REPORT OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 31, 1919
REPORT OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 31, 1919
BOARD OF MANAGERS, 1919

Président.

Vice-Presidents.
REV. DANIEL DULANEY ADDISON, D.D., Brookline.
REV. GEORGE A. GORDON, D.D., Boston.
REV. ALEXANDER MANN, D.D., Boston.
REV. AUGUSTUS H. STRONG, D.D., Rochester, N. Y.
MR. EDWARD H. CLEMENT, Boston.

Treasurer.
MR. EDGAR C. LINN, 1352 Beacon Street, Brookline.

Corresponding Secretary.
MRS. S. W. LEE-MORTIMER, 170 Huntington Avenue, Boston.

Recording Secretary.
MISS ALICE H. BALDWIN, 233 Fisher Avenue, Brookline.

Managers.
MISS CLEMENTINA BUTLER.
MISS ANNA H. CHACE.
MRS. JOSEPH COOK.
MRS. E. C. E. DORION.
MRS. SUSAN SNOWDEN FESSENDEN.
MISS ANTOINETTE P. GRANGER.
MRS. C. O. DORCHESTER.
MR. A. M. FRITCHLEY.
MISS S. B. RICH.

MISS DAVID P. KIMBALL.
MISS KATE G. LAMSON.
MRS. S. W. LEE-MORTIMER.
MRS. HENRY W. PEABODY.
MRS. ARTHUR PENRY.
JULIA MORTON PLUMMER, M.D.
ARTHUR K. STONE, M.D.

Executive Committee.
MISS CLEMENTINA BUTLER, Chairman, Providence, R.I.
MISS ANNA H. CHACE.
MRS. C. O. DORCHESTER.

MRS. S. W. LEE-MORTIMER.

Principal of Shârâda Sadan and Mukti.
PANDITA RAMABAI D. MEDHAVI, Kedgaon, Poona District, India.

Vice-Principal of Shârâda Sadan.
MANOHAMABAI M. MEDHAVI.
MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIRST
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN RAMABAI
ASSOCIATION

The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the American Ramabai Association was held in Trinity Chapel, Boston, on Monday, March 31, 1919, at 3.00 P.M. In the absence of the President, Rev. John E. Moses, of Trinity Church, took the chair, and opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting was read by the Recording Secretary and were approved.

The Corresponding Secretary said she had wished to resign, but if she could be empowered to secure more assistance for her work, she would continue.

Voted: That Mrs. Lee-Mortimer be empowered to secure the assistance necessary for her work as Corresponding Secretary.

The Treasurer's report was given, accepted, and placed on file. The resignation of Rev. Edwards Cummings was read by the Recording Secretary and was accepted.

Miss Butler, Chairman of the Executive Committee, read Ramabai's Annual Report, written this year by Manoramabai, which was most interesting.

It was accepted and placed on file.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Dr. Stone. He referred to the vacancies in the Board of Managers caused by resignations and deaths, saying it was impossible to fill them acceptably in such a short time, and asked that the Executive Committee have power to fill vacancies on the Board of Managers and any vacancies made by resignations in the offices of the Association. Upon motion, duly seconded, it was

Voted: That the Executive Committee have power to fill vacancies on the Board of Managers and any vacancies in the offices of the Association.

The report of the Nominating Committee was accepted, and on motion, duly seconded, it was voted to
suspend the by-law requiring election by ballot, and instruct the Recording Secretary to cast one ballot for the persons named in the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Secretary deposited the ballot as authorized and the persons nominated by the Committee were declared to be unanimously elected to serve as officers of the Association for the ensuing year. Upon motion of Dr. Stone, duly seconded it was

Voted: That the Executive Committee be directed to bring in recommendations for the future of the American Ramabai Association, making such report to the Board of Managers at least one month before the Annual Meeting.

The business meeting was then adjourned, and Miss Butler introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Rockwell Clancy, for thirty-five years a resident of India and a personal friend of Ramabai.

Alice H. Baldwin,
Recording Secretary.
AUDITOR'S REPORT


Mr. E. C. Linn, Treasurer,
American Ramakai Association,
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Sir: Acting under your instructions, I have made an audit of the books of this association, covering the fiscal year ending March 29, 1919, and have found the same correct.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Geo. M. Blandford, Auditor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 31, 1919

General Account.

Income

1918
March 26, Balance $542.21
April 8, Deposit 20.00
April 16, Interest 10.25
April 24, Deposit 113.07
May 14, Deposit 114.00
July 9, Deposit 81.00
July 30, Deposit 52.64
Sept. 17, Deposit 21.00
Oct. 24, Interest 7.75
Dec. 30, Deposit 417.25

1919
Feb. 19, Deposit 608.30
March 25, Deposit 672.70
March 28, Deposit 512.00

$3,172.17
DISBURSEMENTS

Geo. M. Blandford, for audit of books year ending Mar. 26, 1919 .......................... $10.00
John G. Allen, Printing .............................................. 2.00
Anna F. Bacon, Ass't Treas. Woman's Board
Foreign Missions New York, return of duplicate donation ......................... 10.00
Mrs. Mary C. Heald, Stenographic Services ..................................... 5.00
Charles E. Chester, Stereoptican Lecture .............................................. 5.00
Old Colony Trust Co., Rent of Safe Deposit Box ........................................ 10.00
Edgar C. Linn—for cable to Dr. Robert Hume, Ahmednagar, India ........... 7.97
Vermont Printing Co. .............................................................................. 84.65
Mary P. Hawley, Stenographic Work ..................................................... 25.27
Collection fee on London Check ............................................................ .67
E. C. Linn, Record book for secretary ................................................... 1.50
E. C. Linn, General Expenses covering clerical work .................................. 100.00
Postage ................................................................................................... 6.52

...................................................... 268.58

...................................................... 2,903.59

LEGAL AND MEDICAL FUND.

1918
March 25, Balance ................................................................. $149.33
April 29, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds ...................................... 35.00
July 11, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds ........................................... 15.75
1919
March 28, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds .......................................... 50.75

...................................................... $250.83

RANDALL TRUST ACCOUNT.

1918
March 25, Balance ................................................................. $29.05
July 11, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds ........................................... 12.25
1919
March 28, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds ........................................... 12.25

...................................................... $53.55

MARGARET WAITE FUND ACCOUNT.

1918
March 25, Balance ................................................................. 75.17
April 9, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds ............................................ 35.00
July 11, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds .............................................. 4.38
1919
March 28, Deposit—Coupons on Bonds ............................................ 39.37

...................................................... $153.92
GENERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS

1918
March 26, Balance on hand ... $542.21
March 31, Subscription for support Shâradâ Sadan ... 206.70
Subscription for support Mukti School ... 174.00
Subscription for support Kripa Sadan ... 21.07
Donation to General Fund ... 2,210.19
Rental Poona property to Govt ... 1,000.00
Interest on Current Account ... 18.00

$4,172.17

PAYMENTS

1919
March 31, Remittances for support Shâradâ Sadan (including $1000.00 rental of Poona property to Government) ... $3,416.79
Remittances for support Mukti School ... 174.00
Remittances for support of Kripa Sadan ... 21.07
Postage, stationery and printing ... 168.58
General expenses of the Association covering clerical assistance ... 100.00
Balance in bank Mar. 31, 1919 ... $286.73
Cash on hand March 31, 1919 ... 5.00

$4,172.17

AUSTRALIAN FUND FOR LEGAL AND MEDICAL AID OF LITTLE WIVES OF INDIA.

1919
March 31, Balance ... $3,025.83
1918
March 26, Balance ... $2,924.33
March 31, Interest ... 101.50

$3,025.83

$3,025.83
## RANDALL TRUST FUND.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$753.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$729.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>24.50</td>
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**Total:** $753.55

## MARGARET WAITE FUND.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$2,278.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>78.75</td>
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</table>

**Total:** $2,278.92

## SUMMARY OF BALANCES.

### LEGAL AND MEDICAL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$250.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Bonds</td>
<td>900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. &amp; A. Bonds</td>
<td>1,875.00</td>
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**Total:** $3,025.83

### RANDALL TRUST.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$53.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Bonds</td>
<td>700.00</td>
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**Total:** $753.55

### MARGARET F. WAITE TRUST.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$153.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Bonds</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. &amp; A. Bonds</td>
<td>1,875.00</td>
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</table>

**Total:** $2,278.92
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circles</th>
<th>Shāradā Sadan</th>
<th>Mukti Sadan</th>
<th>Kripa Sadan</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman’s Board of Foreign Missions Reformed Church of America, of New York City, thru Anna F. Bacon, Ass’t Treas., from Ramabai Society of Schenectady, N. Y.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record of Christian Work, East Northfield, Mass., thru W. R. Moody</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence Ramabai Circle, thru Mrs. Harriet J. Roworth</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$3.07</td>
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<td>93.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Circle, thru M. J. Thayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providence Ramabai Circle, thru Mrs. Harriet J. Roworth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornell University thru Esther Airey, Treas.</td>
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<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montclair, N. J., thru Mrs. F. B. Carter</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>22.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providence, R. I., thru Mrs. H. J. Roworth</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Moody Church, Chicago, Ill., thru E. P. James, Treas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>75.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministering Circle, St. Andrews, Philadelphia, Pa., thru F. E. Knowles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin, N. Y., thru A. A. Jennings, Sec.</td>
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<td>52.64</td>
<td>52.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Record of Christian Work, East Northfield, Mass.</td>
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<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canandaigua, N. Y., thru Miss A. P. Granger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. D. Blakeslee</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canandaigua, N. Y., Miss A. P. Granger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$50.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$70.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6.07</strong></td>
<td><strong>$295.64</strong></td>
<td><strong>$421.71</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The American Ramabai Association

**List of Donors to American Ramabai Association, March 25, 1918 to April 1, 1919.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$6.07</td>
<td>$295.64</td>
<td>$421.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie W. Posthill, Syracuse, N. Y.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Baptist Society of Fairport, N. Y., Mrs. L. J. DeLand, Treas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Martha Perry, St. Paul, Minn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Eleanor W. Hance, Cherrydale, Va.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. Adele Brewer, Stockbridge, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice P. Hadley, Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabel Howland, Auburn, N. Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. J. Coe, Madison, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. H. A. Frisbie, Plainville, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Letitia M. Conrad, Grinnell, Iowa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. W. H. Scott, for Terryville Circle, Pequabuck, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Laura K. Mason, Germantown, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. I. E. Bugbee, Buffalo, N. Y.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret M. Forsythe, West Chester, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Bertha L. Ross, Lumberton, N. Y.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|               | $50.00 | $70.00 | $6.07 | $651.89 | $777.96 |

Total amounts: $50.00 $70.00 $6.07 $651.89 $777.96
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<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$6.07</td>
<td>$651.89</td>
<td>$777.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Moody Church of Chicago, thru P. C. James, Chairman</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Annie Goodell, Salem, Mass.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose J. Topliff, So. Hadley, Mass.</td>
<td>... 5.00 ... ... ... ...</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary G. Ward, Salem, Mass.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy M. Otis, Lynn, Mass.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Charles St. John, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Christian Keener, Biloxi, Miss.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>10.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester, Mass. Circle, thru Louise Robinson</td>
<td>25.00 ... ... ... ... ... ...</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. George Dick, Berea, Ky.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. James Whiton, New York City</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Haven, Conn. Circle, thru Mrs. Theodoria Dexter, Treas.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Charlotte Akin, Los. Angeles, Cal.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Lucas and Mrs. Henry Shake, Sandborn, Ind.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Alice G. Hurd, Intervale, N. H.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii, Women’s Board of Missions, thru W. D. Westervelt, Sec.</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>344.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryn Mawr Ramabai Circle, thru Emily R. Ashbridge, Treas.</td>
<td>... 30.00 ... ... ... ...</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perkins Ramabai Circle, thru Mrs. W. E. Jones, Treas., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
<td>... ... ... ...</td>
<td>42.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

$75.00 $105.00 $6.07 $1,236.19 $1,422.26
### List of Donors to American Ramabai Association

**March 25, 1918 to April 1, 1919.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circles</th>
<th>Shāradā Sadan</th>
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<td>$105.00</td>
<td>$6.07</td>
<td>$1,236.19</td>
<td>$1,422.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augustus P. Reccord</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary A. Pierson, West Chester, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plainville, Conn. Circle, thru Henrietta A. Frisbie</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
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<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith A. Hooper, St. Louis, Mo.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roselle H. J. Ramabai Circle, Walton, N. Y., thru Mrs. Theodosia E. Carpenter</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<td>Brooklyn, N. Y. Circle, thru Mrs. M. J. Thayer</td>
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<td>Roselle H. J. Ramabai Circle, Walton, N. Y., thru Mrs. T. E. Carpenter</td>
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<td>Emma Smith, Germantown, Pa.</td>
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<td>Bloomfield, Conn., thru Susie M. Olcott, Treas.</td>
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<td>Mrs. S. A. Amidon, Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>Mary A. Pierson, West Chester, Pa.</td>
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<td>Mrs. M. A. Church, Syracuse, N. Y.</td>
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<td>Through Mrs. S. W. Lee-Mortimer, Bos- ton, Mass.</td>
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<td>Manorama Circle, thru Edith A. Hooper, Maylan, Pa.</td>
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<td>Miss Louise N. Robinson, Rochester, N. Y.</td>
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<td>Mary Vaux Walcott, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
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**Total:** $205.70 $173.00 $20.07 $1,708.19 $2,106.76
LIST OF DONORS TO AMERICAN RAMABAI ASSOCIATION,
March 25, 1918 to April 1, 1919.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circles</th>
<th>Shāradā Sadan</th>
<th>Mukti Sadan</th>
<th>Kripa Sadan</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<td>Brought Forward</td>
<td>$205.70</td>
<td>$173.00</td>
<td>$20.07</td>
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<td>Legacy under will of Miss Sarah R. Dalton, thru Mr. Augustus Loring of Boston</td>
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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our beloved Pundita has been passing through deep waters in this year of famine and epidemic, and many orphan children have been brought to her door, and families unable to feed their little ones have sometimes given them up rather than see them die of starvation. The epidemic came to Mukti also and Ramabai herself was very ill last October, but was mercifully spared to her great work. About thirty-five of the dependent ones in her care died, and others have recovered but are still suffering from the effects of the influenza. Famine prices for food have prevailed and cattle have died because of lack of fodder, since the rainfall was so light. Wells have dried up in many places and two of the deep ones at Mukti failed, but the remaining ones have supplied the needs of the large family. Never has Pundita Ramabai needed our care and our prayers more than now.

We are glad to have been able to send a little more money this year than last, but those who have been giving to war reconstruction in other lands might do well to remember that India suffered acutely during the struggle, and that more than a million and a quarter of her men were overseas with those of our own land. The first onrush of the German army was met with seventy thousand soldiers from India beside the British and French on the soil of invaded France. The number of Indian child widows and little orphans has been fearfully augmented by the aid which that country gave in our behalf. Common gratitude should impel us to include India in our gifts for reconstruction and Ramabai will be a fit agent for our benevolence. Gifts through the Treasurer of this Association will be sent forward promptly and to any department of Ramabai’s many-sided work.

Possibly some may give definitely to provide for the little homeless waifs who are being brought in as a result of the famine conditions, only do not ask for definite letters about them. With such care on her hands we could not ask Pundita to write about each little child.
To all givers we will supply whatever letters come about the whole work and surely they can trust Ramabai to do her best for the little ones. Mano pleads for prayer for those who are recovering slowly from the effects of famine. Covered with sores and weak from lack of nourishment—they must be sad sights but Mano tells us of the gradual dawning of love and happiness in the little wan faces.

Government relief work near Kedgaon gives work to many women who receive six cents a day for their labor and this is a great help, but until rain comes—the distress must continue to be great. The wells at Mukti, which failed, are being blasted deeper in the hope of obtaining a never-failing supply of good water.

Ramabai's work receives a striking endorsement by the announcement which Mano makes of the King-Emperor's award of the Kaiser I Hind Medal! None of the honors which are being conferred by His Majesty are better deserved than this which comes to gladden the heart of our Ramabai, and for which we, too, are so grateful. She had worked long before the nation recognized the value of her efforts and now this endorsement will make its impression all over India. The Government does not confer such an honor save for real service to the State and this has surely been established by Pundita as the thousands of rescued lives and hundreds of well-ordered homes of her many daughters and sons testify to the nation. We share in Ramabai's gratitude and congratulate her on this happy surprise. Mano's announcement is so modest, that it seems fitting to add a word to hers concerning such a memorable event.

We miss some familiar faces in this Association as some who stood by this work for years have gone to their reward and others have moved from this vicinity but it is a wonder and delight to find that many friends keep up their interest year after year and send their usual amount, when we are able to furnish so little detail. This time Manoroma gives us some touching instances which may be used to enlist new friends, and we beg all who can do so to make the work known to a wider circle.
Our President, Dr. Harlan P. Beach, is overseas on a tour of inspection which we hope may include India. Visitors are always welcomed at Kedgaon, if they will accept the hospitality which is offered so generously and none would be so welcome as Dr. Beach. Dr. Clancy, who is to speak for us, has experienced this welcome quite recently and others present know of old what a warm greeting there is for the Christian workers at Mukti.

Dr. Hume, our representative in India, is on his way home for furlough and we will hope to have some new items of interest for the Circles, when we may talk with him personally. These will be shared with our members through the press, or sent directly to those applying to our Corresponding Secretary.

Just a few of the copies of Ramabai’s book remain and can be secured from Mrs. Mortimer, price one dollar. The publishers cannot supply them as the edition is exhausted. The little pamphlet, with the outline of Ramabai’s life, may be obtained free by addressing the Corresponding Secretary.

Clementina Butler.
REPORT OF PANDITA RAMABAI

SHÂRADÂ SADAN, KEDGAON, POONA DISTRICT, INDIA,

January 30th, 1919

Dear Friends — The Shâradâ Sadan is about to enter upon the thirty-first year of its existence. For thirty years you have worked with untiring zeal for the uplifting of the women of India, and you have not laboured in vain.

Conditions among a certain class of Indian women in the cities are now very different from what they were thirty years ago. There are now among the Parsees and the Reformed Hindus a number of highly educated ladies. There are also some among the Mohammedans and other Indian races. Many of these ladies are interesting themselves in the work of enlightening and uplifting their less fortunate sisters. During the past four years of war the educated women of India have responded nobly to the call of the Empire; they have also done much to rouse their more ignorant countrywomen to help and then directed their efforts into channels of usefulness. There is now in Poona an Indian Women’s University. Among many who were once oppressed there is now a spirit of self-reliance and independence that it would do your hearts good to see. Indian women are coming to the front in all departments of work and life, and we now hear of some Indian ladies who are asking to be allowed to vote and have a voice in the government of their country.

We have indeed much to encourage us. The homes of the enlightened women of India are daily becoming more and more beautiful and homelike. The vernacular literature of the country is becoming more refined and ennobled by the influence of Western education and culture. The pictures in the magazines are becoming more artistic and lifelike and they represent a condition of affairs very different from that of thirty years ago. The scenes they describe and the homes they depict show clearly that some of the leaders of our people are seeking in every possible way to give to the Indian woman
her true place in the life of her country. For all these signs of progress we thank God and take courage; and this all the more because we realize that the work of the American Ramabai Association is an important factor in the production of this marvellous result.

Yet the fact remains that the East moves slowly. Though in places here and there and in certain portions of the Community amazing progress seems to have been made, there still remain millions of women untouched and absolutely uninfluenced by the "newfangled" ideas which a few of their countrywomen seem to have adopted. There are still many childwives and childwidows in India, many of whom suffer daily untold agonies, and to whom the glorious gospel of freedom has never come. There are still in India baby-girls whose own parents do not want them because they are girls. It is still a matter of everyday occurrence for one to come across some sad-faced little girl about ten years of age who if asked the cause of her grief will tell us that she is burdened with the knowledge of the fact that she is growing old; so old that there hardly remains a chance of her parents being able to procure a husband for her. The little one laments because she feels it must be her fault that she has not been fortunate enough to secure a good husband. She thinks it is because she is not beautiful or because she is not clever or because she has not learned to care for the house in a way that will satisfy a mother-in-law. There are still in India anxious fathers and mothers who are worn out with the burden and the responsibility of finding husbands for their daughters. According to the belief of many orthodox Hindu people a husband is still something to be bought by those who are anxious to secure through him an assurance of eternal salvation. He cannot be purchased without a sufficiently large dowry being offered with the bride. All his demands, or the demands of his parents concerning the little bride must be fulfilled. She must be humble and obedient, attentive to household duties, clever, fair to look upon, well educated or not educated according as the husband's family believes in women's education or not. A bride may be rejected because she knows too little or she may
be rejected for knowing too much. She must be religious and virtuous, able to look after little children and to wait upon her husband. She must have been born under a propitious star and she must in every way please her husband and his whole family. Little girls may be rejected for failing to fulfil these most difficult requirements and it is often hard to know how to comfort the puzzled little ones as they come to school and sadly pour out their griefs into their teacher's ears.

Among millions of orthodox Hindus the caste system seems as strong as ever though there are companies of reformers in many parts of India who are making brave efforts to break it down. The Purdah System still has a very strong hold upon Mohammedan women and upon Hindu ladies who live in Mohammedan Districts. Hence there are many girls and women living in most unhealthy surroundings and languishing for want of light and air and proper medical treatment. It is still the destiny of numbers of Hindu women to be scorned and down-trodden, deceived, insulted and abused by those who should be their natural protectors. Women are still deserted by their husbands for failing to bring sons instead of daughters into existence. Old customs and prejudices and superstitions still keep a tenacious hold upon the minds of millions of our people, and while here and there we often see the light of knowledge and reform brightening places which might otherwise be dark and unlovely, we realize that this very light shines all the brighter because of the intensity of the darkness around.

During the last four years war, pestilence and famine have done much to increase sufferings already very great. The Government is opening relief work in many places and famine relief funds are being started by the leaders of the cities. But it is hardly possible that these efforts will prove adequate to meet the appalling need. Influenza and cholera have made whole villages desolate and left many tiny babies and little children orphans. Many young women have become widows.

Such is the state of the country to which you, our friends in America, are stretching forth the helping hand.
You have your own needs and difficulties and sorrows. Disease and Death have not left your country untouched. You have suffered with all the rest of the world. War has made tremendous demands upon your resources and you have bravely responded to the appeal of the nations and come forward at the critical moment to the world's aid. We in India have been watching your doings, and we wonder as we realize that America, busy as she is with her great work of trying to settle the disputes of the world, still has time to think of and to respond to the appeal of the women of India. Our hearts are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness for us at such a time as this.

Your generosity and unselfish efforts for the good of humanity have always been an object lesson to us. Some of our people are trying to profit by the lessons which you are teaching us and to follow your example. But we are slow to learn. We need to be continually reminded of the great principles which you are trying to instil into us. We need living examples who will live the Christ-life in the sad homes of India and who will represent to human hearts the true meaning of the wonderful story of the Good Shepherd who came to give His life for the sheep. This is God's way of teaching His children. He makes His Word living and powerful to us by placing before our eyes wonderful object-lessons and studies and pictures such as only He can make. He paints pictures in the sky and in the fields, in the woods, on the rocks and in the sea, indeed in all nature, and teaches us through these living pictures wondrous lessons concerning Himself and His relation to the human race. Thus He seeks to place His beautiful Law within man's heart and follows up His teaching by sending His Own Son, His Living Word into the world to show us the very Image of God. And then He emphasizes and expounds the same word of His power by sending His children redeemed from the power of darkness and from the old life of sin and sorrow to work in the power of His Holy Spirit and to preach His Love even to the ends of the earth.

In the Shâradâ Sadan we have some of these redeemed
children of God whom He has chosen to be His messengers to the people of India. Here they are being taught and prepared for their life work, and they are learning slowly but surely to be faithful in the little things which lead to great results. To you God has given the work of recruiting, training and fitting for life and service these messengers of His choosing, and by responding to His call you are working out His plans and producing a most marvellous result. You are stretching a living cable across the ocean and building a bridge to span the distance between the West and the East and to unite in one great army God's children from both Hemispheres, so that they may go forth strong in their united strength to fight against the powers of darkness, to execute judgment and righteousness, to deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, to take away the captives from the mighty and to deliver the prey of the terrible.

Now let me tell you a little about your children here. When they first come they do not look very promising workers. They are often very delicate and uncared for, they are sometimes diseased and emaciated and suffering both in body and in mind. Ignorant and superstitious, they are often afraid and doubtful as to what the new life may mean to them. They are never in a hurry to tell the true story of their life. While really longing for help and sympathy, they are still afraid to open their hearts lest they should find themselves deceived as they have often been before and ensnared in some trap from which it may be difficult to escape.

The first thing then is to gain their confidence, to try to make them as comfortable as we can, to make proper arrangements for them to keep the rules of caste and custom, to supply them with clothing and suitable food, to find out what they are likely to be interested in and to set them to do it. All this takes a very long time and it requires great patience and love. They are all so different and they are so absolutely unaccustomed to life in an institution. They know nothing of Christian homelife or of the glad obedience of the child to the parent. Their idea of happiness is to be allowed to do
exactly as they like, regardless of any other person's desire or convenience.

When my mother first opened her school in Bombay she had two pupils. One of these was a day scholar. She was therefore able to devote herself to the one high-caste Hindu widow who was living under her roof. I was a very little girl at the time and I remember how surprised I was to see my beautiful mother devoting herself to this loud, uncouth, ignorant, unattractive and disfigured woman. I remember how sweetly Mother explained to me that this woman had never known a real home or a true Christian mother and that therefore she was called to be a mother to her and to show her the love of God.

Another high-caste widow who came to us a few years later is now a happy Christian mother and the wife of a Christian pastor. A few weeks ago she celebrated her jubilee. Her heart was deeply moved in thankfulness to God for His great goodness to her in saving her from a life of suffering, and bringing her to a knowledge of Himself. On the same day she wrote a letter to my mother thanking her for her kindness to her. This was the gist of her letter. "God has allowed me to see my fiftieth birthday. When I came to you I was a poor, neglected, weak girl and I should soon have died had it not been for your care. You fed me on wholesome food and gave me milk and butter and cod liver oil, and you loved me back to life and strength. You are my true mother though you did not give me birth. I praise God for the years of His goodness which He has allowed me to see."

Now we have many more girls than we had thirty years ago and my mother is far from strong. She is not able to give herself to each newcomer now in the same way in which she did it in the early days. She still studies the interests of individuals and does more than can be imagined or described to make them feel that the Shâradâ Sadan is Home; but she does not actually attend to all the wants herself. She works through Shâradâ Sadan and Mukti girls who are drinking in the
spirit of the Master and seeking to follow in His footsteps.

We have many large classes in our school, but the newcomers cannot be admitted into the regular classes. They would not understand the order, regularity and discipline of school life, and it would seem irksome to them. Each newcomer must therefore have a teacher to herself for at least part of the day. These private teachers and also many of the teachers of the large classes are old pupils of the Shâradâ Sadan.

Our school had to be closed for about two months this year because of the Spanish influenza which has wrought havoc in many places. More than four hundred of our people were ill in bed at the same time. Our doctor and our regular nurses were ill. A few young women and girls kept bravely on their feet giving thanks all the time that they were so far free from the disease, and serving their invalid sisters night and day in a hundred different ways. Some of these were Shâradâ Sadan girls. It was a sad time. We lost thirty-five altogether, some from the Shâradâ Sadan and some from Mukti. Some were grown-up and some were little children, and a few were little babies. We were thankful that so far as we could tell all who went were ready to meet death for they died trusting in Jesus.

We opened school in December after the epidemic. We had closed in October. I mentioned in my last report that we had applied for recognition by the Government Educational Department. It has been a very hard pull to try to meet the requirements of one inspector after another while battling against the epidemic and other difficulties. Among other things which made the recognition of the school difficult was the fact that the Government were not satisfied with our arrangement for the teaching of Science. We must have a Science teacher with proper qualifications and a laboratory properly fitted-up. It has cost a good deal to arrange to fulfil these conditions and even when the money was forthcoming other difficulties came in the way, but at last we have succeeded and the Shâradâ Sadan is now recognized as an Anglo-Vernacular Primary
and High School and we shall now I hope be permitted to train teachers and present them for the Teachers' Examinations so that they may obtain a Government Certificate which will stand them in good stead.

Famine and disease have affected both man and beast. Both grain and fodder are now so expensive that the agricultural classes especially are suffering intensely. The failure of the monsoon has resulted in the pastureland and even some of the wells drying up. Two of our beautiful wells at Mukti have failed, but we are thankful that we still have several good wells left. Fodder is tremendously expensive but the Government is kindly selling a kind of hay to poor farmers at a reasonable rate. We have been granted permission to buy a certain amount of this hay each month and besides this we have received a generous gift of a large quantity of grass from them free of charge. Thus we have been enabled to keep a number of our cattle alive so that we may get the water drawn from our wells by bullocks and obtain from the cows and buffaloes milk for our little orphan babies. We are very grateful to the Government for this help in time of need.

Almost every year some of our girls are married, to go out into homes of their own, but this year a much larger number than ever before have been sent out. We have not heard from all, but a good number of those who have left us this year seem to be settling happily into their new surroundings. A large number of Christian homes established in every part of this land will exert a wide and powerful influence which will act like leaven throughout the whole country and forward the interests of the Kingdom of God.

We still have a goodly number in the Shâradâ Sadan, and since famine conditions are prevailing everywhere it seems probable that our numbers will increase. There is very great distress in this district. The number of girls at present in the Shâradâ Sadan is 128, and the number of Mukti girls admitted to Shâradâ Sadan privileges is 62. Each of these 190 people is a separate individual who sends through me a warm message of thanks to the officers and members of the American
Ramabai Association for their goodness in giving to her a comfortable home where she may live and grow in knowledge and spiritual grace at a time when so many of her fellow countrywomen are homeless and in great sorrow. We ask too for your continued interest and prayers, for our need is very great. We feel very unworthy of the trust which you have placed in us and it is only as you uphold us by your prayers for us that we may hope to prove successful in our attempts to rise to your expectations. You have helped us so much in the past and we thank you for ourselves and also on behalf of thousands of our sisters who do not yet know how much they owe to you and to God who works through you.

My dear Mother sends you her loving and grateful thanks for your strong support and co-operation in her work for the Women of India. You will be glad to know that in this year’s list of New Year’s honours awarded by the King-Emperor to those who have done good service, there has come the announcement that Pundita Ramabai is to receive the Kaiser I Hind Gold Medal. We are all very pleased and thankful and we feel sure that you will also rejoice at this recognition by our good Government of the work which you have helped my Mother to do.

We pray that the King of kings may also set His seal upon our work during the coming year and that we may live continually in the light of His smile. “Heaven’s Light Our Guide” is the motto upon the flag of India. We pray that this sure guide may lighten your pathway in the future, and strengthen you to do even greater and nobler deeds than you have ever done before.

Believe me,

Yours gratefully in God’s service,

MANORAMABAI.
SUMMARY OF ADDRESS BY REV. ROCKWELL CLANCY, D.D., OF DELHI, INDIA

Dr. Rockwell Clancy spoke of his recent visit with Mrs. Clancy to this wonderful institution. He had known Pundita Ramabai for years and was glad of this opportunity to observe the growth of her work. They were entertained in the simple Indian fashion, in a little room in the row at the entrance of the large court and ate with the rest of the family of teachers, sitting on the low seats and being served with palatable India dishes. He questioned Ramabai later as to her method of supporting such a large number, for it must be remembered that for over twenty years her family has rarely numbered less than one thousand and often nearer two thousand. In response to the question Dr. Clancy was surprised to find that she has no definite pledge of support for this number. (This is 80. Our Association sends all it can secure but does not make any yearly pledge.—C. Butler.) The visitor asked, "Then have you never lacked food?" "No," said Ramabai, "we have sometimes been limited to the supply for the day, but it has always come." "How do you obtain this supply?" "Father sends it" was the quiet response. Is there any other woman in the world, or, for that matter, any man either—who supports two thousand souls with no Society or fund to assure them of funds sufficient? It is a matter of faith and trust in the promises of the Heavenly Father which has carried Ramabai through the cares of all these years of heroic service to humanity. Shall we not stand by with our small mite of aid?

A good staff of foreign workers, unsalaried, helps with the industrial work and the teaching. Manoramabai is a worthy daughter of this gifted mother and her graduation, the work involved being accomplished between times and on the train going to Bombay, is an achievement worthy of all praise. For she is the administrator under her mother's plans, and with such a large number in the various grades of the school there is much for her hands to accomplish. And the work done has recently received from the British Government the highest recognition it could possibly give to the head of
such an institution, when in the New Year's Honors it conferred the Kaiser I Hind Gold Medal on Pundita Ramabai. Such an honor as this is a testimonial to the splendid work accomplished in rescuing the needy and in fitting them for useful lives in many channels of service. Dr. Clancy did not recall the name of any other woman of the land having received such an honor. Possibly some royal lady might have in the past had such recognition of service to the State but in his thirty-five years' residence in India he had not heard of such an event. It should assure every contributor to this Association of the quality of work done by their representative—this recognition of real service to the Empire rendered at Muktí by our beloved friend Ramabai.

Dr. Clancy spoke in closing of the scene in the large building which serves as schoolhouse and church. About fifteen hundred gathered for worship—sitting down quietly on the floor and engaging in silent prayer before the formal service opened. Lastly came Ramabai, entering almost unnoticed. She knelt at once before a chair, keeping this position almost to the close of the service. All knew that she could not on account of her defective hearing enjoy the service with them, but she could, and did, pray in their sight, and they must have recognized that it was for them that her fervent petitions were ascending to their common Father.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ramabai Association, a corporation duly established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the sum of Dollars, to be expended for the purposes of the corporation under the direction of its Board of Managers.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Be it known, That whereas E. Winchester Donald, E. Hayward Ferry, Pauline Agassiz Shaw, Judith W. Andrews, Antoinette P. Granger, Clementina Butler, Catherine E. Russell, Abbie B. Child, William V. Kellen, Martha Silsbée, Cornelia C. Donald, Meta Neilson, Mary Rogers Bangs, Clarence John Blake, Josephine Dexter, and others, have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of The American Ramabai Association for the purpose of promoting and assisting in the education, and to ameliorate the condition of widows, deserted wives, and unmarried women and girls, all of the higher castes, in India, and have complied with the provisions of the statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the proper officers of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office:

Now, therefore, I, William M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that said E. Winchester Donald, E. Hayward Ferry, Pauline Agassiz Shaw, Judith W. Andrews, Antoinette P. Granger, Clementina Butler, Catherine E. Russell, Abbie B. Child, William V. Kellen, Martha Silsbée, Cornelia C. Donald, Meta Neilson, Mary Rogers Bangs, Clarence John Blake, Josephine Dexter, and others, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of The American Ramabai Association, with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereto subscribed and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

[Seal]

WILLIAM M. OLIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.
BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I. The members of the Association shall be such persons as shall from time to time be elected by the Association or by the Board of Managers, and such persons as shall be selected for membership by the Ramabai Circles now or hereafter existing, provided that no more than one person shall be so selected by each circle in any one year, and that no person so selected shall become a member of the Association till notice of the selection has been received by the Recording Secretary of the Association.

ART. II. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, not less than five Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and Twenty Managers, all of which officers together shall constitute a Board of Managers. All said officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, and shall hold their office one year, and until others are elected and qualified in their stead. The election of officers shall be by ballot, and all or any of them may be voted for on the same ballot. Any vacancy occurring in any of the offices may be filled by the Board of Managers, or the Executive Committee in consultation with the President.

ART. III. The Board of Managers shall manage and control all the property, business, and affairs of the Association. The President of the Association shall be Chairman of the Board. The Board shall meet at such times and places as the President shall appoint. The Board shall make an annual report to the Association.

ART. IV. The Annual Meeting of the Association for the election of officers and the transaction of any business shall be held in March of each year at such time and place in Boston as the President shall appoint. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President or by the Board of Managers, notice of the purpose of the meeting being included in the notice of the meeting. Notice of the time and place of the Annual Meeting or of any special meeting shall be given by publication in two Boston newspapers at least a week before the meeting.

ART. V. Seven members shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Managers.
ART. VI. Voting by proxy shall be allowed at meetings of the Association.

ART. VII. The Ramabai Circles shall be such voluntary and unincorporated Associations as now do or hereafter may exist in different localities for the purpose of maintaining interest in, and providing funds for, the work of this Association.

ART. VIII. The By-laws may be amended by vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall be included in the notice of the meeting.

ART. IX. There shall be on the Board of Managers representatives, not exceeding six, from societies contributing to the funds of the Association.

ART. X. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association, consisting of not less than five members of the Board of Managers. In the interim of the meetings of the Board of Managers the Executive Committee shall possess all the Powers of said Board and shall manage and control all the Property, business and affairs of the Association in consultation with the President.