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LADY WILLINGDON

UPPER INDIA BLIND RELIEF

ASSOCIATION

Camp Thanesar,

FROM 12TH TO 31ST OCTOBER.

1935.

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When the heart is full, words are few and we do not actually find words to adequately express the feelings of deep gratitude and hearty thankfulness the Blind Relief Association owes to Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon for her being graciously pleased on being asked by His Holiness Shri 108 Swami Parmanand ji Maharaj of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram to allow the Association to have her illustrious name associated with this humanitarian movement and sacred and noble cause of tendering relief to the poor blind and the eye-sufferers of the country. May Her Excellency together with His Excellency enjoy long life, health and prosperity, is the prayer which is sure to arise from the hearts of the innumerable eye-sufferers and the blind who have got cured and regained their sight by the most skilful and experienced Eye-specialists of all-India fame.

The Upper India Blind Relief Association, which owes its establishment to the inner urge and divine inspiration of His Holiness Shri 108 Swami Parmanand ji Maharaj of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rewari, had already held eleven grand camps at different centres in U. P. and the Punjab (Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rewari 4, Briudhan 2, Gobardhan 2, Ferozpur Jhirka Distt. Gurgaon 1, Dehra Doon 1, Thanesar 1) \* for the benefit of the sufferers from various eye-diseases and had given fresh sight to several blind people, as it were. After the Simla Camp which had proved an unqualified success, a camp on a larger scale was organised at Thanesar in the Holy land of Shri Kurukshetra to which eye-patients belonging to the three Phulkian States (Patiala, Nabha, and Jind) and those of Malerkotla and Kalsia and the Districts of Karnal, Ambala and Hissar, were invited by broad-cast distribution of Hand Bills and Posters in the various languages of the Province. The response was amazing and far exceeded the expectations of the organisers of

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\* One camp was held at Simla under the management of a local Sabha at the suggestion of Shri 108 Maharaj ji.

the Camp. Persons from even outside the Punjab, the sanctity of the Tirtha and the eye-specialists. Patients from the morning of the 11th and the 13th the number had risen and went on increasing for days to about five thousand. Of Patiala, Nabha, and Kalsia which had so kindly been thoroughly cleaned up by the owners themselves, some 20 tents had to be pitched in fresh corners.

Eye-patients about 100 attendants as detailed below all being thoroughly examined by Mathra Dass, Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy, who had received his medical training in the Indian Army service, were supplied with medicine as many as 629 operations were performed by the said doctor. Of these 629 were successful—an achievement in a well-equipped hospital. Distt. Karnal Distt. Ambala

the Camp. Persons from distant places even outside the Punjab, were attracted by the sanctity of the Tirtha and the alluring names of the eye-specialists. Patients began to muster strong from the morning of the 11th of October and upto the 13th the number had risen to above four thousand and went on increasing during the operation days to about five thousand. The spacious buildings of Patiala, Nabha, and Kalikambliwala Chhetras, which had so kindly been lent after being thoroughly cleaned up and whitewashed by the owners themselves, being fully occupied, some 20 tents had to be pitched to accommodate fresh comers.

Eye-patients about 5,000 including their attendants as detailed below, attended the camp and all being thoroughly examined by Rai Bahadur Dr. Mathra Dass, Honorary Surgeon to His Excellency the Viceroy, who had recently retired from Government service, were supplied with free medicines and as many as 629 operations were performed by the said doctor. Over 93 o/o operations were successful—an achievement rarely found even in well equipped hospitals:—

Distt. Karnal	2,500
Distt. Ambala	950

Patiala State	160
Jind State	125
Nabha, Kalsia States, Hissar & Rohtak Districts and Miscellaneous	1,325
Total	5,060

Details of operations performed:-

1. Cataract	525
2. Iridectomy & Leucoma	32
3. Staphyloma	2
4. Trichiasis	65

Total 629.

Male operations 367.

Female operations 257.

Children 5.

Total 629.

THE TOTAL EXPENSES HAVE EXCEEDED RS. 4,500/-  
in all including the Langar.

The success achieved was excellent in all respects.

The number of the patients that attended this 12th  
camp was unprecedented in the annals of this  
humanitarian Association.

The Shri Kurukshetra  
the patronage of Seth  
Vicarul-Mulk Hon'ble  
Prime Minister of Patiala  
donation of Rs. 200/-  
Ahmad Hassan Khan,  
ssioer, Karnal and the  
several leading persons  
especially of the Deputy  
Rai Bahadurs Lalas  
Ram, Raikes of Ambala

For the conv  
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Total

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367

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Total

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iation.

The Shri Kurukshetra Camp promptly secured the patronage of Seth Ramkishan Dass Dalmia, Vicarul-Mulk Hon'ble Sir Liyaqat Hayat Khan, Prime Minister of Patiala, who contributed a decent donation of Rs. 200/- and Khan Bahadur Khan Ahmad Hassan Khan, M. A., Deputy Commissioner, Karnal and the support and sympathy of several leading persons of this tract of the country, especially of the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala, Rai Bahadurs Lalas Benarsi Dass and Ganga Ram, Raies of Ambala and Bhagat Nand Kishore.

For the convenience of the patients operations were performed in all the three above mentioned houses. The Association is deeply indebted to all the Revenne Officers of the states and of the adjoining districts who had the notices and posters distributed broad-cast and to the Civil Surgeon and the District Health Officer, Karnal, who very kindly gave us all co-operation, visited the camp and lent the services of three Sub-Assistants Surgeons, Compounders and three nurses and a Sanitary Inspector to look to the facilities and requirements of the patients and to make all sorts of sanitary arrangements. The deputy Commissioner Karnal very kindly exempted of octroi duty all articles imported into the camp and the local Municipal Committee gave us free service of sweepers and took upon itself the lighting of the camp. Thanks of the Association are also due to all the male and female volunteers, boyscouts lent by the headmasters of the B. D. High School

Ambala and the D. B. High School Thanesar, Lala Bhagmal, Lala Puran Chand, office bearers and members of Kurukshetra Restoration Society, the Brahmacharies and ladies of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rewari who *assiduously* worked day and night and rendered valuable assistance.

The expenses of the camp to the extent of Rs. 3,500/- were borne by Seth RamKrishna Das Dalmia, a highly philanthropic and benevolent personality of Chirawa and a great devotee of Shri 108 Swami Parmanand Ji Maharaj,, to whose generosity the camp owes its establishment. The Association is especially indebted to Rai Bahadur L. Benarsi Dass, Rais of Ambala, who very kindly undertook to give a free kitchen for four days. Ono day's expenses of the kitchen were borne by each of Rao Bahadur Captain Balbir Singh O. B. E., M. L. C., Rewari, Pt. MannuLal of Panipat, L. Dayaliram of Patiala, L. Sadharam of Thanesar, L. Mani Ram of Thanesar and Prabhu Lal Shadi Ram, Dolat Ram Gyani Ram, Godamal, Bhikhamal, Hazarimal and Laharimal of Narela Mandi.

It was in the afternoon of the 15th of October that the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal paid a visit to the camp, inspected the wards and presided over a public meeting in which all about the camp was explained. He made a very encouraging speech and went highly pleased with all what he saw.

The Association fails to find words to adequately express its deep gratitude for the honorary services

Dr. Mathra Dass P  
Dr. Gurdatt Sing  
they took in the wo  
the operated patients  
for their recovery.

A public meeting attended by  
persons of the town  
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given by L. Dayaliram, the  
Thanesar camp

Free glass  
to the patient  
preservation o



of Rai Bahadur Dr. Mathra Dass Pahwa and of his able assistant Dr. Gurdatt Singh and for the keen interest they took in the work. The latter looked after the operated patients for the period necessary for their recovery.

A public meeting attended by the local officers, leading persons of the town and the operated patients whose bandages had been removed was held under the presidency of Rai Bahadur L. Benarsi Dass in the afternoon of the 21st October, in which after Bhajans and prayers by Brahmachari Keshava Deva of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram Rewari, a brief history of the origin of the movement and the formation of the Association was given by Swami Krishnanand Ji of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram. He related as to how a thorn got pricked into an eye of His Holiness Shri 108 Swami Parmanand Ji Maharaj and resulted in the formation of cataract in his eye for which Rai Bahadur Dr. Mathra Dass Pahwa was sent for and how Bhagat Nand Kishore of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram and a great devotee of Shri 108 Maharaj Ji, resolved determination to eradicate blindness from India. A full description of the camp was given by L. Dayaliram, the General Secretary of the Thanesar camp and a photo was taken.

Free glasses, droppers, medicines were given to the patients and printed directions for the preservation of their re-gained sight were distri-

buted. Certificates and Sanads for the performance of Honorary Social services on the occasion were awarded to the deserving persons.

Hari Kirtan, Bhajan and updesh under the guidance of His Holiness Shri 108 Swami Parmanand Ji Maharaj continued to be held in Gita Bhawan during the camp days.

The following distinguished gentlemen among others, visited the camp and went pleased and satisfied with all what they saw:-

1. Khan Bahadur Khan Ahmad Hassan Khan, M. A., Deputy Commissioner Karnal.
2. L. Gurdas Ram Bohra, Assistant Director of Health, Punjab.
3. P. Ram chandra Kaushash, Distt. Health Officer Karnal.
4. Dr. Piyare Lal Tandon, Civil Surgeon, Karnal.
5. Rao Bahadur Captain Balbir Singh, O. B. E., M. L. C., Rewari.
6. Ch. Amar Singh, Tehsildar, Thanesar.
7. Dr. Southerland, H. B., F. R., C. S. R. & D. O. M. S., New Zealand Mission Hospital, Jagadhri, who gave a detailed expression of his views and offered suggestions.

The following were responsible for the general managements of the camp, worked day and night for the comforts of the patients:-

1. L. Dayali Ram ji Ex—director of Public Instruction Patiala.
2. Ladies and Brahmacharies of the Bhagwat Bhakti Ashram, Rewari.

3. L. Sadhu Ram, Secretary of the camp.

4. L. Madho Ram, (Incharge of the ac)

5. L. Mansa Ram Dis

6. Swami Rama Nar Chhetra ( Inchargemments ).

Shiv Narain Bhatnagar  
General Secretary

L. W. U. I. B. . . Asso  
Delhi

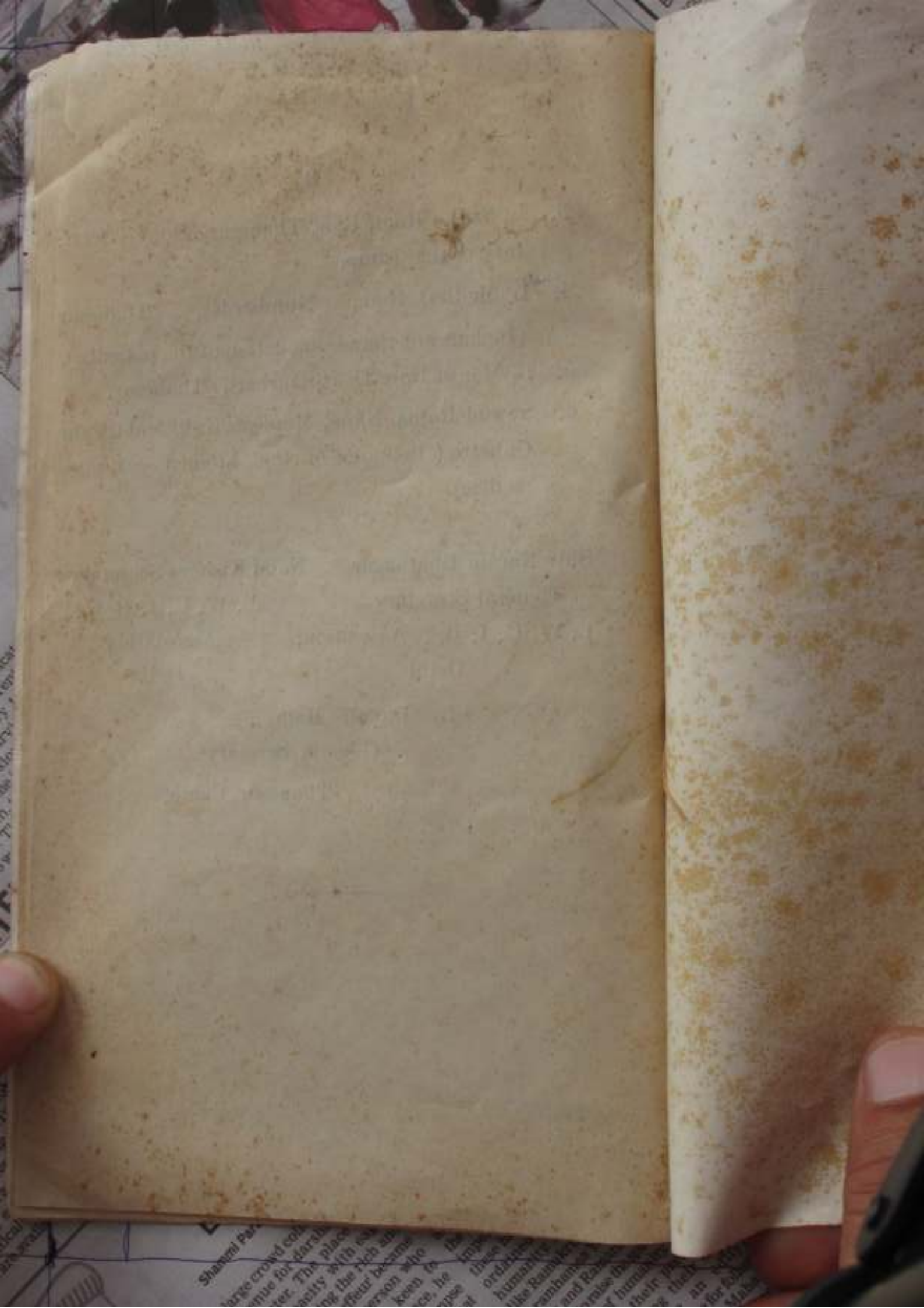
L. Daya

3. L. Sadhu Ram, Rais, Thanesar, Hony. Secretary of the camp.
4. L. Madho Ram, Numberdar, Thanesar (Incharge of the accomodation of the patients).
5. L. Mansa Ram Distt. Durbari, Thanesar.
6. Swami Rama Nand, Manager Kalikambliwala Chhetra ( Incharge of the kitchen arrangements ).

Shiv Narain Bhatnagar	Nand Kishore Secretary
General Secretary	L. W. U. I. B. R.
L. W. U. I. B. . Association.	Association
Delhi	Delhi

L. Dayali Ram  
General Secretary  
Thanesar Camp.

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