

CANADIAN VELLORE LUDHIANA COMMITTEE

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CMCH VELLORE

Dedication of the Florence Taylor Memorial Library



‘NOT SOMEHOW, BUT TRIUMPHANTLY’. This dynamic maxim encapsulates the life and work of Ms Florence Taylor, in whose honour the new **College of Nursing Library** was inaugurated on March 11th of this year. Dr Bhattacharji recalled the visionary work of Ms. Florence Taylor - a Canadian pioneer of nursing education, who served CMC for 16 years, 15 of those as Dean. Ms. Taylor played a seminal role in shaping the curriculum of graduate nursing education not just for CMC, but for the entire country. Her motto sought and inspired the best in her students, and therefore for the people of this land- it was this legacy that the occasion celebrated.

Prof Rosaline Jayakaran, Dean, College of Nursing, traced the historical antecedents of the Library - from a small corner of the Visitor’s Room with 1,000 books to a magnificent 11,000 sq ft, three storied structure, complete with the latest features, the best of technology and over 17,000 books, journals and theses. A memorial plaque was unveiled honouring Ms. Taylor.

CHAD – The Community Health Department

Annadurai, aged 7, and his family come from a hamlet located on a plateau, over 3,500 ft high up in the Jawadi Hills, the tribal area, which rises to the east of Vellore. It is a remote, secluded, backward and hilly area, where education, medication, and access to any help is very difficult. Children are consequently malnourished. Nearly all the houses are thatched, mud huts. From their village, the nearest road accessible to vehicles is 10 KM distance, walking along narrow

tracks. There is no other way to reach Vellore some 50 KM away. In partnership with the Government, the Community Health Department (CHAD), of Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore has for a number of years been conducting community health programs for 250 villages in the Jawadi Hills. Villagers come to CHAD hospital at Bagayam, on the outskirts of Vellore, and to the main CMC Hospital for treatment.

Annadurai is the youngest of Periyapayan and his wife, Kamala's, four children; two boys and two girls. The family owns one acre of land, which they cultivate for their living. All six of them, parents and children help with the farming. The boys do go to school, but this is not deemed necessary for the girls.

Respiratory illnesses are more common in winter. The poor and malnourished are especially vulnerable. And so it was that in November, Annadurai developed fever and breathlessness. The family knew they needed to get him to a doctor. Leaving the others to carry on with the farm work, Kamala carried her seven year old son the 10 km to the road, where she caught the bus which would take them down the hillside and to CHAD. The doctor told them that Annadurai had serious pneumonia, with fluid in his lungs. The boy was admitted and a tube inserted into his chest. However, because the pus was thick, it did not drain well. It was decided to transfer the lad to the Paediatric Surgery Department at the main hospital, where more specialist help would be available.

The cost of his treatment was far above what the family could afford to pay. They managed to pay only for his medications. Coming from a very poor family, this was all they could give towards Annadurai's expensive care. Sometimes the cost is borne by the Person to Person Fund, supported by well wishers around the world. Sometimes the cost is met from the Hospital's budgeted fund for free treatment. The Paediatric Surgery Department policy has always been that no child who has a treatable condition will be turned away just because they cannot afford the cost of the treatment. In this case most of the boy's treatment was absorbed by the Paediatric Surgery Department.

Annadurai and his mother have made the arduous journey back to the Jawadi Hills, knowing that, thanks to the skill of the staff at CMC Hospital and the generosity of well wishers. the



young boy has been returned to good health to take up his place in the life of his family.

CMCH LUDHIANA

Extracts from Reports at the Governing Body Meetings

Bill Virgin attended the Governing Body Meetings in September as the Committee's representative. The following information has been extracted from reports given at the meetings. Thanks to Bill for the pictures from Ludhiana as well.

Dr. Abraham Thomas, Director, reported that the past year has been a landmark year. Many tasks have been completed, especially the increase of MBBS seats from 50 to 75 after a span of 58 years. The Principals, the entire administrative team, faculty and staff have come together to upgrade the services of the college, hospital and outreach centers to meet the requirements of the Hospital and Colleges.

Besides the new MBBS positions sanctioned by the Government and the Medical Council of India (MCI), the University has recommended starting Post Graduate studies in Ear Nose and Throat, Community Medicine, and Microbiology. As well, an increase in positions has been recommended in Radiotherapy and Cardiology and new courses in Neurology, Nephrology, Paediatric Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery. We do hope and pray that we will have this privilege in the next academic year.

We have been required to increase the number of teaching beds for the MBBS degree from 450 to 510 and for specialty departments from 60 to 140 for a total of 650 teaching beds. 130 beds are required for support of the Intensive Care and Casualty units.

A new electronic medical records system has been implemented and is working well. All Out Patients now receive a card with photo ID. This will be expanded to cover all patients in the near future. All staff are being encouraged and trained to provide a patient friendly atmosphere in all departments.

The increase in bed occupancy is important to the financial health of the hospital. Patient income has increased 20 percent over the last year. This has allowed for much needed maintenance and repairs to the facilities. Wards have been cleaned and painted and wheelchairs and stretchers repaired or replaced. The housekeeping and dietary services have been improved.

At present staff, including doctors and nurses, are looking after our rural centres in Lalton Kalan and Jamalpur and the urban centre at Field Gang, all needed for basic MBBS and B.Sc (N) training. In addition we have also extended our services to Malerkotla, 40 km away, and the Hambran centre, 22 km away. Mr. Rishi Pahwa has offered to lease the Hambran centre with 15 beds and all other facilities to CMC for a period of 30 years.



Keith Hine, Friends of Ludhiana UK observed the following: “the institution has made a financial profit this year and has been able to pay back a small amount of capital on the bank loans. Yes, the hospital charges have been increased but there has been a definite increase in the number of in-patients and out-patients treated.

Cardiology and Cardio-thoracic surgery have been particularly beneficial. Their wards would stand comparison with similar provisions in the West – spacious, clean, air-conditioned, and well-designed. Emergency angioplasty is provided. It comes at a cost so that standard of care is not available to everyone.

The new private wing is also well-appointed and is much in demand. One of the complaints I heard quite frequently was that it was difficult to find an empty bed on the private wing for admissions. The new ITU is also much to be admired and the equivalent of similar facilities in the West.

The new linear accelerator is in the basement of the X-ray department. It is now fully functioning and is attracting patients from other hospitals. Its computerised planning facilities are very impressive.

The ‘old’ wards remain much as they were – not air-conditioned [therefore stiflingly hot and humid in early September], and crowded with little privacy for patients.

More details were presented on the Ten Year Plan for the hospital with proposals to build: new staff nurses’ flats, new student nurses’ hostel, new buildings for the Dental College, Community Health and Rural Health Outreach Program, development at Lalton Kalan, new operating theatre and laboratory complex, new laundry building, new College of Physiotherapy [on the site of the original hospital], new cafeteria and new multi-storey car park.”

Editor’s Note: Please check out our new Committee website www.cmchospitals.ca