

Out of the three books so delivered, the Registrar of Books was required to deposit one copy each in a separate library meant to serve as a reference library, and to forward the remaining two copies to the Central Government. The rules further stipulated that a catalogue of books printed within the Territory should be maintained by the Registrar of Books. Once every quarter, the catalogue of books published during the said quarter ought to be published in the Gazette. The functions of the Press Registrar are performed by the Director of Information, Publicity and Tourism in Pondicherry. In the outlying regions, the functions are performed by the Administrators. Declarations for starting newspapers are filed before the Additional District Magistrate (Executive).

III. Voluntary social service organisations

In the early days, the system of charity was so closely knit to the social fabric that merchants had to set apart a small percentage of the price charged for the goods towards public charity. The joint family system provided for the care of the sick, the indigent and the disabled within its fold. The benevolent among the rich sought to perpetuate their names not only by instituting choultries to provide shelter for wandering mendicants and pilgrims but also by endowing properties in favour of choultries, mutts, temples, etc. for feeding the poor. In these age old practices we may perhaps identify the earliest traces of voluntary social service. Only some of these benevolent institutions have survived, while the rest have either been gobbled up by their parasitical progenies or successors or have become defunct.

With the advent of printing and the growth of literacy and the consequent spread of knowledge, people came to be swayed by new ideas and ideals. They slowly came together to seek furtherance of their ideals through organised efforts. Thus sprung up institutions for the advancement for certain castes, for the spread of literacy, uplift of the down-trodden, etc. Certain organisations were formed for the encouragement of sports, language, literature as well as research in various branches of studies, etc. There are now denominational as well as non-denominational institutions in all of these categories.

The missionaries were also involved in organised efforts to provide relief to the sick, the indigent and the disabled. Father Michél Ansaldo, the Jesuit who came to Pondicherry in 1750 may be called the progenitor of the Congregation of St. Louis de Gonzague. The sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph

de Cluny started their career in Pondicherry as early as in 1827. The famous Fr. Louis Savinien Dupuis founded the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1844. The sisters of **Missions Etrangères** were the last to enter the arena in 1948. Besides these Congregations some of the parishes also have evinced interest in socio-ameliorative work.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed the birth of many organisations devoted to the cause of various religions, languages, castes or groups. For instance, the '**Société de Secours mutuels des créoles**' was started in 1883 for helping the créoles, and 'Madjemaoul-mouhsinil mouminine' for helping the muslims and the '**Société Mutuelle des Hindous Chrétiens de caste**' for the benefit of caste Christians. Valangamougattars and **renonçants** started the '**Société Progressiste des renonçants et Valangaimougattars**' in the year 1893. 'Sānerore Koula Sangam' (1927), 'Sengoundar Sangame' (1929), 'Vaisia Valibar Sangam of Karaikal' (1930), 'Vaissia Samadjam' (1933) and 'Haridjana Seva Sangham' (1937), '**Société d'Education de la Jeunesse**', '**Société d'Encouragement Mutuel pur les Etudes Secondaires et Supérieures**', '**Alliance éducative des Vannias**', '**Société instructive sous le nom de Tamijetallir**' 'Poudouvai Tamije Kalvi Sangame' and 'Kalvi Kajagome' were all started for the educational and cultural advancement of different segments of the population. A brief account of the voluntary organisations and missionary institutions which are engaged in social service activities in the Territory is presented in the following paragraphs :

Société Progressiste de l'Inde Française : The **société** was started on 2 March 1880 for the avowed purpose of popularising French language and culture. It played an important role in the educational advancement of the Hindus. It was through the efforts of this **société** that upper primary education and teacher training courses were introduced in **Collège Calvé**. It made some monetary contributions to the educational projects sponsored by the administration. A school was also opened in its premises. Scholarships were awarded to deserving students for pursuing their studies. In 1904 the school had to be closed down for want of resources. However it was reopened in 1921 thanks to a donation of Rs. 5,000 given by T.S.N. Nannaya Bagavathar, a leading merchant of the town. The society utilised the income derived from the investment of about Rs. 30,000 and the rent from a building owned by it for carrying on its activities. An Executive Committee managed the affairs of this **société**.

Société de Secours Mutuels des Créoles : This *société* was authorised by the *arrêté* of 1 March 1883. It extended financial assistance to destitute *créoles* in the town. A recipient of subvention during the French period, the *société* was listed as one of the institutions eligible for financial assistance under the Indo-French Agreement.

Revél Social: This organisation was launched on 20 July 1907, by some of the enlightened citizens of the town for the benefit of the members of the depressed classes. This society drew the attention of the then administration to the appalling conditions of the socially backward classes living in the villages in the matter of drinking water and educational facilities. At the instance of the very strong representations made by this society, many wells were dug in the areas occupied by the depressed classes to ensure the supply of drinking water. Elementary schools were opened in Gudappakkam, Poraiyur, Poomiampet and Orlayanpet villages. This association also succeeded in persuading the administration to issue the *décret* of 16 June 1937 which prohibited all references to caste in the *Etat-Civil* records, etc. In 1940 another *arrêté* was issued by the administration to prohibit the use of such derogatory appellations as *paracheri*, *paratherou*, etc. after village names and ordered that they should be substituted by 'peth'.

Several associations like the '*Foyer Scolaire et Sportif*' (Quai de Ginjy), '*Revél Amical*' (Dupuypet), '*La Pléade*' (North Boulevard), '*Etoile de Matin*' (Uppalam Netajinagar-I) '*Bharathi Nulagam*' (Uppalam Netajinagar-II), '*Ajagiri Nulagam*' (Puduppalaïyam) and '*La Jeunesse Laborieuse*' (Tiruvalluvarnagar) extended their co-operation to *Revél Social* in carrying out an integrated programme for the spread of education among the socially depressed classes in the villages. Under the auspices of this organisation a separate association called '*Solidarité des Dames de l'Inde Française*' (Solidarity of French Indian Women) was started in 1937 to serve the women. This association has its own premises in rue La Porte (Pondicherry). Besides the rent collected by letting out its premises, its other sources of income included subscriptions and donations from the public and grants from the government.

Cercle Sportif Pondichérien: Authorised by the *arrêté* of 28 February 1913, this '*Cercle*' started functioning the same year, chiefly to encourage sports and athletics in the establishments. In the forties however, this association took keen interest in educating the children belonging to the backward classes. The

'Cercle' has its own building within the campus of Odiansalai (now Anna thidal). There were facilities here for outdoor as well as indoor games. Tournaments were also arranged by this body from time to time.

Dina Poshaka Samajam, Yanam : This samajam was started in 1931 with a view to spreading education among the depressed classes and to represent their grievances to the administration. In 1949, the administration gave this samajam a lump sum grant for the construction of a building where a *dharma patasala* was run for the benefit of poor harijan children. The samajam also worked for the social awakening of the depressed classes in the region through dramatic performances. A small library was also maintained by the samajam.

Arya Vaissia Samadjam : Started in 1933, the samajam worked for the welfare of members belonging to the Vysial community in the town. Recently it had been conducting Telugu classes for the benefit of the general public. A small library was also maintained in the premises of the samajam in Vysial street. Now the building is used only as a Community Hall where marriages are held.

Harijana Seva Sangham : This sangam was started in the year 1933 by some of the enlightened citizens of Pondicherry who came to be influenced by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. The members of the sangam worked among the depressed classes who were mostly employed in the textile mills in the town. Members of the sangam visited harijan villages and taught them how to keep their villages clean and their houses tidy. Young boys and girls were taught to read and write. This sangam is now defunct.

Blind Relief Association : This Association was started in 1947 with a view to providing relief and rehabilitation to the blind and disabled. The Home for the Blind, started by the Association, was declared open by Governor Baron in 1947 with nine blind inmates. They were given training in mat weaving, rope making and music. Mats and ropes produced by the blind were sold to the public. The blind were provided with walking sticks and uniforms by the Association. A guide appointed by the Association took them for walks outside the premises. Apart from the proceeds from the sale of products manufactured by the inmates, other sources of income included donations, subscriptions and grants. The Central Social Welfare Advisory Board, Delhi gives an annual grant for the maintenance of blind adults. The association is one of the recipients of assistance from the **Comité de Bienfaisance**, Pondicherry. The association is run by a managing committee of five elected members.

Vyoma Ashram, Villiyannur : Vyoma Ashram at Kanuvapet in Villiyannur was established in 1947 by Vyoma Munivar. Located in a 24-acre site, the ashram functions as a spiritual and social service centre. The inmates of the ashram were engaged in such activities as agriculture and dairy-farming, poultry-farming and cottage industries. The ashram also maintained an orphanage, a nursery school, a primary school and a Siddha vaidyasala.

Gandhi Kasturba Orphanage, Villiyannur : This orphanage was started in 1952 for taking care of orphans and abandoned children from among harijans and others. The institution was managed by a Committee of nine members nominated by Vyoma Munivar, the head of Vyoma Ashram. Free education with boarding and lodging facilities was made available for the orphans here. Some of the inmates were allowed to pursue their studies in high schools and colleges. Day-scholars were allowed to study in the day school conducted by the institution. A dining-hall was constructed in 1960 with the financial assistance extended by the administration. The ashram also arranged the marriage of girls brought up by the ashram. Its resources included donations, grants from government and the Central Social Welfare Advisory Board and income from agricultural lands owned by the ashram. Recently the Central Government sanctioned a grant for the construction of two cottages to accommodate the orphans.

Magalir Kazhagam, Pondicherry : This kazhagam was founded in 1948 and was affiliated to the All India Women's Conference, New Delhi.

Two nursery schools were run by this kazhagam in Pondicherry, one in Montorsier Street and the other in Sankaradoss Street. The children were also provided with mid-day meals. Classes were conducted for women in embroidery and garment making. Training in crafts was given to grown-up girls. An elected nine-member managing committee managed the affairs of the kazhagam which subsisted on donations, subscriptions, sale proceeds and grants. The Central Social Welfare Board also extended financial assistance to this kazhagam.

Vani Nilayam : This organisation has been functioning in Pondicherry since 1951. The nilayam conducted a night school for school-going children and a library. It also arranged debating contests, sports competitions, etc. A free medical check-up centre was also started by the nilayam in January 1970 with the assistance of two qualified doctors. The nilayam also organised a nursery

school in Nainiappa Pillai Street, Pondicherry to provide pre-basic educational facilities for children hailing from poor families. It charged only a token fee. The nilayam subsisted almost entirely on donations.

Guild of Service, Pondicherry : The Pondicherry Branch of the Guild of Service affiliated to the Guild of Service (Central), Madras was formed in 1955. The services of the Guild were availed of for the distribution of milk powder, wheat flour, cornmeal, oil, etc., donated by the Committee on Relief and Gift Suppliers, National Christian Council of India. The Guild which was recently reactivated organised two creches for the benefit of children of working women and a bakery unit for providing jobs and training for unemployed youth. Training was also imparted in tailoring and toy making for the physically handicapped.

Guild of Service, Mahe : The branch here was started in the year 1955. It managed a Nursery School for the benefit of children and a tailoring school for girls. This is now defunct.

Pondicherry State Women's Association : This Association, affiliated to the National Federation of Indian Women, New Delhi, was established in 1955. This association organised a craft centre in Pondicherry town, Adult Education Centres at Nellitoppu and Uppalam and a Nursery School at Kumaragurupallam. In the Adult Education Centres, classes were conducted in tailoring, embroidery, food preservation, mat-weaving, etc. The affairs of this association were managed by an elected committee of thirteen members of whom six were office-bearers. The expenses were met from donations, subscriptions from members, sale proceeds of handicraft products and grants sanctioned by the Central Social Welfare Board and the Pondicherry Administration.

Pondicherry Council for Child Welfare : Organised in 1957, it was affiliated to the Indian Council for Child Welfare in 1961. To start with, the Council opened two nursery schools and a Children's Recreation Centre. Later, four creches were started with the assistance received from the State Social Welfare Board to look after children up to five years of working mothers. The Council organised a balwadi, a creche and a Recreation Centre at Gingisalai and a balwadi at Madukkarai. It also conducted a Balasevika Training Centre with financial assistance from the Indian Council for Child Welfare.

Gandhi Anbu Nilayam, Tirumallar : One Ammani Ammal of Tirunallar started this nilayam on 2 February 1960, for the benefit of orphan and pestitute girls. An orphanage and a nursery school was run with the help

of donations and contributions from the founder-President and grants from the government. The management of the institution was taken over by the Tirunallar Devasthanam on 7 October 1968 and since then it was running it under the name of 'Gandhi Nilayam'.

Volontariat : This Voluntary Social Service Project started its operations in Pondicherry in 1961. This has its headquarters in Liege, Belgium. It is an inter-denominational association financed by about 800 benevolent Belgians. The project helped young people to realise their responsibility towards the poor. Madame Deblic who was in charge of the project since its inception, adopted Uppalam village with 300 families about two kilometres from Pondicherry for implementing the project. The Project organised a Child Welfare Clinic and a dispensary for minor and common ailments with particular emphasis on the prevention of diseases and health education for children under seven years of age. Milk was distributed to children under the Special Nutrition Programme. Under the mid-day meal programme, about 100 children were given mid-day meal with the food supplies received from Belgium. Clothes were distributed twice a year to the poor. In an attempt to instil the idea of self-help, male volunteers demonstrated the methods of building huts with thatched roofs and mud-walls with materials supplied by the Project. Students from some Universities in France came and worked here. Some of the villagers were given training in rope making, weaving, embroidery lace-work, doll making and wicker work and were paid wages for their work. Families were supplied with good breeds of poultry, pigs, sheep, etc. to improve their economic status. While youngsters were fixed up in various jobs, adults were helped to find regular jobs. In an attempt to rehabilitate some cured lepers, they were provided with weaving equipment and material. The material produced, especially the hand-woven cloth, was partly sold locally and the rest sent to Belgium for sale. The Volontariat embarked on an ambitious plan of setting up a model village with a poultry-farm, a milk co-operative, a fish breeding centre and a tile manufacturing unit. This voluntary organisation was allotted a plot of land in Uppalam free of cost by the government.

Vivekananda Nagar Ladies Club : This club was established in October 1966 and registered in 1967 under the Societies Registration Act. The club organised an orphanage and the inmates were provided food, clothing and shelter. They were also provided educational facilities. A nine-member managing committee attended to the activities of the club. As it had no regular sources of income

its expenses were met through subscriptions by members, donations from the public and collections from benefit performances. The club received grant-in-aid from the Government of India for the construction of a building to accommodate the orphans and for the maintenance of four children.

Kasturba Seva Sangam : This sangam was formed on 5 April 1962, the Telugu New Year Day. Its inauguration was marked by the opening of a balwadi for children, a ladies club and a night school for women. Initial difficulties in securing proper accommodation were overcome in January 1963, thanks to the generosity of Senapathi Mudaliar who placed at the disposal of the sangam, free of rent a building for carrying on the activities of the sangam. This institution which came into being through the initiative of Kamala Sharma, a Gandhian Social Worker, became defunct after her death in 1973.

Santhi Nursery School : This was a registered body which provided pre-basic education for poor children in the 2-5 age group. The school started functioning in a rented building at Muttiyalupettai from 25 June 1966. The school had no other source of income other than the tuition fees collected at the rate of Re. 1 p.m. per child. The deficit was met from collections through benefit shows and donations from the public. The school was given a grant by the administration during the year 1970-71.

Indira Gandhi Mandram : The mandram, started on 12 December 1967, worked for the welfare of children and women. The government extended financial assistance to this mandram to run two balwadies, one at Bharathi Street, Pondicherry and the other at Mel Sattamangalam, where pre-basic educational facilities were provided for poor children in the 2½-5 age group. Grown-up women were given training in tailoring. The mandram also maintained a creche with financial assistance from the Government of India.

Oriental Women's Association, Pillaitottam : This Association, functioning since 3 May 1968, set up an orphanage at Pillaitottam, Pondicherry. Amenities such as food, shelter, clothing and education were provided for the inmates. The orphanage was taken care of by an eight-member executive committee. This association had no regular sources of income other than donations and subscriptions from members, until it started receiving grant regularly from the administration.

Ananda Ashram, Laspettai : Though essentially an International Centre for Yoga Training and for the study of vedanta, the Ashram founded by Swami Gitananda in 1969 supported two local temples and maintained a free clinic to achieve integration with the life of the surrounding villages. The Ashram published 'Yoga Life', a monthly journal and conducted correspondence courses on Yoga. Donations received from India and abroad helped meet the financial needs of the ashram. A hostel was run for the benefit of Yoga students. Those who joined the ashram for study and training met their own expenses.

Rotary Club : The Rotary Club of Pondicherry, since its inception in 1956, implemented several social welfare measures in and around Pondicherry under its programme of 'Community Service'. Besides carrying on such activities as distribution of clothes, books and other stationery items to poor children, the blind and indigent patients in hospitals, the club also awarded prizes for meritorious students and well maintained offices and hotels in the town. The club also extended financial assistance for an orphanage run by a voluntary social service organisation.

Rotaract Club : The youth wing of the Rotary Club was started on 4 August 1971, with about 30 members, mostly students of local colleges. The members of this club evinced interest in the field of education by arranging free tuition for poor children and conducting night schools. A slum clearance project was taken up at Abhishekapakkam, a village about 12 km. away from Pondicherry. Health care of the children in the harijan colony was attended to by the female members of the club.

Lion's Club, Pondicherry : The Lion's Club which started operating since 27 December 1959 received its charter on 30 July 1960. The club had constructed bus-stop shelters and a rest house for visitors, donated a hearse van to the General Hospital, Pondicherry, sewing machines to the Policemen's Welfare Project and oral vaccines to poor children. The club awarded medals to students securing highest marks in public examinations. Further, it extended financial help to orthopaedic patients in JIPMER, provided scholarships and interest-free loans to poor students, distributed spectacles to the poor with eye defects and assisted cultural and sports activities in the town.

The Pondicherry Society for the Welfare of Students : This was founded in 1961 to render help to the student community. The society gave interest-free loans for poor students to prosecute post-matric studies in Pondicherry.

A Student Health Check-up Centre was run at Laspettai where medicines were supplied free of cost. The society also maintained a Book Bank for the benefit of poor students. The society raised its funds by holding exhibitions, festival foot-ball matches, variety entertainments, film-shows, raffles, etc. (*vide* Chapter XV, p. 1321 under 'Students' Welfare International').

Au fils d'Indra : It maintained a tailoring and embroidery centre where training as well as work opportunities were offered to young girls. A creche was maintained at Dubrayapet under its auspices. A building was constructed for the creche on a site donated by the municipality. There was a clinic attached to the creche which was run by the government. Prior to 1970, the clinic was run by this institution. However, the pay of helpers in the clinic is met by this institution. The institution took care of cured lepers who were supplied clothes and provided with financial assistance to set up their homes and engage themselves in profitable avocations. Besides providing work to cured lepers, cash doles were also given to them. The expenditure on the education of the children of the cured lepers was also met by this institution. A night school was run for school children as well as adults.

The Junior Chamber : The Pondicherry Junior Chamber was started in the year 1969. The Jaycees evinced a great deal of interest in blood donation campaigns, elocution competitions, donation of clothes for poor patients, city cleanliness campaign, etc.

Kamala Nehru Madhar Sangham, Kadirkamam : This sangham, established in 1969, maintained a balwadi and a creche and provided training in tailoring and embroidery for women. The sangham received financial assistance from the administration, the State Social Welfare Advisory Board and the Department of Social Welfare and the Government of India for carrying on its activities.

All India Women's Conference, Pondicherry Branch : The Pondicherry Branch of the All India Women's Conference which started operating in the Territory from 9 June 1971, was chiefly engaged in organising the rural women folk into associations known as 'Madhar Sanghams' in order to channelise their interest towards social well-being. Since then, the Pondicherry Branch with its main centre located at Ariyankuppam has organised a large number of Madhar Sanghams in the rural areas of Pondicherry and Karaikal.

Social Welfare Services Society, Pondicherry : This society which came into existence in September 1970 sought to promote the welfare of the poor and the physically handicapped by providing facilities for free medical treatment, by conducting free eye, dental, surgical and other camps, and by rendering assistance to the poor affected by natural calamities. The society also operated a Drug Bank and a Milk Distribution Centre each at Vaithikuppam and Kurichchikuppam. The affairs of the society were managed by an eight-member governing body in accordance with the bye-laws framed for the purpose.

Arignar Ambedkar Iaignar Seerthirutha Mandram, Korkkadu : This mandram started in 1971, engaged itself in such activities as educating the people on family planning, eradicating the evils of untouchability, etc. It also maintained an adult school.

C.A.S.A. (Christian Agency for Social Action) : This agency arranged for the distribution of free food donated by the Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief under the 1951 Indo-American agreement to various Voluntary Organisations in the Territory through its contact persons since 1968. About fifty centres in Pondicherry region received free food material from this agency. The activities of this organisation in the Territory were wound up in 1972.

Dr. Ambedkar Reading Room and Night School, Abhishekapakkam : This institution, started in 1974, worked for the uplift of the weaker sections in Abhishekapakkam. It organised a reading-room and a night school in the village to provide adult education for the villagers. It also maintained a creche for the children of working women in the locality.

Anti-Untouchability Movement, Pondicherry : This institution registered in 1974 functioned from 3/11 Netaji Nagar, Pondicherry. It worked for the advancement of scheduled castes in all walks of life. This body maintained three creches for the benefit of working women's children in the surrounding areas with the financial assistance extended by the Government of India.

Tibetan Welfare Society, Pondicherry : This society, established in May 1975, was registered under the Societies Registration Act the next year. The society organised a Children's Home for the benefit of about 50 Tibetan children in the 5-14 age group. The children in the Home were provided free education, boarding and lodging.

The Vincent de Paul Society : The society was first organised in Pondicherry by Fr. L.S. Dupuis in 1852. Although in 1856 it took up the management of the Leprosarium under the direction of the Mission, the Society ceased to exist in 1873. A newly organised unit of the society was in operation in Pondicherry.

The Congregation of St. Louis de Gonzague : Father Michel Ansaldo, the Jesuit, is known to have founded a lay order in 1750 to take care of the children at an orphanage in Pondicherry. On 4 October 1758, the lay order was attached to the Third Order of St. Francis. The convent and the orphanage which were originally located in Vellala Street (now Nadou Chanmugavelayouda Moudaliar Street) were subsequently shifted to the Big Brahmin Street and later to rue St. Ange. On March 1903, a **maison de Madeleine** was started as an adjunct to the mother convent in Pondicherry. This was subsequently wound up. In its place an orphanage was set up.

The Sacred Heart Convent in South Boulevard with a primary school attached to it was opened in August 1818. The sisters here also maintained a training school for tailoring, embroidery and needle work. (*Vide* Chapter XV, p. 1279.)

The convent at Ozhukarai opened on 6 February 1893 conducted a free school in the village. A free primary school was opened in Tiruvalluvarnagar on 1 January 1939. On 14 January 1939 another free primary school was opened at Kurichchikuppam. The orphanage attached to the convent at Kurichchikuppam (**Orphelinat de St. François d'Assise**) was opened on 2 January 1969. The orphans were also provided free education. The convent at Villianur started on 1 September 1962 opened a balwadī there on 23 January 1965.

The Congregation of St. Joseph de Cluny : The sisters of this congregation came to serve in the French establishments at the request of M. Desbassyns de Richemont, the then Governor. They opened their first house in Pondicherry in January 1827. Very soon they started a day school, then a boarding and a free school in the town. Sometime later, they opened a **maison de couture** to impart training for girls in sewing, embroidery, knitting and weaving. In 1860, the sisters took over the **atelier** and the attached orphanage founded by one Mme. Smith when it was found that her successors could not run the institution. Following their dismissal from **Pensionnat des Jeunes Filles** and other public institutions in 1903, as part of the laicisation movement,

the sisters opened a free school (French) in the town. In 1946 they opened an English medium school and the first batch of pupils was presented for the matriculation in 1956. In 1968, the high school wing was shifted to 's new premises in Laspettai.

The **hospice*** in rue La Porte, Pondicherry, under the management of Bon Secours sisters was handed over to the sisters of this Congregation in May 1894. This institution then consisted of an **hospice** for old men and women, an orphanage, a creche for abandoned babies and an **atelier** for providing employment to the inmates of the **refuge**. The **refuge** started in 1886 was originally run by a lady. In 1875 the sisters took over its management and shifted it to a building erected within the **hospice** campus. They have also opened a working girls' hostel with limited accommodation for about 40 girls.

In 1896 the Bon Secours Convent in rue Rangapillai was also handed over to the sisters of this Congregation. This institution comprised an orphanage for boys and girls. The orphans in the **hospice** were later transferred to this convent. In 1945 the creche attached to the **hospice** was also shifted to this place.

The sisters of this Congregation started their work in Karaikal in 1844 when they went there at the request of the administrator. To start with, they opened an **atelier** (a work room). Shortly after, they opened a school for girls and another for boys. The latter was closed down in 1851. The former grew into a high school. In 1856, the sisters started an orphanage for girls and in 1897 an **hospice** for the aged men and women. A creche was added later. The French primary school in Karaikal which had to be closed down in 1913 was however reopened in 1924.

The primary schools opened by the sisters in Kurumbagaram (1870), Grand' Aldée (1871), Kottuchcheri (1884) and Tirunallar (1884) were closed down at the time of the laicisation. Subsequently they opened a free school at Kurumbagaram. An orphanage for girls was opened later as an adjunct to their convent there.

* The **hospice** is understood to have been started by the Pondicherry Mission in 1858. It was named after Desbassyns de Richemont because the then Deputy of French India had given a large donation towards enlarging the **hospice** in 1876.

In Mahe the sisters began their work in July 1877. They ran a French medium and a Malayalam medium school, an orphanage, a **maison de couture** and a **refuge** there. Following the laicisation, they opened a free school in 1903. In 1940 these institutions were handed over to the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel who soon after left the place, and these institutions had to be closed down. (See also Chapter XVI, pp. 1378-79).

Sisters of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary : The Congregation was founded in Pondicherry by Father Louis Savinien Dupuis on 16 October 1844 to work especially for the promotion of girls' education. With almost seventy branches spread all over Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry, the sisters of this Congregation maintained seven high schools, one teachers' training school, 25 middle schools, 16 primary schools, 19 nursery schools, seven craft centres, 29 children's homes, one child care centre, 12 hospitals, 8 dispensaries, 16 hostels, 14 boarding houses, one children's centre and one home for the aged.

An orphanage was attached to the mother house in Pondicherry. The sisters there also maintained a free nursery school and a free middle school for the benefit of the orphans. The children were then sent to the high school run by the same sisters. Those who did not have an aptitude for learning were taught weaving and needlework by qualified sisters and sent up for examination. Some were sent to the Technical School for girls in Cuddalore where they were trained in needlework, drawing, typewriting, etc. Those who completed their school education were sent to the Teacher Training School at Cuddalore. Later, according to the will and wish of the children, their marriages were also arranged by them. The expenses were met from donations, subscriptions, sale proceeds of articles made in the orphanage, funds contributed by the management, government grants and grants from the State Social Welfare Board.

The convent in Nellitoppu was opened on 11 November 1854. Besides running a middle school and a madhar sangham here, the sisters provided training for girls in needle work, dress-making and embroidery. The convent in Reddiyarpalayam was opened on 22 July 1861. They opened a free middle school there. The sisters began their work in Ariyankuppam on 25 April 1863. They opened two institutions there, viz. a visitation convent where the old and sick sisters and lay women were taken care of and a branch house which maintained

a free middle school and a madhar sangham. In Muttiyalupettai they opened a middle school and a nursery school. In Villiyanur they conducted two middle schools, one for boys and another for girls and an orphanage for boys. The sisters in the branch house at Karaikal (Pillaiteruvasal), opened on 27 November 1954, looked after their paddy fields and did some social work among the labourers.

Most of the sisters attended to some social work out of school hours and during holidays in the surrounding villages. In Pondicherry two sisters were engaged in social work on a full-time basis. A few nuns were sent to Bihar in 1967 by the congregation to render service to the people there during the famine. Some nuns from this convent went to work among the Bangladesh refugees.

Sisters of the Institute of Foreign Missions : The sisters of **Missions Etrangères** who came to work among the poor, established St. Antony's Convent in 1945. In 1947, they started an embroidery work centre where a large number of women and girls worked for their livelihood. In 1953, they attached themselves to the **Dispensaire Jean Mermoz** and started running a child welfare centre alongside. The very next year they started an orphanage and later a boarding for village girls. The same year, a school for needle work, embroidery and tailoring was also started. Shortly after, they opened an elementary school which by 1961 grew up into a high school (also *vide* Chapter XVI, p. 1379).

Orphelinat des Garçons-Paroisse Notre-Dame des Anges, rue Surcouf, Pondicherry: This orphanage was started by the parish of **Notre-Dame-des-Anges** in the premises of the old Capuchin Church. This was intended only for boys aged between seven and eighteen years without any distinction of caste, creed or religion. The inmates were fed, clothed, housed and educated. The orphanage was run with the help of donations from benefactors. The orphanage was also in receipt of some assistance from the Pondicherry Municipality.

The Red Cross Society : The Red Cross Society, organised by Lt. Col. Gaffiéro in 1936, carried out fund raising campaigns from time to time as part of its activities. In 1940, the society collected Rs. 8,917. In 1942 it was able to collect as much as Rs. 11,065. In October 1940 the society organised a workshop where woollen clothes were made to meet the requirements

of fraternal societies. This society extended help to soldiers in Syria and Lebenon and to the prisoners of war in Berlin during World War II. A brief account of the society's activities used to be published in the Gazette periodically.

This society seems to have become defunct thereafter. However, at the request of the Indian Red Cross Society, a Branch was again started in Pondicherry following a meeting convened by the Lieutenant-Governor, on 29 January 1977 with the Lieutenant-Governor as President, the Director of Health and Family Planning as Secretary and the Pay and Accounts Officer as Treasurer. Since then the society had provided relief to victims of natural calamities like fire, cyclone, etc. in the Territory. It had also a proposal to construct a Disaster Shelter Home in the Territory.

REFERENCES :

1. The Indian Express, dated 2 February 1955.
2. The Indian Express, dated 16 May 1955.
3. The Indian Express, dated 23 May 1955.
4. The Indian Express, dated 7 February 1955.
5. Report on the Second General Election in Pondicherry State-Introduction, paras 1-3.
6. The Indian Express, dated 13 August, 1955.
7. The Indian Express, dated 20 August 1955.
8. The Indian Express, dated 23 April 1956.
9. The Indian Express, dated 25 April 1956.
10. The Indian Express, dated 14 May 1956.
11. The Indian Express, dated 20 October 1956.
12. The Indian Express, dated 20 June 1957.
13. P.V. l'Assemblée Représentative, Extraordinary sitting of 1959, Chief Commissioner's Speech, p. 3.

14. Report on the Second General Election in Pondicherry State 1959, pp. 5-6.
15. *Idem*, p. 35.
16. The Indian Express, dated 9 September 1960.
17. A.R. 1963-64, p.1.
18. The Indian Express, dated 3 August 1964.
19. The Indian Express, dated 4 August 1964.
20. Report on the General Election in the Union territory of Pondicherry.
21. Report on Parliamentary Election 1967, p. 30.
22. Report on the Municipal Elections 1968, Vol. I, pp.1-2 & 23.
23. Sudandiram, 9 August, 1969, p.1.
24. Gnanou Diagou : Arrêts du Conseil Supérieur, Tome III (1937), p. 458.
25. Diary, Vol. I, p. 154.
26. B.A.A. 1828, p.1
27. *Idem*, p. 72.
28. Almanach de Pondichéry 1838, *vide* Preface.
29. B.A.A. 1838, p. 14.
30. *Idem*, p. 120.
31. *Idem*, p. 128.
32. B.A.A. 1849, p. 235.
33. *Idem*, 1849, p. 364.
34. *Idem*, 1850, p. 69.
35. Julien Vinson : L'Inde Française et les Etudes Indiennes de 1882 à 1884 (1885), pp. 39-40.
36. *Idem*, p. 40.
37. Henry Scholberg et Emmanuel Divien: Bibliographie des Français dans l'Inde (1973), p. 169.

38. R.A. Padmanabhan: Chitira Bharathi (1957), p. 51.
39. A.B. Purani: Life of Sri Aurobindo (1958), p. 155.
40. J.O. 1938, pp. 738, 851 and 852.
41. Henry Scholberg et Emmanuel Divien: op. cit., p. LXII.
42. A.A. 1867, Governor's decision, p. 331.
43. B.O. 1881, pp. 354-375.