



THE STORY OF ADYAR

During. 1943

THIS year, instead of just printing the Adyar Department Reports as they are, we have tried to weave them all into a human story of the way in which Adyar's "wheels go round."

We want all who are interested in Adyar to see Adyar at work in its various essential activities and then to feel that they have been on a personally conducted tour from one activity to another.

Mr. J. L. Davidge has been the weaving master of this story as he is the weaving master, together with that other great weaving master, Mrs. Adeltha Peterson, who has been mainly responsible for our being able to publish the Besant Spirit Series of volumes, of most of our literary and journalistic output. I think

that each has a finger in every one of our literary and journalistic pies. Both are very definitely among the ranks of our indispensables, and we have a not inconsiderable number of those.

I have for many years enjoyed the affection of this splendid English-born Australian brother of ours, and my own affection for him and deep appreciation is no less strong than his for me.

He has been helped in the weaving by another indispensable, Mrs. Jane Clumeck, whose work in the Adyar Village and Animal Welfare Department and in generally smoothing the way for the due feeding of Adyar during these times of perplexing and often harassing restrictions and rules and regulations, has been literally priceless.

How fortunate is this President of yours to have such helpers, and many others. But if I were to mention them all, and the fine service of each, this Section of my Presidential Address would become a volume and no paper would be left for the other essential publications. But they know how I feel.

about them—just as I feel about the brothers I have had occasion to mention above.

Georgist Anandale

Adyar

December, 1943.

Adyar Gardens

There is a legend in the President's room—hand-painted and hanging on the wall in a frame. It was put there by Dr. Besant and it reads: "Work for Adyar, the Masters' Home." Everyone at Adyar is working for Adyar in some way or other. What they have been doing in the last twelve months, beyond the customary amenities of living, would take a book to tell, but we will picture it briefly and, we hope, vividly.

Every one who enters Adyar is impressed by the spacious loveliness of the place, from the gate at the

Elphinstone Bridge right through to the Beach. That was Colonel Olcott's impression when he and H.P.B. first set eyes on the property in 1882—he talks about its ancient mango and banyan trees and its large plantations of casuarinas. All these are still flourishing and many more, especially the groves of coconut palms which he himself planted 35 years ago. The grounds have since expanded from 27 acres to nearly 200, and have the appearance of a botanic park, with ornamental trees framing vistas of dwellings and office buildings. The producing trees bring in good revenue ; the gardeners gather and sell the coconuts ; mangoes, tamarinds, and cashew nuts are sold by contract. The casuarinas helped to tide Adyar and some of its neighbours over the recent fuel crisis. On an average, 4,000 casuarinas are planted annually ; today there are 58,000 on the Estate, which will turn in a good profit when full grown.

The " ground floor " of Adyar is more like a paddy field than ever before. The first patch we see runs east alongside the road past the T. P. H. The area

cultivated through the Estate has this year jumped from six to 24 acres. The paddy is the healthiest imaginable, as Convention delegates discover when they feast on this home-grown product. The scene on moonlight nights when the long shadows of the trees are reflected in the water where the paddy grows is perfectly enchanting.

Does the garden pay? The income from production shows a good return, but this does not meet the expenses of the ornamental side—the deficit is about Rs. 7,000 yearly. This we pay for beauty! If the head gardener were to open a sales office for ornamental plants he might make even that side pay. The ornamental collection is representative as well as beautiful and includes some very rare specimens, and the gardens attract many botanists and tree-lovers.

Tropical shrubs and trees, ornamental because of their flowers, predominate, creating a multi-coloured scene. Bordering some of the roads are avenues of the gorgeous Flame of the Forest which flares into

bloom at the height of the summer. Then there is the Founders' Avenue of mahogany trees, representing all the countries in which Theosophy is at work. Other avenues of flowering trees are being planted, so that in ten years from now Adyar will show great masses of flowers against the deep green foliage of rain trees, mangoes and tufted palms waving against the sky. Most of the flowers are Indian, but we have seen magnificent hollyhocks eleven feet high edging the Headquarters lawn, and bougainvilleas in huge clusters of purple, pink, rust, mauve, red, and so on. Mr. Jinarajadasa is hoping to bring a white bougainvillea to Adyar; he had heard of it in Java and thought he was pursuing a myth until he actually saw the white one in a garden near Rio in Brazil. But how to get it to Adyar? What Adyar Gardens owe to Mr. Jinarajadasa we cannot compute, for he not only nurses them when he is "home" but for many years he has never gone overseas without bringing back choice specimens, customs and shipping regulations permitting.

Our great Banyan Tree has come into its own at last ! What a personality ! How it has vibrated to thrilling orations of Dr. Besant and great gatherings of Theosophists. At a tea party under this noble creature a few days ago we discovered that its Calcutta rival, said to be the oldest banyan in India, had submitted to a surgical operation which removed its decayed central trunk, so that though other fine banyans exist in India, the Adyar Tree now stands first for completeness. We are all very proud of its magnificent proportions and fine state of preservation.

It is no sinecure to tend and cultivate 180 odd acres, grow flowers and fruits, vegetables and food-grains, improve the pasturage, manage 150 coolies with all their individual troubles, and build up the gardens to the ideal which the Superintendent, Mr. N. Yagneswara Sastri—a brother of Rukmini Devi, by the way—has envisioned. But he finds joy in his work, has what gardeners call the “green hand,” and having turned from law to beautifying the land-

scape is planning years ahead so that Adyar's beauty will mellow with its deepening intellectual and spiritual life.

On The Roof

In this picturesque setting the President and Rukmini Devi live and work—literally on the roof of the Theosophical world. And round them rotate the multifarious activities of Headquarters and from them radiate fiery lines of communication with General Secretaries, Presidential Agents, and reachable members the world over. Here “on the Roof”—this time the Headquarters Roof—begin the day's devotions, followed by conferences, private interviews, dictating of correspondence, writing of articles, and sometimes a T. S. Council meeting, or a Scout Conference with the Chief Commissioner for the Madras Presidency, an office which Dr. Arundale is proud to hold in the Hindustan Scout Association.

Adyar working hours are quite different from those in Madras and much more sensible. Here we work

nominally from 9 to 12 and from 3 to 6, with a long interval during the midday heat. There is no limit of course to working hours save physical endurance.

Connected with the Roof is the Roof Talk every Friday evening, when the President from 6.45 to 7.30 discourses, seriously; lightheartedly, humorously, perhaps with an injection of aphorisms for which he has developed a faculty lately. Much of these talks appears in print in Theosophical journals. For almost three months the Roof Talks were suspended because of the President's illness, and no one was happier than ourselves, the residents, when he resumed them, for they bring a renewal of precious ties and an invigorating baptism in the family spirit. The President had recovered sufficiently to be able to go into Madras to preside over a Theosophical meeting on the 16th November, to celebrate Dr. Besant's landing in India 50 years ago. It was his first engagement out of Adyar for at least four months.

The President's Office—in H. P. B.'s old room—is being directed by Miss Elithe Nisewanger, but most

of the year Mrs. Peterson was at the desk, concerning herself with an audit of the President's personal accounts, with the happy result that an appeal which he made against assessment by the Taxation Department on his irregular income has been allowed by the Appeal Taxation Officer, the authorities being perfectly satisfied with his presentation of these accounts.

The President has written some nice things about the Press Department, which works in the Board Room, as he does about all his fellow-workers, but as we are writing about our own department we will leave his appreciative words to your imagination. What we can say with becoming modesty and truth is that we are forever writing, one sandwiching Village Welfare with editorial work on *Conscience*, and the other supplying articles to Adyar journals and Theosophical news to the principal newspapers in India, and hoping to complete a book dealing with "Leadership for Brotherhood in the New World" and publish it when financial and paper restrictions permit. The Press Department is keeping track also of the biographical

side of The Society's membership and other detail in preparation of a post-war International Theosophical Year Book. We have files innumerable from which we are able to extract material for the general work.

The steel cabinets housing the Archives are also standing in the Board Room, but they are mostly empty, the contents being still in a "safe deposit" where they were placed in April 1942 when invasion appeared imminent. A few additional contributions have been received.

Keep Adyar Healthy !

As we pass the Adyar Dispensary in the mornings a steady stream of villagers are going in and coming out, women with small babies over their shoulders and sometimes with the bandages of the previous day, and young children at their side ; old men obviously ill ; young people carrying bottles of medicine to some member of the family. This Dispensary has taken care of 12,000 cases in the year, one thousand more than last year. Now that the A.R.P.

First Aid Post is also located at the Dispensary, the First Aiders are having fine practical experience working with Dr. Gopalan who is in charge, and who lives on the Estate ever at the call of his "cliente."

Alongside the Publicity Office (the old Dispensary) is the Baby Welcome which is daily filled with babies and mothers who receive warm attention to their needs of food, clothing, and medical aid. Daily 28 babies under one year are given milk, 30 children ragi conjee and about 10 mothers conjee (grain gruel) or special food. The heart and soul of this department is Mrs. S. Bhagirathi Sri Ram with her tireless helper, Nurse Lakshmi. Both are known and loved by the villagers, whose continuous struggle with life, especially in its maternity aspect, is greatly lessened by this material assistance given with loving care.

The Dairy Herd

Daily we see the animals of the Dairy which graze on the Adyar Estate nibbling the flowers and fruits of

the gardens as they pass whenever they get the opportunity, and then dipping their noses among the red and white water lilies and lotuses to quench their thirst. They are picturesque animals, especially the buffaloes, with their huge horns sweeping back beyond their shoulders, which force them carefully to navigate the various gates through which they have to pass.

The Dairy was started by Dr. Besant to ensure a clean milk supply as the Estate was buying its milk from outside and not always impeccable sources. Today the herd consists of 19 cows, 13 buffaloes, and 47 calves, with 1 stud bull and 1 stud buffalo. The health of the herd, though not perfect owing to the temporary food shortage, compares very well with non-Adyarian animals. Our cows are fed sprouting gram, oil-cake and bran, the latter being most difficult to obtain because of the Government order prohibiting the polishing of rice.

Another difficulty is medical attention, but the President is hoping soon to build new accommodation and find a resident veterinary surgeon with a proper

knowledge of animal medicine. The milk is good and the residents are supplied by milkmen who deliver it twice a day in picturesque brass containers. The price has risen in the past six months from As. 6 to As. 10 a measure.

Sometimes our animals are sold, but never the cows. If bulls or calves are sold the sale is made to agriculturists or T.S. employees after suitable inquiries, but not to butchers or salesmen. We are helping some of the poor villagers by keeping their dry cows until they milk again.

The animals' best friend on the Estate is undoubtedly Shrimati Rukmini Devi. She watches them all the year round, and on her birthday gives a party to the Adyar herd and the cattle of the neighbouring villagers. On that day two hundred animals meet at the Bharat Samaj Temple and pay their respects to her and are well fed with hay and bananas. It is a wonderful sight, as she goes amongst them patting their faces and lavishing upon them her affection.

Village and Animal Welfare

An organization whose activities seem to spring up in many places is the Adyar Village and Animal Welfare Group. Their successful agitation for rationing in the "belt area" surrounding the city has brought them in touch with the authorities in Madras and the surrounding district; their assistance to the villagers in food, clothes, rebuilding and repair of huts, medical attention, financial aid often for the education of children, has made them friends of the poor and needy who continually flock for aid with pitiful stories of distress; their work to alleviate animal suffering, and especially their fight against animal sacrifice in the temples has brought results which may hasten the total abolition of this horrible superstition. From the press reports of their work, a tremendous and unexpected response has come in financial aid not only from all over India but from other parts of the world. The Group hopes that its example will start other similar groups throughout India with the sole purpose of courageously helping the downtrodden whose

misery is so greatly aggravated by the war situation and its inevitable concomitants, famine and disease.

Sanitation and Laundry

As you leave your residence to go to office in the cool of the morning, there are always workers who greet you with a "namaskaram," and among these are the small boys of the Sanitary Department who are busy with their brooms sweeping the roads, two of them going along together and leaving a herring-bone pattern on the laterite. But the disposal of rubbish is carried on very efficiently, and one member in this important staff is a lovely light brown bull who is a familiar sight pulling a cart along the roads of Adyar most contentedly.

All the cleaning is arranged by the Superintendent of the Sanitary Department, whose immediate "buzzing" problem is the mosquito nuisance, aggravated by the phenomenal rains in October which overflowed the Adyar River, devastated scores of villages

and thousands of huts, and flooded parts of our Estate. Boys are sent out regularly to bottle samples of water which are duly examined for larvae.

If on a sunny day, we go over towards the School and take a short-cut through a certain path, we pass the Laundry with all the vari-coloured clothes hanging out to dry, blown about against a background of blue sky and green grass. Or maybe on a washing day we will hear the dhobies singing as they work at the washing bins—singing to keep time in their rhythmic up and down movements as they beat the heavier clothes into cleanliness. Madame Cazin, the efficient Superintendent, showed a true business instinct when she refused an offer of Rs. 150 for an old boiler and managed to sell it later for Rs. 1,000 ! With increased costs of materials and trained workers going to the military, this department also has its difficulties, but the residents are grateful for the fine work done in their Adyar Laundry.

The International Office

It sounds very dull to be a Recording Secretary, but actually there is a certain excitement in handling the affairs of an International Society as messages pour in by mail and cable—such as do not pass through the President's office. Mr. Rohit Mehta has had all the thrills of the international business and all the preoccupations of administering the Adyar Estate and its departments, but just lately the President has been fortunate enough to induce Mr. A. Ranganatham to take over the Estate administration, so that Mr. Mehta can now expand his international relationships and have time also for urgently needed touring.

Mr. Ranganatham was a special colleague of Dr. Besant, has held office in the General Council, has been a Cabinet Minister in the Madras Government, and is well equipped for this new service to Adyar. He plunges right into Convention arrangements which are complicated by rationing and other restrictions. His desk is in the Recording Secretary's office.

From the Recording Secretary we gather that The Society's membership has increased in U.S.A., India, New Zealand, Canada, but has decreased only by 114 the world over, the total being now 28,062, of whom 10,205 are in enemy countries. Nevertheless 22 new Lodges have been chartered. Practically all the Sections have had to work against heavy odds because of the war. We must push the work, for the world's distress is everywhere turning more and more attention to Theosophy. Associated with the Recording Secretary are the Liaison Officers who represent the Sections and keep them in touch with Adyar in various ways. Some of these Liaison Officers are residents of Adyar who have no personal knowledge of the countries they represent, which is not at all satisfactory to the President, hence his hope that when the world situation and finances make it possible the Section authorities will appoint nominees as unofficial ambassadors to the President-in-Council who might very well help in the making of decisions without in any way interfering with the duties and

privileges of the General Secretaries. These officers might live at Adyar for a year and gain experience of great practical value to their Sections.

Financing the Work

Is there romance in figures ? Surely there is in the financing of Headquarters activities. Thanks largely to donations from Adyar Day collections, to which our American brethren have contributed so munificently, the annual deficit has been partially covered and it has been possible to liquidate a portion of the accumulated deficits of previous years on the Adyar guest-houses—Leadbeater Chambers and the Bhojanasala.

Not only have grants been made to useful Headquarters activities but also “special contributions to relieve distress and suffering consequent on war, famine, floods and the like”—I am quoting from the Treasurer’s report. Donations totalled Rs. 38,425 inclusive of the major portion of a sum of approximately Rs. 5,000 which the President relinquished from

the President's Travelling Fund and of the Adyar Day collections from the U. S. A. amounting to Rs. 29,643.

Interesting items are these :

Allocations from donations to institutions : Village Welfare Fund Rs. 1,000, Adyar Library 2,000, Besant Theosophical School 3,000, Kalâkshetra 3,000, Swaminatha Iyer Library 1,000, Olcott Memorial School 2,000, Baby Welcome 300, World Federation of Young Theosophists 250.

War Distress Relief Fund : Allocations to this fund this year amounted to Rs. 3,057 from donations and Rs. 2,500 from legacies, and the total allocations to date (the fund was started in 1940) Rs. 33,823. The amount spent on relief has been Rs. 29,595, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,228.

Faithful Service Fund : Dr. Arundale started this fund in 1939 to help workers who have given long service to The Society but who now are in retirement, not only at Adyar, but in the Sections also. Allocations to the fund total Rs. 55,184 to date, including Rs. 2,500 during this year, and payments

made so far total Rs. 13,994, leaving a balance of Rs. 41,190.

A profitable investment was a sum of Rs. 6,344 spent by the Garden Department on rice-growing as part of the "Grow More Food" campaign in the National Defence Scheme. Had it not been for this experiment Adyar workers in the recent food scarcity would probably have starved. Happily the experiment supplied the workers with paddy and showed a favourable balance of Rs. 688, which helped to reduce the deficit on the working of the non-productive side of the Gardens.

Money is being raised for rehabilitating the war-stricken Sections. A sum of Rs. 8,800 has been earmarked for this purpose. We note also that an appeal asking for £1,000 (approx. Rs. 13,000) is being made from the London Section Office to finance the the forthcoming Congress of the European Federation of National Societies, and it goes without saying that larger sums will be needed for this constructive work.

The President thinks we shall have to collect a sum of not less than £10,000 or Rs. 1,30,000. He is making a world-wide appeal for this amount.

The Society's Treasurer, in recommending the strengthening of the Rehabilitation Fund and the War Distress Fund, notes the need for starting a Headquarters Fund, an endowment providing a constant source of income for the maintenance of Adyar so that donations, legacies, and other fluctuating items of income may be applied entirely to world-wide Theosophical work emanating from Adyar, such as books, magazines, lecturing tours, and so on. This need was indicated as far back as 1935 by Capt. Sellon. The problem then was to provide approximately Rs. 13,000 (£1,000) a year above the regular income from dues. The estimate is greater today because of the decrease in Section dues, but even the pre-war estimate would require an endowment of Rs. 5,00,000, and of this approximately only Rs. 67,234 is at present in hand.

reached Rs. 55,000 or Rs. 13,000 more than the year before despite the loss of so many countries. The war has beyond all doubt stimulated interest in Theosophy, which augurs well for much larger foreign sales when rebuilding begins in the occupied countries. There were several best sellers. *The Secret Doctrine*, Adyar edition, sold 529 sets, or 222 more than the year before. We were certainly well advised to publish this edition, though it was a costly business at the time. *Talks on the Path of Occultism* increased by 130. *Light on the Path* leaped from 160 to 700. The new book, *Annie Besant, Builder of New India*, sold 702 copies, which is in some ways a sign of increasing recognition of the President-Mother's unique services to India. *At the Feet of the Master* in all editions sold 4,170 copies, 200 more than the total for the two preceding years. The book was twice reprinted in editions of 3,000 each. Many other increases are noted, especially in books dealing with life after death. The war is waking people up. Considering the laborious process of export and losses in transit

the year's work has been most successful and the financial position of the T.P.H. has been still further consolidated.

Adyarians are happy that Dr. Montessori is publishing some of her invaluable contributions to education under the auspices of the T. P. H. We are much honoured by this association with her.

Read Our Journals!

Subscriptions to *The Theosophist* have increased in 1943 by 70 copies. The largest increases were in U.S.A. and South Africa. The latter made a drive and doubled the subscriptions from 40 to 80. Other General Secretaries, please note !

Both *The Theosophist* and *The Theosophical Worker* have been reduced in size owing to severe paper shortage, but the reading value has been concentrated. The President's contributions are looming larger each issue, partly because he has had more time for brooding during his recent illness and partly because both journals are in a sense his personal organs and he has

felt it necessary to be as communicative as he could to all his constituents. "I do not think I have ever worked harder than during the last two or three months to provide material for both journals, as their December issues, I think, show," he says in a note. When the paper shortage is past, the President is hoping to publish special issues again. "I am hoping," he writes, "that when the war is over both journals will undergo a very radical change, so that they will become more fitted than they are to serve both members of The Society and the general public. There is very much to consider as regards this, and I shall be thinking over the question with, I hope, the kindly and constructive suggestions of all who are interested in *The Theosophist* and *The Theosophical Worker*."

With his usual touch of humour which is none the less true for being humorous, he says, Dr. Arundale offers his grateful thanks to Mrs. Dinshaw "who does all the work but gives me all the credit."

The "Feel" of Adyar

Everyone who reads Adyar books and journals feels their magnetism, some glowing with vibrations which the "outside" book does not carry ! It has brought the feel of Adyar to all parts of the world. Naturally, Adyar is saturated with the most wonderful magnetism in the world, but a contributory factor in this friendly feeling of our literature is the family spirit of the workers at the Vasanta Press. From the Manager down to the messenger boy everyone is dedicated to the great work. Every day at noon the men have their puja (worship)—which they conduct themselves, a compositor or a machinist leading the music. On most days a Pandit talks to them of India's Heroes and Saints or recites from the Shastras. One such visitor addressed them in Sanskrit, Tamil and Telugu. We never hear of trouble at the Press. On great festival days—Dr. Besant's birthday or Dr. Arundale's birthday—the whole Staff come over to Headquarters to join in the celebrations and are afterwards entertained, on October 1st with food, on December 1st

with presents of clothing. The Press delivered 31 publications during the year, apart from periodicals, in a steady flow which was kept up in spite of paper shortage and exorbitant costs of materials. Mr. Subbrayudu has this year acquired an assistant superintendent and a machine supervisor, both experienced men, who are easing the strain of the war period and sharing his responsibility.

“ Selling ” Theosophy

It was a good move to transfer the Publicity Department to the old Dispensary building—there is more room and visitors spend more time inquiring about Theosophy and The Society's work. Masses of leaflets are sold or distributed free. The “ Next Step ” series is still a favourite because of its modern note. A new series is available during this Convention : “ THEOSOPHY TELLS YOU WHY,” the subjects following a plan suggested by the President to the Adyar Lodge : Death ; suffering ; war ; injustice ; race,

nationality and religion ; and so on. You may also obtain three further leaflets written by the President : *Theosophy Makes Great Leaders*, *The Work of The Theosophical Society*, *Man Is His Own Redeemer*. Please observe in the Publicity Office the wall friezes showing new posters worded by the President, for example : "Theosophy shows one how to live and how to die." They make fine publicity for the Lodges.

Then Mrs. Lavender, the able head of this department, has built a gatehouse just inside the main gate, which is advertising Theosophy to passers-by, and may be used by delegates and visitors as a reading-room and information bureau.

Post-war publicity projects are : (1) A radiation scheme for the Lodges for the expansion of thinking on the Simplicities of Theosophy ; (2) A renewal scheme to restore or rebuild shattered work in war-affected areas—either by the Sections or International Headquarters ; (3) A second correspondence course dealing with Theosophy in practice. All good ideas,

but bigger and better ideas of course may come along and supersede them !

Our World Famous Library

Dr. Srinivasa Murti will tell you that while both sections, Western and Oriental, are being built up, the Adyar Library continues to pour out Samskrit classics, and no less than seven complete volumes, including a descriptive catalogue of Samskrit MSS., were published during the year, in addition to serials in the quarterly journal. Prior to 1936 the publication department specialized in the Upanishads with the commentaries of the Advaita School of philosophy as propounded by Sri Sankaracharya. Since 1937 rare works have been printed in all phases of Indian culture and philosophy, especially contributions of the Ramanuja and Madhavacharya Schools, treatises on music including the dance, on Buddhistic philosophy, aesthetics, medicine, dharma-shastras, poetry, logic, drama, etc. These works have been highly commended by reviewers. A further expansion of this

policy is in progress, and works on Prakrit literature, and Indian astrology, are in the press. That the Library is able to maintain this classic output monthly is a fine tribute to the scholarship of the Director, and his associates, Bhikkhu Arya Asanga and Dr. C. Kunhan Raja, and the librarian, Miss Watkin.

Some day, after the war, the Adyar Library will be housed in a new building on ground already allotted to it in the heart of the Compound and raised to designs already prepared. Colonel Olcott's dream of Adyar as the intellectual metropolis of the world, as Alexandria was to the ancients, is long in materializing. But give it time. "Wait twenty years and you will see what it will grow into," he said in 1885, a year before its formal opening. Wait another twenty and we shall see a new marvel. Maybe the library of a World University and other splendid institutions. We must always keep in mind his impelling vision: "If we and our successors do their whole duty this can be made a second Alexandria, and on these lovely grounds a new Serapion may arise."

Lodge and Youth Activities

On Wednesday nights, we go to the meeting of the Adyar Lodge, which in October 1943 shed its old skin of lectures and study meetings and donned a new skin of activity characterized by fluidity of new ideas and experimentation. Five sub-committees were formed to carry on the actual work, and they in themselves are of the "new order," dealing respectively with Lodge Amenities, Ladies, Social Service (including the care of visitors and friendly visits to ill residents), Madras (which acts on the "going-out-to-others" principle), and the "Watch-Tower," which is endeavouring to keep an open eye to Theosophy as it is expressed in the world and to prepare the next step. A radical change is now being introduced for the Lodge to work as a family who meet and then decide what they wish to do ! Rules and regulations (which existed in superabundance) have been dropped overboard and this new experimentation in practical Brotherhood will take their place. Maybe this will be a new birth of the Adyar

Lodge which must become an archetypal Lodge of the future, having as its location "The Masters' Home" !

The Vasanta Youth Lodge is full of young people who meet in the Young Theosophists' world headquarters to express their radical ideas and opinions without any hampering company of elders. They have been conducting speakers' classes and learning to present their fresh ideas with power. A debate with the Adyar Lodge quite recently proved the value of the training. Now the Youth Lodge with its President, Shrimati G. Leelavati, has also become activated with the new spirit pervading Adyar and is going out to meet youth members in the City of Madras, drawing others into closer contact and comradeship.

In the same Youth Headquarters are held the meetings of the Vasanta Round Table, and every Sunday morning many white-garbed young people are seen walking in groups to become refreshed in the ceremonial work and inspired by knightly ideals.

There is every promise of these young people becoming citizen knights in the world today honoured for the same qualities which distinguished the knights of King Arthur !

Just across the road the Adyar Recreation Club, under the leadership of Mrs. Gray, has done much to provide a pleasant place for play especially for the younger students of the Besant Theosophical School and a social place of meeting for the residents.

Religious Ceremonies

Adyar has a rich sacramental side to its religious life. Not only are there daily pujas and rituals, but services at the temples on festival occasions—the celebration of Hindu saints at the Bharat Samaj temple, of the Founder at the Buddhist temple on Wesak full moon day, at the Parsi temple on Zoroaster's day, at the Mosque on the Prophet's day, at the Christian Church on all major festivals and practically every Sunday, also regular meetings of Co-Masons, and sometimes the Mystic Star. Many of us

attend the services of all the Faiths in the true spirit of Universal Brotherhood. Generous donors have made it possible for the Liberal Catholic Church to replenish its supply of sacred vessels and to plan the enclosure of the sanctuary against intruders. This much needed protection* is shortly to be put in hand.

A little to the south-west of the Mosque the foundations of a Jewish Synagogue are visible and the Treasurer has a nest-egg of Rs. 2,000 or so. Some day we shall have a Synagogue—and a Jain temple—and a Sikh temple.

The Commissariat

There is not much to say about Leadbeater Chambers except that the house service has been temporarily dispensed with owing to the war, and residents cater for themselves. This makes it difficult for visitors unless they bring their own food and servants. But they can always take their meals, Indian style, at the Bhojanasala, which is as much a Social Centre as

a guesthouse and store, and swarms with people during Convention or a Montessori camp. The management of the Bhojanasala has changed several times during the year. The actual condition now is that Mr. A Ranganatham, Administrator of the Estate, is temporary officer-in-charge with the valuable assistance of Mr. Subbaramayya, who was Superintendent some time ago, and his help is therefore all the more valuable.

Ways and Works

Down among the beautiful casuarina trees on the eastern part of the Estate is the Engineering Department whose necessary functions are the supply of electricity and water from the Madras mains, upkeep of the roads, and repair of the buildings under the competent management of the Superintendent, Mr. T. F. Lavender, and the Manager, Mr. M. D. Subramaniam. If a concrete road has to be built or an electric iron repaired, call the willing and cheerful heads and staff of this department who are always

ready to serve with a smile. What would the Estate do without them !

A.R.P. Duties

With that fascinating young lady, the Siren, making herself heard in Madras the A.R.P. personnel, paid and volunteer, are on their toes. However, most of the work has lately been the very necessary taking of the census for rice and kerosene and the distributing of the cards, as well as the continual instruction of the villagers in Air Raid Precautions. The Adyar A.R.P. Post is located at the Vasanta Press, with our own siren, operated by the paid personnel. A.R.P. is becoming known for helpfulness in many civil problems, and the work is excellent training for many future young citizens.

[Mrs. Clumeck has written a formal note on the A.R.P. without giving any indication as to the important part she plays in this army as Area Warden, so efficient indeed that she was able to relieve the President of this supererogatory duty. The bombing

of Singapore gave her a large background of experience which has been invaluable to Adyar. Still in her thirties and the prime of life, she enjoys her quick cycle round of the A.R.P. posts, and talks of a ride in the moonlight as if she were going to a party, though she has actually been called out of bed by the Siren's wailing. Her husband is a flying officer in the R.A.F. somewhere in India and has just been promoted.—J.L.D.]

Guarding the Gates

Watch and Ward men —12 of them—are distinctive for the rods they carry but have no occasion to use, one friendly watchman at each gate and others patrolling the grounds. The Superintendent amusingly reports: "Scarcity (of watchmen) did not increase crime and the Watch and Ward worked without incident"—probably because the villagers are now better looked after by the Village Welfare Group, May our watchmen continue to have no occasion to enforce law and order!

OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR BROTHERHOOD

Kalakshetra and the Arts

Kalākshetra began a new seven-year cycle in 1943 and Rukmini Devi, the Founder-President, has said: "It is almost as if I were beginning the work anew." The transition is to a different order of working that will in future years stand out as marking the emancipation of art and artists from professional monopolists. The change was stressed in the department of Bharata Natya in which Rukmini Devi has trained and presented to the public as accomplished dancers several young girl students of Kalākshetra and has herself conducted dance performances to the amazement of the traditional dance teachers who never believed it would be possible for any one to conduct recitals but members of their own vocation.

What the public of Madras owe to her was expressed at a meeting in February 1943 when a "Group of Friends"—distinguished citizens—assembled in the Ranade Hall, Mylapore, to felicitate her on

her birthday and to "emphasize the urgent need for the Renaissance of Indian art in the building of New India," and encourage her in its pursuit. Special recitals have been given for the Hon. Lady Hope, wife of the Governor of Madras, the Turkish Press delegation, the Chinese Educational and Cultural Mission, besides a number of open-air recitals in the Adyar Theatre and other performances by artist-students under the auspices of Madras cultural associations.

In recent months Rukmini Devi has developed the Kathakali Dance, which is indigenous to the Malabar, and will appear in a Kathakali Dance-Drama during Convention, supported by two of the finest Kathakali actors in South India. Another most important acquisition is the deep interest taken in Rukmini Devi's work by Sangeetha Kalanidhi Tiger K. Varadachariar, famed throughout South India for his marvellous creative genius. He is indeed a remarkable personality. He was Rukmini Devi's first music teacher at Chidambaram and is now helping her as Director of

the Music and Dance Departments of Kalâkshetra. Adyar truly is a home of genius.

An indication of public faith in Rukmini Devi's cultural movement was the presentation of a priceless collection of Tamil manuscripts which are housed in the Adyar Library and are being copied and edited by the Pandits for publication. One book is already in the press. The collection was made by Dr. Swaminatha Iyer, a great Tamil scholar, and presented by his distinguished son, Sri Kalyasundaram Iyer, who is still actively associated with the Library. The inauguration of the Library took place in July.

Kalâkshetra is helped financially by its productive departments, weaving and crafts. But it needs capital. The weaving department showed a turnover of Rs. 8,000—for saris and cloth to designs and colours chosen by Rukmini Devi—which is an increase of Rs. 3,000 over the previous year. Another twelve looms are being installed. The Crafts Department, which manufactures Montessori educational apparatus and artistic Indian furniture, also showed a handsome

profit, but is handicapped for shortage of materials due to the war. Yet the revenue of these departments (plus publications) is not sufficient to offset the deficit in tuition fees which is met by friendly donations. What Rukmini Devi needs is capital investment for the development of the productive departments and an endowment fund to meet current deficits—hence the “Basant Educational and Cultural Endowment Fund” which she has inaugurated. It is an anxious time for her, but she never loses heart and holds the faith that her vision of Kalâkshetra as a great centre of India's culture and a nucleus of world culture will one day be realized.

Her latest project is to start a four-year course—the Sangeetha Siromani course—of diploma study in Carnatic Music affiliated to the University of Madras, but to successfully continue this course the creation of a substantial endowment, of not less than two lakhs of rupees, will be necessary.

Kalâkshetra needs two endowments—one to develop the production departments and the second to

guarantee a University Siromani course in Carnatic Music, and the Founder-President urgently appeals for donations.

Besant Theosophical School

Freedom, courage and friendliness are the notes which the Besant Theosophical School is striving to sound forth through all its students, and in the appreciative remarks of visitors—official and otherwise—the increasing power of these notes is always especially noted.

But far more than appreciation, the work of the students themselves, from youngest to oldest, is a proof of this growing power. One sees a wonderful creative spirit at work—in craft and wood-work, in drawing and painting, and in the school publication *Vasanta* which is full of original ideas and maintains a very high standard. And what of the delightful plays from the *Arabian Nights* which have been written, produced, staged and stage-managed entirely by the unaided work of the students! The plays were

certainly an excellent demonstration of an independent virility of humour, of skill, of confidence and of rollicking joyous organization.

Collaboration with Kalâkshetra—Rukmini Devi being the Director of both institutions—gives a fine cultural spirit throughout, as well as an impetus to education in the arts. A truly religious education is maintained throughout the day, from the early morning Assembly for prayers out of doors in the beautiful environment of Damodar Gardens—the girls with braided hair and a posy at the nape of the neck and colourful blouses and flowing skirts—to the games in the evening, and in the Village Welfare work regularly and happily performed in practical simple brotherhood among the villagers themselves. Recognition of the great festivals of all religions, as well as stories of great achievements by the truly great in all walks of life—such stories often contributed by the students themselves—foster the spirit of reverence so natural to youth.

The usual—or perhaps unusual—classes are carried on, some in the school building, others in thatched cool cottages and many under the trees. The junior school is organized on Montessori lines, and this method is being extended to the middle school classes, thus linking the school together in an increased efficiency of work. Dr. Montessori herself, who with her son lived and worked here for three years, has been for some time living at Kodaikanal, where at present she is conducting an Advanced Training Course in her method, but the Director (Shrimati Rukmini Devi) and the Headmaster (Mr. Sankara Menon) are so imbued with her spirit and ideals that in her absence the work goes on uninterruptedly and efficiently. The Government Inspector admits that the younger students are doing in four or five years easily and normally what is done in ordinary schools in seven years. And to watch the children at work is to see the same bubbling enthusiasm and adventurous spirit as is apparent in the dramatic ventures. “I’ve done the square of the binomial; I want the cube!” is the eager cry of

an 8-year-old, hopping excitedly on one leg ; indeed the Montessori Method has made Mathematics the eighth wonder of the world, or perhaps the first Wonder of the Universe as it truly is !

But work of the kind that the twin-institutions, Kalākshetra-Besant School, are doing, needs joyous and generous support from its wellwishers ; they too must join in the Great Quest. Rented buildings are a very expensive item, and the urgent need of the School is for a plot of ground and buildings of its own. Rukmini Devi's great venture, the Besant Cultural and Educational Endowment Fund, is an effort to put both institutions on a sound financial footing. Long vistas of progress are opening up in this department of Adyar's life and activity, for some day there must be a Besant Theosophical College, and further ahead the materialization of Dr. Besant's long-cherished dream of a World University. The seeds are being sown now, here in Adyar as well as in other parts of the world.

Olcott Free School

The acute food shortage was immediately reflected in the condition and attendance of the 650 children attending the Olcott Free School—situated a stone's throw from the Adyar compound—and its associated village schools. A free midday meal to all the children solved this difficulty, the Village Welfare Group making it possible by a monthly grant. The School Inspector reports that this School is "easily one of the best schools in the range" and showers the usual compliments on the management, noting specially the "spirit of brotherliness" between the teachers and the students.

It is amazing how the school carries on, for its expenses of maintenance total Rs. 13,000 annually, and Government grants-in-aid and interest on endowments total only Rs. 7,500, and "for the balance of Rs. 5,500 we depend entirely on the generous support of our friends." Yet the money comes! And it comes year after year!

Colonel Olcott founded this School for the less cared-for children in 1894, so that in 1944 we shall expect to celebrate a Jubilee.

THE STAFF AT ADYAR

During 1943

President, Chief Executive Officer and Keeper of the Archives, Dr. George S. Arundale

Vice-President, Mr. N. Sri Ram

Treasurer, Dr. G. Srinivasa Murti

Recording Secretary, Mr. Rohit Mehta

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The President

The Vice-President

The Recording Secretary

The Treasurer

Shrimati Rukmini Devi

Mr. K. Sankara Menon

Mr. K. Srinivasa Iyengar

Rao Bahadur M. Narasimham Pantulu

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Administrator, Mr. A. Ranganatham

PRESIDENT'S STAFF :

Private Secretary, Miss E. Nisewanger

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Mr. J. L. Davidge

Miss G. Leelavati

Miss A. Radha

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Superintendent, Mr. N. Yagneswara Sastri

ADYAR LIBRARY :

Director, Dr. G. Srinivasa Murti

Joint Directors, Bhikkhu Arya Asanga

Dr. C. Kunhan Raja

Librarian, Miss Gertrude Watkin

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Deputy Keeper, Mr. C. Jinarajadasa (on leave)

Acting Deputy Keeper, Miss Irene Prest

A.R.P. :

Area Warden and Rationing Officer,

Mrs. Jane Clumeck

BABY WELCOME :

Superintendent, Shrimati Bhagirathi Sri Ram

BHOJANASALA :

Officers-in-charge, Mr. A. Ranganatham

Mr. C. Subbaramayya

CLEANING DEPARTMENT :

Superintendent, Mr. Narainji Kevat

DAIRY :

Superintendent, Mr. N. Yagneswara Sastri

DISPENSARY :

Resident Medical Officer, Dr. N. S. S. Gopalan

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT :

Consulting Engineer, Mr. K. Srinivasa Iyengar

Superintendent, Mr. T. Lavender

Manager, Mr. M. D. Subramaniam

LAUNDRY :

Superintendent, Madame Cazin

LEADBEATER CHAMBERS :

Officer-in-charge, Mrs. Jane Clumeck

POST OFFICE (Theosophical Society) :

Postmaster, Mr. K. Srinivasan

PRESS DEPARTMENT :

Manager, Mr. J. L. Davidge

PUBLICITY OFFICER :

Mrs. Marion Lavender

SANITARY DEPARTMENT :

Superintendent, Madame Cazin

THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE :

Manager, Mr. K. S. Krishnamurti

THE THEOSOPHIST and THE THEOSOPHICAL
WORKER :

Editor, Dr. George S. Arundale

Asst. Editor, Mrs. D. R. Dinshaw

VASANTA PRESS :

Superintendent, Mr. C. Subbarayudu

VILLAGE AND ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP, ADYAR :

President, Shrimati Rukmini Devi

Secretary, Mrs. Jane Clumeck

Village Officers, Shrimati Bhagirathi Sri Ram,

Mr. P. S. Krishnaswami

School Advisor, Mr. K. Sankara Menon.

WATCH AND WARD :

Superintendent, Mr. N. Yagneswara Sastri

THE NEEDS OF ADYAR

1. An entirely new building for the Adyar Library, with reading-room, museum, archives, fitted in accordance with the most scientific library standards and providing adequate space for many students. Ground has been allotted near Blavatsky Gardens and designs approved for a new building to be undertaken after the war.

2. A Training Centre for Theosophical Workers.

3. A short-wave Theosophical Broadcasting station.

A donor of Rs. 5,000 towards a radio station has

arranged that until it is practicable the interest shall be payable to the Besant Theosophical School.

4. Construction of the following shrines :

Jewish Synagogue,

Sikh Temple to Guru Nanak,

Jain Temple to Mahavira.

There exist already on the Adyar estate the following shrines : Hindu, Buddhist, and Zoroastrian Temples, a Mosque and a Christian Church, also a Masonic Temple.

5. An Animal Welfare Centre and Animal Hospital.

6. A Colony for all employees and servants with small residential cottages to draw workers closer to Adyar.

The educational requirements in the direction of a Theosophical College and a World University within an ideal cultural-educational centre are adumbrated in the Besant Cultural and Educational Endowment Fund which Shrimati Rukmini Devi seeks to establish. (See Besant Theosophical School and Kalâkshetra).

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