Chapter IV
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The local self government was at its zenith during the Chola regime, since the villages in Southern India under them were "full of vigour and strength". The British administration appreciated the importance of local self government.

History of the local self government in the District

In the Nilgiri District the local self governing institutions were set up by the Britishers. It was classified into District Boards Municipalities and cantonments. Later panchyat unions were set up and it was included in village panchayats and Town panchayats.

District Boards

The first milestone in the growth of the rural local self government of this state was the passing of the Local Funds act in 1871. The Act provided for the creation of the "Circle Board". The entire Revenue District of the Nilgiris was formed as one circle Board. The Local Funds Act 1871 provided for the establishment of Boards of committees to
administer. The local funds were raised in the circle by way of taxation.

The next major development in the growth of the local self government was the passing of the local Boards Act 1884, which was the result of the famous resolution of Lord Ripon the then governor General of India who was called "The Father of the Local self government of India". According to that act the three local self governing institutions (i.e.) District Boards, Taluk Boards and Union Boards were brought into existence in the Nilgiris District. The District Board alone was constituted but not the Taluk Boards or Union Boards. This was because the area of the whole district was not in any respect equal to that of a taluk in the plains.

The Nilgiris District Board was the smallest of its kind in the erstwhile Madras Presidency. Though it was a separate revenue District it was not economically viable as a District Board. There were only 33 villages under its control. Its total annual revenue was never sufficient to meet its ordinary expenditure. The basic amenities to the people were provided with its limited resources.

Nilgiris District Board, was constituted by the members and was, maintained by the government. The District Collector was the ex-officio chairman of it. But from 1920 onwards its members were directly elected and it was a part of the District Board controlled by the secretary.
Outside the two Municipalities of Ootacamund and Coonoor, local affairs were managed by the District board which was composed of sixteen members.

Structure of the Local Administration

Upto 1830 the Nilgiris formed part of the Coimbatore District. A portion of the plateau was retransferred and the Nilgiris remained a taluk of the latter District till 1868. It was then constituted a separate District, under a Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner. In 1873 the Ouchterlony Valley at Wynaad was added to the District and in 1877 the South - East Wynaad was transferred from Malabar and became Gudalur taluk. In 1882 the administrative machinery was reorganised and assimilated into other Districts. Thus the Nilgiris comprised of four taluks namely, Ootacamund, Coonoor, Gudalur and Wellington cantonment.

Ootacamund and Gudalur were in charge of the collector with the assistance of Deputy Tahsildars, while Coonoor was administered by the divisional officer with the assistance of stationary sub-magistrates whose erstwhile headquarter at Devala was transferred to Coonoor in 1895.

The Nilgiris had no separate Executive Engineer, public works in the Ootacamund and Coonoor taluks were looked after by the Engineer of Coimbatore. But the Gudalur taluk was included in the Malabar Executive
Ootacamund Municipality

Ootacamund became a municipality in 1866. The municipal receipts and expenditure were started in the same year. It was constituted a municipality under the Act X of 1865. Sanitary measures of the District were taken over by colonel Crewe the commandent of the Nilgiris during the year 1831-1836. Then a sanitary commissioner was appointed to clear the polluting atmosphere of the town. The commissioner was constituted by a council, which consisted of 13 members who were all the Municipal commissioners. The Collector of Coimbatore was the president, and the Special Assistant Collector was the honorary Secretary of the Council. It took over all the existing conservancy plans.

The affairs of the town were administered by the Ootacamund Municipality which worked under the District Municipalities Act of 1866. The Municipalities had more financial help from Government then any other town in the presidency with the result that the necessary improvements were taken to keep the town attractive beautiful and healthy.

In September 1825, a committee was formed consisting of Surgeon Hainess, Captain Underwood Mr. Sullivan, and two more engineers to send the proposed plans, and arrangements for the Sanitorium.
In 1829 an order was passed to convert Nilgiris into a sanitorium for the treating of the princes and company's European troops. In 1832 southdown (present Bishop down) was purchased from the natives and was converted into a sanitorium. Town Improvements Act was passed in the year 1866 for the arrangements of cleansing the town. The Director General of the Medical Department when writing to the government in April 1860 spoke of the lake as being the "Universal Cesspool" of Ootacamund. Ootacamund he stated then contained 12000 inhabitants.

In order to improve the condition of the lake "The Ootacamund Improvement committee" was created at the suggestions of the then Governor Sir. C. Trevelyan. In 1867 it was decided that roads must be constructed all over the districts or at least in the Ootacamund town. In 1868 enteric fever unknown so far in Ootacamund, was declared as an endemic in the station. It had given a great scare to the public who demanded necessary action. Therefore many improvement schemes were outlined. It needed more funds. Eventually government lent the commissioners Rs. 20000/- as a grant for the improvement of the Ootacamund town. The amount was spent for the improvements in the main Bazaar with erection of latrines. The main bazaar was moved to Kandal. The expenditure was expanded, but it was compensated.
In 1869-70, some improvements were effected. The market was extended; a beef slaughter house was erected, main bazaar and its roads were sloped to prevent storm water from stagnating. The external walls of all houses and buildings adjacent to the public ways, within the Municipality limits were white washed. If the occupiers or the owners of the building failed to follow the rules of the Municipality, they were penalised by the Municipal Commissioner. The penalty fees did not exceed Rupees twenty. Penalty for continued infringement after notice was Rupees ten daily.\textsuperscript{13}

After the revision of the by law, the Market Tolls and slaughtering fees were sanctioned. In 1871 some drainage works were started. The drainage was paved with granite and the bazaar drains were patched. In 1872 poudre manufacture was started in the middle of both Ootacamund and Kandal.\textsuperscript{14} In 1873 convicts were employed on the reclamation of part of the borders of the lake.

The resolution passed by the Government of India related to the mode in which payment was made for Municipal expenditure incurred by the officers of the Public Works Department (PWD) which communicated to the presidents of all Municipalities. It was also applied to the Nilgiri District.

In 1874 the butchers were given a room to keep their meat, which they had so far been storing in
the kitchens and bedrooms of their own houses. In 1876 the improvement of the latrines engaged attention and the poudrette factory was shifted to the outskirts of the town \(^{15}\).

Col. Grave, the then commandant of the Nilgiris (1831-1836) levied a small amount of voluntary tax on the bazaar men for the upkeep of half a dozen sweepers to attend to the main bazaar street. But this was inadequate.

Changes in the system of administration also facilitated advance up to 1882. The chief executive officer of the council was the Special Assistant Collector and his successor the Assistant Commissioner, both of whom were engaged with more works. Then the Assistant Commissioner's place was occupied by the Vice-President of the board who was chosen by the councillors \(^{16}\). In 1884 when the existing Municipal Act was passed, a paid secretary was appointed.

In 1895 a salaried chairman was put in executive charge \(^{17}\). In 1897 an amending Act gave power to the council to enhance taxation. In 1899 an Engineer was appointed. According to the Hill Municipalities Act (1897), the powers and revenue of the council were increased. The Municipality received grant from Government periodically, and special contribution was spent for the scheme of drainage. Water supply, and building up of the market.
Municipal council

The first meeting of the Municipal council was held on 5 Nov 1866 with Mr. James Ouchtterlony in the chair. The construction of the Municipal office was completed and occupied on 13th April 1894\(^\text{18}\).

Until 1877 the Municipal Commissioners had been appointed by the government. Thereupon half of them were duly elected by the people\(^\text{19}\). As per the act of 1884 the nomenclature of the president and commissioners of the Municipality was changed as chairmen and councillors respectively which came into force from 1st April 1885\(^\text{20}\).

In 1916 the Municipality was divided into seven wards for the purpose of election of councillors and eight councillors were elected from these wards one being double member ward. Wards were constituted on the basis of population. As per the census of 1921 the total population of the Ootacamund town was 18,829\(^\text{21}\). The elected councillors were raised from 8 to 12 and the nominated councillors were reduced from 8 to 4.

The Act X of 1930, which came into force on 26th August 1930, abolished the system of nomination of the members\(^\text{22}\). The total number of Ootcamund Municipality was fixed as 20. All the 20 councillors were to be elected by the people. Accordingly the
Ootcamund Municipality was delimited in 12 wards with reserved seats for Europeans, Anglo Indians, Muslims and Scheduled Castes as determined by the Government.

It was in the year 1933 that the full time Municipal Commissioner was appointed by the government to look after the executive functions which hitherto had been done by the Chairman. The first commissioner appointed for this Municipality was Janals Syed Muhammad Nakuda, who took charge on 24 July 1933.

Municipal Market

The first Municipal market was built in 1847-48 at the personal suggestion of the Marquis of Tweeddale with a cost of Rs.5800. It was a rectangular structure. Fees were first collected in 1864 and the proceeds were applied to the improvement of the buildings. The market was extended in the year 1885. Separate buildings were built for grain and for the meat market. The cost of these two buildings was Rs.61000. After eight years stalls for European Vegetables, fruit, poultry, eggs and fish, were built at a cost of Rs.22000/-. Native vegetable shops were also built.

Iron sheds were built. The entire market was fenced with iron palings. The revenue was larger than that of any Municipal Market in the presidency except Trichinolopoly.
There was a weekly market or shandy held every Tuesday, which yielded to the Municipality a revenue of about 3000 rupees a year. The municipality levied tax on poultry and vegetables. The weekly market was supplied with staple food grains and poultry from the low country chiefly from Coimbatore, and garden produce mostly from the neighbourhood of Ootacamund.

Markets were lime washed once in 6 months and person with infectious diseases were not allowed to sell their wares. Plat forms were kept clean and free from nuisance. Weights and Measures bearing the government stamp, alone were allowed to be used in the Markets. Fires were not to be lighted in the Market.

The Municipal Council had the right to fix the places for each person to keep his wares. Only notified things were kept for sale and other things were not allowed for sale. Shop keepers were responsible for any damage in the Market places. They should not allow others to sell things near the verandah of the stalls. Beating nails or pegs of any kind into the floors of stalls by the renters or their servants, without the permission of the Municipal Council was punishable. The shop keepers were strictly forbidden rom making any alterations without the permission of the Municipal council. Rents were paid on the first of every month.
In the Nilgiris it was not possible to produce enough food to support the large foreign, non-agricultural population. The area under cereals cultivation was only 29000 acres, and the average turnout was not equal to more than four month supply. Consequently large quantities of rice and ragi were imported from Mysore state through Gudalur, and from Coimbatore District by the ghat road, and by the rack railway which started from Mettupalayam.

The principal exports of the District were coffee, tea, cinchona bark, quinine, eucalyptus oil and beer. Many of the Wynaad products went down to Calicut and Musalmans controlled the greater part of the trade.

**General Sanitary Regulations**

A detailed account of the sanitary condition was reported by the sanitary commissioner, the late Mr. R. S. Ellis, C.B. in 1868. In 1877 cholera was found for the first time in the place and smallpox was epidemic. When the district was suffering from drought and famine, the government then directed the surgeon-General, the sanitary commissioner and the commissioner of the Nilgiris to form themselves into a committee to report on the sanitary condition of the place and to suggest methods of improving it. Gordon, C.B. (British Army), Dr. Cornish was the surgeon General and the sanitary commissioner of the committee. The committee prepared the report starting
with the history of the health of the town from 1855. Their report covered 200 pages and was submitted in Dec. 1877. It gave many unpleasant details regarding the existing condition of the town.

One of its recommendations was the abolition of the Municipality and its duties to be entrusted with one capable officer. Major Morant R.E. District Engineer "The Site of Ootacamund", "has been well chosen, but from its commencement until now it has never been systematically treated, the town having been allowed to grow up uncontrolled. The gradients of many of the roads are inconveniently steep. The town would have been better served by fewer roads properly aligned. Houses have been allowed to be built without guidance. The locality of many was objectionable; The construction of most was poor and insanitary. Lands have also been recklessly sold to private individuals, who in many cases allowed them to remain unutilized and unenclosed. It was not now easy to obtain space for public wants. Thus difficulties exist in the way of much needed improvements. The great thing that was eagerly longed for but which was missing was copious supply of good drinking water. In dry seasons whether was not adequate to the requirement of the town. To this cause was due much of the sickness in dry years. More might be done by lease-holders in digging wells for themselves, a few have been successfully sunk, but near the bazaar and in low lying parts densely occupied wells would be exposed to
contamination soakage of sewage and filt through the adjoining the strater. . . . " is the drastic comment made by Major Morant R.E. District Engineer.

The system of sanitation in the important places of the town was to remove all excreta, without deodorization, and sweepings in carts drawn by bullocks, beyond the town. A system of dry-earth conservancy, including the manufacture of poudrette with ashes of sweepings and slaughter house refuse and pulverized bone was in vogue for two or three years.

The sanitation of the town was maintained under the supervision of the chief sanitary inspector until 1911, when the post was replaced by the post of Municipal Health Officer who was assisted by one selection grade Sanitary Inspector, five Sanitary Inspectors, and four Sanitary Assistants. The streets and public places of the town were cleaned regularly by the permanent and temporary sanitary workers employed by the Municipal Council.

The following table gives the amount spent for sanitary purposes and also the other details connected with the Municipality in 1881-82.28
Construction of Poudretta shed and a road near 'Governors' shola were sanctioned in the year 1876. Later, many sheds were built for poudrette, and it was sold to the public to be used as manure. No night soil was permitted to be retained for more than 24 hours or deposited on any house land, garden etc. within the Municipality, owners of houses, lands gardens etc, who had existing cess-pits were requested to close the same. The services of the conservancy Department for the removal of such night soil were available under the private scavengering system.

Scavangers were appointed for burying corpses and dead animals found lying uninterred around Ootacamund. A proportionate sum was allotted by the Local and Municipal Boards. The commissioners were prepared to meet the expenditure of the work within the Municipal limits from the "Conservancy" Grant. All arrangements, bylaws, acts were enacted to maintain sanitation of the whole town. Strict rules and
regulations were followed in regard to sanitation. when an animal died within Municipal limits the owner or occupier of the premises removed it within twelve hours\textsuperscript{29}.

**Drainage System**

Ootacamund was provided with partial underground drainage system since 1908. Before that the first stable plan of action towards the draining of any part of Ootacamund was the deputation in 1867 of Major Tulloch R.E\textsuperscript{30}. He was a person who made a special study of drainage system. He prepared a scheme for the main bazaar.

House and street drains were not provided for or designed, because the cost of the sewer for the government was too high. Major Tulloch laid an egg-shaped brick server along the margin of the lake from the point where the supply of stream ran into it down to the outfall. This was to carry sewage only, and not the storm water.

The streets of the Bazaar were properly sloped, and drains were provided for them. A general scheme was prepared by Major Farewell, the District Engineer in the year 1870-71\textsuperscript{31}. And again a complete project work was done by Major Morant also a district Engineer in 1879. Many surface drains were opened to carry sewage and drain storm water into the lake and it was estimated at a total cost of Rs.32900.
In 1881 Mr. Shaughnessy, the then Local Fund Engineer, prepared an estimate and a plan according to the material used for the drains. According to which, the sewage did not run into the lake but an intercepting sewer was constructed to carry sewage down to the lake outfall. For this purpose a sewer was built by the committee which was recommended by Captain Tulloch in 1881\textsuperscript{32}. In 1883 O' Shaughnessy's four schemes came into action that all the drains were made up of stone. In some places a square brick intercepting the sewers was built. First it was built from Glendower Hall to the Willow Bund. It cost Rs.66935/- and an iron pipe sewer ran from hence along the margin of the lake to the lake outfall. These three undertakings were completed in March 1887\textsuperscript{33}.

It was found that the brick intercepting sewer was giving a lot of trouble. It often became silted up and it did not keep sewage out of the lake as it so often overflowed through its manholes. The sanitary Engineer reported in 1890 that the reason for the trouble in the drainage was that its fall was too small, its section unsuitable and the arrangements for keeping silt out of it was defective and in 1893 a portion from the market to the Willow Bund was replaced by a nine inch stoneware pipe, laid at a steeper gradient, at a cost of Rs.11300.

In order to stop the perennial nuisance like, silting up, leaking and overflowing of the drainages,
the sanitary Board adopted another scheme. The nine inch pipe was pulled up and replaced by 12 inch one. Initially (1897) this work was done by the Public Works Department and they spent Rs.41680/- later in certain places the old square brick construction was replaced by a twelve inch stoneware pipe at a cost of Rs.14600/-\(^{34}\). The iron pipe sewer along the margin of the lake got out of alignment and leaked in sewer places. The problem was rectified and the seven was provided with manholes at a cost of Rs.10,000/-. In 1903 the Sanitary Board examined the drainage of the whole town and in 1893 the drainage of Kandal was set up by open channels discharging into a sewer which was carried out at a cost of Rs.35,000/- of which the government gave half\(^{35}\).

A comprehensive scheme was adopted for the complete drainage of the whole town on modern lines with closed pipes. Numerous house connections were drawn up by the sanitary Engineer in 1903. According to this new scheme, it divided the town into fourteen drainage blocks, including the main bazaar. Each block treated separately. All the blocks had separate main sewers, septic tanks and sewage farms.

The president of the Municipality had the right for suggesting the advisability of calling for sealed tenders for the drainage work. The Municipal Commissioners had to approve the suggestions of the president. Then an Engineer was called upon to draw out a specification. After that they had applied for
a grant from the government for the above mentioned work. Thus an elaborate drainage scheme was estimated.

The total length of drainage line was 31.6 k.m. in 1908. The drainage system served an area of 12.94 k.m. of the town. The Municipality maintained a sewerage farm at a total area of 14.5 acres, where grass was raised for Commercial purposes.

**Water Supply**

The history of the water supply system of Ootacamund is as old as that of the Municipality. Systematic water supply was established in the year 1865-66 and water from the Southern slopes of Dodabetta was brought to a few houses by the aqueduct over the Coonoor Road. For many years the residents of Ootacamund had independent wells and streams for their water supply. It was subsequently replaced by underground pipes which collapsed in 1904.

Major Farewell conceived and implemented a water supply plan in 1868, by which water supply was provided for the houses. His scheme also included a smaller reservoir at Dodabetta (The existing Dodabetta reservoir) to increase the supply through the above mentioned aqueduct to the houses in the south of the lake. Water was thus brought to the town in open channels. This plan was further improved in the
subsequent years. Major Farewell's proposals were sanctioned and by 1870 both reservoirs were completed. The Dodabetta reservoir Scheme, (the channel of which was 5½ miles long) was handed over to the council on the first day of 1871.\(^{39}\)

**The Marlimand Water Supply**

In 1877 Captain Morant, drew up a scheme for improving the north (Marlimand) supply by adding three more reservoirs.\(^{40}\) The estimated cost was Rs.123,692.00. So the council applied to the government, for a loan of the above mentioned amount. But eventually the project was dropped, because both the Marlimand and Dodabetta reservoirs were polluted by the manured tea and other dust particles which lay within their catchment areas and that immense wastage of the supply in them and also further pollution was caused by carrying their water into the town in open channels. But a committee which was formed in the year 1881 proposed to run intercepting drains around the cultivated portions of both catchment areas, and new tracts were tapped to stop the loss of water. Thus it was occasioned by tapping new tracts, fencing the whole of the catchment areas, and piping both the supplies.

The fund was again sanctioned from the provincial fund for the improvement of the Marlimand reservoir. The work was completed in the year 1889.\(^{41}\) The existing catchment area was replaced by Snowdon Hill which
was the source of several rivulets. These were intercepted and carried to the reservoir in a covered channel. A service reservoir (The Snowdon Ponds) was made near Snowdon and the supply channel from Marlimand to the town was piped.

Many sanitary experts were appointed to clear the remarks regarding the quality of the Marlimand water. Later it was found that a large bog lay at the head of the reservoir and the part of the catchment area. The catchment area consisted of the Tuder Hall Tea Estate, with the dwelling houses and cooly lines therein. In 1895 the Sanitary Board recommended that the reservoir should be abolished, and the snow down ponds should be enlarged to take its places.

In 1896 Mr. G.T. Walch, a retired Chief Engineer for irrigation who was a resident of Ootacamund recommended a water supply scheme by which two new reservoirs one above Kodappamund and the other on the Tiger Hill stream were executed between 1901 and 1904. In the case of Marlimand reservoir G.T. Walch suggested that the Tuder Hall Estate should be acquired. Latter it was cleared. Then the marliamand reservoir was lined with masonry. All the water from the reservoir was filtered. The suggestion of G.T. Walch was accepted by the government. The action plan was carried out in 1899.
Dodabetta Reservoir

The Dodabetta reservoir attracted the attention of the Britishers. In 1889 the surgeon General pointed out that cultivation lay within the catchment basin of the upper reservoir and that the delivery channel was polluted by the village which stood near the old aqueduct. All the channels were piped and the catchment area of the upper reservoir was acquired in 1899.

The Kodapamand Reservoir

This reservoir was originally designed by Mr. Nery then Municipal Engineer in 1893. It was formed by a low dam, placed across the contaminated Kodapamand stream. The pipe line of the reservoir ran to the hamlets of Kodapamand and Vannarapettai and to the houses along the Kotagiri road.

The Tiger hill reservoir

The Tiger Hill reservoir was also another important project. It was carried out between 1901 and 1904. The catchment area of this reservoir included upper Dodabetta reservoir. It received the surplus water from overflow of the Dodabetta reservoir. A masonry dam which was built across the Tiger hill stream which formed the reservoir was 42 feet high; 5 feet wide at the top and 27 feet at the bottom. In the year 1928 the reservoirs were further deepened and the water potentiality was improved. Under ground
system of water supply was also introduced. Still the supply of water was felt to be inadequate and hence a new scheme was inaugurated in the year 1958. 2½ percent of water tax was collected from the public. This amount was spent for the execution of the proposed scheme which benefitted the inhabitants. The tax was levied only upon the completion of the work. Provisions were made in the estimates for laying branch pipes along all the by-streets and lanes of the bazar and other thickly populated quarters of the town.

The chief supplies of water at Ootacamund were brought by open channels from tolerably pure sources situated at a considerable distance from the centre of the station. But it was obvious that water conveyed through a town by this means was liable to pollution in a variety of ways as referred to elsewhere. The water should therefore be invariably boiled and filtered before use. Drinking water was procured from the springs. Water of the lake was not likely to be used for domestic purpose by the Europeans.

Tiger hill spring water was used only for drinking purpose. All persons requiring water for other than domestic purposes or for trade, should apply to the chairman as required by the Act. In order to stop the wastage of water many arrangements were made. The Marlimand supply was brought under greater control and furnished with more stop cocks and valves. All non-self closing taps were gradually abolished. None
of the existing taps of this class was renewed, and the meter was attached to know the quantity of water used. Two channel inspectors and a supervisor were appointed to regulate the water supply. The Municipal council had the advise of the chief engineers for irrigation. Two more temporary extra water course inspectors were engaged at once.

**Bylaws**

Many bylaws were passed for the improvement of the water supply. Without prior permission of the Municipal councillors nobody was allowed to set up any water course (nullah) within the Municipality and they were not allowed to divert the water channel or stream within the Municipality. Drinking water reservoirs were not allowed to be used for other purposes like irrigation etc. The well water both private and public were used only for drinking purposes. If the public did not abide by the above bylaws they were liable to be fined with a sum between Rs.20 and Rs.120 per day.

The councillors accepted all the proposals sent by the government about supplying of water to the town.

Notices were issued prohibiting the public from trespassing on the snowdon Reserve for the purpose of drawing water from the reservoir. Rs.1861 was spent for the improvement of water supply such as cleansing,
repairing and construction of tanks etc in the year 1881-82 St. Lawrence reservoir was built in the year 1869 and the government sanctioned Rs.10000 for the operation of this reservoir.

According to the bylaw it was also said that no person suffering from any contagious disease should bathe or wash or wash any clothes in any public tank or reservoir or standing water. The owners or occupiers of any part of the bank of any nullah should keep it free from filth, dense vegetation or other obstructions. At all times they allowed the commissioners or any of their servants duly authorized to have access to such nullahs for any purpose of public conservancy. The public were not allowed to commit a nuisance in the dry bed or by the side of any lake, stream water course or tank within the Municipal limits.

Persons were not allowed to divert or obstruct the course of any public water work, channel or stream without the prior permission of the authority. The commissioners had to authorize the entry of such of their officers as it was necessary into any premises after giving six hours notice to inspect any water work or course or to make the necessary alteration. Every well was fenced by walls not less than three feet high from the surface of the ground.
The sanitation of the town was under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector until 1911, when the post was replaced by that of the Municipal Health Officer. The Municipal Health Officer was assisted by one Selection Grade Sanitary Inspector, five Sanitary Inspectors and four sanitary Assistants. The streets and public places of the town were cleansed regularly by the permanent and temporary sanitary workers, employed by the Municipal council.

The Municipality ran three allopathic dispensaries located at Stone House, Santhi Nagar, and Ramakrishnapuram. There were also three maternity and child care centres and one maternity and child welfare home.

Two commissioned Medical Officers were stationed at Ootacamund. One of these officers had charge of the northern half of the station including St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The other took charge of the southern half along with the charge of the Native and European Jails. The Joint magistrate of Ootacamund had charge of the hospital and care of the division. The operation of the vaccinators was also supervised by the Medical Officer. His duty was to check whether the Municipal or Local Fund was sanctioned by the Municipal Commissioner. He also supervised generally the registration of vital statistics in the Municipality. He was aided by two Hospital Assistants one of whom was restricted to the hospital and the
other was available for the care of the police and itinerant work generally. The Medical Officer in charge of the Jail was assisted by a Medical subordinate of the grade of Apothecary.

**Effects of the climate and the public health**

The Europeans when they reached the Nilgiris were greeted by the wonderful climate of the hill station. It was a temperate and equable climate. After the arrival of many Europeans, they personally experienced and explained the cool and salubrious climate of the Nilgiris and finally the government began to consider the desirability of establishing an official sanitorium at Ootacamund. Ooty became an epitome of good climate which necessitated report after report from the medical authorities.

Dr. Baikie, in this regard, justly summarized the climate of the Hill in 1844 as follows: "cold weather or winter is like the spring of the north of Persia or the autumn of the South of the France and the monsoon was very nearly a mild autumn in the South of England". Healthy as was the climate of the Nilgiri plateau, illness was highly mitigated.

**Disease prevailed in these hill station**

Due to the high altitude, the heart was affected,
sometimes headaches and sleeplessness were induced in new arrivals. Dysentry was a common disease because of the contamination of the water. The skin became dry because of the chillness of the air. The most affected parts were the kidney and the liver. Eye deseases also prevailed, and pneumonia was also prevalent among the natives. This disease was spreading during the south west monsoon and also during the commencement of the cold weather due to insufficient protection. Many deaths occurred because of high fever. Mild diarrhoea was common. Catarrh and sorethroat were prevalent Diptheria and Typhoid also occurred. Despite this fact, the general health of the people within municipal limits was on the whole good throughout the year.

Cholera

Cholera prevailed in the station to an extent never known before when the Europeans were first settling on the plateau. It was found that the above disease was spreading around the hill stations. In 1827 the then Governor Sir Thomas Munroe was killed by this disease. It was speedily imported from the plains. But it was less destructive then on the plains. It mostly prevailed in the Gundalpet area. The year of the Great Famine Occurred in 1877 and 476 persons died of cholera. But there had been no cholera deaths prior to this time. Cholera was most common in Mettupalayam and the adjoining villages and people were warned of the danger of attending the Festival at Karamaday which took place during March.
Sanitation was given much importance to prevent the disease.

Small Pox

Small pox was another contagious disease found in the Hills. Vaccinations were given regularly. Vaccination was compulsory in Ootacamund and Coonoor and was actively performed outside its vicinity. But its victims numbered far more than those of cholera. The heaviest mortality on record was 327 deaths in the disastrous year of 187743.

Supervisors were appointed to oversee the operation of the vaccinators. Superintendents of vaccination were authorized to grant certificates of vaccination to candidates. They got their appointments through employment scheme in the public service and under Local Fund Board or by admission to the uncovenanted civil service examinations. Vaccinators were allowed 4 annas daily batta. While on duty at a distance of 10 miles from Head Quarters, the Board resolved to sanction batta at the rate of four annas for each vaccinator. Travelling allowances were also provided to the vaccinators, for a distance of 10 miles or more from his Head Quarters. A provision of Rupees 30 was made in the Budget of 1880-81 for this purpose. The government insisted on the vaccination for School children. Children attending schools were entitled to obtain vaccination certificates.
Plague

Plague was not known in the district until 1903. It descended from Mysore to Gudalore and caused twenty deaths by the end of March. Then it spread rapidly to Ootacamund, Naduvattam, Kotagiri, Kateri. It also spread to other places from Mettupalayam. The disease spread rapidly among the planters and coolies, with the closing of the working season i.e. end of March. As the coolies returned to their village on the plains plague declined, but the outbreak resulted in 1911 deaths.

In 1904 and 1905-1906 the disease reappeared but the deaths thereof it numbered only 29 and 49 respectively. Preventive methods were started but expenditure for these methods were heavy. Special Staff members were appointed and substantial camps were created to give necessary awareness to the people. The sanitary improvements were started in the towns and large villages and the insulated sheds were built for the patients. Water supply and drainage greatly improved the health of the towns.

According to the 1881 Medical Report there was no epidemic disease like Measles and chicken pox, thanks to the preventive methods like white washing the houses removing accumulation of filth and the improved conservancy arrangements as regards latrines etc.
Medical Institutions

The civil medical institutions in the district comprises of four hospitals, at Kotagiri, Gudalur, Coonoor and Ootacamund and a dispensary at Paikara. Wellington had a large military hospital. A hospital at Devala was built by the planting community in 1876, and was transferred to the care of the District Board in 1887. A new building for district board was erected in 1885 at a cost of Rs.6000/- . The apothecary quarters and a dead house were added subsequently.

Government Headquarters Hospital Ooty

The origin of this hospital dates back to 1830, when a small block was built on the summit of Jail Hills. As this place was exposed to winds and as water supply position was unsatisfactory it was shifted to another building called canvalescent Depot after 2 years. Later a small dispensary was opened. Two years later, the canvalescent depot was closed and a new building was constructed in 1882 which was named as Lock Hospital. The hospital consisted of only a small room for medicine and was under the control of the Military Board.

A separate ward for men was built in 1841. Around 1853, the hospital was treated as a civil hospital, because it was used by all sections of the people and
the control and maintenance of the hospital passed on from the hands of the military board to a committee consisting of the Collector of Coimbatore, the Joint Magistrate of Ooty, the Chaplain of Ooty and the local members of the Municipal Commission. One of the two surgeon majors, who had Jurisdiction over the area held charge of the hospital and acted as the executive officer and secretary of the committee respectively. In 1874 this hospital was named St. Bartholomew's Hospital plainly on the initiative of the then Medical officer Surgeon Major Fernell. The hospital was ultimately taken over by the government on April 1920.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital at Ootacamund was the largest institution of the kind in the District. It was completed in 1867 at a cost of Rs.21556 of which Rs.12000 was granted by Government and the balance was paid by private contributions. This institution grew out of the old civil dispensary and strictly speaking was the property of the government. The hospital building was improved by the Municipal commission under the Towns Improvement Act. The Municipal Council granted it Rs.500/- per annum and the remainder of the funds necessary to its upkeep was raised by private contribution and the proceeds of periodical charitable entertainments got up for the purpose.

The management of the institution was entrusted with a committee. The Medical officer incharge acted
as Executive Officer and Secretary. There was a subcommittee of ladies upon whom was devolved the care of all household matters, food supplies etc. The general expenses of the institution were met by public charity, but the government supplemented all such receipts by a grant equal to fifty percent of the sum raised monthly. The institution was highly appreciated by both Europeans and natives.

The hospital consisted of male and female European wards with four and two beds respectively. Many outbuildings and a proper water supply were added in 1875, partly at the cost of government. In 1888 an apothecary substituted for the hospital assistant and in 1892 an Assistant Surgeon, the apothecary.

The District Board began contributing to the institution in 1890 and since 1894 paid it Rs.750.00 yearly. The existing maternity ward was presented in 1900 by Khan Bhadur A.R. Haji Fakir Muhammad Sait of Ootacamund, (The present salt hospital near the market). In 1903 the Maccartie Ward was completed with a monetary government assistance and also by means of the subscriptions, in Memory of Mr.C.F. Maccarts C.I.E. who had been collector of the district from 1889 to 1891.

Lawrence Asylum

One of the Medical Officers of Ootacamund was consulting physician to the Lawrence Asylum, and he
received a special allowance for the duty but an apothecary was directly incharge. The Asylum was intended only for the inmates of that institution. Generally the Medical Administration was under the charge of the District Medical and Sanitary officer stationed at Coonoor.

The total expenditure in 1903 was Rs.52000.00 which was met by government grants in unequal shares, local and Municipal funds and donations and subscriptions.

**Education under the Local Administration**

Regarding education the Nilgiris stood second among Madras Districts. About 12 percent of the inhabitants (17 males and 5 females) were able to read and write and 5 percent of them knew English. The total number of pupils in schools was 15344 in 1880-81, 2938, in 1890-1891, 4520, in 1900-1901 and 4636 in 1903-04. In March 1904 there were 88 educational institutions of all kinds, of which 84 were classed as public and 4 as private.57

There were 67 primary, 16 secondary and one training school of which 3 were maintained by the municipalities and 14 by the District board. A total number of 908 girls was studying in these schools. It was note-worthy that all the secondary schools for boys were English schools. Most of them were attached to missionary institutions.
The single training - school for masters was conducted by the Basel Lutheron Mission at Kaity, but was aided by Government. Of the male population of the school going age, 35 percent were in the primary stage. Of the female population 10 percent were of school going age.

**Medium of Instruction**

Instruction was usually in Tamil which was the language of the public courts and offices and next in frequency was English. In the public schools English was the Medium of tuition.

**Changes in the development of School Education**

The number of educational institutions gradually increased. There was also a normal school for masters. The total number of boys who studied in the high schools, middle schools and primary schools was 5,186 and 1256 respectively and the figures for the girls were 4,43 and 423 in the same order.

**Educational policy of the government**

The educational policy of the Government was to encourage the local bodies to provide education. In the district the District Board maintained two schools in 1885-86. In Ootacamund the first municipal school was also opened in 1886.
The only normal school in the district was located at Wellington run by the Nilgiris District Board for the purpose of the Badaga Community. The education in the district was in steady progress during 1901.

The Government was expanding the elementary education which ultimately resulted in the increase of the number of educational institutions. The following statement will show the slow and steady growth of educational institutions in the district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total number of all types of educational institutions</th>
<th>Total number of pupils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>8,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-27</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>12,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933-34</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>15,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934-35</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>15,660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of elementary schools in the district during 1934-35 was 150 out of which two were run by Government, 16 by the two municipalities of Ootacamund and Coonoor 72 by the aided Nilgiris District Board and 60 by the aided Private agencies. In all these elementary schools, 1059 pupils were under instruction. There were also 23 elementary schools exclusively for girls, of which three were run by the Municipalities.
For Secondary education, there were three non European Secondary Schools for boys with 1034 boys studying in them and two non European Secondary Schools for girls with 304 girls. Three European high schools for boys with 580 boys and six European high schools for girls with 582 girls also existed.

The School Administration

The Department of Public Instruction came into being in 1854 and for the administrative convenience, the entire presidency was divided into six divisions and in each division, there was an Inspectorate to administer the schools. The Nilgiris district was under the control of the V division Inspectorate along with the districts of Coimbatore and Madurai. The Inspectorates were further divided into circles and each circle was under the control of a Deputy Inspector of Schools. But though the entire Nilgiris district formed a separate circle, it did not have a separate Deputy Inspector of Schools. It was under the control of the Deputy Inspector of Schools of North Coimbatore Circle.

In the year 1878-79 there was a rearrangement in the Jurisdiction of the Inspectorate and consequently the Nilgiris district hitherto in the V Division, came to be included in the VI Division. There were totally eight divisions in the presidency.
Besides the Deputy Inspectorate of Schools, there were also inspecting School Masters in each circle appointed by the Government apart from the headmasters of Schools to assist the Deputy Inspector of Schools. In 1873-74 an Inspecting School Master was also appointed for the district.

In 1888-89, the eight divisions of the presidency were reduced to four circles i.e. Northern, central, southern and western and the Nilgiris district became part and parcel of the Southern circle for the educational administration. Another change was effected in 1894-95 and the districts of Coimbatore, Tiruchinappalli and Salem were transferred to western circle. There was a circle Inspector of Schools for each circle. Each circle in town was divided into divisions and each division was left incharge of a Sub-Assistant Inspector of Schools. In western circle there were two divisions namely 8th and 9th. Each division was further sub-divided into ranges. The districts of Coimbatore and the Nilgiris formed one range.

In 1886 a school on the combined system and under the management of the Municipal council was established at old Ootacamund, chiefly for the benefit of the children of the labour classes who inhabited that locality. This school was inspected and reported upon by the Deputy Inspector of schools.
In 1927 the administrative setup was reorganised and in consequence the circle Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors were replaced by the District Educational officers one for each district except the Nilgiris which had been combined with the Coimbatore district.

Local Fund and the Municipal Schools

The Local fund was financed for the development of School Administration in the Municipality. All the grants for the improvement of the schools were sanctioned by the Municipal Commissioner. A report of the Inspector or Deputy Inspector of the School concerned was submitted to the Municipal Commissioners. A large grant was made from the Municipal Funds for the benefit of the Roman Catholic School. Funds were collected from the local bodies like District boards and private bodies. Government sanctioned a particular amount periodically for the development of education.

Brief Accounts on some of the old schools

Lawrence School - Lovedale - Ootacamund

The Lawrence Asylum at Lovedale was intended as a home and training school for the children of European Soldiers, who had served in the Madras Presidency. It was started on 6th Sept. 1858 as a memorial to Major General Sir Henry Lawrence, with the help of
contribution. In 1860 its control was transferred to Government. In 1871 the male military orphan Asylum, (established at Madras) was amalgamated with it and the combined institution moved into the present buildings at Lovedale. In 1904 the Madras military Female orphan Asylum was similarly amalgamated with the girls branch of the Lawrence Asylum. These two branches were under a Head Master and a head mistress respectively. In addition to an elementary education the pupils received practical teaching in technical and industrial subjects like telegraphy, carpentry and shoe making to qualify them to earn a livelihood when they left.

The Income of the institution amounted to about Rs.161000 of which Rs.48000 represented the grant in aid from government Rs.59000 was the interest on investments and Rs.25000 was the profit derived from the Lawrence Asylum presses at Madras and Ootacamund67. Its total expenditure on education in 1903-04 was Rs.102000 of which Rs.10500 was met from fees Rs.52000 from the total sum was devoted to primary education66.

The Report on the Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency, for the year 1933-34 admired the Lawrence Memorial Military School's high level of efficiency.

Brecks Memorial School Ootacamund

Brecks memorial school was opened in June 1874 in
memory of J.W. Breeks the first commissioner of the Nilgiri District. The school was constructed at the cost of Rs. 9487. Funds raised for the purpose was Rs. 4000 and the remaining cost was met by the Government and the Ooty Municipality, by their grants. Additional buildings were constructed for which a sum of Rs. 4000 was collected from the public and the Government and the Municipality sanctioned a grant of Rs. 6000. Besides these the amount collected for giving reception to the Prince of Wales who was programmed to visit Ooty was also utilised for the development of the school, as he cancelled his visit to the district due to the prevalence of cholera. As these buildings were handed over to the Government for accommodating civil courts and in turn the Government constructed a new building for the School in which the school is still functioning. There were many vicissitudes in the growth of the schools between 1874 and 1919.

Teacher Training

When schools were opened on European lines, it became indispensable to give systematic training to teachers. The first teacher training school opened in the district was the Local Fund Normal School at Wellington in the year 1885 and six pupils were admitted. As its name implies this School was managed by the Nilgiris District Board. In 1927, Bethelhem Aided Training School for girls was opened at Ootacamund with 20 girls for higher grade teachers.
training and 15 girls for lower grade year. During 1940-41 Secondary grade teachers training for boys was established at St. Antony's School Coonoor in which boys were admitted for training. But this School was closed and the Government opened a Secondary Grade teachers training School for men at Ootacamund in 1947-48 with an annual intake of 106 pupils.

Library Movement

The earlier attempts in the district were made by some Private individuals who collected books and lent them. The first organised library established in the district was the 'Nilgiri Library' which still functions as a reported private library in the state. The foundation of the library dates back to 1858, when in a public meeting of the residents of Ootacamund it was unanimously decided to establish a public Library on the hills and a Library Committee was also formed. It was proposed to build a separate building for the library and the foundation stone laid in 1867 by A.J. Arbuthnot, the then Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Roads and Transport in the Municipal Area

The Municipal Council maintained excellent roads throughout the station and constructed an intercepting sewer to keep the drainage of the main bazaar from polluting the lake. The total length of metalled roads in the District was 145 miles and unmetalled roads 479 miles. Of the former 20 miles were under
the charge of the public works department and all the rest were maintained by the District board. Avenues of trees were not needed in this temperate climate, and only eighteen miles of road were provided with them. Ootacamund was the centre of the road system and from it lines ran to the various ghats leading off the plateau.

In a mountanious tract the value of wide, good and well-graded roads could never be overestimated. In the possession of these, the Nilgiris not only excel, but was beyond comparison with other hill stations in India Ghat roads, or ghats, as they were more familiarly termed gave access to the main plateau from various surrounding points. They were usually steep but on the plateau itself roads were usually undulating, and in parts hilly but for the most part the grades could easily be negotiated by a bycycle, both uphill and down. All carriage roads on the plateau were well laid Macadamized and were even wide enough to ensure safe and pleasant driving, whether by motor car or carriage. They were kept in a good state of repair.

All the roads in the town were built by the Engineers who were appointed by the Municipal commissioners. These District Engineers of Nilgiris submitted estimates for improvements to roads within the Ooty Municipality which were transferred to the charge of the Public Works Department by the Financial Department.
Local improvement and public works of utility were sanctioned by the Honorary Secretary and provision was made in the budget. There were improvements for the Butcher's road, Poudrette' and Cattle sheds, bazaar drainage scheme and other miscellaneous improvements such as footpaths near the shops etc. All these public works were done by the action of the municipal commissioners of Ootacamund. His action was interfered by the government and the commissioners were given the powers to look after the public works.

In 1881 the Chief Engineer was engaged on three committees, of which the Third Committee was for the improvement of the hill station of Ootacamund. Proceedings in reference to the Third was completed and submitted to the government.

The improvement committee of Ootacamund did a lot of work regarding the construction of the roads. There were many kinds of Grants sanctioned from the Local Fund. Grant I spoke about the expenditure regarding public work. Grant II, referred to expenditure on education and so on.

Registration of carts

The carts and other vehicles without springs kept within the Municipality or let out for hire or used within the Municipality were to be registered and
numbers for such carts and vehicles for the particular period were assigned. All parties possessing carts or other vehicles were required to register them according to the provision of the Act. The fees payable in respect of such registration for the half year was Rs.2 percent.

Coonoor Municipality

Coonoor was constituted a municipality on 1st November 1866 under the then municipal enactment, Towns Improvement Act of 1865.

Status

In 1871 the town was given the power of electing its own Vice-President, and this privilege continued in the case of the chairman appointed under the existing Municipal Act of 1884. Coonoor was administered by the divisional officer. Coonoor had also a stationery sub-magistrate. The Principal sources of revenue was from taxes on houses, on lands, and also from a contribution from government. Coonoor was the headquarters of the divisional officer. It was also one of the principal sanitorium of the presidency, and was perhaps second only to Ootacamund in natural advantages. The town was built in one of the loveliest sites in India. On the sides of the basin formed by the expansion of the Jakatala Valley at the mouth of a great gorge and surrounded by wooded hills. The town was well kept, but owing to the increase of
The drainage of that valley forms the middle stream of Coonoor, which confronted the other streams at the old Coonoor bridge. That bridge was/is the Central point of the Coonoor road system. The first plans and estimates for a drainage scheme were prepared in 1885 by the municipal overseer. They divided the town into the two separate areas of Bazaar Hill and Mission Hill, which were treated separately and provided with open drains discharging into two covered sewers one for each of the two hills. Both were led into an iron pipe discharging into the Coonoor river just below the Masonry bridge over it at the edge of the ghat (near the present railway station). The amount for that drainage was sanctioned by the Sanitary Engineer in 1891. The drainage work which began in the same year was finished by the end of the next year.

The street drains were semi-oval and either of concrete laid in cement or of stoneware obtained from Messrs Burn and Co. of Calcutta. The intercepting and outlet sewers were stoneware pipes made by the same form and the outfall down the Coonoor river was a 12 inch iron pipe, bolted to the rock in the bed of the stream. The pipe discharged at a point where water was always flowing. Coonoor was rapidly growing both in size and in importance. Hence the need for good population the drainage cried for improvement.
drainage, as the government had assisted Ootacamund with a grant.

**Water supply**

Better water supply was provided to the people. First the Municipality improved a channel which was built by Mr. Lascells to supply water to Woodcote in 1847. As that was an open channel liable to pollution, many alternative schemes were suggested. The government sanctioned a grant of Rs. 50000 in the year 1889, to implement the scheme of water supply, bringing water from Wellington stream. The scheme cost was Rs. 99200. The municipality asked the government to raise a loan and also to enhance the water and drainage tax by 2½ percent.

The project was commenced in 1900 by the public works department and it was later discovered that the quality of water supply expected on the completion of the project was over estimated. Hence a revised plan was prepared in 1903. Accordingly a reservoir was placed on Gray's Hill at Coonoor, at the cost of Rs. 128000. The scheme needed more funds to complete the pipeline and the amount was lent to the municipality by the Government. The head work of the scheme was completed in 1905 and was opened by Lord Amphill in April of the year. The reservoir was termed Bandami Reservoir with a catchment area of 160 acres.
As this water supply was found inadequate to meet the needs of the public, another water source in Ralliah reservoir was found out from which water was conveyed through open channel, to Bandami. Later a dam was built in Ralliah reservoir. The reservoir was completed in the year 1942 at a cost of Rs. 307000. It has the capacity of 36 million gallons.

The water from Ralliah dam was brought to Bandami, treated by chlorination, and conveyed to the ground level reservoirs by gravity and distributed to the public. This water scheme was mainly meant for Coonoor town.

Besides these two main sources of water supply i.e. Ralliah and Bandami, there were petty sources of water supply, which also served water to the town.

Another existing channel, emerged from the village of Yeddapalli (near the Kotagiri road) and ran past Woodhouselee and Sim's Park filling tanks and a service reservoir on the hill between the Park and the race course, and distributing it hence throughout the town by pipes. The Coonoor water supply scheme originally designed as a pipe scheme was inadequate to meet the needs of a growing hill station. In 1916 a scheme was sanctioned and was on the point of being executed for laying a 6 inch pipe right from the Rallia sources to the Gray's Hill reservoir.
Public Health

This municipality maintained 5 maternity and child welfare centres and a creche. The public health of this town was maintained and controlled by the Municipal Health Officer, two health inspectors, three sanitary officers and their Subordinates (viz) one Woman Medical Officer, Inspectors, six overseers of Health works, nine Maternity Assistants two Maternity Ayahs and 147 Sweepers.

There were 35 public conveniences and four urinals. Dust bins were provided at 240 places in the town. The Municipality had a compost yard in an extent of 11 acres where the garbage of in the town was transformed into compost manure. The sale of manure fetched an average annual income of Rs.2000 to the Municipality. The open drainage system was introduced in the Municipality in the year 1891 at the cost of Rs.42519. It was well maintained. The streets of the Coonoor Municipal town have been provided with Sodium Vapour lamp.

Education

The Coonoor Municipality maintained three primary schools in 1883-84. This position improved gradually. The government was expanding the elementary education which ultimately resulted in the increase of educational institutions. There were two mixed elementary schools in Coonoor, both of which obtain
grants from the municipality. A new school house was constructed at Aravanghat and was occupied from 1st April 1897. A Girls School was maintained by Government in 1897 at Wellington.

There were many schools run by the Christian missionaries out of which St. Antony's School, Stanes School, St. Joseph School, still exist.

Generally the educational policy of the Government was to encourage the local bodies such as District Boards and Municipalities to provide education. There were a number of other private schools supported by various missionaries all of which received government and Municipal grants. Grants were also payable from provincial Funds.

All the Schools were required to produce good results. Deputy Inspectors were appointed to inspect schools. He had the right for forwarding grant-in-aid for the development of education.

Medical and Sanitation

District Medical and Sanitary Officer stationed at Coonoor was in charge of the Medical administration. There was one resident commissioned Medical Officer at Coonoor. He was entitled to hold the office for four years. He was also in general charge of the Eastern Division of the plateau including Kotagiri.
His duties were similar to those of the Senior Medical Officer at Ootacamund. As the only civil officer of superior rank resident in Coonoor, he was generally entrusted with executive work of the Coonoor Municipality in the capacity of Vice-President. He was aided by a Hospital Assistant at Coonoor while an Apothecary was directly incharge of the dispensary at Kotagiri.

The Government Hospital Coonoor

The Coonoor Hospital was opened in 1855. Coonoor Municipality which started functioning in 1866 contributed much to the upkeep of this hospital. Despite contributions from the government and the municipality, the hospital faced financial constraint in 1883. Then the government was pleased to accord an annual grant. In 1889 the government having undertaken to contribute Rs.1300/- per annum transferred the management to the Municipal Council.

In 1896, the hospital consisted of two main blocks, one for the Europeans and the other for the natives. Besides a maternity ward an isolation shed was also opened. In 1899 a new out patients room and a new infectious diseases ward were put up.

In the same year a committee of European ladies was formed to supervise the general working of the hospital and to arrange for the comforts of the patients. This committee known as the Coonoor Ladies committee was able to collect considerable amount of
donations and contributions from local philanthropists and built an operation theatre in 1903-04. In the year 1900, further improvements were made in the hospitals. In 1902 another ward for infectious diseases was opened. A new dispensary known as "Lawely Dispensary" with residential accommodation for the Sub-Assistant surgeon was constructed in 1911-12 with a special subsidy of Rs.40000 from government and with subscriptions raised by Lt.Col.K.Bryson M.S. the then Medical and Sanitary Officer of the Nilgiris. This new institution came into existence on May 28, 1914. The Lawely hospital provided accommodation for 54 patients i.e. 40 beds in general wards (for males and females) ten maternity beds and four beds for paying patients. Till the end of April 1928 the hospital and the dispensary were maintained by the Municipality and on 1 May 1928, the government took charge of them.

Civic affairs in Coonoor were administered by the Municipality and the councillors. Necessary steps were taken to improve sanitary conditions of the town. The municipality was given the privilege of removing sweepings and night soil in the Coonoor Municipal limits. It was put up to auction at the Municipal Office. Cholera made its appearance during the year 1897 and all necessary arrangements were made to stop pilgrims and beggars suspected of having contracted the disease from coming up the ghat and a cholera shed was put up at Barliyar to accommodate any stray cases and for the treatment of travellers detained.
upon the road.

Cleaning of tanks and wells, sweeping of roads, latrines, pits, night soil, soil depot Night soil carts, cinerator, private Latrine, removal of undergrowth materials, house sanitation i.e. removal of manures from houses all these cleaning works were done by the Municipality. The amount was provided from the Local fund reserved under Grant - III (Grant III refers to the amount sanctioned for sanitation and Medical).

Organisation of the Medical Department

The surgeon general as the head of the Medical Department, was entrusted with the control and superintendence of Military Hospitals and other establishments connected with native troops and of the Lock hospitals, medical stores department, civil hospitals and dispensaries and the Medical establishments attached to judicial, revenue police and other civil departments. There were Six Deputy Surgeon Generals to assist the Surgeon Generals and they were each assigned a circle of superintendence. All civil hospitals were opened to all classes of community, applying for Medical relief eversince the enactment of the Town Improvement and Local Funds Act 1871. As per the Act, the Municipalities and Local Fund Boards were vested with the powers of maintaining such hospitals and dispensaries and the entire cost of maintenance was met by the local boards with the exception of the pay of the Medical Officers of the
commissioned grade or the grade of Honarary Surgeon. In the year 1923, the Department of Public Health was formed for the Improvement of the general health condition of the state with special emphasis on the prevention and control of communicable Disease.

The Pasteur Institute of South India, Coonoor

The Pasteur's Institute of South India was founded in 1907 by the Pasteur Institute Association of Southern India - a private body Registered under the Society's Registration Act of 1860. The income of the Association was derived mainly from the sale of anti-rabies vaccine and also from endowments and voluntary contributions.

Markets

Loans of Rs.7248 were granted for the erection of Market sheds in the Coonoor Market, repayable in twenty years. Rents of stalls in the Municipality were collected. Stalls were put up to auction. Again Municipality was given the privilege of collecting fees on each Bandy entering the Municipal Bandy Stand (Cart stand).

The large Market place was well arranged. It was a covered building with a panoramic view, where a market was held every Tuesday. Sheep and bullocks were brought to the bazaars from the low country.
Poultry, eggs, fruit and large supplies, every kind of vegetable, potatoes, cauliflowers, peas, beans, turnip, carrots etc were exhibited in the market place. Chiefly the produce of the hill were exhibited which confirmed all that was said of their inexhaustible productiveness.

Beef and mutton were daily brought from the bazaars to the door. There was an assay of excellent European Bakeries.

In 1884 permissions were granted to increase the area of the Market. Sheds for petty traders resorting to the Bazaar were built. Necessary arrangements were made to increase sleeping and cooking accommodation for traders and also for others visiting market from a distance. Fees were collected for slaughtering the Bullocks, Cows Sheeps and Goats. Inspection of weights and Measures was conducted by the Sanitary Inspectors and the Market sergeant frequently.

Communications

The maintenance of roads in the Municipality was started in the middle of the 19th Century. There was evidence to show that roads in Coonoor town were well maintained in 1883-84. There were three variaties of the roads namely cement road, bridle road and Metal road. The commissioners suggested that the Local Fund Board should take charge of the road at Coonoor. The Municipality made a contribution. Commissioners
of the Municipality took steps for the upkeep of the municipal roads. Permission was granted to cut stones from quarries within the Municipal limits to build bridle roads. The public were given instructions to keep the road and the streets clean. All the streets and roads in the Municipality were levelled. Dogs without collar found straying in the streets or beyond their owners enclosures were liable to be killed by men employed for the purpose.

A reward of four annas was given for each dog and two annas for each dog killed, provided they were killed under justified circumstances. Persons desirous of perserving their dogs were required to keep them tied up.

Local Funds Act and the Towns Improvements Act of 1871, entrusted the local fund authorities with the responsibilities of construction and maintenance of all communications within their jurisdiction. In 1886 the District Road Cess Act was enacted superceding all the previous Acts. Under this Act, a road cess at a rate not exceeding six paise per rupee of the annual rental value of the land was levied and the proceeds of the cess were available entirely for the construction of roads.

1879-80 the government transferred the entire execution of the maintenance and construction of roads from the public works department to the Local Fund
Boards, which subsequently employed engineers. The Local Boards Act 1884 increased the funds of the Boards Act 1871, by which a sum of not less than two thirds of the land cess along with the income from tools, should be spent on communications under this pretext. The District Boards spent a very meagre amount on roads which resulted in the interference of the Government in 1895 which directed the local bodies to spend not less than half the income, from their land cess upon roads. As this was not adhered to the government withdrew its orders in 1900 and instead, granted 25 percent of their land cess to the local bodies for the improvement of roads in addition to the amount allotted from the State government.

From 1920 the government also began to sanction special grants from time to time for special repairs of important roads and for the maintenance of second class roads and for the construction of bridges and culverts while the Superintending Engineer of the Public Works Department was entrusted with the inspection of trunk roads. The collectors of respective district were entrusted with the Second class roads. On the introduction of the Motor Vehicles Tax in 1930-31, the tolls were abolished and the local bodies were compensated for the loss of income from tolls, by means of Motor Vehicles Tax.

Lighting

Before Electricity was extended to the district,
Kerosene Oil lights and powerful incandescent lights were provided by the municipality as street lights. During the year 1922-23 when electricity was introduced in the town, there were 480 Kerosene Oil and incandescent lights in the town. From 1922-23 onwards these lights were replaced with the electric lights in stages.

**Town planning**

Every Municipality or Town Panchayat had its own Town Planning Schemes. In each Municipality there was a Town planning officer whose main function was to consider the applications for the construction of buildings and to take action against the unapproved constructions and he also prepared Town planning Schemes for the town.

-------------
Reference


5. Government Order (Ms) No.359, Local Administration dt, 8 Feb. 1961.


10. Ibid, P.170.


17. Paul, J.E., was appointed as the first chairman of the Ootacamund Municipality.


34. Report on Municipal Administration, Ootacamund Municipality, 1911, P.316.
38. On the night of the 5th January 1904, the Pier on the northern side of the aqueduct was cracked and titled out of the perpendicular, by a heavy Landslip which occurred just above it and on the following morning one of the spans fell. The structure was in a very dangerous condition the whole of it was soon after wards, removed.
42. Tudor Hall Estate was sold to Mrs. Morgan (wife of Morgan) by Major Hutton Mrs. Morgan who in 1863 first formed the tea plantation Tudor Hall Estate is situated near Kandal Mund. Place reserved for catchment area of Marliamund reservoir.
46. Medical Report, Ootacamund Municipality, 1827 (Municipal).


49. Medical Report, Ootacamund Municipality, (Health), 1877.

50. Medical Report, Ootacamund Municipality, 1905-1906 (Health).

51. Medical Report, Ootacamund Municipality, 1881-1890, (Health).


55. Medical Report, Ootacamund Municipality, 1903, (Health).

56. Government Order, Madras Government Madras, No.405, dated April 7, 1885.


60. The Secondary Schools were then divided into European and Non-European according to the
Medium of instruction in the School. In the European Schools English was the medium of instruction and non-European Schools it was vernacular.

65. Nilgiris District Gazetteer, 1887, P.162.
67. Manuals of Madras Administration, 1875, P.234.
68. Ibid, P.235.
69. Local Fund, Municipal Administration, Ootacamund Municipality, 1875, P.45.
71. Government Order, No.1131, dated 8th July 1874.
75. Ibid. P.308.
77. Manual of Madras Administration, 1850-60.
79. Local Fund, Municipal Administration, Coonoor Municipality, 1905, P.7.
82. Letter to the Municipal Commissioner, 1891-92, No.2941. Coonoor Municipality, Coonoor, 1892.
84. Ibid, P.417.
86. Administrative Report of the Coonoor Municipality (Medical), 1928.
89. Performance Budget for the year 1984-85 published by the government of Tamilnadu, Departments of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Primary Health Centres, Tamil Nadu States Health Transport and Drugs Control Administration.
90. Under Section 85(3) of Act IV of 1884 No.2381. Fort St. George Gazetteer, Madras, 1884.