M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 4 of 18 Statement

(2) Date of repair 31-1-66

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	155	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	23.5-1873.	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 130. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R. E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 31st March 1873, No. 5,638 :—

In acknowledging the receipt of G. O., 24th March 1873, No. 915, in which the Inspector General of Jails expresses his disapproval of the Madura pattern of latrine, I have the honour to offer the following remarks, and to request the favour of your giving them the same publicity as has been given to Colonel Wilson's adverse criticisms on the latrine in question.

One Plan.

2. Colonel Wilson admits that the latrine at Madura "was not quite finished" at the time of his visit, and that it had not been used. He also admits that he did not examine the building 'minutely.' And thus it has happened that he has condemned a pattern of latrine for reasons which have no actual existence.

3. I should premise by saying that I claim no kind of originality for the design of latrine in question. My object is to follow as closely as possible the plan laid down by the Rev. Mr. Moule, the introducer of the earth-closet system, and to adapt that system to what may be termed 'squatters' in lieu of 'sitters.'

4. The galvanized iron pan, introduced by Mr. Moule, is provided by me for each seat or rather 'squat,' so that there is no risk that the persons "using the seats will micturate on the ground in front of them," as conjectured by the Inspector General of Jails.

5. Colonel Wilson's objection No. III., also at once disappears, as there is no "hole in the wall," and no occasion therefore "to rake the matter out," as conjectured. Indeed, by the system I advocate, all this dabbling in filth is avoided, as the pans when filled are carried bodily away and emptied, and their contents can, if necessary, be used over and over again, as I have myself witnessed at Mr. Moule's office in England, where after but only a few days the paper even disappears, and there is nothing to distinguish the matter from ordinary earth.

6. In regard to objection I., that the building has no roof, the latrine in question was built in this manner by the special desire of the Municipal Commissioners of Madura, as it is found that during rain latrines are little used, as people will not go to the inconvenience of visiting a distant latrine. Moreover, as the pans are provided with covers, they are protected from the rain; and an open latrine has the advantage of being purified by the grand deodorizing power of the sun. For a jail, of course, a covered latrine may be deemed advisable, though scarcely on Colonel Wilson's reasoning in regard to privacy. For if privacy while using the latrine is considered of little moment, see paragraph 3 of his letter, "as persons using the latrine are seen by those who may enter after them, or who may quit the place before them," so covering in the latrine may be deemed of little use, as persons using the latrine will, during rain, get wet both in entering and quitting it. The question, however, of roofing the latrine or not is a question apart, and if desired by the Inspector General of Jails, the District Engineer, in each case,

would provide the same with the materials lying most conveniently and economically at his hands.

7. All I advocate is that the Mount earth-closet system should be departed from as little as need be, and that such an arrangement as that introduced in the Coimbatore system be rendered impossible. For surely it must be conceded that that man must indeed be lost to all sense of feeling, who can, while seated at his ease, view without disgust other men's urine coursing down in a broad gutter immediately in front of him.

8. I enclose my design for the latrine for the new debtor's jail at this place. You will observe that it is roofed, and that it has a space for a covered bucket to be used as a urinal. I understood Colonel Wilson to say, during his recent visit to Madura, that he approved of this design.

No. 131. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1873, No. 1,303.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 3.

ORDERED that Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts' plan of latrine be lithographed and circulated to all District Engineers for adoption in any Municipalities or Cutcherries where it may be approved of by the *Municipal Board and the Magistrate*.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers,
To the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings,
To Major R. B. Kennedy,
To the Public Department.
,, Revenue ,,

W Plan.

No 155.

23 May '73.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

22-11-73

Rec'd 1873 Sept
No 1167

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS.

&c., &c., &c.

Rec'd May 10th.
Read May 23rd 1873 Encl.

G. O., 10th May 1873, No. 1,306.

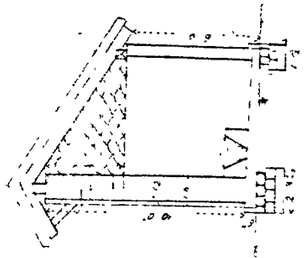
LATRINE.

Nos. 130 131

No 155 - 23rd May 1873

Latrine.—Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts' ... of latrine ordered to be lithographed ... circulated to all District Engineers ... adoption in any Municipalities or ... cheries where it may be approved of ... the Municipal Board and the Magis... ...y.

Section on A B.



Foundation Roughstone in

Amount of Estimate Rs

my letter to the Secretary to
W^t D No 5635 dated 31st March 1873.

District Engineer
Madura } R. A. Roberts. Lieut. Col: R.E.
1st April 187 District Engineer of Madura.