THE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH TRUST, CALCUTTA

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1957

The Governing Body of the Institute of Child Health Trust has pleasure in welcoming the members of the Trust to the Fifth Annual General Meeting and in presenting the Annual Report for the year, 1957.

The Institute of Child Health Trust was founded on May 15, 1953 and has just completed five years of its existence with a total membership of 29. During the year 1957, Sri R. N. Sen resigned from its membership and his resignation was accepted with regret. Sri Nirmal Bhattacharjee was elected as a new member.

The year 1957 witnessed a most memorable event in its history. Members of the Trust and staff of the Institute of Child Health had the proud privilege of welcoming Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, to formally inaugurate the Institute of Child Health on January 16, 1957, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering.

INAGURATION BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Welcoming the Prime Minister, the President of the Trust said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my proud privilege to offer on behalf of the Institute of Child Health a respectful welcome to the Prime Minister of India who has been kind enough to spare a whole hour of his valuable time for this small function in a corner of Calcutta. I also offer a sincere and cordial welcome to the State Governor, Shri Naidu, to our Chief Minister, Dr. Roy, to the other Ministers, the members of the medical profession, and all other ladies and gentlemen who have favoured us with their attendance at this function during the working hours of a week-day. Surely, it must be their interest in the children of the country which has brought them here, although it must have been most inconvenient to come. We are very grateful indeed to them for the encouragement thus given to our infant enterprise. I know that I ought not to make a speech of my own in the name of welcoming the distinguished guests and ought not to stand long between you and the Prime Minister whom every one of you must be most anxious to hear. But may I have one or two minutes of your time to tell you with the utmost brevity what this Institute is intended to be. Today this Institute of Child Health is itself a child. It was brought into existence only late in 1953, but I am happy to be able to say that it could stand on its legs and even walk a little last year and I think that for an Indian child it did not take long or too long to emerge from the state of utter babyhood.

The Institute is not going to be merely another centre or another hospital for children's diseases; because those who are in charge of this Institute are convinced that the problem of child health in this country will
not be successfully tackled if we merely allow our children to fall ill and then try to cure them by treatment. That may relieve the children of the temporary illness but will not improve the quality of their health. Their considered view is that the problem of child health cannot be successfully tackled unless care is shown or care is taken for the child in health rather than for the child in disease and it is for that reason they have planned to maintain a fully-equipped department for the preventive aspects of child life.

The Institute has already started work on these lines because it feels that to bring up a child with the proper care for the delicate apparatus of its premature body, to provide it with the right kind of food, to keep it in a condition which will expose it the least to infection, and to protect its mind from undesirable influences—these are matters to which the Indian parents are(5,12),(992,990)