

Free Eye Clinic at Kadiri

by

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The following is a short report of the free Eye Clinic conducted by the Mary Lott Lyles Hospital, Madanapalle. The purpose of presenting this report is to stimulate interest in the readers.

Kadiri is a place fifty miles from here. As it is a very good centre having many villages nearby, we selected this place for the second time. A spacious High School building was placed at our disposal.

The staff and students started making dressings *i.e.*, sponges, swabs, pads etc. from the beginning of March. Mr. John, our operating room supervisor, gave a lot of his free time for this work, Madanapalle Christian Women's Organization also assisted. Special orders went to different firms for instruments, bandages, adhesive plaster etc. Earthen plates and tumblers were specially made to order for patients. Palm mats were bought for patients to lie on.

Dr. Gideon, the Medical Superintendent and eye specialist, and I went twice to inspect the place and make arrangements. Rev. K. Jacob, the local church Minister, was of great help and took charge of all arrangements.

At last came the long expected day. A lorry came along at 12 noon to take the luggage and the men members of the staff. As soon as we arrived everybody set to work and we prepared the rooms for various purposes. One of the class rooms was converted into operating room. By night fall patients started coming in from far and near and by next morning a big crowd had assembled.

The women members of the staff came in our hospital car the next day. There were altogether thirty people working in the camp. Patients were made to stand in line without any distinction

and Dr. Gideon examined all the patients. There were about 3,500 to 4,000 patients examined and treated. Dr. Gideon operated upon 205 patients.

I am outlining our work which might be interesting to people in such work.

We set up three operating tables in one row and had three sets of equipment to work with. Dr. Gideon had three assistants and two 'scrub' nurses. I was blocking the eye and giving sub-conjunctival adrenalin; one doctor irrigated the eye and put in a rectus suture after drapping and the fixing the speculum. Dr. Gideon operated and Mr. John assisted him; in this way the work went on like clock work. We operated for five days and the average time spent for each operation was 3 minutes and 7 seconds. The women members of the staff returned to hospital and only men nurses remained to look after the patients.

Drsesings were done daily and the usual post-operative care was given. There were in all 168 patients getting free diet. They got *conjee* for the first few days and then rice and curry.

Fifty pairs of glasses were given free to very poor people. One old lady, who was half naked, was clothed. The last scenes were of mixed joy and sorrow; joy because they were able to walk back without any guide to lead them, and sorrow because we had to part with them.

Friends in India and abroad strengthened us by their prayers. A few sent some gifts. Some came and visited us. To all those go our deep appreciation and heart felt thanks. We have very limited financial resources and yet God helps us wonderfully in our endeavour to reach the poor with medical help.