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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>4546</i>	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<i>13.8.1877</i>	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

6th August 1877, No. 2044.

Local Funds—Medical.

Read the following paper:—

No. 30. *Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st June 1877, No. 2,517.*

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 5th May 1877, No. 308:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 5,413, communicating G.O., Financial Department, dated 19th June last, No. 1,117, directing me to report fully on the existing dispensary at Palmanair, its powers of accommodation, and the number of patients using it, and to forward the supplemental plans and estimate for constructing out-houses in the new compound, I have the honor to state that I have not been able to submit my report until now for want of the supplemental plan and estimate, which were only forwarded by the Range Officer on the 30th ultimo.

2. The accompanying two plans, marked A and B, show in one view the whole of the compound of the present dispensary, together with the main and out-houses and the main dispensary building also separately with the dimensions of the rooms it contains.

3. From the plan marked B it will be observed that the dispensary building contains only three large rooms. Of these, the one in the middle is made use of as an office and compounding room, and is occupied by four large almshouses. The two rooms on the east and west, each measuring 15' 6" x 15' 6", are occupied by twelve patients, placed so close to each other that there is barely room to stand between the cots. The other three small narrow rooms, which are also used as wards, cannot accommodate more than one patient each. The average attendance of in and out patients in ordinary days amounts to 14.89 and 33.14. When the usual epidemic diseases begin to prevail, such as fever and cholera, the number of in-patients increase to double and sometimes treble the usual number. The present dispensary being very small, it is quite inadequate to accommodate even the patients admitted for treatment at ordinary times. The patients are sometimes obliged to be kept in the open verandahs, and for the special accommodation of patients afflicted with foot sores and ulcers I have erected a mud-walled thatched edifice in the compound. I herewith enclose a copy of the remarks made by Mr. Thornhill, the First Member of the Board, when he inspected the dispensary on the 19th October last.

4. The Deputy Surgeon-General of the division having also repeatedly brought to the notice of the Local Fund Board the inconvenience resulting from the present building, the Local Fund Board resolved to have a spacious new building constructed according to the plan and estimate for which sanction was solicited in my letter of the 5th April 1876, No. 924.

5. I beg to submit herewith a supplemental plan and estimate, as per margin, amounting to Rupees 2,260, for constructing high-caste wards and servants' quarters in connection with the new dispensary building as called for in the Proceedings under reference, and to

One Plan.
One Detailed estimate.
One Abstract do.
One Specification.

request that the Board will be pleased to obtain the early sanction of Government for the construction of the new dispensary, the estimate of which is now before Government, and of the out-houses in accordance with the above plan and estimate.

6. Out of the estimated cost of Rupees 9,300 for the construction of the new dispensary, exclusive of the supplemental estimate of Rupees 2,260 now submitted, Rupees 5,000 was provided in the budget of the last official year (1876-77) and the balance, Rupees 4,300, in the current year's budget. But the former estimate not having been sanctioned within the year by Government for want of the information called for by them, the provision made in the last year's budget was not utilized.

7. If the Range Officer had furnished me sooner with the plan and estimate only now forwarded by him after repeated reminders had been sent by me, the construction of the new dispensary would have long ago been sanctioned by Government, and a fair portion of the work would have been finished within the close of the last official year.

8. A copy of letter from the Apothecary in charge, reporting on the inadequacy of accommodation afforded in the present building, and an extract from the Deputy Surgeon-General's report are herewith sent for perusal.

9. I may add that the Deputy Surgeon-General was consulted by me, and has expressed his entire approval of the plans for the new dispensary.

Enclosure No. 1.—Copy of Report of Apothecary in charge.

Enclosures Nos. 2 and 3.—Extracts from Inspection Report of Deputy Surgeon-General.

Enclosures Nos. 4 to 6.—Plans.

Enclosures Nos. 7 and 8.—Estimates.

Enclosure No. 9.—Specifications.

The foregoing letter and the supplemental plans and estimates received with it will be submitted for the orders of Government with reference to G.O., Financial Department, dated 19th June 1876, No. 1,117.

2. The estimates, amounting in the aggregate to Rupees 2,260, are for the construction of two out-houses—one for high-caste wards and the other for servants' quarters.

3. The amount of the original estimate, which is now before Government, is Rupees 9,300, which, if added to the present one, makes a total of Rupees 11,560.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 1842.

The plans will be referred to the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department, for remarks.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Chief Secretary.

5th July, 1877.

No. 31. From Surgeon-General G. SMITH, M.D., Indian Medical Department, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 14th July 1877, No. 438.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the plans and specification marginally noted, and, with reference to G.O., No. 1842, of the 5th instant, to submit the following suggestions for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council.

2. *Quarters for Hospital Servants.*—If the quarters indicated on the plan are intended for ordinary servants of the hospital, such as coolies and sweepers, the accommodation thus allotted might with advantage be diminished; this will appear reasonable on comparing the area and room space of the place proposed for each servant with the corresponding areas and room allowed to commissioned and non-commissioned officers and to privates of the Native Army living in regimental lines.

3. *High-caste Wards.*—For the accommodation of high-caste patients cottages would appear to be better suited than wards. The plan affords accommodation for six patients (three male and three female) following sixty superficial feet per patient. It is questionable whether three high-caste male or female patients could be induced to occupy the same ward and use the same cook-room willingly unless they happened to be members of the same family, and, taking into consideration the desire such patients have to have their friends with them to cook their food, it is questionable how far the publicity of a ward would satisfy their scruples. It would probably be better to erect two double and two single cottages, reserving a double and single cottage for male and the same accommodation for female patients, and to arrange so that each patient have a small bed-room with a door opening into a room for his attendant, and with a cooking place in one corner. A small verandah in front and access to a reserved well and latrine behind would make the arrangements fairly complete. The cottages, to save expense, might be built like substantial native huts, only with improved ventilation and with floors somewhat more raised from the ground.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, 6th August 1877, No. 2044.

The Government resolve to forward the report of the Surgeon-General to the Local Fund Board for consideration, with the remark that they doubt the expediency in this case of the special caste provision proposed, as also that for cholera and contagious diseases. Such cases they consider should be treated in temporary buildings or sheds. The estimated cost of the accommodation for hospital menial servants seems unduly great. The Local Fund Board will further consider whether the whole plan and estimate might not be with advantage revised with reference to the standard plans circulated in June 1876.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department.
" President of the Local Fund Board, North Arcot District.
" " Municipal Commission, "
" Board of Revenue, with enclosures.
" Revenue Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd J. W. Fischer

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