

noticed, they were first sent to the Lunatic Asylum, Haddo and then to Madras. The range for age on admission at Madras was 30-62 years and the mean was 54.2. There were 8 Hindus and 1 Mohammedan. Prior to conviction their occupations were cultivation (3 patients), weaving of carpets (1 patient), cooly (1 patient) and goldsmith (1 patient).

3 of them were addicted to alcohol before conviction and 1 of them was smoking ganja in addition. One was living by thieving and had 3 previous convictions. Two were of irritable temper.

Conduct in Indian Jails before transportation was good for 9 of them. But Port Blair perhaps was a different kind of prison. One patient who was suicidal at the time of admission at Haddo said that he was forced to work inspite of pain in the neck. 5 of them had committed local offences in Port Blair.

Physical diseases they suffered from were malaria (9 cases), pernicious anaemia (1 case), diarrhoea (3 cases), dysentery (4 cases), dyspepsia (1 case), influenza (1 case), bronchitis (2 cases), eczema (1 case), chicken-pox (1 case) and ptosis (1 case).

The interval between arrival in Port Blair and admission at Haddo ranged between 41 days and 6734 days. The mean was 1794.9 days and median was 931.5. Violent behaviour (3 cases), homicidal tendency (1 case) and suicidal attempts by drowning in the sea (2 cases) were noticed at the time of admission at Haddo. There was no evidence of insanity in 1 case. Inability to remember the period passed in the Asylum (4 cases) was observed during their stay at Haddo. One patient wrongly said that he had spent 20 years in Port Blair. 2 patients, one at the time of admission and one later on, were convinced that they had been released. Two patients were anxious to go home. One escaped 5 times from Haddo. 8

Patients from Port Blair

Sir,

Case records of 10 patients who were sent from Port Blair to Government Lunatic Asylum, Madras in 1916 could be traced. All of them were males, had committed murder and had been transported to Port Blair for life. When mental symptoms were

patients had their teeth covered with black tartar at Haddo, indicating poor oral hygiene. 5 patients were working in the garden at Haddo. The duration of stay at Haddo ranged between 2¼ and 25 years roughly.

Chronic mania, chronic mania with delusion, recurrent mania, acute mania, melancholia, melancholia with secondary dementia, delusional insanity, dementia, epileptic dementia, and syphilitic dementia (1

case each) were mentioned in records at Madras. Mental stress (probably referring to life in Port Blair) was noted as the exciting cause of insanity in 6 cases. 1 patient was sent back to prison. 2 patients were discharged on expiry of sentence. 6 patients died due to natural causes. Discharge/death of 1 patient was not traceable.

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