

Women's Indian Association.
Annual Report For 1929-30.

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Headquarters, Pantheon Gardens, Madras.

WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION

OBJECTS

To present to women their responsibilities as daughters of India.

To secure for every girl and boy the right of Education through schemes of Compulsory Primary Education, including the teaching of religion.

To secure the abolition of child-marriage and to raise the Age of Consent for married girls to sixteen.

To secure for Women the vote for Municipal and Legislative Council on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

To secure for Women the right to be elected as members on all Municipal and Legislative Councils.

To help Women to realise that the future of India lies largely in their hands: for as wives and mothers they have the task of training, guiding and forming the character of the future rulers of India.

To band Women into groups for the purpose of self-development and education, and for the definite service of others.

MEMBERSHIP

Women who agree and will co-operate with the Object and Organization of the Association may become members. Groups of women having the same aims can be affiliated to the Women's Indian Association. Members are asked, but not obliged, to pay a subscription of One Rupee a year to the Headquarters of the Association.

Local Branches are self-governing and make their own arrangements.

ORGANIZATION

The Association, which has a central organization at the W.I.A. Headquarters, Pantheon Gardens, Egmore, Madras, was started on May 8, 1917, and has grown and increased steadily ever since. It now has 72 Branches, 24 Centres and over 4,000 members.

Branches are formed in every place where possible, with a local Secretary to arrange the work to suit local conditions and report to Headquarters.

The political policy of the Association is to work for Reforms through the Legislative Councils.

The aims and ideals and work of the Association are on a religious but non-sectarian basis.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1929-30

ORIGIN.

The Women's Indian Association was started by Mrs. Dorothy Jinarajadasa at Adyar, Madras, on the 8th May, 1917, with the purpose of advancing the interests and furthering the progress of women in India by banding them into groups for self-development, the continuation of education, the promotion of public opinion for social reform, and the definite service of others.

OBJECTS.

1. To present to women their responsibility as daughters of India.
2. To help them to realise that the future of India lies largely in their hands; for as wives and mothers they have the task of training, guiding and forming the character of the future rulers of India.
3. To band women into groups for the purpose of self-development and education, and for the definite service of others.
4. To secure for every girl and boy the right of Education through schemes of Compulsory Primary Education, including the teaching of religion.
5. To secure the abolition of child-marriage and to raise the Age of Consent for married girls to sixteen.
6. To secure for women the vote of Municipal and Legislative Councils on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.
7. To secure for women the right to be elected as members on all Municipal and Legislative Councils.

ORGANIZATION.

The Association has its Headquarters at Pantheon Gardens, Egmore, Madras, and it consists of a President, a Vice-President, an Hon. General Secretary, Treasurer, Committee, and an Advisory Council of the Secretaries of all the Branches. Branches are formed wherever possible with a local Secretary to arrange the work and report to Headquarters. Subject to adherence to the general aims and objects of the Association, the Branches are self-governing, arrange

their own programmes to suit local conditions and needs, and manage their own finances. Through correspondence with the Headquarters Secretary and through the official magazine of the Association, *STRĪ DHARMA*, the Branches and members are linked up and unified and get a sense of strength, courage and inspiration which cannot be got by entirely independent, isolated educational centres. Also the strength of membership and the All-India character of the organization enable it to voice public opinion and to wield an influence over vital matters concerning women's interests that cannot be exerted by individual local women's societies. The Association has now about 72 Branches, 24 Centres, and over 4,000 members. The political policy of the Association is to work for Reforms through the Legislative Councils.

The aims, ideals and work of the Association are on a religious but non-sectarian basis.

EXTENT AND SCOPE. .

This Report will show in a limited degree how varied and extensive is the work of the organization. Spreading as the Association does from Bhavnagar to Calcutta, from Lashkar to Tuticorin, it embraces every Indian race and many differing customs, so that the activities have to be arranged to suit the different localities and needs, but there is enough work and an outlet for service for all progressive and aspiring women, and many assurances have reached the Headquarters testifying to the happiness that has come to the members by the presence of the Branches in their locality.

An analysis of the objects will show that in their efforts to bring light into darkness they are, like the Star of India, five pointed, and relate to the religious, educational, political, philanthropic and social aspect of Indian life. It is not possible to give a detailed account of the activities of each Branch. Our largest Branch, Bombay, contains over 400 members, and it and several other Branches publish their own separate annual reports. A general review of the work of the organization as a whole can alone be given here. It cannot enumerate the thousands of meetings that have been held by them, and the classes they have conducted; it cannot include the titles of the wide list of subjects on which fine lectures were given; it cannot display the total finances of all the Branches which necessarily run into tens of thousands of rupees during the period under review, the balance in hand of the Bombay Branch alone standing at present at over Rs. 7,000; it cannot give the special characteristics of each Branch, nor follow its individual fluctuations of fortune, but a

sympathetic imagination will easily supply the varied details of organization which have been necessary to carry through the work that has been accomplished and which is increasing in usefulness, extent and reputation from day to day.

DETAILED REPORT FOR 1929-1930

During the thirteen years of the existence of the Women's Indian Association, certain characteristics have set their mark on its work—its all-Indian scope and influence; its political though non-party activity; its reliance on women only as its members, moving spirits and officers; the success which has attended certain of the objects it has promoted, and the outstanding positions in public service now held by its members.

Reports have been received from the Branches, this year which show that, with a few dormant exceptions, each Branch is a centre of happiness, expansion, education and service in its locality. This is also proved by the Grants that are made to the Branches by the Municipal Councils and Local Boards for the financial stability of their work.

HEADQUARTERS.

The Headquarters are located in a large bungalow with a spacious compound in Pantheon Gardens, Egmore, Madras; and from its offices there organises, directs and co-ordinates Branches and their activities throughout India. The Committee has met regularly during the year, and initiated various new activities. The office of "SRI DHARMA," the official magazine of the Association, is also located there. The Committee rooms are a popular and convenient place of meeting for the various Women's Associations in Madras City. Members meet each Tuesday for social gatherings, tennis and badminton. A Hindi class has also been held twice a week for the Members. Three of the rooms locate the Montessori School.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Swaminadhan, the capable Hon. Treasurer, on the passing away suddenly of her husband. The thanks and admiration of all members go out to her for the self-sacrificing way in which she has continued her service to the Association in such a great trial.

EDUCATION.

This year has seen the completion of the scheme for Compulsory Primary Education in Madras City. The inclusion of girls was the direct result of the canvassing of Municipal Commissioners by our

Members. The Madras Government asked the Association to nominate a Representative for its newly formed Advisory Committee on Girls' Education and Miss T. Joseph has been chosen. Our Branches conduct schools and special classes at Bellary, Bombay, Calicut, Bezvada, Bhavnagar, Kallai, Surat, Madura, Mainpuri Rangoon, Trichinopoly, Srinagar, Kolhapur, Vizagapatam and Madras.

The All-India Women's Conference on Educational and Social Reforms was very successfully held in Bombay this year. Many of its officers and members of the Standing Committee are Members of the Women's Indian Association Headquarters and Branches. The success of the Annual Conferences in the Constituent Areas is largely dependent on the co-operation and hard work of the local Branches of the Women's Indian Association. Bombay City contains our largest and most prosperous Branches, and they displayed a large exhibition of the hand-work done in their classes at the hand-work exhibition organised by the Women's Conference. The Members of the Surat Branch were largely responsible for the uniquely beautiful performance of a folk-dance and song at the Conference concert, and the Members of the Rajahmundry Branch for the comedy ridiculing the evasion of the Sarda Act. Mrs. A. Swaminadhan, the Honorary Treasurer of the Women's Indian Association is the Standing Committee Member this year for Madras. The Law Member of the Conference, Miss Mithan Tata, Bar.-at-Law, is the daughter of the untiring Secretary of the Bombay Branch since 1917, Mrs. Herabai Tata.

The Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, with several Members of the Saidapet Branch, waited in deputation on the Minister of Education for Madras to urge the inclusion of girls in the Compulsory Primary Education schemes that are being operated in over sixty villages of their district.

Both Mrs. Patwardhan and Mrs. Cousins in their tours of Branches have made special surveys of girls' education in those towns. The Headquarters Office communicated with all Municipal Councils demanding that girls should have an equal share in the money and facilities connected with their compulsory schemes. The Association tries to persuade Governments to make the inclusion of girls a condition of receiving Government co-operation and Grants for compulsory education. The Association is making a Survey of the educational figures in the towns where it has Branches so that the latter may carry on effective agitation for educational reform. Our Members in Vellore addressed the Town Council on this subject. It is necessary that our Branches should have their representatives on all School Attendance Committees and on the District Educational Councils.



Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal, M.L.C.

First Woman Member of a Provincial Legislative Council.

Deputy-President of the Legislative Council of Madras for the past three years.

Vice-President of the Women's Indian Association.

Vice-President of the All-India Women's Conference.

CHILD WELFARE.

A number of Branches conduct Baby Welcomes,—Trichinopoly, Saidapet, Alandur, Nasik, Kalli, Calicut, Benares. In other towns the Members take a share in this work conducted by the Lady Chelmsford Child Welfare and Maternity Association or by the Municipalities, and share also in the annual Health Weeks. Branches arrange lectures for mothers on Child Care, First Aid, and similar subjects.

~~During~~ ^{During} to our Vice-President's efforts provision has been made in the Madras Government Budget for the establishment of a Woman Assistant Director of Public Health and a separate staff to improve Public Health and maternity conditions.

CHILD MARRIAGE AND THE AGE OF CONSENT.

Ever since its inception the Association has been demanding the release of children from exploitation for religious, economic and sex purposes, by demanding first a rise in the Age of Consent. This was raised from twelve to thirteen in 1925, but the results were so unsatisfactory that our efforts have since been directed to the abolition of marriage of girls below sixteen and boys below twenty-one. The great happiness of this year's Report is that the Child Marriage Restraint Act, has been for which our Branches everywhere have held hundreds of meetings of support, passed during the past three years. This Act makes the marriage of a girl below fourteen and a boy below eighteen a punishable offence. The Act came into operation on April 1, but, as much opposition from orthodox Hindus and Muhammadans has crystallised against it on alleged religious grounds, every effort must still be exerted to prevent the modification of the Act. The Association has sent strong telegrams to His Excellency the Viceroy and the Home Member protesting against any attempt to weaken the Act. The Association shared in meetings held under joint auspices in many cities to congratulate Rai Saheb Harbilas Sardar on the passing of the Bill, and it joined with the League of Youth in Madras on March 31, in a public meeting to protest against any change in this measure. Meetings of our Branches in even the most orthodox South Indian towns, notably Kumbakonam, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely, continue to uphold the Sardar Bill despite all the opposite propaganda of the pundits. The Association still calls for the raising of the Age of Consent to sixteen within marriage, eighteen outside marriage.

EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

The Madras Bill for the suppression of Immoral Traffic in women and children for which our Vice-Presidents, Dr. Muthulak-

shmi and Mrs. Jinarajadasa, have worked so strenuously, has been passed into law, though in a form that needs later amendment. It is greatly to the credit of Madras that the Bills which our woman Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council has introduced have become law. Her Devadasi Bill prevents girls from dedication to temple service and almost certain prostitution; and the Supplementary Bill to prevent dedication of adult women to temples has passed its first stages and is being circulated for public opinion. Members of the Women's Indian Association were the first to go in Deputation to H. E. the Governor to secure his support for this movement and they canvassed Members of the Madras Legislative Council for support of these measures, and continuously got up meetings in their favour. The work of Madras and Bombay Branches in co-operation with the Vigilance Societies has been valuable in securing legislation for the abolition of brothels and the establishment of Rescue Homes.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

In all aspects of the country's service, and in all shades of its political activity members of this Association may be found individually prominent. During the past year a number of our Members have been appointed as Municipal Councillors, Honorary Magistrates, Members of District Boards, District Educational Councils, and other important public bodies; notably Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal as a Member of the Hartog Education Commission; Mrs. De, who is the first Indian woman to be nominated to Calcutta Corporation; Mrs. Achaya, Madras, Mrs. Cama, Nagpur, as Honorary Magistrates; Mrs. Nagabushanam as Vice-President of the Kistna District Educational Council; Mrs. Lakshmi-pathi as President of the Women's Conference in Lahore at the time of the Indian National Congress; Mrs. Venkatasubba Rao as one of the Assistant Assessors of the Whitley Labour Commission before which a number of our Members gave evidence. During the past five years over eighty women magistrates have been nominated, and an equal number of women members of various Councils, a large majority of whom are Members of the Women's Indian Association. A Requisition has been sent to the Viceroy for the appointment of some Indian women amongst the personnel of the Round Table Conference, one of whom at least to be a Member of the Women's Indian Association. During the past year the Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa granted the franchise to women, and completed the political enfranchisement of the women of British India on the same terms as men. Our Objects 6 and 7 are therefore almost completely attained in legislation, but constant vigilance is needed to see that women are not overlooked in filling vacancies wherever they occur.



Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal's "At Home" in the W. I. A. Headquarters.

Front Row: Mrs. Acharya, Hon. Magistrate, Mrs. Subbarayan, Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal, H. E. the Governor of Madras, Lady B. Stanley, Mrs. Venkatasubba Rao, Mr. Narasimha Raju, President of the Madras

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Dr. Annie Besant was the chief speaker at the Annual General Meeting last April. Mrs. Patwardhan toured in Andhradesa in September visiting and holding public meetings in 15 Branches. There was a meeting of welcome to Mrs. Cousins on her return from her world tour, in Pantheon Gardens in the first week in November. Mrs. Cousins spoke for the Association at a meeting of the Madras Branch of the League of Nations on Peace Day, 11th November, the first time such a meeting has been held in Madras on what was formerly called Armistice Day. Miss Campbell of the Women's Temperance Union gave an address on Prohibition in December. Mr. J. Krishnamurthi gave a unique and stirring address for the Association at Xmas. Mrs. Cousins and Mrs. Visalakshi visited six South Indian Branches in February holding a women's meeting and a mixed public meeting in each town. Finally Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal kindly used our Headquarters' attractive gardens for the At Home which she gave, in her capacity as Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council, to His Excellency the Governor, Lady Stanley, the President of the Council and its Members. Over 200 guests attended and enjoyed a most successful function notable for the large number of ladies present who mingled freely with the gentlemen. All our chief Branches could report a similar list of important public meetings which they have arranged.

STRI DHARMA.

The monthly magazine continues its high tone and is quoted in many Indian and foreign magazines. It fills an international need for authentic information from month to month about women's interests in India. The statement of accounts shows a surplus on its working of Rs. 1,058-13-3 but an outstanding account of printing charges for Rs. 770-0-0 has still to be met out of the year's proceeds which leaves the actual gain for the year Rs. 288-13-3. Though it is now self-supporting owing to the hard work of Mrs. Patwardhan and Mrs. Swaminathan in getting advertisements, still each reader should try and get more subscribers. It contains articles in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, also illustrations. Mrs. Patwardhan edited it brilliantly from April to December, Mrs. Cousins is conducting since then.

INTERNATIONAL.

Mrs. Jinarajadasa, Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Mrs. B. Rama Rao and Mrs. Matthai made a strong and efficient Delegation from the Women's Indian Association to the Berlin Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. Their arguments achieved

a notable success in raising the Age of girls for marriage from 14 to 16 in the Resolution standardising the world marriage age as desired by women drawn together from forty-five countries.

The Association is grateful for an unexpected extra donation from the Leslie Fund in addition to its annual donation for the previous years and for a small donation also from the Chicago Headquarters of the International League for Peace and Freedom with which the Association is affiliated, and which gave a luncheon and public meeting to Mrs. Cousins when she visited Chicago. The international figure, Miss Jane Addams, presided, and another internationally known figure, Miss Balch, was present. Mrs. Cousins was also entertained in many American cities, in Honolulu at the Pan-Pacific Club luncheon, and in Japan, China and Singapore. She spoke in over 40 cities during her tour and brought back greetings from women in all these countries and substantial donations from American friends for the purpose of scholarships for adult women.

As a result of these international contacts, the Association has had the privilege of taking the initiative in proposing that an All-Asian Conference of Women shall be held in India in 1931 and invitations to over thirty countries have been sent out signed by a number of the most representative women of India. If the response is sufficiently favourable, the holding of this Conference should be a historic event in the evolution of oriental womanhood.

Valuable propaganda for India has been done in foreign countries by Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Chattopadhyaya, Mrs. B. Rama Rao, Mrs. Jinarajadasa, and messages from women of other countries have been sent back to India through them, notably from Geneva, Roumania, the Women's League for Peace and Freedom through its European Council meeting, the British Commonwealth League, America and Japan.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

The success which has followed schemes initiated and operated in their early stages by the Women's Indian Association is remarkable. The Women's Home of Service thus started, now conducted by a small committee as the Madras Seva Sadan, with Justice and Mrs. Venkatasubba Rao as its devoted directors, has seventy residents being trained in vocations, nursing, elementary teaching, home superintendence, etc. The Government has given it Rs. 25,000 as a building grant, and the members of the committee raised an equal amount. Next year will see the institution in ideal conditions in its own building and grounds.

Similarly, the Madras Juvenile Courts, first promoted by the Women's Indian Association, and organised as the Madras Children's



Srimati Malati Patwardhan, B.A.,
Hon. Magistrate, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Indian Association
since February, 1928.

Aid Society chiefly by the splendid work of Mrs. M. Hume Standford, one of our Members, has been granted Rs. 30,000 by the Government to buy its bungalow and grounds for the Court itself and the Girls' Certified School. In Bombay the classes of the Branches have received recognition and substantial annual grants from the Bombay Corporation.

THANKS.

The Association thanks most sincerely donors, voluntary workers, lecturers, and officials of organisations, who have helped the movement in its Branches and at Headquarters in countless ways. It is specially grateful to the late Sir Muthiah Chettiar for his generous donation of Rs. 1,000, to Headquarters and to the Lady Beatrix Stanley for the interest she has shown in the Association by her Donation of Rs. 100.

FUTURE WORK.

Increase in Membership and Branches must be an objective of the coming year. Committees should be formed to help in the enforcement of the Sarda Act. Members must co-operate in the work of rescue of the many young people who will be set free by the operation of the new Brothels and Dedication to Temples Bills. A large field of work lies in educating and rousing women voters to the responsibility of the power of their votes in the coming General Election. Everywhere there is need for starting and helping schools for children and adults. Every single person who has had the privilege of education has a responsibility to pass their knowledge on to seven others, as the proportion of the literate to the illiterate is 12 to 88.

Srimati Malati Patwardhan who has so ably served the Association as Hon. Secretary, since April, 1928, started on February 1 for a tour in Europe and America and is not likely to return before November of this year. Mrs. Cousins is acting as Hon. Secretary and Editor of STRI DHARMA during her absence. Miss M. Barrie, who has directed and organised the Montessori School, has also gone on furlough. The Association is much indebted to these self-sacrificing workers. Miss Gerrard, of the Lady Willingdon Training School for Teachers, has kindly promised to give her guidance to the Montessori School during Miss Barrie's absence.

The times are full of great changes for India. New life is pulsing through every activity. Much is expected from its women. Their ideal is to serve. Our members will continue to seek freedom of opportunity for serving equally with their brothers in making India a free country, both individually and nationally, by all the ways which seem to them righteous.

MARGARET E. COUSINS,
Acting Hon. Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION, MADRAS.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ending
31st March, 1930.

| RECEIPTS. | | | DISBURSEMENTS. | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Rs. | A. P. | | Rs. | A. P. |
| Opening Balance on 1-4-1929: | | | Establishment Charges | .. | 376 0 0 |
| Cash at Bank | Rs. 1,375 | 0 0 | Bank Charges | .. | 1 11 0 |
| | | | Printing and Stationery | .. | 124 7 0 |
| | 1,525 | 15 6 | Postages and Telegrams | .. | 214 8 6 |
| Donations | .. | 650 0 0 | Travelling Expenses | .. | 103 11 0 |
| Special Donations (Leslie Fund). | 3,475 | 4 3 | Telephone Charges | .. | 98 12 10 |
| Donations from America for | | | Motor Charges | .. | 280 4 6 |
| Scholarships | .. | 2,327 14 0 | Electric Charges | .. | 13 8 0 |
| Baby Welcome Donations | .. | 94 8 0 | Audit Fee 1928-1929 | .. | 25 0 0 |
| Meeting Collections | .. | 70 5 0 | Affiliation Fees | .. | 1 13 0 |
| Postages recovered | .. | 15 15 0 | Meeting Expenses | .. | 84 13 0 |
| Travelling Expenses recovered. | .. | 38 1 0 | Rent for W. I. A. Office | .. | 360 0 0 |
| Interest on Current and Fixed | | | Miscellaneous Expenses | .. | 90 15 0 |
| Deposits | .. | 204 1 5 | Office Equipment | .. | 15 4 0 |
| Income received from Motor | | | Establishment Advances | .. | 25 0 0 |
| Car | .. | 28 10 6 | Baby Welcome | .. | 50 0 0 |
| Application Fees | .. | 10 0 0 | Amount paid to pur- | | |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | .. | 87 11 0 | chase Motor Car | 2,018 | 0 0 |
| Establishment Advances recovered. | 25 | 0 0 | Insurance on above | 91 | 13 0 |
| W. I. A. Subscriptions | .. | 89 8 0 | | | 2,109 13 0 |
| W. I. A. Branch Contributions | .. | 291 11 0 | <i>Stri Dharma</i> — | | |
| <i>Stri Dharma</i> — | | | Amount paid to: | Rs. | A. P. |
| Subscriptions | Rs. 1,657 | 2 8 | Article Contributors | 25 | 0 0 |
| Advertisements | 1,993 | 6 4 | Blocks | 28 | 2 9 |
| Annual Report Ad- | | | Printing | 2,763 | 9 0 |
| vertisements | 225 | 0 0 | | | 2,816 11 9 |
| | | | <i>Investments</i> — | | |
| Fixed Deposit proceeds | .. | 3,875 9 0 | Savings Bank a/c | 2,000 | 0 0 |
| | | | Fixed Deposits | 3,000 | 0 0 |
| | | | | | 5,000 0 0 |
| | Rs. 14,310 | 1 8 | <i>Closing Balances</i> — | | |
| | | | Cash on hand | 292 | 13 5 |
| | | | Cash at Bank | 2,224 | 15 8 |
| | | | | | 2,517 13 1 |
| | | | | Rs. 14,310 | 1 8 |

AMMU SWAMINADHAN,

Honorary Treasurer.

Examined and found correct.

C. C. REDDY & Co.,

Government Diplomates in Accountancy,

Auditors.

APPENDIX C.

THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL REPORT.

We are happy to report that as far as educational progress is concerned the results of our first year's work in the Montessori School have been very encouraging, and have fully justified the venture, undertaken by the Women's Indian Association at the establishment of its new headquarters, of opening a school on the new "freedom" line.

It is too early to predict what will be the ultimate effect of the new method on the future development of the children, but we can say that the response from the children has been very interesting. As more experience of the new methods is gained also, the teacher's skill in meeting the needs of the children will also increase and it is in the development of the teacher as well as the pupil, and the expansion of the school work, that we must look for improved results each year of the school's existence. For the present we may say that both pupils and teachers have thoroughly enjoyed their play-work.

Thus a good beginning has been made which with care, caution and good will should develop into a school in which, not only the new psychological laws of learning are put into practice, but thoroughness and soundness of learning in all its aspects will become the characteristic. Our first year's work therefore has given us great encouragement to continue the work begun with full confidence and hope for the future.

In numbers we have varied between 12 and 21. Although 20 was fixed originally as the maximum number we find that we must make our maximum 25 in order to be quite secure financially—and we have also high hopes that the effect of the method on the children who have attended regularly, will encourage doubting parents to put more trust in our play way of learning although the apparent results may seem to be deferred at first, and that our necessary number of children will be reached and kept stable.

The most marked characteristic of the children's work has been on the lines of language. Circumstances have forced on us a bi-lingual experiment against our original intention. The mother tongue varies with almost all the children and so in addition to the vernacular of the district we took up English as the common language. This is learnt in the new play way also but side by side with the vernacular. The speed with which, on the whole, the children have mastered the new language has been one of the chief points of interest.

Mrs. Peters, the directress, and her assistant have to be congratulated on the self-sacrificing devotion they have given to their very



A Montessori class under the Banyan Tree at Headquarters.

difficult task which includes not only the arduous individual work and record of work, but the care and making of much of the educative material, and the responsibility for keeping the whole school in a good condition of cleanliness and order—not a light task in this new method. It is hoped that her work will be lightened next year by having the financial side done in the office. Also as the assistant has to go for further training, we have been able to secure Janakiammal who has had some previous experience in this kind of teaching.

If the school is to develop, however, more equipment will be required to keep pace with the growing capacities of the children and the many sidedness of their needs. We hope some generous donation will make this possible. Also as a school grows, not only equipment but specialist teachers are required and already we require the help of a specialist for music and games, and will soon require them, for crafts, for boys especially. This too involves an increase of current expenditure which has to be faced in the near future if we are to keep up our standard of efficiency.

On the financial side there is the regret that although we have been able to meet all current expenses we have been able to do so only owing to the generosity of the Women's Indian Association which has allowed us two rooms free of rent. Obviously this is not a sound financial position but we hope the increase of pupils next year will remedy this.

I have to say that it is with regret that I will not be able to continue the supervision of the experiment next year owing to my going on leave but Miss. Gerrard, Principal, Madras Lady Willingdon Training College, who is also a member of the Montessori Committee School has kindly agreed to visit and guide the school during my absence.

M. W. BARRIE,
Supervisor.

APPENDIX D.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL PROSPECTUS.

AIM.

The purpose in opening a Montessori School has been to provide facilities for the education of children from the earliest possible age along those lines which the advance of psychology and thought in the West have made it necessary to adopt in accordance with the most recent discoveries of scientific psychology.

REQUIREMENTS.

On this basis the chief requirement of education is a beautiful but orderly and simple environment with such educative apparatus as will gradually prepare the child, through the refining of its senses and the co-ordinating of its activities, for the more complex intellectual education and bring about that steadying of the mind which is called concentration. This is the first essential of auto-education and to accomplish it, requires a freedom of activity and a type of work which is quite different from that usually found in the old type of school, even in the Kindergarten schools.

METHODS.

It is therefore necessary to establish in the child that feeling of complete freedom from arbitrary restrictions arising out of the necessities of adult life which are usually imposed on children in their early years so that it will express itself freely. In this way alone the Directress can learn the nature of the child,—its weaknesses and its strength. She will thus be able to direct it according to its own needs, to teach it to realise its responsibility for its own actions and by a series of trials and experiments to find that line of interest which will lead to the focussing of its consciousness or the developing of the power of spontaneous concentration. Thus, at first there are no rigid time-table regulations imposed on the child, for that would destroy its free self-expression. But gradually as the adaption to the new environment is made, habits of order, daily duties and work are established as a background to its daily, intensive, self-chosen work. Only gradually also after these preliminary preparations have been made will the subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic be introduced. Hence parents who send their children to this school must be prepared to wait for this natural development.

The Directress watches the actions and interests of the children constantly and carefully, keeping a daily detailed record of each one,

marking the changes that each day brings in the self-development of each, making the necessary suggestions and giving only those lessons which she finds necessary and suitable to each individual child.

TIME.

The morning session begins at 7.45 A.M. and continues till 10.45 A.M. with a short interval for refreshment and play in the garden at 9.30 A.M. The afternoon hours are from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. It is hoped that parents will assist us by sending the children in good time and regularly. There will be no school on Saturday for the present. The usual Summer, Michaelmas, Christmas and Easter holidays will be observed but the frequent holidays for religious festivals will be kept only if required by parents. It is hoped as soon as circumstances permit to make arrangements for the mid-day meal and rest so that the coming and going in the middle of the day may be avoided.

FEEES.

The fees will be Rs. 10 per month per child, with an admission fee of Rs. 5. Extra charges will be made for stationery, handicraft material, refreshments, etc. Fees however will be subject to alteration as circumstances and the development of the School require.

STAFF.

There will be a Directress with an assistant for 20 children.

MANAGEMENT.

The School will be managed by a committee consisting of the following ladies:—

(1) Miss Gerrard (2) Mrs. Krishnaswami Chetty (3) Mrs. Dadabhoy (4) Mrs. Yakub Hassan (5) Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (6) Mrs. Jinarajadasa (7) Miss Phillipz (8) Mrs. Keshav Pai (9) Miss Amritammal (10) Miss Barrie (11) Shrimati Malati Patwardhan. The School will be supervised by Miss M. W. Barrie.

HOLIDAYS.

Easter holidays will be from the 18th to the 21st April, both days included.

The School will close for summer vacation on the 30th of April and will re-open on the 1st of July.

MALATI PATWARDHAN,
on behalf of the Committee.



Serene and self-reliant must stand each member, with hands outstretched to sisters and brothers, both in the East and West, to give them from her active right hand Beauty and Prosperity represented by the lotus, the flower that bears within itself male and female qualities equally, and from the lamp in her left hand to extend the steady flame of inspiration which will light the fire of devotion to our sacred religion and of love for humanity, the fire of patriotism, the fire of zeal for reform.

This she represents Religion, Knowledge, Organization, Service, Beauty, Prosperity, Inspiration and Co-operation, all offered freely to Mother India by each of her daughters.

DEDICATION.

To the Women of India to-day, and to the memory of the Indian Women of all past ages who have set an example of Courage, Wisdom and Devotion to Truth.

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APPENDIX E.
A LAND MARK IN INDIAN HISTORY.
THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT, 1928.

[1st October, 1929.]

An Act to restrain the solemnisation of child marriages.

WHEREAS it is expedient to restrain the solemnisation of child marriages; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

(1) This Act may be called, The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1928.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas,

(3) It shall come into force on the 1st day of April, 1930.

In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "child" means a person who, if a male, is under eighteen years of age, and if female, is under fourteen years of age;

(b) "child marriage" means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child;

(c) "contracting party" to a marriage means either of the parties whose marriage is thereby solemnised; and

(d) "minor" means a person of either sex who is under eighteen years of age.

Whoever, being a male above eighteen years of age and below twenty-one, contracts a child marriage shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

Whoever, being a male above twenty-one years of age, contracts a child marriage shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Whoever performs, conducts or directs any child marriage shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both, unless he proves that he had reason to believe that the marriage was not a child marriage.

(1) Where a minor contracts a child marriage, any person having charge of the minor, whether as parent or guardian or in any other capacity, lawful or unlawful, who does any act to promote the marriage or permits it to be solemnised, or negligently fails to prevent it from being solemnised, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both:

Provided that no woman shall be punishable with imprisonment.

(2) For the purposes of this section, it shall be presumed, unless and until the contrary is proved, that, where a minor has contracted a child marriage, the person having charge of such minor has negligently failed to prevent the marriage from being solemnised.

Notwithstanding anything contained in section 25 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, or section 64 of the Indian Penal Code, a Court sentencing an offender under section 3 shall not be competent to direct that, in default of payment of the fine imposed, he shall undergo any term of imprisonment.

Notwithstanding anything contained in section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, no Court other than that of a Presidency Magistrate or a District Magistrate shall take cognizance of, or try, any offence under this Act.

No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act save upon complaint made within one year of the solemnisation of the marriage in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

The Court taking cognizance of an offence under this Act shall, unless it dismisses the complaint under section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, either itself make an inquiry under section 202 of that Code, or direct a Magistrate of the first class subordinate to it to make such inquiry.

(1) At any time after examining the complainant and before issuing process for compelling the attendance of the accused, the Court shall, except for reasons to be recorded in writing, require the complainant to execute a bond, with or without sureties, for a sum not exceeding one hundred rupees, as security for the payment of any compensation which the complainant may be directed to pay under section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and if such security is not furnished within such reasonable time as the Court may fix, the complaint shall be dismissed.

(2) A bond taken under this section shall be deemed to be a bond taken under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and Chapter XLII of that Code shall apply accordingly.

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