

COMPLETE DEDICATION OF THE WILLIS F. PIERCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, MADURA

By Mr. M. GANAPATHY, Registered Nurse and Compounder.

On the 15th August 1934, the 'A' block was opened by Sir Mohamed Usman who was then the acting Governor of Madras.

On the 15th December 1937 the complete dedication was celebrated. The Rev. Dr. J. J. Banninga, Principal of the Union Theological Seminary, Pasumalai, presided over the function. The Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Public Health of Madras Government and other guests were welcomed by Dr. E. W. Wilder, Medical Officer in charge of this hospital. The Chairman, Minister and the portrait of Dr. Willis F. Pierce, the greatest donor were garlanded. Most of the leading citizens of Madura and its surroundings were invited for the function and they attended. There was a great gathering.

Dr. E. W. Wilder read a statement containing the history of the old Albert Victor Hospital, plan for a new hospital; how the many difficulties were encountered and were overcome; and thanking the donors and healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Minister delivered a speech in the opening sunny weather for about 20 minutes regarding this hospital in the Madura city, and its usefulness, economical construction and thanking the donors and the American Mission for its various activities in our land.

Owing to unavoidable circumstances Mr. R. Jackson, the chief architect who was asked to present the key to the Minister for the formal opening, was not able to be present in time.

So on behalf of the architect, Dr. H. S. Thomas, Medical Officer of this hospital presented the key to the Hon'ble Minister who accepted it with thanks and declared the hospital officially open (the remaining blocks B, C, and D) at about 10 a.m. after a prayer of dedication by the Rev. R. K. Devadason, hospital chaplain.

The hospital authorities went round the hospital with the Minister and other guests. Every one felt very glad and praised God for the New Model Hospital they had with the necessary equipment and efficient staff.

PLAN

This hospital is situated in the East Veli Street facing west. It is a two-storied square building with imposing coloured lofty walls and spacious verandahs constructed with sanitary requirements. The doors and windows have glass panes. Inside it is full of electric fittings. On closer observation inside the premises we come across bath-rooms, flush-out latrines, electric fans, and telephone. Outside the premises there is a large car park and mortuary to the side of the hospital. Fresh air and healthy breezes prevail everywhere. The building is divided into 4 blocks as A, B, C, and D, in each of which there is a verandah, balcony, sanitary fittings and utility rooms. One special feature in the construction is the concealed wiring in the electric fittings. The electric dome lights have reverse reflectors which give the full benefit of lighting but keep out the glare from the eyes of the hospital inmates. There is an electric lift too.

A BLOCK

Ground Floor.—X-Ray Department.

First Floor.—Operation Theatre.

Second Floor.—Special wards for Europeans and Westernised Indians (containing only rooms).

B BLOCK

Ground Floor.—Observation, and Convalescent cases.
First Floor.—Surgical Wards.
Second Floor.—Medical Wards.

In each floor there are two wards with 20 free beds separated by a ward kitchen in the centre. Each floor possesses a linen room also.

C BLOCK

Ground Floor.—Out-Patient Department—waiting hall, three consulting rooms, out-patient dressing room and operation theatre, dark room, dispensary, hospital, chaplain's room, Nursing Superintendent's office and general store.
First Floor.—Laboratory, drug room, Medical Officers' offices, clerical branch, lecture hall for students, library and record room.
Second Floor.—Tuberculosis pavilion with 10 free beds and 2 private rooms for paying patients constructed with sanitary fittings and linen rooms.

D BLOCK.

This block is also constructed with three floors in which there are sanitary fittings and linen rooms, etc., similar to the other blocks. It contains 29 rooms (for paying patients) excluding a kitchen in each floor. Each room is well furnished with modern and valuable furniture.

Since the official opening by the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan the hospital has been very busy and at present the wards are full.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON DIABETES MELLITUS

By Mr. CHRISTODAS MOSES, Student Nurse, American Mission Hospital, Miraj, S.M.C.

1. What is Diabetes?

Diabetes Mellitus is a disease of metabolism characterized by the presence of sugar in the urine 'varying from a trace to 2 lbs. in 24 hours'¹ and the presence of an excess of sugar in the blood. The percentage of sugar in the urine seldom amounts to as much as 10 per cent. This is a disease common in middle life, but unusual in the young and rare in children. It seldom occurs in persons under forty unless they are fat.

2. What is the cause of diabetes?

Diabetes Mellitus is caused by the lack of secretion of a certain hormone by the pancreas. This may result gradually from the disease of the gland which sometimes is associated with chronic gall-bladder disease, from obesity or due to constant strain on the pancreas, from an overbalanced carbohydrate diet, from arterio-sclerosis, from complicating diseases of the thyroid or pituitary gland.

3. What changes take place in the pancreas in diabetes?

The disease process is principally a functional disturbance of the islands of Langerhans of the pancreas. As a result, the secretion of insulin is diminished and sugars and fats are not properly broken down; glucose accumulates in the blood and when the concentration is more than 0.2 per cent. the excess is usually eliminated in the urine.

4. How can you help to prevent the development of diabetes in children and adults who have a tendency and hereditary disposition towards this disease?

¹ *Diabetic Manual*. By Dr. Joselin, ch. IV, p. 36.