

1925.

THE STAY AT MEHERABAD

This was the second period since 'Manzil-e-Meen' that Baba remained at a ~~fixed~~ ^{one} place for nearly ^{two} years with a large number of people at the encampment near Arugam which was aptly ~~known~~ ^{named} as Meher-Abad. Since quite a small town had sprung ^{up} here with so many useful institutions such as a School, a Hospital and Ashrams for Lepers and the destitute sheltering nearly 500 persons all the time.

The detailed events have been culled down from

Mr. Gangaram Limbaji Pawar's

Diary.

Meherabad!

Since coming to (Aurangabad) Meherabad on the 25th of January Baba seems to mean what he says regarding staying here for a long fixed period.

Within a few days of their arrival numerous persons have begun to get together about Baba. While scores of visitors come daily for Baba's Darshan.

Besides the mandali which is again getting enlarged day by day, the scores of Meher & Lang boys coming to Baba daily for Bhajan being attracted with the occasional distribution of sweets etc provide a lively atmosphere.

The place had once again buzzed with life and animation on 18th of February when Baba's birthday was observed. Almost all those of the old mandali had also come for the occasion besides hundreds of outsiders. A big mandapa of gunny cloth was stretched against rafters and gaily decorated.

It was quite a day of feasting & ceremonies. By the end of February the number of boys coming for the Bhajans as well as those coming to stay with Baba increased considerably. Plans and preparations are daily made and discussed to provide for necessary shelter⁵ and occupation for the mandali's time passing, as well as to begin some substantial programme for the large number of ~~boys~~ children that have taken a turn towards Baba.

Meher Hospital.

21st March 1925.

The day can be said to be very auspicious! Besides being Jamshedi-Navroz, with all its ceremonies and feasting, it has also witnessed the ~~beginning~~ beginning of real 'Abadi' (flourishment) in Meherabad. A very useful institution, for the mandali in particular and the poor and destitute in the surrounding villages, in general, has been started today in the shape of Meher Charitable Dispensary and Hospital. It has been arranged in the building formerly known as 'mess quarters', and which was repaired and overhauled when Baba had come to Arunjam for the first time with ^{the old} mandali in 1923.

The formal opening ceremony ~~was done at~~ ~~Baba's~~ of the institution was made by Rustumji as per Baba's wish, by opening the dispensary door with a decorated key. The large number of villagers present were explained the aims and objects of the dispensary and hospital which was declared to be at the service of suffering humanity without any caste or creed ~~or~~ prejudices or distinctions and free of any charge. Besides providing medical advice and ~~and~~ medicines free to all, it has also been arranged to accommodate a limited number of such patients who require indoor treatments in the attached hospital and in such cases to provide food and clothings also free! Dr Kerker L.C.P.S. has been appointed the medical officer while ~~some~~ some of the mandali have been allotted different duties to help the Doctor as well as run the institution in all its branches. That is, to carry out all the duties, from a

sweeper to the compounder whenever required by.

Padri comes in prominent, in this connection, as he has been appointed a compounder.

After the institution was formally declared open, sweets were distributed and Baba also made some suitable remarks befitting the occasion and concluding said "Do not fall ill if you can help it, but if you do, then do not at the same time fail to get treatment and medicine here"

Hazrat Babajan School!

25. 3. 25.

The atmosphere is undergoing radical changes. The contemplated institution for the scores of Boys coming to Baba daily has been brought into existence today. A regular school in the name of Hazrat Babajan of Poona has been started to impart primary education to boys of all castes and creeds.

Aryon and Vishwas who had been to Baba only a few days ago on flying visits from Poona, have been 'retrapped' and appointed teacher and supervisor respectively over the untouchable boys. Besides the teaching duties they have been enjoined to look after the boys feeding and health with great care and punctuality. While Ineurs Joshi and Bepos have been appointed to manage the section of the maratha and higher class boys.

In addition to schooling, ~~the boys are to~~ it has been arranged to ~~for~~ provide boarding and clothing free too! By the time the Corrugated Iron Sheets are received Bamboo matting huts have been

erected to provide for the school premises.

Besides the small Bamboo-matting temple that has long since come into existence for the untouchable boys to recite their Bhajans etc nearby; another temporary one is erected for ~~people~~ the benefit of the villagers of other castes, in which besides the photos of the usual Hindoo deities the photos of Baba, Maharej, Sai-Baba and Babajan have also been placed in.

The "Gudi Padra" holiday was also duly observed today when the 'Gudis' were installed near both of the temples. The ceremony of 'Sabta' was also started at the latter temple, ~~to~~ that is to get 'Dals' rung continuously there for 24 hours upto 'Ramnavami' which is to take place after nine days hence. Besides the continuous ringing of the Dals it has also been arranged to hold Kirtans daily ~~upto~~ till the day of Ram's Birth every evening between 6 to 8 P.M.

Vishwanath is appointed the Pujari of the new temporary temple with orders to hold 'Pujas' every morn & eve as per their customs.

'Ram - Navmi'

2nd April '25.

Incherabad was a scene of great animation today. From 9 A.M. Kirtan was begun which lasted upto 12 in the noon when the birthday ceremony of Ram was observed duly. Baba thereafter distributed sweets with his own hands to the hundreds of people that had gathered together for the occasion.

In the afternoon Mr Abdurrahman of Fawla entertained the party with his excellent 'Dawalli' and singing to the accompaniment of Table & Harmonium played by the Kirtankaris' assistants.