

THE WILBUR PAUL GRAFF BABY FOLD.

By Miss GRIFFIN, KOLAR.

THE Kolar Baby Fold, which is also known as the Wilbur Paul Graff Baby Fold (in memory of the donor's husband), is situated in Kolar Town about 40 miles northeast, by a good motor road from Bangalore.

It was dedicated nearly three years ago by the Methodist Episcopal Mission. The institution is an outgrowth of the Ellen Thoburn Cowen Memorial Hospital because of the necessity of finding a place for the babies left on their hands by patients who did not want their babies. And there were always babies whose mothers had died or whose father had died and for whom there was no support.

At first these babies were cared for in the hospital but there were soon so many that there was no place to care for them in the hospital and beside it was not a good place for well babies.

The great need for such a place as a Baby Fold was felt by Miss Griffin, who was then Nursing Superintendent and also by Dr. Lewis who was then superintendent of the hospital. They were both very fond of children, especially Miss Griffin, and the need for such a place weighed heavily on their hearts.

In 1919 Miss Griffin returned to America for furlough and was granted the privilege of raising the money for the Baby Fold. This money was gladly given by Mrs. Wilbur Paul Graff of Blairsville Penn., U. S. A. in memory of her husband.

Much thought was put in the planning of the building which contains an office, two large dormitories (which are exceptionally well ventilated), a kindergarten room and a good-sized play room (which because of many windows is called the Sunshine room). Here the children play in the early morning and on rainy days. There is also a small treatment and medicine room, a sewing room, a sick room, store rooms, kitchen, bath room, and isolation rooms with bathrooms attached. There is also a complete apartment for the superintendent or the Aunty as she is called. This consists of a living room, dining room, bed room, dressing room, bath room, kitchen, wood and supply store rooms.

Much thought was put on lighting and ventilation of the whole building. At the present there are 44 babies in the Baby Fold, ranging from a few months to five and a half years old.

The staff consists of an assistant who has had some medical training and who looks after the matron's work and relieves the nurse when off duty; a nurse who looks after the nursing part and also supervises the nurse girls; and nine nurse girls. One of the girls who is especially bright and who has studied through the fifth standard looks after the tiny

babies' diets and any special diet. One girl who has passed her lower secondary examination teaches Kanarese in the kindergarten for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. She also does the mending, sews on buttons and does a part of the making of the babies' clothes. Two girls are on night duty with the children and the others care for them in the day time. All of the nurse girls but one have some education. Three of the girls are rather young widows and two are married, coming in each morning.

The superintending missionary does the general supervising, looks after accounts and the buying, and teaches kindergarten in English for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon.

Beside the staff is a cook and her helper, two cleaning women, a coachman, a water carrier and a sweeper.

When I speak of the coachman it reminds me that the children love to go riding in the carriage behind our faithful old horse. They are very observant and chatter away about every thing they see.

They know the names of eleven commonly seen birds. They have learned these from pictures in the kindergarten room. They are very much interested in birds and always come running to tell me if they see one near their playground. They also love flowers and know the names of many. They also have a little flower garden at present in which they planted the flowers themselves. They are interested in watching the plants grow and there will be great excitement when the flowers appear.

The children love to go "hiking" as they call the little walks which we sometimes take outside the compound.

Our little folk in the Baby Fold are just like the little folk in the homeland. The little girls love dolls and they have great fun playing house. The boys are very fond of kites and balls. All of the children are fond of looking at pictures. Just now the larger children are looking forward to Christmas with a great deal of anticipation. At that time they always have tree with candles and trimmings and a program in the evening.

Now I will describe to you the routine of a typical day.

The children go to bed at six but do not usually settle down to sleep until about 7 o'clock. At 6-30 the *akkas*, or big sisters as the nurse maids are called, have their supper and sometimes there is only one *akka* left on to watch the children. At this time the youngsters especially the boys take the opportunity to have a good romp until the *akka* comes and gets them settled down again.

They have their chota at 6-30 in the morning. This consists of a bun which has been sliced and toasted hard, for we feel the chewing on the hard bread is good for their teeth. They also have conji which is made up of equal parts of ragi conji and milk and brown sugar added. The quantity of sugar is one dram to eight ounces of conji and milk.

At 7 is morning prayers. Each *akka* taking her turn in leading except on Sunday and Saturday prayers which the aunty leads.

After prayers comes the bath time when every one gets a bath, except on Sunday mornings. At their bath time they are each one daily examined for eruptions, etc. They also wash their teeth with charcoal at this time or have them washed.

At 9 o'clock the smaller children and any others who need special nourishment get eight ounces of *conji* and milk. The other children get butter milk at this time if we can obtain it.

At 11 o'clock those over a year old get rice and curry. This contains no chillies but contains *ragi* and two vegetables such as greens, pumpkin, brinjals, french beans, sweet or Irish potatoes. These vegetables are first boiled and then rolled fine on the *massala* stone. When the rice is nearly done the *ragi* flour and the two mashed vegetables are mixed with the boiled rice. The proportion of *ragi* and rice are one and one-fourth seers of rice to three-fourths seers of *ragi* flour. Each child also gets a plantain. The smaller children's plantain is mashed for them. Each child also gets about a tablespoon of peanut butter with their rice and curry.

At 3 in the afternoon the undernourished children again get *conji* and milk and the other children get lime-juice mixed with water and sugar.

At 5 P.M., the children get rice boiled with *ragi* flour and sugar mixed. The proportion of the rice and *ragi* being the same as in the *conji*. Six ounces of milk are served to each child with this.

In between these food times that I have mentioned comes the class time and the other times they are out of doors playing in the sand, swinging or playing with a few strong toys that they possess. The *akkas* are encouraged to enter into the play with the children and there are two at least who are expected to always be with the children during play time.

Once a month we have a birthday party and each child who has a birthday party that month gets a gift of a small toy. There are cookies for each child and also a lighted candle burning for each birthday child. The children enjoy these "Happy Birthdays" as they call them very much.

We keep children only until they are six years old.

We take orphans and boarders into the Baby Fold, the boarders fees being determined with reference to the salary, etc. of the parent or guardians.

All other expenses are met by a certain amount contributed by the mission and by donation from America, also some from England and a very small amount from India. Our income is not adequate and we would be very happy and thankful if the Indian people themselves and others in this country would help support this worthwhile institution by their prayers and by gifts.