

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF SCUDDER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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Ranipet is a town in the North Arcot District, situated on the North bank of Palar river in 12.9487° N latitude and longitude 79.3190° E. Ranipet is 26 kilometers from Vellore and it is situated in the Madras – Bangalore National High Way. It is the head quarters of the Ranipet Revenue Division. Ranipet Municipality was constituted in 1959 as a third grade Municipality and then upgraded as a second grade municipality in 1978. The population of this town is thirty five thousands.

Ranipet has many big organizations like Scudder Memorial Hospital, IVP, E.I.D. Parry Limited and Apollo Tubes. Of these Scudder Memorial Hospital which serves to the Medical needs of the areas, needs of the areas, needs special mention and this rematch work is to high light the growth and contribution of that Hospital.

“Every human being the right for life and health” The 1948 UN Universal declaration of Human Rights thus proclaims. Everyone has the right to a standard of living, adequate for the health and well being of himself and of his family” (ART.25) and the preamble to the world health organization constitution states. The enjoyment of the highest attainable, standard of health is one of the funds mental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political, belief, economic or social condition”.

While the basic health services remain in assessable more than two-thirds of humanity, millions of poor people die of easily preventable diseases. The rich enjoy more specialized facilities most of the Villages have no proper health services, while cities have them in abundance.

The Medical Intuitions like hospitals, dispensaries and nursing homes are the most important in a country. Among them mostly Christian Medical Institutions have been playing a vital role in rendering medical services to the people of India.

The North Arcot District has a good number of Christian Medical Institutions in Vellore (Christian Medical College and Hospital). But before the establishment of these Medical Institutions the people of those places did not have hospitals, which could have provided medical services as well as religious services.

Dr. John Scudder was the first Medical Missionary to the East who came to India in 1819. He was born in 1793 at New Jersey. His parents were Joseph (a lawyer) and Maris Johnson. He graduated from Princeton University and accrued M.D. Degree from Columbia University in 1815.

Dr. John Scudder had been doing Missionary work Calcutta, Ceylon and the finally in Madras. After the organization of Arcot Mission by Dr. John Scudder in 1853, his three sons Henry Martin scudder, William and Joesph were the first Missionary members of the Arcot Mission. Dr. John Scudder's eldest son Er. Henry Martin Scudder opened a dispensary at walajah, in 1851. Sometime later it was moved to Ranipet. It was closed shortly due to the illness of Dr. Henry Martin Scudder. Hence the Arcot Mission requested Dr. Silas D. Scudder to serve in the dispensary, at Ranipet with a view that he would establish a mission hospital there. That idea was dropped due to the outbreak of American War in 1862. But Dr. Silas D. Scudder on his own interest opened a dispensary at Ranipet with the help of Arcot Mission. Liberal donations were pouring in. Form a small dispensary it development into Scudder Memorial Hospital, in 1866.

Owing to the efforts of Dr. John Scudder's son, a Medical Missionary services was established in South India. It had resulted in the growth of the two outstanding Medical Institutions, which stand in the fore-front of all Medical Institutions in India. At first Dr. Salas

D. Scudder established Scudder Memorial services of the Scudder family. Later at Vellore, the Christian Medical College and Hospital was established by Dr. Ida Scudder, one of the members of the Scudder's family.

The Scudder Memorial Hospital became very popular to the extent that even the Madras Government was forced to close its civil dispensary at Ranipet and handover it to Dr. Silas D. Scudder. The Hospital did not stop with medical services alone. It took part in the various phases of Medical Education and Religions Missionary work. It had done extremely well and grown from small beginnings. In traditional sense it had been like a banyan tree that had sprouted from a small seed that had grown and spread its branches to bear fruit and offer shade, healing and service to the medical needs of mankind in that area.

This study of the hospital would focus light on some of the salient features of the Christian efforts towards establishing their service minded institutions. Moreover, the study would also reveal the conditions of the particular region, people and the yeomen services rendered by it to the people of North Arcot District, irrespective of caste, colour and creed.

In Agra stands the most famous and most beautiful building in the world. The love of the great ruler Shahjahan inspired its magnificence for the joy of the palace erected “Mumtamahal”. Here in Ranipet stands another shrine erected to the “Love of Man” for the sufferings of Man Dr. John Scudder and his wife came to India to heal the sick and preach the gospel.

In South India Dr. John Scudder's eldest son Dr. Henry Martin scudder opened, a small dispensary at Walajah in 1851, with the help of Reformed Church which functioned in USA in order to provide health service to the poor.

After some time that dispensary moved to Ranipet, which was considered to be the more suitable and central place. When Dr. Henry Martin Scudder, the founder of the dispensary fell ill as a result that dispensary was closed. Under such conditions, the Arcot Mission requested Dr. Silas D. Scudder who was in New York at that time, to come and serve in the dispensary of Ranipet.

Accepting the Missions' request expected that he would establish a mission hospital after having learnt the local language at Ranipet. But that idea was dropped due to the outbreak of American Civil war in 1862. After that Dr. Silas

D. Scudder was placed in charge of Arcot Mission. Thus he was unable to suppress his professional instincts. Due to his unwillingness to abandon the Medical Services, he opened a small dispensary with the consent of the Arcot Mission. For its development in his Medical work the Medical students helped him considerably, who were only four in number at first.

He gave good training to them as they would become effective doctors in future to do medical service in their country. Wherever Medical aid is not available, the students were allowed to open new dispensaries in each district and for that; they were supplied with Medicines and basic Medical instruments to do Hospital service effectively.

On the 12th July 1867 Lord Napier, the then Governor of Madras visited the hospital and appreciated the Medical service of the American Mission rendering help for the poor and he recommended for the additional grants for the maintenance of the hospital.

During 1868 Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of state, Mr. M.H. Seward stopped, and who was in world tour came to Madras. He was taken by Lord Napier, the Governor of Madras to see the Medical work of the Hospital at Ranipet. Within few years of its funding, it has caught the attention of one and all. When hospital was forced to close due to lack of funds, it was prevented by Lord Napier the Governor of Madras. Dr. Henry Martin Scudder started the first Maternity department, which was one of the three in Madras presidency in 1877. Due to effective and good Medical services in the hospital the number of in-patients doubled soon. He also established a travelling dispensary, which visited the villages and gave the Medical aid to the poor and needy. In 1880 Dr. Henry Martin Scudder resigned from the Arcot Mission and left to USA, leaving the management of the hospital in the hands of the Legal Fund Board at Ranipet.

Under the control of the Lord Fund Board Dr. Hekhuts was prepared to run the hospital. But it was refused by the local Fund Board. In 1885 the Madras Government persuaded the Board to return the Hospital management to the Arcot Mission with Dr. Hakhuts as Medical Superintendent after the death of Dr. Mekhuts Lovis.

R. Scudder was appointed as Medical Superintendent of the hospital. The Scudder Memorial Hospital was secularized and continued its work to serve the people, irrespective of color and creed.

In 1889 the Scudder Memorial Hospital became of benefits mission institution receiving only Rs. 2,066/- from the Lanka Khan Fund annually. When Dr. Louise Hard came from Canada and joined the hospital. She served in Scudder Memorial Hospital with great devotion as a result many Muslims and high caste Hindu women came to this hospital for medical treatment. In 1900 Dr. Louise Hard became an additional Medical Superintendent. Dr. Ida Scudder began her medical service in the Mary Taber Scholl Hospital, at Vellore in 1902, which later developed as Christian Medical College and Hospital, at Vellore.

To extend the medical service in 1903 a dispensary was opened at Kaveripak by IX. Lewle Scudder. The poor people were given free treatment which was very fine. In the same year Walter T. Scudder joined in the delivery cases. In 1909, Dr.M.D. Gnanamanl was appointed as the first Indian Medical Superintendent of Scudder Memorial Hospital. During the furlough of Dr. Levis, R. Scudder he performed his medical service well. When Dr.S.W. Roy took up the charge of the Ranipet Hospital in 1912, a new operating, block was constructed in order to facilitate surgical procedures. In order to spread the Christian Mission Service he established dispensaries at Kalavai and Timiri. But due to the outbreak of the First World War, those dispensaries were forced to close.

Dr. R.P. Mathenial became the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital when Mr. Ray left to USA. The Scudder Memorial Hospital Association and its members in India decided to build the hospital in the name of Dr. John Scudder (II). The corner stone of Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet was laid by his wife Mrs. John Scudder on 13th December 1919. That year was hundredth Anniversary of the arrival of Dr. John Scudder and Mrs. John Scudder in India to render Medical Missionary work.

In 1920 Dr. Galen F. Scudder the son of Lewis R. Scudder was arrived India and worked as the Medical Superintendent of the Ranipet Hospital. He took the responsibility to build the Scudder Memorial Hospital with the funds received from the various Associations.

Dr. Lewis R. Scudder one of the pioneers in building that hospital was honored, by the British Government with the Kaiser-I-Hind, Gold Medal in 1921 Miss Wilhelmina Noorbyk R.H. Who came to India as a nurse was appointed as the first Nursing Superintendent by the Arcot Mission. She started the first Nursing Training school with two young men. In 1922 girls were admitted for training in the nursing school and taught them in vernacular language. The boys were housed in small houses and the girls were housed near the mission bungalow. The Nursing course was conducted for the duration of three years.

In 1923 Mr. Reginal Dann, an architect for the Government of Madras donated the plan for the construction of building in the hospital, at Ranipet. The construction of the building of the hospital was started in 1925. The new hospital building was completed and it was opened by C. Muthish Mudaliyar, the then health Minister of the Madras State in 1928. For the construction of this new building the Scudder Association had raised funds of Rs.2,50,000/- the government had given Rs.50,000/- and board of Foreign Missions Rs.50,000/- In the same year Nurse Home-Hostel was constructed. At the time Dr.S.Ponniiah L.C.P. joined the hospital after Dr. Victor. In 1930

Dr. Julius C. Saverirayan supported by the American Arcot Mission joined the institution and he strengthened the staff. Hence surgical works were increased considerably.

By 1934 Dr. Galen F. Scudder went on furlough and in his place Dr. John Scudder was just in charge and he did the Medical service at Ranipet, for that he was ably assisted by his wife. He introduced many innovations. He organized the outpatient department by bringing in permanent card system. He also installed by bringing in permanent card system. He also installed first X-Ray machine and radium treatment. In 1935 Dr. and Mrs. Galen F. Scudder returned from USA. In 1936 "Higher Grade" Nursing Training was started by Miss. W. Noorbyk. Dr.J.C. Saverirayan attended as a delegate in the International Conference at Tambaram in 1939. Dr. Galen Scudder was called for service at Rangoon in 1940. Later he served as Medical Officer at Coimbatore and he gave a part of remuneration to the hospital. In 1943 Dr.D.T. Vethanayagam and Dr.M. Durairaj joined in the Scudder Memorial Hospital and treated the laborers of parry and company limited, Ranipet and later it was stopped due to the scarcity of funds. In 1947 Dr.Galen F. Scudder returned from Turlough and he was again appointed as Superintendent of the hospital. During his return he brought some useful surgical equipment like a large castle sterilizer.

In 1948 Dr.J.C. Savariyan was sent to USA and he visited the important clinics there. In the same year additional Nurses Hostel, "Golden Hall" was constructed costing Rs.30,000/-. In 1950 the male nurse's hostel was renovated in order to accommodate Miss.M.Norrdyk and Miss. Marailje which was named as "White House".

In the same year a over head water-tank was also constructed, to improve the water supply of the hospital. In 1961 the extension of the hospital building was enlarged by adding a second story on the wings of the original building. A new chapel was also erected. In 1962 the Missionary family Dr. and Mrs. Frank Zwemer came to the hospital. Likewise in 1963 Rev. and Mrs. William Hoffman, another missionary family arrived to the hospital. He played a very important role for the development of the hospital, he also improved the administration of the hospital and took keen interest in religious service of the missionary. He also one of the greatest Laboratory Technologists and introduced many changes in Laboratory procedures. Library and recreation was compiled in 1965. Another extension to the Nursing School was added in the same year. An Additional out-patient department was constructed under Employee's State Insurance Schemes. Later Dining Hall for nurses also enlarged. Once again Dr. and Mrs. John Scudder visited the Ranipet Scudder Memorial Hospital after a period of 33 years. With the help of Mrs. John Scudder the Hospital received more grants from Scudder Association for the contraction funds to build the auditorium in memory of Dr. Ida Scudder and it was opened by herself on 9th December, 1966

Dr. Frank L. Zwemer became the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital and started plastic surgery work for leprosy patients in 1965 by his surgical skill, especially in plastic surgery made the Scudder Memorial Hospital as one of the Major Surgical centre in South India. As a result of his devote service and skill a large number of patients visited the hospital. He introduced several changes in the hospital, improved the operating theatre which air-conditioned Plants and a Modern Zwimer man skin draft unit. Under his supervision the community Health block, pediatric was and multipurpose store room were constructed with the financial help from OXPAM, England, and Scudder Association USA. Under Mrs. Ann Zwimer the Nursing Education programme as developed well in the hospital, where she served as the Dean of Nursing School for a short period.

Later Miss. Louis Marsilje, served as the Dean of School of Nursing till 1974. She also brought many changes in the pattern of Nursing Education. Dr. J. Ernet Basker became the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in 1970 under his able guidance the community Health Programme. E.I.S.T. programme was introduced in the hospital due to industrialization of Ranipet. IN the following years pediatric Ward, central sterile supply room, multipurpose Store room, the nurses hostel, extension of pharmacy department and demonstration class room in the school of Nursing were constructed.

With the new impact of public health importance, the Scudder Memorial Hospital launched many programme. Such as immunization programme for the pediatric cases, maintained antenatal care for the pregnant women and it involved in the National Family Programme. It was recognized by the State Government as well as by the Christian Medical Association of India. Rev. Butyn and Rev. Golden Braggers from the Reformed Church in America visited the hospital, in 1976.

Though there was an expansion in the entire Medical Work, the Scudder Memorial Hospital have not drifted from the policy and principles of the founder Missionaries of the American Arcot Mission, who dedicated their lives for the Medical Work in rural area, without showing any difference between haves and have not.

The Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet had celebrated the Golden Jubilee during the month of February 1978. The Governor of Tamil Nadu Shiri. Prabudass B. Patwari became the Chief Guest of the function. Golden Jubilee casualty department foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Dorothy John Scudder, the number of the Scudder Association in USA on 10th February 1978.

The Scudder Memorial Hospital which was started as a small dispensary developed as a General Hospital with 265 beds in 1970. After a long interval the male nursing courses was started in the hospital in 1979. In the same year a laboratory Technicians Training course was also started, with the help of German Relief Association and the World Vision of India. The Hospital was renovated and remolded with Kitchen, store section and fixed a diesel generator and a new X-Ray Unit. The Polio Rehabilitation programme was started in this hospital in 1901. The Scudder Memorial Hospital was also started the Lab-Technology Training programme the help of Christian Medical association of India in 1982. As a major wing of Professional programme under the Government covering the entire Walajah Taluk with a new research programme of implementing human placenta for Chronic Leprosy Ulcers.

The casualty department which was counteracted with the donation of Scudder Association of USA was opened by Dr. Christian Heubner, Consul – General – West Germany on 30th March 1982. The eye section of hospital sponsored by a foreign agency viz., Christopher Blinden Mission, West Germany, was inaugurated in 1983.

The teaching programme that is the school of Nursing and School of Laboratory Technology under the Christian Medical Association of India continue to serve the Community to a larger extent. Infact, the professionally related Projects like the Residential Polio Rehabilitation programme and the day care programme in the hospital are very useful to comply with the needs of the community around. The Community Health Programme was started in 1983 Chennasamudram, Karal and Pullankannu Villages around Ranipet are benefited. There are eight clinics run by the Hospital in rural areas. The beneficiaries through the clinics are 600 Christians and 21,400 non-Christians in rural areas. With the combination of New Eye service programme and community Health Programme eye camp were conducted with the help of Rotary Club of Ranipet, especially to help the poor by giving free treatment, free surgery also providing free spectacles for the aerated cases. The extension of the community programme to the Leprosy afflicted patient in the Walajah Taluk are where there are 7,000 cases are Leprosy with in 5 lakhs population.

The Hospital is self-supporting Hospital for its maintenance and salary for the staff members since 1970. It was handed over from the missionary to Dr. Earnost Basker, the present medical superintendant of the Hospital.

The hospital is getting help from the Scudder association and other organization in the form of cash and kind for new projects and towards – gadgets for hospital.

The Hospital Managing Committee is responsible for this maintenance of administration, finance and discipline of the institution which is governed by the Medical Board of the Vellore Diocese. Total number of operation both major and minor conducted in the hospital has increased in 1986. Family planning programme is also well progress.

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