

Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 269

Dated 21st Feb. 1896.

EXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

MORGUE FOR MADRAS.

Stating that the question of the provision of a ---can lie over for the present as there is no immediate prospect of existing arrangements being disturbed.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1016 1407		1896 1896				

From

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

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

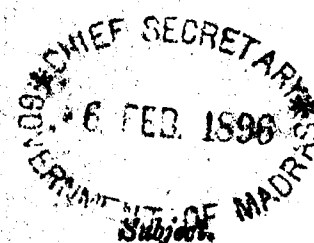
No. 79

ENCLOSURES.

Sent
Received

5th Feb 1896

No.



Reporting upon the
site of a morgue in
compound of the
Medical College, Madras.

Completed
21/2/96

19 S.G-470-13-4-96.

WITH ORDER

46378-1-96
Just 149223-1-91
file of Jmt papers

Go. No 269 d/21 Feb 96

The Govt is of opinion
that the question of
provision of a morgue
for Madras is one which
may well lie over for
the present. There is
no immediate prospect
the buildings previously
occupied by the work
and Civil Drains Hosp
being disposed of and
existing arrangements
are not likely to be
turked.

from order

5013
20/2/96

Surgulgent
P.W. Dept
(for inform)

G.O.

No. 77

Encl.

From

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

SURGEON-GENERAL WITH THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

Madras,

To

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

With reference to paragraph 4 of G. O. No. 10, Public, dated the 18th December 1895 and G. O. No. 678, Public, dated 9th August 1895 regarding the mortuary, office, dispensary and quarters for the Assistant Surgeon attached to the Surgeon 2nd District I have the honour to report that it will be necessary to make some other provision for the office and the mortuary which latter is now used for the purposes of making medico-legal Post-mortems for inquest on both the second and third Districts.

2. As regards the office, I have consulted the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital and the Surgeon 2nd District and they both recommend that a small building should be erected next the present Out-patient Department of the General Hospital.

re there is room for it. There is no room available in the General Hospital for the purpose. I concur in this suggestion and approved the consulting Architect might be directed to prepare plans and estimates in consultation with the Surgeon 2nd District and the Senior Medical Officer, General Hospital.

3. As regards the mortuary the Senior Medical Officer, ^{General Hospital,} considers that the mortuary in the General Hospital is not large enough and that moreover it is most objectionable having dead bodies into the compound of an hospital. In both these opinions, I concur.

4. This is, in my opinion, the proper time to again take up the question of supplying a proper morgue for Madras in which nearly all inquests could be held and which could be placed under the Superintendence of the Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the Medical College who should be given a skilled assistant Surgeon as assistant Superintendent to assist in making the Post-mortems in a scientific manner and who would be given the necessary evidence in such cases in the different Courts. He would also be the Assistant to the Professor in the Medical College. This Assistant might be supplied by

What grammar shades of dumber Murray

by doing away with the assistant to the Surgeon 2nd District sanctioned under G. O. No. 453, Public, dated 8th June 1895, and requiring the Assistant Surgeon of the 3rd District to do the outdoor work also of the 2nd District. The services of a clerk on rupees 25 a month would then be necessary to carry on the correspondence of and to copy the Certificates given in the office of the Surgeon 2nd District which is now done by the Assistant Surgeon.

5. One of the great advantages of such a morgue would be that the Students in the Medical College would be given a much more thorough training in medico Legal work.

6. By far the best site for such a morgue would be in the Compound of the Medical College.

7. The accommodation that would be required appears to me to be,

- (1) A resting room for bodies,
- (2) A Post-mortem theatre in which room for students was provided,
- (3) A property store room,
- (4) An office for the Superintendent and a small laboratory,
- (5) A room in which inquests could be held,
- (6) Waiting room for the public,

(7) Rooms for the police

(8) Quarters for the Assistant Superintendent.

8. If Government approved of this proposition, the site, the accommodation required and the plans of the buildings should be proposed by the Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and approved of by the Commissioner of Police and the Principal of the Medical College.

9. The Professor of Medical Jurisprudence should report on the equipment required and in consultation with the Commissioner of Police and the Principal of the Medical College on the menial servants considered necessary.

10. Should this proposal be sanctioned the mortuary erected under the sanction in G.O. No. 149, Judicial, dated 23rd January 1891 could be sold or otherwise utilized.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. S. Chatterjee
Major-Genl.

Surgeon-General
with the Govt. of Madras.

In Orders

Under G.O. 678 Pubd 19.8.95 a portion of the Late Women & Children's Hospital, including its mortuary, was placed at the disposal of the Surgeon-General for the purpose of an office, dispensary & "District Mortuary" as a purely temporary measure.

A subsequent application from the Comr. of Police for this same mortuary was rejected by Govt in para 4 of G.O. 1030 Pubd 18.12.95 with the remark that it had already been handed over to the Surgeon, 2nd Dist as a temporary measure. At the same time Govt directed that tenders should be called for for the public for the purchase of the site & buildings, barring a portion regarding wh. the E & A. S. D. instructions were in treaty.

The Surgeon-General therefore pointed out that it will be necessary to provide elsewhere for (1) the office & (2) the mortuary, the latter of wh. is now used for making "medico-legal post-mortems for inquest in both the 2nd & 3rd districts".

(1) The Office. D. Tibbott

concur with the Senl. M.O. & the Surgeon, 2nd District, in recommending that a small building should be erected near the Out-patient Dept of the Genl. Hospl. where there is room for it, there being no room, he states, in the Hospl itself.

2) The Mortuary. The S.G. agrees with the Genl. M.O. that the Genl. Hspl. mortuary is not large enough & like his predecessors, objects to the keeping of corpses in the hospital compound. He therefore considers this a good opportunity to once more raise the question of the construction of a proper Mortuary for Madras. The work to be done in it & the officers for the work he details in para 4.

Dr. Sibthorpe considers that one great advantage of such a mortuary would be that the students in the Medl. College would be given a much more thorough training in medico-legal work & suggests as the best site the Medl. College compound.

Para 7 of the current gives particulars as to the requisite accommodation & para 8 & 9 the measures to be adopted for carrying out the work shd. Govt approve of it, in which case Dr. Sibthorpe suggests that the mortuary erected under the sanction in G.O. N° 149 Judd d/23.1.91 shd. be sold or otherwise utilised.

Attention is invited to this G.O. and the preceding correspondence which led up to it. In his note

Surgeon General Bidie & de Taback

* marked with red tape

+ vide his letter in G.O. N° 622 Judd d/11.4.90

with G.O. N° 274 Judd d/13.2.90 Mr. Cardew gives a resumé of the correspondence between the Police, Municipal and Medical authorities which finally led to this matter being broached. Sir Henry Stokes then recommended the status quo ante bellum.

Dr. Bidie however again protested, stating that the Police were not qualified to form an opinion in every instance as to whether, in the case of a body found in the streets, death was due to an infectious disease or not. And Surgeon General de Taback ^{being of the same opinion as} Dr. Bidie, the Govt ultimately expressed, in G.O. N° 1596 Judd d/16.10.90, its concurrence in the Surgeon General's view "that it is very undesirable to have a Police Mortuary within the compound of the Genl. Hspl.; and direct the Comr of Police to select some other site for it. The site selected, between Elephant Gate & Wall Tax Roads, was approved in G.O. N° 149 Judd d/23.1.91

It will be observed however that in his note thereon Sir H. Stokes expressed regret that G.O. 1596 Judd d/16.10.90 had been ^{passed} ~~sanctioned~~.

2) It is submitted that however necessary such a mortuary may be, the advantages of having one will no doubt be very considerable, this is not a particularly happy time for raising the question of its construction. Proposed improvements in, and additions to the Genl Hoapl are now under consideration, involving an expenditure of some Rs 85,000 while estimates ^{quintupling to} ~~of Rs 6,000~~ have already been approved.

~~But the question of having a mortuary is a matter of some importance and should be considered at once.~~

If the question of the Mortuary is to lie over for the present, it will of course be necessary to make some provision for a mortuary for the 2nd & 3rd districts. The Surgeon Genl might be asked how often there was occasion for the mortuary in India since it was placed at his disposal under go. 678th dt 9-8-95 - and also how many corpses have been sent during the past year by the Police to the

Genl

Genl Hospital mortuary.

For orders
 C.D.
 10.2.96 whether the P.W.D. may be asked in the first instance for an approximate estimate of the cost of the proposed mortuary & office. There is no immediate necessity for the provision of accommodation as the W.C. hospital buildings are not likely to be disposed of for some time.

S.D.B.
 11.2.96

I submit that this matter may very well lie over until all the various questions regarding and proposals regarding expenditure in the Medical Dept have been cleared off. There is no hurry. Govt. is not at all likely to soon get rid of the site of the W. & C's hospital. The S. & is something too terrible: hardly a day passes without his performing some fresh expenditure.

13/2/96.

W
 19 Feb

17/2/96

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[Faint handwritten notes on the left margin, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]

A Morgue for Madras

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____ } 189

AGAINST G.O., No. _____ DATED _____
189 _____

PRESENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

APPROVED FOR FILING UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

M.B. -
A = Copy in full.
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P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.