

EXPANSION OF ADYAR

WHEN Mrs. Besant became President, the Society owned 27 acres. By the end of 1911, she had increased the Adyar Estate to 253 acres. This was done by purchasing the properties which are now known as Blavatsky Gardens, Olcott Gardens, Besant Gardens, Damodar Gardens, and Besant Grove. Alsace Grove was added in 1910. At her appeal, members sent contributions to pay for the enlargement of the Society's estate, while she herself out of her earnings gave repeatedly large sums to the Society's budget. Many members have given not only donations in money but buildings also, to enable the work of the Society to be done more efficiently. B. Ranga Reddy gave Bhojanasala; A. Schwarz, Damodar Gardens; J. R. Aria, Besant Grove; and Charles Harvey, both Leadbeater Chambers and the new building of the Theosophical Publishing House. A Laundry and a Dairy were established, as also an electrical Power House to generate electricity for the estate.

During Colonel Olcott's time, Adyar was not intended to be a place for students, but only for the few workers necessary for the administration of the Society. Mrs. Besant made special arrangements for the accommodation of such students as cared to come, for one or more years, both to study and to help in the work. This necessitated the erection of special students' quarters, and these are the present Bhojanasala, Indian Quadrangle and Leadbeater Chambers.