contractors to be satisfied, instead of only one. All these points should be dwelt upon - also the

No.

From

Dated

189 ,

FOR ORDERS.

S.G. Mr. D. be asked why Mr. Gadsden's Rajahmundry system was not introduced & show it is that while the jails show ~~undecrease~~ in the cost hospitals show the reverse.

So far as I can see, the orders of Mr. D. have been simply neglected by the doctors & are being neglected even now.

I should say the papers afforded quite a sufficient foundation for some very unpleasant criticism, if Mr. D. had gone into them - I hope someone may now be found who will prove competent to undertake this task.

R.D.

2/3/95

as to cost of dieting, & as regards rice the Surgeon General does not state whether first or second sort rice is supplied. For these reasons a detailed comparison with price lists was it is submitted impossible.

(ii) The contract system having in many of the hospitals ^{been} allowed to remain in existence, a general comparison would have been fallacious (vide para 2 of the note ad finem). The Surgeon General himself says "it is quite clear to me that many of the responsible medical officers ... were working a system which was only the old contract one veiled under a new name. For this reason four institutions were selected in which the new system had apparently had a fair trial, & a brief comparison of the results therein was made in the note. The comparison was for the reasons above necessarily defective; & a careless mistake was made as pointed out by Mr. D. The word "fallen" in the penultimate sentence of para 4 of the note should have been replaced by "remained nearly stationary".

(iii) The Surgeon General did not state the exact period from which the new system was introduced, & gave no information as to the staple hospital diet, or the market prices of the articles comprising diet. (para 5 of the note). The order authorizing

the new system was passed in May 1892
but the Surgeon-General has never (I think)
stated when effect was given to it.

So much for a comparison with
price lists; it now remains to explain
why no comparison was made with
Mr Cardew's report on G.O. No 1280
of 22 May 1892. - As has already been
stated, a general comparison would
have been fallacious; the only fair
comparison possible ~~would~~ must have
dealt ^{merely} ~~only~~ with the four institutions
selected by me in para. 3 of the note.
Rice, milk, chicken mutton & arrow-
root are the articles forming presumably
the staple of the diet of patients in these
hospitals. Rice is the staple of the
convicts mentioned in Mr Cardew's
report. A comparison of the relative cost
of feeding hospital patients & convicts
would therefore have been altogether
fallacious, unless allowance had been
made for the relative ^{market} prices of the various
articles of diet. Information to enable
me to calculate this allowance was
altogether wanting & no comparison of the
description was therefore attempted.

5. It is hoped that C.S. will consider
the explanation satisfactory; & submit
it to H.M. if he considers it necessary or
desirable to do so.

6. With reference to H.M.'s direction that
the whole case should be re-examined
& a fresh note sent up, it is requested that
C.S. will approve of my transferring the
case to the Public Department. - The
information, it is true, was called for in
Judicial P.O., but the subject - hospital
- long to 'Public', & the paper should

No.

From

Dated

189 ,

FOR ORDERS.

properly speaking have been dealt
with there, except as regards the case
of the lunatic asylums Madras, ^{Batavia} & Ceylon.
The S.P. states that the new system
was not fully adopted till June 1894
in the Madras Asylum; no comparison
is therefore possible in this case. The
Batavia asylum has already been dealt
with as far as possible in the ^{former} note, &
the Surgeon-General appears, by inference,
to state that the new rules were
not carried out intelligently in the
Colical Asylum.

In asking that the paper should be
transferred to 'Public' I do not wish
to hinder work; but as I understand
H.M. to wish the system now in force
to be explained & some history of the various
changes to be given, I submit that it is
desirable that the subject should be
dealt with by the Department which
issued the orders regulating the system.

6. In conclusion I have to express my
regret that the matter note did not explain
the Surgeon-General's allusions, & deal with
the whole subject more fully. It was ~~due~~
to incompleteness of the information sup-
plied, which led me to the conclusion that
it would be waste of labour to deal with
the subject in detail until the receipt

In further report showing the results following on the introduction of the uniform set of rules now being drawn up by the I.C.C.'s committee. I regarded the paper as nothing more than an interim report & for that reason dealt with it briefly, deeming it desirable to postpone further scrutiny until more reliable statistics were available.

2
10-2-95

Submitted to H.C. in accordance with Mr. Dantons request.

I ought to have noticed the inconsistency of Mr. Dantons remark about the ^{fact} of duty having fallen. But I rectified this regard to H.C.'s remark on my note. I submit that it would not give any more trouble to a doctor to arrange for buying ^{five} 3 tons of rice than it would be to do so for 2 tons. Why I suggested the plan was because the larger the quantity bought by one person the cheaper the rate.

My reason for suggesting the Fifth of the Distribution was that he is in a position to watch the market rates closely & is accustomed to buying and that he has worked the Singapore system successfully & would probably make much better terms for the doctors than they can now obtain.

12
11/2/95

Dating system in
Hospitals

C.S.

Submitting an explanation

Transferred with notes in original to the Public Department for future action.

(By order)
Colonel Dantons
of War Office
4. 3-95

Note

These facts show the papers to C.S. & the transfer is made under his instructions.

for further report showing the results

1/9]
100-13-1-95.

Current No.

DEPARTMENT.

From

The Just. Dept

No.

Dated 4.3.95

Received 4/3

Recd 5/3

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Transf. papers relating to
the dieting system in Presy
of Hospitals & Lunatic Asylums

Public Dept
Current 724

In 1887-88 the system of supply
of articles of diet was by contract for
articles in bulk, to be supplied in
such quantities as might be required
daily. That is to say the probable
amount of each article required during
the year was tendered for, delivery to
be daily or as required. In connection
with this daily system, each hospital
maintained an indent book in which
demands were entered for the Contracted
guidance.

The C.S. thinks that we may
wait for the report of the Committee
mentioned in para 3 of the S.G.'s
letter (the current) as having been
appointed by him, & may then
dispose of the whole matter in one
G.O. - I have no objection, if my
Hon. Colleagues agree with the
C.S. - It seems to me however, that
we have two matters to dispose of,
which may as well be kept separ-
ate, that is, the report of the
past & the rules for the future;
and ~~that~~ that we may therefore
as well deal at once with the
past.

Amplified materials we on
record & unable as to do so.
I have spent a long time over it.

A is nearly double B.
C " more than " "
D } both more than double E
7 }
and this has apparently been
going on for years, unchecked by the
doctors.

2. The question of the supply
of diets was first raised in connec-
tion with "diet scales" - attention is
invited to G.O. No. 1 of 1st January
1889. At page 6 it is shown that the
average cost of diets in 1887-88 was
as follows:-

	Europeans		Natives	
	as.	ps.	as.	ps.
General Hospital.....	A 10	1½	D 5	4
Women & Children's Hospital.	7	0	3	7
Opthalmic Hospital.....	7	6½	3	10
Lying-in-Hospital.....	6	4	3	3
Lunatic Asylum.....	B 5	10½	E 2	7½
Leper Hospital.....	8	8	2	17
Lock Hospital.....	C 12	4	F 6	10

These

These figures showed that the following increases in cost had taken place during the preceding five years:-

Europeans.

- 5½ pies in the General Hospital.
- 3 annas in the Leper Hospital.
- 2 annas & 2 pies in the Lock Hospital.

Natives.

- 7½ pies in the General Hospital.
- 5 pies in the Women & Children's Hospital.
- 4 pies in the Lying-in-Hospital.
- 3 pies in the Leper Hospital.
- 1 anna & 8 pies in the Lock Hospital.

Careful investigation elicited the fact that the increases were not due to a rise in prices. The main cause was the constant resort to articles known as "extras". These were outside the ordinary diet scales and were of course more expensive. It is an extraordinary fact that in those days a special case might be dieted on extras only and yet it had to be placed on a formal scale of ordinary diet as well, the articles of which were supplied daily and disposed of by some one else. Thus the cost of dieting a European per diem in the General Hospital was 10 annas 1½ pies, which was made up of; ordinary

diet

* this file (I have been much aided by this & the C.S.'s note in doing so), I have come to the distinct conclusion that the late S.G. & the Med. officers in charge of Med. institutions in Madras ~~had~~ set themselves to disobey the Govt. order of May 13, 1892, No. 330. That order is happily clear, especially when viewed in connection with previous pronouncements by Govt. of the policy it desired to be followed. It had not been clear, Govt. C? not, I think, for a moment have objected to respectful enquiries as to points on which genuine doubts were felt. But I do not find any respectful enquiries - I find, instead, captions of impertinent criticisms, which the S.G. has embodied in his ~~letter~~ forwarded with his letters & which he has ~~adopted~~ endorsed & adopted; and I find that, while professing to carry out the orders of Govt., officers have not scrupled to disregard them. In some cases, this may have been from want of comprehension though I really do not think that such officers as those who were in charge of our Pest Hospitals can genuinely have been in doubt as to the order of Govt. If they had been, they would have asked for a solution of their doubts - Certainly, it cannot be supposed that an officer in Dr. Price's high

position was unable to understand the meaning of the G.O. of May, 1892. The way in which he writes seems to show that he would not understand it. The action he has already taken towards carrying it out also shows that he understood it well enough, for though he has not entirely ~~as~~ carried out the G.O., or had much success (so far as economy goes) in what he has already done towards carrying it out, I think it to be a fact that he has spent much time & trouble over this question of hospital supplies. In fact, I should not feel disposed to quarrel with him much, but for the inordinately way in which he has written, for I am willing to make a liberal allowance for Med. officers called upon to undertake duties which are new to them, & which I daresay they find harassing & difficult. The person most to blame for the past seems to me to have been the late S.G. - If he had set himself to see the order of Govt. carried out, much more might have been accomplished by this time than has been accomplished. He has retired, however, so more need be said about him.

As to the present S.G., he is clearly responsible for sending on Dr. Price's letters & should be censured accordingly.

diet 4-2½ and extras 5-11. The Lock Hospital was still worse for the ordinary diet was but 4 annas and the extras 8 annas and 4 pies.

4. A Committee was appointed by the Surgeon-General to enquire into the matter and their recommendations in regard to the new scales of diet, doing away with the rule that extras could be issued only in addition to an ordinary diet, &c. were accepted by Government as an experimental measure in G.O. No. 1, dated 1st January 1889, in which it was remarked that contract rates "per diet" should never be allowed, in other words there should always be a separate rate for each article of diet.

5. G.O. dated 11th June 1890, No. 423, contains the report on the experimental diets. The result showed that the new scale had been fairly successful, but the diet scheme for natives required reconsideration. The Surgeon General suggested a financial return of the results and a Committee of officers to consider what change, if any, was called for. In reply to a reference the Surgeon General reported

- (1) that the tenders called for in any institution were for each separate ingredient

entering into the diet.

(2) The tender embraced the supply of more than one article.

(3) The diet scales represented issues by the hospital staff from articles of ingredients supplied from time to time by the contractor according to requirements.

The Surgeon General's proposals were sanctioned by Government with the remark that it was evident the old contract system was maintained, if not in the form of a rate per diet, at least in a form which maintained all its evils. To quote from paragraph 2 of the G.O. (433 of 1890) "The contractors are to supply day by day each

"ingredient at a certain rate and the supplies are made by the contractors in small quantities. There is no buying in bulk, at times when articles are cheap; no storing and issuing as required by the hospital staff. The contractors' profits are in no way reduced, but merely split up. Until the daily contract system is completely given up no substantial reduction in cost will be effected. The results of the experiment are consequently disappointing:-

I don't think that, as his predecessor did, he has set himself to disobey the order of May, 1892, but he has not shown that alacrity & determination to see it carried out which I had a right to expect of him, it is difficult to escape from the alternative but in the light of the fact that he has either not made himself conversant with the system laid down by Govt or is ignorant of the systems followed by his subordinates - I am unable to accept the suggestion made in para 14 of the note that possibly his attention has not specially directed to the matter until the receipt of the G.O. of March 7, 1895, for the G.O. of May 25, 1894, should have put him on the qui vive.

I am looking through the papers that in most cases they were considered by two members of Govt. & in at least one case also went before H.E. For this reason, because it is now proposed to ensure by name two med. officers of high position, I think these papers should be circulated.

I may add that I gather from what H.E. noted on one paper that he is not altogether in accord with the policy of G.O. 330. This, however, is not 13.5.92 a matter to be considered at present. I agree that the policy of that order is fair matter for discussion - I begin by doubting its wisdom, though I

how think it was a proper order. But that is not the present question. The present question is whether, the order having been given, the S.G. & his subordinates were at liberty to disregard it & to discuss it in the manner in which Dr. Price has discussed it

Circs. 10/8/95

I quite agree with my Hon. Colleagues as to the late Surgeon General & Doctor Price. The order of 1892 were evidently disapproved of by the Med. Officers whom they affected. The Med. Officers might have pointed out what they considered wrong in the Rules or asked for an explanation and any points they had doubts about, but instead of that they went in for a perfunctory disregard of orders & this was winked at by S.G. de Fabock. No error or be allowed. The observations of the C.S. on Dr. Price's letters must enter my entire account. It is evident that he comprehended the Rules, but did not carry them out completely because they did not accord with his views. He

Hospitals

Cost per diet in 1889 as compared with the previous year.
Increase +
Decrease -

Eye Infirmary.....	+ 1/2 a pie
Lock Hospital.....	- 9 pies
Women and Children's Hosp.	+ 3 1/2 pies
Lying-in-Hospital (Europeans)	+ 5 pies
-----do.----- (Natives)	+ 1 pie
General Hospital (Europeans & Eurasians).....	- 1 anna 3 1/2 pies

6. Meanwhile (G.O. 30th July 1894 No. 1307 Judicial) the question of supplies for Lunatic Asylums had been dealt with. It was remarked that the system in force, viz. that of contract for articles obtained was better than a contract rate per head, but even the former ought only to be adopted for meat and vegetables. "Grain and all other articles which can be bought in large quantities when cheap and stored should in future be obtained by the system of departmental purchase."

7. The financial results of the working of the new scale of diets in Presidency Hospitals are recorded in G.O. dated 22nd May 1891, No. 401. Dr. de Fabock reported that "most of the Medical Officers are against any change in the present system of obtaining

8. The Government in its order No. 403 of the 22nd May 1891, remarked that the results of the working of the new scale of diets

Compare with the excellent results
obtained in the joints in the form of a large
increase of price - vide p. 1280
25.5.94

the grounds on which the opposition is based & put an end to it. S. G.

Pittsford seems to have done what he could, he has directed that the order of last month in future be thoroughly carried out, & he is going

g Does not appear 5 garce of paddy =
what the true price at vizag.
was - But the estimate CNo 16,000 measures
724 shows that in 40 of the
price was 6 paise per lb. as against the
1908-9 price of 10 paise.

to frame a set of rules for the better working of the new system (on report from a Committee now sitting) the necessity for his cordial cooperation with Govt. as expressed in para 25 of the Memo. should be pointed out,

The attitude taken up by Dr. Price is much to be regretted, as is also the tone of his communications to the two Heads of his Dept. It is surprising that Dr. Sibthorpe sh^d. have permitted his subordinate to refer to the orders of Govt. as he has done without rebuke, and it is still more surprising that he should have permitted himself to have sent on the ^{letter} ~~minutes~~ of Dr. Price without remark, and thereby made himself a party to it. For this I certainly consider he should be visited with the displeasure of Govt. It is impossible to attack the late S. G. but I think there is no doubt that he did nothing to further the wishes of Govt. and never mentioned (as far as I can make out) the objections brought forward by Dr. Price immediately after he received the orders of Govt. in May '92 - & which Dr. Price has reproduced in his letter to Dr. Sibthorpe. And very impudent these objections are. If Dr. Price had loyally obeyed the orders of Govt. and pointed out temperately in what respect he considered the orders could not be carried out, there need have been no difficulty - but he set himself to find out frivolous objections, and to raise every kind of absurd difficulty - and to do his utmost to make the rules unworkable. The S. G. is to go down to Madras in connection with the W. & C. Hospital. He should be ordered at the same time to see that the ~~order of Govt.~~ Report of his Committee on this subject is expedited. I sh^d. like to see the G.O. on this current before it goes out.

W
26 Aug

was unsatisfactory, and that they confirmed its previously expressed conclusion that until the daily contract system was abandoned no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. After noticing the reports from the Lunatic Asylum the Government directed "that the daily contract system be discontinued with the least possible delay in Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums and that everything except perishable articles be purchased in bulk and issued as required. For the daily supply at fixed rates of the quantities required of such articles as fresh meat or fish, milk and fresh vegetables, contracts may be allowed, but other articles such as grain of all sorts, oil and condiments should be purchased by tender in bulk, stored, and issued by the officers of the hospitals and asylums, on their own responsibility".

The Surgeon General was directed to formulate proposals showing the cost of the necessary store rooms and storekeepers and to draw up a set of rules in connection with the subject for the ~~subject for the~~ guidance of those concerned.

9. In the following November the Surgeon-General appeared again against ~~these~~ ^{the} orders but was informed that the Government was not prepared to justify them (G.O. 21st November 1891, 984.)

10. G.O. dated 9th December 1891, No. 1025, agreed with the Surgeon-General that tenders for all requirements in hospitals should be invited and adjudicated on by the Principal Officer in charge of the Institution.

11. In further explanation of the orders already issued, the Surgeon-General was informed in G.O. dated 25th February 1892, No. 136 that the intention of Government was that tenders should be called for for a certain quantity of non-perishable articles, the whole to be delivered at once; if ~~there~~ ^{there} was storage capacity for only two months supply that amount should be called for. This was made even clearer by G.O. dated 4th March 1892, No. 144, in which it was directed that the purchases should in all cases be up to the limit of storage capacity.

12. G.O. dated 13th May 1892, No. 330, approved, for issue by the Surgeon-General, rules for the guidance

I agree - I don't think that any ordinary intelligent man, faced as our medical officers must be presumed to be, could fail to understand the orders, if not, provided he tried to do so. Any way, in case of doubt it was my duty to refer the matter to the Surgeon-General.

guidance of the Medical Officers in working the system of departmental supply of articles of diet. These rules were simple, clear and complete. In regard to non-perishable articles it was distinctly laid down that they should be purchased in bulk, that tenders should be invited at a time when the prices were ~~more~~ ^{most} favourable for the supply of such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation available. That the advertisement should call for the delivery of the whole of the quantity of the article required within a specified and an early date.

13. The foregoing is an epitome of the orders which have been issued on the subject of the departmental supply of non-perishable articles of diet; the attached statement, which has been prepared from the files of the Fort St. George Gazette, will show how those orders have been carried out.

14. It will have been gathered from the foregoing facts that the late Surgeon-General was strongly opposed to the change of system and it is equally clear from subsequent events

that he did not insist on Medical Officers carrying out the very explicit instructions issued to them. It is possible that Dr. Sibthorpe's attention had not been specially directed to the matter before the issue of G.O. dated 7th March 1895, No. 165, and it is to be hoped that the new system may at least be given a fair trial.

*Possible - that he received
G.O. 1280 which was a reply to G.O. 346
15.5.94 12.2.94
which was passed on a ref from his own
office -*

15. Attention is now invited to the statement.

16. In the current under disposal the Surgeon-General attempts a comparison between the system prevailing up to 31st March 1892 and "the new departmental system" introduced from then. The latter system as now existing is totally unauthorised - it is not the departmental supply system at all, in fact it is not even a "system" for each Medical Officer prescribes himself as to the conditions of supply he imposes. This is evident from the statement.

17. A perusal of paragraph 3 of the current would by itself lead the reader to suppose that the Surgeon-General was acquainted with the rules and knew exactly in what respects they had not been carried out. He states

states that "the rules have been intelligently carried out in the General, Ophthalmic and Lying-in-Hospital. This statement does not stand verification. Rule 3 in G.O. dated 13th May 1892, No. 330, lays down that tenders for non-perishable articles should be invited at a time when the prices are most favourable for the supply of such quantities as will fill the storage accommodation available, and that the advertisement should call for the delivery of the whole quantity of the article required within a specified early date. Now turn to the statement. The conditions of supply for the General Hospital have not varied during the last four years. The probable quantity of each article required during the first or second half of the official year is notified and the condition is "to be supplied in bulk at any time after the 20th March -----; if more convenient to the contractor he may supply them in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months requirements at a time, payment for each supply soon after receipt? What could possibly be further from the intention of Government ^{or} ~~on~~ the ² latter of the rules

rules? The Medical Officer settles one contract for the six months and leaves it to the contractor to supply as he likes, and yet the Surgeon General finds ground for remarking that "the time of the Medical Officer was well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with these supplies"!

18. The second Institution in which the rules were "intelligently worked" is the Ophthalmic hospital. Please see the statement. At first it was notified that the tender was at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided at least one sixth of the total quantity required was always kept in stock in the hospital store room. This was subsequently modified to a half year's supply, delivery to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk. This "condition" has been regularly repeated, but at page 172 of this year's supply gazette a full year's supply has been advertised for!

19. The third instance of compliance with rules is the Lying-in-Hospital. Here, however, we find that

the

the condition of supply is "in such quantities and at such times as may be required."

20. From the foregoing facts two conclusions may be drawn. Either (1) that the Surgeon General has not read the rules or (2) that he is not acquainted with the system of supply in force in the three Institutions he names.

21. The only satisfactory feature which the statement contains is to be found at the end of it. It will seen that at the Lunatic Asylum Madras, the condition of supply for the current half and ensuing half official year is "within one week of acceptance of tender". This is explained by the Surgeon-General's remarks in the Current under "Lunatic Asylum, Madras," from which it appears that there is now sufficient storage accommodation there for six months supply of non-perishable articles. This coupled with the fact that the whole supply is to be delivered within one week of acceptance of tender shows that this will be the first Institution in which the departmental system will receive a fair trial. It is

perhaps

perhaps advisable not to store in any case more than a six months' supply of any article. The Superintendent of the Asylum right, with advantage, be directed to note carefully the effect of storage on article at the end of each month. This would serve as a guide for the Presidency hospitals.

It seems to depend on times. I believe the general rule is to store a year's supply of such articles as rice — But there is the habit of turning their stores out from time to time and drying them in the sun. MN

22. It appears from the Surgeon General's letter that some attempt at the correct system has been made at the Asylums at Vizagapatam and Calicut. In the former case it is spoken of very highly but not so in the latter. It however had not been properly tried there owing to want of storage accommodation and a store-keeper.

23. It may be confidentially expected that G.O. dated 7th March 1895, No. 165, will lead to closer attention being paid to the rules: and when the particulars of storage accommodation available, which were called for, are forth coming there will be data for a further pronouncement of the wishes of Government in the matter.

24. It should be noted here that paragraph 27 of G.O. 2286, Judl.

dated

dated 6th November 1891, does not

refer to hospitals. It has no bearing on the rules in G.O. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, which are complete in themselves. The Surgeon General complains that no attempt was made in the latter to explain the system. Nothing could be more explicit than the rules, and one perusal of them is sufficient to give a clear idea of the system they govern.

25. The foregoing ~~facts~~ particulars and remarks refer exclusively to the purchase of "non-perishable" articles of diet, but No. 1 of the Rules in G.O. 330 contemplated also a change in the contract system for "perishable" articles. Advertisements should be issued, it laid down, from "time to time," the Medical Officer should fix the duration of contract with the view of obtaining the most advantageous terms e.g. if the state of the market is very favorable the contract should be fixed for a longer period than if prices rule high. An inspection of advertisements shows that contracts for perishable articles are still made for the year. The fact is that to work the new system of

supply

Since rule C No 2116

** Sub-act form.*

supply as the Government wishes it to
be worked ^{would} entail a considerable in-
crease in the non-professional duties
of Medical Officers concerned, which
they are not only loath to undertake
but anxious to avoid. It is however
equally certain that the system can
never be satisfactorily tried until
Medical Officers take a personal in-
terest in the matter, and it is for
the Surgeon-General to awake and
foster that interest and to keep con-
stantly before officers their personal
responsibilities in the matter of
supplies for their hospitals. The
Government look to the Surgeon General
to co-operate with it in the matter.

85

26. The Honorable Member in his note of
the 2nd instant requires a clear
statement of :-

- (1) The system in force before May 1892.
- (2) The system now in force.
- (3) The date of the change.
- (4) Explanation of delay in effecting the change.
- (5) In what way the present system differs from the old.

(1) The system in force before May 1892 was for the Secretary to the Surgeon General to invite tenders for

all

all requirements of all Presidency hospitals and the Lunatic Asylum for a whole year. The Hospitals were divided into three groups and the Asylum formed the fourth. Articles of diet, perishable and non-perishable, bedding and clothing, necessaries and miscellanies were all included in the same tender, which was for a group ^{of hospitals.} The articles were supplied daily as required. The Surgeon General adjudicated on the tenders and the Medical Officers had nothing to do but to state requirements.

(2) The statement attached shows the various systems at present in force. The principal change is that each Medical officer calls for tenders for the requirements of his particular institution. The articles of diet are divided into "perishable" and "non-perishable", and they again are, in some cases, divided into little groups at the discretion of the Medical Officer. Tenders are for groups separately, and, in some cases, even for articles separately. Practically there has been no change in the system of supply of "perishable" articles. A year's probable requirements are advertised and tenders invited for a daily supply as required.

The

The intention of Government, however, was that the duration of the contract should depend on the favourableness or otherwise of the rates tendered. In regard to "non-perishable" articles it was desired that they should be bought in bulk sufficient to fill the storage accommodation available and be renewed from time to time by fresh calls for tenders. Each Medical Officer has apparently followed his own fancy in this matter as will be seen from the statement and the remarks in the earlier portion of this note. The Surgeon General is under the mistaken impression that the rules are being followed in three of the Presidency hospitals but it has already been shown that this is not the case.

(3) The date on which the various changes were made was the 1st April 1892.

(4) No explanation of delay is forthcoming yet. The most charitable course is to take it that the rules have not been understood—but it also seems evident that no effort was made to understand and work them. The

X
reply to G.O. dated 7th March 1895, No. 165 must be awaited. It cannot

but

X This C No 2116 which contains Dr. Price's effusion - The med. officers concerned maintain that they carry out orders, but the note shows above that several - most - of them do not.

but be interesting. The G.O. is too clear for any but a direct answer.

(5) The present system as it should be differs from the old in that each Medical Officer is responsible for the supplies of his own hospital. It is he who calls for tenders and adjudicates on them. Only perishable articles of diet should be supplied daily, and the duration of the contract should be fixed by the Medical Officer with reference to the state of the market and should not be for regular periods as before. Non-perishable articles of diet should be bought in bulk, stored, and issued daily by a store-keeper and not be supplied daily by a contractor. The purchases in bulk should be up to the limit of storage capacity available. It should not be necessary to wait any particular time before calling for fresh tenders. The state of the market should be watched and advantage taken of all favorable opportunities for filling up the stores.

37. The average cost of diets per diem for the last four years for which figures are available is shown below:-

	1890-91				1891-92				1892-93				1893-94			
	Euro-peans.		Natives		Euro-peans.		Natives		Euro-peans.		Natives		Euro-peans.		Natives	
	as:	ps:	as:	ps:	as:	ps:	as:	ps:	as:	ps:	as:	ps:	as:	ps:	as:	ps:
General Hospital.....	7	11	4	0	8	6	4	1 1/4	7	11 1/2	4	1 1/6	8	0 1/2	4	1 1/8
Women & Children's Hosp..	7	10	2	9	7	5	2	3	9	1	3	2	8	0	2	10
Ophthalmic Hospital.....	6	6	3	6	6	5	3	5	6	9	3	10	7	3	3	8
Lying-in Hospital.....	6	11	3	4	7	8	3	10	8	4	3	8	8	9	3	9
Lunatic Asylum.....	"	"	"	"	9	0	6	3	9	11	7	4	10	4	7	2
Leper Hospital.....	7	8	3	3	7	9	3	0	8	3	3	5	8	2	3	4
Voluntary Venereal Hospt.	6	4 1/2	3	4 1/2	5	7 1/2	3	4 1/2	7	6 1/2	3	7	10	3	3	4 1/2

Comparing 1890-91 with 1893-94 it is apparent that there has been an increase in the cost of diets both European and Native at each Institution. The average of all Institutions per annum is appended:-

	Europeans		Natives.	
	as:	ps:	as:	ps:
1890-91.....	7	6 1/4	3	10 1/2
1891-92.....	7	5 1/2	3	9
1892-93.....	8	3	4	2
1893-94.....	8	8	4	0 1/2

It exhibits a marked increase each year under European but no very great variation under Native. The dieting of natives at the Lunatic Asylum costs about double what it does at the Hospitals.

No deductions can be made from the foregoing facts and figures as to

Herein we see an increase to compare with the decrease in the jails - I can only see one reason for this, ~~the~~ i.e., inefficient administration

Of course this is a great improvement on the state of things in 87-88 (see p. 1 of this note) that is, there has been a great improvement on the average. But in several cases the cost has increased though the new system introduced in p.o. 1.1.89 was designed to lead to economy, thus:-

	1887-88	1893-94
Lying in Hosp.	3.3	3.9
Lunatic Asylum	2.7 1/2	7.2 !!
Leper Hospital	2.11	3.4

The above are the figures for natives. There have also been increases for Europeans, but these may be unavoidable, for I believe there is no doubt that European a taker of diet have considerably increased in cost during recent years. They rose a good deal, I know, in 91-92; and I don't think that this figure for the 1893-94 is

Compare these with the jails' figures for the whole Pres of m.p. 3 of 80. $\frac{1280}{25.3.94}$

I really don't see how the S.G. caught over the figures that were given. He must wait to see what sort of a case he makes out. W.

the financial effect of the departmental system, for it has not yet been tried. Besides the increase in the cost of diets the following expenditure was incurred:-

	Store Buildings	Store Establishments.
	Rs.	Rs.
1892-93....	4,958	3,300
1893-94....	9,028	4,108

The expenditure on establishment is of course recurring but if the departmental system is worked intelligently and energetically it is to be hoped that the saving effected will be much larger than the cost of the establishment.

In conclusion, attention is invited to paragraph 4 of letter from the Government of India, No. 690, dated 3rd November 1894 (copy attached) which is still under reference to the Surgeon General.

7.5.13
25.3.95.

10042110
OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
Madras, 4th July 1895.

From
SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL F. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.J.
SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Public DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In the file

With reference to G.O. No 165 of 7th March 1895, I have the honor to report that I called upon the Medical Officers in charge of the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums for explanation for not carrying out the simple rules promulgated with G.O. No 330 of 13 May 1892 Public and now submit a summary of the reports sent in by them together with a copy of the explanation received from the Senior Medical Officer General Hospital.

Superintendent lying-in Hospital. Forwarded a list of articles capable of being stored for a 6 months supply and states that he is not aware of having contravened the orders of Government except in not having called tenders for each article and to do this would not be feasible. Government by

by insisting on obtaining a 6 months supply at a time actually sustaining loss by the deterioration of some articles.

Superintendent Ophthalmic Hospital - States that apparently no explanation is required from this Institution as no advertisement in connection with tenders of supplies appeared in the Gazette of 5 March. He further reports that it has always been the practice to store non-perishable articles in bulk for several months together, that a 6 months supply of non-perishable articles can be stored in this Institution.

Superintendent Voluntary General Hospital - States that it is not his wish to transgress the orders of Government in any way but laid in a 3 months supply in lieu of a 6 months as the store room has capacity for that amount only, however he has now arranged for a 6 months supply.

Superintendent Leper Hospital - States that the rules referred to in the G.O. have been strictly adhered to, as the rates of the non-perishable articles given by the tenderers do not contrast much with those of the market for the past 2 or 3 years, these articles are tendered for 6 months and 3 months supply is received at a time, as the store room

Oil Lamp } Six months supply
" Kerosine } asked for in 2
" Salt Black } instalments.

Oil Gingelly } Six months supply
" Coconut } asked for in monthly
" Firewood } instalments.

room can only hold 3 months supply.
If after 3 months any of these non-perishable articles such as rice &c become cheaper they will be advertised and fresh tenders will be received, otherwise they will be bought from the same Contractor.

Medical Officer Women and Children Hosp - States that the store room is only sufficient to hold a 3 months supply of non-perishable articles and was receiving three months stock at a time, a correction to that effect has been made in the notification published in the Gazette of the 19th March.

Superintendent Lunatic Asylum, Madras - States that the orders of Government regarding obtaining of non-perishable articles in bulk according to storage capacity have been carried out generally with the exceptions noted in the margin. That it has been pointed out that Lamp oil and black salt could not be stored in any large quantity without incurring loss and permission was given to him to use his discretion in the purchase of such articles. Kerosine, Gingelly, & Coconut oil take up a large amount of ground space and as the two latter are paid supply

the loss would result from a storage of 6 months supply of fuel from ravages of white ants.

Superintendent Lunatic Asylum Calicut - States that the supplies of non-perishable articles of diets were originally purchased from tenderers in such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation which is capable of containing about 8 months supply. This course threatened to and did result in a heavy loss. Large wastage amounting to Rs 152.9.0 occurred in several of the articles due to deterioration. Recommends again the continuance of the system of accepting tender for the whole year and taking in supply every two months as the price of articles is high during the monsoons from June to November.

Superintendent Lunatic Asylum Vizagapatam - States that the rules contained in G.O No 330 of 13 May 1892 have been strictly adhered to since August 1892 as might be seen by a reference to the Annual Reports from 1892

2. Copies of Statement of Storage accommodation available in each institution are also enclosed.

3.

the Senior Medical Officer General Hospital. that he considers there is a vast difference between a jail and a hospital and is of opinion that the rules in the G.O are unsuitable for hospitals.

4. As stated in my letter No 38 of the 29th November 1894 I have referred this question amongst other matters to the Special Departmental Committee constituted in August last and therefore abstain from making any comments on the Medical Officers reports. On receipt of the Committees report I shall frame a set of rules for the better working of the present system and submit them for the approval and sanction of Government.

5. The Senior Medical Officer General Hospital who is President of this Committee was directed to submit a copy of the order now under reference to the Committee in order that these proposals might be made in accordance

with

quite

I have the honor to rec,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

C. P. V. T. W. P.

Surgeon Major General

Surgeon General with Govt. of Madras

[Handwritten signature]

[Faint, illegible handwritten text]

Public (1895) DEPARTMENT.

Pub C no 724 of 95
G.O. no 165 of 7-3-95
783 of 22-10-94
330 of 13-5-92
402-3 of 22-5-91

From

SURGN.-MAJOR-GEN. C. SIETHORPE, F.R.C.P.I.,

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

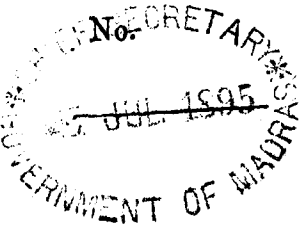
No. 7387

ENCLOSURES.

Dated 4th July 1895.

Received 5th

Recd 2



Subject.

Reports on the storage
accommodation available
for non-perishable articles
of diet in the Presidency
State Hospls & Lunatic
Asylums.

No 117

General Hospital

Madras 24 April 1895

From

Brigade-Surgeon Lieut-Col W. Price, MD
Senior Medical Officer,
General Hospital, Madras.

To

The Secy. to the Surgeon-General
with the Govt. of Madras.
Mungampattu.

Sir,

In reply to your No 117 dated 5th
April 1895 calling for an early reply to
your No 2204 of 12-3-95 forwarding Proceedings
of the Madras Government No 165 dated
7 March 1895 I have the honor to report for
the information of Government that, as
regards the General Hospital, it is not cor-
rect to say that scant attention has been
paid to the wishes of Government regard-
ing the Departmental supply of non-
perishable articles; on the contrary a
great deal of time and attention have
been expended on this subject to the detri-
ment of other and, from a medical point
of view, infinitely more important work.
As regards G.O. dated 13 May 1892 No 3300
the rules therein contained are certainly
simple but they are impracticable and

1st The whole rules are drawn up under the assumption that a fair and honest tender or Contractor can always be obtained. This is by no means the case as the following examples taken from tenders received in this Hospital show.

Names of articles	Refused Tender as P.	Bazaar Rate as P.
Garlic	1 - 6.	1 - 1
Ghee	8 - "	7 - 3
Ginger Dry.	6 - "	3 - 9
Mustard Country.	1 - 6	1 - 4.
Pepper black	6 - "	4 - 2
Poppy Seeds	1 - 6	1 - 3
Turmeric	2 - 3	2 - "
Dry Earth.	6 - "	3 - .

It seems to me a most serious omission that no directions are given as to what ought to be done under these circumstances. At present the work is carried out in this Hospital by utilizing the services of a man as purveyor who buys these necessary articles (for which no fair tender or contract has been obtained) as required, in the Bazaar. The quality of these is checked by the Resident Medical Officer and myself. I also check the prices, the vouchers, and the entries

in the books. This is the plan that I carried out with very good effect in Kellore Jail from April 1885 to February 1889.

2nd In para 4 it states "There should be a separate tender for each article" How is it possible to work this? Take "Mint & Parsley" the quantity used amounts to Rs 1-8-9 in the year, other examples are.

Names of articles	Cost per annum.
Coriander leaves	0 - 0 - 5
Chillies green	0 - 0 - 7
Ginger green	0 - 0 - 1
Spice Powder	3 - 7 - 0
Cocconut	6 - 2 - 4

who can possibly be expected to give a separate tender for such things. Take mangoes and oranges:- who can be expected to give separate tenders for these articles (for a year) at a time when the market rate is favourable." I certainly think that the plan adopted in this Hospital of grouping certain articles of a class under a sub-head much better, as is done in the attached printed Tender form.

4. Instead of ordering each medical
Officer

offer to watch the market it seems to me it would be much better for Govt. to enter into arrangement with a respectable Firm or Broker to watch the market and supply all the Hospitals when the rates are favourable. I did all I could to get large firms to contract or send Tenders. In addition to advertisement in all the local papers calling attention to the detailed advertisement in the Fort Saint George Gazette, I sent lists of articles required to these Chief firms but with exception of spirits, Tea, Bandage Cloth and Soap, I got no tenders from them. It is quite a different thing going to a merchants Establishment examining a quantity of rice, Sugar & tea and making a bid for it on the one hand and on the other asking him to tender a certain sample with the risk of having what he considers the equivalent of that sample refused as is now being done with the rice Contract. Bread, flour & tea I get from the Govt. Bakery; firewood from Forest Department and Furniture, Coconut oil from the jail. As it seems to me it must be to the interest of Govt. to have these departments utilized as far as possible. I might here add that I have

according to Section 311 of Act I of 1884 arranged for the removal of night soil by the Municipality free of charge thus causing a saving of Rs 336/- per Annum.

I have &c
W. Price M.D.
Senior Medl Officer

(b) This Office Minute III No 3268 of 25-3-95 to the Secy. to the Surgeon General with the Govt. of Madras.

With reference to para 5 of minute I, the Sub-Divisional Officer Public Works Department informs me that there are 26,835 cubic feet of storage room available after deducting space for passages &c. This space he tells me is sufficient for storing 4,472 bags of rice which is equal to 6,75,000 lbs.

2. This space, taking the perishable articles mentioned in Appendix of G.O. No 330 dated 13-5-92 in the proportions used, will enable me to stock the following quantities—

Soon as distinct orders have been re-
-ceived on the question now raised.

J. H. Price M.D.

Senior Med. Officer

General Hosp. Madras.

3. I took over charge of the Senior Med. Officers duties in October 1891 and was called upon to put the ideas contained in G.O. No. 402 of 22-5-91 into force on 1st April 92. In my Proposition State-ment of 11-11-91 I asked for a Store-keeper on Rs 60 and an assistant Store-keeper on Rs 25 to help me in this work, but Govt. only allowed me one Store-keeper on Rs 45.

Under the Contract System the Con-tractors had to take care of themselves. Under the Store-System the Stewards Department had to check all the Store-keepers accounts and bills; this threw a very considerable amount of extra work on the Head and Assistant Stewards. To relieve them of the kitchen work, and of going round with the diets, and so to give them time to do their checking work thoroughly I found it necessary on 16th May '92 to appoint

3000 bags of Rice	Rs 15,000	Cinnamon	Rs 3	Salt	Rs 36,000
Almonds	" 240	" 720	Spice	" 120	
Arrowroot	" 108,00	Shall	" 4800	Sugar	" 84,000
Barley	" 6000	Ginger Dry	" 75	Sago	" 1500
Cocoa	" 60	Garlic	" 1500	Tamarind	" 16,800
Coffee (with wastage of Powder)	30,000	Gingelly oil	Rs 6000	Tea	" 3600
Chillies Dry	" 4500	Mustard Seed	Rs 600	Turmeric	" 840
Corn flour	" 240	Pepper	" 4200	Vendium	" 480
Coriander	" 4800	Pappi Seed	" 60		

to 3. Para 2 of the same G.O. tells me that I am to call for tenders to fill the Storage accommodation available, and in para 4 of minute I. I am severely censured for not having carried out "the clear and simple rules issued" in that order "for the guidance of the Medical Officer."

to 4. I wish to be informed now if the Govt. is really in earnest in ordering me to fill up the Storage room available?

to 5. I may mention that on a rough calculation it will be sufficient to last for eight years.

to 6. The explanation called for in para 2 minute II will be sent in as

appoint a Kitchen Steward. As there was no time to get the sanction of Govt., as my previous experience was against the sanction being obtained, and as I saw that the appointment of this man was absolutely necessary to enable the Stewards to have time to do their checking thoroughly I appointed and paid for him myself. In their P. M. G. No 971 of 30-11-93 the Govt. recognized the necessity of this man's appointment and confirmed it, but they not only censured me for appointing the man without sanction, but declined to refund me all the money I had paid him. Seeing that the Govt. practically acknowledged that I was right, both censure and fine seemed to me an unfair return for my efforts to work out an imperfect scheme. In October 1894 it was found necessary to appoint a Copyist to assist in the Stewards Department, this appointment was confirmed in G. O. No 783 of 22-10-94.

4. I may here mention that since August last I have been one of a Committee appointed by the present Surgeon-General to consider this matter of Diets and draw up rules for the working of this

this Store-System. The more we go into the subject the more complicated we found it. It is impossible to draw any useful comparison between a jail, with the regular, simple, fixed diets, and comparatively unfluctuating population, and a large Hospital like this with complicated diets and Extras, and a very fluctuating population. Had a Committee such as that now working been appointed in the first instance, and the change not introduced until a thorough competent working basis had been found, medical officers in charge would have been saved much trouble and anxiety and the Govt. would not have been disappointed.

I have &c
J. H. Price M.D.
Brigade Surgeon Genl. Col.
Senior Medical Officer
General Hosp. Madras.

(True Copies)

C. H. Thorpe
Surgeon-major General
Surgeon General with force of Madras.

Presidency State hospitals. & Lunatic Asylums

Statement showing the Storage accommodation available in

Breadth Area.
Sq. feet

Remarks

Name of Hospital

No of Rooms

For what purpose

Length

20 . . . 1360

This is sufficient to stock a supply of non-perishable articles to last for 5 1/2 years when the Hospital for Women & Children is brought into the West Wing of the Station Hospital

20 . . . 860

20 . . . 460

7 - 6 63 3/4

12 . . . 168

12 . . . 168

12 . . . 168

3247 3/4

12 . . . 564

12 . . . 276

6 12 . . . 174

6 . 6 . 78

1092

20 . . . 200

20 . . . 240

20 . . . 140

20 . . . 240

20 . . . 180

1000

18 . . . 356 2/3

19 . . . 594 1/2

954 3/8

14 . . . 275 1/2

14 . . . 253 3/4

5 . . . 68 1/2

596 3/16

8 . . . 182

6 . . . 136 1/2

318 1/2

20 . . . 830 5/8

24 . . . 830 5/8

13 . . . 245 13/14

15 . . . 839 1/6

2745 31/32

15 . . . 450

306

306

612

17 . . . 306

17 . . . 306

612

17 . . . 306

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C. J. Thompson

C. J. Thompson

Surgeon Major General
Surgeon General with the
Govt of Madras.

3

2

Names of Institutions	1890-91							1891-92							1892-93							1893-94																								
	Rate per							Rate per							Rate per							Rate per.																								
	lbs	lb	lb	lb	No	Pints	lb	lb	lb	lb	No	Pints	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	No	Pints	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	No	Pints	lb	lb																		
	Coffee	Rice	Annur	Salt	Chicken	Milk	Mutton	Coffee	Rice	Annur	Salt	Chicken	Milk	Mutton	Coffee	Rice	Annur	Salt	Chicken	Milk	Mutton	Coffee	Rice	Annur	Salt	Chicken	Milk	Mutton																		
	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A																	
General Hospital Madras	9	8 1/2	9	2	9	1	2	2	5	10	10	2	9	3	1	1	2	7	10	3	3	1	2	6	10	1 1/2	4	9	10	3	3	1	3	2	6											
Lying in Hospital Madras	10	11	10	4	1	3	1	1	2	6	11	11	4	6	1	3	1	2	7	9	9	11	4	8	3	1	3	2	5	10	7	1	6	7	9	3	2	1	3	2	6					
Ophthalmic Hosp. Madras	9	8 1/2	9	2	9	1	2	2	5	10	10	2	9	3	1	1	2	5	11	1	5	9	3	6	1	3	2	8	11	1	4	9	3	6	1	2	2	10								
Voluntary Venereal Hosp. do.	9	6	9	6	9	2	4	1	2	2	10	10	1	9	2	6	1	1	2	2	10	6	1	3	2	6	9	4	1	2	2	4	10	9	11 1/2	4	6	9	3	3	1	2	2	3		
Leper Hosp. Madras	9	6	9	6	9	2	4	1	2	2	10	10	1	9	2	6	1	1	2	2	11	1	1	6	10	3	1	3	2	6	11	11	1	6	10	6	6	1	2 1/2	2	6					
Women & Children do.	10	10	4	1	3	1	1	2	6	11	11	4	6	1	3	1	2	2	7	11	1	3	2	11	3	6	1	4	2	9	11	11 1/2	2	6	9	3	6	1	2	2	6					
Lunatic Asylum do.	9	5	10	2	6	7	3	1	3	2	4	9	8	10 1/2	2	7 1/2	3	1	3	2	3	10	9	1	2	6	9	3	1	2	2	12	1	1/2	2	6	9	3	3	1	2 1/2	2	4 1/2			
do. Calicut	2	9 1/2	9	1	3	9	9	6	9	12	9	10	3	6	9	11	12	10	10	10	3	4	10	10 1/2	13	8	10	3	6	10	3	6	10	3	6	10	3	6	10	3	6	10	3	6		
do. Vizagapatam	6	10	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6	1	1	3	6

Cuddalore
Madras
29 November 1894
D

Chitmore
Surgeon Major-General
Surgeon General with the
Government of Madras

Public Current 2116.

Note for CS.

This current, which is a reply to G.P. 165 of 7th March last, is sub^d in contr: of the long note & statement which was placed on the CS's table on the 25th March last. A considerable amount of spare time was given up to that job as the H.M. wished the matter to be thoroughly looked into.

Please peruse Dr. Price's strongly worded commⁿ attached to the current.

It seems quite useless to issue any further orders in the matter at present. The best course wd. appar-
ently be to wait for the report of the Disfranchise-
ment Com^{tee} by the S.G. in Aug.
last.

7.13
29.7.5.

[G.]
[25.]
and 17-5-95.

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in this note (marked with red tape) in this for orders in C No. 724 on fresh and long note is submitted. This I think covers all the ground indicated by H. I regret that I have delayed so long in sending it on. It came up when I was overwhelmed with other work in Madras and I ordered that it should be sent to me after Govt. moved up here. Since our arrival here the ordinary work has been much in excess of the average and very heavy. It is only now that I am beginning to get abreast of my work things.

The reference to the S.G. directed by this note marked with white tape and blue pencil has not yet been made. It was intended to do this after the fresh note had been disposed of by H. It seems advisable to defer it until the the report of the "Dial Committee" and draft rules which may shortly be received come in. The whole matter could then be treated in one G.O. With this note I submit the replies of the S.G. to G.O. No. 185 dated 7th March last. This gives cover to a very petitioner and not altogether

subordinate letter from Dr. Price on the
subject of the system which Govt. makes
brought into use.

very us.

In his eagerness to find fault Dr.
Price has overlooked the fact that
the rules apply to articles of dist

ing. Bedding & clothing & surgical
dressing cannot certainly come under
within this category nor can

FOR ORDERS.

as far as I can see can contingencies
of what "hospital necessities
and miscellanies" consist of

is nothing to show but from
the list given in the rules

I should say that they do
not include articles of dress.

However the rules show clearly
enough what articles of dress are
and Dr. Price need not have
troubled himself with seeking
to limit the ~~rules~~ as applying
to every sort of hospital supply.

Drugs and spirits and crabs
water are no doubt articles of
dress but their prices fluctuate

but by little if at all all things
are not dependent upon time
the year ~~the~~ their inclusion
from therefore seems to have
been quite proper. This would

have been apparent to Dr. Price
had he taken up the rules

with the intention of carrying them
out to the best of his ability

instead of with an eye to seek
for flaws whenever he could.

The reply to his question as to how
of the rules is obvious - "the
medical officer in charge of the
institution." This is clear from

the rules of Dr. Price had taken
the trouble to read them with but
ordinary attention.

[G.]
[P. 95]
900 5-95.

DEPARTMENT.

C. No.

FOR ORDERS.

I do not know what Dr. Price means
by "3 unworkable". If he alludes to
Rule 3 I do not see why it should
be unworkable. Dr. Price does not
explain why it should be. He is looked
down upon by other officers.

no
his second reading
is imperfect
and unworkable

The rules do not proceed on the assumption
that a "fair and honest tender" will
always be made for the purchase of
the supplies. The Rules do in fact
do not provide for a case where
tender equal to or lower than the
bazaar price is forthcoming but the
main course is for the medical officer
to make a contract with the bazaar
seller who will supply at the bazaar
price. He could surely do that and
nothing else is necessary
to himself.

W

his remarks upon para 4 appear
to be possible. If so little of the
articles mentioned by him is required
he should obviously buy them from
bazaar - no contract is required -
and it is only a preposterous and
stupid man which Dr. Price
is not or one who is helpfully
seeking to find fault who would
advocate that it was.

Of course one cannot expect a contract
for a whole year for materials or supplies
as neither of them - in any case at any

for about 6 1/2 months. But from this
 has to be deducted the amount from which
 was paid by the Government
 about on his leave. As far as I
 recollect the was away for about
 two months, so he apparently paid
 out of his own pocket about Rs. 75-25
 a large amount and I cannot find
 that after the passing of the order from
 the 1st Oct. 1892 as the date from
 which the irregularly entertained hotel
 would be disallowed. As this matter
 moved by in any way recommends
 that order.

FOR ORDERS.

Diet

Hon. H. W. Bliss C. S. S.

4 Circ

Pub 2122298 of 91

No. 690.

FROM

J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E.,
 Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Home Department.
 Medical.

Simla, the 3rd November 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 536 (Public), dated the 23rd July 1894, forwarding a copy of the Annual Returns of the Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Madras Presidency for the year 1893, together with a copy of the Resolution recorded thereon by the Government of Madras.

2. It is satisfactory to find that the total number of patients treated increased from 3,106,386 in 1892 to 3,330,970 in 1893. This number, though it represents a smaller percentage of the population to whom medical relief is afforded than in both the Punjab and Bombay, is only exceeded in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

3. The general charges in the Madras Presidency appear to the Government of India to be somewhat high. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh 3,677,835 patients were treated during the year under review at a total cost of Rs. 6,61,686. Of these 56,650 were indoor patients and 25,997 underwent major operations. In the Madras Presidency, where the number of patients aggregated 3,330,970 with only 39,579 indoor patients and 5,497 major operations, the expenditure was Rs. 8,27,922. The average cost under all heads amounted in the Madras Presidency to Rs. 248-5-0 per 1,000 patients, while in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh it was Rs. 179-9-0, and in the Punjab Rs. 147-5-0.

4. The cost of diet for each patient per annum in the Madras Presidency appears to have been Rs. 57-0-6, as compared with Rs. 25-7-5 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Rs. 26-9-10 in the Punjab, and Rs. 43-11-7 in Bengal. The average diet charges for patients in the Madras Presidency were in excess of those for prisoners in the same Presidency by Rs. 27-11-6 per head. The corresponding excess in Bengal was Rs. 18-10-7, in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Rs. 6-14-5, and in the Punjab Rs. 3-8-10. Persons sick in Hospital have necessarily to be dieted on a more liberal scale than prisoners, but the figures given above seem to indicate that the charges for diet in the Hospitals in Madras are unnecessarily high.

5. The average cost of medicines per patient in Madras is about twice as high as in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, a result which cannot, it would seem, be adequately explained by local differences in price.

6. The cost of establishments in Madras, viz., Rs. 151-4-0 per 1,000 patients, also compares unfavourably with Rs. 94-5-0 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Rs. 88-1-0 in the Punjab.

These charges seem to be unduly swelled owing to the number of Branch Dispensaries, in which accommodation is provided for indoor patients, entailing the maintenance of expensive menial establishments. I am to suggest that it might be considered by the Governor in Council whether the establishments kept up at these Branch Dispensaries are not in some cases maintained on too expensive a scale.

7. The extent to which accommodation for indoor patients is availed of in the Madras Presidency compares unfavourably with the facts in some other Provinces. Only 54 per cent. of the available beds were occupied throughout the year, while in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and Bengal the percentages were 72 and 71 respectively.

8. The total number of patients treated in the Branch Dispensary of Bissemkatak in the Vizagapatam District is returned at 752, but the daily average attendance is shown as 102.26. According to these figures each patient paid on an average 50 visits to the Dispensary. At Nakkapully in the same District there were altogether 1,774 patients and a daily average attendance of 9.20. The accuracy of the figures for Bissemkatak seems doubtful.

Again, the 752 patients treated in the Bissemkatak Dispensary cost Rs. 1,434-5-1, i.e., at the rate of Rs. 1,907 per 1,000 patients, the provincial average being Rs. 248-5. There were only 16 indoor patients here throughout the year, and these figures indicate that each of them was fed in the Hospital for 114 days on the average which seems excessive.

9. I am to request that, with the permission of the Governor in Council, these remarks may be brought to the notice of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. P. HEWETT,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

NOTE FOR THE H.M.

This miss draft ought to have acced the file to the H.M. this morning, but it was unmentioned. adly removed by a clerk in the office. I have only just found it out & hasten to supply the omission.

W.B.

30/9/5

W

1/10

Departmental system
of purchase of articles
of diet in hospitals

W. B. Bliss. c. 9. 2

* H.D. ut C.N. 2116 also been there?

Public Dept.

C.No. 734. 2116

ORDER.

comp In G.O. dated 13th February 1894, No. 836, ^{Judl:} the I.G. of Jails and the Surgeon-General were requested to submit a comparative statement ~~of the cost of the departmental~~ ^{the} including therein expenditure on establishment and buildings, ^{and the} and contract systems of supplying rations in jails and hospitals and Lunatic Asylums, and were informed that if ^{yet} it was impossible ~~to make~~ to make a fair comparison between the two, the fact should be reported. The I.G.'s reply is embodied in G.O. dated 25th May 1894, No. 1380, Judl. It showed that ~~the most~~ excellent results had attended the substitution of the departmental supply for the contract system. For the quinquennium ending 1886, which was the last year in which the contract system was fully ~~in~~ enforced in jails, the average cost per ^{per annum} head was Rs. 35/6, ^{and this} which fell to Rs. 30 for the quinquennium ending 1891. This was ^{later figure} further reduced to Rs. 29/3 ^{for} in the two years 1892 ^{and 1893,} and including extra outlay on establishment and buildings, it was

Approved subject to remarks
alteration below
M

9/9/95

Perhaps we had better see the
hole in print before issue -

11 Sep

10/9

20 #8

calculated that the net saving ~~on~~

~~affected by~~ ^{the} departmental supply system

during the years 1887-98 amounted to Rs. 12,14,68. The Govt. considered that this

was most satisfactory and

reflected great credit upon the offi-

cers of the Jail Dept. and it commended

the figures to the earnest consideration

of the Surgeon-General.

3. The Surgeon-General ^{in his letter}

on the 29th November last in his No.

Tour 4/88 that the result of the sub-

stitution in medical institutions

that the cost of ration alone, ^{omitting from}

of consideration the outlay on

establishments and buildings,

has risen. He submitted the reasons ^{for this result}

given by each medical officer concerned

for this result. The Senior Medical

Officer, General Hospital, considered

the increase in cost to be partly due

to the advance in prices; ^{and that} on the

whole his experience ^{has shown} that the

contract system was the cheaper of the

two. In point of efficiency, however,

he was in favour of the departmental

system as the articles thus procured

^{have been} undoubtedly of better quality.

It is unnecessary to repeat here the

various grounds advanced by the head

Hospital

each institution, but it may be remarked that the Supt. of Lunatic

Asy. Dum, Vizagapatam, reported that no

contracts of any sort ^{have} been given

since 1st August 1893; ^d dry grains ^{had}

been ^{obtained} in bulk through the

Revenue authorities and all other arti-

cles ⁱⁿ purchased by the Hospital

Assistant ⁱⁿ the local market. The

system ^{was} had worked satisfactorily and the

Supt. considered that no one who had any

experience of the two systems of supply

would willingly return to the old one.

3. In his general ^{observations}

on the subject, the Surgeon-General ^{states}

that it is quite clear to him that many

of the responsible medical officers have

not "properly appreciated" the orders of

Govt. in regard to the new departmental

system ^{and} that they ^{have} been working

a system ^{which} was only the old one

veiled under an other name. He has

therefore called their attention to this

and directed that the orders on the sub-

ject should in future be thoroughly

carried out. The Surgeon-General ^{mentions}

that as the result of ^{his} visits to the

hospitals he is convinced that in the

General, Ophthalmic and the Lying-in-

Hospital

where Hospitals the rules have been "intelligently carried out" the supplies are on the whole better; ^{that} the officers have less reason for complaints ^{regarding} about them and ^{that} their time has been well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with the departmental system.

4. ~~From the facts which are at present before it~~ ^{reports that from the facts which are at present before it}, The Govt. is ^{it} altogether unable to agree with the ^{in this view} Surgeon-General that the rules have been intelligently carried out in any institution. Before further commenting ^{point} on ~~these facts~~ ^{will} it may be convenient ^{to} to give a short sketch of the circumstances which led ~~to~~ to the introduction of the departmental system of supply.

In 1887-88 the system of supply of articles of diet was by contract for articles in bulk to be supplied in such quantities as might be required daily; that is to say, the probable amount of each article required during the year was tendered for, delivery to be daily or as ^{called for} required. The question of the supply of diets was

~~raised~~ raised in connection with diet scales (G.O. dated 1st January 1889, No. 1.) ^{the system introduced in} From that G.O. it appears that the average cost of diets in 1887-88 was

as follows.

	Europeans		Natives	
	as.	ps.	as.	ps.
General Hospital	10	1 1/2	5	4
Women & Children's Hospital	7	0	3	7
Ophthalmic Hospital	7	6 1/2	3	10
Lying-in-Hospital	6	4	3	8
Lunatic Asylum	5	10 1/2	3	7
Leper Hospital	8	8	3	11
Lock Hospital	12	4	6	10

^{from the above} It will be seen that the cost of dieting Europeans in the General Hospital was nearly double that in the Lunatic Asylum, while ^{that} in the Lock Hospital was higher still. In regard to the cost of native diets, the average in the General Hospital and Lock Hospital was each more than double ^{that} that in the Lunatic Asylum. ^{accounts} These facts indicate ^{how} ~~the~~ ^{the} supervision on the part of the head of those institutions. The increase in the cost of diets that was taken place during the quinquennium ending 1887-88 were as follows:-

Europeans
 5 1/2 pies in the General Hospital
 3 annas in the Leper Hospital
 3 annas and 3 pies in the Lock Hospital

Natives

7 1/2 pies in the General Hospital

5 pies in the Women & Children's Hospital

4 pies in the Living-in-Hospital

3 pies in the Leper Hospital.

1 anna and 8 pies in the Lock Hospital.

6. Careful investigation

elicited the fact that the increases

were not due to a rise in prices. The

main cause was the constant resort

to articles known as extras.

These were outside the ordinary diet scales

and were more expensive.

It was an extraordinary fact that although

a special scale might be made for

extras, yet it had to be placed

on a former scale of ordinary diet as

well, the articles of which were sup-

plied daily and disposed of otherwise.

Thus the cost of dieting a European

per diem in the Lock Hospital was

10 annas 1 pie, which was made up of

ordinary diet 4-2 and extras 5-11.

In the Lock Hospital the cost of ordi-

nary diet was 4 annas while the extra

averaged 8 annas and 4 pies.

7. A Committee was appointed

to enquire into the

matter and their recommendations in

regard to the new scale of diet, doing

away with the rule that extras could be

issued only in addition to an ordinary

*Even though a patient
might be placed on his own
diet he should be placed under the same
rule.*

*It is a good rule and should be
adopted in all hospitals and
it should be placed in the
rule book.*

12/38
diet, etc. were accepted by Govt., as an
experimental measure, in G.O. dated
1st June 1889, No. 1, in which the opportunity
was taken to remark that contract
rates "per diet" should never be allowed;
in other words that there should always
be a separate rate for each article of
a diet.

8. G.O. No. 423, dated 11th
June 1890 contains a report on the
experimental diets from which it was
evident that the old contract system
was ~~continued~~ if not in the form of a
rate per diet, at least in a form which
maintained all its evils. The Govt.
remarked that there was no buying in
bulk at times when articles were cheap,
no storing and issuing as required by
the Hospital staff, and that it was clear that
until the daily contract system was
completely given up, no substantial
reduction in cost would be effected.
The cost per diet in 1889 as compared
with the previous year was as follows.

Hospitals	Increase + Decrease
Opthalmic Hospital	
Eye Infirmary	+ 1/2 a pie
Lock Hospital	- 9 pies
Women and Children's Hospital	+ 3 1/2 pies
Lying-in-Hospital (Europeans)	+ 5 pies
-----do----- (Natives)	+ 1 pie
General Hospital (Europeans & Eurasians)	- 1 anna 2 1/4 pi

9. *The financial results of the*
working of the new scales of diets in the
Presy. Hospitals *are* recorded in G.O.
dated 22nd May 1891, No. 402. Surgeon-
Major General *DeFabeck* reported that
most of the medical officers were against
any change in the system of obtaining
supplies by contract and that he concurred
with them. The Supt. of the Lunatic
Asylum, Madras, however, stated that as
he had no accommodation for storing
large supplies, he had arranged to buy
grain weekly, and although there had
been a considerable rise in prices, the
result of the 6 months' experi-
ment was a saving of Rs. 178 on the pre-
vious figures. The Govt. was dissatis-
fied with the results *of the new scales* and
of the new scales *and confirmed*
its previously expressed conclusion that
until the daily contract system was
absolutely abandoned no substantial
reduction in cost *would* be effected. It
accordingly directed that the system
should be discontinued with the least
possible delay in Govt. Hospitals and
Lunatic Asylum, and that everything
except perishable articles should be
purchased in bulk and issued as
required

2748
required. *For the daily supply* at
fixed rates of the quantities required
of such articles as fresh meat or fish
milk and fresh vegetables, contracts *might*
be allowed, but other articles such
as grain of all sorts, oil and condiments
should be purchased by tender in bulk
stored and issued by the officers of the
hospitals and asylums on their own res-
ponsibility. The Surgeon-General was
directed to formulate proposals showing
the cost of the necessary store-rooms
and store-keepers and to draw up a set
of rules in connection with the subject
for the guidance of those concerned.

10. In the following November
Surgeon-General *DeFabeck* *appealed against*
these orders, but was informed that the
Govt. was not prepared to modify them.
In G.O. No. 1025, dated 9th December 1891,
the Govt. agreed with that officer that
tenders for all requirements in hospitals
should be invited and adjudicated on by
the *medical* officer in charge of the
institution. In further explanation of
the orders already issued, the Surgeon-
General was informed *by* G.O. No. 136,
dated 25th February 1892, that the inter-
nion of Govt. was that tenders should
be *invited* for a certain quantity
of

of non-perishable articles, the whole
to be delivered at once, ^{but} there was
storage capacity for only two months
supply, that amount should be called
for. This was made ~~even~~ clearer by G.O.
dated 4th March 1892, No. 144, in which
^{it was laid down} it was directed that the purchases
should in all cases be up to the limit
of storage capacity. In G.O. No. 330,
dated 13th May 1892, the Govt. approved
for issue by the Surgeon-General ^{4 rules} rules
for the guidance of medical officers
in working the system of departmental
supply of articles of diet. These rules
were simple, clear and complete. In
regard to non-perishable articles, it
was distinctly laid down that they should
be purchased in bulk, that tenders should
be invited at a time when the prices
were most favourable for the supply
of such quantities as would fill the
storage accommodation available, and
that the advertisement should call
for the delivery of the whole quantity
of the article required within a speci-
fied and ~~an~~ early date.

11. The statement printed
as an appendix to this Proceedings
contains extracts from the Fort St.
George Gazette showing exactly the ^{which}

attention

the attention which has been paid to the
instructions of Govt. by the various
medical officers concerned. It will be
seen from this that the existing system,
if system it can be called, is not the
departmental supply system at all, as each
medical officer has ^{followed his own views} pleased himself as to
the conditions of supply ^{to be} he has imposed.

12. In regard to the three
institutions in which the Surgeon-General
states that the rules have been intelli-
gently carried out, it will be seen that
in the case of the General Hospital the
conditions of supply have not varied
during the past ^{four} years. The probable
quantity of each article required during
the first or second half of the official
year has been notified with the condition
that it ~~was~~ to be supplied in bulk at any
time after the ^{20th March} 20th September, or if
more convenient to the contractor he may
~~supply it~~ in instalments (in advance)
sufficient to meet two months' require-
ments at any time. This indicates that
the medical officer merely settles one
"contract" for a ~~whole~~ half year and leaves
it to the "contractor" to supply the article
as he ^{see, fit} likes. In regard to the Ophthalmic
hospital it appears that it was at first
notified that the tenderer was at liberty

to distribute the supply ^{over} the whole year provided ^{that} at least one sixth of the total quantity required was always kept in stock in the hospital store rooms. This was subsequently modified to ^a half year's supply, delivery to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk. The condition of supply at the Lying-in-Hospital ^{was that it should be} in such quantities and at such times as ^{might} be required.

13. From the foregoing facts the Govt. is forced to one of two conclusions either (1), that the Surgeon-General ^{has made} ~~is not himself acquainted with~~ ^{intrinsically makes of the rules} ~~the rules~~ or (2) that he ~~does not know~~ ^{is not aware of} ~~the nature of the~~ ^{the} system of supply in force in the institutions above referred to.

14. The only satisfactory ^{conclusion about} feature of the statement ^{printed} as an appendix is the condition of supply for the current official year at the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, viz., within one week of acceptance of tender. This is ^{explained as being due to the want of} ~~explained as being due to the want of~~ ^{sufficient accommodation for the storage} ~~sufficient accommodation for the storage~~ ^{of six months' supply of non-perishable} ~~of six months' supply of non-perishable~~ ^{articles. This coupled with the fact} ~~articles. This coupled with the fact~~ ^{that the whole supply is to be deli-} ~~that the whole supply is to be deli-~~ ^{vered within one week of acceptance of} ~~vered within one week of acceptance of~~

This goes to indicate

This goes to indicate

the tender indicates that this will be the first institution in which the departmental supply will receive a fair trial. The Surgeon-General will be requested to direct the Supt. of the Asylum to note carefully the effect of storage ^{on} ~~of~~ each article at the end of each month to serve as a guide for ^{these} ~~the~~ ^{institutions} ~~Hospitals~~ and ^{to} ~~also~~ show how many months' supply of non-perishable articles may be safely laid in without fear of deterioration.

15. In para 4 of his letter of the 29th November, the Surgeon-General ~~complains~~ ^{states} that no attempt was made in G.O. dated 13th ^{May} ~~November~~ 1892, No. 830, to explain the departmental system and that the orders in G.O. dated 6th November 1892, No. 2281, were not communicated to the officers concerned. It may be remarked that para 27 of the G.O. last quoted ~~did not refer~~ ^{did not refer} to Hospitals. In any case, it was communicated to the Surgeon-General and, if necessary, should have been passed on to medical officers by him. His complaint as regards the rules in G.O. dated 13th May 1892, No. 830, is not understood.

^{it appears to be} Nothing could be more explicit ^{than the} ~~than the~~ ^{orders} ~~and~~ ^{and} a careful perusal of them ^{which they relate} ~~which they relate~~ to be quite sufficient to give a clear idea of the system ~~they govern~~. The

Surgeon

Surgeon-General incorrectly uses the terms "contract" and "contractor" in connection with the supply of non-perishable articles. There should be no contract, but merely a tender for a certain quantity at a certain rate for immediate delivery. In this connection the foregoing particulars and remarks refer exclusively to the purchase of non-perishable articles of diet, but No. 1 of the rules in G.O. No. 880 contemplated also a change in the contract system for perishable articles. It lays down that deliveries should be made from time to time and the medical officer should fix the duration of the contract with a view to obtain the most advantageous terms, e.g. if the state of the market is very favourable, the contract should be fixed for a longer period than if prices are high. The particulars in the appendix however show that in some cases contracts for perishable articles are still made for a whole year. It is not possible that this is the result of the rules not being understood. The Govt. is ~~immediately~~ aware that to work the new system of supply in a correct manner

Attention will be directed to para 27 of G.O. No. 880 issued 16.11.91 with the request that the medical officer should be possible to accept for medicinal requisitions similar to that followed by the Government at Rajahmundry.

This will be best, I think

Does this mean that the medical officer should be possible to accept for medicinal requisitions similar to that followed by the Government at Rajahmundry?

The fact however, assured that if properly administered the departmental system will lead to considerable economy in the matter of diet, as well as improvement in the quality of the food themselves and H. 2 in Council looks to the medical officer in charge of the medical hospitals at the Presidency and of the medical Commission to afford a loyal and entire compliance with its orders on this subject and to the steps taken to see that the instructions of Govt. are not disregarded as they have been in the past.

manner entails an addition to the non-pro-
fessional duties of Medical Officers ^{being new to them} and ^{find both harassing and} concerned which they are not only loath to undertake but anxious to avoid. It is

however certain that the departmental system can never be satisfactorily tried until Medical Officers take a personal interest in the matter and it is for the Surgeon-General to awake and foster that interest and to keep constantly before officers their personal responsibilities in the matter of supplies for their hospitals. The Govt. must look to the Surgeon-General to co-operate with it in this matter.

The average cost of diets per diem for the last 4 years for which figures are available is given below:-

	1890-91				1891-92				1892-93				1893-94			
	Euro-peans		Native		Euro-peans		Native		Euro-peans		Native		Euro-peans		Native	
General Hospital	7	4	4	0	8	6	4	0	11	4	4	0	8	0	4	1
Women & Child	7	10	2	0	7	5	2	0	9	11	2	0	8	0	2	10
Ophthalmic Hospital	6	6	3	6	6	5	3	5	6	9	3	10	8	3	8	
Lying-in-Hospital	6	11	3	4	7	8	3	10	8	4	3	8	8	9	3	9
Lunatic Asylum	"	"	"	"	9	0	6	0	9	11	7	4	10	4	1	2
Leper Hospital	7	8	3	3	7	9	3	0	8	3	3	5	8	2	3	4
Voluntary venereal Hos.	6	1/2	3	4 1/2	5	7 1/2	3	1/4	7	6 1/4	3	7	10	3	3	4 1/2

Comparing 1890-91 with 1893-94 it is apparent that there has been an ^{actual} ~~increase~~ in the cost of ^{as regards} ~~diets~~, both European and Native at each institution. The average ^{for the past three years} of all institutions ~~for one steady~~ increase under European diets, but no very great variation under Native. The dieting of Natives at the Lunatic Asylum costs about double what it does at the Hospitals. There has, however, been a great improvement on the state of things in 1887-88, ^{as will be seen from} the statement in para. 5 supra, ^{though in several} ~~in several~~ cases ~~the~~ average cost of native diet has increased ^{whereas} ~~the~~ the new diet scales introduced by G.O. dated 1st January 1889, No. 1, were designed to lead to economy; thus:-

	1887-88	1893-94
Lying-in Hospital	3.3	3.9
Lunatic Asylum	3.7	7.2
Leper Hospital	2.11	2.1

The increase on account of European diet ^{may have been anticipated in advance} ~~on no other basis~~ ^{due to the} ~~in price~~ of articles of European diet. ^{The rise at the Lunatic Asylum is phenomenal, and requires full explanation.} 18. No deductions can be ~~made~~ drawn from the foregoing facts and figures as to the financial effect of the departmental system, for as already shown it ^{is} ~~has not been~~ tried. Besides the increase in the cost of diets the following expenditure

	Europeans	Natives
1887-88	7	5
1892-93	8	1
1893-94	8	4

* Rs. 5,666 expended on buildings in the last dept & Rs. 4,000 on acct of "purveyors". These servants were ^{moreover} ~~entirely~~ dispensed with early in 1891.

expenditure has been incurred.

	Store Buildings Rs.	Store Establishments Rs.
1892-93	1,958	3,300
1893-94	9,028	4,108

^{This compares unfavourably with} 19. In G.O. No. 165, dated 7th March 1895, ^{the} attention of the Surgeon-General was directed to certain advertisements in the Gazette for articles of Hospital diet and supplies. It was pointed out to him that the instructions contained in the ~~advertisements~~ were at variance with the rules promulgated in G.O. 380. ^{After} again sketching the departmental system the Govt. expressed its regret that its wishes in the matter had received but scant attention and that the simple and clear rules issued had not been adhered to by Medical Officers. The Surgeon-General was directed to take steps to ensure these being strictly followed in the future, and to call upon the ~~officers~~ ^{officers} responsible to explain why they had hitherto been neglected. He was ~~also~~ ^{also} requested to submit a statement of the storage accommodation available at each of the Presy. Hospitals and Lunatic Asylum and to state ~~how~~ ^{how} many months' supply of non-perishable articles ^{could} ~~be~~ stored.

In his reply No. ^{Tour} 387

of the 4th July, the Surgeon-General submits a summary of the reports received from ~~the~~ Medical Officers, together with a copy of the explanation of the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital. The Govt. does not propose to deal with the individual reports of medical officers who appear to be mostly under the impression that the instructions issued ~~must~~ have been carefully adhered to but will content itself with ^{instructing} ~~directing~~ the Surgeon-General to take such steps as may be necessary for preventing any deviation from the rules in future.

21. Brigade-Surgeon Lt.-Col.

Price's letter however came for more than a passing comment. ~~It contains cautions~~ and impertinent criticisms of orders of Govt. which should never have been submitted to Govt. but which the Surgeon-General has by forwarding endorsed and adopted. The Govt. ^{must} ~~must~~ convey to the Surgeon-General its grave displeasure at the action taken by him. He should ~~not~~ have permitted a subordinate officer to disregard and to discuss distinct orders of Govt. in the manner adopted by Brig.-Surgeon Lt.-Col. Price

and

I submit the following in substitution of what is enclosed in blue pencil bracket. This would appear to be a severe and sufficient censure. I am not certain whether I intended that the portion of his letter marked with blue pencil should be embodied in the G.O. As I am inclined to think that he did not I have omitted it. If I am wrong the remark can come in at the close of the reprimanding portion of this para.

"The Govt. views with much regret and displeasure the conduct of this Officer in having ventured to address to the head of his department a letter so impertinent and captious in tone and so unbecoming and disrespectful in the language as that now placed before it. It is the mark of a weak and

to the Govt. in Council that such a letter should have been addressed a communication from a subordinate Officer referring to the orders of Govt. in the disparaging terms used by Dr. Price to pass without through a severe rebuke and without order for his withdrawal. It is still more surprising that he should have passed such a letter on to Govt. without remark, thus implicitly making himself a party to it."

and apparently approved of by him. It is quite evident that Dr. Price fully comprehended the rules but did not carry them out completely because they did not fall in with his views. He has indulged in criticisms of them which show his determination to make them appear ridiculous and unworkable. The Govt. does not overlook the fact that the Surgeon-General issued a general order to Medical Officers concerned to carry out the particular instructions of Govt., but it cannot altogether absolve him from blame in not having used his personal endeavours and the authority of his position to secure an observance of those instructions. The Govt. cannot understand how the head of a dept. should have permitted his subordinate to refer to orders of Govt. as Dr. Price has done without administering rebuke, and it is still more surprising that Surgeon-General Sibthorpe should have sent on that officer's letter without remark and thereby made himself a party to it. Had Dr. Price loyally obeyed the orders of Govt. and pointed out temperately in what respects he was of opinion they could not be carried out, there would have been no objection

objection

^{action}
objection to his ~~own~~ ^{own} ~~own~~, but he has
deliberately set himself to find out
trivial objections, to raise every
kind of difficulty and to do his utmost
to make the rules unworkable.

23. Brig.-Surgeon Lt.-Col.
Price considers the rules in G.O. 330
imperfect inasmuch as they did not
refer to such articles ^{as} surgical dressings,

bedding and clothing etc. He has
overlooked the fact that those rules
refer exclusively to the purchase of
articles of diet, which the supplies
mentioned by him certainly are not. He
enquires ^{not} who should be the purchasing
officer, as storekeepers have been pro-
hibited from buying articles of diet.
The rules show very clearly that it is
the Medical Officer in charge who
advertises for and adjudicates ^{on} tenders
for non-perishable articles. The rules do

not proceed on the assumption that a
fair and honest tender will always be
made, for they refer to the rejection
of tenders by Medical Officers. It is
true, they do not provide for a case
where no tender equal to or lower
than the bazaar rate is forthcoming.

^{it is obvious that}
In such a case the Medical Officer
should

*that it was unnecessary to
say so in so many words.*

should negotiate with the bazaar seller
who will supply at the lowest price. His
^{deliberate} remarks on rule 4 are merely captious
criticisms. If ^{so} ~~many~~ small quantity of
such articles as ^{mint & parsley} ~~mint & parsley~~ is
required, ^{it} ~~one~~ should be purchased in the
bazaar. A contract for a whole year for
mangoes or oranges is no doubt not feasi-
ble, but it must be possible to come to an
agreement with a vendor at an average
rate for a whole season, taking ^{both} ~~both~~
^{maximum & minimum} ~~the high and low~~ prices into considera-
tion. ~~It is believed that this is what~~
~~is done by private institutions at the~~
~~present time.~~ The Senior Medical Officer
is correct in obtaining supplies where
practicable from Govt. departments or
institutions. It is impossible for Govt.
to issue distinct instructions to meet
every petty case of supply. The Surgeon
General should make enquiries from the
I.G. of Prisons as to how the system is
worked in his dept. It has already been
shown that it has resulted in very large
economies in Jails and it is not apparent
why similar results cannot be secured in
the Medical dept.

23. After showing that there is
^{eight}
accommodation for storing years supply
of non-perishable articles of diet at

the

*[I wd. alter as shown in vol. 10
M]*

in the matter of fresh supply

the General Hospital, Brigade Surgeon

Lieut. Col. Price writes as follows to

the Surgeon-General "I wish to be

informed now if the Govt. is really in

earnest in ordering me to fill up the

storage room available? *[It is in*

possible to characterise such language

and insinuations as less than impudent

and they were apparently meant to be

so. A similar remark would also apply

to other portions of the Senior Medical

~~Officer's communications.~~

~~With advertence to~~

~~Price's remarks in regard to the~~

~~unauthorised employment by him of a~~

~~kitchen steward the Surgeon-General~~

~~will direct his attention to G.O.~~

No. 571, dated 30th Nov. 1893, from

which it will be seen that the in-

regularity of his procedure lay in his

permitting a privately paid individual

to conduct duties on behalf of Govt.

Dr. Price states that there was no

time to obtain previous sanction to

the appointment, which was made on

the 16th May 1892, but he does not

explain how it was that he delayed

until the 16th September of the follow-

ing year before taking steps for

authorising the appointment. The G.O.

quoted accorded sanction with

retrospective

** Submit the subjoined in substitution. It has
have characterised the question as "impudent"
is no doubt it is, but I presume that it was
not intended that this should be said.*

*As Dr. Price has already been censured,
comment upon this is uncalled for
beyond the remark that his language
is on the face of it ~~unbecomingly~~
unbecomingly ~~unbecomingly~~*

*Mistake that he has already
been censured, but in a different
connection. I think I will let
the draft stand. ~~MS~~*

*There is no more in the Draft or in the
Papers to be unnecessarily strong.
Considering the work done Dr.
Price has done for Govt. I think
the pleasure suggested by the G.O.
will do. ~~MS~~*

4

retrospective effect from the 1st October
or more than one year - and no application
for its reconsideration has been received.
25. The report of the Special
Diet Committee appointed by the Surgeon
General will be awaited.

*2013
4.9.5.*

*20
7/9/95*

Note

*Does the H.M. still
desire the S.G. to be asked
why Mr. Adodan's Rajah
mundry system should
not be introduced. It
contemplates a ^{monthly} bazaar
auction, which is perhaps
not suitable to a large
Presytown. para 27 of
G.O. 2286. Serial (the book
coloured book).*

*I don't think it
much matter that to
ask the question can do
harm - I know Mr.
Carter has a good opinion
of Mr. Gadsden as a good
practical man of business
his methods are probably
not far from all right
~~MS~~*

Hosp al	1890-91 74	1894-95	1895-96
	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of dist.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of dist.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of dist.
	of dist per head per year	of dist per head per year	of dist per head per year
	no. po.	no. po.	no. po.

to be a general supply of dist in hospitals

E
Because S.G. has indicated that the report of the Dist. Surgeon will be sent in a few days and this should issue before that.

H.M. and Eric

He
H.C.
H.C.

Send up two proofs of this as soon as possible

John

No 815 Public 1-11

919 2/1/17
10/9 9/1/19

Women and Children's Hospital.	Europeans 7 10 Natives 2 9	Europeans 7 5 Natives 2 3	Pages 422 and 10 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles. 6 months supply "in such quantities as may be required monthly or in bulk"	Europeans 9 1 Natives 3 2	Pages 350 and 1261 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Europeans 8 0 Natives 2 10	Pages 256 and 1374 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Page 347 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.
Leper Hospital.	Europeans 7 8 Natives 3 3	Europeans 7 9 Natives 3 0	Page 269 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles, 1st half year. Probable requirements notified, supply "in such quantity as may be required to supply". Page 1212 of Gazette. 2^d half year; supply "at any time within the above specified period either a portion or whole of the articles as the Superintendent may deem necessary."	Europeans 8 3 Natives 3 5	Pages 196 + 1281 of Gazette. Similar to Second half year of 1892.	Europeans 8 2 Natives 5 6	Pages 187 + 1372 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Page 268 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.
Voluntary Venereal Hospital.	Europeans 6 4 1/2 Natives 3 4 1/2	Europeans 5 7 3/4 Natives 3 4 1/2	Page 356 of Gazette. Supply to be "in such quantities as may be required."	Europeans 7 6 1/4 Natives 3 7	Page 193 of Gazette. The successful tender for non-perishable stores to be at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year. Provided at least one sixth of the total quantity is always kept in stock in the hospital store room.	Europeans 10 3 Natives 3 4 1/2	Page 192 of Gazette. Conditions exactly the same. Although the supplies were for six months only. Page 1401. In this case the successful tender was to be prepared to supply six months supply in full or in portion as demanded.	Page 325 of Gazette. The whole six months supply in full or in portion as demanded.
Lunatic Asylum.	Information not available in hospital records.	Europeans 9 0 Natives 6 3	Pages 126 and 1152 of Gazette. The supply to be "in such quantity as may be required daily or in bulk."	Europeans 9 11 Natives 7 4	Pages 142 + 1228 of Gazette. In such quantities as may be required in bulk.	Europeans 0 4 Natives 7 2	Page 202 of Gazette. In such quantities as may be required in bulk. Page 1345. Within one week of acceptance of tender.	Page 282 of Gazette. No period mentioned. Supply to be "within one week of acceptance of tender."

Hosp. &	1890-91		1891-92		1892-93		1893-94		1894-95		1895-96	
	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per annum	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per annum	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per annum	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per annum	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per annum	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per annum
General Hospitals	(Page 172 et seq of the Gazette show that the system of supply then in force was for the Secretary to the Surgeon-General to call for tenders for supply to all hospitals which were divided into groups: 1. General & Ophthalmic Hosp 2. Lying-in & Children's Hosp 3. Women & Children's and Lying-in Hospitals 4. Lunatic Asylum The articles were to be supplied "in such quantity as may be required daily"	European 7 11 Native 4 0	Exactly the same as in 1890-91 (pages 201 et seq of Gazette of 10 February)									
	Each tender was to be for one of the groups mentioned above, and included all requirements that it was to supply: 1. Diets and Extras 2. Barracks Medicines 3. Hospital Necessaries 4. Bedding & Blankets 5. Hospital Druggists		Pages 261 and 143 of the Gazette. Articles in groups A to F and in sub-groups 1 to 30. Non-perishable. To be supplied in bulk at any time after the 20 th March; if more convenient to the Contractor he may supply them in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months requirements at a time payment for each supply soon after receipt.	European 8 6 Native 4 1 1/2	Pages 190 and 1195 of the Gazette. Conditions the same as in 1892-93.	European 7 11 1/2 Native 4 1 1/2	Pages 245 and 1281 of the Gazette. Conditions the same as in 1892-93 and 1893-94.	European 8 0 6 Native 4 1 1/2	Page 284. Exactly the same as before.			
General Hospital		European 6 6 Native 3 6	Page 164 of Gazette 1 st April 1892. Non-perishable articles. Tenderers at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided at least one sixth of the total quantity required is always kept in stock in the hospital store room. It was subsequently notified that at page 310 of Gazette that the supply of non-perishable articles would be for six months not a year and that half quantities should therefore be tendered for in the second half year (page 1214) delivery was to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk.	European 6 5 Native 3 5	For one year from 1 st April 1892. Non-perishable articles. Tenderers to supply over the year at least one sixth of the total quantity required is always kept in stock in the hospital store room. It was subsequently notified that at page 310 of Gazette that the supply of non-perishable articles would be for six months not a year and that half quantities should therefore be tendered for in the second half year (page 1214) delivery was to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk.	European 6 9 Native 3 10	Page 188 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles to be supplied in such quantities as might be required in bulk. Page 1266. For Rice only "in such quantity and at such times as may be required"	European 7 3 Native 3 8	Page 203 of Gazette. Similar to 1893-94. No calls for tenders for second half year can be traced.	Page 172 of Gazette. Tenders for a full year's supply "to be supplied in such quantities as may be required in bulk from 1 st April 1895 to 31 st March 1896."		
	Ophthalmic Hospital											
Lying-in Hospital		European 6 11 Native 2 4	Page 310 of Gazette. The notices for "various supplies" to be obtained on invitation from the "Sub-Commissioner of Public Works" tenders for non-perishable articles for second half year "in such quantities as may be required"	European 7 8 Native 3 10	notice was for tenders particulars and conditions were given at the office. Subsequently at page 1457 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles to be supplied in such quantity and at such times as may be required	European 8 4 Native 3 8	Pages 312 & 1198 of Gazette. The notices were complete. Non-perishable articles to be supplied in such quantity and at such times as may be required	European 8 9 Native 3 8	Pages 205 & 1310 of Gazette. Similar to 1892-94	Page 220 of Gazette. Similar to 1894-95		

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 29th November 1894, No. 38-Tour-4.

With reference to G.O., dated the 12th February 1894, No. 326, Judicial, I have the honour to submit herewith a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental and contract system of supplies in the Presidency Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums including therein expenditure on establishments and buildings as desired by Government. It should be explained here that the contract system was in force until 31st March 1892 in all the Presidency State hospitals, with the exception of Lunatic Asylums where the purveying system was commenced during 1890-91 and continued until the introduction of the present departmental system.

2. It will be seen from this statement that the cost on rations under the new departmental supply system setting aside the outlay on establishment and buildings is in excess of that under the old contract system to a very slight degree. The reasons of this increase, as explained by the Medical officers concerned, are summarized below.

General Hospital, Madras.—The Senior Medical officer reports that the increase in cost is partly due to the advance in prices in the market of many of the articles, but on the whole the contract system appears by experience to be cheaper than the purchase system. In the point of efficiency, however, he is in favour of the purchase system, as the articles thus procured are undoubtedly of better quality. This he considers the essential point with regard to the sick and the difference in cost he thinks should be disregarded.

Leprosy Hospital.—Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Cook reports that the rates of articles under the departmental system are higher, the reason is the separation of diet articles into two or more groups. By this method the contractor runs the risk of incurring loss if the market rises in any of the articles and therefore fixes a profitable rate to each. Under the old system the contractor fixed lower rates than those in the market to some of the articles with a view to make it good in other articles. Some of the articles, such as sugar, salt, tamarind, rice, &c., which contain moisture lose weight after a period of three or more months' storage, and last year 1,869 lb. of rice had to be written off as wastage as it got damaged.

Surgeon-Major Reeves, Acting Superintendent.—States that the present departmental system is much more expensive than the old contract system, the chief reasons being wastage in storing, additional establishment and often unavoidably high rates; if very large quantities were purchased not at fixed times but when a particular article is cheaper, and also if the articles were purchased in the market by the store-keeper and not through a contractor, the new system would contrast favourably with the old. In another report he says that there is really but little difference, as far as the contract is concerned, between the two systems; formerly non-perishable articles were tendered for one year and supplied daily by a contractor. Now the contract is for six months and the whole supply is stored up at once. Under the new system the contractor receives his money immediately after articles are supplied, not so formerly.

Ophthalmic Hospital.—The Superintendent reports that the increase in the value of the diets may be seen to be due to the rise in value of the chief ingredients of the diets, e.g., coffee, rice and dholl, &c., and the prices of almost all the articles of diet during the two years the departmental system of purchase has been in force have been unusually high owing to unfavourable seasons.

Women and Children Hospital.—The Medical officer in charge writes to say that no supplies are purchased from the local markets, all such articles being taken over from the contractor.

Voluntary Venereal Hospital.—The Superintendent says that the supplies (non-perishable) are purchased for him by a contractor once in every three months, and so far as he could make out the prices are not in excess of the usual market rates.

Lunatic Asylum, Madras.—The Superintendent states that under the new system the expenditure rose on account of wastage, establishment, buildings, contingencies and advanced rates, and a greater loss would probably have occurred if the articles of diets were stocked to the extent of a six months' supply, but no buildings were available until only lately for this purpose. The contract system is after all probably the most economical. In subsequent reports he says that no fair comparison can yet be made between the old and the new system. The completion certificate of the store-room was only signed on the 8th May and the system was not fully adopted till June 1894 and cannot be so until existing contracts terminate. Cost of dieting in 1893-94 was higher than the previous years. Considerable saving will be effected in 1894-95, the amount of which cannot yet be stated.

Lunatic Asylum, Calicut.—The Superintendent reports that the departmental system was carried out, but in the absence of a store-room and a storekeeper only small quantities were purchased at a time and consequently there was not much wastage or dryage. In another report he says there has been no change in the system of contract for perishables. Though there is not much difference in the rates under the old and new system, yet the former, if re-introduced, will be productive of an advantage, in that the cost of wastage and store establishment will be saved. The cost of store establishment and of constructing store godowns were added to the dieting expenses and the total cost in 1893 was more than in 1892, while on the other hand the daily average strength of insanes was much smaller.

Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam.—The Superintendent says that no contracts of any sort is given since 1st August 1892. Dry grains are purchased in bulk through the Revenue authorities of the division and all other articles are purchased by the Hospital Assistant in charge of the Asylum from the local market; he further says that the system has worked satisfactorily and thinks that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old system.

Lying-in Hospital.—The Acting Superintendent, who had only lately taken over charge, states that the rules have been strictly carried out and points out that the expenditure has been somewhat higher on the new system which I know was appreciated by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Branfoot, the permanent incumbent, and who worked it to the best of his ability.

3. *General Remarks.*—From the above remarks it is quite clear to me that many of the responsible Medical officers had not properly appreciated the orders of Government, and that they were working a system which was only the old contract one veiled under a new name. I have called their attention to this and directed that the orders of Government must in future be thoroughly carried out. There is no doubt also that some of them met with great opposition in carrying out the new system. It was altogether a new departure placing such responsibilities on Medical officers' duties that in cases of large institutions take up a great deal of their time which some thought could be better spent on professional work. From my recent visits to the hospitals I am convinced that in the General Hospital, the Ophthalmic Hospital and the Lying-in Hospital, where the rules have been intelligently carried out, the supplies are on the whole better, that Medical officers have less reason for complaints about them, and that the time of the Medical officer was well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with these supplies, the system will be properly appreciated when

all see how much better supplied the sick are. I am also convinced that there is great necessity for some uniform rules to guide Medical officers in making such contracts and of uniformity in the forms submitted to my office in order that the necessary check may be facilitated. With this view I have appointed a Medical Committee* to draw up some rules on the lines of those in force in the Commissariat and Military Accounts Departments. For the information of Medical officers as to the prevailing prices of grains, a copy of the weekly season report is sent to each from my office, and I have circulated comparative statements of the rates which have been accepted for each of the hospitals for the information of all those concerned and for future guidance.

4. It must be remembered that this system was a complete departure from any system of obtaining supplies to which Medical officers had been accustomed. No attempt was made in G.O., dated 13th May 1892, No. 330, Public, to explain the system and the orders in G.O., dated 6th November 1891, No. 2286, Judicial, paragraph 27, were not communicated to the officers concerned. Nor were they aware of the results of the investigations of Drs. Walker and Lethbridge, and Mr. Cardew as regards jail administration in Madras. The subsequent orders threw very little light on the principles on which the change of system was founded.

5. I am confident that the results two years hence will be more reliable and profitable, as Medical officers will then have gained experience in the working of the new system and those disadvantages which have contributed to the rise in expenditure will have disappeared.

6. I enclose, for the information of Government, a comparative statement showing the prices of some of the chief articles of diet during the four years ending with 1893-94.

* Brigade-Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. Price, M.D., President.
Surgeon-Major A. J. Sturmer, } Members.
Do. J. W. Evans, }

Endorsement of the Judicial Department, dated 4th March 1895.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 4th July 1895, No. 387-Tour.

With reference to G.O., No. 165 of 7th March 1895, I have the honour to report that I called upon the Medical officers in charge of the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums for explanation for not carrying out the simple rules promulgated with G.O., No. 330 of 13th May 1892, Public, and now submit a summary of the reports sent in by them, together with a copy of the explanation received from the Senior Medical officer, General Hospital.

Superintendent, Lying-in Hospital—Forwards a list of articles capable of being stored for a six months' supply and states that he is not aware of having contravened the orders of Government except in not having called tenders for each article and to do this would not be feasible. Government by insisting on obtaining a six months' supply at a time actually sustain loss by the deterioration of some articles.

Superintendent, Ophthalmic Hospital—States that apparently no explanation is required from this institution as no advertisement in connection with tenders of supplies appeared in the Gazette of 5th March. He further reports that it has always been the practice to store non-perishable articles in bulk for several months together, that a six months' supply of non-perishable articles can be stored in this institution.

Superintendent, Voluntary Venereal Hospital—States that it is not his wish to traverse the orders of Government in any way, but laid in a three months' supply in lieu of a six months' as the store-room has capacity for that amount only; however, he has now arranged for a six months' supply.

Superintendent, Leper Hospital—States that the rules referred to in the Government order have been strictly adhered to. As the rates of the non-perishable articles given by the tenderers do not contrast much with those of the market for the past two or three years, these articles are tendered for six months', and three months' supply is received at a time as the store-room can only hold a three months' supply. If after three months any of these non-perishable articles, such as rice, &c., become cheaper they will be advertised and fresh tenders will be received, otherwise they will be bought from the same contractor.

Medical Officer, Women and Children Hospital—States that the store-room is only sufficient to hold a three months' supply of non-perishable articles and was receiving three months' stock at a time; a correction to that effect has been made in the notification published in the Gazette of the 19th March.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Madras—States that the orders of Government regarding obtaining of non-perishable articles in bulk according to storage capacity

Oil, lamp.	} Six months' supply asked for in two instalments.	have been carried out generally with the exceptions noted in the margin. That it has been pointed out that lamp oil and black salt could not be stored in any large quantity without incurring loss and permission was given to him to use his discretion in the purchase of such articles.
Salt, black.		
Oil, gingelly.	} Six months' supply asked for in monthly instalments.	
cocanut.		
Firewood.		

Kerosine, gingelly and cocoanut oil take up a large amount of ground space and as the two latter are jail supply, he receives them monthly. A distinct loss would result from a storage of six months' supply of fuel from ravages of white-ants.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Calicut—States that the supplies of non-perishable articles of diets were originally purchased from tenderers in such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation which is capable of containing about eight

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Names.		Total cost on admissions during				Total treated during				Average annual cost per patient treated.				Average daily cost per head during	
		at												1890-91.	
		1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	European.	Native.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	As. P.	As. P.
General Hospital (a)		27,188 0 6	31,927 15 5	30,942 2 2	31,888 13 1	3,877	4,477	4,298	4,793	7 0 3	7 2 1	7 3 2	6 10 5	7 11	4 0
Lying-in Hospital (b)		5,777 5 2	10,553 0 9	12,954 6 2	11,887 4 4	3,964	3,290	3,734	3,787	1 14 2	3 3 4	3 7 6	3 12 9	6 11	3 4
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)		4,892 5 2	5,190 0 10	6,177 3 8	5,455 9 9	1,586	1,696	1,608	1,698	3 1 4	3 0 11	3 13 5	3 3 5	6 6	3 6
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d) ..		4,073 13 9	4,267 4 10	7,725 10 4	6,487 6 4	433	454	596	657	9 6 6	9 7 10	12 15 5	9 14 0	6 4 1/2	3 4 1/2
Leper Hospital (e)		18,089 8 8	20,007 5 6	25,441 8 11	19,261 1 5	417	531	570	497	43 6 1	37 10 10	44 10 2	30 12 1	7 8	3 3
Women and Children Hospital (f) ..		16,280 9 8	15,370 7 4	18,627 15 4	19,534 15 6	3,288	3,795	3,827	3,614	4 15 4	4 0 10	4 13 10	5 6 6	7 10	2 9
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g) ..		29,776 15 10	30,168 1 9	34,781 2 8	38,732 10 3	590	587	608	609	50 7 6	51 6 3	57 3 3	63 9 7	Information not available in the records of the hospital.	
Do.	Calicut (h) ..	6,045 15 7	6,663 7 1	5,388 11 2	5,520 15 1	184	175	162	109	32 13 9	38 1 3	33 4 3	50 10 5	..	2 0
Do.	Vizagapatam (i) ..	1,861 12 10	1,973 6 5	1,619 8 10	1,503 1 0	65	63	57	52	28 10 3	31 5 2	28 6 7	28 14 6	..	1 7

Names.	Average daily cost per head during—cont.				1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.			
	1891-92.		1892-93.											
	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.		
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
General Hospital (a)		8 6	4 1 1/2	7 11 1/2	4 1 1/2	8 0 1/2	4 1 1/2	..	..	705 0 0	996 0 0	..	..	1,056 0 0
Lying-in Hospital (b)		7 8	3 10	8 4	3 5	8 9	3 9	..	..	..	270 0 0	993 0 0	..	360 0 0
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)		6 5	3 5	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	360 0 0
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d) ..		5 7 1/2	3 4 1/2	7 6 1/2	3 7	10 3	3 1 1/2	..	..	3,510 0 0	354 13 5	..	..	360 0 0
Leper Hospital (e)		7 9	3 0	8 3	3 5	8 2	3 4	..	..	125 15 10	360 0 0	..	..	360 0 0
Women and Children Hospital (f) ..		7 5	2 3	9 1	3 2	8 0	2 10	..	..	..	360 0 0	..	..	360 0 0
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g) ..		9 0	6 3	9 11	7 4	10 4	7 2	..	..	463 3 8	360 0 0	..	..	360 0 0
Do.	Calicut (h) ..	..	2 1	..	2 3	..	3 7	..	150 0 0	..	499 0 8	7,000 0 0	1,035 4 0	864 0 0
Do.	Vizagapatam (i) ..	..	1 8	..	1 10	..	1 6	..	1,170 7 7	..	154 3 10	100 0 0	..	240 0 0

• Failure of rain and high price of articles.

(a) First, depends on the length of stay in hospital of patients; second, on the class of patients who happen to stay longest; third, on the fluctuating cost of articles of diet; fourth, on the use of stimulants and extras by individual Medical officer.

(b) Up to 1st January 1891 the cost is only for purely midwifery cases; after that date gynecological cases were admitted, and the diets for European and paying patients has sent up the cost. The rate for diets has also increased.

(c) The increased cost of diets during the year 1892-93 is due to the unusually high prices of articles that prevailed during that year owing to unfavourable seasons.

(d) The increase of expenditure in 1892-93 is due to higher rate of chief diet articles than that of other years.

(e) During the years 1890-91 and 1891-92 the rates of the contract were almost identical and consequently the expenditure fluctuated according to the number treated, the average per head showing a reduction when the number has been great.

(f) The increase in the number of patients for the years 1891-92 and 1892-93 is due to a large number of cholera admissions; there is not much difference in the average annual cost of the four years requiring explanation; it depends on the class of patients, their stay and disease.

(g) Increase in average number of paying patients on special diet, increase in price of rice, &c., a more liberal diet, necessitated by general unhealthiness, increase due to weakly cases being brought on the sick list as soon as possible and substitution of ghee for ginny-oil, extras for labour done by patients, enhanced contract rates. Large amount spent on extras.

(h) The decrease in the number treated in 1892-93 is due to the transfer in August 1892 of all criminal inmates to Madras and in 1893-94 to the absence of such inmates throughout that year. Decrease in cost in 1891-92 was due to the difference in pay and allowance of the Hospital Assistants and to the fact that Asylum clothing was manufactured at the Asylum. In 1892-93 the travelling charges of criminal inmates helped to increase the expenditure, and in 1893-94, as already reported owing to the substitution of ghee for oil and to the entertainment of a storekeeper and to the large wastages, there was a further increase.

(i) (1) The decrease in 1893-94 of total treated is due to the transfer of criminals (13) in August 1892 to the Madras Asylum and to the heavy mortality (8) in the first four months of 1892. (2) The increase in 1892-93 of average annual cost per patient is due to great scarcity owing to the failure of the monsoons of 1891 and to the number of sick in the early months. (3) The decrease in 1893-94 of average annual cost per patient is due to complete introduction of the departmental system of purchase and to the continual efforts made by the Hospital Assistant in charge to effect economy in many ways. (4) A store-room was built at a cost of Rs. 1,324-11-1 commenced and partly paid for in 1891-92, a sum of Rs. 154-3-10 remained was paid in 1892-93. (5) The outlay on store establishment was due to the appointment of a storekeeper on Rs. 20 sanctioned in G.O., dated 22nd May 1891, No. 402, Public. No actual increase was incurred on account of the storekeeper though a sum of Rs. 100 is shown under that heading in 1892-93 and Rs. 240 in 1893-94. What actually occurred was this: The man known as head keeper and writer, whose pay was Rs. 25, was appointed as storekeeper on Rs. 20 and the post of head keeper was abolished.

all see how much better supplied the sick are. I am also convinced that there is great necessity for some uniform rules to guide Medical officers in making such contracts and of uniformity in the forms submitted to my office in order that the necessary check may be facilitated. With this view I

* Brigade-Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. Price, have appointed a Medical Committee* to
M.O., President. draw up some rules on the lines of those
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ation of Medical officers as to the prevailing prices of grains, a copy of the weekly season report is sent to each from my office, and I have circulated comparative statements of the rates which have been accepted for each of the hospitals for the information of all those concerned and for future guidance.

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Superintendent, Ophthalmic Hospital—States that apparently no explanation is required from this institution as no advertisement in connection with tenders of supplies appeared in the Gazette of 5th March. He further reports that it has always been the practice to store non-perishable articles in bulk for several months together, that a six months' supply of non-perishable articles can be stored in this institution.

Superintendent, Voluntary Venereal Hospital—States that it is not his wish to traverse the orders of Government in any way, but laid in a three months' supply in lieu of a six months' as the store-room has capacity for that amount only; however, he has now arranged for a six months' supply.

Superintendent, Leper Hospital—States that the rules referred to in the Government order have been strictly adhered to. As the rates of the non-perishable articles given by the tenderers do not contrast much with those of the market for the past two or three years, these articles are tendered for six months', and three months' supply is received at a time as the store-room can only hold a three months' supply. If after three months any of these non-perishable articles, such as rice, &c., become cheaper, they will be advertised and fresh tenders will be received, otherwise they will be bought from the same contractor.

Medical Officer, Women and Children Hospital—States that the store-room is only sufficient to hold a three months' supply of non-perishable articles and was receiving three months' stock at a time; a correction to that effect has been made in the notification published in the Gazette of the 19th March.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Madras—States that the orders of Government regarding obtaining of non-perishable articles in bulk according to storage capacity have been carried out generally with the exceptions noted in the margin. That it has been pointed out that lamp oil and black salt could not be stored in any large quantity without incurring loss and permission was given to him to use his discretion in the purchase of such articles.

Oil, lamp.	} Six months' supply asked for in two instalments.
" kerosine.	
Salt, black.	} Six months' supply asked for in monthly instalments.
Oil, gingelly.	
" cocoanut.	
Firewood.	

Kerosine, gingelly and cocoanut oil take up a large amount of ground space and as the two latter are jail supply, he receives them monthly. A distinct loss would result from a storage of six months' supply of fuel from ravages of white-ants.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Calicut—States that the supplies of non-perishable articles of diets were originally purchased from tenderers in such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation which is capable of containing about eight

months' supply. This course threatened to and did result in a heavy loss. Large wastage amounting to Rs. 152-9-0 occurred in several of the articles due to deterioration. Recommends again the continuance of the system of accepting tender for the whole year and taking in supply every two months as the price of articles is high during the mon soons from June to November.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam—States that the rules contained in G.O., dated 13th May 1892, No. 330, have been strictly adhered to since August 1892 as might be seen by a reference to the annual reports from 1892.

2. Copies of statement of storage accommodation available in each institution are also enclosed.

3. It will be seen from the letter from the Senior Medical officer, General Hospital, that he considers there is a vast difference between a jail and a hospital, and is of opinion that the rules in the Government Order, are unsuitable for hospitals.

4. As stated in my letter, No. 4-Tour—38 of the 29th November 1894, I have referred this question amongst other matters to the special departmental committee constituted in August last, and therefore abstain from making any comments on the Medical officer's reports. On receipt of the committees report, I shall frame a set of rules for the better working of the present system, and submit them for the approval and sanction of Government.

5. The Senior Medical officer, General Hospital, who is president of this committee, was directed to submit a copy of the order now under reference to the committee, in order that these proposals might be made in accordance with the instructions in it.

ENCLOSURES.

From Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. PRICE, M.D., Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, Madras, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 24th April 1895, No. 117.

In reply to your No. 12-orgl., dated 5th April 1895, calling for an early reply to your No. 2204, dated 12th March 1895, forwarding Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 165, dated 7th March 1895, I have the honour to report for the information of Government, that, as regards the general hospital, it is not correct to say that scant attention has been paid to the wishes of Government regarding the departmental supply of non-perishable articles; on the contrary a great deal of time and attention have been expended on this subject, to the detriment of other and, from a medical point of view, infinitely more important work. As regards G.O., dated 13th May 1892, No. 330, Public, the rules therein contained are certainly simple, but they are impracticable, and quite unsuited for the necessities and practical working of a large hospital like this. Had I simply followed these simple rules, I should certainly have saved myself a very great deal of anxious work, but the result would have been an immense loss to Government and confusion followed by a complete break down in the working of the hospital.

2. The following are copies of letters that I have written to the Surgeon-General on this subject—one in 27th June 1892, and subsequent experience has confirmed my opinion as to the difficulties therein mentioned and shows me several others:—

(a) This office letter No. 1409 of 27th June 1892 to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that it seems to me that the rules issued in G.O., of 13th May 1892, No. 330, Public, are very imperfect and to a great extent unworkable except at a serious loss to Government.

2. Imperfect—

(1) Inasmuch as they leave out entirely—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) miscellaneous articles, | (d) surgical dressings, |
| (b) wines and spirits, | (e) bedding and clothing, |
| (c) aerated waters, | (f) contingencies, |

all these being very important items of hospital expenditure. In this hospital they include the following different articles and cost during 1891-92:—

Names of articles.						Cost.		
Miscellaneous articles—						RS.	A.	P.
(a)	{	Hospital necessities	..	..	..	12,811	0	0
		Hospital miscellanies	..	..	..	1,364	0	0
(b)		Wines and spirits	..	..	..	1,294	2	0
(c)		Aerated waters	..	..	..	751	14	0
(d)		Surgical dressings	..	..	..	118	2	0
(e)		Bedding and clothing	..	..	..	3,041	5	9
(f)		Contingencies	..	..	..	3,128	6	5

(2) In paragraph 6 it is ordered that "storekeepers should have absolutely nothing to do with the purchase of articles." A very good order no doubt, but imperfect as it stands. It is equally necessary to tell us who may buy when occasion necessitates buying.

3. Unworkable—

(1) The whole rules are drawn up under the assumption that a fair and honest tender or contractor can always be obtained. This is by no means the case as the following examples taken from tenders received in this hospital show:—

Names of articles.						Refused tender.		Bazaar rate.	
						A.	P.	A.	P.
Garlic	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	1	1
Ghee	..	..	..	..	..	8	0	7	3
Ginger, dry	..	..	..	..	..	6	0	3	9
Mustard, country	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	1	4
Pepper, black	..	..	..	..	..	6	0	4	2
Poppy-seeds	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	1	3
Turmeric	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	2	0
Dry-earth	..	..	..	..	..	6	0	3	0

It seems to me a most serious omission that no directions are given as to what ought to be done under these circumstances. At present the work is carried out in this hospital by utilizing the services of a man as purveyor who buys these necessary articles (for which no fair tender or contract has been obtained) as required in the bazaar. The quality of these is checked by the Resident Medical officer and myself, I also check the prices, the vouchers and the entries in the books. This is the plan that I carried out with very good effect in Nellore Jail from April 1885 to February 1889.

(2) In paragraph 4 it states "there should be a separate tender for each article." How is it possible to work this? Take "mint and parsley" the quantity used amounts to Rs. 1-8-9 in the year; other examples are—

Names of articles.						Cost per annum.		
						RS.	A.	P.
Coriander leaves	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	5
Chillies, green	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	7
Ginger, green	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	1
Spice, powder	..	..	..	..	..	3	7	0
Cocoanut	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	4

Who can possibly be expected to give a separate tender for such things. Take mangoes and oranges—who can be expected to give separate tenders for these articles (for a year) at a time when the market rate is favourable. "I certainly think that the plan adopted in this hospital of grouping certain articles of a class under a sub-head much better, as is done in the attached printed tender form."

4. Instead of ordering each Medical officer to watch the market it seems to me it would be much better for Government to enter into arrangement with a respectable firm or broker to watch the market and supply all the hospitals when the rates are favourable. I did all I could to get large firms to contract or send tenders. In addition to advertisement in all the local papers calling attention to the detailed advertisement in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, I sent lists of articles required to these chief firms, but with exception of spirits, tea, bandage cloth and soap, I got no tenders from them. It is quite a different thing going to a merchant's establishment examining a quantity of rice, sugar, &c., and making a bid for it on the one hand and on the other asking him to tender a certain sample with the risk of having what he considers the equivalent of that sample refused as is now being done with the rice contract. Bread, flour, &c., I get from the Government bakery; firewood from forest department and furniture, cocoanut oil

from the Jail. As it seems to me it must be to the interest of Government to have these departments utilized as far as possible. I might here add that I have, according to section 311 of Act I of 1884, arranged for the removal of night-soil by the municipality free of charge, thus causing a saving of Rs. 336 per annum.

(b) This office minute III, No. 3268 of 25th March 1895, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

With reference to paragraph 5 of minute I, the Sub-Divisional officer, Public Works Department, informs me that there are 26,835 cubic feet of storage room available after deducting space for passages, &c. This space he tells me is sufficient for storing 4,472 bags of rice which is equal to 675,000 lb.

2. This space, taking the non-perishable articles mentioned in appendix of G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, in the proportions used, will enable me to stock the following quantities:—

	LB.		LB.		LB.
Three thousand bags of rice.	45,000	Cinnamon	3	Salt	36,000
Almonds	240	Cumin seed	720	Spice	120
Arrowroot	10,800	Dhall	4,800	Sugar	84,000
Barley	6,000	Ginger, dry	75	Sago	1,500
Cocoa	60	Garlic	1,500	Tamarind	16,800
			BOTTLES.		
Coffee (with wastage of powder).	30,000	Gingelly oil	6,000	Tea	3,600
			LB.		
Chillies, dry	4,500	Mustard seed	600	Turmeric	840
Corn flour	240	Pepper	4,200	Vendeum	480
Coriander	4,800	Poppy seed	60		

3. Paragraph 2 of the same Government Order tells me that I am to call for tenders to "fill the storage accommodation available," and in paragraph 4 of minute I, I am severely censured for not having carried out "the clear and simple rules issued" in that order "for the guidance of the Medical officer."

4. I wish to be informed now if the Government is really in earnest in ordering me to fill up the storage room available.

5. I may mention that on a rough calculation it will be sufficient to last for eight years.

6. The explanation called for in paragraph 2, minute II, will be sent in as soon as distinct orders have been received on the question now raised.

3. I took over charge of the Senior Medical officer's duties in October 1891 and was called upon to put the ideas contained in G.O., No. 402 of 22nd May 1891, into force on 1st April 1892. In my proposition statement of 11th November 1891, I asked for a storekeeper on Rs. 60 and an assistant storekeeper on Rs. 25 to help me in this work, but Government only allowed me one storekeeper on Rs. 45.

Under the contract system the contractors had to take care of themselves. Under the store-system the Steward's department had to check all the storekeeper's accounts and bills; this threw a very considerable amount of extra work on the Head and Assistant Stewards. To relieve them of the kitchen work and of going round with the diets, and so to give them time to do their checking work thoroughly, I found it necessary, on 16th May 1892, to appoint a kitchen steward. As there was no time to get the sanction of Government as my previous experience was against the sanction being obtained, and as I saw that the appointment of this man was absolutely necessary to enable the stewards to have time to do their checking thoroughly, I appointed and paid for him myself. In their Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 971 of 30th December 1893, the Government recognized the necessity of this man's appointment and confirmed it, but they not only censured me for appointing the man without sanction, but declined to refund me all the money I had paid him. Seeing that the Government practically acknowledged that I was right both censure and fine seemed to me an unfair return for my efforts to work out an imperfect scheme. In October 1894 it was found necessary to appoint a copyist to assist in the Steward's department; this appointment was confirmed in G.O., No. 783 of 22nd October 1894.

4. I may here mention that since August last I have been one of a committee appointed by the present Surgeon-General to consider this matter of diets and draw up rules for the working of this store-system. The more we go into the subject the more complicated we found it. It is impossible to draw any useful comparison between a jail, with the regular, simple, fixed diets, and a comparatively unfluctuating population and a large hospital like this with complicated diets and extras, and a very fluctuating population. Had a committee such as that now working been appointed in the first instance, and the change not introduced until a thorough competent working basis had been found, medical officers in charge would have been saved much trouble and anxiety and the Government would not have been disappointed.

STATEMENT showing the Storage accommodation available in the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

Name of hospitals.	Number of rooms.	For what purpose.	Length.	Breadth.	Area.	Remarks.
			FT. IN.	FT. IN.	SQR. FEET.	
General Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	68 ..	20 ..	1,360	This is sufficient to stock a supply of non-perishable articles to last for 5½ years when the hospital for women and children is brought into the west wing of the station hospital.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	43 ..	20 ..	860	
	1	Do. firewood ..	23 ..	20 ..	460	
	1	Steward liquor, &c., godown.	8 6	7 6	63½	
	1	Storekeeper's godown ..	14 ..	12 ..	168	
	1	Linen clerk's do. ..	14 ..	12 ..	168	
	1	Assistant Surgeon's miscellaneous godown.	14 ..	12 ..	168	
					3,247½	
Lying-in Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	47 ..	12 ..	564	A six months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. firewood, &c.	23 ..	12 ..	276	
	1	Do. straw, &c.,	14 6	12 ..	174	
	1	Do. kerosine oil, &c.	12 ..	6 6	78	
					1,092	
Ophthalmic Hospital ..	1	For storing firewood ..	10 ..	20 ..	200	Do. do.
	1	Do. rice ..	12 ..	20 ..	240	
	1	Do. provisions ..	7 ..	20 ..	140	
	1	Do. do. ..	12 ..	20 ..	240	
	1	Do. do. ..	9 ..	20 ..	180	
					1,000	
Voluntary Venereal Hospital.	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	19 1	18 8	356½	A three months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	31 4	19 1	597½	
					954½	
Leprosy Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	19 ..	14 6	275½	These two rooms hold six months' supply.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	17 6	14 6	253½	
	1	Do. firewood ..	12 9	5 3	66½	
					596½	
Women and Children Hospital.	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	22 9	8 ..	182	A three months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	22 9	6 ..	136½	
					318½	
Lunatic Asylum, Madras.	1	For storing grains, &c. ..	33 6½	24 9	830½	A six months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. grains, &c. ..	33 6½	24 9	830½	
	1	Do. grains (used also as office).	17 10	13 9½	245½	
	1	Do. fuel ..	53 ..	15 10	839½	
					2,745½	
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam.	1	For storing grains, &c. ..	30 ..	15 ..	450	It is hardly enough to store a year's supply, but, when necessary, a part of the office has been used.
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut.	1	For storing grains, &c. ..	18 ..	17 ..	306	A eight months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. do. ..	18 ..	17 ..	306	
					612	

Names of Institutions.	1890-91.							1891-92.						
	Rate per							Rate per						
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	
	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
General Hospital, Madras	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Lying-in Hospital, Madras	9 0	0 8½	2 0	0 9	2 9	1 2	2 5	10 0	0 10	2 0	0 9	3 0	1 1	2 5
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	10 11	0 10	4 0	1 0	3 0	1 1	2 6	11 0	0 11	4 6	1 0	3 0	1 2	2 7
Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Madras.	9 0	0 8½	2 0	0 9	2 9	1 2	2 5	10 0	0 10	2 0	0 9	3 0	1 1	2 5
Leper Hospital, Madras	9 6	0 9	0 6	0 9	2 4	1 0	2 2	10 0	0 10	1 0	0 9	2 6	1 1	2 2
Women and Children Hospital, Madras	9 6	0 9	0 6	0 9	2 4	1 0	2 2	10 0	0 10	1 0	0 9	2 6	1 1	2 2
Lunatic Asylum, Madras	10 0	0 10	4 0	1 0	3 0	1 1	2 6	11 0	0 11	4 6	1 0	3 0	1 2	2 7
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut	9 5	0 10	2 6	0 7	3 0	1 3	2 4	9 8	0 10½	2 0	0 7½	3 0	1 3	2 3
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam	0 2	0 9½	..	0 9	..	1 0	3 9	9 6	0 5	12 0	0 9	..	0 10	3 6
	..	0 6	..	0 10	..	1 0	1 3	..	0 6	..	1 0	..	1 0	1 3

Names of Institutions.	1892-93.							1893-94.						
	Rate per							Rate per						
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	
	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
General Hospital, Madras	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Lying-in Hospital, Madras	9 3	1 1	2 7	0 10	3 3	1 1½	2 6	10 4½	1 4	4 9	0 10	3 3	1 3	2 6
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	9 9	0 11	4 0	0 8	3 0	1 3	2 5	10 7	1 0	6 7	0 9	3 2	1 3	2 6
Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Madras.	11 0	1 1	5 0	0 9	3 6	1 3	2 8	11 0	1 0	4 0	0 9	3 6	1 2	2 10
Leper Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 1	2 6	0 9	4 0	1 2	2 4	10 9	0 11½	4 6	0 9	3 3	1 2	2 3
Women and Children Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 1	1 6	0 10	3 0	1 3	2 6	11 0	0 11	1 6	0 10	6 6	1 2½	2 6
Lunatic Asylum, Madras	11 0	1 3	2 0	0 11	3 6	1 4	2 9	11 0	0 11½	2 6	0 9	3 6	1 2	2 6
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut	10 9	1 0	2 6	0 9	3 0	1 2	2 2	12 0	1 4	2 6	0 9	3 3	1 2½	2 4½
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam	9 0	0 11	12 0	0 10	..	0 10	3 4	10 0	0 10½	13 0	0 8	..	0 10	3 6
	..	0 9½	..	1 0	..	1 0	1 8	..	0 5½	..	0 6½	..	0 10½	1 3½

ORDER—dated 2nd October 1895, No. 875, Judicial.

In G.O., No. 326, Judicial, dated 12th February 1894, the Inspector-General of Jails and the Surgeon-General were requested to submit a comparative statement of the cost of the departmental, including therein expenditure on establishment and buildings, and the contract systems of supplying rations in jails, hospitals and lunatic asylums, and were informed that if it was yet impossible to make a fair comparison between the two systems the fact should be reported. The Inspector-General's reply is embodied in G.O., No. 1280, Judicial, dated 25th May 1894. It showed that excel-

lent results had attended the substitution of the departmental supply for the contract system. For the quinquennium ending 1886, which was the last year in which the contract system was fully in force in jails, the average cost per head per annum was Rs. 35-6-0, and this fell to Rs. 30 for the quinquennium ending 1891. This latter figure was further reduced to Rs. 29-3-0 for the two years 1892 and 1893, and, including extra outlay on establishment and buildings, it was calculated that the net saving effected by the departmental supply system during the years 1887-93 amounted to Rs. 2,91,468. The Government, in its order No. 1280, Judicial, dated 25th May 1894, considered that this was most satisfactory and reflected great credit upon the officers of the Jail department and it commended the figures to the earnest consideration of the Surgeon-General.

2. The Surgeon-General in his letter, No. Tour 4/38, dated 29th November last, states that the result of the substitution of the departmental system in medical institutions has been that the cost of rations alone, omitting from consideration the outlay on establishments and buildings, has risen; he submits the reasons for this result given by each medical officer concerned. The Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, considers the increase in cost to be partly due to the advance in prices; and says that, on the whole, his experience has shown that the contract system was the cheaper of the two. In point of efficiency, however, he is in favour of the departmental system as the articles thus procured have been undoubtedly of better quality. It is unnecessary to repeat here the various grounds advanced by the head of each institution, but it may be remarked that the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam, reports that no contracts of any sort have been given since 1st August 1892, dry grains having been obtained in bulk through the revenue authorities and all other articles purchased by the hospital assistant in the local market. The system is stated to have worked satisfactorily, and the Superintendent considers that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old one.

3. In his general observations on the subject, the Surgeon-General remarks that it is quite clear to him that many of the responsible medical officers have not "properly appreciated" the orders of Government in regard to the new departmental system, and that they have been working a system which was only the old one veiled under another name. He states that he has therefore called their attention to this and directed that the orders on the subject should in future be thoroughly carried out. The Surgeon-General mentions that, as the result of visits to the Presidency hospitals, he is convinced that in the General, Ophthalmic and Lying-in hospitals, where the rules have been "intelligently carried out," the supplies are, on the whole, better; that the officers have less reason for complaints regarding them; and that their time has been well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with the departmental system.

4. The Government regrets that, from the facts which are at present before it, it is altogether unable to agree with the Surgeon-General in the view that the rules have been intelligently carried out in any institution. Before commenting further on this point it will be convenient to give a short sketch of the circumstances which led to the introduction of the departmental system of supply.

5. In 1887-88 the system of supply of articles of diet was by contract for articles in bulk to be supplied in such quantities as might be required daily, that is to say, the probable amount of each article required during the year was tendered for, delivery to be daily or as called for. The question of the supply of diets was raised in connection with diet scales (G.O., No. 1, dated 1st January 1889). From the papers embodied in that Government Order it appears that the average cost of diets in 1887-88 was as follows:—

	Europeans.		Natives.	
	RS.	P.	RS.	A.
General Hospital	10	1 1/2	5	4
Women and Children's Hospital	7	0	3	7
Ophthalmic Hospital	7	6 1/2	3	10
Lying-in Hospital	6	4	3	3
Lunatic Asylum	5	10 1/2	2	7 1/2
Leper Hospital	8	8	2	11
Lock Hospital	12	4	6	10

It will be seen from the above that the cost of dieting Europeans in the General Hospital was nearly double of that in the Lunatic Asylum, while that in the Lock Hospital was higher still. In regard to the cost of native diets, the average in the General Hospital and Lock Hospital was each more than double of that in the Lunatic Asylum. The increases in the cost of diets that had taken place during the quinquennium ending 1887-88 were as follows:—

Europeans—

- 5½ pies in the General Hospital.
- 2 annas in the Leper Hospital.
- 2 annas and 2 pies in the Lock Hospital.

Natives—

- 7½ pies in the General Hospital.
- 5 pies in the Women and Children's Hospital.
- 4 pies in the Lying-in Hospital.
- 3 pies in the Leper Hospital.
- 1 anna and 8 pies in the Lock Hospital.

6. Careful investigation elicited the fact that the increases were not due to a rise in prices. The main cause was the constant resort to articles known as "extras," which were outside the ordinary diet scales and more expensive, even though a patient might be dieted on these alone he had to be placed under the then existing rules on a formal scale of ordinary diet as well, the articles of which were supplied daily and otherwise disposed of. Thus the cost of dieting a European *per diem* in the General Hospital was As. 10-1, which was made up of ordinary diet As. 4-2 and extras As. 5-11; in the Lock Hospital the cost of ordinary diet was As. 4, while the extras averaged As. 8-4.

7. A committee was appointed to enquire into the matter and their recommendations in regard to the new scale of diet, doing away with the rule that "extras" could be issued only in addition to an ordinary diet, &c., were accepted by Government as an experimental measure in the Government Order quoted in paragraph 5 *supra* in which the opportunity was taken to remark that contract rates "*per diet*" should never be allowed; in other words, that there should always be a separate rate for each article constituting a diet.

8. G.O., No. 423, dated 11th June 1890, contains a report on the experimental diets, from which it was evident that the old contract system was continued if not in the form of a rate per diet, at least in a shape which maintained all its evils. The Government remarked that there was no buying in bulk at times when articles were cheap, no storing and issuing as required by the hospital staff, and that it was clear that until the daily contract system was completely given up no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. The cost per diet in 1889 as compared with the previous year was as follows:—

Hospitals.	Increase+	Decrease—
Ophthalmic Hospital	..	.. + ½ a pie.
Lock Hospital	..	.. — 9 pies.
Women and Children's Hospital	..	.. + 2 1/5 pies.
Lying-in Hospital (Europeans)	..	.. + 5 "
Do. (Natives)	..	.. + 1 pie.
General Hospital (Europeans and Eurasians)	..	.. — 1 anna 2 1/4 pies.

9. The financial results of the working of the new scales of diets in the Presidency hospitals are recorded in G.O., No. 402, dated 22nd May 1891. Surgeon Major-General deFabeck in his letter embodied in this reported that most of the medical officers were against any change in the system of obtaining supplies by contract and that he concurred with them. The Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, however, stated that as he had no accommodation for storing large supplies, he had arranged to buy grain weekly, and although there had been a considerable rise in prices, the outcome of an experiment extending over six months was a saving of Rs. 178 on the previous figures. The Government was dissatisfied with the results of the new scales, and the facts brought before it confirmed its previously-expressed conclusion that until the daily contract system was absolutely abandoned no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. It accordingly directed

that the system should be discontinued with the least possible delay in Government hospitals and lunatic asylums and that everything except perishable articles should be purchased in bulk and issued as required. It laid down that the daily supply at fixed rates of the quantities required of such articles as fresh meat or fish, milk and fresh vegetables, contracts might be allowed, but that other articles, such as grain of all sorts, oil and condiments, should be purchased by tender in bulk and stored and issued by the officers of the hospitals and asylums on their own responsibility. The Surgeon-General was directed to formulate proposals showing the cost of the necessary store-rooms and storekeepers and to draw up a set of rules in connection with the subject for the guidance of those concerned.

10. In the following November Surgeon-General deFabeck remonstrated against these orders, but was informed that the Government * was not prepared to modify them. In G.O., No. 1025, dated 9th

December 1891, the Government agreed with that officer that tenders for all requirements in hospitals should be invited and adjudicated on by the medical officer in charge of the institution concerned. In further explanation of the orders already issued, the Surgeon-General was informed by G.O., No. 136, dated 25th February 1892, that the intention of Government was that tenders should be invited for a certain quantity of non-perishable articles, the whole to be delivered at once and that if there was storage capacity for only two months' supply, that amount should be called for. This was made even clearer by G.O., No. 144, dated 4th March 1892, in which it was laid down that the purchases should in all cases be up to the limit or storage capacity. In G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, the Government approved for issue by the Surgeon-General of certain rules for the guidance of medical officers in working the system of departmental supply of articles of diet. These rules were simple, clear and complete. In regard to non-perishable articles, it was distinctly laid down that they should be purchased in bulk, that tenders should be invited at a time when prices were most favourable for the supply of such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation available, and that the advertisement should call for the delivery of the whole quantity of the article required within a specified and early date.

11. The statement printed as an appendix to this Proceedings contains extracts from the *Fort St. George Gazette* showing exactly the extent to which attention has been paid to the instructions of Government by the various medical officers concerned. It will be seen from this that the existing system, if system it can be called, is not the departmental supply system at all, as each medical officer has followed his own views as to the conditions of supply to be imposed.

12. In regard to the three institutions in which the Surgeon-General states that the rules have been intelligently carried out, it will be seen that in the case of the General Hospital the conditions of supply have not varied during the past four years. The probable quantity of each article required during the first or second half of the official year has been notified with the condition that it is to be supplied in bulk at any time after the 20th March or if more convenient to the "contractor" in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months' requirements at any time. This indicates that the medical officer merely settles one "contract" for a half year and leaves it to the "contractor" to supply the article as he sees fit. In regard to the Ophthalmic Hospital, it appears that it was at first notified that the tenderer was at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided that at least one-sixth of the total quantity required was always kept in stock in the hospital store-rooms. This was subsequently modified to a half year's supply, delivery to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk. The condition of supply at the Lying-in Hospital was that it should be in such quantities and at such times as might be required.

13. From the foregoing facts the Government is forced to one of two conclusions, viz., either that the Surgeon-General has not made himself entirely master of the rules or that he is not aware of the real nature of the system of supply in force in the three institutions above referred to.

14. The only satisfactory feature of the statement considered above is the condition of supply for the current official year at the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, viz., within one week of acceptance of tender. This goes to indicate that this will be the first institution in which the departmental supply will receive a fair trial. The Surgeon-General will be requested to direct the Superintendent of the Asylum to note carefully the effect of storage on each article at the end of each month to serve as a guide for other Presidency institutions and to show also how many months' supply of non-perishable articles may be safely laid in without fear of deterioration.

15. In paragraph 4 of his letter of the 29th November, the Surgeon-General complains that no attempt was made in G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, to explain the departmental system and that the orders in G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, were not communicated to the officers concerned. It may be remarked that paragraph 27 of the Government Order last quoted did not refer to hospitals. In any case it was communicated to the Surgeon-General and, if necessary, should have been passed on to medical officers by him. His complaint as regards the rules in G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, is not understood. Nothing it appears to Government could be more explicit, and an ordinarily careful perusal of them would seem to be quite sufficient to give a clear idea of the system to which they relate. The Surgeon-General incorrectly uses the terms "contract" and "contractor" in connection with the supply of non-perishable articles. There should be no contract, but merely a tender for a certain quantity at a certain rate for immediate or early delivery. In this connection the Surgeon-General's attention will be directed to paragraph 27 of G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, with the request that he will report whether it would be possible to adopt for medical institutions a system somewhat similar to that followed by Mr. Gadsden at Rajahmundry.

16. The foregoing particulars and remarks refer exclusively to the purchase of non-perishable articles of diet, but No. 1 of the rules in G.O., No. 330, contemplated also a change in the contract system for the supply of perishable articles. It lays down that deliveries should be made from time to time and that the medical officer should fix the duration of the contract with a view to obtain the most advantageous terms, *e.g.*, if the state of the market is very favourable, the contract should be fixed for a longer period than if prices rule high. The particulars in the appendix however show that in all cases contracts for perishable articles are still made for a whole year. It is not possible that this is the result of the rules not being understood. The Government is aware that to work the new system of supply in a correct manner entails an addition to the duties of the medical officers concerned which being new to them they find both harassing and difficult and which they not unnaturally wish to avoid. It feels however assured that if properly administered the departmental system will lead to considerable economy in the matter of diets as well as improvement in the quality of the diets themselves and His Excellency in Council looks to the medical officers in charge of its hospitals at the Presidency and of lunatic asylums to afford a loyal and energetic compliance with its orders on this subject and to the Surgeon-General to see that the instructions of Government are not disregarded as they have been in the past.

17. The average cost of diets per diem for the last four years for which figures are available is given below:—

	1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.	
	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.
General Hospital	A. P. 7 11	A. P. 4 0	A. P. 8 6	A. P. 4 1½	A. P. 7 11½	A. P. 4 1½	A. P. 8 0½	A. P. 4 1½
Women and Children's Hospital	7 10	2 9	7 5	2 3	9 1	3 2	8 0	2 10
Ophthalmic Hospital	6 6	3 6	6 5	3 5	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 8
Lying-in Hospital	6 11	3 4	7 8	3 10	8 4	3 8	8 9	3 9
Lunatic Asylum	..	..	9 0	6 3	9 11	7 4	10 4	7 2
Leper Hospital	7 8	3 3	7 9	3 0	8 3	3 5	8 2	3 4
Voluntary Venereal Hospital.	6 4½	3 4½	5 7½	3 4½	7 6½	3 7	10 3	3 4½

Comparing 1890-91 with 1893-94 it is apparent that there has been an advance in cost as regards both Europeans and Natives at each institution. The average of all institutions for the past three years shows

			Europeans.		Natives.	
			A.	P.	A.	P.
1891-92	..	..	7	5½	3	9
1892-93	..	..	8	3	4	2
1893-94	..	..	8	8	4	0½

a steady increase under European diets, but no very great variation under native. The dieting of natives at the Lunatic Asylum costs about double what it does at the hospitals. There has, however, been a great improvement on the state of things in 1887-88, as will be seen from the statement in paragraph 5 *supra*, though in several cases the average cost of native diets has increased, whereas the new diet scales introduced by G.O., No. 1, dated 1st January 1889, were designed to lead to economy; thus:—

					1887-88.		1893-94.	
					A.	P.	A.	P.
Lying-in Hospital	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	9
Lunatic Asylum	..	..	..	..	2	7	7	2
Leper Hospital	..	..	..	..	2	11	3	4

The increases on account of European diet may possibly be due to an advance in the prices of articles of European diet.

The rise at the Lunatic Asylum is phenomenal and requires full explanation.

18. No deductions can be drawn from the foregoing facts and figures as to the financial effect of the departmental system, for, as already shown, it has not really been tried. Besides the increase in the cost of diets the following expenditure has been incurred:—

							Store buildings.	Store establishments.
							RS.	RS.
1892-93	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,958	3,300
1893-94	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,028	4,108

This compares unfavourably with Rs. 5,666 expended on buildings in the Jail department and Rs. 4,000 on account of "purveyors." These servants were, moreover, entirely dispensed with early in 1891.

19. In G.O., No. 165, dated 7th March 1895, the attention of the Surgeon-General was directed to certain advertisements in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for articles of hospital diet and supplies. It was pointed out to him that the instructions contained in these were at variance with the rules promulgated in G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892. After again sketching the departmental system the Government expressed its regret that its wishes in the matter had received but scant attention and that the simple and clear rules issued had not been adhered to by medical officers. The Surgeon-General was directed to take steps to ensure these being strictly followed in the future, and to call upon the officers responsible to explain why they had hitherto been neglected. He was also requested to submit a statement of the storage accommodation available at each of the Presidency hospitals and the Lunatic Asylum and to state how many months' supply of non-perishable articles could be stored.

20. In his reply No. Tour/387 of the 4th July, the Surgeon-General submits a summary of the reports received from medical officers, together with a copy of the explanation of the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital. The Government does not propose to deal with the individual reports of medical officers who appear to be mostly under the impression that the instructions issued have been carefully adhered to, but will content itself with instructing the Surgeon-General to take such steps as thus may be necessary for preventing any deviation from the rules in future.

21. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price's letter however calls for more than passing comment. The Government views with much regret and displeasure the conduct of this officer in having ventured to address to the head of his department a letter so improper and captious in tone and so unbecoming and disrespectful in its language as that now placed before it. It is a matter of great surprise to His

Excellency the Governor in Council that Surgeon-Major-General Sibthorpe should have allowed a communication from a subordinate officer referring to the orders of Government in the disparaging terms used by Dr. Price to pass without prompt and severe rebuke and without orders for its immediate withdrawal. It is still more surprising that he should have passed such a letter on to Government without remark, thus impliedly making himself a party to it.

22. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price considers the rules in G.O., No. 330, imperfect, inasmuch as they did not refer to such articles as surgical dressings, bedding and clothing, &c. He has overlooked the fact that those rules refer exclusively to the purchase of articles of diet, which the supplies mentioned by him certainly are not. He enquires as to who should be the purchasing officer, as storekeepers have been prohibited from buying articles of diet. The rules show very clearly that it is the medical officer in charge who advertises for and adjudicates on tenders for non-perishable articles. The rules do not proceed on the assumption that a fair and honest tender will always be made, for they refer to the rejection of tenders by medical officers. It is true they do not provide for a case where no tender equal to or lower than the bazaar rate is forthcoming. But in such a case it is so obvious that the medical officer should negotiate with the bazaar seller who will supply at the lowest price compatible with satisfactory quality that it was unnecessary to say so in so many words. His remarks on rule 4 are merely captious criticisms. If so small a quantity of such articles as mint and parsley is required, it should be purchased in the bazaar. A contract for a whole year for mangoes or oranges is no doubt not feasible, but it must be possible to come to an agreement with a vendor at an average rate for a whole season, taking minimum and maximum prices into consideration. The Senior Medical Officer is correct in obtaining supplies where practicable from Government departments or institutions. It is impossible for Government to issue distinct instructions to meet every petty case of supply. The Surgeon-General should make enquiries from the Inspector-General of Prisons as to how the system is worked in his department. It has already been shown that it has resulted in very large economies in jails and it is not apparent why similar results cannot be secured in the medical department.

23. After showing that there is accommodation for storing eight years' supply of non-perishable articles of diet at the General Hospital, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price writes as follows to the Surgeon-General: "I wish to be informed now if the Government is really in earnest in ordering me to fill up the storage room available." As Dr. Price has already been censured, comment upon this is uncalled for beyond the remark that the enquiry is on the face of it a frivolous one.

24. With advertence to Dr. Price's remarks in regard to the unauthorised employment by him of a kitchen steward, the Surgeon-General will direct his attention to G.O., No. 97I, dated 30th November 1893, from which it will be seen that the irregularity of his procedure lay in his permitting a privately paid individual to conduct duties on behalf of Government. Dr. Price states that there was no time to obtain previous sanction to the appointment, which was made on the 16th May 1892, but he does not explain how it was that he delayed until the 16th September of the following year before taking steps for authorising the appointment. The Government Order quoted accorded sanction with retrospective effect from the 1st October, or more than one year, and no application for its reconsideration has been received.

25. The report of the Special Diet Committee appointed by the Surgeon-General will be awaited.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General. 6 *disps* 18/10/95

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

Hospital.	1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.		1894-95.		1895-96.	
	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.
	Page 122 <i>et seq.</i> of the Gazette show that the system of supply then in force was for the Secretary to the Surgeon-General to call for tenders for supply to all hospitals which were divided into groups :— 1. General and Ophthalmic hospitals. 2. Leper and Lock hospitals. 3. Women and Children's and Lying-in hospitals. 4. Lunatic Asylum. The articles were to be supplied "in such quantity as may be required daily." Each tender was to be for one of the groups mentioned above and included <i>all</i> requirements, that is to say :— 1. Diets and extras. 2. Bazaar medicines. 3. Hospital necessaries. 4. Bedding and clothing. 5. Hospital miscellaneous. Europeans, As. 7-11. Natives, As. 4-6.		Exactly the same as in 1890-91 (pages 201 <i>et seq.</i> of Gazette, dated 10th February 1891).									

Hospital.	1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.		1894-95.		1895-96.	
	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.
General Hospital					Pages 261 and 1453 of the Gazette. Articles in groups A to F and in sub-groups 1 to 30. Non-perishable "bulk supply for six months." "To be supplied in bulk at any time after the 20th Mar., If more convenient to the contractor he may supply them in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months' requirements at a time payment for each supply soon after receipt." Page 164 of Gazette. For one year from 1st April 1892. Non-perishable articles. Tenderer at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided at least one-sixth of the total quantity required is always kept in stock in the hospital store-room. It was subsequently notified at page 310 of Gazette that the supply of non-perishable articles would be for six months not a year and that half quantities should therefore be tendered for. For the second half-year (page 1214) delivery was to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk.	Europeans, As. 8-6. Natives, As. 4-1½.	Europeans, As. 7-11½. Natives, As. 4-1½.	Pages 190 and 1195 of the Gazette. Conditions the same as in 1892-93.	Europeans, As. 8-0½. Natives, As. 4-1½.	Pages 245 and 1281 of the Gazette. Conditions the same as in 1892-93 and 1893-94.	Page 284. Exactly the same as before.	Page 172 of Gazette. Tenders for a full year's supply. "To be supplied in such quantities as may be required in bulk from 1st April 1895 to 31st March 1896."
Ophthalmic Hospital.	Europeans, As. 6-6. Natives, As. 3-6.	Europeans, As. 6-5. Natives, As. 3-6.	Europeans, As. 6-9. Natives, As. 3-10.	Europeans, As. 6-9. Natives, As. 3-10.	Page 188 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles to be supplied in such quantities as might be required in bulk. For rice only "in such quantity and at such times as may be required."	Page 1266. For rice only "in such quantity and at such times as may be required."	Page 203 of Gazette. Similar to 1893-94. No calls for tenders for second half-year can be traced.	Page 172 of Gazette. Tenders for a full year's supply. "To be supplied in such quantities as may be required in bulk from 1st April 1895 to 31st March 1896."				

Lying-in Hospital.	Europeans, As. 6-11. Natives, As. 3-4.	Europeans, Page 310 of Gazette. The notice was for tenders for "various supplies." Particulars and conditions to be obtained on inquiry at office "Pantheon road." Subsequently at page 1457 tenders for non-perishable articles for second half-year "in such quantities and at such times as may be required."	Europeans, As. 7-8. Natives, As. 3-10.	Pages 312 and 1198 of Gazette. The notices were complete. Non-perishable articles to be supplied in such quantity and may be required.	Europeans, As. 8-9. Natives, As. 3-9.	Pages 205 and 1310 of Similar Gazette. 1893-94.	Page 220 of Gazette. Similar to 1891-95.
Women and Children's Hospital.	Europeans, As. 7-5. Natives, As. 2-3.	Pages 422 and 1247 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles six months' supply "in such quantities as may be required monthly or in bulk."	Europeans, As. 7-5. Natives, As. 2-3.	Pages 350 and 1261 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Europeans, As. 8-0. Natives, As. 2-10.	Pages 256 and 1374 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Page 347 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.
Leper Hospital.	Europeans, As. 7-9. Natives, As. 3-0.	Page 269 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles, first-half year. Probable requirements notified, supply "in such quantity as may be required to supply." Page 1212 of Gazette. Second half-year; supply "at any time within the above specified period either a portion or whole of the articles as the Superintendent may deem necessary."	Europeans, As. 7-9. Natives, As. 3-0.	Pages 196 and 1261 of Gazette. Similar to second half-year 1892-93.	Europeans, As. 8-2. Natives, As. 3-4.	Pages 187 and 1372 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Page 263 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.
Voluntary Venereal Hospital.	Europeans, As. 5-7½. Natives, As. 3-4½.	Page 356 of Gazette. Supply to be "in such quantities as may be required."	Europeans, As. 5-7½. Natives, As. 3-4½.	Page 193 of Gazette. The successful tenderer for non-perishable stores to be at liberty to distribute the supply over the <i>wide</i> year provided at least one-sixth of the total quantity is always kept in stock in the hospital store-room.	Europeans, As. 10-3. Natives, As. 3-4½.	Page 192 of Gazette. Conditions exactly the same although the supplies were for six months only.	Page 325 of Gazette. The whole six months' supply in full or in portion as demanded.
Lunatic Asylum.	Information not available in hospital records.	Pages 126 and 1162 of Gazette. The supply to be "in such quantity as may be required daily or in bulk."	Europeans, As. 5-7½. Natives, As. 3-4½.	Pages 142 and 1228 of Gazette. "In such quantities as may be required in bulk."	Europeans, As. 10-4. Natives, As. 7-2.	Page 202 of Gazette. "In such quantities as maybe required in bulk." Page 1345 "within one week of acceptance of tender."	Page 282 of Gazette. No period mentioned. Supply to be "within one week of acceptance of tender."

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 29th November 1894, No. 38-Tour-4.

With reference to G.O., No. 326, Judicial, dated the 12th February 1894, I have the honour to submit herewith a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental and contract system of supplies in the Presidency Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums including therein expenditure on establishments and buildings as desired by Government. It should be explained here that the contract system was in force until 31st March 1892 in all the Presidency State hospitals, with the exception of Lunatic Asylums where the purveying system was commenced during 1890-91 and continued until the introduction of the present departmental system.

2. It will be seen from this statement that the cost on rations under the new departmental supply system setting aside the outlay on establishment and buildings is in excess of that under the old contract system to a very slight degree. The reasons of this increase, as explained by the Medical officers concerned, are summarized below.

General Hospital, Madras.—The Senior Medical officer reports that the increase in cost is partly due to the advance in prices in the market of many of the articles, but on the whole the contract system appears by experience to be cheaper than the purchase system. In the point of efficiency, however, he is in favour of the purchase system, as the articles thus procured are undoubtedly of better quality. This he considers the essential point with regard to the sick and the difference in cost he thinks should be disregarded.

Leper Hospital.—Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Cook reports that the rates of articles under the departmental system are higher, the reason is the separation of diet articles into two or more groups. By this method the contractor runs the risk of incurring loss if the market rises in any of the articles and therefore fixes a profitable rate to each. Under the old system the contractor fixed lower rates than those in the market to some of the articles with a view to make it good in other articles. Some of the articles, such as sugar, salt, tamarind, rice, &c., which contain moisture lose weight after a period of three or more months' storage, and last year 1,869 lb. of rice had to be written off as wastage as it got damaged.

Surgeon-Major Reeves, Acting Superintendent.—States that the present departmental system is much more expensive than the old contract system, the chief reasons being wastage in storing, additional establishment and often unavoidably high rates; if very large quantities were purchased not at fixed times but when a particular article is cheaper, and also if the articles were purchased in the market by the store-keeper and not through a contractor, the new system would contrast favourably with the old. In another report he says that there is really but little difference, as far as the contract is concerned, between the two systems; formerly non-perishable articles were tendered for one year and supplied daily by a contractor. Now the contract is for six months and the whole supply is stored up at once. Under the new system the contractor receives his money immediately after articles are supplied, not so formerly.

This seems all right
But the orig. draft shd
have accompanied, for
comparison

Since recd. + 30/9/95
now returned linked
1/10

Ophthalmic Hospital.—The Superintendent reports that the increase in the value of the diets may be seen to be due to the rise in value of the chief ingredients of the diets, *e.g.*, coffee, rice and dhol, &c., and the prices of almost all the articles of diet during the two years the departmental system of purchase has been in force have been unusually high owing to unfavourable seasons.

Women and Children Hospital.—The Medical officer in charge writes to say that no supplies are purchased from the local markets, all such articles being taken over from the contractor.

Voluntary Venereal Hospital.—The Superintendent says that the supplies (non-perishable) are purchased for him by a contractor once in every three months, and so far as he could make out the prices are not in excess of the usual market rates.

Lunatic Asylum, Madras.—The Superintendent states that under the new system the expenditure rose on account of wastage, establishment, buildings, contingencies and advanced rates, and a greater loss would probably have occurred if the articles of diets were stocked to the extent of a six months' supply, but no buildings were available until only lately for this purpose. The contract system is after all probably the most economical. In subsequent reports he says that no fair comparison can yet be made between the old and the new system. The completion certificate of the store-room was only signed on the 8th May and the system was not fully adopted till June 1894 and cannot be so until existing contracts terminate. Cost of dieting in 1893-94 was higher than the previous years. Considerable saving will be effected in 1894-95, the amount of which cannot yet be stated.

Lunatic Asylum, Calicut.—The Superintendent reports that the departmental system was carried out, but in the absence of a store-room and a storekeeper only small quantities were purchased at a time and consequently there was not much wastage or dryage. In another report he says there has been no change in the system of *contract* for perishables. Though there is not much difference in the rates under the old and new system, yet the former, if re-introduced, will be productive of an advantage, in that the cost of wastage and store establishment will be saved. The cost of store establishment and of constructing store godowns were added to the dieting expenses and the total cost in 1893 was more than in 1892, while on the other hand the daily average strength of insanes was much smaller.

Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam.—The Superintendent says that no contracts of any sort is given since 1st August 1892. Dry grains are purchased in bulk through the Revenue authorities of the division and all other articles are purchased by the Hospital Assistant in charge of the Asylum from the local market; he further says that the system has worked satisfactorily and thinks that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old system.

Lying-in Hospital.—The Acting Superintendent, who had only lately taken over charge, states that the rules have been strictly carried out and points out that the expenditure has been somewhat higher on the new system which I know was appreciated by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Branfoot, the permanent incumbent, and who worked it to the best of his ability.

3. *General Remarks.*—From the above remarks it is quite clear to me that many of the responsible Medical officers had not properly appreciated the orders of Government, and that they were working a system which was only the old contract one veiled under a new name. I have called their attention to this and directed that the orders of Government must in future be thoroughly carried out. There is no doubt also that some of them met with great opposition in carrying out the new system. It was altogether a new departure placing such responsibilities on Medical officers' duties that in cases of large institutions take up a great deal of their time which some thought could be better spent on professional work. From my recent visits to the hospitals I am convinced that in the General Hospital, the Ophthalmic Hospital and the Lying-in Hospital, where the rules have been intelligently carried out, the supplies are on the whole better, that Medical officers have less reason for complaints about them, and that the time of the Medical officer was well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with these supplies, the system will be properly appreciated when

all see how much better supplied the sick are. I am also convinced that there is great necessity for some uniform rules to guide Medical officers in making such contracts and of uniformity in the forms submitted to my office in order that the necessary check may be facilitated. With this view I

* Brigade-Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. Price,
M.B., President.

Surgeon-Major A. J. Sturmer,
Do. J. W. Evans, } Members.

have appointed a Medical Committee* to draw up some rules on the lines of those in force in the Commissariat and Military Accounts Departments. For the information

of Medical officers as to the prevailing prices of grains, a copy of the weekly season report is sent to each from my office, and I have circulated comparative statements of the rates which have been accepted for each of the hospitals for the information of all those concerned and for future guidance.

4. It must be remembered that this system was a complete departure from any system of obtaining supplies to which Medical officers had been accustomed. No attempt was made in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, to explain the system and the orders in G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, paragraph 27, were not communicated to the officers concerned. Nor were they aware of the results of the investigations of Drs. Walker and Lethbridge, and Mr. Cardew as regards jail administration in Madras. The subsequent orders threw very little light on the principles on which the change of system was founded.

5. I am confident that the results two years hence will be more reliable and profitable, as Medical officers will then have gained experience in the working of the new system and those disadvantages which have contributed to the rise in expenditure will have disappeared.

6. I enclose, for the information of Government, a comparative statement showing the prices of some of the chief articles of diet during the four years ending with 1893-94.

Names.	Total cost on rations during				Total treated during				Average annual cost per patient treated.				Average daily cost per head during	
													1890-91.	
	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	European.	Native.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.
General Hospital (a)	27,188 0 6	31,927 5 5	30,942 2 2	31,888 13 1	3,877	4,477	4,298	4,792	7 0 3	7 2 1	7 3 2	6 10 5	7 11	4 0
Lying-in Hospital (b)	5,777 5 2	10,553 0 9	12,954 6 2	14,387 4 4	3,064	3,290	3,734	3,787	1 14 2	3 3 4	3 7 6	3 12 9	6 11	3 4
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)	4,892 5 2	5,190 0 10	6,177 3 8	5,455 9 9	1,588	1,696	1,608	1,698	3 1 4	3 0 11	3 13 5	3 3 5	6 6	3 6
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d)	4,073 13 9	4,307 14 10	7,725 10 4	6,487 6 4	433	454	596	657	9 6 6	9 7 10	12 15 5	9 14 0	6 4	3 4
Leprosy Hospital (e)	18,089 8 8	20,007 5 6	25,441 8 11	19,261 1 5	417	531	670	497	43 6 1	37 10 10	44 10 2	30 12 1	7 8	3 3
Women and Children Hospital (f)	16,280 9 8	15,370 7 4	18,627 15 4	19,534 15 6	3,288	3,795	3,827	3,614	4 15 4	4 0 10	4 13 10	5 6 6	7 10	2 9
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g)	29,776 15 10	30,166 1 9	34,781 2 8	38,732 10 3	590	587	608	609	50 7 6	51 6 3	57 3 3	63 9 7	Information not available in the records of the hospital.	
Do. Calicut (h)	6,045 15 7	6,663 7 1	5,388 11 2	5,520 15 1	184	175	162	109	32 13 9	38 1 3	33 4 3	50 10 5		2 0
Do. Vizagapatam (i)	1,861 12 10	1,973 6 5	1,619 8 10	1,503 1 9	65	63	57	52	28 10 3	31 5 2	28 6 7	28 14 5		1 7

Names.	Average daily cost per head during—cont.						1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.	
	1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.		Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.
	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.								
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	AS. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.	AS. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
General Hospital (a)	8 6	4 1	7 1	4 1	8 0	4 1					705 0 0	996 0 0	993 0 0	1,056 0 0
Lying-in Hospital (b)	7 8	3 10	8 4	3 8	8 2	3 8					3,510 0 0	354 13 5		360 0 0
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)	6 5	3 5	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 9					125 15 10	360 0 0		360 0 0
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d)	5 7	3 4	7 6	3 7	10 3	3 1						360 0 0		360 0 0
Leprosy Hospital (e)	7 9	3 0	8 3	3 5	8 2	3 4					763 3 8	360 0 0		360 0 0
Women and Children Hospital (f)	7 5	2 3	9 1	3 2	8 0	2 10		150 0 0		291 0 0	499 9 8	7,000 0 0	1,035 4 0	864 0 0
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g)	9 0	6 3	9 11	7 4	10 4	3 7			1,170 7 7		154 3 10	100 0 0		240 0 0
Do. Calicut (h)		2 1		1 10		1 6								
Do. Vizagapatam (i)		1 6												

* Failure of rain and high price of articles.

(a) First, depends on the length of stay in hospital of patients; second, on the class of patients who happen to stay longest; third, on the fluctuating cost of articles of diet; fourth, on the use of stimulants and extras by individual Medical Officer.

(b) Up to 1st January 1891 the cost is only for purely midwifery cases; after that date gynecological cases were admitted, and the diets for European and paying patients has sent up the cost. The rate for diets has also increased.

(c) The increased cost of diets during the year 1892-93 is due to the unusually high prices of articles that prevailed during that year owing to unfavourable seasons.

(d) The increase of expenditure in 1892-93 is due to higher rate of chief diet articles than that of other years.

(e) During the years 1890-91 and 1891-92 the rates of the contract were almost identical and consequently the expenditure fluctuated according to the number treated, the average per head showing a reduction when the number has been great.

(f) The increase in the number of patients for the years 1891-92 and 1892-93 is due to a large number of cholera admissions; there is not much difference in the average annual cost of the four years requiring explanation; it depends on the class of patients, their stay and disease.

(g) Increase in average number of paying patients on special diet, increase in price of rice, &c., a more liberal diet, necessitated by general unhealthiness, increase due to weakly cases being brought on the sick list as soon as possible and substitution of ghee for gingelly oil, extras for labour done by patients, enhanced contract rates. Large amount spent on extras.

(h) The decrease in the number treated in 1892-93 is due to the transfer in August 1892 of all criminal inmates to Madras and in 1893-94 to the absence of such inmates throughout that year. Decrease in cost in 1891-92 was due to the difference in pay and allowance of the Hospital Assistants and to the fact that Asylum clothing was manufactured at the Asylum. In 1892-93 the travelling charges of criminal inmates helped to increase the expenditure, and in 1893-94, as already reported owing to the substitution of ghee for oil and to the entertainment of a storekeeper and to the large wastages, there was a further increase.

(i) (1) The decrease in 1893-94 of total treated is due to the transfer of criminals (13) in August 1892 to the Madras Asylum and to the heavy mortality (8) in the first four months of 1892. (2) The increase in 1892-93 of average annual cost per patient is due to great scarcity owing to the failure of the monsoons of 1891 and to the number of 'sick' in the early months. (3) The decrease in 1893-94 of average annual cost per patient is due to complete introduction of the departmental system of purchase and to the continual efforts made by the Hospital Assistant in charge to effect economy in many ways. (4) A store-room was built at a cost of Rs. 1,324-11-1 commenced and partly paid for in 1891-92, a sum of Rs. 154-3-10 remained was paid in 1892-93. (5) The outlay on store establishment was due to the appointment of a storekeeper on Rs. 20 sanctioned in G.O., No. 402, Public, dated 22nd May 1891. No actual increase was incurred on account of the storekeeper though a sum of Rs. 100 is shown under that heading in 1892-93 and Rs. 240 in 1893-94. What actually occurred was this: The man known as head keeper and writer, whose pay was Rs. 25, was appointed as storekeeper on Rs. 20 and the post of head keeper was abolished.

Endorsement of the Judicial Department, dated 4th March 1895.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 4th July 1895, No. 387-Tour.

With reference to G.O., No. 165 of 7th March 1895, I have the honour to report that I called upon the Medical officers in charge of the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums for explanation for not carrying out the simple rules promulgated with G.O., No. 330 of 13th May 1892, Public, and now submit a summary of the reports sent in by them, together with a copy of the explanation received from the Senior Medical officer, General Hospital.

Superintendent, Lying-in Hospital—Forwards a list of articles capable of being stored for a six months' supply and states that he is not aware of having contravened the orders of Government except in not having called tenders for each article and to do this would not be feasible. Government by insisting on obtaining a six months' supply at a time actually sustain loss by the deterioration of some articles.

Superintendent, Ophthalmic Hospital—States that apparently no explanation is required from this institution as no advertisement in connection with tenders of supplies appeared in the Gazette of 5th March. He further reports that it has always been the practice to store non-perishable articles in bulk for several months together, that a six months' supply of non-perishable articles can be stored in this institution.

Superintendent, Voluntary Venereal Hospital—States that it is not his wish to traverse the orders of Government in any way, but laid in a three months' supply in lieu of a six months' as the store-room has capacity for that amount only; however, he has now arranged for a six months' supply.

Superintendent, Leper Hospital—States that the rules referred to in the Government order have been strictly adhered to. As the rates of the non-perishable articles given by the tenderers do not contrast much with those of the market for the past two or three years, these articles are tendered for six months', and three months' supply is received at a time as the store-room can only hold a three months' supply. If after three months any of these non-perishable articles, such as rice, &c., become cheaper, they will be advertised and fresh tenders will be received, otherwise they will be bought from the same contractor.

Medical Officer, Women and Children Hospital—States that the store-room is only sufficient to hold a three months' supply of non-perishable articles and was receiving three months' stock at a time; a correction to that effect has been made in the notification published in the Gazette of the 19th March.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Madras—States that the orders of Government regarding obtaining of non-perishable articles in bulk according to storage capacity have been carried out generally with the exceptions noted in the margin. That it has been pointed out that lamp oil and black salt could not be stored in any large quantity without incurring loss and permission was given to him to use his discretion in the purchase of such articles.

Oil, lamp.	} Six months' supply asked for in two instalments.
" kerosine.	
Salt, black.	} Six months' supply asked for in monthly instalments.
Oil, gingelly.	
" cocoanut.	
Firewood.	

Kerosine, gingelly and cocoanut oil take up a large amount of ground space and as the two latter are jail supply, he receives them monthly. A distinct loss would result from a storage of six months' supply of fuel from ravages of white-ants.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Calicut—States that the supplies of non-perishable articles of diets were originally purchased from tenderers in such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation which is capable of containing about eight

months' supply. This course threatened to and did result in a heavy loss. Large wastage amounting to Rs. 152-9-0 occurred in several of the articles due to deterioration. Recommends again the continuance of the system of accepting tender for the whole year and taking in supply every two months as the price of articles is high during the mon soons from June to November.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam—States that the rules contained in G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, have been strictly adhered to since August 1892 as might be seen by a reference to the annual reports from 1892.

2. Copies of statement of storage accommodation available in each institution are also enclosed.

3. It will be seen from the letter from the Senior Medical officer, General Hospital, that he considers there is a vast difference between a jail and a hospital, and is of opinion that the rules in the Government Order, are unsuitable for hospitals.

4. As stated in my letter, No. 4-Tour-38 of the 29th November 1894, I have referred this question amongst other matters to the special departmental committee constituted in August last, and therefore abstain from making any comments on the Medical officer's reports. On receipt of the committee's report, I shall frame a set of rules for the better working of the present system, and submit them for the approval and sanction of Government.

5. The Senior Medical officer, General Hospital, who is president of this committee, was directed to submit a copy of the order now under reference to the committee, in order that these proposals might be made in accordance with the instructions in it.

ENCLOSURES.

From Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. PRICE, M.D., Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, Madras, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 24th April 1895, No. 117.

In reply to your No. 12-orgl., dated 5th April 1895, calling for an early reply to your No. 2204, dated 12th March 1895, forwarding Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 165, dated 7th March 1895, I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that, as regards the general hospital, it is not correct to say that scant attention has been paid to the wishes of Government regarding the departmental supply of non-perishable articles; on the contrary a great deal of time and attention have been expended on this subject, to the detriment of other and, from a medical point of view, infinitely more important work. As regards G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, the rules therein contained are certainly simple, but they are impracticable, and quite unsuited for the necessities and practical working of a large hospital like this. Had I simply followed these simple rules, I should certainly have saved myself a very great deal of anxious work, but the result would have been an immense loss to Government and confusion followed by a complete break down in the working of the hospital.

2. The following are copies of letters that I have written to the Surgeon-General on this subject—one in 27th June 1892, and subsequent experience has confirmed my opinion as to the difficulties therein mentioned and shows me several others:—

(a) This office letter No. 1409 of 27th June 1892 to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that it seems to me that the rules issued in G.O., No. 330, Public, of 13th May 1892, are very imperfect and to a great extent unworkable except at a serious loss to Government.

2. Imperfect—

(1) Inasmuch as they leave out entirely—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) miscellaneous articles, | (d) surgical dressings, |
| (b) wines and spirits, | (e) bedding and clothing, |
| (c) aerated waters, | (f) contingencies, |

all these being very important items of hospital expenditure. In this hospital they include the following different articles and cost during 1891-92:—

Names of articles.	Cost.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Miscellaneous articles—			
(a) Hospital necessities	12,811	0	0
(a) Hospital miscellanies	1,364	0	0
(b) Wines and spirits	1,294	2	0
(c) Aerated waters	751	14	0
(d) Surgical dressings	118	2	0
(e) Bedding and clothing	3,041	5	9
(f) Contingencies	3,128	6	5

(2) In paragraph 6 it is ordered that "storekeepers should have absolutely nothing to do with the purchase of articles." A very good order no doubt, but imperfect as it stands. It is equally necessary to tell us who may buy when occasion necessitates buying.

3. Unworkable—

(1) The whole rules are drawn up under the assumption that a fair and honest tender or contractor can always be obtained. This is by no means the case as the following examples taken from tenders received in this hospital show:—

Names of articles.	Refused tender.		Bazaar rate.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.
Garlic	1	6	1	1
Ghee	8	0	7	3
Ginger, dry	6	0	3	9
Mustard, country	1	6	1	4
Pepper, black	6	0	4	2
Poppy-seeds	1	6	1	3
Turmeric	2	3	2	0
Dry-earth	6	0	3	0

It seems to me a most serious omission that no directions are given as to what ought to be done under these circumstances. At present the work is carried out in this hospital by utilizing the services of a man as purveyor who buys these necessary articles (for which no fair tender or contract has been obtained) as required in the bazaar. The quality of these is checked by the Resident Medical officer and myself, I also check the prices, the vouchers and the entries in the books. This is the plan that I carried out with very good effect in Nellore Jail from April 1885 to February 1889.

(2) In paragraph 4 it states "there should be a separate tender for each article." How is it possible to work this? Take "mint and parsley" the quantity used amounts to Rs. 1-8-9 in the year; other examples are—

Names of articles.	Cost per annum.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Coriander leaves	0	0	5
Chillies, green	0	0	7
Ginger, green	0	0	1
Spice, powder	3	7	0
Cocanut	6	2	4

Who can possibly be expected to give a separate tender for such things. Take mangoes and oranges—who can be expected to give separate tenders for these articles (for a year) at a time when the market rate is favourable. "I certainly think that the plan adopted in this hospital of grouping certain articles of a class under a sub-head much better, as is done in the attached printed tender form."

4. Instead of ordering each Medical officer to watch the market it seems to me it would be much better for Government to enter into arrangement with a respectable firm or broker to watch the market and supply all the hospitals when the rates are favourable. I did all I could to get large firms to contract or send tenders. In addition to advertisement in all the local papers calling attention to the detailed advertisement in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, I sent lists of articles required to these chief firms, but with exception of spirits, tea, bandage cloth and soap, I got no tenders from them. It is quite a different thing going to a merchant's establishment examining a quantity of rice, sugar, &c., and making a bid for it on the one hand and on the other asking him to tender a certain sample with the risk of having what he considers the equivalent of that sample refused as is now being done with the rice contract. Bread, flour, &c., I get from the Government bakery; firewood from forest department and furniture, cocoanut oil

from the Jail. As it seems to me it must be to the interest of Government to have these departments utilized as far as possible. I might here add that I have, according to section 311 of Act I of 1884, arranged for the removal of night-soil by the municipality free of charge, thus causing a saving of Rs. 336 per annum.

(b, This office minute III, No. 3268 of 25th March 1895, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

With reference to paragraph 5 of minute I, the Sub-Divisional officer, Public Works Department, informs me that there are 26,835 cubic feet of storage room available after deducting space for passages, &c. This space he tells me is sufficient for storing 4,472 bags of rice which is equal to 675,000 lb.

2. This space, taking the non-perishable articles mentioned in appendix of G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, in the proportions used, will enable me to stock the following quantities:—

	LB.		LB.		LB.
Three thousand bags of rice.	45,000	Cinnamon	3	Salt	36,000
Almonds	240	Cumin seed	720	Spice	120
Arrowroot	10,800	Dhall	4,800	Sugar	84,000
Barley	6,000	Ginger, dry	75	Sago	1,500
Cocoa	60	Garlic	1,500	Tamarind	16,800
Coffee (with wastage of powder).	30,000	Gingelly oil	6,000	Tea	3,600
Chillies, dry	4,500	Mustard seed	600	Turmeric	840
Corn flour	240	Pepper	4,200	Vendium	480
Coriander	4,800	Poppy seed	60		

3. Paragraph 2 of the same Government Order tells me that I am to call for tenders to "fill the storage accommodation available," and in paragraph 4 of minute I, I am severely censured for not having carried out "the clear and simple rules issued" in that order "for the guidance of the Medical officer."

4. I wish to be informed now if the Government is really in earnest in ordering me to fill up the storage room available.

5. I may mention that on a rough calculation it will be sufficient to last for eight years.

6. The explanation called for in paragraph 2, minute II, will be sent in as soon as distinct orders have been received on the question now raised.

3. I took over charge of the Senior Medical officer's duties in October 1891 and was called upon to put the ideas contained in G.O., No. 402 of 22nd May 1891, into force on 1st April 1892. In my proposition statement of 11th November 1891, I asked for a storekeeper on Rs. 60 and an assistant storekeeper on Rs. 25 to help me in this work, but Government only allowed me one storekeeper on Rs. 45.

Under the contract system the contractors had to take care of themselves. Under the store-system the Steward's department had to check all the storekeeper's accounts and bills; this threw a very considerable amount of extra work on the Head and Assistant Stewards. To relieve them of the kitchen work and of going round with the diets, and so to give them time to do their checking work thoroughly, I found it necessary, on 16th May 1892, to appoint a kitchen steward. As there was no time to get the sanction of Government as my previous experience was against the sanction being obtained, and as I saw that the appointment of this man was absolutely necessary to enable the stewards to have time to do their checking thoroughly, I appointed and paid for him myself. In their Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 971 of 30th December 1893, the Government recognized the necessity of this man's appointment and confirmed it, but they not only censured me for appointing the man without sanction, but declined to refund me all the money I had paid him. Seeing that the Government practically acknowledged that I was right both censure and fine seemed to me an unfair return for my efforts to work out an imperfect scheme. In October 1894 it was found necessary to appoint a copyist to assist in the Steward's department; this appointment was confirmed in G.O., No. 783 of 22nd October 1894.

4. I may here mention that since August last I have been one of a committee appointed by the present Surgeon-General to consider this matter of diets and draw up rules for the working of this store-system. The more we go into the subject the more complicated we found it. It is impossible to draw any useful comparison between a jail, with the regular, simple, fixed diets, and comparatively unfluctuating population and a large hospital like this with complicated diets and extras, and a very fluctuating population. Had a committee such as that now working been appointed in the first instance, and the change not introduced until a thorough competent working basis had been found, medical officers in charge would have been saved much trouble and anxiety and the Government would not have been disappointed.

STATEMENT showing the Storage accommodation available in the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

Name of hospitals.	Number of rooms.	For what purpose.	Length.	Breadth.	Area.	Remarks.
			FT. IN.	FT. IN.	SQ. FEET.	
General Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	68	20	1,360	This is sufficient to stock a supply of non-perishable articles to last for 6½ years when the hospital for women and children is brought into the west wing of the station hospital.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	43	20	860	
	1	Do. firewood ..	23	20	460	
	1	Steward liquor, &c., godown.	8	7	63½	
	1	Storekeeper's godown.	12	12	168	
	1	Linen clerk's do.	14	12	168	
		Assistant Surgeon's miscellaneous godown.	14	12	168	
					3,247½	
Lying-in Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	47	12	564	A six months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. firewood, &c.	23	12	276	
	1	Do. straw, &c.	14	6	174	
	1	Do. kerosine oil, &c.	12	6	78	
					1,092	
Ophthalmic Hospital ..	1	For storing firewood ..	10	20	200	Do. do.
	1	Do. rice ..	12	20	240	
	1	Do. provisions ..	7	20	140	
	1	Do. do. ..	12	20	240	
	1	Do. do. ..	9	20	180	
					1,000	
Voluntary Venereal Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	19	18	366½	A three months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	31	19	597½	
					964½	
Leper Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	19	14	276½	These two rooms hold six months' supply.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	17	14	253½	
	1	Do. firewood ..	12	5	66½	
					596½	Holds only two weeks' supply of firewood.
Women and Children Hospital ..	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	22	8	182	A three months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	22	6	136½	
					318½	
Lunatic Asylum, Madras.	1	For storing grains, &c. ..	33	24	830½	A six months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. grains, &c. ..	33	24	830½	
	1	Do. grains (used also as office).	17	13	246½	
	1	Do. fuel ..	53	10	539½	
					2,746½	
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam.	1	For storing grains, &c. ..	30	15	450	It is hardly enough to store a year's supply, but, when necessary, a part of the office has been used.
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut.	1	For storing grains, &c. ..	18	17	306	A eight months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. do. ..	18	17	306	
					612	

Names of Institutions.	1890-91.							1891-92.						
	Rate per							Rate per						
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	
	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
General Hospital, Madras	9 0	0 8	2 0	0 9	2 9	1 2	2 5	10 0	0 10	2 0	0 9	3 0	1 1	2 5
Lying-in Hospital, Madras	10 11	0 10	4 0	1 0	3 0	1 1	2 6	11 0	0 11	4 6	1 0	3 0	1 2	2 7
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	9 0	0 8	2 0	0 9	2 9	1 2	2 5	10 0	0 10	2 0	0 9	3 0	1 1	2 5
Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Madras	9 6	0 9	0 6	0 9	2 4	1 0	2 2	10 0	0 10	1 0	0 9	2 6	1 1	2 2
Leprosy Hospital, Madras	9 6	0 9	0 6	0 9	2 4	1 0	2 2	10 0	0 10	1 0	0 9	2 6	1 1	2 2
Women and Children's Hospital, Madras	10 0	0 10	4 0	1 0	3 0	1 1	2 6	11 0	0 11	4 6	1 0	3 0	1 2	2 7
Lunatic Asylum, Madras	9 5	0 10	2 6	0 7	3 0	1 3	2 4	9 8	0 10	2 0	0 7	3 0	1 3	2 3
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut	0 2	0 9	..	0 9	..	1 0	3 9	9 6	0 5	12 0	0 9	..	0 10	3 6
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam	..	0 8	..	0 10	..	1 0	1 3	..	0 6	..	1 0	..	1 0	1 3

Names of Institutions.	1892-93.							1893-94.						
	Rate per							Rate per						
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	
	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
General Hospital, Madras	9 3	1 1	2 7	0 10	3 3	1 1	2 6	10 4	1 1	4 9	0 10	3 3	1 3	2 6
Lying-in Hospital, Madras	9 9	0 11	2 0	0 8	3 0	1 3	2 5	10 7	1 0	6 7	0 9	3 2	1 3	2 6
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 1	5 0	0 9	3 6	1 3	2 8	11 0	1 0	4 0	0 9	3 6	1 2	2 10
Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Madras	10 6	1 3	2 6	0 9	4 0	1 2	2 4	10 9	0 11	4 6	0 9	3 3	1 2	2 3
Leprosy Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 1	1 6	0 10	3 0	1 3	2 6	11 0	0 11	1 6	0 10	6 6	1 2	2 6
Women and Children's Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 3	2 0	0 11	3 6	1 4	2 9	11 0	0 11	2 6	0 9	3 6	1 2	2 6
Lunatic Asylum, Madras	10 9	1 0	2 6	0 9	3 0	1 2	2 2	12 0	1 1	2 6	0 9	3 3	1 2	2 4
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut	9 0	0 11	12 0	0 10	..	0 10	8 4	10 0	0 10	13 0	0 8	..	0 10	3 6
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam	..	0 9	..	1 0	..	1 0	1 3	..	0 5	..	0 6	..	0 10	1 3

ORDER—No. 815, Public, dated 2nd October 1895.

In G.O., No. 326, Judicial, dated 12th February 1894, the Inspector-General of Jails and the Surgeon-General were requested to submit a comparative statement of the cost of the departmental, including therein expenditure on establishment and buildings, and the contract systems of supplying rations in jails, hospitals and lunatic asylums, and were informed that if it was yet impossible to make a fair comparison between the two systems the fact should be reported. The Inspector-General's reply is embodied in G.O., No. 1280, Judicial, dated 25th May 1894. It showed that excel-

lent results had attended the substitution of the departmental supply for the contract system. For the quinquennium ending 1886, which was the last year in which the contract system was fully in force in jails, the average cost per head per annum was Rs. 35-6-0, and this fell to Rs. 30 for the quinquennium ending 1891. This latter figure was further reduced to Rs. 29-3-0 for the two years 1892 and 1893, and, including extra outlay on establishment and buildings, it was calculated that the net saving effected by the departmental supply system during the years 1887-93 amounted to Rs. 2,91,458. The Government, in its order No. 1280, Judicial, dated 25th May 1894, considered that this was most satisfactory and reflected great credit upon the officers of the Jail department, and it commended the figures to the earnest consideration of the Surgeon-General.

2. The Surgeon-General in his letter, No. Tour 4/38, dated 29th November last, states that the result of the substitution of the departmental system in medical institutions has been that the cost of rations alone, omitting from consideration the outlay on establishments and buildings, has risen; he submits the reasons for this result given by each medical officer concerned. The Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, considers the increase in cost to be partly due to the advance in prices; and says that, on the whole, his experience has shown that the contract system is the cheaper of the two. In point of efficiency, however, he is in favour of the departmental system as the articles thus procured have been undoubtedly of better quality. It is unnecessary to repeat here the various grounds advanced by the head of each institution, but it may be remarked that the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam, reports that no contracts of any sort have been given since 1st August 1892, dry grains having been obtained in bulk through the revenue authorities and all other articles purchased by the hospital assistant in the local market. The system is stated to have worked satisfactorily and the Superintendent considers that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old one.

3. In his general observations on the subject the Surgeon-General remarks that it is quite clear to him that many of the responsible medical officers have not "properly appreciated" the orders of Government in regard to the new departmental system and that they have been working a system which was only the old one veiled under another name. He states that he has therefore called their attention to this and directed that the orders on the subject should in future be thoroughly carried out. The Surgeon-General mentions that, as the result of visits to the Presidency hospitals, he is convinced that in the General, Ophthalmic and Lying-in hospitals, where the rules have been "intelligently carried out," the supplies are, on the whole, better; that the officers have less reason for complaints regarding them; and that their time has been well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with the departmental system.

4. The Government regrets that, from the facts which are at present before it, it is altogether unable to agree with the Surgeon-General in the view that the rules have been intelligently carried out in any institution. Before commenting further on this point it will be convenient to give a short sketch of the circumstances which led to the introduction of the departmental system of supply.

5. In 1887-88 the system of supply of articles of diet was by contract for articles in bulk to be supplied in such quantities as might be required daily, that is to say, the probable amount of each article required during the year was tendered for, delivery to be daily or as called for. The question of the supply of diets was raised in connection with diet scales (G.O., No. 1, Public, dated 1st January 1889). From the papers embodied in that Government Order it appears that the average cost of diets in 1887-88 was as follows:—

	Europeans.		Natives.	
	RS.	P.	RS.	P.
General Hospital	10	1 1/2	5	4
Women and Children's Hospital	7	0	3	7
Ophthalmic Hospital	7	6 1/2	3	10
Lying-in Hospital	6	4	3	3
Lunatic Asylum	5	10 1/2	2	7 1/2
Leprosy Hospital	8	8	2	11
Lock Hospital	12	4	6	10

It will be seen from the above that the cost of dieting Europeans in the General Hospital was nearly double of that in the Lunatic Asylum, while that in the Lock Hospital was higher still. In regard to the cost of native diets, the average in the General Hospital and Lock Hospital was in each case more than double of that in the Lunatic Asylum. The increases in the cost of diets that had taken place during the quinquennium ending 1887-88 were as follows:—

Europeans—

5½ pies in the General Hospital.

2 annas in the Leper Hospital.

2 annas and 2 pies in the Lock Hospital.

Natives—

7½ pies in the General Hospital.

5 pies in the Women and Children's Hospital.

4 pies in the Lying-in Hospital.

3 pies in the Leper Hospital.

1 anna and 8 pies in the Lock Hospital.

6. Careful investigation elicited the fact that the increases were not due to a rise in prices. The main cause was the constant resort to articles known as "extras," which were outside the ordinary diet scales and more expensive. Even though a patient might be dieted on these alone he had to be placed, under the then existing rules, on a formal scale of ordinary diet as well, the articles of which were supplied daily and otherwise disposed of. Thus the cost of dieting a European *per diem* in the General Hospital was As. 10-1, which was made up of ordinary diet As. 4-2 and extras As. 5-11; in the Lock Hospital the cost of ordinary diet was As. 4, while the extras averaged As. 8-4.

7. A committee was appointed to enquire into the matter and their recommendations in regard to the new scale of diet, doing away with the rule that "extras" could be issued only in addition to an ordinary diet, &c., were accepted by Government as an experimental measure in the Government Order quoted in paragraph 5 *supra* in which the opportunity was taken to remark that contract rates "*per diet*" should never be allowed; in other words, that there should always be a separate rate for each article constituting a diet.

8. G.O., No. 423, Public, dated 11th June 1890, contains a report on the experimental diets, from which it was evident that the old contract system was continued if not in the form of a rate per diet at least in a shape which maintained all its evils. The Government remarked that there was no buying in bulk at times when articles were cheap; no storing and issuing as required by the hospital staff; and that it was clear that until the daily contract system was completely given up no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. The cost per diet in 1889 as compared with the previous year was as follows:—

Hospitals.	Increase+	Decrease—
Ophthalmic Hospital	+	½ a pie.
Lock Hospital	+	9 pies.
Women and Children's Hospital	+	2 7/8 pies.
Lying-in Hospital (Europeans)	+	5 "
Do. (Natives)	+	1 pie.
General Hospital (Europeans and Eurasians)	—	1 anna 2½ pies.

9. The financial results of the working of the new scales of diets in the Presidency hospitals are recorded in G.O., No. 402, Public, dated 22nd May 1891. Surgeon Major-General deFabeck in his letter embodied therein reported that most of the medical officers were against any change in the system of obtaining supplies by contract and that he concurred with them. The Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, however, stated that, as he had no accommodation for storing large supplies, he had arranged to buy grain weekly, and although there had been a considerable rise in prices, the outcome of an experiment extending over six months was a saving of Rs. 178 on the previous figures. The Government was dissatisfied with the results of the new scales, and the facts brought before it confirmed its previously-expressed conclusion that until the daily contract system was absolutely abandoned no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. It accordingly directed

that the system should be discontinued with the least possible delay in Government hospitals and lunatic asylums and that everything except perishable articles should be purchased in bulk and issued as required. It laid down that for the daily supply at fixed rates of the quantities required of such articles as fresh meat or fish, milk and fresh vegetables, contracts might be allowed, but that other articles, such as grain of all sorts, oil and condiments, should be purchased by tender in bulk and stored and issued by the officers of the hospitals and asylums on their own responsibility. The Surgeon-General was directed to formulate proposals showing the cost of the necessary store-rooms and storekeepers and to draw up a set of rules in connection with the subject for the guidance of those concerned.

10. In the following November Surgeon-General deFabeck remonstrated against these orders, but was informed that the Government * was not prepared to modify them. In G.O., No. 1025, Public, dated 9th December 1891, the Government agreed with that officer that tenders for all requirements in hospitals should be invited and adjudicated on by the medical officer in charge of the institution concerned. In further explanation of the orders already issued, the Surgeon-General was informed by G.O., No. 136, Public, dated 25th February 1892, that the intention of Government was that tenders should be invited for a certain quantity of non-perishable articles, the whole to be delivered at once, and that if there was storage capacity for only two months' supply that amount should be called for. This was made even clearer by G.O., No. 144, Public, dated 4th March 1892, in which it was laid down that the purchases should in all cases be up to the limit of storage capacity. In G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, the Government approved, for issue by the Surgeon-General, of certain rules for the guidance of medical officers in working the system of departmental supply of articles of diet. These rules were simple, clear and complete. In regard to non-perishable articles it was distinctly laid down that they should be purchased in bulk, that tenders should be invited at a time when prices were most favourable for the supply of such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation available, and that the advertisement should call for the delivery of the whole quantity of the article required within a specified and early date.

11. The statement printed as an appendix to this Proceedings contains extracts from the *Fort St. George Gazette* showing exactly the extent to which attention has been paid to the instructions of Government by the various medical officers concerned. It will be seen from this that the existing system, if system it can be called, is not the departmental supply system at all, as each medical officer has followed his own views as to the conditions of supply to be imposed.

12. In regard to the three institutions in which the Surgeon-General states that the rules have been intelligently carried out, it will be seen that in the case of the General Hospital the conditions of supply have not varied during the past four years. The probable quantity of each article required during the first or second half of the official year has been notified with the condition that it is to be supplied in bulk at any time after the 20th March or 20th September, or if more convenient to the "contractor" in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months' requirements at any time. This indicates that the medical officer merely settles one "contract" for a half year and leaves it to the "contractor" to supply the article as he sees fit. In regard to the Ophthalmic Hospital, it appears that it was at first notified that the tenderer was at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided that at least one-sixth of the total quantity required was always kept in stock in the hospital store-rooms. This was subsequently modified to a half year's supply, delivery to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk. The condition of supply at the Lying-in Hospital was that it should be in such quantities and at such times as might be required.

13. From the foregoing facts the Government is forced to one of two conclusions, viz., either that the Surgeon-General has not made himself entirely master of the rules or that he is not aware of the real nature of the system of supply in force in the three institutions above referred to.

14. The only satisfactory feature of the statement considered above is the condition of supply for the current official year at the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, viz., within one week of acceptance of tender. This goes to indicate that this will be the first institution in which the departmental supply will receive a fair trial. The Surgeon-General will be requested to direct the Superintendent of the Asylum to note carefully the effect of storage on each article at the end of each month to serve as a guide for other Presidency institutions and to show also how many months' supply of non-perishable articles may be safely laid in without fear of deterioration.

15. In paragraph 4 of his letter of the 29th November, the Surgeon-General complains that no attempt was made in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, to explain the departmental system and that the orders in G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, were not communicated to the officers concerned. It may be remarked that paragraph 27 of the Government Order last quoted did not refer to hospitals. In any case it was communicated to the Surgeon-General and, if necessary, should have been passed on to medical officers by him. His complaint as regards the rules in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, is not understood. Nothing, it appears to Government, could be more explicit, and an ordinarily careful perusal of them would seem to be quite sufficient to give a clear idea of the system to which they relate. The Surgeon-General incorrectly uses the terms "contract" and "contractor" in connection with the supply of non-perishable articles. There should be no contract but merely a tender for a certain quantity at a certain rate for immediate or early delivery. In this connection the Surgeon-General's attention will be directed to paragraph 27 of G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, with the request that he will report whether it would be possible to adopt for medical institutions a system somewhat similar to that followed by Mr. Gadsden at Rajahmundry.

16. The foregoing particulars and remarks refer exclusively to the purchase of non-perishable articles of diet, but No. 1 of the rules in G.O., No. 330, Public, contemplated also a change in the contract system for the supply of perishable articles. It lays down that deliveries should be made from time to time and that the medical officer should fix the duration of the contract with a view to obtain the most advantageous terms, e.g., if the state of the market is very favourable, the contract should be fixed for a longer period than if prices rule high. The particulars in the appendix however show that in all cases contracts for perishable articles are still made for a whole year. It is not possible that this is the result of the rules not being understood. The Government is aware that to work the new system of supply in a correct manner entails an addition to the duties of the medical officers concerned which being new to them they find both harassing and difficult and which they not unnaturally wish to avoid. It feels, however, assured that, if properly administered, the departmental system will lead to considerable economy in the matter of diets as well as improvement in the quality of the diets themselves, and His Excellency in Council looks to the medical officers in charge of hospitals at the Presidency and of lunatic asylums to afford a loyal and energetic compliance with the orders of Government on this subject and to the Surgeon-General to see that the instructions of Government are not disregarded as they have been in the past.

17. The average cost of diets per diem for the last four years for which figures are available is given below:—

	1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.	
	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.
	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
General Hospital ..	7 11	4 0	8 6	4 1½	7 11½	4 1½	8 0½	4 1½
Women and Children's Hospital ..	7 10	2 9	7 5	2 3	9 1	3 2	8 0	2 10
Ophthalmic Hospital ..	6 6	3 6	6 5	3 5	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 8
Lying-in Hospital ..	6 11	3 4	7 8	3 10	8 4	3 8	8 9	3 9
Lunatic Asylum ..	..	..	9 0	6 3	9 11	7 4	10 4	7 2
Leper Hospital ..	7 8	3 3	7 9	3 0	8 3	3 5	8 2	3 4
Voluntary Venereal Hospital ..	6 4½	3 4½	5 7½	3 4½	7 6½	3 7	10 3	3 4½

Comparing 1890-91 with 1893-94 it is apparent that there has been an advance in cost as regards both Europeans and Natives at each institution. The average of all institutions for the past three years shows a steady increase under European diets, but no very great variation under native. The dieting of natives at the Lunatic Asylum costs about double what it does at the hospitals. There has, however, been a great improvement on the state of things in 1887-88, as will be seen from the statement in paragraph 5 *supra*, though in several cases the average cost of native diets has increased, whereas the new diet scales introduced by G.O., No. 1, Public, dated 1st January 1889, were designed to lead to economy; thus:—

	1887-88.		1893-94.	
	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Lying-in Hospital ..	..	..	3 3	3 9
Lunatic Asylum ..	..	..	2 7	7 2
Leper Hospital ..	..	..	2 11	3 4

The increases on account of European diet may possibly be due to an advance in the prices of articles of European diet. The rise at the Lunatic Asylum is phenomenal and requires full explanation.

18. No deductions can be drawn from the foregoing facts and figures as to the financial effect of the departmental system, for, as already shown, it has not really been tried. Besides the increase in the cost of diets the following expenditure has been incurred:—

	Store buildings.		Store establishments.	
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1892-93 ..	4,958	3,300		
1893-94 ..	9,028	4,108		

This compares unfavourably with Rs. 5,666 expended on buildings in the Jail department and Rs. 4,000 on account of "purveyors." These servants were, moreover, entirely dispensed with early in 1891.

19. In G.O., No. 165, Public, dated 7th March 1895, the attention of the Surgeon-General was directed to certain advertisements in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for articles of hospital diet and supplies. It was pointed out to him that the instructions contained in these were at variance with the rules promulgated in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892. After again sketching the departmental system the Government expressed its regret that its wishes in the matter had received but scant attention and that the simple and clear rules issued had not been adhered to by medical officers. The Surgeon-General was directed to take steps to ensure these being strictly followed in the future and to call upon the officers responsible to explain why they had hitherto been neglected. He was also requested to submit a statement of the storage accommodation available at each of the Presidency hospitals and the lunatic asylum and to state how many months' supply of non-perishable articles could be stored.

20. In his reply No. Tour/387 of the 4th July, the Surgeon-General submits a summary of the reports received from medical officers, together with a copy of the explanation of the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital. The Government does not propose to deal with the individual reports of medical officers, who appear to be mostly under the impression that the instructions issued have been carefully adhered to, but will content itself with instructing the Surgeon-General to take such steps as may be necessary for preventing any deviation from the rules in future.

21. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price's letter, however, calls for more than passing comment. The Government views with much regret and displeasure the conduct of this officer in having ventured to address to the head of his department a letter so improper and captious in tone, and so unbecoming and disrespectful in its language, as that now placed before it. It is a matter of great surprise to His

	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
Hospital.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.	Nature of supply of non-perishable articles of diet.	Average cost of diet per head per diem.
General Hospital.	Europeans, As. 7-11. Natives, As. 4-6.	Europeans, As. 8-6. Natives, As. 4-11.	Pages 261 and 1458 of the Gazette. Articles in sub-groups A to F and in sub-groups 1 to 30, non-perishable, "bulk supply for six months." "To be supplied in bulk at any time after the 20th Mar. If more convenient to the contractor he may supply them in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months' requirements at a time. Payment for each supply soon after receipt." For one year from 1st April 1892. Non-perishable articles. Tenderer at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided at least one-sixth of the total quantity required is always kept in stock in the hospital store-room. It was subsequently notified at page 310 of Gazette that the supply of non-perishable articles would be for six months not a year and that half quantities should therefore be tendered for. For the second half-year (page 1214) delivery was to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk.	Europeans, As. 7-11. Natives, As. 4-11.	Pages 190 and 1195 of the Gazette. The same as in 1892-93.	Page 284. Exactly the same as before.
Ophthalmic Hospital.	Europeans, As. 6-6. Natives, As. 3-6.	Europeans, As. 6-6. Natives, As. 3-5.	Page 164 of Gazette. For one year from 1st April 1892. Non-perishable articles. Tenderer at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided at least one-sixth of the total quantity required is always kept in stock in the hospital store-room. It was subsequently notified at page 310 of Gazette that the supply of non-perishable articles would be for six months not a year and that half quantities should therefore be tendered for. For the second half-year (page 1214) delivery was to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk.	Europeans, As. 6-9. Natives, As. 3-10.	Page 203 of Gazette. Similar to 1893-94. No call for tenders for second half-year can be traced.	Page 172 of Gazette. Tenders for full year's supply. To be supplied in such quantities as may be required in bulk from 1st April 1895 to 31st March 1896.

Living in Hospital.	Europeans, As. 6-11. Natives, As. 3-4.	Europeans, Page 310 of Gazette. The notice was for tenders for various supplies. Particulars and conditions to be obtained on inquiry at the office "Pantheon road." Subsequently at page 1457 tenders for non-perishable articles for second half-year "in such quantities and at such times as may be required."	Europeans, As. 8-4. Natives, As. 3-8.	Pages 312 and 1198 of Gazette. The notices were complete. Non-perishable articles to be supplied in such quantity and at such times as may be required.	Pages 205 and 1310 of Gazette. Similar to 1893-94.	Page 220 of Gazette. Similar to 1894-95.
Women and Children's Hospital.	Europeans, As. 7-5. Natives, As. 2-3.	Europeans, Pages 422 and 1247 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles, six months' supply. "in such quantities as may be required monthly or in bulk." Page 268 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles, first half year. Probable requirements notified, supply "in such quantity as may be required to supply." Page 1212 of Gazette. Second half-year; supply "at any time within the above specified period either a portion or whole of the articles as the Superintendent may deem necessary."	Europeans, As. 9-1. Natives, As. 3-2.	Pages 350 and 1261 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Pages 256 and 1374 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Page 347 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.
Leper Hospital.	Europeans, As. 7-8. Natives, As. 3-3.	Europeans, Page 268 of Gazette. Non-perishable articles, first half year. Probable requirements notified, supply "in such quantity as may be required to supply." Page 1212 of Gazette. Second half-year; supply "at any time within the above specified period either a portion or whole of the articles as the Superintendent may deem necessary."	Europeans, As. 8-3. Natives, As. 3-5.	Pages 196 and 1261 of Gazette. Similar to second half-year 1892-93.	Pages 187 and 1372 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.	Page 268 of Gazette. Conditions the same as before.
Voluntary Venereal Hospital.	Europeans, As. 6-11. Natives, As. 3-4.	Europeans, Page 356 of Gazette. Supply to be "such quantities as may be required."	Europeans, As. 7-6. Natives, As. 3-7.	Page 183 of Gazette. The successful tenderer for non-perishable stores to be at liberty to distribute the supply over the year provided at least one-sixth of the total quantity is always kept in stock in the hospital store-room.	Page 192 of Gazette. Conditions exactly the same although the supplies were for six months only. In this case the successful tenderer was to be prepared to supply six months' supply in full or in portion as demanded.	Page 325 of Gazette. The whole six months' supply in full or in portion as demanded.
Lunatic Asylum.	Information not available in hospital records.	Europeans, Pages 136 and 1162 of Gazette. The supply to be "in such quantities as may be required daily or in bulk."	Europeans, As. 9-0. Natives, As. 6-3.	Pages 142 and 1228 of Gazette. "In such quantities as may be required in bulk."	Page 202 of Gazette. "In such quantities as may be required in bulk." Page 1345 "within one week of acceptance of tender."	Page 282 of Gazette. No period mentioned. Supply to be "within one week of acceptance of tender."

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

PUBLIC.

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G.O., No. 815, 2nd October 1895.

OCTOBER.

**Diets in Hospitals and
Lunatic Asylums.**

Passing orders on letter from the Surgeon-General submitting a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental and contract system of supplies in the Presidency Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

Public (1895) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 8/5

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[Despatch Abstract.]

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 815, PUBLIC, 2ND OCTOBER 1895.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 29th November 1894, No. 38-Tour-4.

With reference to G.O., No. 326, Judicial, dated the 12th February 1894, I have the honour to submit herewith a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental and contract system of supplies in the Presidency Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums including therein expenditure on establishments and buildings as desired by Government. It should be explained here that the contract system was in force until 31st March 1892 in all the Presidency State hospitals, with the exception of Lunatic Asylums where the purveying system was commenced during 1890-91 and continued until the introduction of the present departmental system.

2. It will be seen from this statement that the cost on rations under the new departmental supply system setting aside the outlay on establishment and buildings is in excess of that under the old contract system to a very slight degree. The reasons of this increase, as explained by the Medical officers concerned, are summarized below.

General Hospital, Madras.—The Senior Medical officer reports that the increase in cost is partly due to the advance in prices in the market of many of the articles, but on the whole the contract system appears by experience to be cheaper than the purchase system. In the point of efficiency, however, he is in favour of the purchase system, as the articles thus procured are undoubtedly of better quality. This he considers the essential point with regard to the sick and the difference in cost he thinks should be disregarded.

Leper Hospital.—Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Cook reports that the rates of articles under the departmental system are higher, the reason is the separation of diet articles into two or more groups. By this method the contractor runs the risk of incurring loss if the market rises in any of the articles and therefore fixes a profitable rate to each. Under the old system the contractor fixed lower rates than those in the market to some of the articles with a view to make it good in other articles. Some of the articles, such as sugar, salt, tamarind, rice, &c., which contain moisture lose weight after a period of three or more months' storage, and last year 1,869 lb. of rice had to be written off as wastage as it got damaged.

Surgeon-Major Reeves, Acting Superintendent.—States that the present departmental system is much more expensive than the old contract system, the chief reasons being wastage in storing, additional establishment and often unavoidably high rates; if very large quantities were purchased not at fixed times but when a particular article is cheaper, and also if the articles were purchased in the market by the store-keeper and not through a contractor, the new system would contrast favourably with the old. In another report he says that there is really but little difference, as far as the contract is concerned, between the two systems; formerly non-perishable articles were tendered for one year and supplied daily by a contractor. Now the contract is for six months and the whole supply is stored up at once. Under the new system the contractor receives his money immediately after articles are supplied, not so formerly.

Ophthalmic Hospital.—The Superintendent reports that the increase in the value of the diets may be seen to be due to the rise in value of the chief ingredients of the diets, e.g., coffee, rice and dholl, &c., and the prices of almost all the articles of diet during the two years the departmental system of purchase has been in force have been unusually high owing to unfavourable seasons.

Women and Children Hospital.—The Medical officer in charge writes to say that no supplies are purchased from the local markets, all such articles being taken over from the contractor.

Voluntary Venereal Hospital.—The Superintendent says that the supplies (non-perishable) are purchased for him by a contractor once in every three months, and so far as he could make out the prices are not in excess of the usual market rates.

Lunatic Asylum, Madras.—The Superintendent states that under the new system the expenditure rose on account of wastage, establishment, buildings, contingencies and advanced rates, and a greater loss would probably have occurred if the articles of diets were stocked to the extent of a six months' supply, but no buildings were available until only lately for this purpose. The contract system is after all probably the most economical. In subsequent reports he says that no fair comparison can yet be made between the old and the new system. The completion certificate of the store-room was only signed on the 8th May and the system was not fully adopted till June 1894 and cannot be so until existing contracts terminate. Cost of dieting in 1893-94 was higher than the previous years. Considerable saving will be effected in 1894-95, the amount of which cannot yet be stated.

Lunatic Asylum, Calicut.—The Superintendent reports that the departmental system was carried out, but in the absence of a store-room and a storekeeper only small quantities were purchased at a time and consequently there was not much wastage or dryage. In another report he says there has been no change in the system of contract for perishables. Though there is not much difference in the rates under the old and new system, yet the former, if re-introduced, will be productive of an advantage, in that the cost of wastage and store establishment will be saved. The cost of store establishment and of constructing store godowns were added to the dieting expenses and the total cost in 1893 was more than in 1892, while on the other hand the daily average strength of insanes was much smaller.

Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam.—The Superintendent says that no contracts of any sort is given since 1st August 1892. Dry grains are purchased in bulk through the Revenue authorities of the division and all other articles are purchased by the Hospital Assistant in charge of the Asylum from the local market; he further says that the system has worked satisfactorily and thinks that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old system.

Lying-in Hospital.—The Acting Superintendent, who had only lately taken over charge, states that the rules have been strictly carried out and points out that the expenditure has been somewhat higher on the new system which I know was appreciated by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Branfoot, the permanent incumbent, and who worked it to the best of his ability.

3. *General Remarks.*—From the above remarks it is quite clear to me that many of the responsible Medical officers had not properly appreciated the orders of Government, and that they were working a system which was only the old contract one veiled under a new name. I have called their attention to this and directed that the orders of Government must in future be thoroughly carried out. There is no doubt also that some of them met with great opposition in carrying out the new system. It was altogether a new departure placing such responsibilities on Medical officers' duties that in cases of large institutions take up a great deal of their time which some thought could be better spent on professional work. From my recent visits to the hospitals I am convinced that in the General Hospital, the Ophthalmic Hospital and the Lying-in Hospital, where the rules have been intelligently carried out, the supplies are on the whole better, that Medical officers have less reason for complaints about them, and that the time of the Medical officer was well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with these supplies, the system will be properly appreciated when

all see how much better supplied the sick are. I am also convinced that there is great necessity for some uniform rules to guide Medical officers in making such contracts and of uniformity in the forms submitted to my office in order that the necessary check may be facilitated. With this view I have appointed a Medical Committee* to draw up some rules on the lines of those in force in the Commissariat and Military Accounts Departments. For the information of Medical officers as to the prevailing prices of grains, a copy of the weekly season report is sent to each from my office, and I have circulated comparative statements of the rates which have been accepted for each of the hospitals for the information of all those concerned and for future guidance.

4. It must be remembered that this system was a complete departure from any system of obtaining supplies to which Medical officers had been accustomed. No attempt was made in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, to explain the system and the orders in G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, paragraph 27, were not communicated to the officers concerned. Nor were they aware of the results of the investigations of Drs. Walker and Lethbridge, and Mr. Cardew as regards jail administration in Madras. The subsequent orders threw very little light on the principles on which the change of system was founded.

5. I am confident that the results two years hence will be more reliable and profitable, as Medical officers will then have gained experience in the working of the new system and those disadvantages which have contributed to the rise in expenditure will have disappeared.

6. I enclose, for the information of Government, a comparative statement showing the prices of some of the chief articles of diet during the four years ending with 1893-94.

* Brigade-Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel W. Price, M.D., President.
Surgeon-Major A. J. Sturmer, } Members.
Do. J. W. Evans, }

Names.		Total cost on rations during				Total treated during				Average annual cost per patient treated.				Average daily cost per head during	
														1890-91.	
		1890-91.*	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	European.	Native.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
General Hospital (a)	Rs. A. P. 27,188 0 6	Rs. A. P. 31,927 5 5	Rs. A. P. 30,942 2 2	Rs. A. P. 31,888 13 1	3,877	4,477	4,298	4,793	Rs. A. P. 7 0 3	Rs. A. P. 7 2 1	Rs. A. P. 7 3 2	Rs. A. P. 6 10 5	Rs. A. P. 7 11	Rs. A. P. 4 0	
Lying-in Hospital (b)	5,777 5 2	10,553 0 9	12,954 6 2	14,387 4 4	3,064	3,290	3,734	3,787	1 14 2	3 3 4	3 7 6	3 12 9	6 11	3 4	
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)	4,892 5 2	5,190 0 10	6,177 3 8	5,455 9 9	1,566	1,696	1,608	1,898	3 1 4	3 0 11	3 13 5	3 3 5	6 6	3 6	
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d)	4,073 13 9	4,307 14 10	7,725 10 4	6,487 6 4	433	454	596	657	9 6 6	9 7 10	12 15 5	9 14 0	6 4	3 4	
Leper Hospital (e)	18,089 8 8	20,007 5 6	25,441 8 11	19,261 1 5	417	531	670	497	43 6 1	37 10 10	44 10 2	30 12 1	7 8	3 3	
Women and Children Hospital (f)	16,280 9 8	15,370 7 4	18,627 15 4	19,534 15 6	3,288	3,795	3,827	3,614	4 15 4	4 0 10	4 13 10	5 6 6	7 10	2 9	
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g)	29,776 15 10	30,166 1 9	34,781 2 8	38,732 10 3	590	687	608	609	50 7 6	51 6 3	57 3 3	63 9 7	Information not available in the records of the hospital.		
Do. Calicut (h)	6,045 15 7	6,663 7 1	5,388 11 2	5,520 15 1	184	175	162	109	32 13 9	38 1 3	38 4 3	50 10 5	28 14 6	2 0	
Do. Vizagapatam (i)	1,861 12 10	1,973 6 5	1,619 8 10	1,503 1 0	65	63	57	62	28 10 3	31 5 2	28 6 7	28 14 6	..	1 7	

Names.	Average daily cost per head during—cont.										1890-91.*		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.	
	1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.													
	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.		
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
General Hospital (a)	As. P. 8 6	As. P. 4 14	As. P. 7 11	As. P. 4 1	As. P. 8 0	As. P. 4 1	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 705 0 0	Rs. A. P. 998 0 0	Rs. A. P. ..	Rs. A. P. 1,056 0 0				
Lying-in Hospital (b)	7 8	3 10	8 4	3 6	8 9	3 9	..	..	..	..	..	270 0 0	..	360 0 0				
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)	6 5	3 5	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 8	..	..	..	..	..	354 13 5	..	360 0 0				
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d)	5 7	3 4	7 6	3 7	10 3	3 1	..	..	..	..	3,510 0 0	360 0 0	993 0 0	360 0 0				
Leper Hospital (e)	7 9	3 0	8 3	3 5	8 2	3 4	..	..	..	..	125 15 10	360 0 0	..	360 0 0				
Women and Children Hospital (f)	7 5	2 3	9 1	3 2	8 0	2 10	..	..	..	..	..	360 0 0	..	360 0 0				
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g)	9 0	6 3	9 11	7 4	10 4	7 2	..	..	..	..	463 3 8	360 0 0	..	360 0 0				
Do. Calicut (h)	..	2 1	..	2 3	..	3 7	150 0 0	..	291 0 0	..	..	499 0 8	7,000 0 0	864 0 0				
Do. Vizagapatam (i)	..	1 8	..	1 10	..	1 6	..	..	..	1,170 7 7	..	154 3 10	1,035 4 0	148 6 2				

* Failure of rain and high price of articles

Names.	Average daily cost per head during—cont.				1890-91.				1891-92.				1892-93.				1893-94.			
	1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.		1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.		1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.	
	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.	Cost of store building.	Cost of store establishment.
General Hospital (a)	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	As. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Lying-in Hospital (b)	8 6	4 14	7 11	4 14	8 0	4 14	..	..	..	..	705 0 0	996 0 0	1,066 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmic Hospital (c)	7 8	3 10	8 4	3 5	8 9	3 9	..	..	..	..	..	270 0 0	360 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Voluntary Venereal Hospital (d)	6 5	3 5	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 8	..	..	..	..	..	3510 0 0	364 13 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Leper Hospital (e)	5 72	3 42	6 9	3 7	10 3	3 14	..	..	..	..	..	125 15 10	360 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Women and Children Hospital (f)	7 9	3 0	7 64	3 5	8 2	3 4	..	..	..	..	..	360 0 0	360 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lunatic Asylum, Madras (g)	7 5	2 3	8 3	3 2	8 0	2 10	..	..	..	..	..	360 0 0	360 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Calicut (h)	9 0	6 3	9 11	7 4	10 4	7 2	..	..	..	..	..	463 3 8	360 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Vizagapatam (i)	..	2 1	..	2 3	..	3 7	..	..	..	..	..	499 0 8	7,000 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

* Failure of rain and high price of articles.

(a) First, depends on the length of stay in hospital of patients; second, on the class of patients who happen to stay longest; third, on the fluctuating cost of articles of diet; fourth, on the use of stimulants and extras by individual Medical officer.

(b) Up to 1st January 1891 the cost is only for purely midwifery cases; after that date gynecological cases were admitted, and the diets for European and paying patients has sent up the cost. The rate for diets has also increased.

(c) The increased cost of diets during the year 1892-93 is due to the unusually high prices of articles that prevailed during that year owing to unfavourable seasons.

(d) The increase of expenditure in 1892-93 is due to higher rate of chief diet articles than that of other years.

(e) During the years 1890-91 and 1891-92 the rates of the contract were almost identical and consequently the expenditure fluctuated according to the number treated, the average per head showing a reduction when the number has been great.

(f) The increase in the number of patients for the years 1891-92 and 1892-93 is due to a large number of cholera admissions; there is not much difference in the average annual cost of the four years requiring explanation; it depends on the class of patients, their stay and disease.

(g) Increase in average number of paying patients on special diet, increase in price of rice, &c., a more liberal diet, necessitated by general unhealthiness, increase due to weakly cases being brought on the sick list as soon as possible and substitution of ghee for gingelly-oil, extras for labour done by patients, enhanced contract rates. Large amount spent on extras.

(h) The decrease in the number treated in 1892-93 is due to the transfer in August 1892 of all criminal inmates to Madras and in 1893-94 to the absence of such inmates throughout that year. Decrease in cost in 1891-92 was due to the difference in pay and allowance of the Hospital Assistants and to the fact that Asylum clothing was manufactured at the Asylum. In 1892-93 the travelling charges of criminal inmates helped to increase the expenditure, and in 1893-94, as already reported owing to the substitution of ghee for oil and to the entertainment of a storekeeper and to the large wastages, there was a further increase.

(i) (1) The decrease in 1893-94 of total treated is due to the transfer of criminals (13) in August 1892 to the Madras Asylum and to the heavy mortality (8) in the first four months of 1892. (2) The increase in 1892-93 of average annual cost per patient is due to great scarcity owing to the failure of the monsoons of 1891 and to the number of sick in the early months. (3) The decrease in 1893-94 of average annual cost per patient is due to complete introduction of the departmental system of purchase and to the continual efforts made by the Hospital Assistant in charge to effect economy in many ways. (4) A store-room was built at a cost of Rs. 1,324-11-1 commenced and partly paid for in 1891-92, a sum of Rs. 154-3-10 remained was paid in 1892-93. (5) The outlay on store establishment was due to the appointment of a storekeeper on Rs. 20 sanctioned in G.O., No. 402, Public, dated 22nd May 1891. No actual increase was incurred on account of the storekeeper though a sum of Rs. 100 is shown under that heading in 1892-93 and Rs. 240 in 1893-94. What actually occurred was this: The man known as head keeper and writer, whose pay was Rs. 25, was appointed as storekeeper on Rs. 20 and the post of head keeper was abolished.

Endorsement of the Judicial Department, dated 4th March 1895.

From Surgeon-Major-General C. SIBTHORPE, F.R.C.P.I., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 4th July 1895, No. 387-Tour.

With reference to G.O., No. 165 of 7th March 1895, I have the honour to report that I called upon the Medical officers in charge of the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums for explanation for not carrying out the simple rules promulgated with G.O., No. 330 of 13th May 1892, Public, and now submit a summary of the reports sent in by them, together with a copy of the explanation received from the Senior Medical officer, General Hospital.

Superintendent, Lying-in Hospital—Forwards a list of articles capable of being stored for a six months' supply and states that he is not aware of having contravened the orders of Government except in not having called tenders for each article and to do this would not be feasible. Government by insisting on obtaining a six months' supply at a time actually sustain loss by the deterioration of some articles.

Superintendent, Ophthalmic Hospital—States that apparently no explanation is required from this institution as no advertisement in connection with tenders of supplies appeared in the Gazette of 5th March. He further reports that it has always been the practice to store non-perishable articles in bulk for several months together, that a six months' supply of non-perishable articles can be stored in this institution.

Superintendent, Voluntary Venereal Hospital—States that it is not his wish to traverse the orders of Government in any way, but laid in a three months' supply in lieu of a six months' as the store-room has capacity for that amount only; however, he has now arranged for a six months' supply.

Superintendent, Leper Hospital—States that the rules referred to in the Government order have been strictly adhered to. As the rates of the non-perishable articles given by the tenderers do not contrast much with those of the market for the past two or three years, these articles are tendered for six months' and three months' supply is received at a time as the store-room can only hold a three months' supply. If after three months any of these non-perishable articles, such as rice, &c., become cheaper, they will be advertised and fresh tenders will be received, otherwise they will be bought from the same contractor.

Medical Officer, Women and Children Hospital—States that the store-room is only sufficient to hold a three months' supply of non-perishable articles and was receiving three months' stock at a time; a correction to that effect has been made in the notification published in the Gazette of the 19th March.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Madras—States that the orders of Government regarding obtaining of non-perishable articles in bulk according to storage capacity have been carried out generally with the exceptions noted in the margin. That it has been pointed out that lamp oil and black salt could not be stored in any large quantity without incurring loss and permission was given to him to use his discretion in the purchase of such articles.

Kerosine, gingelly and coconut oil take up a large amount of ground space and as the two latter are jail supply, he receives them monthly. A distinct loss would result from a storage of six months' supply of fuel from ravages of white-ants.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Calicut—States that the supplies of non-perishable articles of diets were originally purchased from tenderers in such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation which is capable of containing about eight

months' supply. This course threatened to and did result in a heavy loss. Large wastage amounting to Rs. 152-9-0 occurred in several of the articles due to deterioration. Recommends again the continuance of the system of accepting tender for the whole year and taking in supply every two months as the price of articles is high during the mon soons from June to November.

Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam—States that the rules contained in G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, have been strictly adhered to since August 1892 as might be seen by a reference to the annual reports from 1892.

2. Copies of statement of storage accommodation available in each institution are also enclosed.

3. It will be seen from the letter from the Senior Medical officer, General Hospital, that he considers there is a vast difference between a jail and a hospital, and is of opinion that the rules in the Government Order, are unsuitable for hospitals.

4. As stated in my letter, No. 4-Tour-38 of the 29th November 1894, I have referred this question amongst other matters to the special departmental committee constituted in August last, and therefore abstain from making any comments on the Medical officer's reports. On receipt of the committee's report, I shall frame a set of rules for the better working of the present system, and submit them for the approval and sanction of Government.

5. The Senior Medical officer, General Hospital, who is president of this committee, was directed to submit a copy of the order now under reference to the committee, in order that these proposals might be made in accordance with the instructions in it.

ENCLOSURES.

From Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. PRICE, M.D., Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, Madras, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, dated 24th April 1895, No. 117.

In reply to your No. 12-orgl., dated 5th April 1895, calling for an early reply to your No. 2204, dated 12th March 1895, forwarding Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 165, dated 7th March 1895, I have the honour to report, for the information of Government, that, as regards the general hospital, it is not correct to say that scant attention has been paid to the wishes of Government regarding the departmental supply of non-perishable articles; on the contrary a great deal of time and attention have been expended on this subject, to the detriment of other and, from a medical point of view, infinitely more important work. As regards G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, the rules therein contained are certainly simple, but they are impracticable, and quite unsuited for the necessities and practical working of a large hospital like this. Had I simply followed these simple rules, I should certainly have saved myself a very great deal of anxious work, but the result would have been an immense loss to Government and confusion followed by a complete break down in the working of the hospital.

2. The following are copies of letters that I have written to the Surgeon-General on this subject—one in 27th June 1892, and subsequent experience has confirmed my opinion as to the difficulties therein mentioned and shows me several others:—

(a) This office letter No. 1409 of 27th June 1892 to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Surgeon-General, that it seems to me that the rules issued in G.O., No. 330, Public, of 13th May 1892, are very imperfect and to a great extent unworkable except at a serious loss to Government.

2. Imperfect—

(1) Inasmuch as they leave out entirely—

(a) miscellaneous articles,
(b) wines and spirits,
(c) aerated waters,

(d) surgical dressings,
(e) bedding and clothing,
(f) contingencies.

all these being very important items of hospital expenditure. In this hospital they include the following different articles and cost during 1891-92:—

Names of articles.	Cost.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Miscellaneous articles—			
(a) Hospital necessities	12,811	0	0
(a) Hospital miscellanies	1,364	0	0
(b) Wines and spirits	1,294	2	0
(c) Aerated waters	751	14	0
(d) Surgical dressings	118	2	0
(e) Bedding and clothing	3,041	5	9
(f) Contingencies	3,128	6	5

(2) In paragraph 6 it is ordered that "storekeepers should have absolutely nothing to do with the purchase of articles." A very good order no doubt, but imperfect as it stands. It is equally necessary to tell us who may buy when occasion necessitates buying.

3. Unworkable—

(1) The whole rules are drawn up under the assumption that a fair and honest tender or contractor can always be obtained. This is by no means the case as the following examples taken from tenders received in this hospital show:—

Names of articles.	Refused tender.		Bazaar rate.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.
Garlic	1	6	1	1
Ghee	8	0	7	3
Ginger, dry	6	0	3	9
Mustard, country	1	6	1	4
Pepper, black	6	0	4	2
Poppy-seeds	1	6	1	3
Turmeric	2	3	2	0
Dry-earth	6	0	3	0

It seems to me a most serious omission that no directions are given as to what ought to be done under these circumstances. At present the work is carried out in this hospital by utilizing the services of a man as purveyor who buys these necessary articles (for which no fair tender or contract has been obtained) as required in the bazaar. The quality of these is checked by the Resident Medical officer and myself, I also check the prices, the vouchers and the entries in the books. This is the plan that I carried out with very good effect in Nellore Jail from April 1885 to February 1889.

(2) In paragraph 4 it states "there should be a separate tender for each article." How is it possible to work this? Take "mint and parsley" the quantity used amounts to Rs. 1-8-9 in the year; other examples are—

Names of articles.	Cost per annum.		
	RS.	A.	P.
Coriander leaves	0	0	5
Chillies, green	0	0	7
Ginger, green	0	0	1
Spice, powder	3	7	0
Cocoanut	6	2	4

Who can possibly be expected to give a separate tender for such things. Take mangoes and oranges—who can be expected to give separate tenders for these articles (for a year) at a time when the market rate is favourable. "I certainly think that the plan adopted in this hospital of grouping certain articles of a class under a sub-head much better, as is done in the attached printed tender form."

4. Instead of ordering each Medical officer to watch the market it seems to me it would be much better for Government to enter into arrangement with a respectable firm or broker to watch the market and supply all the hospitals when the rates are favourable. I did all I could to get large firms to contract or send tenders. In addition to advertisement in all the local papers calling attention to the detailed advertisement in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, I sent lists of articles required to these chief firms, but with exception of spirits, tea, bandage cloth and soap, I got no tenders from them. It is quite a different thing going to a merchant's establishment examining a quantity of rice, sugar, &c., and making a bid for it on the one hand and on the other asking him to tender a certain sample with the risk of having what he considers the equivalent of that sample refused as is now being done with the rice contract. Bread, flour, &c., I get from the Government bakery; firewood from forest department and furniture, cocoanut oil

from the Jail. As it seems to me it must be to the interest of Government to have these departments utilized as far as possible. I might here add that I have, according to section 311 of Act I of 1884, arranged for the removal of night-soil by the municipality free of charge, thus causing a saving of Rs. 236 per annum.

(b) This office minute III, No. 3268 of 25th March 1895, to the Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

With reference to paragraph 5 of minute I, the Sub-Divisional officer, Public Works Department, informs me that there are 26,835 cubic feet of storage room available after deducting space for passages, &c. This space he tells me is sufficient for storing 4,472 bags of rice which is equal to 675,000 lb.

2. This space, taking the non-perishable articles mentioned in appendix of G.O., No. 330, dated 13th May 1892, in the proportions used, will enable me to stock the following quantities:—

	LB.		LB.		LB.
Three thousand bags of rice.	45,000	Cinnamon	3	Salt	36,000
Almonds	240	Cammin seed	720	Spice	120
Arrowroot	10,800	Dhall	4,800	Sugar	84,000
Barley	6,000	Ginger, dry	75	Sago	1,500
Cocoa	60	Garlic	1,500	Tamarind	16,800
Coffee (with wastage of powder).	30,000	Gingelly oil	6,000	Tea	8,600
Chillies, dry	4,500	Mustard seed	600	Turmeric	840
Corn flour	240	Pepper	4,200	Vendean	480
Coriander	4,800	Poppy seed	60		

3. Paragraph 2 of the same Government Order tells me that I am to call for tenders to "fill the storage accommodation available," and in paragraph 4 of minute I, I am severely censured for not having carried out "the clear and simple rules issued" in that order "for the guidance of the Medical officer."

4. I wish to be informed now if the Government is really in earnest in ordering me to fill up the storage room available.

5. I may mention that on a rough calculation it will be sufficient to last for eight years.

6. The explanation called for in paragraph 2, minute II, will be sent in as soon as distinct orders have been received on the question now raised.

3. I took over charge of the Senior Medical officer's duties in October 1891 and was called upon to put the ideas contained in G.O., No. 402 of 22nd May 1891, into force on 1st April 1892. In my proposition statement of 11th November 1891, I asked for a storekeeper on Rs. 60 and an assistant storekeeper on Rs. 25 to help me in this work, but Government only allowed me one storekeeper on Rs. 45.

Under the contract system the contractors had to take care of themselves. Under the store-system the Steward's department had to check all the storekeeper's accounts and bills; this threw a very considerable amount of extra work on the Head and Assistant Stewards. To relieve them of the kitchen work and of going round with the diets, and so to give them time to do their checking work thoroughly, I found it necessary, on 16th May 1892, to appoint a kitchen steward. As there was no time to get the sanction of Government as my previous experience was against the sanction being obtained, and as I saw that the appointment of this man was absolutely necessary to enable the stewards to have time to do their checking thoroughly, I appointed and paid for him myself. In their Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 971 of 30th December 1893, the Government recognized the necessity of this man's appointment and confirmed it, but they not only censured me for appointing the man without sanction, but declined to refund me all the money I had paid him. Seeing that the Government practically acknowledged that I was right both in censuring and fine seemed to me an unfair return for my efforts to work out an imperfect scheme. In October 1894 it was found necessary to appoint a copyist to assist in the Steward's department; this appointment was confirmed in G.O., No. 783 of 22nd October 1894.

4. I may here mention that since August last I have been one of a committee appointed by the present Surgeon-General to consider this matter of diets and draw up rules for the working of this store-system. The more we go into the subject the more complicated we found it. It is impossible to draw any useful comparison between a jail, with the regular, simple, fixed diets, and extras, and a very fluctuating population. Had a committee such as that now working been appointed in the first instance, and the change not introduced until a thorough competent working basis had been found, medical officers in charge would have been saved much trouble and anxiety and the Government would not have been disappointed.

STATEMENT showing the Storage accommodation available in the Presidency State hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

Name of hospitals.	Number of rooms.	For what purpose.	Length.	Breadth.	Area.	Remarks.
			FT. IN.	FT. IN.	SQR. FEET.	
General Hospital.	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	68	20	1,360	This is sufficient to stock a supply of non-perishable articles to last for 5½ years when the hospital for women and children is brought into the west wing of the station hospital.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	43	20	860	
	1	Do. firewood	23	20	460	
	1	Steward liquor, &c., godown.	8	7	63½	
	1	Storekeeper's godown	14	12	168	
	1	Linen clerk's do.	14	12	168	
		Assistant Surgeon's miscellaneous godown.	14	12	168	
					3,247½	
Lying-in Hospital.	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	47	12	564	A six months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. firewood, &c.	23	12	276	
	1	Do. straw, &c.,	14	6	174	
	1	Do. kerosine oil, &c.	12	6	78	
					1,092	
Ophthalmic Hospital.	1	For storing firewood	10	20	200	Do. do.
	1	Do. rice	12	20	240	
	1	Do. provisions	7	20	140	
	1	Do. do.	12	20	240	
					180	
					1,000	
Voluntary Venereal Hospital.	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	19	18	356½	A three months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	31	19	597½	
					954½	
Leper Hospital	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	19	14	276½	These two rooms hold six months' supply.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	17	14	253½	
	1	Do. firewood	12	5	66½	
					596½	Holds only two weeks' supply of firewood.
Women and Children Hospital.	1	For storing non-perishable articles.	22	8	182	A three months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. non-perishable articles.	22	6	136½	
					318½	
Lunatic Asylum, Madras.	1	For storing grains, &c.	33	24	830½	A six months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. grains, &c.	33	24	830½	
	1	Do. grains (used also as office).	17	13	246½	
	1	Do. fuel	53	16	839½	
					2,745½	
Lunatic Asylum, Visagapatam.	1	For storing grains, &c.	30	15	450	It is hardly enough to store a year's supply, but, when necessary, a part of the office has been used.
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut.	1	For storing grains, &c.	18	17	306	A eight months' supply can be stored.
	1	Do. do.	18	17	306	
					612	

Names of Institutions.	1890-91.							1891-92.						
	Rate per							Rate per						
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	
	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
General Hospital, Madras	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Lying-in Hospital, Madras	9 0	0 8½	2 0	0 9	2 9	1 2	2 5	10 0	0 10	2 0	0 9	3 0	1 1	2 5
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	10 11	0 10	4 0	1 0	3 0	1 1	2 6	11 0	0 11	4 6	1 0	3 0	1 2	2 7
Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Madras	9 0	0 8½	2 0	0 9	2 9	1 2	2 5	10 0	0 10	2 0	0 9	3 0	1 1	2 5
Leper Hospital, Madras	9 6	0 9	0 6	0 9	2 4	1 0	2 2	10 0	0 10	1 0	0 9	2 6	1 1	2 2
Women and Children Hospital, Madras	9 6	0 9	0 6	0 9	2 4	1 0	2 2	10 0	0 10	1 0	0 9	2 6	1 1	2 2
Lunatic Asylum, Madras	10 0	0 10	4 0	1 0	3 0	1 1	2 6	11 0	0 11	4 6	1 0	3 0	1 2	2 7
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut	9 5	0 10	2 6	0 7	3 0	1 3	2 4	9 8	0 10½	2 0	0 7½	3 0	1 3	2 3
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam	0 2	0 9½	..	0 9	..	1 0	3 9	9 6	0 5	12 0	0 9	..	0 10	3 6
	..	0 6	..	0 10	..	1 0	1 3	..	0 6	..	1 0	..	1 0	1 3

Names of Institutions.	1892-93.							1893-94.						
	Rate per							Rate per						
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	No.	Pint.	lb.	
	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.	Coffee.	Rice.	Arrowroot.	Salt.	Chicken.	Milk.	Mutton.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
General Hospital, Madras	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Lying-in Hospital, Madras	9 3	1 1	2 7	0 10	3 3	1 1½	2 6	10 4½	1 4	4 9	0 10	3 3	1 3	2 6
Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras	9 9	0 11	4 0	0 8	3 0	1 3	2 5	10 7	1 0	6 7	0 9	3 2	1 3	2 6
Voluntary Venereal Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 1	5 0	0 9	3 6	1 3	2 8	11 0	1 0	4 0	0 9	3 6	1 2	2 10
Leper Hospital, Madras	10 6	1 3	2 6	0 9	2 0	1 2	2 4	10 9	0 11½	4 6	0 9	3 3	1 2	2 3
Women and Children Hospital, Madras	11 0	1 1	1 6	0 10	3 0	1 3	2 6	11 0	0 11	1 6	0 10	6 6	1 2½	2 6
Lunatic Asylum, Madras	11 0	1 3	2 0	0 11	3 6	1 4	2 9	11 0	0 11½	2 6	0 9	3 6	1 2	2 6
Lunatic Asylum, Calicut	10 9	1 0	2 6	0 9	3 0	1 2	2 2	12 0	1 2	2 6	0 9	3 3	1 2	2 6
Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam	9 0	0 11	12 0	0 10	..	0 10	3 4	10 0	0 10½	13 0	0 8	..	0 10	3 6
	..	0 9½	..	1 0	..	1 0	1 3	..	0 5½	..	0 6½	..	0 10½	1 3½

ORDER—No. 815, Public, dated 2nd October 1895.

In G.O., No. 326, Judicial, dated 12th February 1894, the Inspector-General of Jails and the Surgeon-General were requested to submit a comparative statement of the cost of the departmental, including therein expenditure on establishment and buildings, and the contract systems of supplying rations in jails, hospitals and lunatic asylums, and were informed that if it was yet impossible to make a fair comparison between the two systems the fact should be reported. The Inspector-General's reply is embodied in G.O., No. 1280, Judicial, dated 25th May 1894. It showed that excel-

lent results had attended the substitution of the departmental supply for the contract system. For the quinquennium ending 1886, which was the last year in which the contract system was fully in force in jails, the average cost per head per annum was Rs. 35-6-0, and this fell to Rs. 30 for the quinquennium ending 1891. This latter figure was further reduced to Rs. 29-3-0 for the two years 1892 and 1893, and, including extra outlay on establishment and buildings, it was calculated that the net saving effected by the departmental supply system during the years 1887-93 amounted to Rs. 2,91,468. The Government, in its order No. 1280, Judicial, dated 25th May 1894, considered that this was most satisfactory and reflected great credit upon the officers of the Jail department, and it commended the figures to the earnest consideration of the Surgeon-General.

2. The Surgeon-General in his letter, No. Tour 4/38, dated 29th November last, states that the result of the substitution of the departmental system in medical institutions has been that the cost of rations alone, omitting from consideration the outlay on establishments and buildings, has risen; he submits the reasons for this result given by each medical officer concerned. The Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital, considers the increase in cost to be partly due to the advance in prices; and says that, on the whole, his experience has shown that the contract system is the cheaper of the two. In point of efficiency, however, he is in favour of the departmental system as the articles thus procured have been undoubtedly of better quality. It is unnecessary to repeat here the various grounds advanced by the head of each institution, but it may be remarked that the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Vizagapatam, reports that no contracts of any sort have been given since 1st August 1892, dry grains having been obtained in bulk through the revenue authorities and all other articles purchased by the hospital assistant in the local market. The system is stated to have worked satisfactorily and the Superintendent considers that no one who has had any experience of the two systems of supply would willingly return to the old one.

3. In his general observations on the subject the Surgeon-General remarks that it is quite clear to him that many of the responsible medical officers have not "properly appreciated" the orders of Government in regard to the new departmental system and that they have been working a system which was only the old one veiled under another name. He states that he has therefore called their attention to this and directed that the orders on the subject should in future be thoroughly carried out. The Surgeon-General mentions that, as the result of visits to the Presidency hospitals, he is convinced that in the General, Ophthalmic and Lying-in hospitals, where the rules have been "intelligently carried out," the supplies are, on the whole, better; that the officers have less reason for complaints regarding them; and that their time has been well spent in carrying out the responsibilities connected with the departmental system.

4. The Government regrets that, from the facts which are at present before it, it is altogether unable to agree with the Surgeon-General in the view that the rules have been intelligently carried out in any institution. Before commenting further on this point it will be convenient to give a short sketch of the circumstances which led to the introduction of the departmental system of supply.

5. In 1887-88 the system of supply of articles of diet was by contract for articles in bulk to be supplied in such quantities as might be required daily, that is to say, the probable amount of each article required during the year was tendered for, delivery to be daily or as called for. The question of the supply of diets was raised in connection with diet scales (G.O., No. 1, Public, dated 1st January 1889). From the papers embodied in that Government Order it appears that the average cost of diets in 1887-88 was as follows:—

	Europeans.		Natives.
	RS.	P.	RS. A.
General Hospital	10	1 1/2	5 4
Women and Children's Hospital	7	0	3 7
Ophthalmic Hospital	7	6 1/2	3 10
Lying-in Hospital	6	4	3 3
Lunatic Asylum	5	10 1/2	2 7 1/2
Leper Hospital	8	8	2 11
Lock Hospital	12	4	6 10

It will be seen from the above that the cost of dieting Europeans in the General Hospital was nearly double of that in the Lunatic Asylum, while that in the Lock Hospital was higher still. In regard to the cost of native diets, the average in the General Hospital and Lock Hospital was in each case more than double of that in the Lunatic Asylum. The increases in the cost of diets that had taken place during the quinquennium ending 1887-88 were as follows:—

Europeans—

- 5½ pies in the General Hospital.
- 2 annas in the Leper Hospital.
- 2 annas and 2 pies in the Lock Hospital.

Natives—

- 7½ pies in the General Hospital.
- 5 pies in the Women and Children's Hospital.
- 4 pies in the Lying-in Hospital.
- 3 pies in the Leper Hospital.
- 1 anna and 8 pies in the Lock Hospital.

6. Careful investigation elicited the fact that the increases were not due to a rise in prices. The main cause was the constant resort to articles known as "extras," which were outside the ordinary diet scales and more expensive. Even though a patient might be dieted on these alone he had to be placed, under the then existing rules, on a formal scale of ordinary diet as well, the articles of which were supplied daily and otherwise disposed of. Thus the cost of dieting a European *per diem* in the General Hospital was As. 10-1, which was made up of ordinary diet As. 4-2 and extras As. 5-11; in the Lock Hospital the cost of ordinary diet was As. 4, while the extras averaged As. 8-4.

7. A committee was appointed to enquire into the matter and their recommendations in regard to the new scale of diet, doing away with the rule that "extras" could be issued only in addition to an ordinary diet, &c., were accepted by Government as an experimental measure in the Government Order quoted in paragraph 5 *supra* in which the opportunity was taken to remark that contract rates "*per diet*" should never be allowed; in other words, that there should always be a separate rate for each article constituting a diet.

8. G.O., No. 423, Public, dated 11th June 1890, contains a report on the experimental diets, from which it was evident that the old contract system was continued if not in the form of a rate per diet at least in a shape which maintained all its evils. The Government remarked that there was no buying in bulk at times when articles were cheap; no storing and issuing as required by the hospital staff; and that it was clear that until the daily contract system was completely given up no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. The cost per diet in 1889 as compared with the previous year was as follows:—

Hospitals.				Increase+ Decrease—	
Ophthalmic Hospital	..	..	..	..	..
Lock Hospital	..	..	..	..	+ ¼ a pie.
Women and Children's Hospital	..	..	..	..	— 9 pies.
Lying-in Hospital (Europeans)	..	..	..	..	+ 2½ pies.
Do. (Natives)	..	..	..	..	+ 5
General Hospital (Europeans and Eurasians)	..	..	..	..	+ 1 pie.
				..	— 1 anna 2½ pies.

9. The financial results of the working of the new scales of diets in the Presidency hospitals are recorded in G.O., No. 402, Public, dated 22nd May 1891. Surgeon Major-General deFabeck in his letter embodied therein reported that most of the medical officers were against any change in the system of obtaining supplies by contract and that he concurred with them. The Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, however, stated that, as he had no accommodation for storing large supplies, he had arranged to buy grain weekly, and although there had been a considerable rise in prices, the outcome of an experiment extending over six months was a saving of Rs. 178 on the previous figures. The Government was dissatisfied with the results of the new scales, and the facts brought before it confirmed its previously-expressed conclusion that until the daily contract system was absolutely abandoned no substantial reduction in cost would be effected. It accordingly directed

that the system should be discontinued with the least possible delay in Government hospitals and lunatic asylums and that everything except perishable articles should be purchased in bulk and issued as required. It laid down that for the daily supply at fixed rates of the quantities required of such articles as fresh meat or fish, milk and fresh vegetables, contracts might be allowed, but that other articles, such as grain of all sorts, oil and condiments, should be purchased by tender in bulk and stored and issued by the officers of the hospitals and asylums on their own responsibility. The Surgeon-General was directed to formulate proposals showing the cost of the necessary store-rooms and storekeepers and to draw up a set of rules in connection with the subject for the guidance of those concerned.

10. In the following November Surgeon-General deFabeck remonstrated against these orders, but was informed that the Government * was not prepared to modify them. In G.O., No. 1025, Public, dated

9th December 1891, the Government agreed with that officer that tenders for all requirements in hospitals should be invited and adjudicated on by the medical officer in charge of the institution concerned. In further explanation of the orders already issued, the Surgeon-General was informed by G.O., No. 136, Public, dated 25th February 1892, that the intention of Government was that tenders should be invited for a certain quantity of non-perishable articles, the whole to be delivered at once, and that if there was storage capacity for only two months' supply that amount should be called for. This was made even clearer by G.O., No. 144, Public, dated 4th March 1892, in which it was laid down that the purchases should in all cases be up to the limit of storage capacity. In G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, the Government approved, for issue by the Surgeon-General, of certain rules for the guidance of medical officers in working the system of departmental supply of articles of diet. These rules were simple, clear and complete. In regard to non-perishable articles it was distinctly laid down that they should be purchased in bulk, that tenders should be invited at a time when prices were most favourable for the supply of such quantities as would fill the storage accommodation available, and that the advertisement should call for the delivery of the whole quantity of the article required within a specified and early date.

11. The statement printed as an appendix to this Proceedings contains extracts from the *Fort St. George Gazette* showing exactly the extent to which attention has been paid to the instructions of Government by the various medical officers concerned. It will be seen from this that the existing system, if system it can be called, is not the departmental supply system at all, as each medical officer has followed his own views as to the conditions of supply to be imposed.

12. In regard to the three institutions in which the Surgeon-General states that the rules have been intelligently carried out, it will be seen that in the case of the General Hospital the conditions of supply have not varied during the past four years. The probable quantity of each article required during the first or second half of the official year has been notified with the condition that it is to be supplied in bulk at any time after the ^{20th March} ~~20th September~~ or if more convenient to the "contractor" in instalments (in advance) sufficient to meet two months' requirements at any time. This indicates that the medical officer merely settles one "contract" for a half year and leaves it to the "contractor" to supply the article as he sees fit. In regard to the Ophthalmic Hospital, it appears that it was at first notified that the tenderer was at liberty to distribute the supply over the whole year provided that at least one-sixth of the total quantity required was always kept in stock in the hospital store-rooms. This was subsequently modified to a half year's supply, delivery to be in such quantities as might be required in bulk. The condition of supply at the Lying-in Hospital was that it should be in such quantities and at such times as might be required.

13. From the foregoing facts the Government is forced to one of two conclusions, viz., either that the Surgeon-General has not made himself entirely master of the rules or that he is not aware of the real nature of the system of supply in force in the three institutions above referred to.

14. The only satisfactory feature of the statement considered above is the condition of supply for the current official year at the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, viz., within one week of acceptance of tender. This goes to indicate that this will be the first institution in which the departmental supply will receive a fair trial. The Surgeon-General will be requested to direct the Superintendent of the Asylum to note carefully the effect of storage on each article at the end of each month to serve as a guide for other Presidency institutions and to show also how many months' supply of non-perishable articles may be safely laid in without fear of deterioration.

15. In paragraph 4 of his letter of the 29th November, the Surgeon-General complains that no attempt was made in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, to explain the departmental system and that the orders in G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, were not communicated to the officers concerned. It may be remarked that paragraph 27 of the Government Order last quoted did not refer to hospitals. In any case it was communicated to the Surgeon-General and, if necessary, should have been passed on to medical officers by him. His complaint as regards the rules in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892, is not understood. Nothing, it appears to Government, could be more explicit, and an ordinarily careful perusal of them would seem to be quite sufficient to give a clear idea of the system to which "contractor" in connection with the supply of non-perishable articles. There should be no contract but merely a tender for a certain quantity at a certain rate for immediate or early delivery. In this connection the Surgeon-General's attention will be directed to paragraph 27 of G.O., No. 2286, Judicial, dated 6th November 1891, with the request that he will report whether it would be possible to adopt for medical institutions a system somewhat similar to that followed by Mr. Gadsden at Rajahmundry.

16. The foregoing particulars and remarks refer exclusively to the purchase of non-perishable articles of diet, but No. 1 of the rules in G.O., No. 330, Public, contemplated also a change in the contract system for the supply of perishable articles. It lays down that deliveries should be made from time to time and that the medical officer should fix the duration of the contract with a view to obtain the most advantageous terms, e.g., if the state of the market is very favourable, the contract should be fixed for a longer period than if prices rule high. The particulars in the appendix however show that in all cases contracts for perishable articles are still being understood. The Government is aware that to work the new system of supply in a correct manner entails an addition to the duties of the medical officers concerned which being new to them they find both harassing and difficult and which they not unnaturally wish to avoid. It feels, however, assured that, if properly administered, the departmental system will lead to considerable economy in the matter of diets as well as improvement in the quality of the diets themselves, and His Excellency in Council looks to the medical officers in charge of hospitals at the Presidency and of lunatic asylums to afford a loyal and energetic compliance with the orders of Government on this subject and to the Surgeon-General to see that the instructions of Government are not disregarded as they have been in the past.

17. The average cost of diets per diem for the last four years for which figures are available is given below:—

	1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		1893-94.	
	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.	Europeans.	Natives.
General Hospital	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.	A. P.
Women and Children's Hospital	7 11	4 0	8 6	4 1½	7 11½	4 1½	8 0½	4 1½
Ophthalmic Hospital	7 10	2 9	7 5	2 3	9 1	3 2	8 0	2 10
Lying-in Hospital	6 6	3 6	7 5	2 3	6 9	3 10	7 3	3 8
Lunatic Asylum	6 11	3 4	7 8	3 5	8 4	3 8	8 9	3 9
Leper Hospital	7 8	3 3	9 0	3 10	9 11	7 4	10 4	7 2
Voluntary Venereal Hospital	6 4½	3 4½	7 9	3 0	8 3	3 5	8 2	3 4
			5 7½	3 4½	7 6½	3 7	10 3	3 4½

Comparing 1890-91 with 1893-94 it is apparent that there has been an advance in cost as regards both Europeans and Natives at each institution. The average of all institutions for the past three years shows

	Europeans.		Natives.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.
1891-92	7	5½	3	9
1892-93	8	3	4	2
1893-94	8	8	4	0½

a steady increase under European diets, but no very great variation under native. The dieting of natives at the Lunatic Asylum costs about double what it does at the hospitals. There has, however, been a great improvement on the state of things in 1887-88, as will be seen from the statement in paragraph 5 *supra*, though in several cases the average cost of native diets has increased, whereas the new diet scales introduced by G.O., No. 1, Public, dated 1st January 1889, were designed to lead to economy; thus:—

	1887-88.		1893-94.	
	A.	P.	A.	P.
Lying-in Hospital	3	3	3	9
Lunatic Asylum	2	7	7	2
Leper Hospital	2	11	3	4

The increases on account of European diet may possibly be due to an advance in the prices of articles of European diet. The rise at the Lunatic Asylum is phenomenal and requires full explanation.

18. No deductions can be drawn from the foregoing facts and figures as to the financial effect of the departmental system, for, as already shown, it has not really been tried. Besides the increase in the cost of diets the following expenditure has been incurred:—

	Store buildings.		Store establishments.	
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1892-93	4,958	3,300		
1893-94	9,028	4,108		

This compares unfavourably with Rs. 5,666 expended on buildings in the Jail department and Rs. 4,000 on account of "purveyors." These servants were, moreover, entirely dispensed with early in 1891.

19. In G.O., No. 165, Public, dated 7th March 1895, the attention of the Surgeon-General was directed to certain advertisements in the *Fort St. George Gazette* for articles of hospital diet and supplies. It was pointed out to him that the instructions contained in these were at variance with the rules promulgated in G.O., No. 330, Public, dated 13th May 1892. After again sketching the departmental system the Government expressed its regret that its wishes in the matter had received but scant attention and that the simple and clear rules issued had not been adhered to by medical officers. The Surgeon-General was directed to take steps to ensure these being strictly followed in the future and to call upon the officers responsible to explain why they had hitherto been neglected. He was also requested to submit a statement of the storage accommodation available at each of the Presidency hospitals and the lunatic asylum and to state how many months' supply of non-perishable articles could be stored.

20. In his reply No. Tour/387 of the 4th July, the Surgeon-General submits a summary of the reports received from medical officers, together with a copy of the explanation of the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital. The Government does not propose to deal with the individual reports of medical officers, who appear to be mostly under the impression that the instructions issued have been carefully adhered to, but will content itself with instructing the Surgeon-General to take such steps as may be necessary for preventing any deviation from the rules in future.

21. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Price's letter, however, calls for more than passing comment. The Government views with much regret and displeasure the conduct of this officer in having ventured to address to the head of his department a letter so improper and captious in tone, and so unbecoming and disrespectful in its language, as that now placed before it. It is a matter of great surprise to His

Govt. of {1895} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 815, 2nd October 1895.

OCTOBER.

**Diets in Hospitals and
Lunatic Asylums.**

Passing orders on letter from the Surgeon-General submitting a comparative statement showing the cost of the departmental and contract system of supplies in the Presidency Government Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

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