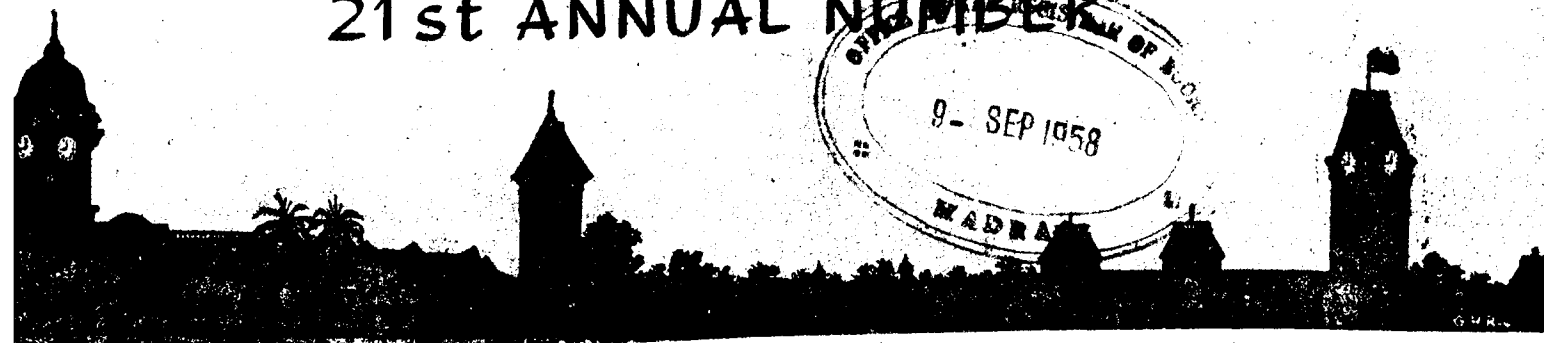


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MONTHLY BY INDIA-HOUSE, MADRAS.

"The administration of justice is the firmest pillar of government."

George Washington

MUNICIPAL *Gazette*

CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. TWO MINUTES SILENCE	1
2. FOOD PROBLEM	2
3. Britain Solves The Servant Problem	3
4. "CIVIC LIFE IN AMERICA"	5
5. How To Make Health Education Programs Effective	9
6. How Woman Mavor 'Houskeepsl U. S. Town	10
7. German Towns Look Towards The Future	11
8. Origin And Growth Of City Water Supply Leading To Mechanical Filters	13
9. Parochial System in Basis of Local Government in U. K.	17
10 Women's College Trains Home-Maker by the Hundreds	18
11 The Future of Local Self-Government in Madras	20

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THE MUNICIPAL GAZETTE

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JULY 1958

No 3.

TWO MINUTES SILENCE

We ought, all of us, to have two minutes' silence every day—for the peace of the living

If we were all silent for two minutes, not once a year only, but every day of our lives, we should make a great contribution to the peace of our own Souls and to the peace of the world.

Two minutes' silence might mean two minutes' less of ourselves. If we would only rest in stillness once each day, putting aside the noise and the tumult of the world, we should live less noisy lives.

The Peace of God may be found within our Souls

Only in stillness shall we find this Peace. In the quietude of our inmost beings, with all outward things for the moment forgotten, we shall find God Who is Love. We shall find that it is possible, through His Power, for each one of us to forgive, to return good for evil, and to bless our enemies.

Perhaps, when we look at the world again, we shall discover that it has changed—grown beautiful, perhaps when we open our eyes once more, we shall see the goodness in another that we never saw before.

Perhaps, in two minutes, we shall draw nearer to the understanding that, if we are to teach others the meaning of Goodwill, we must first fill our own hearts with the Love of God.

HELP THOSE WHO ARE IN DARKNESS.

The few know Truth and abide in the Light, must labour day and night for the many who are still in ignorance and darkness.

It is those who have entered into Truth who possess

the Power. Thus it is possible for the few to help the many.

Day and night we must work on their behalf. By day and by night we must set in motion infinite and omnipotent Powers which will counteract the dark powers of disruption which are abroad today, and which threaten to destroy civilization.

How shall we do this?

- (1) By finding God's peace.
- (2) By sending out our love to all men, including our enemies, and to all creation.
- (3) By thanksgiving, positive, affirmative prayer.

First then, finding God's peace. This is such an achievement that if only one person accomplishes it, he or she influences the whole world for good. This really is the highest attainment—to enter into the Great Calm—to float out on to the Odean of God's Peace, and to become one with its great tides which ebb and flow with ceaseless precision and harmony. This is what humanity has been seeking for all do in the ages—to know God's peace, and to be willed fith Divine bliss.

Even if we cannot actually find and enter into God's peace, we can turn to our highest concept of God and Reality, or Heaven, or the Real World, which is the perfect expression of the Divine Idea, or whatever we like to term it, and try to realise it. This will help, because we can never turn to God on behalf of others, without those for whom we pray being blest.

Some people turn to God, or to their highest concept of God and Reality, declaring what God is—Righteousness, Peace, Love, Wisdom, Joy, Order, Beauty, Harmony, Perfection, Wholeness and all good.

FOOD PROBLEM

BY N.D. Agarwalla

(A great challenge to the Nation and the great Moghuls of Delhi and of course to the ever alacratic Pandit Nehru.)

Slowly and gradually the years are rolling off. The Nation—the mighty India is nearing the eleventh Milestone of Independence, "if it is All". A big "if", because the declared millennium the golden age—the Ram Rajya (the age of sufficiency) has yet to be had, but, lo! instead there is want there is scarcity all around for food, (In spite of so much arable land still available) of cloth, of essential equipments, materials and even of Man Power in spite of the 40 crores in India. Of all this, the Challenge of Food—is the greatest. It is a shame and great shame that this primary object—the most essential one for our survival has been utterly neglected, which even our British Masters would not have even dared. It may be said that foreign Ruler, kept us on the verge of starvation of food as well as knowledge to perpetuate his rule permanently, till bleeding us white; but, what prevents the Government of our own people, who did set up great illustration of sacrifice and suffering not long ago to grapple with the most important and vital problem of "FOOD" with the same do or die spirit.

It is a fact that India has all along been an agriculturist country, depending on her own Golden Earth and Rivers of Honey and milk. Never in the History we imported food grain for our proverbial 35 crores. Then how is it we have to depend on the charity of not so benevolent foreign countries for our Bread! The present world with Nuclear Politics is all an uncertainty and so can be the uncertainty of our dependence of food and of all Aids and grants. Technical or any day any moment. In that emergency, if we have our own food, we can still survive otherwise the same spectre of DEATH—that of 1942 Bengal Famine in which 20 lakhs died with protest looming large for the entire country. The people have a right to know and demand the real position and bare facts. At present we find a good mess all around—the Land Reforms so called Zamindari abolition the brain of the villages who could be forced to produce the maximum, the taxation to the hilt—throttling the Private Sector and with it the initiative and will to create more wealth—more Industries more products the Nationalisation Bogey, the State Trading Corporation etc., where the efficiency submerges in Red Tapism and files viz. Kolar Gold Fields which used to

have huge profits have turned into large losses—State Transport Services—Where crores of rupees worth of Foreign Exchange and sole monopoly has been able to produce only losses and so many other scandals such as of fertilisers, of Jeeps—vital military equipments—the pin pricking by Pakistan on all our frontiers with serious loss of life and property to our people and unusual delay in implementing so called great adventures or steel factories—Dams—the various scandals and innumerable instances of favouritism etc., are all great eye openers. The exhaustion of Sterling Pool balance—the present weak financial position of the Government in comparison to the 15th August '47, are all very serious matters—which any son of the soil cannot overlook it and must not. It seems the country bled white only to replace foreigners with our own brand who are hoodwinking the real issues and are simply anxious to perpetuate their rule by devising the best vote taking phrases and ideologies. THE SOULS OF INNUMERABLE MARTYRS—EVEN OF GANDHI! WOULD SHUDDER IN THEIR GRAVES—by seeing the same of Rajendra Babu, Jawaharlal, Pant, Shree Babu Katju & Co., living like great Moghuls surrounded by all the dazzling splendour and pomp and even luxuries—so different from the lives they led and won independence and so different from the lives of people they claim to represent. It is but natural that calamity after calamity would befall the Kingdom whose king is unrighteous. A great example is there in Ramayan when the saint lost his only son—an usual event, who died before father; Shri Ram the Ideal King found one who had broken the law of the age—and penalised him accordingly. Our administrators after manipulating, call various conferences at OOTY NAINITAL & KASHMIR issue uselessly long statements in the Nehru style. The times are passed to hood-wink and dodging. "Devicolam should be the eye opener.

We simply have to appeal to Pandit Nehru the one man who can still blow life to infuse the real spirit in the whole show and to all others, to revive the "Do or Die" spirit of pre Independence days, grapple with the vital problems fearlessly irrespective of your gaddi—Whether you remain on it or not. Serve the people their needs, fulfill their wants they would march with you irrespective of any

dangers. Lead them as you led them before. Food front is a real problem. Leave your air conditioned chambers and no admission offices. Come and join the fieldsmen. No more welcome gates and golden garlands. The sons and daughters of the soil are hungry and let us produce food for them. Create factors for initiatives for producing more. Such as (1) Holder of fixed acreage must be asked to produce so much quantity of food according to the climate. (2) The producer must pay his Revenue in grains. (3) There is unimaginable man power and brain too available in this very land to solve this greatest of the great problem and many many other illustrious sons and daughters of course, the Governors, ministers of the of states, the so called figure heads who are basking in the luxury and fashion of large cities and the sparable great Military force of the country, the teachers and the students in their vacations and most positive successful force, the Industrialist, whom you have made a Red snag of bull—to catch your votes only. The Indian farmer has a superstition that the Mother Earth shrinks and also extends. When there is scarcity of food stuffs, it is shrinking and vice versa. So let us go to

Mother Earth in a body united, to solve our problem without any difference of classism and distinction.

The lead must come from the man of the hour—Pandit Nehru, who still is the ideal of the mass irrespective of class and ism. He must have heart to heart talks with all, not from his high celestial gaddi—but on the same mat as Pandit Nehru. It is sure the Indian people would not fail to rise according to the occasion nor the dear mother earth would fail us in our earnest bid to save her freedom and Independence so dear and so valuable and so sacred to us. It is vitally important that Pandit Nehru should deal with plough instead of pen to save the country and the freedom.

And only God would save us if this challenge is not accepted, in time. Of course the Indian people should be very frank and on the alert. Two full seasons are enough to test the truth of our saviours and the people are surely to throw a challenge to the rulers either to produce or get our core or get out is the need of the hour.

-NEETEE

Britain Solves The Servant Problem

Skilled Training For Domestic Workers

THE National Institute of Houseworkers, one of Britain's answers to some of the more thorny problems of domestic help, is just over one year old. Over 150 students have entered the seven centres the Institute has opened in different parts of the United Kingdom and during the year it is hoped that at least 500 students will be trained.

The aim of the National Institute of Houseworkers is to raise the status of the domestic worker and with this objective it has undertaken to train women and provide them with suitable jobs. Any young woman who is interested in domestic work can apply to enter one of the centres. If, after a personal interview, she is found suitable, she receives full instructions free, with maintenance and allowances. If she is under 17, she will be a juvenile and will train for nine months; if over 17 she will train for six months.

During her training every student must work in one or more carefully selected households so as to gain experience. After the juvenile student has been trained she must be employed as a pre-diploma worker for a year or until she is 18, before she takes diploma examination.

When eventually a girl receives her diploma she automatically becomes an Associate Member of the Institute and may go to her local centre whenever she wants help

or advice. She is also entitled to wear the Institute's uniform—a turquoise blue overall with the N.I.H. badge on it.

If she is under 18 and lives out she will earn a minimum of £3 (Rs. 40) a week, if she lives in her employer's home she will get £1 13s. 6d. (Rs. 22-5 0) If over 18, she will get £3. 4s (Rs. 42-11-0) a week living out, or £1. 14s. (Rs. 22-10-0) living in. She will work 44 hours a week (non-resident) and 48 hours a week (resident) and will get extra pay for overtime. If under 18, she will work only 44 hours a week (resident) and 40 hours (non-resident); she is not allowed to do overtime. She will be given two weeks' holiday with pay each year for the first five years and then she will have three weeks annually.

ENERGETIC SPONSOR

The woman who is chiefly responsible for raising the status of domestic workers in Britain in this way is Miss Dorothy Elliott, President of the National Institute of Houseworkers. She works actively on their behalf at the Institute's headquarters in London. Her trade union work brought Miss Elliott into touch with women's employment in industries, hospitals and local authorities.

Miss Elliott told me that though she had seen great advances made gradually in the position of woman in industry,

W. 2, 138

N. 31-21-3

1917

in hospitals, in the catering industry and in domestic work in hospitals, but one great field of employment—that of domestic work—remained unorganised. When the way was opened for women and girls to take clerical and industrial jobs or enter the professions, the lack of organisation and status meant that no one was willing to share the domestic work in private houses. The housewife became more and more overburdened, as this coincided with the entry of many women into public life as local government councillors and Members of Parliament.

I asked Miss Elliott what first interested her in the problem of the domestic worker, and if she had been brought into contact with it at the outset of her career. "On the contrary" she replied, "when I left the University during World War I, I worked at a factory bench, and so became acquainted with the conditions of women in industry. I studied at the London School of Economics for a time, then worked as a trade union officer for 20 years."

INFINITE VARIETY

I asked Miss Elliott what she thought of the statement, so often made lately, that housework could ever be made as interesting as office or factory work. "I emphatically deny it", she answered. "Your success at a job depends on whether you are interested in it, and for those who like working in the home, domestic work gives an opportunity to exercise much skill, and has infinite variety—which is very satisfying."

"Why then" I persisted, "are girls so terribly prejudiced against domestic work?"

"There is a short answer to that" she said, "lack of status and the belief that there is less freedom, together with the fact that there are no standards of conditions or employment as in other occupations".

It is not surprising, therefore, that when the National Institute of Houseworkers was founded in 1946, Miss Elliott was asked to be its President. She agreed to leave the industrial field, feeling, as she said, "that while women's great occupation of domestic work had no status, no standards and no negotiating machinery, all the work that had been done in industry might well be undermined." She had helped ahead to run a small scheme for a domestic workers' club, and felt that the whole status of the domestic worker could be raised by giving her training.

PREJUDICE REMOVED

I asked Miss Elliott to tell me something about the difficulties she had experienced in arranging for the opening

of the Institute. "The sheer physical difficulty of finding and equipping suitable houses for centres was enormous," she said. "And then we did not know whether we could break down the prejudice of women against domestic work, or whether when they were trained, employers would be willing to pay the wages and give the conditions demanded. But a very great interest is being shown by those 'school leavers' who are interested in domestic work as a career, and whose parents and teachers are willing to encourage them to take it up when they realise they will be properly trained."

"In many groups of workers, such as shop assistants and factory workers," she added, "there are always a few who want to do domestic work and want to take the training. Employers were doubtful at first as to whether our standard and conditions would work, especially the 48-hour week and definite hours off for privacy and leisure, but they found it was not so difficult as they had thought and inquiries for our workers are always being received."

"I remember" I said, "when I first heard of the N.I.H. I wondered about the scale of wages and whether the old and sick, and women with small incomes and large families would be able to employ your women"

"Many women" replied Miss Elliott, "cannot afford a whole time resident or non-resident worker, and we hope, therefore, to develop our Daily Houseworker Services. Under this scheme, the Institute employs Associate Members of the Institute, pays their salaries, the employer's insurance contribution, and holiday pay, and then supplies workers for any period of not more than two hours, at a total cost to the employer of 2sh. 6d. (Rs. 1-11-) an hour. Our first service at Portsmouth has been very much appreciated."

UNTRAINED WORKERS

Another interesting feature of the N. I. H. is the granting of diplomas to older women who have worked for years as untrained domestic helps, and especially to spinsters left stranded without career or training after the death of parents they nursed. "Experienced women," explained Miss Elliott, "can come to London or go to a nearby centre, and take the diploma examination which lasts three and a half days. They are asked to make a simple plan of work, they have tests in cleaning, cooking, laundry, mending and a surprise job to test their initiative. They pay a registration fee of a guinea (Rs. 14) to take the examination, and after they gain their diplomas they become Associate Members entitled to the conditions of employment laid down by the N. I. H."

"We hope, also, that we may make a real contribution in helping to build up the Home Help Service which, under

"CIVIC LIFE IN AMERICA".

By

(Capt) D. Gnanaolivu, M. A., I. A. S.



My brief visit to America in the role of a Leader Specialist was undertaken on the generous invitation of the United States Government. No doubt, it was primarily a study tour concerned with Housing, Slum Clearance, and City Planning. But, as a former municipal executive in South India, I often caught myself looking round through my old municipal spectacles. I visited twelve American cities spending about fifty days in them—touching at Rome, London, and Paris on my way to and fro. Therefore, as I spent all my time in the New world only in its larger towns imbued with a high degree of civic sense, I was perforce able to get a fairly good insight into American Civic Life.

The U. S. A. is a mighty and prosperous nation in which everybody seemed to work hard, nobody seemed to lack anything, and all were happy. No public begging was to be seen anywhere, nor any deliberate idleness. Vigour and initiative were discernible everywhere. America appeared to be not only the richest nation, but also a generous one, not a common combination of qualities.

In fact, my good friend from here, the Rev. Dr. D. challappa, Bishop in Madras (with whom I spent some time

in America) and I independently came to the conclusion that it looked as if communism, against which the Americans are taking so many safeguards, may never let in root in the U. S., because the common people seem to have all what the communists describe as their Utopia!

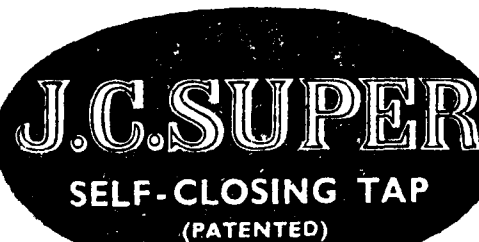
Traffic and movement naturally play an important part in civic life everywhere. The condition of the roads and pavements in American towns was uniformly good, and there were also fine avenues of trees. Traffic was very disciplined without any Police being seen. Every one seemed anxious to obey traffic rules! The Traffic Police turned up only when an accident occurred. The roads in all towns are used only by motor cars mostly, and the pedestrians use only the pavements. I never saw any stray cattle, dogs, cats, or cycles on the roads! For one automatic traffic signal, the cars stop, and the pedestrians cross the street at its junction. At the next signal the cars go on, and the people stop. The comparatively poor Americans (whose monthly income may be Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/-) seem to have given up the cycle and other slow vehicles, in order not to obstruct fast traffic. They patronise only electric trains, and buses which are clean and run on efficient lines. There are no conductors in



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buses, and no tickets are sold. Instead, passengers put their coins straight in the receptacle next to the driver. The ordinary roads are not sufficient for American traffic. There are elevated railways, ordinary railways, and underground railways. Buses and street cars also often ply underground. In New York and Boston, there are long tunnels across rivers and under the sea, to ease public traffic.

There are plenty of open spaces in all the cities which are comparatively young. The well-being of a town is assessed in the U. S. A., mainly by the ratio of its open space in relation to its built-up areas. In Los Angeles there is more than 50% open space. Such open space is made up of parks, playgrounds, and large open car parks for their millions of cars. One family in four or five owns a car. 90% of the cars seem to be owner-driven.

Their love of cities is of a very high order. In a City Planning Conference, even St. Paul and the Prophet Jeremiah were quoted to infuse civic pride! Americans appear to be more religious than is generally known. Bibles are kept in every hotel room. Churches are usually crowded, and often function in shifts. The two main centres of activity in a city seem to be the Churches and the Civic Centre, i. e., the Municipal offices and Government offices.

American Mayors are powerful personages who lead their cities. Under American democracy, the elected Mayor is taken to be of greater importance than the Governor elected by the State. And, the latter often considers himself more important vis-à-vis the people than the Nation's President himself! Hence, Mayors of big cities and State Governors do not often live in the same city. In America, the advice of experts is always available in town planning, civic improvement, etc., but only the organised will of the ordinary people prevails ultimately.

In American towns, the municipal income is considerable. Webster Groves, in Missouri State, a small place with 28,000 people, has an annual income of one million dollars! This amount is collected with very little trouble, only by two or three tax collectors. Most of the people come to the Civic Centre and pay their taxes voluntarily. The Police are paid and controlled by each Municipality. Most of the Judges at City and State level are elected, and function fairly well. The Supreme Court is all powerful, and holds the balance between the citizens, the executive, and the legislature.

All public eating places are very neat, clean, and up-to-date—Drug Stores, Cafeterias, Coffee Bars, Restaurants, and Hotels. 60 or 70% of the people appear to eat only at these places. Only in seven or eight Southern States is any discrimination made regarding coloured people at eating

places. Even here, if they know you are an Indian (especially by the Indian coat), you are honoured and respected, and all people are friendly. Most of the Negro servants and domestics in the South seem to be well treated. No open hostility is discernible, but the Negroes and the Americans do not seem to mingle socially. In the remaining States, all nationals and foreigners have equal status.

Though I saw and experienced special friendliness as an Indian, I often came across colossal ignorance about Indians and conditions in India. Many asked me if "Cow worship" is still going on in India! Some people in the interior often asked me if there were Christians in India at all! Some ladies thought that I had learnt English (with a British accent!) only after reaching America! Questions were repeatedly asked regarding Suez, Kashmir, and Indian Communism. Most of the Americans appear to be ignorant that about forty million Muslims are living in India, and that there are about ten million Christians. It was also hard to convince some of them that there are English Newspapers here. In day-to-day life as labour has become very costly, the average American has no domestic servant. The little labour available is so costly, that materials and machines are substituted instead. There are paper cups, tumblers, and plates, and even cutlery made of paper and plastic, which are thrown away after being used once! Stamps, chocolates, sweets, cigarettes, etc., can be bought from automatic machines—also insurance policies at Air Ports. Newspapers are invariably left with a kind of Hundi Box, without any attendant, and there is no stealing. The queue system is adopted spontaneously wherever needed.

Sanitation is very satisfactory in all towns. There are no public taps, and no public latrines on roads—all these are located within houses, or flats, or offices. Generally there are no flies. Cats and dogs are prohibited in apartments, and carry high licence fees. Dairies are always outside the city.

I was struck by the politeness and promptness in all American public offices visited by me. My Income Tax Clearance with my passport as my sole introduction, was a matter only of some minutes in the Washington office of Inland Revenue. All visitors, high or low, white or coloured, are addressed as "sir", and "madam" in all shops, hotels, and offices.

Throughout my stay in the U. S. A., I noticed and admired the cheerful, helpful, busy, and informal pattern of American life. Many Americans seem to feel that theirs is a blessed country, and a land of Plenty, because of the Pilgrim Fathers and their religious motive in crossing the Atlantic.

★

How To Make Health Education Programs Effective

By

DR. V.L. PANDIT L.M.P (MYS) L.P.H (CAL)

(Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical & Hygiene, Lpndon
My sore Health Services)

It is universally agreed that health education is the foundation of all health programs. In recent years its necessity is being keenly felt by all the health workers.

If health education is considered so important what is health education? As we see this Health education has two components Health & education.

Health has been defined by the joint committee of Health programs in health education of the National Education Association of the American Medical Association as follows "Health in the human organisation is that condition which permits optional functioning or the individual enabling him to live longest and serve best in personal relationship".

W. H. O. defines health as physical Mental and Social well being and not merely absence of infirmity.

Education is imparting of knowledge and ensuring its easy assimilation by the people whom we want to be educated and also inducing the person to persue and imitate him to think for himself.

By this it can be seen that Health has three aspects Physical, mental and social. They physical aspect relating to the maintainance of health, and building up the reserves of health. The mental aspect relating to the upkeep of mental balance. Peace and satisfaction and to avoid stress strain, lastly the social aspect delating to the conduct of individual towards the other members of the continuity and his contribution to the harmony of community life therby help himself.

The present concept of health education is as foliows "Health education is a process which aids people to find out their health needs leading in to programme-Planning, utilizing available resources, modifying their health behavious, breakingdown barriers of ignorances prejudices and misconception after intelligent, thoughtful consideration of relevent health knowledge and thus attain the highest possible standard of health by their efforts"

So the main aims and objectives of health education is to impart proper knowledge of health and help to develop proper attitudes and habits and achieve health by

their own actions and efforts.

To achive these aims and objectives health education should be continuous till people realise their responsibilities and shoulder themselves and their continuity.

Before starting health education programme on a scientific manner it is necessary to know the basic facts about health, social cultural, economical and the psychological set up of the in the individual and community. Also the media through which the different strata of population can be educated to meet the health needs is also to be thought of. The health facts that are given out should be acceptable to the person concerned and should be so selcted that it should be clear and stimulate she person to think and act.

So prior to starting of an health education programme these factors are to be studied in detail. Further for better results there should be a good cooperation and coordinations of all welfare agencies of the area concerned.

Though there are various methods the individual and group approach is considered to be mere effective and attractive. Now with the present circumstances of low economic and educational level of our population the health worker can under-take this task, usually the educative work done by the health workers is individual in natures. For this it is essential for the health worker to know the other persons. Psychological set up and his interest and ability both social and econimical.

The approach should be friendly and suggestions given should be realistic and be acceptable to the persons economical standard. In addition while presenting the facts the other persons view points are also to be respected. Beyond this the educator should help the person to draw his own conclusion and should be sparetime and not an over critics. The individual approach if made with skill can yield good success.

Commig to the group approach man is a part of the community and he cannot live singly. As such the needs of the individual and the community are to be blended together for the achievement of mutual advancement and in

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present democratic set up. Voice of the group carries mere weight, organisation of groups as voluntary agencies, Health centres, Health league, parent teacher. Health worker associations are held in health education of the group discussions are to be arranged in which the people should be made to take part and contribute their experience in problems of immediate importance to the community. Here lies the intelligence of the educator to choose a problem of immediate importance and need to the group. He should encourage and help the group to plan a programme for its solution. The educator should not make his presence felt for his authority but it should be felt as a benefactor out there to help them and as one among them.

How Woman Mayor 'Housekeeps! U.S. Town

The mayor of this town of 6,500 says that the problems of the job parallel, on a higher level, those that women have always handled on the home scene. Mayor Potter should know—after 30 years' experience as a housewife.

But Betty Potter's background for her job has not been confined to hearthside activities. A former business executive, she has for years been active in civic and service organizations of the community and served an unofficial "apprenticeship" as mayor when her husband held that post in the 40's.

Still it was a surprise, she says, when in 1954 a group of businessmen asked her to run for office as a Village Trustee. She won, and was serving in that capacity when she was asked to become a candidate for mayor in 1957. In spite of the fact that she was too busy to campaign for herself, she defeated the man who was incumbent.

Theoretically, being mayor is a part-time job, leaving plenty of time to keep house for her husband, Leroy Potter, who runs an automobile sales agency here, and to visit with her two married daughters.

Actually Mayor Potter attends 10 to 15 meetings a month. She presides over the meetings of the four-member Village Board of Trustees, most of which are open to the public, officiates at sessions of the Library, Planning, Zoning and Water Boards, and appears at all other public hearings. The problems she deals with include road building and repair, traffic, fire and police protection in this expanding suburban community. Her official presence is also required at six to eight other community functions each month.

In addition to these he will have to see in a rural folk as to who is the person who commands the respect of many be he the chairman. Patel or any other person with whom he should work to push through the programs. These people who can influence others will be very good colleagues for a health worker and there by make easy his task.

Community groups as the Health league, Union development committees, village development committees youth league etc are also means of changing the community out look towards health.

In addition, she spends several hours a day on village business, either in her office or at home, and her telephone rings day and night on official business.

"When the mayor is a commuter working in New York City, he can't be called until evening. But everyone knows I'm here all day," says Mrs. Potter. She likes her constituents to feel free to call or visit her at any time, and they do.

Mayor Potter takes all the problems of her office in stride...the little ones with aplomb, the big ones "with concern and attention geared to their importance," she explains.

Among the most important matters the mayor has had to deal with has been solving a water-supply problem. Through months of complex negotiations with New York City and State officials, Mr. Kisco has obtained title to a nearby lake on which the town was partially dependent for its water.

Typical of the problems at the other end of the scale says the chief executive, is the 5:30 a.m. phone call from an irate tax-payer in a rain-soaked area who wants her to "come and look at my flooded cellar." She goes and looks, ... a little later...with good nature, sympathy and assurance that the village will take steps to prevent a recurrence of the drainage troubles.

Betty Potter's good nature holds up through all the exigencies of her office. "It's because I love my town and feel that helping with its problems and working for its people is a pleasure," she explains.

"I frequently apologize to my husband now for my impatience during his years as mayor when he was late co

German Towns Look Towards The Future

A visitor to towns like Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg or Cologne is surprised at every visit to see the steadily changing face of such towns. Administrative buildings, office and housing blocks are springing from the earth like mushrooms and the rapidity with which the wounds caused by the war to German cities are disappearing causes astonishment to everyone.

If our visitor, however, arrives by car, his admiration is now and then mingled with definite discomfort. He finds roads which are too narrow, a shortage of parking space, too many one way roads, and too many traffic signs, the panacea of the police for traffic problems—Seeing all this, he is bound to ask the question "Could the sad destruction to the cities during the war not at least have been turned to account for a better solution of their traffic problems? Would it not have been better to pull down half—destroyed houses instead of repairing them and putting up new buildings next door? Has not a great chance been missed to replan German cities in a manner more suitable to our modern way of life?"

The question is certainly justified, and not only from the point of view of disgruntled motorists. The city of today and tomorrow, as we think it ought to be, should have a different look from the city of the past, not merely because of the increase of traffic. Compared with our grandfathers we have acquired additional mobility. Nowadays people do not mind long journeys to town if they can live in open settlements its outskirts, Transport from the place of residence to the place of work has been speeded up and workers have more time really to live in their homes. Working hours are getting shorter, one has more time of one's own. This development has set town planners quite new tasks. People want space in order to move about, to do their gardening, to play at games, and enjoy their hobbies. In addition, there is the tendency to acquire property, a tendency which is very much furthered by the state. Above all, more and more people are being enabled to build a house for themselves. In the light of all these new demands for town planning, the reconstruction of at least some of the West German cities appears to be a veritable collection of missed chances.

But we must be fair: who would have thought, when the city fathers were confronted by the ruins of their building in 1945, that reconstruction would proceed at such a tremendous pace? We need only recall the despairing calculations as to whether the removal of debris in a town such as Hamburg would take twenty or thirty years.

Who would really have dared to pull down a half—destroyed house at a time when the all—important task was to provide shelterless people with a roof over their heads as soon as possible? Would not an architect proposing a town planned with a view to the future have been described as mad? It would be senseless to give any one the blame for not making far—reaching and comprehensive plans during the first years of reconstruction.

But circumstances which at the time had to be accepted as excuses no longer apply today. The period of housing the homeless is almost over. It is expected that in four or five years the housing shortage will have disappeared. It is all the more necessary to give serious consideration to modern town planning.

We have some radical ideas which a well known town planner and expert of the council of German cities described as follows: "All half destroyed houses should be pulled down and even houses which have remained whole should not be spared if they are in the way of new planning. In the centre of the town every house must have as much parking space on its own ground as it needs for its operation. Every building should be approachable from two sides, one reserved solely for pedestrians and the other for vehicular traffic only. The residential quarters should be not too far away from the industrial section, but arranged so that sufficient space for parks, sport, and recreation remains around them. Residential quarters must have good traffic connections to the city but the main traffic arteries must not pass directly through residential districts." Probably every town of any size has prepared plans more or less on these principles. In some places these plans were carried out at least in part, but in other towns such plans had to remain in the realm of dreams. The completion of comprehensive plans to a large measure depends on the balance between the general welfare and private interests. This balance again depends on the political situation in the various town councils. At a meeting of the Council of German Towns which took place a few months ago, the mayors and town architects more or less unanimously complained that the legislative power still owed them a law which enabled them to do something for the community. They were still forced, they said, to permit sporadic buildings here and there, although these buildings closed open spaces which had with difficulty been kept free between the blocks of buildings. At present Germany has a great variety of architectural laws differing between the various states, full of lacunae and difficult to carry out in practice. It is high time for new laws on town planning. It is a pleasure to note that there is

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now some hope of improvement. A few weeks ago the Federal Minister for Housing has presented a bill for a Federal Housing Law which is to introduce the long awaited new order. The law is to regulate the construction of houses, to provide new regulations for expropriation and development and thus create a practical basis for modern town planning. According to the Federal Government's bill comprehensive building plans are to be made for every town and village in which provision is made for permanent small gardens, green spaces for the general public, recreation grounds, and large arterial roads. If the necessary land cannot be acquired on the free market, expropriation is to be resorted to.

The Federal Minister for Housing, Mr. Lucke, has very precise ideas of the town of tomorrow. He desires wide space, loosely built, towns interspersed with green spaces, bungalows with gardens, recreational parks, and weekend facilities.

Besides the Federal Housing Law he is thinking of a so-called "clearing law" which will make it possible to remove unhealthy and useless housing agglomerations such as the "Wedding" district in Berlin. A Small Gardens Law in addition to the Housing Law is to ensure that the right of planting their own roses is not restricted to the happy owners of villas surrounded by gardens. The inhabitants of large tenement blocks are also to be given a chance to acquire land for small gardens cheaply. Wherever possible, land surrounding the future housing blocks is to be used for this purpose. If the minister's wishes are fulfilled there will not only be "collective green spaces" in the future because their value for the inhabitants is mainly optical. Accordingly, the tenants are to be provided with separate pieces of land for their own use in addition to the green spaces provided for all. For the present, however, these are only promises which sound well in the ears of towns people jammed together in close proximity. Much

water will flow down the Rhine before a law can be passed to introduce this paradise.

For the essential problem of all housing legislation is a political one. It is the question of how to treat landed property in future. Where is the line to be drawn between general welfare and the protection of private property? How are land owners to be recompensed for their loss if it is considered indispensable for them to give up their land?

These are the two problems which must be decided before any others when the bill is discussed. There is no doubt that many a member of parliament will be placed in a conflict with his conscience. Is it possible, on the one hand, to promote the formation of private property in any form, as the German Government is doing today and, on the other hand, to make laws threatening the basic form of property, ownership of land, by expropriation laws? There will be passionate debates about these questions. But a solution will have to be found, and the sooner the better. Time is pressing, for the later the decision for a reconstruction of German cities is made, the more time and expense will be required for this reconstruction, while at the same time the discomfort of the millions living in the towns will increase.

Accordingly, it may be presumed that interest in modern town planning will spread further and further as each individual feels the insufficiency of his own town in his own life. It is to be expected that public opinion will exert a steadily increasing pressure on parliament so that the housing bill becomes law at a not too distant time. Friends of modern town planning will be aided in their aims by the fact that the present traffic chaos of the Federal Capital provides parliamentarians with a living example of the necessity of providing a legal basis for a courageous reorganisation of German towns.

Britain Solve The Servant Problem

(Continued from page 4)

Britain's New Health Service Act, local authorities are encouraged to provide. Some of our trained students have already joined these Services. They have received training in the care of children, in the art of taking responsibility and managing somebody else's home and children."

These are early days yet in the life of the Institute, but there is no doubt that with wise placing and proper conditions of employment, together with a sense of status, domestic work can be enjoyed as much as any other well chosen job. The modern domestic worker will then achieve a double dignity. Not only will she be fully trained, but

she will be a public servant of the great new plan for the organisation of health services under local authorities.

The Institute hesitates to publicise this work too much in Britain, as it does not want to raise the hopes of the many overburdened housewives who need domestic help. Inquiries for workers are more than can be met. The development of the schemes of local authorities, who are encouraged to supply domestic help under the new Health Service Act and to raise the status and standard of efficiency of the workers (a task in which the Institute is proud to co-operate), should help to solve the serious problem of the less fortunate housewife with a family.

Origin And Growth Of City Water Supply Leading To Mechanical Filters

By

D. BALASUNDARAM, I. A. S.

Commissioner, Corporation of Madras.

It was in 1872 that Madras City was first provided with piped water supply. The works relating to the storage of water such as the construction of the Thambarambakkam Anaicut on the Kottaliyar River, the upper and lower supply channels, the Cholavaram and the Red Hills lakes were constructed by the Government at their cost. The Corporation pays for the water obtained for the City Water Supply at the usual rate of Re. 1 per 1,000 cubic yards.

From 1872 to 1914 water from Red Hills was drawn through an open supply channel and let into the distribution system for supplying the city without any form of filtration or purification. The pressures obtaining on the distribution system were very low and the water supply itself was subject to frequent interruption due to various causes.

It was in 1914 that the scheme prepared by the Special Engineer, Mr. Madley was executed and brought into use by which the water from Red Hills Lake was drawn through a covered masonry conduit and filtered through slow sand filters at the Water Works and then pumped into distribution system. An overhead tank of 1.5 million gallons capacity was also provided to impart sufficient pressure on the distribution and to serve as a balancing tank. Even these improvements became insufficient in the course of time as the normal growth of population in the City was very much above all estimates prepared by Mr. Madley. Several improvements were done to the City Water Supply after 1914 such as (1) the construction of Poondi Reservoir, (2) the construction of a second conduit capable of drawing 32 million gallons per day, (3) laying of an additional 48" dia. pumping main, (4) separate trunk main for distributing water to South Madras, (5) construction of two more filtered water storage tanks of which one tank has been completed and brought into use in April 1957. The work on the other tank is in progress.

In spite of these improvements the quantity of water supplied to the city could not be increased to meet the growing needs of the City as there were not enough filters. As originally planned by Mr. Madley, 21 slow sand filters of 100 ft. x 200 ft. each capable of filtering 1 million gallons per day were to be constructed. But to start with only 14 such filter beds were put up in 1914.

Subsequently 3 more filter beds of size 130 ft. x 200 ft. were added in 1923. Out of these 17 filter beds after making due allowance for the filter beds that would be in the process of cleaning etc., only 12 to 14 filter beds will be working at a time. The maximum quantity that we could get out of these filter beds would therefore be only 14 gallons. As the number of filter beds were not increased after 1923 and the growing needs of the city had to be met the quantity that could be filtered by these filter beds were practically doubled by reducing the thickness of sand and we are now able to get about 28 million gallons of filtered water per day by increasing the rate of filtration.

When the idea of filtration was first thought of for the city nearly 50 years ago, i. e., 1906, slow sand filters were mostly in vogue and were considered as the simplest and the best suited to the City. They were also considered fool-proof in operation. It should be remembered in this connection that in the United Kingdom only slow sand filters have been in use over the last century. This kind of filtration was quite suitable for the quality of raw water that generally obtained in the United Kingdom as it was quite free from all sediment and Algae; but somehow these filters did not suit the Madras City Water Supply as the raw water in the Red Hills Lake contained a lot of dead and living algae as well organic matter in colloidal solution. It was only late in the 19th Century that mechanical filtration was generally adopted for use in water supply to the cities in the United States and it was only early in the present century that United Kingdom began to adopt this system of filtration. Before coming to the question of rapid filters I should like to clarify the difference between slow sand and mechanical filters.

In slow sand filters the river water is allowed to pass at a specified rate of (4" vertical) or 2 gallons per square ft. of filter area per hour. Once the raw water begins to flow through the sand layer, a thin layer of slimy deposit is formed on the surface of the sand which effectively prevents the passing of bacteria and similar impurities through filters. By this process the water that is filtered through slow sand filters is rid of all the impurities contained in it and can be considered quite safe and pure for drinking purposes. But if the raw water is heavily loaded with sediment and dead or living algae as in Madras, the filter beds get choked up very quickly and their proper functioning

is impeded. Besides this, Madras City water contains lot of organic matter and impurities in colloidal suspension which cannot be effectively filtered through slow sand filters. Further, in the case of slow sand filters after the filter beds work for some time and it gets choked up, the sand has to be removed by manual labour taken outside, allowed to dry and then replaced on the filter bed after thorough cleaning through sand washers. This process of cleaning the sand in each filter bed normally takes about 15 days and assuming that each filter bed comes for cleaning about 8 times in a year, each filter bed will be out of action for nearly 120 days in a year.

In the mechanical filters the raw water is first treated with a small dose of alum about 1 grain per gallon and then allowed to pass through what are called sedimentation tanks or clarifiers. The alum that is added to the water produces a sort of floc which carries down all the suspended colloidal impurities with it to the bottom of the sedimentation tank and it also takes nearly 4 hours for the water to enter, pass through and come out of the clarifying tanks. This process of sedimentation and clarification removes the major portion of the impurities in the water and it is much easier for the filters to deal with the water and effectively filter it. The filtering media in rapid sand filters is also about 30" of fine sand but because the water has been previously treated with alum and sedimented and it will be able to pass through filters at a much rapid rate say, 40 to 50 times the normal rate obtaining in the ordinary slow sand filters. Each square foot area of the mechanical filter bed can therefore filter about 100 gallons per hour as against 2 gallons only in slow sand filters. Thus the area required for a mechanical filter is very much smaller than that of a slow sand filter. In the mechanical filter cleaning is effected by sending compressed air and pressure water side by side from below the sand layer so that the dirty sand gets agitated and washed thoroughly. The process of cleaning in the mechanical filter takes only about 10 minutes and the frequency of cleaning is approximately once in 24 hours. While a slow sand filter works for a long period of nearly a month without need for cleaning, the mechanical filter has to be cleaned more often as a larger quantity of water passes through the same area of filter surface. But the time taken for cleaning is very little and the output of the filter is not at all affected because of the period it takes to clean the filter. These filters are called mechanical because the cleaning is done by mechanical agitation of the sand by pressure water and compressed air which is let through a system of pipe grid embedded under the layers of the filter beds. They are also called Rapid Gravity Filters because of the higher rate of flow of water through it as compared to the slow sand filters.

As stated already these 14 slow sand filters were

installed in 1914, 3 more were added in 1923. From the time of the installation of these slow sand filters, say even in 1917 it was found that the slow sand filters could not adequately deal with the quality of water obtaining in the Red Hills Lake which varies from season to season. There were also frequent complaints of smell of Hydrogen Sulphide in the filtered water as filtered by these slow sand filters and distributed to the City. The Government and various expert Committees have gone in to the question of suitability of these slow sand filters for Madras City Water Supply and it was finally decided in 1938 that only Rapid Mechanical Filtration with pre-treatment by alum was the best method of dealing with Red Hills water effectively. Though an estimate for installation of mechanical filters of 32 million gallons per day capacity was prepared in 1938, Government could not allow us to proceed with the work as the Second World War was then going on. It was only after the close of the war that Corporation resumed further progress on various water supply schemes such as the construction of the Second Conduit, the laying of the trunk main for South Madras and the laying of the 2nd 48" pumping main.

The question of improving the filtration was also taken up in earnest. As the requirements of the City had grown by this time, the capacity of mechanical filters required for the City had gone up to nearly 40 million gallons per day. In 1951 the Corporation had prepared the necessary plans and estimates amounting to nearly Rs. 75 lakhs and submitted the same to Government. The Government after considering the matter for a long time finally decided and wanted the Corporation to submit an estimate for a pilot Mechanical Filter Plant of 10 million gallons capacity per day in the first instance. The plans and estimates for this amounting to Rs. 25.75 lakhs were duly sanctioned by the Government in November 1954. On the basis of this estimate tenders were invited and the contract of constructing the necessary buildings required for the filter plant was awarded to Messrs. Gannon Dunkerly & Co., Ltd. at a cost of nearly Rs. 11.09 lakhs. The contract for the installation of the necessary filter plant and equipment was given to Messrs. Paterson Engineering Co., Ltd., Calcutta at a total cost of Rs. 10.93 lakhs through their local agents Messrs. South Indian Export Co., Ltd., Madras.

Messrs. Gannon Dunkerly & Co., Ltd., have duly started the work of construction. The main building connected with the mechanical filtration scheme are as described below.

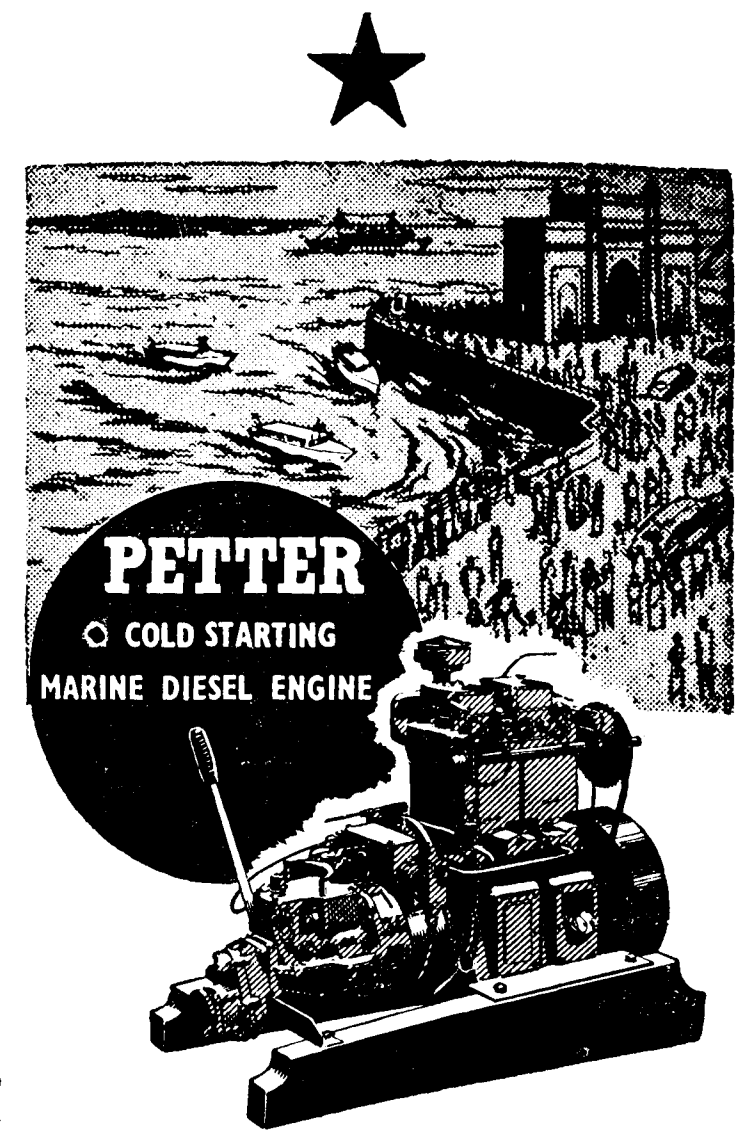
1. A pump house for pumping the raw water up to a head of about 25 ft to raise the raw water from the conduit to the clarifying tanks. There will also be a masonry pump of 1,400 gallons capacity situated near the pump house. The raw water that is pumped will go through a 24" Cast

Iron Pumping Main up to the chemical house where it enters what is called a stilling chamber.

2. The chemical house itself is a separate structure little bit away from the pump house with provision for storing the alum and other chemicals that may be required for dosing the water. There will also be two tanks each of 4200 gallons capacity in the first floor of the chemical house for mixing the alum and forming into solution. The alum solution in the required proportion depending on the quality of the raw water will then be added to the raw water from this chemical house. After the chemicals are added, to ensure the proper mixing is done an electric motor is used with necessary paddles to agitate the water and see that it is properly mixed. This is called a flash mixture.

3. After the chemicals are properly mixed with it in the flash mixture the raw water enters the central chamber of two circular clarifiers. Each of the clarifier is 100 ft in diameter and about 20 ft deep in the middle and is capable of dealing with 5 million gallons of raw water per day. In the Central Chamber of these clarifiers there are what are called Flocculators, viz slow moving paddles rotated by electric motors which gently stir the water. This gentle stirring of the water to which alum has been added enabling the quick formation of floc which attracts all the organic and suspended impurities like algae in the raw water. The water i.e. thus flocculated moves slowly towards the circumference of the clarifier and flows in an upward direction from the centre towards the outer circumference of the clarifying tanks. Thus by the time the water reaches the outer periphery of the clarifier all the floc formed in the water together with the impurities settles in the bottom of the tank and only clear water emerges from it. There is a separate arrangement for automatically storing and letting out the sediment that settles at the bottom.

4. The clear water from the clarifiers flows through a system of pipes to the 6 filter beds which are situated inside the main filter house. The filtering area of each filter bed is about 800 sq. ft and all the 6 filter beds together are capable of filtering 10 million gallons per day. There are peristaltic pumps to pump fresh filtered water into an overhead tank of 75,000 gallons capacity which will be located on the roof of filter house. This overhead tank will provide sufficient water for cleaning the filter beds which is done for about 10 minutes after every run of 24 hours as already stated earlier. The necessary pumps for pumping the compressed air, together with the receivers of 300 cubic feet capacity are also situated in the filter house. The cleaning of the mechanical filter is done



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merely by opening and closing certain valves and allowing pressure water and compressed air to bubble through the sand layers. In the plant that is being installed in Madras the operation of opening the closing of valves for cleaning purposes will be done by hydraulic pressure by merely pressing a button or operating some levers. There will also be separate gauges and indicators for each filter bed located in a panel similar to an electric switch board panel where the whole process of working of each filter bed and its cleaning operation could be seen and watched.

The Scheme for the installation of the of mechanical filters was inaugurated by our Reverend President Dr. Rajendra Prasad in November 1955. The State Government has also agreed to finance the scheme half as loan and half as grant. It is also understood that the Central Government would be giving the necessary loan required by the State Government for the above purpose.

By using these new filter only 10 million gallons of water would be efficiently filtered by mechanical filtered each day and the remaining quantity say 25 million gallons would still be inefficiently filtered only through the existing slow sand filters. This is not however satisfactory state of affairs. These slow sand filters installed in 1914 have served their full life and will have to be scrapped in due course. The Corporation has to take urgent steps for the installation of mechanical filters for a further quantity of 30 millions per day that may be required for the immediate needs of the city. This scheme which estimated to cost about Rs. 70 lakhs has been included in the Second Five year Plan and I expect the scheme will be duly taken up and completed before the close of the Second Five Year Plan period.

How Woman Mayor 'Housekeeps! U.S. Town

(Continued from page 10)

dinner and not available for visits with friends, "Mrs. Potter says.

"It's his turn to be patient with me now, and he is. He has encouraged me a lot. The whole family has. I would not have entered public service if they hadn't."

Mrs. Potter is currently busy training the Village Manager whom Mr. Kisco citizens recently voted to employ. As administrative assistant to the Mayor and the Village Trustees, it is anticipated that he will relieve a great deal of the pressure on them. "His position is non-political and his function is to carry out the policies of the elected officials," the Mayor explains.

This trim, gray-housewife wears her title of "Your

Honor" with considerable dignity...and magnifies the effect by limiting her "working clothes" to tailored suits or skirts and blouses. She claims that the speechmaking required in her job is one of the most difficult problems she has to face. But despite her qualms, she is much in demand as a speaker.

Her mayoralty duties have not completely ruled out Betty Potter's other civic activities. She joins a corps of volunteer drivers once a week to transport senior citizens to a Community Center program. She says she has never had time, nor the inclination for a hobby. "My fun has been my civic work," she says.

"The opportunities for women in politics are unlimited," according to this public official, "and the responsibilities are those that an intelligent woman would enjoy carrying on because they are closely allied to health, safety and welfare. These are subjects," she points out, "with which women are familiar on the domestic front."

Public reaction when she was first considered as a mayoral candidate was surprisingly mild, Mrs. Potter recalls. "Before I was asked to run, a telephone poll was taken. Voters were asked: 'How would you feel about a woman mayor?' The invariable answer was: 'Depends on who it is.'"

Mayor Potter is now at the mid-way point in her first two-year term.

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PAROCHIAL SYSTEM IN BASIS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN U.K.

By

(Ernest Atkinson well-known parliamentary correspondent)

While the British Parliament is discussing local government in England and Wales and reshaping the relations between Whitehall and the bigger local authorities, it is agreeable to turn to the smallest units of local government. In them - the parishes - the whole business of local government began.

The beginnings of the parochial system were, of course, ecclesiastical. Through the years the system grew, and was complete in the 14th century. The powers of the parishes grew chiefly through the responsibility, benevolent, in principle, that came upon them for the care of the poor. To discharge that, they levied compulsory rates on householders. That was the foundation of their political importance.

Nowadays, the care of the poor is a national responsibility and, in the main, a charge on national taxation. But rates are levied for the great variety of services that the citizen now requires to be carried out communally.

In 1623 came the poor Law, under which the parish was decisively acknowledged as the normal unit of administration in England. The parishes had their main experience of handling public money in the duties put upon them by the king or by Act of parliament for relieving the circumstances of the aged and, if necessary, providing cottages for them "on the heath" (unenclosed lands); for apprenticing poor children to trades; and for setting the able-bodied poor to work, a duty that in various ways provided some public benefits.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There come times when the parishes found these duties, and the money they cost, a heavy burden. For instance, people without work, or otherwise discontented, migrated. In parishes where there was no shortage of labour one can imagine the ratepayers saying, "charity begins at home".

So laws were passed which enabled the parishes to send people who could not find the then formidable sum of £10 a year for rent, or who could not give security against ever being a charge on the parish, back home again - or, at any rate, to expel them from the parishes in which they

had arrived. In fact, there was an economic edge - as, indeed, there still is - to the whole business of local government.

There are now about 7,500 parishes in England and Wales, and though their powers are small they have good, interesting work to do. Under the parish councils Act passed earlier this year, for example, the work has been extended to cover such duties as local public lighting, burial grounds, charities, and so on. Small things, perhaps, but truly the stuff of local government.

The great complaint about government - local or national - in these modern times is that it is impersonal, that the scope of services called for by the populace requires professional management, and that even elected councillors tend to be concerned more with the administrative machine than with the public it serves.

NEW TREND

One may not be too imaginative in detecting a new tendency. At the lower, more modest end, there are the parish councils, with half-a-score members each, but faithfully discharging some functions of local government. If certain perceptible trends continue, they may have more committed to them.

At the higher end of the scale, the Government has promoted a Bill which, it says, is intended to give more responsibility to the local authorities. This Bill is, of course, concerned with administration for above the parish-council level. But, like the revived parish councils, it is founded on an element of great strength in English public life - the conception of neighbourliness, of communal responsibility, of conducting local life, as far as may be, independently of governance from the centre.

The trend now is to return considerable functions of government to the local authorities from the centre. People talk now and again, in good-humoured scorn, of "parish-pump politics". But they matter. And the parish councils, where issues affecting the life of small communities are dealt with, are no insignificant part of the democratic machine.



Women's College trains home-makers

At the Nursery and Childcare section of the Home Science Department of the Maharani's College, Bangalore, Miss Pongaya Selvi Das (extreme right) TCM educational exchange participant, leads the students in the various chores. Picture shows the students preparing a meal for the nursery school children.

Women's College Trains Home-Maker by the Hundreds

by Varkey Cherian

Bangalore—Tiny tots romp and skip under lush 'jamoun' foliage in a busy section of this sylvan city, not-so-long ago women convicts were housed.

Also, young women student Maharani's College, who assume the role of guardian angels of these children, lose themselves in the pleasant chores of home-making and childcare in the adjacent buildings, where once some of their unfortunate sisters were confined.

The conversion of the women's section of the Bangalore Central Jail into the nursery and childcare section of the Institute of Home Science, attached to the Maharani's College, Bangalore, is perhaps symbolic of the new status of women.

Be that as it may. The acquisition of the jail premises was largely through the efforts of a leading woman educator, Dr. B. Sushela Lingaiah, Principal of Home Science and Professor of the Maharani's College, Bangalore.

Started in 1951, the Home Science Department, training women students for a four-year degree in course nutrition, home economic, home making and allied subjects, was soon faced with the challenge of considerably increasing teaching facilities to keep up with the demand for seats and improvements in curriculum.

Dr. Lingaiah set about this task of expansion with missionary zest, for she was averse to turning

down any competent student. With the result that admissions have soared from 50, in the first year, to 230 this year. This is something of a record for a course of this nature.

The broadbased curriculum ensures for these women more than an academic degree. It seeks to equip them for life.

For instance, Dr. Lingaiah explained to the writer while showing him the nursery section where the students learn childcare, the art and science of taking care of pre-school children does not come naturally to any one, not even to women.

Dr. Lingaiah took over the Home Science Department in 1953 from its founding head, Mrs. P. C. Reddy, a graduate of Syracuse University in New York State. By way of preparation, Professor Lingaiah spent four years in the Michigan State University, one of the oldest land grant universities in U.S., taking M.A. and Ph. D. degrees in foods and nutrition.

The Home Science Department received fillip in 1955 with the arrival of Dr. Mary Elizabeth Keister as visiting professor for one year under the Inter-University Contracts program of the United States Technical Cooperation Mission to India.

An expert on childcare and development, Dr. Keister collaborated with Dr. Lingaiah to establish the nursery

school to serve as a laboratory for Home Science students. Together, they converted the dismal prison house for women into a haven for young women and their little wards.

Also, Dr. Keister helped procure much-needed scientific and household equipment for the department such as ovens, washing machines, fridges, microscopes, calorimeters, and basal metabolism apparatus. And approximately half the Home Science Library is also among the gifts to the Maharani's College, at a total cost of Rs. 80,000 to the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission.

Showing the writer the new teaching tools and equipment, Dr. Lingaiah said with conviction: "It has given a spurt to the department and we really are grateful for this help."

Perhaps even more significant for the development of the department are the two staff members who were afforded facilities for a year's higher training at the University of Tennessee. They had been Dr. Keister's assistants in the Home Science Department during her sojourn. The young women, Miss Pongaya Selvi Das and Miss Achala Suvarna, are at present back at Bangalore, after taking an M.A. degree each in their respective fields: Child Development, and Textile, Clothing and Related Arts.

Able leading the Home Science students in their subjects of specialization, these Indian counterparts of the American

professor are among the first fruits of this educational exchange program of the U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission to India.

In the wake of these advance come a windfall to the extent of a lakh of rupees for a new building to house the Institute of Home Science through the munificence of an enlightened entrepreneur, Mr. Harbhagwandas Dhanoomal. The new structure is presently getting its finishing touches prior to the use of its classrooms and laboratories by the Home Science students, who number about 400.

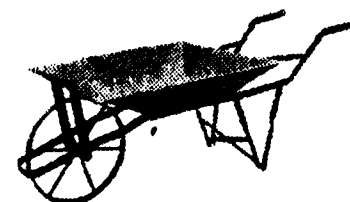
Coal Dust and T. B.

For years there has been a vague idea that there might be something connected with the qualities in coal-dust to account for the fact that tuberculosis is very rare among coal-miners.

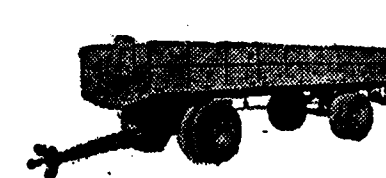
But the idea drifted on more as superstition than fact until Welsh Professor S. L. Cummins, tried out the theory on rabbits. After spraying anthracite dust into the lungs of one group of rabbits and keeping another "control" group free of the dust, he injected both groups with a lethal dose of T. B. germs.

None of the rabbits who had not been coal-dusted survived; of the other group nearly all outgrew the disease and the few that did die of it took a year or so to do so.

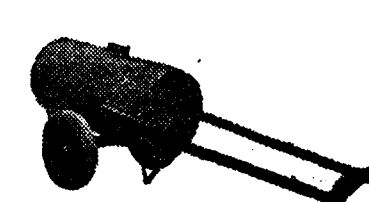
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THE FUTURE OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MADRAS

By

K. S. Ramaswami Sastri

We are lately to think to-day that local self-Government is an achievement of the democratic genius of the west. But that is not a correct view. Each rural village community was a miniature republic which knew the art of self-government well. Sri Radhakumud Mukerji says in his *Local Self Government in Ancient India* that India had complete local autonomy in ancient and medieval times. The *Marques of Crew* says in his foreword to that book "India, as Dr Mookerji reminds us enjoyed from the earliest dawn of her history a singularly complete system of local government."

If we study the local self-government in the Mauryan Empire, we find that the city of Pataliputra (Patna) was governed by 80 Municipal commissioners who formed themselves into six committees of five each.

The first committee looked after the industrial arts. The second committee attended to the entertainment of foreigners. The third committee inquired into births and deaths and collected vital statistics. The fourth committee superintended trade and commerce. The fifth committee supervised manufactured articles which they sold by public notice. The sixth and the last committee collected 1/10 of the prices of articles of food. From a study of the inscriptions of Asoka we learn that parks, hospitals, rest houses, schools and roads as also medicinal herbs and plants received that attention of the Mauryan administration. We learn also that on the roads banyan trees and mango trees were planted affording shade to cattle and men. Wells were dug and water sheds were built. There were also exhibitions and theatrical entertainments.

The Uttaramerur inscription in the Chinglepet District shows how the village panchayats was democratic in its composition and functioning. Decisions about rural self-government were taken by general consent and there were no group battles or majority and minority tussles.

The Indian Constitution is clear about the imperativeness of the proper functioning of the village panchayats article 40 says "The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government".

It is felt all over the world that the local self-governing institutions are the real nurseries of national democracy.

Edmund Burke says: "A nation may establish a system of free government but it cannot have the spirit of liberty without Municipal Government"

The Madras Government abolished Taluk Boards before and is now abolishing the District Boards. Hereafter we shall have only Municipalities and village panchayats. This is, no doubt, a desirable change. But the State should not central power too much and must not lessen local autonomy.

In the city of Madras there is a move in the Corporation to raise the house-tax percentage from 20% to 25%. This is not a wise move as the house-tax with the cases such as education cess, library cess etc is already high. It will be better for the Corporation to ask for the imposition of a terminal tax. The State abolished tolls and has taken the motor vehicle tax for itself. The Corporation ought to press for the State's paying the same untold or at least a major portion of it. In other countries the Corporation runs

theatres and cinemas and gets an income that way.

I cannot include this article better than by quoting the closing passage in Dr Mookerji's monumental and human book:

"This pluralism of the group as an intermediate body between the State and the individual units, has been the most characteristic feature of Indian polity through the ages, and indicates the lines on which Indian political development should proceed. The path of this political development should be in the direction of "incorporating" more and more the life of the individual and the general life of the State personality into the varied forms of social grouping" (M.O. Follet). It is for statesmanship to consider how it should utilise these traditional and historic advances towards a democratic polity as materials for the political experiments and constructions of the future"

Mr.M.P. Follet who has been referred to above says in his recent book on the New State : Organization the solution of popular government : "One of the characteristics of present political theory is its reaction against the State, and a salient political fact to-day is the increasing amount and power of group will trade unions, professional societies, citizen's leagues, neighbourhood associations etc, Group study of the group process..... shows us that politics cannot be founded on representative or electoral methods but must rest on vital modes of associations" we must hence start rate-payers' associations, citizen's leagues etc., to Watch the work of the local self-government institutions and give them practical advice and constructive criticism.

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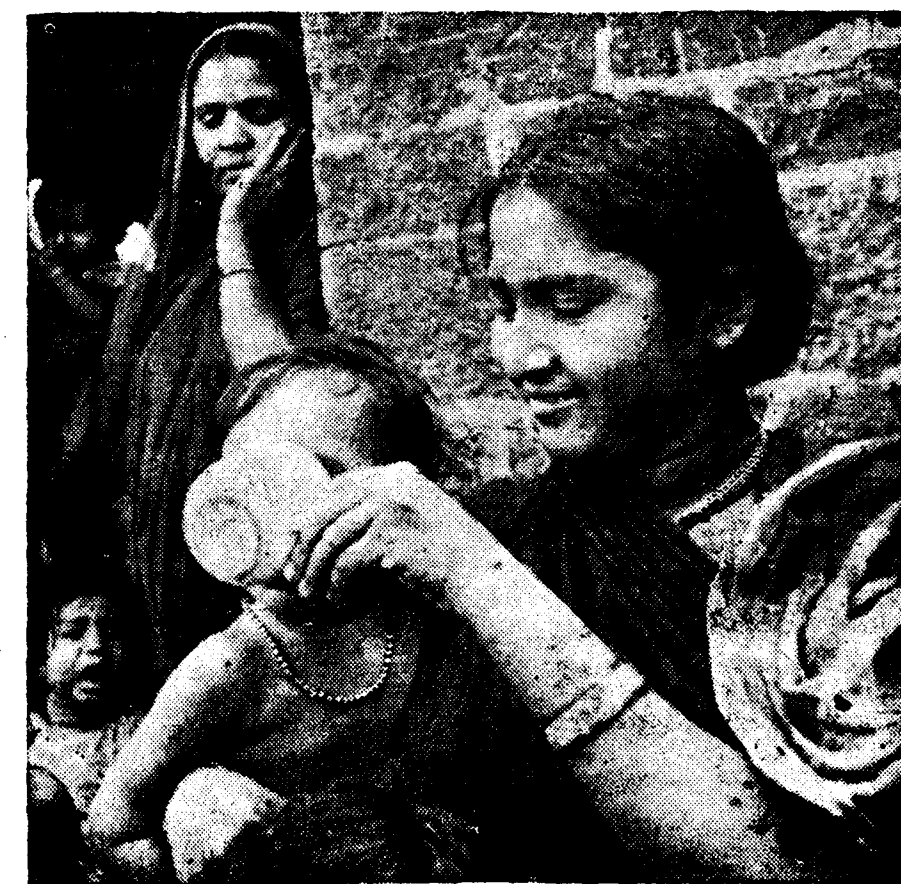
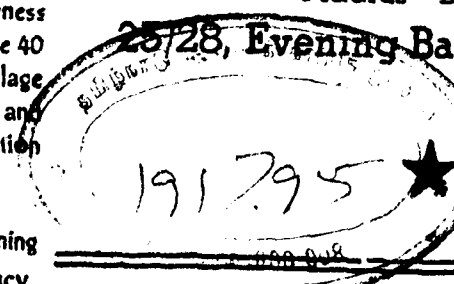
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R P C

Nine Rules

Nine rules for a long life have been drawn up by doctors from seven nations who attended a "Longevity Congress" sometime ago at Vittel in France. Here they are:—

1 — Everyone reaching the age of 50, even if they feel well should have their hearts examined by a specialist.

2 — Everyone should be examined by a doctor six months after recovering from any serious illness, even if they feel perfectly well make sure the illness, has not left them with Possible concealed ill-effects, such as cancer.

3 — Have a good family doctor and have entire confidence in him, particularly if he has known you since your birth. His word should be accepted first and the "influence of state medicine should merely be a complement to the family doctor."

4 — Mental happiness is one of the biggest factors in longevity. It has been found that generously inclined people live longer than other persons and that people with children and grand-children who are always trying to help their descendants tend to live longer than other persons.

5 — If you have been used to working hard all your life up to the age of 50, try to continue to work in your later years. But make sure before hand that your occupation is suited to your capacity.

6 — Don't rely on last-minute efforts to prolong your life. It is necessary to build the foundations of longevity when you are young.

7 — Don't attach importance to stories claiming that you can live longer than other people if you have a "change of air."

8 — Don't believe the old saying that because many members of your family have lived to a great age you also are certain to live to a great age.

9 — It is worth while to pay attention to the way of living and thinking of certain Oriental peoples. The oriental ideas of seeking and longevity and happiness by contemplating of nature in solitude and by achieving serenity of outlook warrant close investigation by Western peoples.

FOR A LONG LIFE