

In 1956, a Maternity Centre was opened at Puranasingapalayam in a building offered by the villagers.

To begin with, Ambagarattur and Pandakkal were provided with only a **Dépôt Médical**. They were upgraded into dispensaries in June 1967. Apart from these two dispensaries and those at Nallattur and Sorappattu all the other dispensaries were opened prior to merger. The Nallattur Dispensary started functioning in 1967 in a rented building.

As part of the Pallur Dispensary, a 20-bed maternity ward was opened in December 1970 to cope up with the large number of maternity cases. Thus it could accommodate in all only 22 patients. In order to cope up with the rush for admissions, a proposal to add a 25-bed complex to the dispensary was under consideration.

*Medical Depots :* As on 31 December 1972, there were six Medical Depots in the Territory located at (1) Uruvaiyar, (2) Sultanpettai, (3) Alankuppam, (4) Embalam in Pondicherry and (5) Karaikalmedu and Karaikovilpattu in Karaikal region. The Uruvaiyar and Sultanpettai Depots are attached to the Villiyannur Dispensary. The Alankuppam Medical Depot is attached to the Kalapet Primary Health Centre.

*Maternity and Child Welfare Centres :* The three Maternity and Child Welfare Centres sponsored by the Government of India were established so as to form part of the Reddiarpalayam and Nettappakkam Dispensaries in Pondicherry region and the Nedungadu Primary Health Centre in Karaika region.

## V. Private hospitals and dispensaries

*Clinique St. Joseph :* In 1855, only two years after the opening of the new **Hôpital Colonial**, the sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny were called in to assist in running the hospital. They worked there until their services were dispensed with during the laicisation. They were reinstated in 1923 but left on New Year's Day 1961, to set up their own Maternity Clinic and Dispensary. Later a Medical Block and a Creche were added. The maternity and medical wards consist of more than 100 beds.

In 1898 two sisters of this Congregation went to work in the Leprosarium at the request of the administration. Although they withdrew from there at the time of the laicisation in 1904, they returned in August 1936 and continued to work there.

In 1886 the sisters of this Congregation were called in to join the hospital in Karaikal. They withdrew from there in 1905 but were recalled in 1927. In 1950 two more sisters were called in to work in the Maternity Wing where they continued to work.

St. Roch's Dispensary in Karaikal was started by the sisters of this Congregation in August 1972. A 20-bed ward is attached to this dispensary.

*Sisters of Missions Etrangères* : The sisters of **Missions Etrangères** who came to work in Pondicherry in 1945 attached themselves to **Dispensaire Jean Mermoz** in January 1953. In 1960 they started a Mobile Domiciliary Leprosy Treatment Unit to serve the leprosy patients in villages. The Unit gradually expanded with the setting up of a Sub-Centre at Papanchavadi village covering in all 3,60,175 people, in 293 villages (109 in Pondicherry and 184 in Tamil Nadu). The sisters also maintain a laboratory and a small cottage hospital at Ravuttankuppam for the short stay of leprosy patients. Those who need surgical treatment are referred to hospitals. The leprosy relief work is financed and supported, among others, by the Damien Foundation in Brussels and **Lepre Organisation** in Europe and the Government of France.

*Other Institutions* : '**Volontariat**'—a voluntary organisation in Pondicherry runs a dispensary at the Community Centre, Uppalam near Pondicherry. The Ananda Ashram runs a free clinic and the Vyoma Ashram in Villiyannur runs a Siddha Dispensary for the benefit of villagers.

## VI. Research Centres

The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research is the foremost institution in the Territory promoting research in different branches of medical science, as part of its curricular activities.

The institute undertook a study on the role of antropoids in the transmission of leprosy in 1969.<sup>87</sup> The project was financed out of P.L.480 funds.

The Asian Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation Research Forum is another research body registered on 30 March 1971. The Society's objective is to stimulate interest in prophylactic and therapeutic aspects of anaesthesiology and resuscitation and to encourage study and research on these subjects. The 'Asian Archives of Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation' is a research journal published by this Forum.