day ?* What ? Oh I see—I see. That is, they are concentrating on a particular area, one square mile round about this Institute which they propose to tackle more or less effectively. But we shall have to evolve, I suppose, some method of doing this more thoroughly all over the country. Unfortunately, we have to do so many things in the country and it is difficult to take up all of them even though they are really important. But nevertheless, we have got going and I have no doubt these things will come.

I should like to congratulate those connected with this Institute and more specially the Director, Dr. Chaudhuri, and his wife, for the way they have devoted themselves to this Institute and to wish them all success in the future.

DR. K. C. CHAUDHURI, HON. FOUNDER—DIRECTOR PRESENTS A REPORT

We are indeed happy to have amongst us no less a person than Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, a friend of children. His presence here brings to the children and the Institute which has not yet passed the stage of infancy, new life. The Institute is new and small; but small though it may be, it has been dedicated to the children of India. We are fully conscious that it cannot fulfil the needs of millions of children of our motherland but an attempt is being made to bring into being an institution where the child will receive not only the highest standard of medical care but also sympathy and understanding. The Institute is not meant to be an asylum for sick children but a place where children will be taught the basic principles of healthy living and where students will receive integrated teaching in pediatrics.

We are still a long way off from this goal but in spite of struggles and difficulties of finance, lack of personnel and equipment, we are fortunate to have been able to build the nucleus of an institution, which we hope will some day grow into what we have been longing for. What has been built so far and put into action can be attributed to the effort, sacrifice, financial assistance and good-will of the common man.

The ideal of bringing such an institution into existence was cherished for over a quarter of a century, but only since 1953 could active steps be taken. A Society, called The Institute of Child Health Trust, was registered on May 15, 1953 with eighteen founder members, its chief aim being to establish an “Institute of Child Health.” It has been our hope from the beginning that the common man should consider this institution to be his own and to feel that it was constructed with his help and effort, so that he can take a legitimate share in its successes and failures. It was also felt that the Trust should first of all do its own part before approaching the Government and the public for financial help. A sum of rupees one lac and a half was placed at the disposal of the Trust by an ordinary citizen, who started saving a rupee a day for this purpose from the year 1937. The Trust then approached the Corporation of Calcutta for a piece of land and the Corporation generously leased

* At this point the Director ascended the rostrum to inform the Chief Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy, that the Institute will limit its activities to an area of one square mile. The Chief Minister then conveyed the information to the Prime Minister.
this site for 99 years on a nominal rent. This was the beginning of the Institute of Child Health.

When building plans of the proposed institution had been drawn, they were considered to be visionary—impossible of being executed—and when the concept of building an institution with the help of the common man was made public, it was thought to be fantastic. But when an appeal was made to the public for donations, mothers (many of whom are amongst us today), whose income was not over Rs. 20/- a month, started sending a rupee by money order from distant villages and up to this day are still continuing to do so. This spontaneous response from mothers, who apparently care not only for their own but also for the children of others, gave us immense encouragement and hope and demonstrated once again the inherent good nature of the human race. Even in this age of materialism it is possible to rely on the people as a whole; and those who could ill afford to give anything, have responded most generously; thus by small donations we collected over one and a half lacs of rupees. The capital expenditure up to date is Rs. 6,00,000/- excluding the land. We have received Rs. 75,000/- from the Ministry of Health, Government of India, for equipment; Rs. 75,000/- from the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India, to enable us to provide free beds and to offer free service to displaced persons; and a token grant from the Government of West Bengal as a gesture of goodwill; and Rs. 3,65,000/- from public donations, leaving a deficit of about Rs. 75,000/-. Our monthly expenditure is about Rs. 10,000/- and we have not received a single rupee as yet as recurring grant from any source. We have, however, been running the Institute for one year.

Twenty months ago the first piece of earth was broken at this site to start the foundation of the building which you see today. Within this short period of time many events have taken place in the development of this institution. Almost a year ago the out-patient department equipped with diagnostic laboratory facilities started functioning with four patients on the first day which soon rose to over 100 a day. Nine months ago the University of Calcutta recognised the Institute as a post-graduate medical college for higher studies in pediatrics. Seven months ago the hospital unit of 50 beds was put into operation and six months ago the first batch of fifteen medical graduates was admitted for training in the D.C.H. course of the University. Following this in rapid succession, three fellowships were created and three students are now preparing theses for M.D. and D. Phil. degrees.

The pattern of service and teaching that we are striving to develop has its special features and is not practised as yet in any part of the world. The child is studied in its totality. His behaviour in a natural environment, his emotions, his physical and mental growth, his play and social life as well as his diseases are studied in an integrated manner in our institution with several departments headed by experts. It is very necessary that a young medical graduate, a nurse or parent be exposed to the health aspect rather than the disease aspect of life. If millions of children who are born healthy are allowed to fall ill, no State at any time will be able to provide hospital beds for them because of lack of personnel and of funds. Therefore, emphasis is being laid on the social aspects of pediatrics so that a group of pediatricians would be available to help in the organisation of a well thought out programme of child welfare.

It has given me great encouragement to find that members of our staff, from the