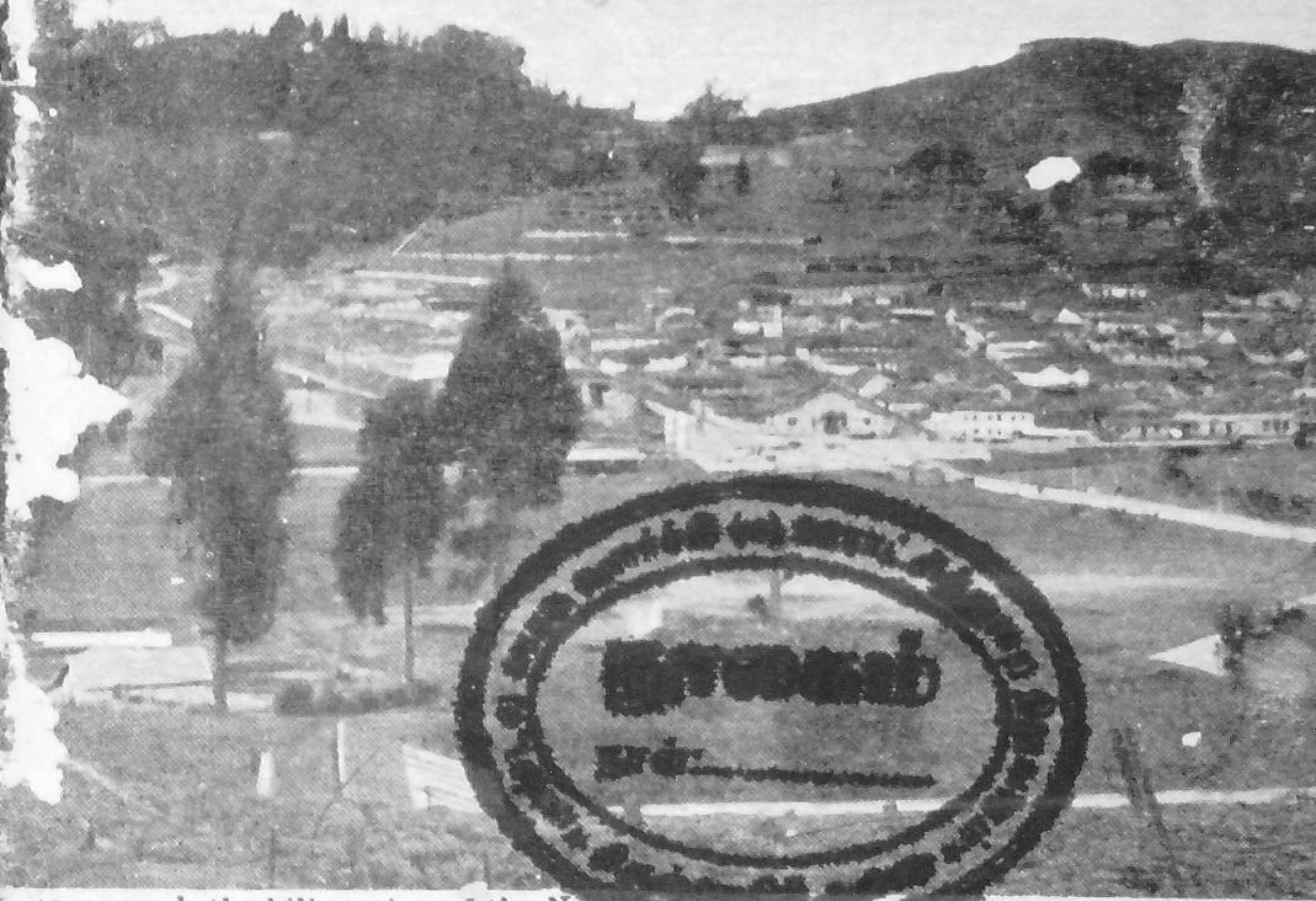
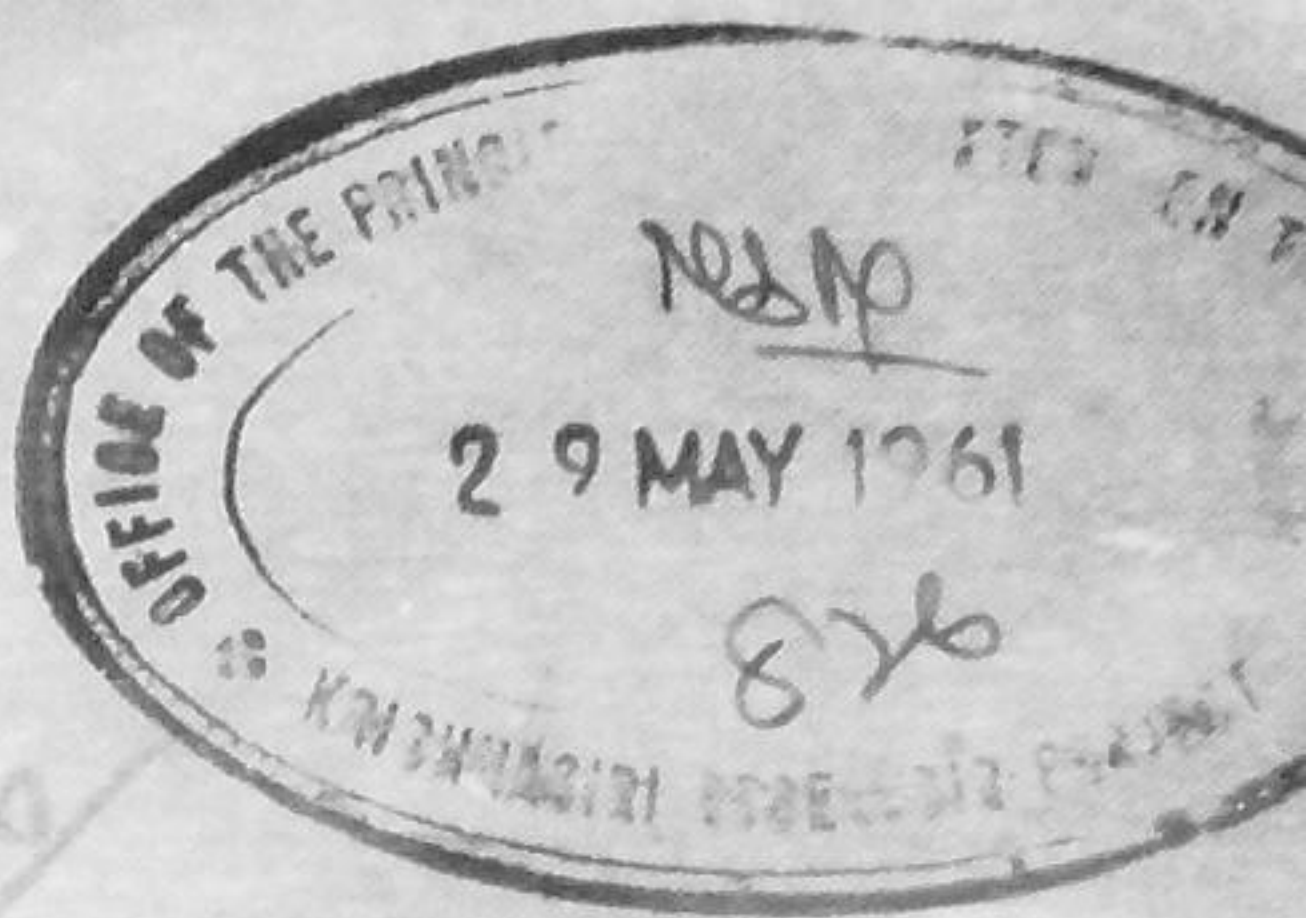


INDIA



Ooty, the hill station of the Nilgiris

Hill Stations of

SOUTH INDIA

Revised edition, March, 1957

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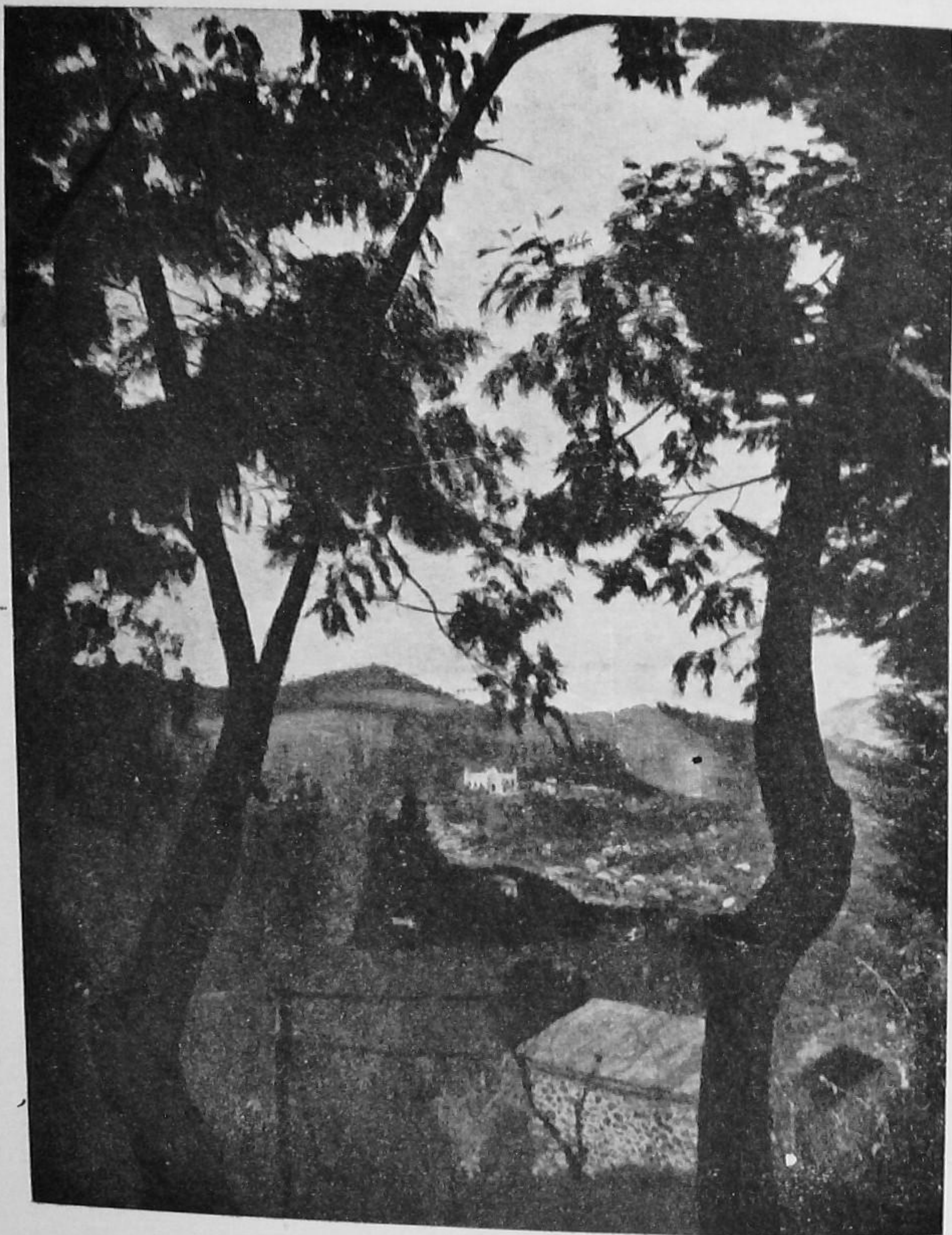
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THE TOURIST DIVISION
Ministry of Transport, New Delhi



In Kodalkanal

OOTACAMUND

A holiday in "The land of the blue hills"—the Nilgiris ("nilam" for blue, "giri" for hills)—roaming over many of its nine hundred odd square miles for over six weeks, is a unique experience. Ootacamund, popularly known as the "Queen of Hill Stations", is the centre of attraction among hill resorts in Southern India. The "Queen" is always at her best whatever the season. In fact, during the season, from April to June, Ooty ranks among the gayest and certainly the most lively spots in India.

Dinner parties and dances, racing, golfing and tennis, fishing, hunt meets, shooting and wild game are all provided for holiday-makers, while those a little more intent on discovering the real beauties of Ootacamund and its surrounding countryside spend their time hiking in the hills, holding their breath at the loveliness of its abundantly varied landscape and studying its comparatively obscure history.

Added to these attractions is the wonder of the climate which young and old, fit and ailing can enjoy alike.

It is temperate year round, with a rainfall that is never more than 30 to 40 inches throughout the year,

falling as uncertain showers and drizzles at no fixed season.

The temperature as a rule seldom rises above 60 degrees and seldom falls below 50. Therefore, its cold is bracing, its sun is never scorching. It never freezes, never snows, never boils, and never roasts.

History

The earliest expedition into these hills is recorded by a Portuguese priest by the name of Ferreiri as far back as 1602. He records conversations with Toda priests and the gifts he gave to their families. It appears that the existence of Todas, the earliest inhabitants of the Nilgiris, was discovered during this trip.

After this clerical excursion, the next civilized enterprise was not undertaken till 200 years later when Dr. Buchanan, acting under orders from the Government of India to explore commercial and agricultural conditions in and about Mysore, ran into these hills. But his expedition was abortive and his impressions the result of a single day's trip.

Twelve years later in 1812, a surveyor named Keys, accompanied by an apprentice, Macmahon, was sent up by the Collector of Coimbatore to make a detailed study of the plan of the hills. These two have often been regarded as the earliest Europeans to have climbed the hills. Their reports do not, however, give conclusive evidence of any personal scrutiny, based, as they appear to be, mostly on hearsay.

Six years later, two more enterprising assistants, sent by another Collector, Mr. John Sullivan, later to become famous through his association with the history of the place, hiked into the hills. Their favourable reactions encouraged the Collector to make the trip himself and later to establish his residence there, becoming thereby the first European resident who built the first house in Ootacamund.

It was in May 1819 that he undertook the expedition and is believed by many to be the real discoverer, if not of the Nilgiris, certainly of Ootacamund. Its climate and scenery impressed him so much that he recommended to the Government that the NEILGERRY, as the word was then spelt, be adopted as a hill resort. "Stonehouse", the first house, was completed in 1823. It still stands on a lofty elevation just above the market place, though the original has been changed considerably.

Todas : the earliest settlers

Connected with this house is one of the legends associated with the derivation of the word *Ootacamund*. The last syllable of the word, namely, mund, means a Toda village and it is believed that such a village was the site on which "Stonehouse" was built. As a rule Toda villages consist of four or five huts at the most. This one consisted of just one.

A rich old Toda, by the name of Parth-kai, lived in it with his family. All rich Todas had single stones planted some distance from their houses. On these

stones they placed offerings to their gods who would not receive them directly from Toda hands on the ground that they would get polluted.

It happened that Mr. Sullivan visited this mund during his exploratory visit and Parth-kai, the chief Toda, pointing to the site of the single stone now occupied by Stonehouse, told him "*Jelloco a mandu*" meaning "Take this stone village; let it be yours".

Now, in Toda, *Jelloco* means a single stone or single stone village, which translated into Tamil, becomes *ottakal*. This led in the first instance to *Ootakal Mundu*, which was later corrupted through various stages into Ootacamund.

Other sources ascribe the origin of the name to the Badages, who were of a later origin and are numerically the most important of the five hill tribes. According to these sources, Ooty was first known as *Whotakamund*, *Wootayacamund*, *Wuttasamund* and finally *Ootacamund* which has come to stay. Yet another, and perhaps the most popular, theory is that the name was derived from the original Ootacamundalum—the land where it is always raining.

Europeans started settling on the hill as early as 1824 and soon afterwards the Governors of Madras made it their regular resort during the summer months. There are many graphic accounts of their visits and the interest they took generally in the improvement of Government House, which was originally known as "Norwood House".

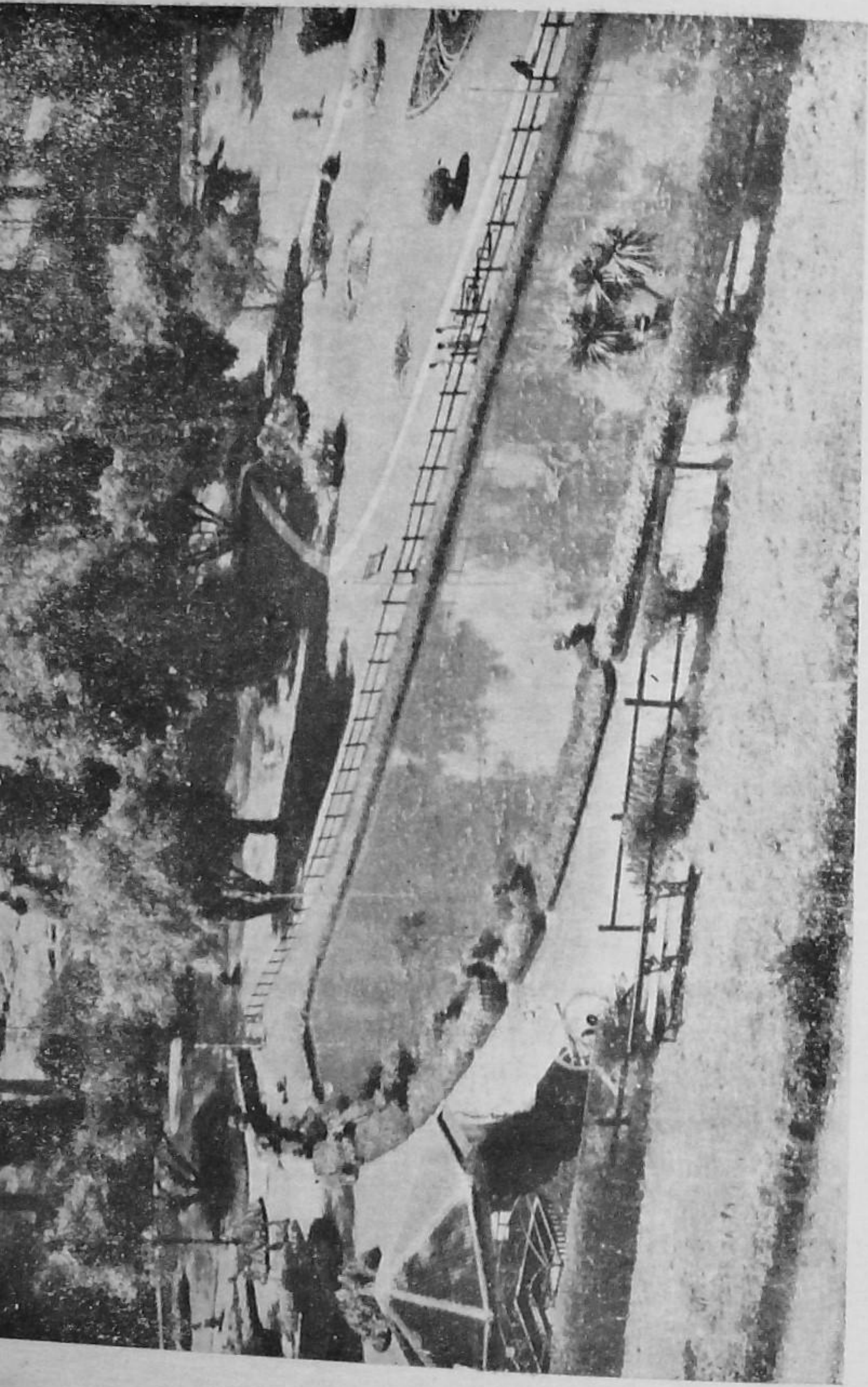
When the Duke of Buckingham was Governor in

earlier days, he used to take an elaborate interest in the building of the new Government House and in its various structures and walls and the laying out of its gardens. He interfered so much with the routine work that the men considered him to be quite a bother. Now it was his habit to dress very indifferently when on vacation and to take his morning walk in the grounds of the house in his dressing gown, with his hair all ruffled and his face unshaven. On one of these occasions, he ran into one of the workers who was laying out a flower bed and did not recognise the Duke, which was quite understandable when His Grace was in that peculiar attire. As usual the Duke started making suggestions; "Don't you think the flower bed would look much better if it were arranged this way or that way?" and so on. The European gardener tolerated him for a while without looking up from his work. Then when he could bear it no longer, he turned round, got up in disgust and with his hands on his hips said, "The way you go on man, it would seem you was the Duke himself". The Duke had a hearty laugh and the man suddenly recognising him nearly collapsed.

Just above the Government House is a rustic Forester's Hut where the children of a former British Governor used to come and spend the day. Today, it is a favourite spot for picnics.

Growing Popularity

In the wake of Government House, various Maha-



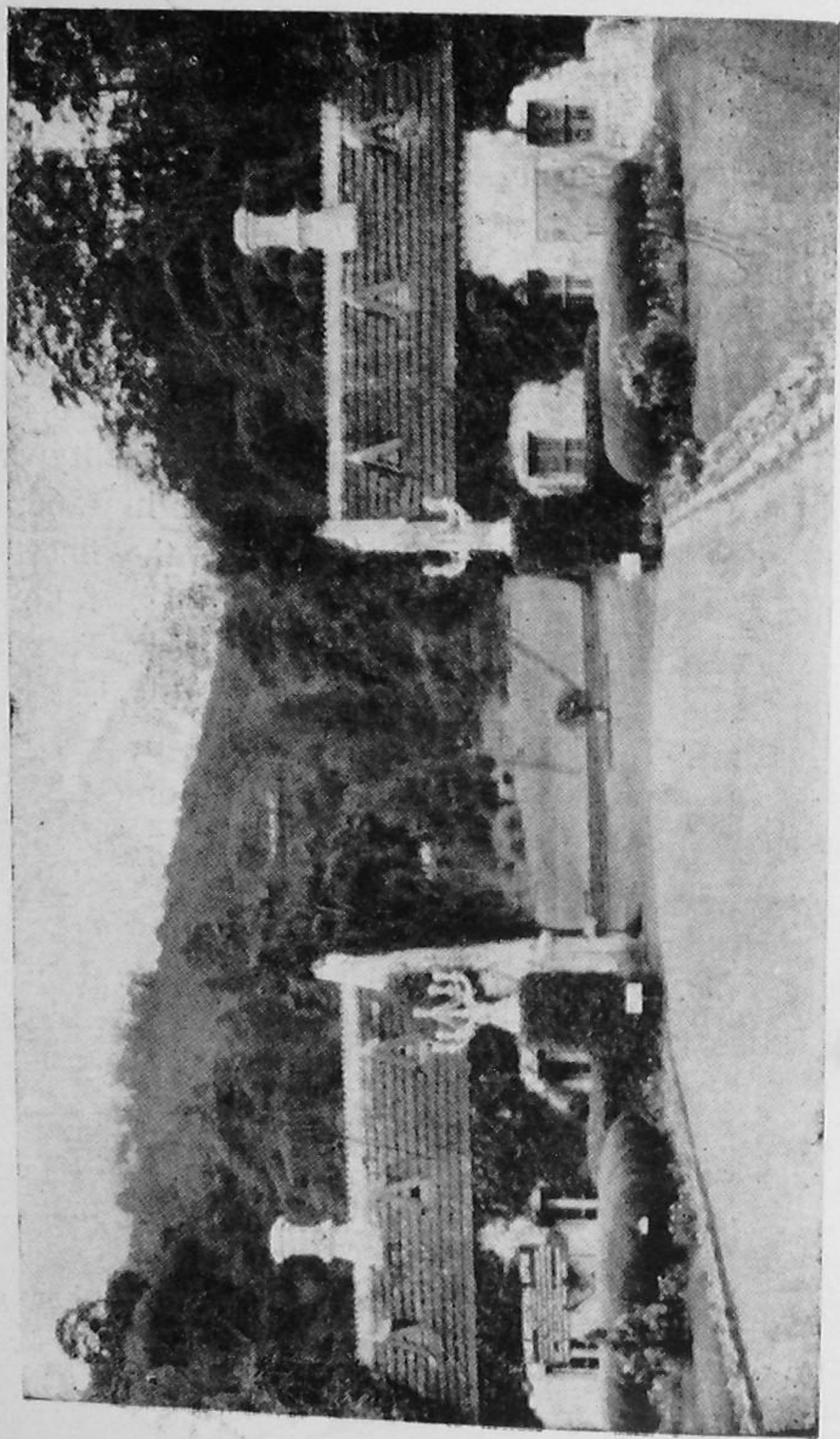
The Botanical Gardens, Ootacamund

rajas of the Indian States and other wealthy folk built manorial houses in the midst of tall silver oaks, blue gum trees, wartals and a wealth of other flora and foliage. Today, Ooty has some five thousand well designed houses of varying sizes dotted over the hills. They are very pretty in themselves and enhance the beauty of the place.

As the residents grew in number and the popularity of the hill station among visitors spread, amenities began to be provided. The first Post Office was opened in 1826; the first hospital in 1829; the municipality was established in 1863; the Collector's office in 1866; the library, today considered to be among the finest in South India, with a collection of 40,000 books, followed in 1878; a market was established and every Tuesday, known to this day as "shandy", "lords and ladies gay" used to go and do their weekly shopping.

Today, there are fashionable shops all along Charing Cross which is the central place in Ooty identified by a Flora Fountain which used to play when the rain gods were in good humour. Several clubs were started; in 1841, the Ooty Club, still reserved for the exclusive use of Europeans and mainly used by planters today; in 1869, the Gymkhana Club, now known as the Ooty Golf Club; in 1854, the Hunt Club, still going strong; and several others of more recent origin like the Lawley Institutes where Open Tennis Championships are held in the season.

With the increasing demand, a certain number of hotels and any number of boarding-houses were



The entrance to the Botanical Gardens, Ootacamund

started, while bungalows began to be available at cheap seasonal rentals. Even today, many are for sale at prices which the hardpressed citymen may well consider a trifle.

Communications

Ooty can be reached by all four means of transport—rail, road, sea and air. By rail, there are several routes. Many go to Madras and catch the Blue Mountain Express up to Mettupalayam from where a hill railway conveys them to Ooty over a distance of 30 miles climbing to 7,220 feet which is the elevation of Ootacamund.

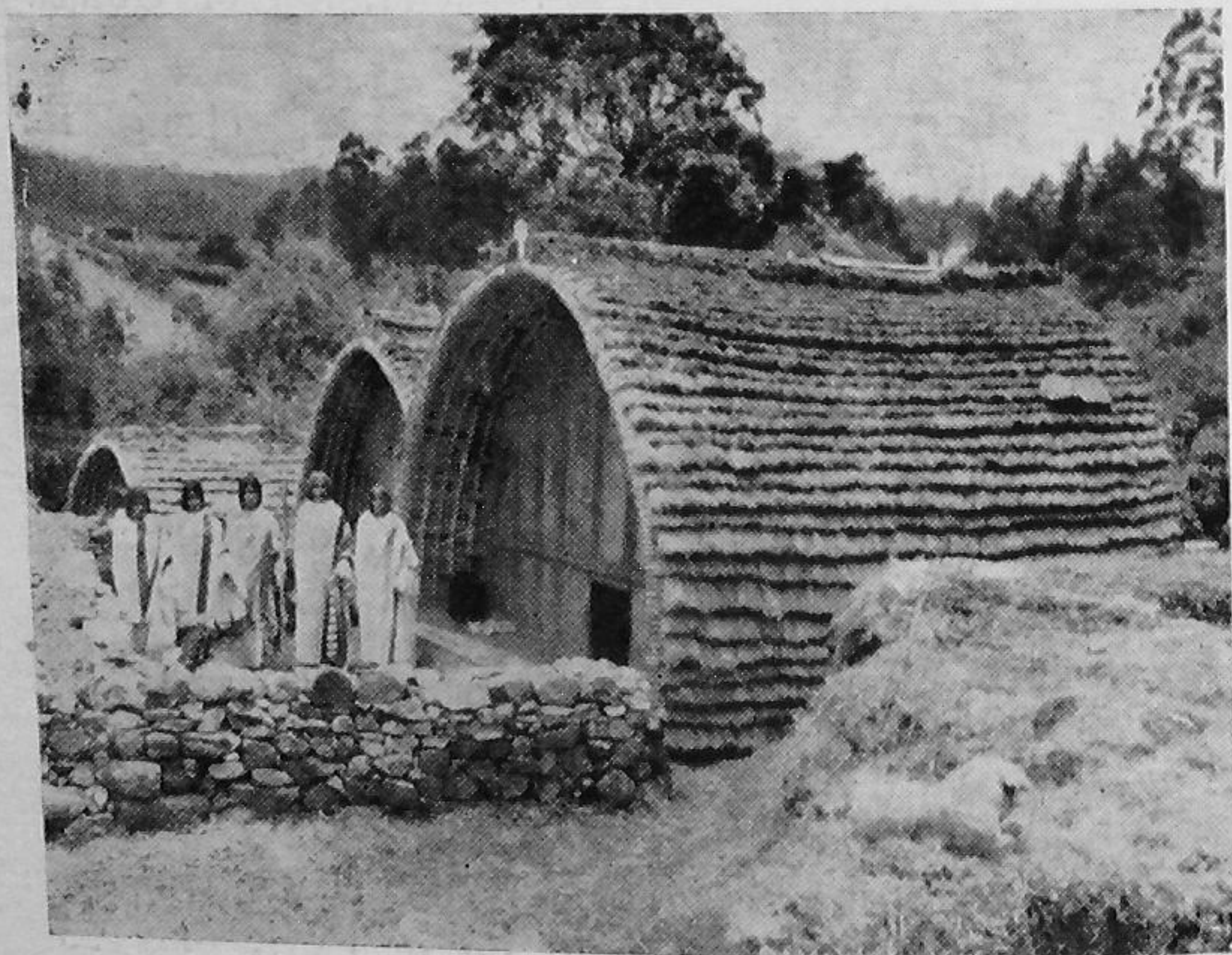
The better route is via Bangalore, change for Mysore, a distance of 86 miles, and motor up by very comfortable bus to Ootacamund along a most lovely stretch of 100 miles. This route is not only more enjoyable (certainly more tolerable during the summer months) passing as it does through the heart of the rich Kanara forest, but also considerably cheaper.

The same route may be taken by car all the way from Bombay if you are ready for really rough going. Most of the way is generally bad, except for a few stretches along the 800-mile journey. Visitors can also come by sea to Calicut and drive the 130 miles up to Ooty.

The shortest cut—but not for the purse strings—is to fly to Coimbatore and motor up to Ooty, only 53 miles away.

Most visitors prefer the Bangalore-Mysore route, though the Mettupalayam-Ooty train journey also has its undeniable charm. It is so slow, however, and the halts so frequent that it is apt to try one's patience.

The unique feature about this train is that it is pushed all the way from behind. The engine is not in front but at the back. The first compartment has a railing and there is generally a scramble to secure the first row of seats for the best view of the panorama.



The Todas of Ootacamund

PLACES OF INTEREST IN AND AROUND OOTY

The Downs

Ooty provides many opportunities for long and short walks and hikes. Motoring is now also one of the attractions and no hill station provides such opportunities to the same extent as Ooty.

Unlike roads generally in the hills, Ooty's roads are not only beautiful but excellent in their construction. In fact, motoring is a necessity. Points of vantage are far removed from each other and it is distinct advantage to own or hire a car.

Almost the first sight one has of Ooty, coming by the Mysore route by bus or car via Gudalur, is that of its famous Downs, for Ooty has no high mountains or deep valleys like Mahabaleshwar or Matheran.

It stands on rolling downs—fifty-three miles of them like Dartmoor in Devon or the Yorkshire Moors in England. Here you can play golf on one of the finest golf courses in the country, started in 1889; you can hunt panthers, leopards and ibex in its “sholas” (clumps of trees or woods having the same effect on the downs as an oasis in a desert); here point-to-point races are held in September; and here you can walk to your heart's content over hills that simply tumble over one another; here riding too is at its best.

It was Lord Wenlock, then Governor of Madras, who was largely responsible for popularising the Downs and hence they have come to be known by his name.

The Downs are easily reached from any of the three principal hotels of Ooty, being only a mile and a half further up along the Westbury Road. Starting from the Station, it is better to come up to the road and then go straight ahead to Fingerpost which is so called because five roads start from this point.

The Botanical Gardens

The Government Botanical Gardens are another landmark in the history of Ootacamund. Mr. Melvor, formerly of Kew Gardens, was responsible for the original laying-out of the garden over a century ago.

Originally planned as a vegetable garden, it failed but flowered into one of the finest horticultural enterprises in the country. A Horticultural Society was started in 1847 with the aid of public donations.

In 1855, the garden passed into Government hands and since then it has undergone various stages in improvement in design; it has been laid out in terraces; new flowers and plants have been introduced and experiments are being carried out with various seeds and plants.

Today, no fewer than 650 varieties of important plants are grown in the gardens, ranging from ornamental trees and shrubs, herbaceous perennials bulbous plants, rock and medicinal plants to ferns, orchids and roses.

The year 1950 was particularly remarkable as it marked the centenary celebrations of these famous Botanical Gardens.

Flower Show

Ooty's Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Shows, started in 1895, have become famous. At these shows which are attended by people from all over the Nilgiris, and the fashionable mingle with the tribal folk, there are also at the same time cattle and poultry shows. A separate day is set aside for the dog show. There are several dog kennels in Ooty and some of the finest specimens in the various breeds are reared.

The Lake

Ooty has a tiny Lake, which, were it not known to be artificial, would certainly pass for natural. Covering an area of only 2 miles, it was first conceived by John Sullivan in 1823, and the original intention was to use it for irrigation; but it turned out to be so lovely that it was preserved for its sheer beauty. Since its inception in 1823, it has undergone several changes and Rs. 2 lakh were spent on it between 1896 and 1899. Today, it is lovely in its serenity, surrounded by trees which used to grow much more thickly until the axe was ruthlessly applied to them. It affords in ample measure the amenities of solitude, boating and fishing. On the opposite bank is the beginning of Fern Hill. It provides refreshing rambles.



Potatoes, one of the important crops of the Nilgiris,
growing on cultivated slopes

Walking round the lip of the Lake towards the Bazar, one soon comes to the edge of Hobart Park where there is a small racecourse and a pavilion. The races are a weekly event in Ooty during the season. Everybody rides—jockeys, amateurs and even pony “chokras”, of course all in their own class. It is great fun.

The hills

Ooty is in a valley surrounded by hills—Dodabetta, Elk, Snowdown, Church, Fern, Cairn, and several others. Dodabetta, meaning “big mountain”, is the

highest point in the Nilgiris, rising to 8,640 feet. It is very easy to climb, and three quarters of the distance can be done by car. From Charing Cross Fountain, there is the tarred Dodabetta Kotagiri Road which goes up like a spiral for a distance of 4 miles, requiring the utmost concentration and foresight on the part of the driver. Only the last 10 miles have to be done on foot and the climb is quite gentle.

On Dodabetta peak, there used to be an Observatory originally constructed in 1846, which was shifted to Wellington, a military sanatorium 9 miles from Ooty in 1859 but which was reinstalled at Dodabetta in 1920.

Recently it has fallen into complete disuse. However, the chief merit of Dodabetta today is the magnificent panorama of the whole of Ooty spread-eagled at our feet, and of other far distant views, including those of the Coimbatore mountains.

Snowdown

The next highest peak in the near vicinity of Ooty is Snowdown, 8,299 feet. Its climb is distinctly stiffer than Dodabetta's, and winding as it does through tall trees, also more fascinating. It is reached by following the Marlemand Road from behind St. Stephen's Church on Spencer Hill, for about 2 miles, then by turning to the right on a path which immediately introduces the walker to the intimacies of woodland ways.

Elk Hill is the only other peak in Ootacamund proper higher than 8,000 feet and it has some sacred associations. A temple is hewn out of the side of the rock



The Nilgiri railway climbing on a gradient

directly below the peak and every evening the priest of the temple lights a lantern whose flame is visible from all over Ooty.

Cairn Hill

By far the prettiest hill is Cairn Hill (6,583 feet). It is the most wooded, and several tracks wind in and

out of the delectable woods where fortunately there has been no massacre of the trees.

As one walks through them on the soft carpet-like earth and sits here and there on the stump of a tree cushioned with a layer of moss, one is reminded of the woods in Vienna that inspired Johann Strauses to compose his immortal waltzes.

Cairn Hill is some distance away from the town proper. If you start from the Station, the best plan is to follow the rail track which skirts the border of the lake, up to Mysore Square, which is characterised by lofty white pillars. One mile of very bad road after this point brings you to the entrance to the woods. The car goes up for about half a mile within and then begin the enchanting tracks.

EXCURSIONS FROM OOTY

A break in the woods at Cairn Hill presents an "avalanche" of views, strangely enough of a country, about 15 miles from Ooty, known as the Avalanche. It came by the name after an avalanche came down there in 1823.

The roads are metal throughout and not asphalt and in parts are very bad indeed. But the gorgeous scenery at every turn makes one gasp with wonder and delight. After passing through several villages, the motorist comes to a fork from where one road leads to Emerald Valley, where the military now have mock battle practices and the other to Avalanche, five miles further up.

At the fourteenth milestone is the Avalanche River, a beautiful placid stretch of water in the midst of wondrous nature. From the Travellers' Bungalow a little way up, there is a fine view of the surrounding hills at a uniform height of about 8,300 feet.

About a mile away from the Travellers' Bungalow is the Bungalow Trout Hatchery—the only one of its kind in the Nilgiris. Here you are shown young trout from a year to three years old being bred in one or other of the five dry ponds. During the trout-breeding season from November to February, about 10,000 fish of this kind are bred in the hatchery. Trout eggs take 29 days to hatch and the little ones take another 13 days to open their eyes.

It is well worthwhile to explore the hills. One lovely winding track leads to a Forester's Bungalow, 9 miles in the bosom of the hills, at a place known as Bantakapal.

Besides Avalanche, other places, a little more distant from Ooty, are Mukerti and Pykara, which no visitor to the hills can afford to miss. At both these places there is a happy conjunction of dams, lakes, and rivers.

Even more than for its dam and the waters of its rivers, Mukerti is renowned for its peak which very few succeed in conquering. Mukerti is reached by driving down the picturesque Mysore Road for a distance of 16 miles. At the 11th milestone, however, on crossing the river bridge one sees the Pykara dam.

On reaching the 6th milestone, we turn left and

drive for a distance of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles along some of the prettiest roads in the Nilgiris. At every turn, there is a new view either of a stream or of hills rolling away one behind the other and studded with little huts. Here and there we suddenly catch a glimpse of a Toda hut hidden in the nearby woods.

There is a beautifully equipped Dak Bungalow at Mukerti which is, however, a mile away from the dam. The dam was built between 1935 and 1938 and is comparatively small, but one may perhaps notice a remarkable double echo coming from it, the second one following the first at an interval of almost half a minute.

The Lake does not look very large at first sight, but as it encircles the hill it covers a wide area. There is plenty of fishing to be had around these parts.

It is only by boating along the Lake for that distance that one can reach the foot of Mukerti which rises steeply to a height of 8,380 feet and being very sharp, is distinctly visible from Ooty.

The more adventurous can walk all the way round the Lake, a distance of some of dozen hard-going miles, up and down an endless succession of hills.

Mukerti Peak

The peak has a sacred significance for the Todas. They believe that beyond it lies the gateway to heaven. Its origin is said to be associated with one or two legends. In days when female infanticide still prevailed among the Todas, the condemned babies used

to be taken to this side of the hill to be put out of the way. Thus no woman was allowed to approach it. One of them disobeyed and her nose was cut off as punishment. She, however, turned into this peak and became a goddess.



View of Ooty hills from Coonoor

According to the other legend, Mukerti means "cut nose." Ravana, the demon King of Lanka, wrathful at the disrespect shown him in comparison with the reverence shown to Rama, his rival, by the Toda dwellers of the plateau, threw into the air a handful of dust which turned into vermin with which the houses and persons of the people are still said to be infested.

Rama would not tolerate such an insult and promptly retaliated by cutting off the nose of Ravana's sister and sticking it up in the prominent position it still occupies on the peak of the plateau, as a permanent warning to those near and far that he was not to be trifled with.

Pykara

There is one of the largest hydro-electric works at Pykara, in the South. Sixteen miles from Ooty, running 10 miles along the main ghat to Gudalur, the Pykara works are in a magnificent theatre of nature's beauty at its best. They consist of a picturesque lake known as the Glen Morgan.

The Pykara power project was commenced in 1932 and the first hydro-power was installed with a capacity comprising three to six 250 k.w. generating sets. The waters of the Pykara and Glen Morgan streams were diverted to a small forebay where they were dropped down a penstock over a head of 3,000 feet to a power station. New extensions have been made and the capacity of the power station at present

stands at about 72,000 k.w. The station supplies power to Ootacamund, Coimbatore, Manurai, Tiruchirapalli, Tanjore and other places.

Subsequently, extensions were made, including the construction of the new storage dam with a capacity of 2,000 million cft., and the addition of a new pen-stock pipeline. At the entrance of the project stands a bust of Sir Henry Howard who was responsible for the Pykara works.

The Moyar Power house is the fourth hydro-electric station of the Grid, its purpose being to utilise the tailwaters of the Pykara Power House over a 1,280 ft. drop in the Moyar gorge, 9 miles lower down. This station was commissioned during 1951-52.

The crowning beauty and thrill of the visit comes when you descend by the funicular railway for 6,000 feet to reach the Singara Power House right in the heart of the valley.

From the top, the view is like that of a vast amphitheatre with the curtain suddenly lifting before your eyes. It actually happens in reality as the fog very often plays hide and seek with the landscape.

Special permits are required to go down by the precarious open air rail truck used to take labourers up and down.

On the headlong descent, there are two sheer perpendicular drops of 3,000 and 800 feet and although the labourers take it as a matter of course, the new-comer not only holds the sides of the little truck but also his breath. The distance is covered in four stages.

Drives

All these places are reached after beautiful drives, but there are other drives in Ooty specially known for the loveliness of the winding roads.

The Governor's Shola is one of them, so called because the 5 miles of shady road used to be a favourite with Governors; the Connemara is another, a circular drive of 10 miles, passing the Umbrella Tree, a mile's walk from the main road and once a famous picnic spot from where Mysore is visible on a clear day—and also Marlemand Lake which provides Ooty's drinking water. The Connemara ends at the commencement of the precipitous Sigur Ghat which leads to the Kalhatty Falls 3,000 feet below in the midst of wild scenery.

Wild Life

Many people go down to Gudalur and beyond to catch sight of wild animals roaming in the thick forest. About 40 miles from Ooty, it is necessary to make a start early in the evening and reach the forest by dusk. Then as soon as you enter the jungle mounted on an elephant, you see the wealth of animal life with all its thrills, from tigers and bison to herds of deer and other game.

Wynad

Seventy miles beyond Gudalur is the Wynad Taluq, where the Government of Madras have started a very successful colonization scheme for discharged army men

and others. Here one can see numerous elephants, not on the run, but trained to work for men. The Government own several teams and there are many private ones for moving, crushing and carrying timber. The sight is most fascinating, and a little awe-inspiring.

Tea Estates

Along all these routes, one constantly passes vast tea estates. Tea is one of the principal industries of Ootacamund. There are no fewer than 900 tea estates in and around Ootacamund, the first one having been opened in the Nilgiris about 1850.

Tea is grown from sea level up 8,000 feet elevation and it is on record that it is grown at the highest level in the Nilgiris.

Out of India's total annual tea production of over 550 million pounds, nearly one hundred millions are grown in South India. The 14 million pounds produced in the Nilgiris are grown at an average of 650 lb. per acre, as against 600 lb. yield in the rest of South India, and constitutes an excellent record.

CINCHONA PLANTATIONS

Another outstanding industry of Ootacamund is the cinchona plantations. Outside West Bengal it is the only place in India where cinchona plantations flourish and quinine is manufactured. The two together, however, can meet only 7 per cent of the country's demand for quinine. Though the plants are no monopoly, the processing is a Government monopoly.

Situated 22 miles from Ooty at a place called

Naduvattum on the Mysore Road, the plantations were first started in 1860 when Chinese convicts were used by the British to work on them. The hut in which they used to be locked up at night after the day's labour still stands near the modern factory, and the monster lock is still used for locking up the place which is now used as a workshop.

In 1880, the Nilgiris reached such a peak of production that quinine used to be available for export after meeting the demand in the country. But a slump came and it was not till 1925 that the industry was revived with proper protection.

Today, there are over 2,300 acres under cinchona in the Nilgiris producing 20,000 lb. of quinine sulphate per year. India's total production is 80,000 lb., 60,000 being produced by Bengal.

The Tribes

Among the labourers on these various industries would be found the Badgas, the principal tribe of the Nilgiris. They number 34,000 in the Nilgiris today. They are agriculturists and their fire feast to invoke the gods of the harvest is the highlight of their several festivals.

The Todas, the oldest tribe, who migrated to the Nilgiri much before the Badgas centuries ago, hardly do any work. They are the herdsman of the hills. Their men are very striking-looking, having Greek features and Roman noses. They never shave or cut their hair. They wear a single unstitched garment. Their religion is Animism

and they greet the sun by placing their thumbs against their noses and spreading out their fingers. Their women are not allowed to come near their temples which look just like their huts and stand a little distance away from the cluster of huts where they live. They enter their homes by crawling on all fours as the hut has only one very low entrance, barely two feet square. They never have a light inside and no ventilation. Today, the number of Todas is only 800 and efforts are being made to preserve them.

Another tribe, the Kotahs number 1,200. They are the artisans and musicians of the hills; their folk dances are very colourful and fantastic. The other two tribes are the Kurumbas, only 400 in number and the Irulas, who have the reputation of being wild animal tamers.

The Kurumbas live in mortal dread of the Irulas as they believe them to be wizards and witches. There are fantastic stories that Irula women leave their children in the care of tigresses when they go out to work for the day.

The Todas also have a reputation for milking wild buffaloes which nobody else dare even approach.

There is a Toda cathedral on the Connemara, a tall conical structure which can be seen on the return trip to Fingerpost.

Schools

Ootacamund has 4 excellent boarding schools—the Brecks Memorial School, the High School for Sisters

of the Church, the Nazareth Convent and the Lawrence School at Lovedale, only 4 miles from Ooty, which is perhaps the most famous. Originally founded exclusively for children of British parents, the Lawrence School is today under the Government of India. Four hundred boys and girls enjoy studying in the best of climates, playing on spacious grounds, living in luxurious buildings, eating wholesome food and keeping the best of health.

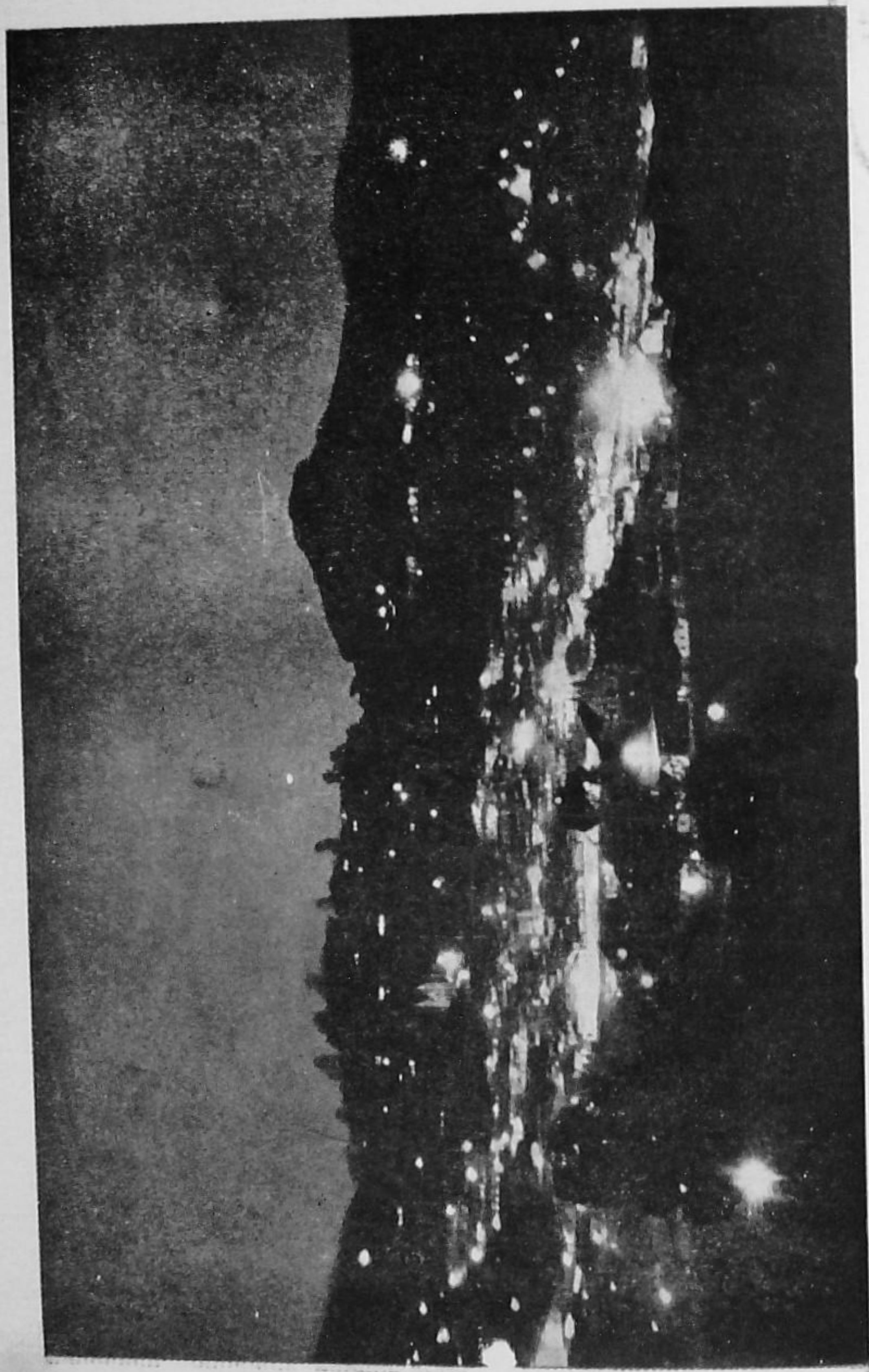
There are 3 Churches of note in Ootacamund. St. Stephen's which was built in 1830, St. Thomas' begun in 1867 and completed in 1870, and the tiny church of Kandal Cross.

While the first two are situated centrally, Kandal Cross Church is one mile from the town and is of very recent origin. The Cross was erected in 1933 and was ordered from Paris. Originally the spot was a cemetery and it was the idea of a humble parish priest to erect the cross "in the centre of God's acre."

The place soon became a shrine for pilgrimage. The various stations of the Cross were colourfully set up in the Church grounds and lead to the Cross.

In May 1939, took place the opening of the Sepulchre in a subterranean gallery flanked by panels on which are inscribed the names of donors. At the end of the gallery is the tomb, hollowed out of natural rock. It is worth a visit and can be reached quickly by following the road along the lake leading away from the town and towards the Mysore Road.

The wooden arches of the Church of St. Stephen's



A view of Coonoor at night

are said to have been taken from the palace of Tippu Sultan. Within the Church are tablets to the memory of Sullivan, the founder of Ootacamund, his wife and other members of the family. Though the Church opened in 1931, the clock tower was built in 1851, and the bells were put up in 1894.

COONNOOR

Many visitors to the Nilgiris choose to stay on the lower heights of the nearby hill stations of Coonoor or Kotagiri, the former only 6,000 feet high and 12 miles from Ooty, the latter 6,500 feet high and 18 miles away. Both have great charm and many places of interest.

Between Ooty and Coonoor, there is mile on mile of enchantingly winding road, skimming the most lovely valley of Kaity, where there is an orphanage. At Aravankadu, there is the great cordite factory started in 1904. It is divided into six branches—but the factory is open to inspection only with permission obtainable from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

Three miles further down one comes in sight of Wellington, the military town with rows of barracks first built in 1852, when the town was known by the name of Jacktala. It has an attractive club with tennis courts, frequented almost exclusively by military officers and their wives. If you know any of them, you can be sure of a jolly good time. There are dances in the club every Saturday night.

In Coonoor, Lady Canning's Seat is perhaps the

loveliest point about 6 miles from the town and in the heart of the woods. Lady Canning is reported to have been very fond of this spot. It commands a panoramic view of tea estates in which Coonoor also abounds—and of an old Tippu Sultan Fort from whose heights he is reputed to have hurled his prisoners to their death. Mettupalayam is also visible in the distance and the motor road and rail track to Ooty are traceable directly below. Lamb's Rock is a point on the way to the seat.

In the heart of Coonoor town itself is the beautiful Sim's Park which has struck many as being even prettier, albeit smaller than the Botanical Gardens of Ootacamund. It is certainly much more shady and has lovely little bridges over little ponds.

Coonoor has also several educational establishments, St. Joseph's being the oldest among them. Its most famous institution is the Pasteur Institute, established in 1907 where research work on rabies is carried on and effective treatment is given to victims of the disease. Thousands of patients have been successfully treated. It is most interesting to inspect the various departments of this institution which does its great work in a very quiet way. Many experiments are conducted and general laboratory work is on the increase.

Walks and drives at Coonoor include Tiger's Hill, Walker's Hill, Brooklands Road and several other seductively shady tracks. A fine round trip from Ooty can be completed by reaching Coonoor via Kaity and

Aravankadu and returning by way of the Glen Morgan Tea Estate, one of the largest, and via the Kattery Dam which has a dangerously rickety bridge.

Not the least lovely is Lovedale, which besides its school, has woods and hills aplenty. It is reached by following the Coonoor Road for 2 miles and turning right for another 2 miles. From here start the picturesque Kundah Ranges, affording plenty of opportunity for the hardworking hiker to explore their wild and rugged grandeur.

KOTAGIRI

Eighteen miles from Ooty is Kotagiri, "a little pearl in the ear of the Nilgiris". After driving up the 4 miles of tarred road up the Dodabetta way, one follows the metal road along the left. The scene on both sides of the road is exquisite in the extreme. On one side are valley and villages. We pass the picturesque villages of Tummanati, Madithorai, Kundamuggai. Thereafter the scene surpasses its own splendour. The winding road with its hairpin bends, the sight of a distantly roaring automobile negotiating the bends, the tea estates, the peace of rural life all round, leave a deep impression on the mind.

At the end of fifteen such delectable miles, we arrive at the village of Kattebuttai from where the tarred roads begin again. Another 3 miles past the most superb scenery brings us to Kotagiri. We pass the bazar built on a slope, the Panchayat Board office and other little cottages.



Bear Shole Falls, Kodaikanal

The charming part of Kotagiri is the wonderful green of its fields and particularly its gem of a golf course. It is just a sheet of gorgeous green. There are several sholas in Kotagiri but Longwood Shola is the biggest, thickest and deepest of the lot. One simply gets lost in the impenetrable forest.

There are no hotels in Kotagiri but a boarding house or two on Queen's Hill make you quite comfortable.

We can return to Ooty by another way, via Coonoor, which is only 13 miles away. On the way, we pass the villages of Togallati, Littorai, Idaipalli, Bendishola, Springfield and the Ralia Peak which is worth climbing if time can be spared.

KODAIKANAL

The generous splendour of the summer day is never so gorgeous as in Kodaikanal. It is a gem of nature where you can recline "on the cool green ground, or in the woods or by a riverside or shady fountains, while among the leaves soft airs are stirring, and the mid-day sun unfelt shines brightly round us in our joy."

This is Kodai with its hills, its rocks, its woods and woodland ways, its lovely lake and bracing air. If not in size, in colour and charm and in the rustic touch, Kodai, the treasured prize of South India's hill holiday resort, bids fair to challenge the supremacy of Ootacamund.

Seven thousand feet above sea level, Kodaikanal is beautifully situated on the southern crest of the Palani

hill and was first visited in 1821 by a European surveyor. The Collector of Madura, the district in which Kodaikanal falls, was the first to build a house there about 1834. Several other followed in course of time, though it was soon found that the occasional storms required stronger houses to be built. So gradually Kodai grew, attracting the attention of officials and of visitors more and more. In 1899, it became populated enough to have its own municipality. Besides the bridle-paths, proper roads began to take shape. Proper places for putting up visitors started dotting the hill. Its steady and bracing climate, occasional showers almost throughout the year is an added attraction to its scenic charms.

There are any number of beauty spots on the hill where the visitor can enjoy a morning or an evening walk, while for the more adventurous and hardy, there are places eminently suited for longer excursions.

Kodai is easily reached either from Bombay or from Madras. Naturally the distance from Madras would be shorter as the visitor from Bombay has first to come to Madras either by air or by rail and then proceed to Kodaikanal Road Railway Station which is only a few hours' journey from the southern capital. Thereafter a delightful run on the Ghat Road past rugged scenery for 50 miles brings you to your destination. If you are travelling by air, say from Bombay, you can be in Kodai in approximately 24 hours. From the rail road station, you can take either a bus or a car for the three-hour journey that leads up to the hills.

At Kodai, you will find everything you want—a



Fairy Falls, Kodaikanal

comfortable hotel and also several boarding houses, numerous bungalows are available for renting, social life and sport in the clubs and gyms, sailing and shooting.

Places of Interest in Kodaikanal

After you have feasted your eyes long enough on Kodai's prize possession, its Lake, if you are a true lover of nature, you will not want to miss the opportunity which her varied charms provide within a comparatively small circumference on the hill. Indeed, so wonderful is its aspect that it has often been likened to Switzerland.

On your very first evening in Kodai, you can take a stroll along the delightful Coaker's Walk, very near, yet very pretty, presenting you with some of the best views which Kodai has at her command and in particular that of Mt. Perumal, a longer excursion to which reference will be found later.

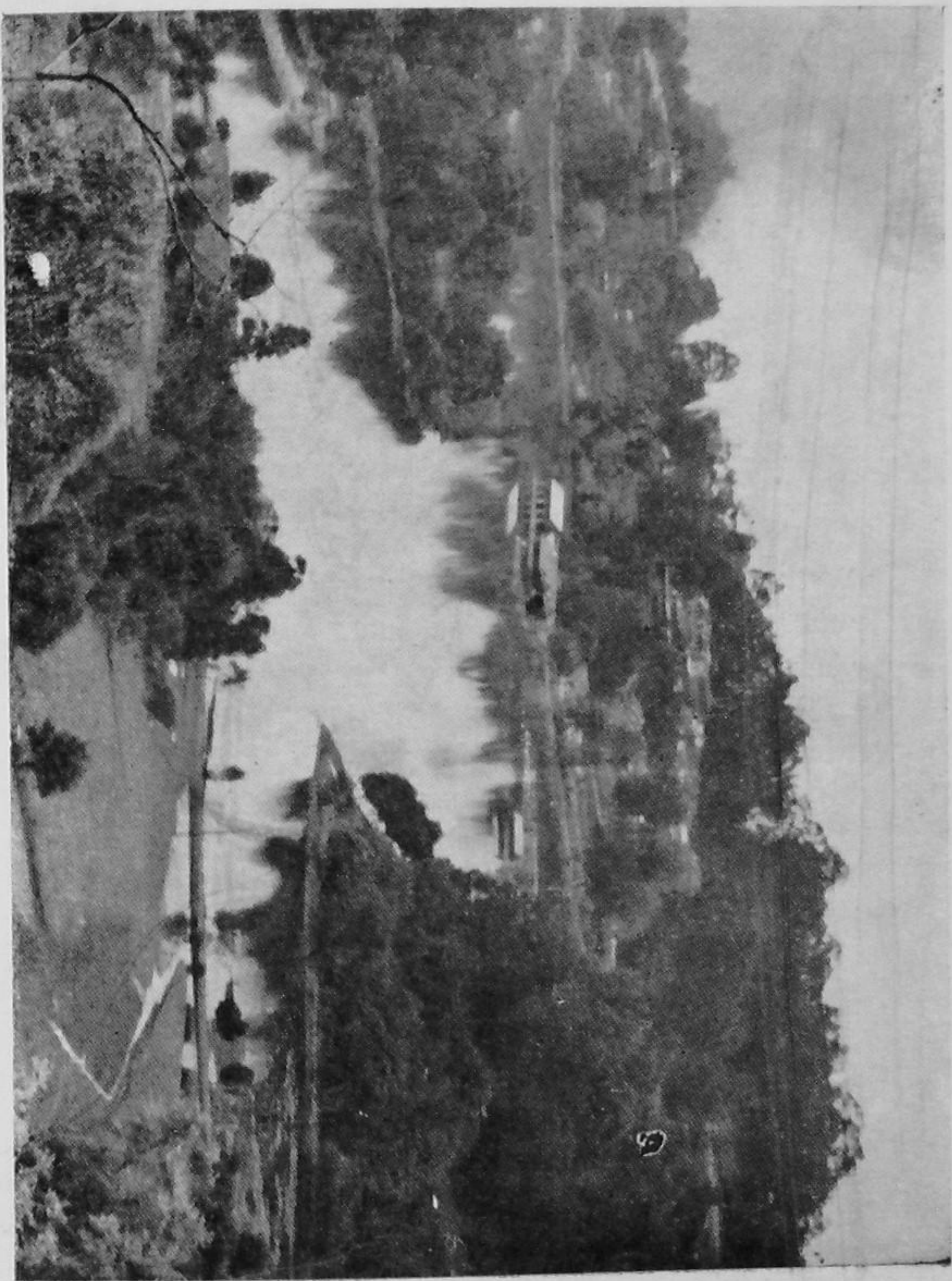
From this Walk, you also get a view of Dolphin's Nose, about three miles from the Lake. A very wide plateau with stones jutting out here and there, Dolphin's Nose is a picturesque point with awe-inspiring precipices on either side.

A little expedition to Pillar Rocks would be exciting. The place is five miles from the Lake. Three rocks stand shoulder to shoulder about 400 feet high, and sweep the plains from their peaks. Just at their foot is a pretty little cluster of trees, like the sholas of Ooty, where you can picnic and rest.

You will notice a steep path somewhere to the right of the pillars. If you like peeping in caves, follow it. It will bring you to their entrance. If you want a still greater thrill, have yourself lowered by means of a rope and squeeze yourself back through the chimney or tunnel which will bring you back to daylight. After you have stopped blinking, you will realise that you have landed behind the Pillars.

When you are on the top of the Pillars, look to your right and you will see Doctor's Delight, about two miles beyond the Pillars.

Kodai is not just hill and dale. It is also water and fall. So your next trip should be to the waterfalls—



A view of the Kodai Lake

the Silver Cascade, the Glen Falls, Pamber and Bear Shola Falls, the Fairy Falls the finest of them all, less than five miles distant. After you have admired the grand sight you can go right down to the foot of the falls and have a swim or a bath. There are also a few shelters there for you to change in.

On your way back, you can have a look at the reservoir from which Kodai draws its water supply.

The Silver Falls lie on the Main Ghat and are at a distance of about five miles from Kodai. The falls are made up of the overflow from the Lake of Kodaikanal and take a spectacular leap over a sheer precipice of nearly 200 feet.

For pleasant and easy walks, there is Pig Valley Walk and its extension. It cuts through pretty woods and every now and then dazzles you with brilliant views.

From here you can also reach the Observatory which is built on Nandingipuram Hill, nearly 7,700 feet high. The Solar Observatory which is devoted to the promotion of research work in solar physics is reputed to be the only one of its kind in the country and is worth inspecting. Towards the turn of the century in its vicinity was found what has come to be regarded as the second largest meteorite ever to have been discovered in India. This led to the selection of this commanding site at high altitude for the Observatory.

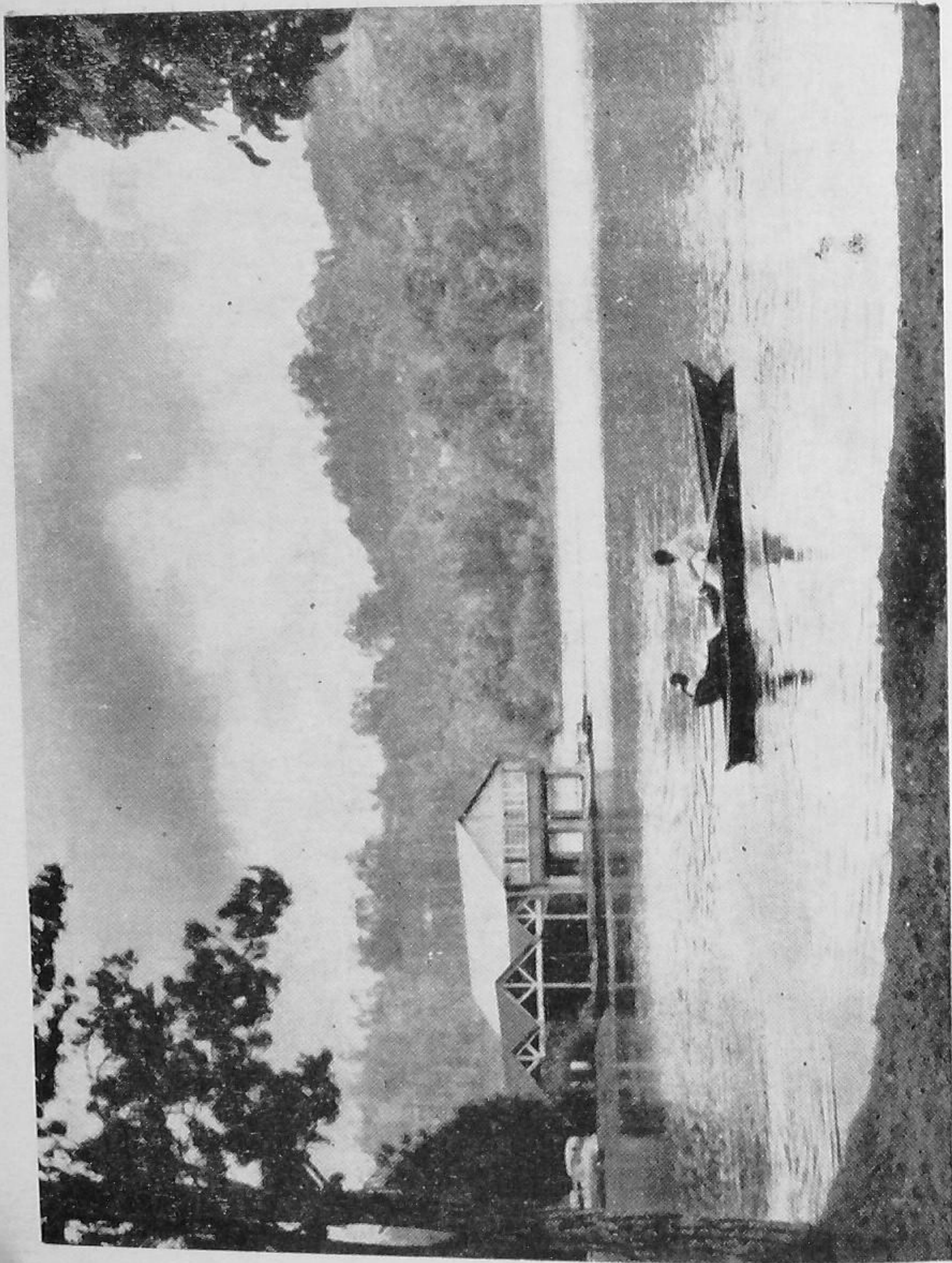
The Pine Wool Walk, past the Club, the Golf Links, and the Pillars, besides providing a very enjoyable four-mile walk also give you the opportunity of viewing

the Fairy Falls and the Observatory on the way. Prospect Point is yet another walk with a destination of beauty to greet you.

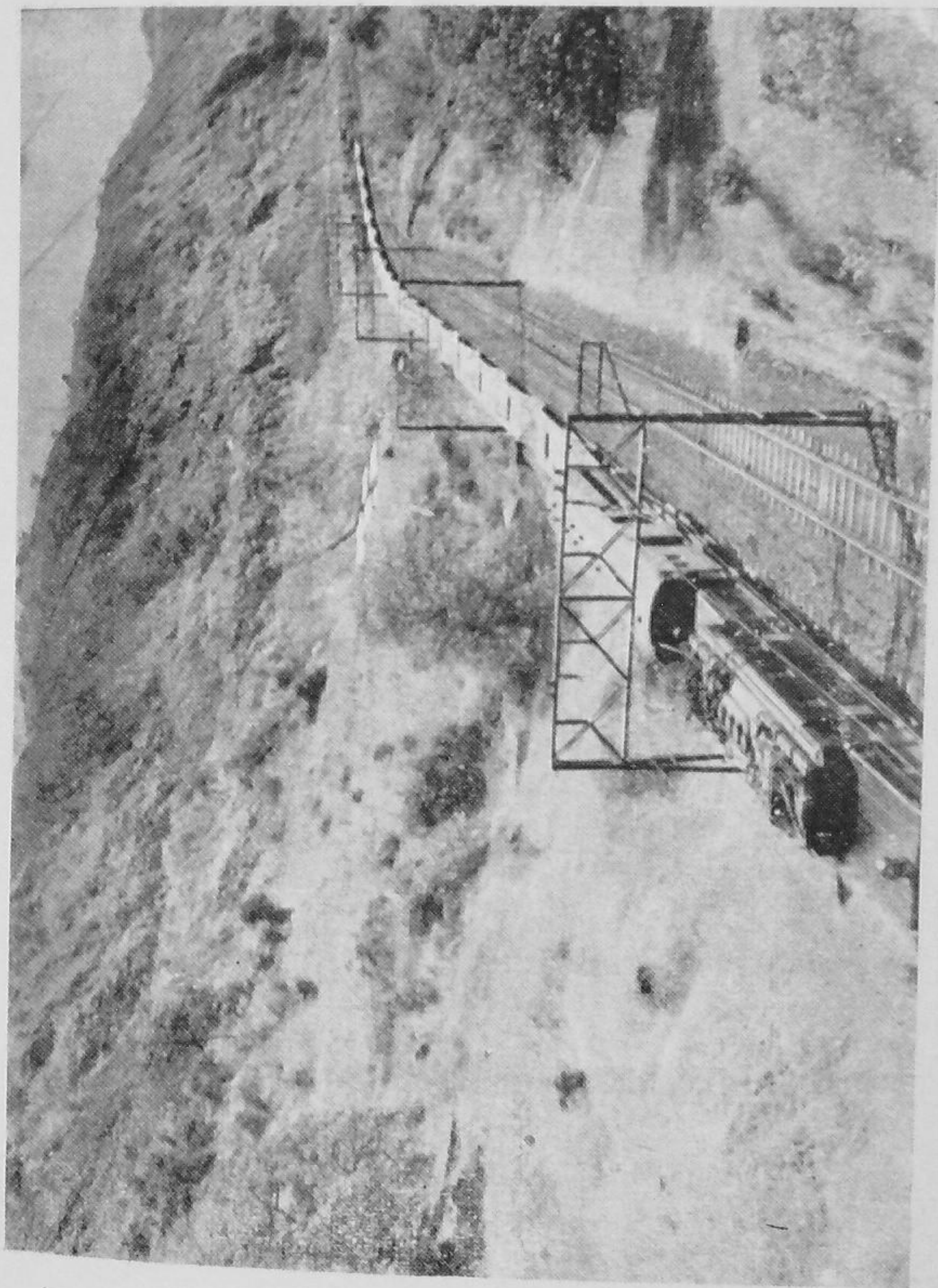
But it is the Perumal Peak or the Big Mountain that should be the ultimate ambition of any one visiting Kodaikanal. It is an all-day, all-out excursion and demands great exertion. You can do the first seven miles by car along the main Ghat Road. Start your climb from the vicinity of Maryland which is the cottage of the American Mission on what is known as the Neutral Saddle.

The first thousand feet or so will test your mettle. Altogether, the upward way comprises about 5 miles which you can make in easy stages. The earlier in the morning you reach the top the better. The splendid views which you will legitimately expect as the reward of your panting labours are at their best up to ten or so. Later, haze, mist, fog or cloud, jealously hide the scenic treasures from your sight. Don't worry unduly about the distance or the climb. The air is so fresh and bracing that you will feel restored to double your normal energy once on top. The panorama embraces the entire country—Madura, Virudunagar, Tiruchirapally, Palani, even the Nilgiris and the Kodai Plateau.

Though this completes the picture of the places known to be well worth visiting during your stay on the hills, an enterprising walker or hiker can discover many other beauty spots and nooks on his own, for nature has not stinted her charms on this tiny wonder among hill stations with which the land is endowed.



Boating in the lake



An electric train passing through Bhore Ghat

There are six schools or educational institutions in Kodaikanal and like Panchgani in West India, Kodai in the South, is ideal if you want to see your child build up a robust constitution and a complexion as rosy as the lovely flowers which flood the hill during the season.

As was said earlier, Kodai offers plenty of opportunities for social life, too. There are several Clubs—the Board Club, the English Club, the Indian Club, the Ladies' Club, and the Golf Club. Tournaments and socials are held during the season—programmes much enjoyed by tourists and visitors who look forward to a social whirl besides the scenic one. The Palani Hills Game Association draws up the rules and regulations and issues licences for shooting and fishing which Kodai also provides.

APPENDIX

General

<i>Hill station</i>	<i>Altitude</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Temperature in Fahrenheit</i>		<i>Average Rainfall</i>
			<i>Summer</i>	<i>Winter</i>	
			<i>Max. Min.</i>	<i>Max. Min.</i>	
Ootacamund	7,500 ft.	April to June Sept. to Oct.	70° 30°	61° 46°	48.35" (Oct. and Nov.)
Kotagiri	6,500 ft.	April to June Sept. to Oct.			5.79" (June to Sept.)
Kodaikanal	7,688 ft.	March to May	67.6° 52.3°	63.2° 47°	8.53" (Oct. to Dec.)
Coonoor	6,000 ft.	April to June Sept. to Oct.	76.30 52.3°	69.8° 47°	10.68" (Oct. and November.)

Communications and Transport

<i>Hill Station</i>	<i>Air Connections</i>	<i>Rail Connections</i>	<i>Road Transport</i>
Ootacamund	No direct service. Nearest airport is Coimbatore, 55 miles from Ooty, for which bus services are available; fare is Rs. 4/12/-	From Madras to Mettupalaiyam by broad-gauge line, and then on to Ooty either by bus or by hill railway.	Regular bus services between Ootacamund and Mettupalaiyam, Coimbatore, Mysore, Calicut, Shoranore, Palghat, Coonoor, Kotagiri and Wellington. Taxis have no meters, but fares are calculated at annas 12 per mile in the town and Re. 1/- per mile over ghat area.

Regular bus services between Kotagiri and Mettupalayam, Ootacamund, Coonoor and Wellington. Taxis have no meters but fares are calculated at annas 12 per mile.

Bus services operate between Kodaikanal and Madurai, Dindigul and Kodaikanal Road. During the season one or two taxis are available and they charge annas 12 per mile within municipal limits.

Kodaikanal Road is the nearest railhead. The remaining 50 miles are traversed by bus. Rail-cum-road tickets are issued by Railway and holders of such tickets may carry 10 seers of luggage per ticket free of charge. Excess luggage is charged.

No direct air service. Nearest airport is Tiruchirapalli which is 77 miles from Kodaikanal Road by rail.

Kodaikanal

Accommodation

Name of Hotel, Dak Bungalow, Inspection House and Railway Restoring Room.

Remarks

Daily charges

No. of Rooms

Location

OOTACAMUND

Single 6
Double 25
Suites 4

(in rupees)
Double 5
Suites 7

Rs. 12 to
Rs. 15 per head

Savoy Hotel

Hotel Cecil

Kotagiri

None

None

Modern Lodge	Single Nil Double 15 Suites 5	Rs. 12 to 15 per head	
Dasaprakash	Single 21 Double 24	Rs. 9 to 16 per head Double Rs. 18 to Rs. 25 for two	
Westmore Inspection Bungalow	Suites 13 Suites 2	Suites for two Rs. 32 Single Rs. 1-12 per head Double Rs. 2-8 with family	Khansama attached. For reservation apply to the Execu- tive Engineer, P.W.D., Coim- batore, seven days in advance.
Connemare Cottage	Stone House Hill Suites 4	Single Rs. 2-8 per head Double Rs. 3 with family	Caretaker can cook food. For reservation apply to the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Coimbatore, seven days in advance.
Railway Retiring Rooms	Double 3	Rs. 5 per head	
Denham House Travellers' Bungalow	Club House Road One set with bath and kitchen	Rs. 12-8 per head Rent Rs. 1-4 per head and annas 4 per per day as electricity charges.	For reservation apply to the Special Officer, District Board, Ootacamund.
Carlton Hotel	Lake Road Single 5 Double 15 Double suites 5	Rs. 18 Rs. 34 to 36 Rs. 52 to 54	Facilities for boating, fishing, golf and tennis are available. From April to June booking is generally not made for less than a month.

KOTAGIRI

KODAIKANAL

Holiday Home	Near Golf Club	Single Double 35	Rs. 18 Rs. 34 for two Rs. 45 for three	Hotel is open only during April, May and June; and only Indian vegetarian food is served.
Holiday Home (Branch)	Bazar Street	Single 3	Rs. 12-8	Only Indian vegetarian food is served.
Highway Travellers' Bungalow		Double 1 2 Bedrooms with dressing and sitting rooms attached.	Rs. 21 Rs. 1-8 per head	Khansama attached. For reservation, apply to the Divisional Engineer (Highways), Madurai.
Municipal Rest House		2 with kitchen and bathrooms attached.	Single Re. 1-0 Double Rs. 2-0	For reservations apply to the Municipal Commissioner, Kodaikanal.
Park View Rest House		2 suites with kitchen attached.	Single Rs. 2-0 Double Rs. 2-12	Caretaker can cook food. For reservation, apply to the Collector of Madurai.
Daisy Bank Municipal Rest House		Suites 2		Khansama attached. For reservation, apply to the Municipal Commissioner, Kodaikanal.
COONNOR				
Hampton Hotel		Single 15 Double 25 (All rooms with baths attached)	Rs. 15/- to 20/- per head.	Fishing and hunting arranged.

Miscellaneous

Prohibition :

Prohibition is in force in Madras State. The District Collector, Ootacamund, and the Sub-Collector, Coonoor, are authorised to issue liquor permits to visitors to Ootacamund and Kotagiri. For Kodaikanal, liquor permits are issued by the Deputy Tehsildar to foreigners and by the Collector of Madurai to Indians.

Cinemas, Shopping Centres and Banks

<i>Hill Stations</i>	<i>Cinemas</i>	<i>Shopping Centres</i>	<i>Banks</i>
Ootacamund	The Assembly Room Coronation Regal Blue Mountain Talkies	Charing Cross	State Bank of India
Kotagiri	Sakthi Talkies Donnington	Main Street	Kotagiri Bank Ltd. Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. State Bank of India.
Kodaikanal	Kodai Talkies	Upper & Lower Road. Commercial Road	Coimbatore Nilgiris Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Hill Stations in South India

0 5 10 20 Miles

State Boundary - - - - -

Connecting Roads ~~~~~

Connecting Railways =====

M Y S O R E

S

A

R

D

A

M

Mysore

Kotagiri

Ootacamund

Coonoor

Coimbatore

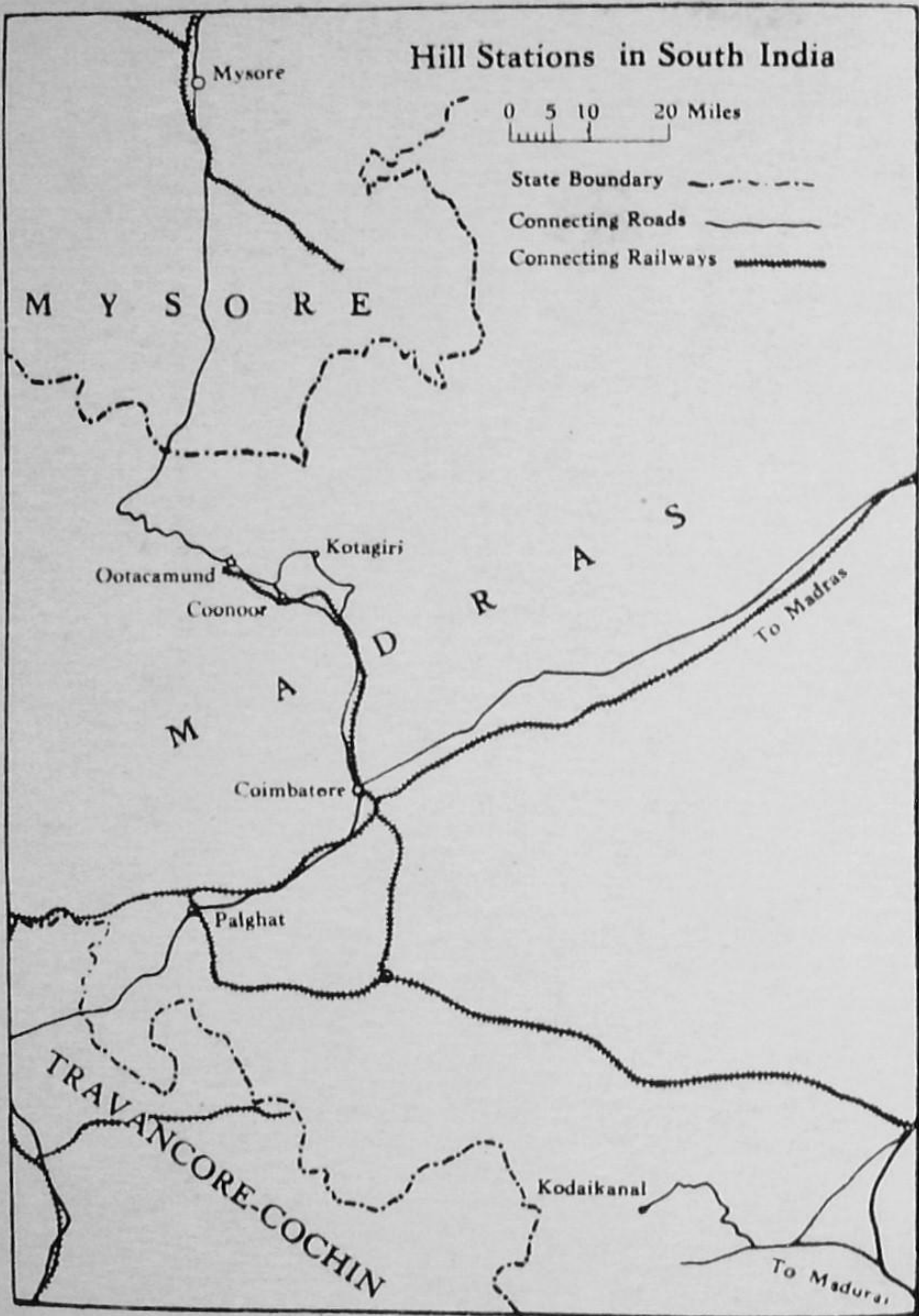
Palghat

To Madras

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

Kodaikanal

To Madurai



IN INDIA

1. Regional Tourist Office,
123, Queens Road,
Churchgate, Bombay. (Tel. 242144-5)
2. Regional Tourist Office,
13, Old Court House Street, Calcutta. (Tel. 23-2819)
3. Regional Tourist Office,
88, Janpath, New Delhi. (Tel. 48649 & 42742)
4. Regional Tourist Office,
35, Mount Road, Madras. (Tel. 86249)
5. Tourist Information Office,
The Mall, Agra. (Tel. 377)
6. Tourist Information Office,
Krishna Villas, Station Road, Aurangabad. (Tel. 17)
7. Tourist Information Office,
15-B, The Mall, Banaras Cantt. (Tel. 189)
8. Tourist Information Office,
16-A, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore. (Tel. 4505)
9. Tourist Information Office,
Chaurastha, Darjeeling. (Tel. 50)
10. Tourist Information Office,
Rajasthan Street Hotel, Jaipur. (Tel. 1182)
11. Tourist Information Office,
Commissioner Road, Ootacamund. (Tel. 3416)
12. Tourist Information Office,
The Ridge, Simla. (Tel. 3311)

The information contained herein is subject to change from time to time. Tourists are advised to check with their Travel Agents or with the nearest Government of India Tourist Office for changes if any.



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