CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION.

In the chapters above we have seen how an educational institution of higher learning was born and grew to be a huge tree offering shelter to thousands of knowledge-thirsty citizens. Anantapur district is a drought prone area. Birth pangs were witnessed before the Government agreed to start a college in the Rayalaseema area. Claims were put forward by the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah and Bellary besides Anantapur. The unhygienic conditions of Cuddapah and its inaccessibility with ease made the claims of Cuddapah weak and naturally, indeed, the claim was not pressed. Kurnool also could not press its claim effectively due to its inferior hygienic conditions. Bellary alone remained as a rival. It was the largest of the towns in the named Districts and that was in itself a minus point for Bellary's claim. After many wranglings the Government decided to set up the college at Anantapur.

The College had humble beginnings; and it was fortunate in having efficient Principals in succession who had great foresight and planned superbly to improve the conditions. In this respect the contributions of
S.E. Ranganathan the first Principal was remarkable. But for his undaunted efforts the college perhaps would not have grown to such dimensions as it has. Be it in the strength of students, introduction of new subjects to be taught, facilities provided to the students in terms of hostels, library books, opportunities given for improvement in extra-curricular activities, the hand of Ranganathan could be seen at the back. He had to argue with the Government and convince the authorities to get funds sanctioned. He had to plan towards progress.

His work was continued by A. Arulmendam. It was the fortune of the college that the person who succeeded S.E. Ranganathan was equally interested in the development of the college and spared no pains to develop the college. The college was fortunate in having a series of principals who worked for the welfare of the institution they headed. Not that there was no period of set back. The economic depression in the country had had its impact on the finance of the college. There was, of course, the national movement. But the later did not have much impact upon the college activities. Agitation was there but not to such an extent as to impair the development of the college. By 1929, 13 years after the birth of the college, the strength of the students had risen from 41 to 300, the
number of books stacked in the library grew from 1096 to 8907; fresh buildings were added, annexes were built, scholarships were instituted, trophies were won in games - all pointing to all round progress.

The period of N.R. Krishnamma is the longest single chapter in the history of the college and as crowded as any other with significant developments. Mr. Krishnamma was steeped in the traditions of the English public schools and Universities, and the story of his ten years in Anantapur is the story of the daring experiment of rearing on Indian soil the native traditions of English education; play fields, theatricals, student initiative, training for leadership, character-building and an abundant extramural social life uninhibited by the rules of class room discipline. He encouraged systematically the cultivation of a multiplicity of intellectual and other interests, which make up culture. The busy life on the college play grounds today is an enduring monument to Mr. Krishnamma’s devotion to the cause of physical recreation and education. The number of associations that he founded suggests that magnitude of his contribution to this aspect of college life. Mr. Krishnamma, being the product of an English University, was firmly convinced that a college which was not fully residential in nature hardly deserved the name.
The period of C.D.S. Chetty makes an enthralling story of classes swelling rapidly to formidable dimensions of percentages of passes rising steeply to figures unknown before, of the whole college working at high pressure. As a means of periodical assessment of progress it helped the teachers and as a continual stimulus to effort it helped the taught no less. Mr. K.P.G. Menon's term as Principal of this college is remarkable for the initial tragedy which caused a certain degree of dislocation of college work followed by a quick and steady recovery which was more than complete when he left the college.

In the earlier days the Principals evinced personal interest in the development of the college. They devoted all their time and energy for the single task of developing the college. The generous public too evinced great interest in the developmental activities of the college and instituted a number of scholarships and merit prizes for the promotion of excellence.

In the last two decades there is some kind of slackness in every field and the field of education is no exception. The college is the Alma Mater of many eminent persons, who have served our country and distinguished themselves as very great and worthy citizens. The college is proud of having sheltered under its wing
many scholars of repute. The great past ought to be followed by a still greater future and this college should become the nursery of a new race of talented and worthy citizens.