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Editorial Notes

Community Development Projects

This issue is devoted entirely to what is known as the Community Development projects of the Government of West Bengal. The engineering aspects of the Projects against a socio-economic back ground are dealt with in a paper read before the Association of Engineers, Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta, by Sri S. Bandopadhyaya, B.Sc. (Glas.), C.P.E. (Glas.), M.I.E., Vice-President, Chief Engineer Development Board Govt. of West Bengal. The paper is self-explanatory and needs no Editorial to describe it. We trust the illustrations published will be found not only interesting but also useful to those engaged in the planning of similar projects.

Projects such as these are in demand not only in West Bengal, but all over India where the agricultural villages require uplift by contact with urban organisation and industrial produce.

The villagers of India are mainly occupied in agricultural activities. But they also need industrial occupation during seasonal periods when no agricultural activity is possible. The amenities of city life are not available in the villages and standard of living there is miserable. Every effort must be made for its uplift.

The paper shows the efforts that the Government of West Bengal is making to introduce by community projects some amenities of the city into the midst of the villages, so that interchange between produce of industry and agriculture may be balanced, life in the villages may be made easier, exodus to the cities and towns checked and congestion there relieved.

The requirements of food, clothing, housing, medical relief, education and transport have been studied for various localities. The steps taken to provide against shortages in the districts described in the paper may serve as a basis for other localities.