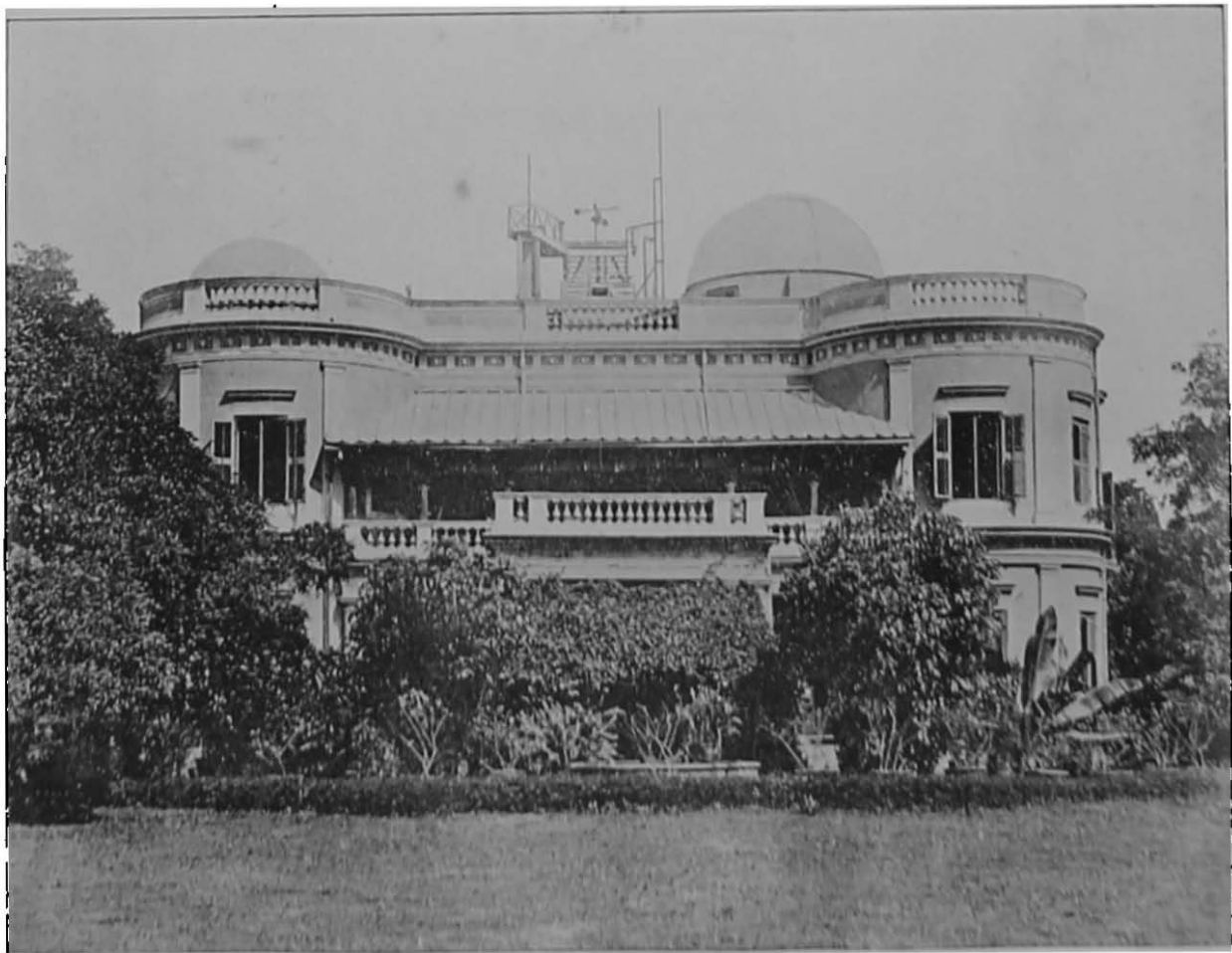




**Report on the Administration of the
Meteorological Department of the
Government of India in 1925-26,
and a Note on the Long-
Established Observatories
of Madras and
Bombay.**

SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1926



OBSERVATORY MADRAS
Founded 1788
(See next page)

4

Report on the Administration of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India in 1925-26, and a Note on the Long-Established Observatories of Madras and Bombay.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Note on the Madras Observatory	1
Note on the Colaba Observatory	3
<i>Administration Report for 1925-26—</i>	
Chief Features of the year	6
Leave and appointments	8
The system of storm warnings	9
Flood warnings	11
Military and aviation weather warnings	12
New weather service for R. A. F.	12
Supply of meteorological information	13
Observatories	13
Inspection of Observatories	15
Marine meteorology	15
Rainfall registration	16
Seismology	19
Time signals	19
Publications and library	19
Concluding remarks	20

Last year saw the completion of the first half-century's history of the Department as an organised unit for India ; and the present year completes a whole century of history in the case of Bombay Observatory. But both these records are eclipsed by that of Madras, for the observatory there was established in 1792,

Madras Observatory (see Plate). 134 years ago, by the Hon. East India Company "for Promoting the Knowledge of Astronomy, Geography and Navigation in India". Sir Charles Oakeley was then Governor of Madras ; he had been Assistant Secretary at 16,* an age when most present-day English boys have barely forgotten the feel of their knickers ; had graduated Secretary at 22, and proceeded Governor (with a baronetcy attached) at 39. In an age when the mental horizons of the Hon. East India Company's officers were heavily clouded by the pursuit of gain, and their hands busy in shaking the pagoda tree, he rose above his contemporaries in taking a keen interest in astronomy. So keen, indeed, was he, that without awaiting from the Court of Governors in London the approval for which he had asked, he established the observatory *ultra vires*, and when the actual sanction arrived in 1792, the building was complete and partly equipped.

In those happy days valuable initiative had free scope, for by the time objection could be raised an act had become a matter of history, and its author

*Lawson : "Memories of Madras", page 117.