

## CHAPTER XLIX.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

#### Sanitation, Public Health and Rural Improvements— 1926—1936.

At the Budget Session of the Representative Assembly in 1928 the Dewan made a clear enunciation of the sanitary policy of Government as far as it related to the rural parts. "The crying needs of the people, especially of those living in the rural parts who form the bulk of the population," he said, "have yet to be met and no administration worth the name can remain indifferent to those wants. The Government of Mysore cannot feel happy that they have discharged their duty to the people unless successful efforts are made to secure to every village of any size in the State all those things which are essential to their well-being. There should be no village of any importance in the State which does not possess a drinking-water well without drying up when water is most needed, a tank in good repair not silted up with the sluice neglected, a satisfactory school with at least one competent teacher, a well-managed co-operative society and a dispensary with sufficient stock of medicines." Rural uplift, according to the words of the Dewan used in 1929, was one of the Government's most urgent, as it was one of their most sacred, duties.

Boreholes provided an effective way of dealing with the problem of drinking-water supply, the cost being much less than that of an ordinary well. Power drilling outfits as good as any that were imported began to be made in Government workshops and supplied for the purpose needed. A small establishment was attached to the Sanitary Department for rendering assistance to the Local Bodies in town-planning and for furnishing them with schemes for the improvement of sanitation, drainage and water-supply. The facilities offered by the Government were availed of by a large number of Municipalities. Extension of towns received the greatest attention, nor was the aesthetic side of town improvement lost sight of as could be judged from the number of parks opened

Under the auspices of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation of America, a health survey of the State with special reference to malaria and hookworm was undertaken in 1927

### Help by the Rockefeller Foundation of the U. S. A.

In 1933 there were 10,600 Village Panchayets in operation. The activities of some of these Panchayets included the supervision and management of village schools, village forests, tanks and topes, planting of avenue and fruit trees, purchasing of improved implements of agriculture and sugarcane mills and letting them on hire to the villagers and distribution of scientific manure. Weekly labour for communal purposes was also insisted upon by the Village Panchayets. There were also indications of the growth of a spirit of public service as evidenced from the liberal donations that were given for buildings, for schools, for hospitals and for other village purposes.

and the manner in which sites were allotted for public buildings. Provision of drinking-water wells for every village in the State was a matter of supreme importance and funds were allotted on a large scale for the purpose. In 1925-26 there were 58,000 drinking-water wells and 18,000 tube wells making a total of 76,000. In 1930-31 there were 1,00,000 of drinking-water wells and 1,14,000 tube wells making a total of 2,14,000. The largest water-supply project undertaken was the Thippagondanahalli Reservoir to provide water-supply to the growing town of Bangalore, the old Hesarhatta tank which supplied water from 1891 being found insufficient for a city with a growing population. In 1891 the combined population of the City and Civil and Military Station of Bangalore numbered 1,80,000 and in 1931 it stood at 3,06,470. The new reservoir solved the question of water-supply to Bangalore not only for the present generation but for many generations to come. The cost of the scheme amounted to Rs. 50½ lakhs and the whole length of 14 miles of cast iron pipes required for this was supplied by the Bhadravathi Iron Works. The general scheme of rural electrification made steady progress and in 1930 power was taken to Kolar, Tumkur and Malavalli towns and the lighting service was started in all of them as well as in twenty other places.

and for this purpose the services of Dr. Sweet of the same Foundation were obtained. Four medical graduates of the State were deputed for training in sanitation to America. As a result of the spleen survey conducted by Dr. Sweet, three malaria experimental stations were established one at Nagenhalli in the Mysore taluk, the second at Mudigere and the third at Hiriyur. A Rural Health Unit also was established at Mandya as an experimental measure for the purpose of determining the staff, equipment and budget necessary for organising eventually Health Units in all the taluks. The League of Nations Malaria Commission who visited the State in December 1929 at the invitation of the Durbar studied the malaria-control work at the experimental stations at Nagenhalli and Mudigere and the anti-malarial work in the Bangalore City and expressed their appreciation of the manner in which the problem was being studied. The Rockefeller Foundation lent in 1930 the services of Mr. J. J. Mieldazis, a Sanitary Engineer, in addition to the services of Dr. Sweet, the Consultant in Health. Under the advice of this expert, the Government introduced at this time a scheme for the further improvement of the Health Department. A Board of Health was also created to advise the Government. One of the main features of the scheme of reorganisation was the constitution of bureaux for carrying on the work of the department and seven such bureaux were constituted—(1) Bureau of administration (2) Bureau of Epidemiology and Communicable diseases (3) Laboratories (4) Vital Statistics (5) Health Education (6) Sanitary Engineering and (7) Rural Health. Mr. Victor Heiser of the International Health Board of New York visited the State in March 1931 and advantage was taken of his presence to discuss questions relating to the future development of the work of the department. He recommended the extension of the Rural Health Unit work and stressed the importance of health propaganda. The Mandya Health Unit in a period of a little over two years held 94 clinics and examined nearly 1400 children. It also did about 15,000 anti-cholera, 10,000 anti-plague inoculations and 1631 vaccinations against small-pox. A publicity section was formed in connection with the Bureau of Health Education and the Rockefeller Foundation offered a contribution of money for

two years for the furtherance of the work of this bureau. The operations of the Sanitary Engineering Bureau was extended by transferring to its control the execution and maintenance of all water-supply works except the works of Bangalore City. The bureau dealt with all the public health engineering problems, water-supply, drainage and town-planning. The Bureau of Health Education organised a large number of cinema shows on health subjects and over a lakh of persons witnessed them. Large numbers of posters and leaflets on plague, small-pox, soil pollution and bore-hole latrines were printed and distributed.

#### **Medical Relief.**

The Durbar also realised that the medical relief that existed in the State was inadequate. In 1928 there were approximately 330 doctors in the State or one for every 18,000 of the population. Of these, only 40 were private medical practitioners, most of whom resided in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore. As the extension of medical relief through the agency of a Government staff was necessarily slow and costly, a scheme was introduced for subsidising private medical practitioners with a view to induce and enable them to settle down in rural parts. A cheaper kind of local fund dispensaries was also introduced under qualified doctors.

A noteworthy feature of this period was the generous contributions given by private persons for the extension of medical relief. This was a welcome tendency and among the donors of this period were Dharmaprakasa Mr. Chandre Gowda, Mr. Nagappa Setty and Pandit Lakshmanachar. The Ayurvedic and Unani hospitals received support from some of these donors. Towards the construction of the Ophthalmic Block in the Krishnarajendra Hospital at Mysore, a contribution was made by Mr. Chidambaram Chetty, son of the late Sir T. Mutthiah Chettiar. Mr. B. M. Srinivasaiah of the Hindu Soap Factory at Bangalore donated a large amount for the construction of an Electro-Therapy and Radiology Block in the Victoria Hospital.

The building of the old Maternity Hospital at Bangalore was satisfactory neither in its location nor in the accommodation it

afforded. A new building was therefore undertaken in 1930, the foundation-stone of which was laid by H. H. the Yuvaraja. Other hospitals constructed during this period were the Malle Gowda General Hospital and the Siddalinga Setty Eye Hospital at Chickmagalur. A new building for the hospital at Shimoga the foundation-stone of which was laid by H. H. the Maharaja was constructed and the hospital was named the McGann Hospital after the name of a former Head of the Medical Department who rendered good service to the State.

At the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly held in 1934 the Dewan specially called attention to the great need that existed for extending medical aid to women and children. He pointed out that deaths from plague, cholera and small-pox put together were less than one-third of the deaths of women in childbirth and of children in the first two years of their life. Many women for want of proper care were rendered invalids for life and many children for want of similar care in their early years were rendered defective in one way or another for the whole period of their existence. As far back as 1880 there was established in Mysore the Women's Hospital that bears the name of the Maharani Kempananjammani Avaru and in the closing years of her life was constructed the magnificent new hospital in Bangalore bearing her name and known as Vani Vilas Maternity Hospital. In 1923 her brother Sir M. Kantaraj Urs set the example of endowing an organisation for maternity and child welfare by leaving a sum of Rs. 1,20,000 to establish the Gunamba Child Welfare and Maternity Trust. This noble example was subsequently followed by other people also and the donations within the past ten years have amounted to over Rs. 9 lakhs. The Government have also played their part by extending the employment of midwives and by making special arrangements for such lady doctors as there were in the State to extend their activities by visiting places within reach from their headquarters. Maternity and Child Welfare work has also advanced and in the period between 1932-34 seven to eight thousand babies came under expert scrutiny of doctors during the Baby Week Shows, Mysore

was ranked in the second, first and third places respectively in the All-Empire Competition held in 1932, 1933 and 1934. In this respect the efforts of the Red Cross Society under the guidance of Sir Charles Todhunter, Private Secretary to the Maharaja, are specially noteworthy in combating the ignorance which is responsible for so much suffering and in establishing the Maternity Homes and Child Welfare Centres.

A Bill was introduced by Government in the Legislative Council to enable the public to know who were qualified medical practitioners and the same was passed into law in December 1931. In accordance with the provisions of this Regulation, a Medical Council was established for the State with powers to register duly qualified practitioners, to take notice of misconduct or unprofessional behaviour on the part of such practitioners and to ensure a high standard of instruction in medical schools and colleges whose degrees or diplomas were recognised. Another measure related to the licensing of shops for the sale of allopathic medicines in Municipal areas and to the employment of qualified persons for the dispensing of such medicines.