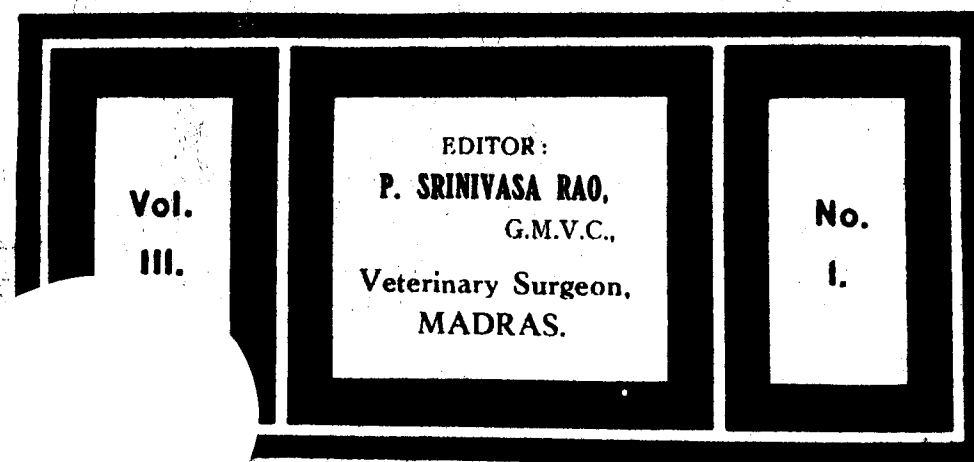
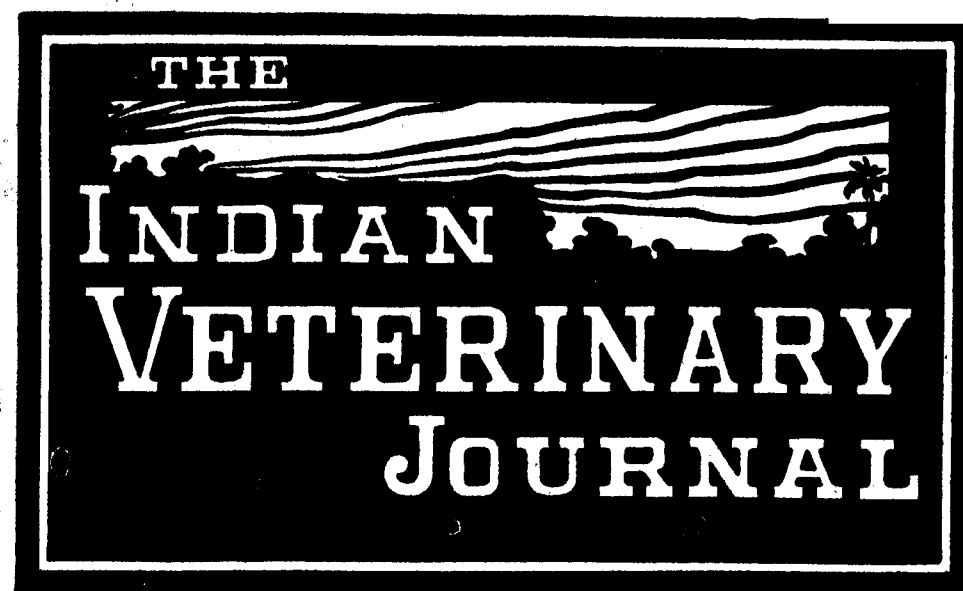




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Life-Sketch of

RAO SAHIB, M. R. Ry., V. P. Subramaniya Mudaliar
Avergal, G.B.V.C. Retired Deputy Superintendent,
Civil Veterinary Department, Madras.

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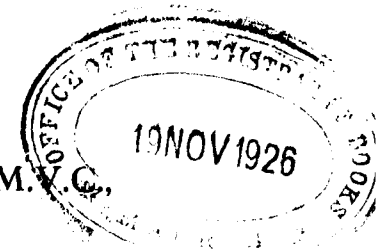
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Life-sketch of

**RAO SAHIB M.R.Ry., V. P. SUBRAMANIYA MUDALIYAR, AVERGAL,
G. B. V. C.**

Retired Deputy Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Madras.

INTRODUCTION.

This reprint of the life-sketch of Rao Sahib M.R.Ry., V. P. Subramaniya Mudaliyar Avergal, G. B. V. C., with certain additions and alterations is issued to meet the demand for copies of our journal containing his life-sketch, from many of the friends and admirers of Mr. Mudaliyar. We are sorry we were not able to comply with their request immediately as we had only a limited number of copies left behind with us. We have therefore issued this supplement and we will be pleased to learn that we have satisfied all concerned.

P. SRINIVASA RAO,

EDITOR



**RAO SAHIB M.R.Ry., V. P. SUBRAMANIYA MUDALIYAR,
AVL., G.B.V.C.,**
*Retired Deputy Superintendent, C.V.D.,
Madras.*

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RAO SAHIB

**M. R. RY., V. P. SUBRAMANIYA MUDALIYAR
AVERGAL, G. B. V. C.,**

*Retired Deputy Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department,
Madras.*

We are conscious that in trying to record the life of Rao Sahib M. R. Ry., V. P. Subramaniya Mudaliyar Avergal, we have taken upon ourselves the very difficult task of presenting to our readers the life of a gentleman, whose versatile genius, erudite scholarship and spotless character should have made him known to the world much better than is his lot to-day. But the task is not without its pleasant and inspiring side and we most willingly set ourselves to the task.

Born of a rich Vellala family in the district of Tinnevely, Madras Presidency, on the 14th August, 1857, Mr. Mudaliyar was blessed with all the worldly advantages that wealth could procure and unlike many in similar circumstances it had made him humble and pious, devoted and dutiful, upright and honest and highly cultured and conscientious. He was educated in the Hindu College, Tinnevely, and subsequently in the Christian College, Madras. Finishing his education in 1879, he joined the old Agricultural College at Saidapet, near Madras, in 1881 and taking his diploma in 1885, he was entertained in the same year as Cattle Disease Inspector. In 1894 he was deputed by the Government of Madras to undergo training in the Bombay Veterinary College and he came out of that College in flying colours in 1895 passing in first class carrying away three prizes and a medal.

Mr. Mudaliyar's record of work from the very beginning of his service was, to say the least, brilliant. It would be too numerous to mention here all the excellent remarks left on official records by successive heads of departments and civilian officers under whom he had

served. "Bears a very high character"; "Most capable and energetic"; "Extremely hard working and trustworthy"; "Cannot speak too highly of his work"; "Zealous and efficient"; "Absolutely honest"; "The success of the inoculation work has been largely due to him"; "He has been responsible for nearly one-half of the total number of cattle inoculated by this Department during the year"; are some of the opinions of persons like Lt. Col. J. Mills, Major J. D. E. Holmes, Lt. Col. W. D. Gunn and others.

Mr. Mudaliyar rose by degrees from the lowest rung of the official ladder by the sheer force of his merit, with none to back him up excepting his own good work in the field, until in 1911, he was raised as a Deputy Superintendent of the Civil Veterinary Department, Madras. He held office in that capacity for nearly four years and retired from service on the 14th August, 1915, i.e., exactly on his 59th birthday after an approved service of nearly 30 years under the Government of Madras. Mr. F. Ware, the then Chief Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Madras, wrote in the Administration Report for 1915-16 "The Department and the public generally have suffered a loss through the retirement of M. R. Ry., V. P. Subramaniya Mudaliyar Avergal."

We have narrated till now his official career; but his larger field of work, nay of fame, lay in the domain of Tamil literature. From his very early days he proved to be an ardent admirer of all that is ancient and of exquisite beauty in that language. As age advanced the little spark of love for that language grew into a flame until we find Mr. Mudaliyar in the prime of his life a poet of extraordinary merit blending the richness of thought of the East and of the refreshing delicacy of the West.

We wish we could take our readers through his works to give them a glimpse of that panorama of thought and language that has held many a reader spell-bound. We fear we will be failing in our duty if we do not impress

For all these benefactions of service extending over four decades, Mr. Mudaliyar was honoured by the Government with the title of Rao Sahib on the last New Year day. It had come late to him and is certainly much less than his deserts, but is none the less welcome. We thank the Government for this belated recognition of an individual who had laboured hard in a profession which does not usually receive the recognition it deserves. We congratulate Mr. V. P. S. (to use the familiar and endearing initials by which he is popularly known amongst his professional colleagues) on the well-merited honour conferred on him by the Government which he had served so loyally and so long. We wish him many more years of full enjoyment of health in his palatial residence at Vellakal and earnestly hope that greater honours await him at the hands of the Government.

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on our readers the eminence of this professional colleague in the poetic world.

Mr. T. Ponnambalam Pillai, Retired Excise Commissioner, Government of Travancore, reviewing "Akalikai Venba" one of the works of Mr. Mudaliyar wrote in the "Justice" of 18th April, 1921, as follows: "The plot of the poem is the well-known story of the seduction of Akalikai by Indra, the king of the celestials. Though it is trite, the way in which the life and shape have been given to it, and the delicate manner in which the tragic end has been contrived, go to show that such a consummation could have been brought about only by a poet of Mr. Subrammaniya Mudaliyar's imagination and calibre".

Pandit Maha Mahopadyaya Swaminatha Iyer, an acknowledged celebrity of incomparable talents in the Tamil world, writing on the same book says, "The work reveals various beauties not hitherto found in Tamil literature and will, I believe, establish your fame for all time. I am going through the rare work very slowly. Though the diction is clear, I am tempted to read every stanza at least twice. The stanzas are beautifully formed. They exhibit your literary ability, your erudition, your capacity for literary composition and your innate love for the Tamil language. Though the work is a small one, it will arouse a big stir. The work is the quintessence of beauty. I am sure that those well read in Tamil will derive from this a pleasure not hitherto expected. My conviction is that such a beautiful poem is rare to come across."

His tamil translation of Milton's Paradise Lost has earned the approbation of no less a person than that greatest European Tamil Scholar, Dr. G. U. Pope, who said "We have no words but of hearty commendation for the way in which the first instalment of the work has been completed.....We feel bound to say, after an exceedingly minute and careful study of the lines, that the translator has succeeded to a very great.....indeed a sur-

prising.....degree....." The writer's prose tamil style is remarkably good."

Rev. T. Walker, M. A., C. M. S., writing on the same work said "I have heard of its excellence from several sources.....I can recommend your rendering most heartily as being both true poetry and a faithful representation of the original."

There are nearly a dozen of his works in Tamil, each great in its own way and praised by countless admirers. Even as a Tamil scholar he did not forget the profession he had chosen to serve. In the interest of the Tamil reading public he had issued many a professional pamphlet such as "Preventive inoculation and its uses," "Improvement of the local cattle," "Methods of improving the milch cattle" and at the instance of the Government had translated "Indian stock owner's manual" and "The more deadly forms of cattle diseases in India."

It is no wonder then that such an erudite scholar of Tamil literature did not escape the attention of "Madura Tamil Sangam," an academy of very great antiquity and of greater repute. He was an examiner of their Literary Board for a number of years. Not content with all these manifold activities, he waited for an opportunity to serve the public on a greater scale. Soon after retirement he identified himself with all institutions of Local Self-Government and was a member, Vice-President and President respectively of the Taluk Board of Tinnevely. He was also on the District Board and on the District Educational Council. We believe even now he is the President of the Bench Court of Tenkasi in the District of Tinnevely.

The profession was not slow to do him the honour that lay in its power. He was the first elected President of the Madras Veterinary Graduates' Conference held in 1921, when he gave utterance to thoughtful address full of sound advice to the profession and indicating the lines on which progress should proceed.



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