

Public (1897) Department.

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G.O., No. 1086-1086A

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INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Medical Institutions in the Presidency
Town

Reviewing annual reports
on the working of the — for the
Year 1896, and forwarding copy
to the G. of S.

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

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ord	3842		Transferred to Fr. 7				
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G.O., &c., Nos. 1086, 1086A, 19th August 1897.

AUGUST

Medical Institutions in the Presidency Town.

Reviewing annual report on the working of the — for the year 1896, and forwarding copy to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Letter from the Surgeon-General, No. T.-2—165, dated 5th July 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting the Annual Report and Statistics for 1896 on the working of medical institutions in the Presidency Town of Madras.

ORDER—No. 1086, Public, dated 19th August 1897.

The dates for the submission to this Government (15th July) and to the Government of India (1st August) of the report read above were originally fixed with reference to the fact that all that was required was a "brief note"—*vide* paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 376, Public, dated 12th May 1891. A glance at it will show that not only has it far exceeded the limits of a paper of this description, but that it has even surpassed in length the triennial review of 1896. Some expansion of the reports since the year 1891 is no doubt owing to the increase in the medical and surgical relief afforded in the Presidency Town unavoidable, but making all allowance for this, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that that now under consideration could, without detracting from its usefulness or interest, have been materially briefer, and the Surgeon-General's attention will once more be called to the remarks of the Government of India recorded in G.O., No. 1081, Public, dated 2nd August 1887.

The report differs from those of the previous years in that it is accompanied by only the professional portions of the separate reports. The Government considers that, with a view to brevity, these may also be omitted in future from the annual "brief notes."

2. The number of medical institutions increased from twelve to fourteen owing to the inclusion of the dispensary of the 2nd district which had been hitherto omitted and the opening of a temporary dispensary for the Madras-Bezwada State Railway.

3. The following table compares the number of patients treated, the average daily attendance, &c., for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:—

Year.	Number of patients treated.			Average daily attendance.			Percent- age of mortality among in- patients.	Number of surgical operations.	Cost of diet.	Total gross ex- penditure.
	In.	Out.	Total.	In.	Out.	Total.				
1894	19,480	179,825	199,305	978.16	1,114.56	2,092.72	5.74	• ..	RS. 1,19,994	RS. 4,30,017
1895	17,345	176,182	†193,527	1,042.87	1,108.49	2,151.36	5.66	27,715	98,046	4,26,175
1896	17,605	186,249	†203,854	†974.91	1,220.47	2,195.38	4.92	27,903	96,449	4,22,314

* Figures not available.

† Excludes 1,927 cases of natural labour.

‡ Excludes 1,702 cases of natural labour.

§ Natural labour cases not included.

The diminished mortality among in-patients is very satisfactory. It is to be regretted that the number of deaths from septic diseases acquired in the hospitals rose from five in 1895 to nineteen in 1896: sixteen of these occurred in the General and Maternity Hospitals, the mortality from this cause in 1895 in these two institutions having been one in the Maternity Hospital; the deaths, however, do not appear to have been attributable to any lack of all possible precautions.

4. The total number of operations performed during the year under review was 188 more than that in 1895. The Government has perused with much pleasure the testimony borne by the Surgeon-General to the excellent work done in this branch by the officers named in paragraph 5 of the report. His attention will be drawn to paragraph 3 of the letter of the Government of India, No. 27-Medl.—970, dated 30th October 1896, embodied in G.O., No. 1212, Public, dated 11th November 1896, from which he will see that the information conveyed in Appendix D should have appeared in the body of the report itself.

5. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 4,29,530-7-7, which was met from the following sources:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Government	3,14,024	1	8
Municipality	44,991	9	6
Paying patients	24,897	5	0
Monegar Choultry Funds	13,234	11	6
Public subscriptions	11,153	4	9
Interest on investments	10,295	0	5
Sale of securities or withdrawal from deposits	5,593	4	0
Port Funds	3,373	15	0
"Other sources"	1,165	3	0
"Miscellaneous sources"	802	0	9
Total	4,29,530	7	7

There was a satisfactory increase under "Paying patients" of Rs. 3,775. The large advance of Rs. 15,810 in the total expenditure on European medicines, against a decrease in 1895 of Rs. 4,236, was mainly due to increases at the General Hospital and the Native Infirmary and North Black Town Dispensary of Rs. 7,533 and Rs. 15,434, respectively, attributed in the former case to the recent amalgamation of the Women and Children's Hospital and in the latter to the payment in one sum of the cost of medicines supplied in the past triennium. With regard to the Surgeon-General's remark that many indigenous drugs are included under "European medicines" it would be well if steps were taken to ensure a more correct classification in future.

There was, on the whole, a saving under *diets*, due in some measure to the introduction of the system of departmental purchase. The Surgeon-General's statements at the conclusion of paragraph 12 appear not to be altogether accurate for the cost in 1896 of European diets in the general wards of the five hospitals referred to by him is shown to have varied from As. 6-5 to As. 7-9, not from As. 6-10 to As. 7-9, and all the institutions under report do not seem to have shown an improvement, as at the Leper Hospital the cost of dieting Natives remained stationary, while the charges for Europeans rose from As. 7-8 to As. 7-9 and in the Voluntary Venereal Hospital the cost of diet for Natives rose from As. 3-4½ to As. 3-5½.

6. The question of supplies will be dealt with separately on receipt of the report of the Diet Committee.

7. The remarks of the Surgeon-General on the Steward's department in the Leper and Maternity Hospitals should form the subject of a separate communication. It may, however, be observed here that in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 651, Public, dated 20th June 1896, it was pointed out that the Surgeon-General had not shown what increase of work there was to justify an additional establishment.

Public (1897) Department.

4 Nos. 1086, 1086A, PUBLIC, 19TH AUGUST 1897.

Brigade-Surgn.-Lt.-Col. A. M. Branfoot, M.B.
Surgn.-Lt.-Col. W. R. Brown, M.D.
Surgn.-Lt.-Col. A. J. Sturmer.
Surgn.-Lt.-Col. G. L. Walker, M.D.
Surgn.-Major T. H. Pope, M.D.
Surgn.-Capt. R. H. Elliott, M.B.

8. The report is a record of good work done and His Excellency the Governor in Council notes with much satisfaction the testimony borne by the Surgeon-General to the very efficient and creditable discharge of their duties by the officers marginally noted.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Financial Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
" Accountant-General.

Order

ENDORSEMENT—No. 1086-A., Public, dated 19th August 1897.
Copy to the Government of India, Home Department.

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

CURRENT No. 3605

From Telegram

The Surgeon General

No. 290.

Dated 11
Received 12 } 8-97
Registered 13 }
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SUBJECT.

Furnishing the information called for in telegram no. 641 re report on the medical institutions in the Presidency town.

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