

1931

Kenya

No. 17225 / B

SUBJECT C O 533 / 413

*Improvement of Asiatic Mental Hospital
at Madras*

Previous

Main File

Subsequent

*See 17225/31 (condition of
hospital)*

British Medical Assoc. 5/0 _____ 18. September
inquire present position in regard to proposal
to devote £2000 - £4000 to extension and
improvement of Ascuta Mental Hospital as matters
consider present site not suited to modern
institution and money would be wasted.

We appear to know nothing of any
proposal to spend money on Matham
Mental Hospital. The proposed
Hospital in Navaho about which
there is a good deal of talk is a
1925/26 is a different matter so
there is ~~no~~ no reference to
Matham in that paper.

I know however that
conditions at Matham are by no
means ideal so that it
is quite possible that the local
govt., not being able to afford
a new building, may be trying
to patch the old one up.

The Dept. have no knowledge
of X - unless he is upon or the
Joint Com. is not yet out.

Perhaps Dr O'Brien, on behalf

Dr. Stanton, and ack. no. 1 I
 by that we have a knowledge
 of the proposals, nor I am
 aware of the subject presented
 to the Joint Com. (though it
 is quite possible that we have been
 informed without our knowledge)
 & that been report & not yet
 published.

I don't think it
 would be wise to
 communicate with the Gov.
 the next time the line takes
 the land around the
 B. F. C.

Stanton
 12.5.31.

Dr. Brown
 You will reply in person
 5/11

2 J. Anderson - laund. 3/0 12 OCT 1931
 B.M.A. - fo - 15710731

ACK receipt of the 2 with address
 an official enquiry to Co.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

Regd on
 17225/1113

Filed on
 17225/1113
 No. 14

Dr. Med. Assoc 6/11/31
 Enquires as to the proposal to denote
 a considerable sum to the extension etc of
 the Mental Hospital at Mather

Dr. Med. Assoc 26/11/31
 Reminds
 See minutes of 17225/1113

Dr. Medical Assoc 1/12/31
 Has been informed by Cable that
 the plans for the extension of Mather
 Hospital are ready & building work
 is commencing. Text minute to be
 for report to No. 4

Dr. Stanton & I saw Dr
 Williams Oct 8 1931. He said that
 he has been proposed to represent an
 new ward to be built at the Mental
 Hospital at Mather. He nothing about
 & to far as he knew no Province had
 the money in 1931 or any time
 suitable. He did not understand to
 what purpose the B.M.A. were
 offering. In any case he is agreed
 with the view that the site is
 unsuitable.

See also in 17225 10/11/31
 15710731 - copy to dist. of det. to
 3.12.31
 See note past with the 17117/31

By air mail
8/12/31

To Comdr (C. L. ...)

408 809 (w/CO on file and
13. 14 + 15. on 17722/11/31)

4. 12. 31
7 DEC 1931

9 To Col. F. L. Fremantle C. 14/12/31
States local opinion regarding
the proposed improvement &
extension of Mathari Mental Hospital

To Col. Fremantle
(Actg. Comd)

15/12/31

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

No. 10 does not promise
further reply.

We have already had
representations from the local on
this subject. We are having
no info from the Gov. It
has however been asked for it
(air mail of 9 Dec.)

Perhaps we could leave
this until we know what
the Gov. has to say &
then consider writing further
to Col. Fremantle?

J. ...
17.12.31

It would be well to have the Gov's reply
before Parliament meets (7-10 Feb).

Copy of 9. 10 by next week's air mail
to Gov. ref. 8. and ask that his
views may be forwarded to ~~air mail~~
SofS. by the first mail in February

J. ...
17

Please see note attached which

pass through Dr. Stanton in case he has any observa-
tions to add.

J. H. Allen
18/12/31

I have nothing to add. The
Secretary RMA mentioned this to
me again yesterday. He is as
puzzled as we are to know why
these representations are being made
here about a matter which seems
clearly to be within the competence
of the local authorities to decide. I
do not understand Col. Fremantle's
systematic reference to India either.

Made by 11512 (then off) H. Stanton
19.12.31

J. H. Allen
23/12/31

To Col. Fremantle (C. L. ...)

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

14th Juv. Kenya 19/1/32

Reports the special features for the case of expenditure on the Mathari Mental Hospital, & trusts that the measures which are criticized by the Kenya Branch of the B.M.A., are necessary & are the best possible in the present circumstances.

14. These proposals for the extension of the Mathari Mental hospital have been the subject of ^{change} presentations by the British Medical Association and also by Lt Col Freemantle to Sir R. Hamilton - vide 1.9.

2. It appears from para 4 of 14 that there is ground for the B.M.A.'s contention that the site is unsuitable.

3. On the other hand it is quite obvious that it is undesirable to confine epileptics, lunatics etc in quarters owing to the lack of accommodation in the mental institution, and there are not funds for the construction of an alternative institution.

4. What is behind the objection is not clear. - see Dr. Stanton's minute of 19/12/1931. His expenditure seems to be unavoidable.

5. ? Submit to any comments by Dr Stanton. The part of 14 may be conveyed to B.M.A. and to Lt Col Freemantle.

H.S. Prissman 18/2/32

It seems clear that what is contemplated is a purely interim measure until the financial position improves.

It would be sufficient to communicate to the British Medical Assn. the substance of

x I see no advantage in referring to the Mental Disorders Bill and it may only raise a side issue. H.T.A.

paras 3 (as altered) and 4 and add that the S. of S. sees no reason to dissent from the view expressed by the Govt. that the measures which are

+ Better not to say by whom as B.M.A. are mentioned. H.T.A.

criticised are necessary and are the best possible in present circumstances.

If this action is approved Sir R. Hamilton may wish (if Dr Stanton sees no objections) to send a copy of the letter to the B.M.A. to Lt Col Freemantle in continuation of No. 12.

H.A. 21/1/32

I send this on as it arose out of a personal communication from an M.P. (Lt Col Freemantle) to Sir R. Hamilton.

A

23/2/32

Sir R. Hamilton

Have not gone into this but based on review of A

1 agree. Copy to Lt Col Freemantle
25.2.32
W.H.
29.2.32 above

15 To British Medical Assoc — 5 MAR 1932

To Lt Col. Fremantle — w/c 15 — 5 MAR 1932

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Sec 195 (w/c 15) A/1 9 MAR 1932
H. Cunnood

B.M.A. — 4/3/32
Ack. receipt of No. 15.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Lt Col. Fremantle — 4/3/32
Express thanks for No. 16, but
fear that the reply to B.M.A. does
not meet the criticisms.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

2 Public
Mrs. Ponsford
9/3/32

Dr. Stanton shares see as Lt Col
Fremantle's letter seems to indicate
a return to the charge. I do not
think we can argue the matter
further this end, but I enclose for R.

A Hamilton would think any
reply to Lt Col Fremantle necessary

H. Allen
10/3/32

In reply
Sally Cunningham A/1

comet
H. Allen
11/3/32

20 Gov. Kemp — 29 — 19/3/32

Corrects an impression which may have
been given by the wording of para 4
of No. 14 that the present hospital
site is unsuitable.

This is important as it
counters to some extent the statements
in 1 and 9 regarding the
unsuitability of the site.

Copy the Govt & B.M.A.
in continuation of 15 and so
that Dr. Hamilton will wish to
send a copy of the letter to
Lt Col. Fremantle in form 19
(copy of statement appended)

H. Ponsford
13/3/32

Yes, this supports what

Dr. Williams told me

H. Stanton
15.3.32

H. Allen
16/3/32

As regards Lt. Col. Fremantle, he has
better have a map for Dr. R. Hamilton
concerning

W.G.A. 17.3.32

cc'd

21 To British Medical Assoc - 21-MAR 1932

19and

22 " Lt Col Fremantle To/1/c 21 21-MAR 1932

[Handwritten signature]

RESTRICTED ORDER FORM

21 To British Medical Assoc 21 MAR 1932

22 " Lt Col Fremantle ^{19and} 70/10/21 21 MAR 1932

~~RESTRICTED UNDER GINAK 16~~

C. O.

17225(B)/Kenya
31

21⁰⁰ file

Mr. Priestman
Mr. *Allen* 17/3/32
Mr. *[unclear]*

Downing Street.

21 March, 1932.

Mr. Parkinson
Mr. Tomlinson
Sir G. Boultonley
Sir J. Stinchburgh
Permt. U.S. of S.
Party U.S. of S.
Secretary of State

Sir,

DRAFT

THE MEDICAL SECRETARY,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSN

(15)
I am, etc., to refer to the
letter from this Office of the 3rd
March, regarding the proposed extension
and improvement of the Mathari Mental
Hospital, and to inform you that although
the position was generally described in
my letter above mentioned, certain
additional information has been received
from the Governor of Kenya which serves
to correct the impression which may have
been given by the wording of paragraph
2 of ~~that~~ letter, that the present site
of the Hospital is definitely unsuitable.
The existing hospital reservation is
small and contains only a small acreage
suitable for agricultural development, but
it is surrounded by a very much larger

1032
21 MAR 1932
C.P. to Mr. [unclear]

(Copies to [unclear])

2 drafts

area of unalienated Crown Land of which a considerable portion is capable of cultivation and which is provisionally reserved for the use of the Medical Department.

2. It has also been suggested that the present site is in too close proximity to a growing residential area. The Governor is, however, satisfied that the configuration of the ground is such that the reserved area is practically isolated and that this objection is not of a serious character.

3. As has been indicated, the prospect of any building on an extensive scale is remote and although, should it become possible, it will clearly be desirable to give careful consideration to alternative sites, the opinion of the ~~Governor's Medical Advisers~~ ^{Director of Medical & Sanitary Services} ~~Governor~~ ^{Governor}, in which he concurs, is that it is neither certain that a better site could be found near Nairobi nor is it correct, in the meantime, to characterize the present site as definitely unsuitable.

I am, &c

(Signed) A. B. AGHESON

20⁸



KENYA.

No. 79

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI
KENYA.

RECEIVED
14 MAR 1932
GOV. OFFICE

19th

February, 1932

Sir,

No. 13

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 2 of the 5th January, 1932, regarding the proposed improvement and extension of the Mental Hospital at Mathari.

No. 14

2. Although the position was generally described in the Governor's despatch No. 31 of the 18th January, 1932, it seems desirable to take this opportunity of correcting an impression, which may have been given by the wording of paragraph 4 of that despatch, that the present site is definitely unsuitable. The existing hospital reservation is small and contains only a small acreage suitable for agricultural development, but it is surrounded by a very much larger area of unalienated Crown Land of which a considerable portion is capable of cultivation and which is provisionally reserved for the use of the Medical Department.

It has also been suggested that the present site is in too close proximity to a growing residential area. I am, however, satisfied that the configuration of the ground is such that the reserved area is practically isolated and that this objection is not of a serious character.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,
MAJOR SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWLING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

3.

3. As has been indicated, the prospect of any building on an extensive scale is remote and although, should it become possible, it will clearly be desirable to give careful consideration to alternative sites. The opinion of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in which I concur, is that it is neither certain that a better site could be found near Nairobi nor is it correct, in the meantime, to characterise the present site as definitely unsuitable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Herbert K. ...

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

C.O.

157 C-30
1946

C.O.
R. 1-MAF
D. 2 1/2

Mr. Priestman
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. Parkinson
Mr. Tomlinson
Sir C. Bottomley
Sir J. Shackburgh
Presid. U.S. of S.
Party U.S. of S.
Secretary of State

17225

Downing Street,

3 March 1932

Sir,

With reference to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~letter~~ ^{to} refer to my letter
from this office
(No. 17225/AT51) of the 4th December 1931,

DRAFT

THE ~~SECRETARY~~ MEDICAL SECRETARY,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

in reply to your enquiry regarding the
expenditure proposed on the extension and
improvement of the Mathari Mental Hospital
in Kenya I am
pleased to inform you that it has now been
ascertained from the Governor of Kenya
that the case of the Mathari Mental
Hospital presents special features. As
long ago as 1927 it became apparent that
the accommodation was seriously defective
and in the following year the Director
of Medical and Sanitary Services reported
that both male and female African quarters
were overcrowded, that no separate
accommodation existed for Asiatics, that
there was no sick bay and that the

copy to Director
copy to Secy 19.3.32
9 MAR 1932

G. H. [unclear] ET

European

European female quarters were not only too close to the African female quarters but that they were unsuitable for violent patients. As a result of this report the sum of £3,502 was provided in Supplementary Estimates for the construction of a sick bay and additional accommodation for Africans. In 1927 further representations were made for the construction of Asiatic male and female blocks and for additional accommodation for European female patients, but until recently the general financial situation has precluded the allocation of further funds.

In April last the Board of Visitors drew attention to the lack of proper quarters for Asiatics, which had resulted in Asiatics being accommodated in the African quarters. As, however, the possibility of construction from revenue funds appeared

remote it was necessary to consider other sources, and the Loan Works (Buildings) Committee resolved to allocate £5,350 for this purpose from unallocated funds under the existing provision for Medical Buildings in the Loan Issue of 1930.

The necessary drawings are being prepared and tenders will shortly be invited.

Sir M. Byrne also reports that he has inspected the Mental Hospital and has given the matter his personal attention and, while agreeing that, were ample funds available, the proper course would be to build a completely new and up-to-date institution on a more suitable site, he is persuaded that the treatment of mental patients should not have priority over other more important medical necessities, that the prospect of providing the necessary funds is very remote and that something must be done to meet the exigencies of the present situation.

He explains that the urgency of curbing this additional accommodation is less not only from the congestion which exists within the hospital. This congestion has, and has been for some years, the normal state of affairs, but there has been an increasing number of cases in which it has been necessary to refuse admission both to certified lunatics who had been confined under observation in the cells at Mombasa, Nairobi and Kisumu (which are established as Lunatic Asylums for the purposes of the Indian Lunatic Asylum Act, 1950, as applied to the Colony) and to remain prisoners and convicted criminal lunatics. Their retention in prisons under such circumstances, which is clearly undesirable in itself, has from time to time necessitated the adoption within the prisons of emergency arrangements which are equally undesirable and which

have been the subject of repeated representations by the Commissioners of Prisons.

In view of the foregoing reasons, Sir Philip Gullife-Lister sees no reason to dissent from the view expressed by the Governor that the measures which are criticized are necessary and are the best possible in present circumstances.

I am, etc

(Signed) L. B. JOHNSON

KENYA

No. 3/



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

13th January, 1932.

RECEIVED
15 FEB 1932
GOV. OFFICE

Sir,

No. 6

(Duplicate registered on 17/2/29/1931)

Print

Amended 19/3 A/1 9 MAR 1932

have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 809 of the 7th December, 1931, transmitting a copy of correspondence with the British Medical Association on the subject of gaol accommodation in Nairobi and Mombasa, and of proposed expenditure on the Mathari Mental Hospital.

2. It is the fact that no expenditure is being incurred, or is at present contemplated, on account of the approved loan services of the Colony, which is not already covered by the issued loans and that it has been necessary to defer for the present certain loan projects for new hospitals and gaols as well as other loan works.

3. The case of the Mathari Mental Hospital, however, presents special features. As long ago as 1927 it became apparent that the accommodation was seriously defective and in the following year the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services reported that both male and female African quarters were overcrowded, that no separate accommodation existed for Asiatics, that there was no sick bay and that the European female quarters were not only too close to the African female quarters but that they were unsuitable for violent patients. As a result of this report the sum of £3,502 was provided in

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,

Supplementary

MAJOR SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER, P.C., G.B.E., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Supplementary Estimates for the construction of a sick bay and additional accommodation for Africans. In 1927 further representations were made for the construction of Asiatic male and female blocks and for additional accommodation for European female patients, but until recently the general financial situation has precluded the allocation of further funds.

In April last the Board of Visitors drew attention to the lack of proper quarters for Asiatics, which had resulted in Asiatics being accommodated in the African quarters. The Director of Medical and Sanitary Services advised that, having regard to the probable provisions of the Mental Disorders Bill (which was then under consideration), the provision of Asiatic quarters appeared to be of greater urgency than additional accommodation for Europeans. In this connection I would refer to my despatch No. 298 of 28th May, 1931, and add that the Special Committee is engaged upon its enquiries and I hope to be in a position to introduce legislation at the next Session of Legislative Council. As, however, the possibility of construction from revenue funds appeared remote it was necessary to consider other sources, and the Loan Works (Buildings) Committee, having unallocated funds amounting to some £11,000 under the existing provision for "Medical Buildings" in the loan issue of 1920, resolved to allocate £3,350 for this purpose. The necessary drawings are being prepared and tenders will shortly be invited.

128/31

4. I have inspected the Mental Hospital and have given the matter my personal attention and while agreeing that, were ample funds available, the proper course would be to build a completely new and up-to-date institution on a more suitable site, I am persuaded that the treatment of mental patients should not have priority over other more important medical necessities, that the prospect of providing the necessary funds is very remote and that something must be done to meet the exigencies of the present situation.

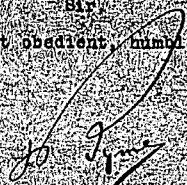
I would explain that the urgency of providing this additional accommodation arises not only from the congestion which exists within the hospital. This congestion is, and has been for some years, the normal state of affairs, but there has been an increasing number of cases in which it has been necessary to refuse admission both to certified lunatics who had been confined under observation in the gaols at Mombasa, Nairobi and Kisumu, (which are established as Lunatic Asylums for the purposes of the Indian Lunatic Asylum Act, 1858, as applied to the Colony) and to remand prisoners and convicted criminal lunatics. Their retention in prisons under such circumstances, which is clearly undesirable in itself, has from time to time necessitated the adoption within the prisons of emergency arrangements which are equally undesirable and which have been the subject of repeated representations by the Commissioner of Prisons.

5. In view of the foregoing explanations I trust you will agree that the measures which are criticized by the Kenya Branch of the British Medical Association are necessary and are the best possible in present circumstances.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,



BRIGADIER GENERAL
GOVERNOR.

11 17
Mr. Morris.

You will see from the papers that we have had frequent representations from the British Medical Association with regard to this matter, of which we know nothing beyond what Dr. Williams, the Deputy Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, told us, as recorded in my minute of the 2nd December, namely, that there had been proposals for expenditure on new wards for Indians at the Mental Hospital at Mathani, but nothing recent, and so far as he knew, no provision had actually been made in Estimates or in any to an schedule. He therefore did not understand what proposal was referred to. In any case, he disagreed with the view that the site of the Hospital is not suitable. I think that Lieutenant-Colonel Fremantle can only be given the same reply as was given to the British Medical Association, namely, that the Secretary of State has no information regarding the proposed improvement and extension of the Hospital, but that enquiry has recently been made of the Governor on the subject, and in that case perhaps Sir Robert Hamilton will be willing that a copy of this correspondence, namely No. 9 and the reply suggested above, should be sent as proposed to the Governor by next week's air mail, asking for an early reply to the despatch to be sent.

W. Allen

28/12/31

W. Allen

21.12.31

at me

918

LT. COL. F. E. FREMANTLE,
C.M.E., M.C.

BOWELL PARK,
HATFIELD,
HERTS.

December 14th., 1931.

16 DEC 1931
COL. C. 100

Dear Hamilton

Asiatic Mental Hospital, Mathari

Some of us are worried over the proposals for the improvement and extension of this hospital. While it seems clear that some further provision is required for the Asiatic population, it is considered by medical men on the spot that it would be sounder and more economical in the long run to provide for the prevention and treatment of mental disorder rather than extend the existing provision at Mathari for detention. Moreover, it is considered that the present site is not a good one for the modern institution which is required.

This appears to be an instance where there should be coordination ^{between} the different Dependencies in East Africa, instead of stereotyping the provision for one matter of quite minor relative importance in one Dependency only, where it could not be of much use to the other Dependencies. ^{It is} ~~It is~~ directly affected ^{by} ~~by~~ a number

of some importance at the present time

Order 15/12/31
C.M.E. (1932)

Copy to Genl (12)

I take it the extension of the hospital
as at present proposed is a matter which comes
within your province, so, knowing you will be keen
to see that the contemplated expenditure is not
wasted, I send this line to let you know local

opinion on the subject. *If you feel sure to endorse my
any Public Health Act, when I shall consult on the subject in February.*
Yours sincerely,

H. Keen

Sir Robert Hamilton, M.P.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S. W. 1.

GENYA.
No. 809

Downing Street,
7 December, 1931.

Sir,

With reference to Lord Passfield's despatch No. 478 of the 6th July, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of correspondence with the British Medical Association on the subject of hospital and quail accommodation in Nairobi and Mombasa, and of proposed expenditure on the Kathari Mental Hospital.

2. In view of the fact that no expenditure is being incurred or is at present contemplated on account of the approved loan services of the Colony, which is not already covered by insured loans, I assume that it has been necessary to defer for the present the projects for new hospitals and quails.

3. I shall be glad to receive any observations that you have to make upon the representations of the Association in regard to the Kathari Mental Hospital.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

(Signed)

GOVERNOR,
BRITISH GENERAL,

SIR JOSEPH A. BRYCE, B.A., B.C., F.R.S., C.B.

etc. etc. etc.

Fr. R. B. A. 6 Nov.
Fr. R. B. A. 26 Nov.
Fr. R. B. A. 1 Dec.
Fr. R. B. A. 4 Dec.

Recd 10

4 December 1951

17225/A/SL

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter RF/JW of the 6th November, RF/MS of the 25th November and RF/JW of the 1st December ~~concerning~~ hospital and guest accommodation in Nairobi and Embasa and a report that it is proposed to extend and improve the Nairobi Mental Hospital.

You enquire whether any information can be given further to that contained in the letter from this Department of the 7th July last regarding the proposal to provide new hospitals and guests at Nairobi and Embasa. You will be aware from the enclosures to that letter that provision had been made for these purposes in the schedule of further loan requirements but the Governor has reported that, owing to the serious financial position arising out of the present economic

THE ASSISTANT MEDICAL SECRETARY,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

economic depression, no expenditure on account of these further loan services is now being incurred or contemplated. The Secretary of State fears that in present circumstances it has been found necessary to defer proceeding with the proposals in question but he is satisfied that the Governor, who is fully alive to their importance, will be anxious to proceed with them as soon as conditions improve.

5. The Secretary of State has no information regarding the proposal to devote a considerable sum of money to the extension and improvement of the Nathari Mental Hospital; but enquiry is being made of the Governor to whom a copy of this correspondence will be sent by the next air mail.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

British Medical Association

13

Executive Office
11, Drumhatch Lane, London, E.C. 3A
Head Office
1, South Fitzroy Street, London, W. 1

FOUNDED 1832

Australian Federal Committee
Services Trade Building, Sydney
Federal Council of the Medical Association of South Africa (British Medical Association)
Roads, Cape Town

New Zealand Branch
P.O. Box 100 Wellington
APPLICATOR TO B.M.A.
Canadian Medical Association
131, College Street, Toronto

President
D. ANDERSON M.D.
General Secretary
J. P. GOSNOLD M.D.
Honorary Treasurer
R. H. GIBSON M.D.

British Medical Association
1, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1
Telephone: Museum 4511

HEAD OFFICE

All communications to be addressed to
"THE MEDICAL SECRETARY"
In any reply please quote
RF/TM

British Medical Association House,
Tavistock Square,
LONDON, W.C. 1

1st December, 1951

RECEIVED
2-DEC-51
LOCAL OFFICE

Asiatic Mental Hospital, Mathafu.

I cannot trace receipt of any reply from you to my letter of 8th November last in which I informed you of the serious concern of our Kenya Branch relative to what the Branch considers to be an unwise proposal to expend a considerable sum of money in extending and improving the Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathafu, a proposal which the Branch further considers will militate against those reforms in the treatment of mental illness which are so urgently needed.

We have now been informed by cable that the plans for the extension of this hospital are ready and that building operations will be commenced next month. I should therefore be glad if you would be so kind as to let me have an early intew to my letter of 6th November last in the Council of the Association considers that the matter is of great importance to the Asiatic population in the areas served by the Hospital.

Yours obediently,
R. J. Forbes

R. J. Forbes

Assistant Medical Secretary

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
S.W. 1.

Handwritten notes on the left margin:
7 DECEMBER 1951
S4P
C/S/S (S/S) (M) 2608-23 9/1/51
Handwritten initials and numbers.

24
4

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

6th November, 1931

(Extract)

Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari.

In connection with this matter, we were recently informed that our local Branch in Kenya is seriously concerned at the proposal to devote a considerable sum of money (believed to be between £3,000 and £4,000) to the extension and improvement of the Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari, the Branch being of opinion that the present site of that hospital is not suitable for a modern institution, and that accordingly money spent in its extension and improvement will be wasted and will tend to delay, rather than promote, those reforms in the treatment of mental illness which are urgently needed.

We should be glad to know if the Colonial Office has any information in respect of this matter, and, in the event of its not having this information, whether it would feel disposed to obtain full details in relation thereto from the appropriate authority in Kenya. As the Dominions, India, Colonies and Dependencies Committee of the Association feels that this being a matter of extreme importance to the Asiatic Population, needs very serious consideration from all points of view before taking any action.

Sgd. Aubrey Forbes,
Asst. Medical Secretary.

O.O.

for my signature
A. Cotton

C.D.
R. 8-00T
D.G.

215

Robertson J.P.

Mr. Robertson

Mr. Allen

Sir G. Buchanan

Sir J. Sherrington

Sir G. Gray

Parry, U.S.G.

Parry, U.S.G.

Secretary of State

12 October 1931

DRAFT

Dear Anderson

On Sept 18th last you wrote to
D. Stanton also in regard regarding certain
proposals for the extension and improvement
of the Curative Dental Hospital at Mattars
and the attitude of the local branch of
the British Medical Association to the
expenditure involved

We have no knowledge of the
proposals nor of any ~~memorandum~~ ^{as you have no doubt seen}
from the Finance Committee
the subject of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Finance~~ ^{Finance} Committee
though ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Finance~~ ^{Finance} Committee
will not be published until the
presentment and ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~yet~~ ^{yet} ~~published~~ ^{published}

The report of the Committee has
not yet been published and under the
circumstances you may wish to defer
taking any action until you communicate
again with D. Stanton or myself.

Yours sincerely

S^d A. J. R. O'Brien

Close
Under

Scottish Office:
7, Drummaugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

Irish Office:
16, South Frederick Street, Dublin.

Australian Federal Committee:
Edwards' Bank Building, 21, Elizabeth Street,
Sydney.

Federal Council of the Medical Association of
South Africa (British Medical Association):
Box 543, Cape Town.

New Zealand Branch:
Box 156, Wellington.

Canadian Medical Association:
114, College Street, Toronto.

British Medical Association

(FOUNDED 1832)

Medical Secretaries

ALFRED COX, O.B.E., Hon. M.A., D.Phil., LL.D., M.D.

Deputy Medical Secretary:
G. C. ANDERSON, M.D.

Assistant Medical Secretaries:

R. FORBES, M.B., Ch.B., Ch.D.
A. D. MACPHERSON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.

Telegrams: "Medicine" Warrent, London.

Telephone: Museum 9267.

HEAD OFFICE:

British Medical Association House,

Tavistock Square,

LONDON, W.C.1.

All communications to be addressed to
"THE MEDICAL SECRETARY"
if you really please order:
G.C.A./M.A.

18th September 1931.

My dear Stanton,

You are, I think, aware that the Kenya Branch of the Association is trying to play an active part in the development of hospital services in the Colony. We have just heard from the Branch that they are greatly concerned at the proposal to devote a considerable sum (something between £3,000 and £4,000, I understand) to the extension and improvement of the Asiatic Mental Hospital at Mathari. The Branch feels that since the present site is not suited to a modern institution money so applied will be wasted and tend to delay rather than promote reforms in mental treatment which are urgently needed.

I am naturally reluctant at the present time to make any representations to the Colonial Office in a matter which is not of immediate moment, and it seems quite probable that this particular proposal has already been dropped. Can you tell me what the present position is in the matter? If the proposal seems likely to go forward it will be necessary for us to take some action in the matter. It would certainly seem unfortunate in existing circumstances to spend so large a sum in such a manner.

I expect you have already seen the report on Mental Disorder and Mental Deficiency in Kenya drawn up by the Visiting Physician to the Mathari Mental Hospital, and a letter and Memorandum addressed to Lord Francis Scott on the eve of his departure to give evidence before the Joint Committee on East Africa. I understand that the Memorandum was laid before the Joint Committee and acknowledged by Lord Stanley, but I am unaware of any recommendation which may have been based upon it.

Yours sincerely,

G. C. Anderson
Deputy Medical Secretary

Dr. A. T. Stanton, C.H.G., F.R.C.P.

Colonial Office,

S.W.1.