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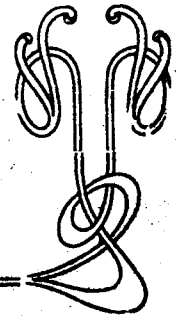
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BY

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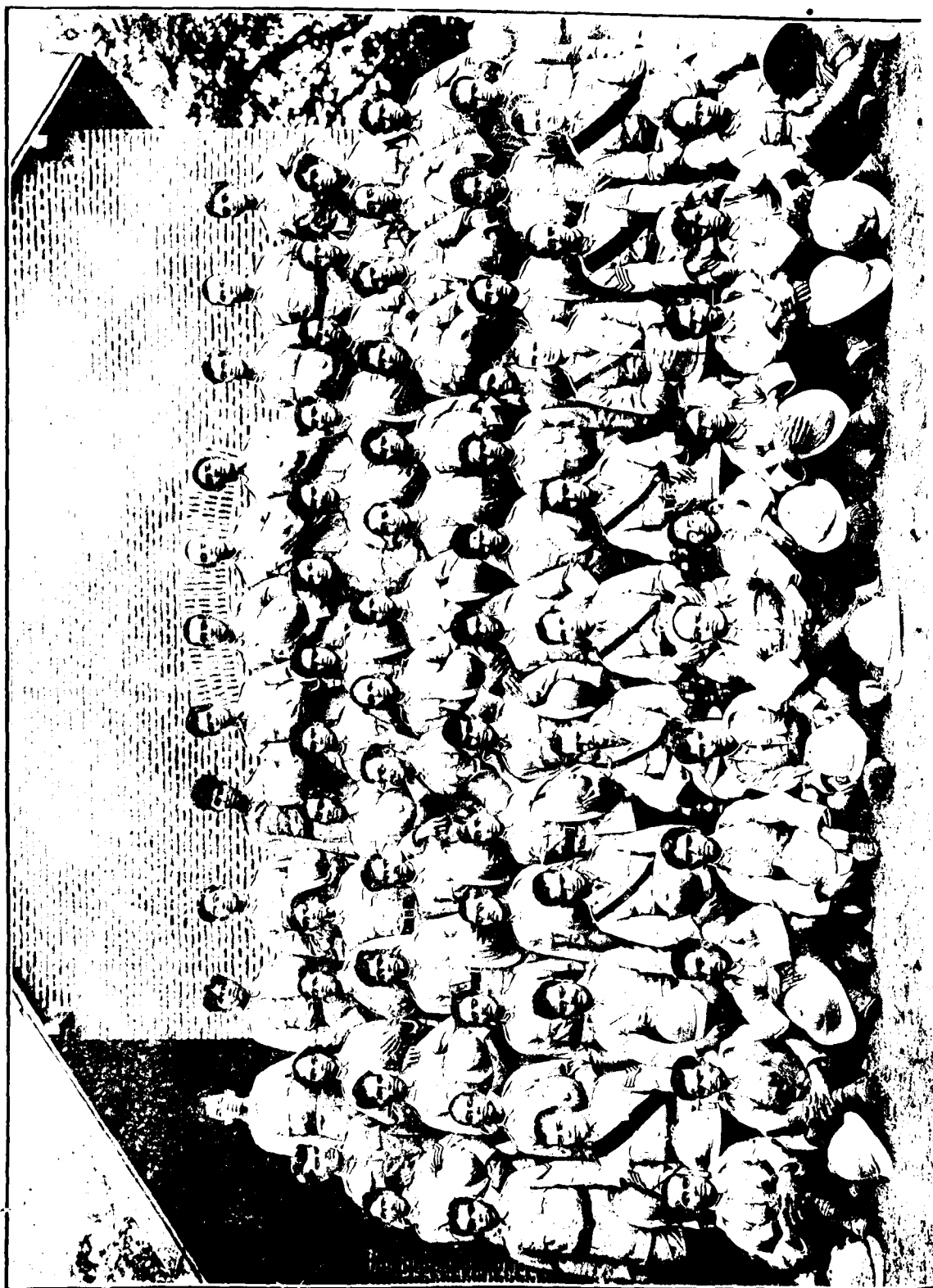
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The Magazine

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Vol. 13, No. 1.]

[February, 1924.]

The Possibilities of Co-operation in India.

[By MR. L. N. GOVINDARAJAN, B.A.]

The ideal of the Co-operative movement is to form human society into a kind of great Association of mutual aid. All the various forms of Co-operative activity aim at substituting solidarity for competition, and take as their motto, "Each for all," in place of the selfish principle, "Every one for himself." Without denying the stimulating effect of competition on production, we hold that the struggle involved in competition has deplorable moral and economic consequences, causing a tragic waste of productive forces; and that co-operation is a successful social experiment to correct some of the worst excesses of competition.

The socio-economic institutions of Indian villages are highly favourable to the successful working of all the varied forms of co-operation. The Indian village community in its economic structure approximates closely to a self-sufficient system of well-developed co-operative industrial organisation. The true co-operative ideal can be reached in India when all the various village needs are met by the Co-operative Society through its various departments. Each village will then become a Co-operative Commonwealth, associating itself with similar village republics, and thus assuming provincial and even national dimensions. Such a system would be in line with the traditions of the historic evolution of the Indian village community. Throughout the various periods of Indian history the village has had an independent existence of its own. Decentralisation has always been the spirit of Indian political life, and the establishment of independent co-operative commonwealths in various parts of the country will be in keeping with the genius of our race.

Is Co-operative Credit unduly Emphasised ?

No surprise need be felt in this country at the predominance of the Credit Society, which is the simplest example of all co-operative forms, and is therefore well adapted to illiterate peasants. Bad harvests and extravagant expenditure drive the ryot to the usurer. His grain and oxen are bought by that tyrant in his hour of need. He cannot be freed from the money-lender's clutches by cheap loans from the State or any other institution, for he has lost all habits of punctuality and foresight. Only when he has shaken off the despair with which he sees his debit balance accumulating in the Sowcar's books, is it practicable to introduce him to better methods of cultivation and a cheaper mode of living.

The Credit Society is therefore the foundation of the co-operative building in an ignorant peasant community. We may well agree with the assertion made by an eminent Co-operative official, that the concentration of effort in India on the Credit Society is neither disproportionate nor ill-advised. It is the preparation ground for a free economic life, and the foundation on which the ryot's co-operative future may be built up.

The Co-operative Credit movement comprising a membership exceeding two millions and financed by a capital of seventeen crores, is slowly but surely improving the condition of the rural community. For the exorbitant loan at $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent *plus* compound interest *plus* false accounts *plus* an indefinite series of domestic tyrannies, is substituted a loan publicly given at a rate between 9 and 18 per cent, with simple interest, audited accounts, and a vote for each member at the general meeting of the Society. Nor can the moral value of Co-operation be minimised. "The idle ryot becomes industrious, the spendthrift thrifty, the drunkard reforms his ways; the haunter of taverns forsakes them; the illiterate, though a grandfather, begins to read and write; it sounds like a tale from wonderland; yet it is all a sober fact."

Co-operative Distributive Societies.

When the ambition of the peasant has been excited by the hope of escaping from the money-lender's net, he begins to realise the enormous potential value of other forms of association, including Co-operative Distributive Societies. When the usurer was the master, there were open to the ryot only the alternatives of taking on credit whatever seed, cloth, and foodgrains the former might be pleased to sell at his own price, or buying elsewhere for cash worthless goods through lack of means to buy anything better.

The encouraging expansion of the scope and ideals of Co-operative Consumers' Societies in Europe is of great significance to us. These societies enable consumers to do without the independent shopkeeper, by buying directly from the producer, or better still, by producing their necessities themselves. Even in our country the bye-laws of a Credit Society permit the undertaking of other economic activities besides Credit. Where the business of the purchase of goods is separated from that of Credit, an independent Supply Society is registered, and its duty is to invite and combine indents, and distribute the goods on arrival. The loyalty of the members having been assured, the next step is to keep a surplus of goods in reserve with a view to future needs. From this it is a short step to the regular Consumers' Store, or what is called in England the Distributive Society—a Co-operative store which holds a stock of articles most likely to find ready sale, and is usually prepared to dispose of them to members and non-members alike.

Since in this country the co-operator must be trained in a simple school, and taught to be provident and punctual, the rural Society is a credit institution, while in England it is a Supply Society. The matter of purchase and distribution requires certain business qualities which are at present absent here, and it will take some time before we can see prosperous Consumers' Societies everywhere. At present there are hardly a thousand such Societies in the whole of India. It is true that during the War the scarcity of necessities, the shameless profiteering by monopolist-shopkeepers, and the restriction of transport facilities, gave a stimulus to the activity of these Stores. But the stimulus had the effect of a drug, and its influence was short-lived.

We need not despair of the Consumers' movement, but we must not underrate the enemy's powers. In its initial stages the Society must sell at market-prices, thus accumulating a surplus to be used in case of need. Again, the Urban Societies would do well to follow the example of the English Societies, and sell their goods to the general public also.

The remoteness of Indian villages and the dependence of the people on a few monopolist-shopkeepers render it both politic and possible to maintain in every village a Consumers' Society. If it is too expensive for a village to have a Consumers' shop, the Indent system may be followed. At first there may be an obstacle in the competition of the grain-dealing money-lender, from whom the deeply indebted peasant must buy his goods; but difficulties exist to be overcome.

"We must learn to look at everything from the point of view of the Consumer," said Bastiat years ago. The effective organisation of Co-operative Distributive Societies will lead to the millenium, when the consumer will be like a King who has only to let himself be served. If Co-operative Distributive Societies spring up in large numbers in the nooks and corners of the country, there will be a gradual transformation of the whole economic framework of society, of which the chief features will be the following :—

(1) The elimination of the independent shopkeeper. The Distributive Societies in England have managed to include all the inhabitants of some towns, and have overthrown local trade.

(2) The abolition of advertisement, with the enormous costs involved therein. All forms of commercial fraud, displaying of goods, and window-dressing, will no longer be necessary, and the moral level of business life will thereby be raised.

Co-operative Producers' Movement.

One principal aim kept in view by Co-operation is to deprive Capital of its preponderant rôle of management in Industry and of the tribute which it levies for this service in the form of profit. In Co-operative Societies, profits are distributed among the members in proportion to their purchases when they are consumers, or in proportion to their labour when they are employees, but never in proportion to their shares. The service rendered by share capital is remunerated by a small interest, never by a dividend. When we note that in an ordinary Limited Company it is Capital that takes away all the profits, the labourer being reduced to the position of a mere wage-earner, we shall be able to appreciate the fact that by making Capital no more than a paid wage-earner, the Co-operative system aims at nothing short of a non-violent social and economic revolution.

Put briefly, Co-operative Production is the association of workers without the capitalist employer. The difficulties that mainly beset Producers' Societies at the very outset, are want of sufficient capital and of immediate means of meeting the needs of the members of such Societies, and lastly, the lack of proper knowledge of business and of efficient management. It is only when the ideal of Industrial Democracy prevails in the minds of wage-earners and the thought of a communal workshop presents itself before them, that they make attempts to emancipate themselves from the control of the capitalists,

and organise themselves into a co-operative body. The movement will be successful only when Distributive Societies come forward to offer, a prompt helping hand by dealing with such societies exclusively. If once a body of skilled artisans realises the economic advantages of joining and working on a co-operative co-partnership basis, it will not be long before Producers' Societies become sufficiently prosperous to stand the struggle against large industries organised on a capitalistic basis.

There is as yet no intense and excessive capitalistic production in India and no keen labour unrest. But if these evils are to be permanently avoided, and if India is to be saved the bitter experiences of the West, it can only be through the introduction of co-operative organisation in the management of Industry. Already Co-operation is popular among weavers, dyers, fishermen, and the depressed classes. Weavers purchase their yarn in common, and weave independently. Sometimes they unite solely to maintain machinery used by all together or by each in turn. Others again sell at a common shop the cloth which each has woven independently, thus getting the advantage of wholesale selling.

Co-operation among Urban Labourers.

Another new line for co-operative progress has been recently suggested. It is admitted on all hands that the factory system can never develop fully in India until Co-operation extends to urban areas. Many an Indian industry suffers from paucity of labour which, being at present recruited from rural areas, is uncertain and fluctuating, owing to the poor housing and the uncongenial surroundings in cities. That Co-operation will diminish the paucity of labour and serve many of the constructive functions of Trade Unions, is too obvious to need elaborate explanation.

A Suggestion.

It has been suggested recently that the Co-operative Credit Society should so extend its sphere of activity as to include Co-operative Production and Sale within its scope. It is urged that it is wasteful to have a Credit Society, a Grain Society, and a Sale Society in the same village. Every effort should be made to merge these societies into one association, thus avoiding duplication of the working machinery. What we need is the effective co-ordination of various kinds of agricultural societies in order to infuse more energy into the village community.

6 THE POSSIBILITIES OF CO-OPERATION IN INDIA.

Co-operation and Democracy.

Co-operation has not only an economic significance, but a political aspect as well. With the organisation of Co-operation ramifying into the smallest villages, and binding together the co-operative interests of districts and provinces into co-operative federations, the ryots and town labourers that join the Co-operative movement in any of its forms, pick up experience in the working of representative institutions. Some seats in Village Panchayats may be reserved for the members of Co-operative Societies, and after the experimental stage, the interests of Co-operation may be represented on Local Boards, and even on Legislative Councils. Co-operation will then furnish a revivifying element to Local Boards, which are now inert and poorly attended. Thus the movement will furnish a training ground for the successful working of democratic and representative institutions.

Conclusion.

In India Co-operation has passed the stages of experiment and consolidation, and is now in need of further expansion. The only serious obstacle in the way is finance. If, however, Banking facilities are afforded, this problem can be solved. Again the claims which India may in future accumulate abroad should be used to bring Co-operation within the reach of every agriculturist.

The high educational value of Co-operation is an asset to the country. It teaches its members to place the end of economic activity in the satisfaction of human wants, not in the pursuit of gain. Each form of co-operative association marks the death of some ceaseless conflict or other between divergent interests. Credit associations do away with the conflict between creditor and debtor; Producers' associations, with that between Labour and Capital; Consumers' associations, with that between seller and buyer; and Building Co-operative Unions, with that between landlord and tenant. Indeed many Economists, headed by Professor Gide, assure us that it is the only social experiment of the nineteenth century that can solve in due course the problem of transforming society and placing it on a higher and more altruistic basis.



Mr. N. SWAMINADA AYYAR, B.A., B.E.,
Executive Engineer.

An 18th Century Hotch-Potch.

For you Indian Students, who though far distant from me are yet ever present in my thoughts, I propose to describe the main features of 18th century life. I shall write down simply the thoughts as they come; revision will be impracticable; but I hope I may awaken your interest despite deficiencies of style.

The century was one of transition: the flower of Elizabethan Romantic Literature was fading, and the succeeding Classic period was being ushered in.

First politically. Even William III's court was one of aristocracy: the court of the German Georges, on the contrary, was at best one of Whigs, *i. e.*, a party Court; but even the Whigs were soon estranged by the German dynasty's unlovely ways. George I knew no English; George II hated the English. The court which had been a force soon became a cipher in the national life. Absolutism was being superseded by the beginnings of Democracy, as exemplified by the Whig party's Parliamentary influence which prepared the way for the enfranchisement of the Middle Class by the Reform Act of 1832.

Then socially. The enclosure of fields and their division into estates broke up the small one-family "sustenance" farms; and the small farmers thus thrown out of work gravitated to the industrial cities which had sprung up on the invention of steam. Thus originated a middle class proletariat, which, as it were, steamed themselves into Parliament in 1832.

Sport for the first time became a link between the aristocracy and the people. Till then each had had its own games. The classes engaged in shovelpenny: the masses in a rough kind of football played on the village street. But now boxing became the rage with rich and poor, high and low. George II's son, Cumberland, patronised Jack Broughton (who, so far as I know, is the only pugilist buried in Westminster Abbey); his brother Frederick, Prince of Wales, feted Stephenson at Leicester House. In a famous fight—Broughton *vs.* Slack—there was as much as £ 1,000,000 at stake; and the Duke of Cumberland alone lost £ 10,000, which was quite a stupendous sum of money in those days. Byron and Keats took boxing lessons, and practically all aristocrats took up the pursuit. Jackson was a renowned boxing instructor; and it was said that there was no need to consult Debrett *i. e.* the Peerage, in those days, as the names of all the aristocracy were in Jackson's books. It is rather paradoxical to find Cumberland, who is known as the Butcher of Culloden, drawing up the Boxing Rules on which the Queensbury

Rules of the present day are based, and introducing boxing gloves to make the contest more humane, or to use his own words, "to prevent bloody noses, black eyes, and maimed limbs." Cock-fighting and bear and badger-baiting were other diversions of the time, which public opinion would not countenance now. Romanticism was giving place to Realism—a virile age was being ushered in. Many clear-cut types of the one age and of the other are to be seen representing the two different aspects of the age—Walpole and Chesterfield, Cumberland and Pope, Fox and Pitt, the Novelists and the Writers of Belles-Lettres. Let us consider these prototypes of what might almost be called the "beef-baccy" and the "porcelain" schools: the fore-runners of the coming virile period, and the aftermath of the Elizabethan age whose vigour had been lost.

1. WALPOLE—an 18th century squire, corpulent, jolly, sporting, a gourmand and somewhat dissolute; but courageous and statesmanlike; entirely uncultured and therefore a striking contrast to his son Horace Walpole. He was Prime Minister for 21 years, and proved himself a consummate genius of the negative type, for he passed practically no legislation of importance during that time. He threw off affairs of State as easily as a duck throws water from its back; and each day, before opening any State documents, he carefully studied his game-keeper's reports. But he did accomplish two great feats. He established the Hanoverian dynasty, and put foreign affairs on an extraordinarily sound basis after the treaty of Utrecht. And secondly, he became the first "Prime Minister" in the modern sense of the term. The members of his Cabinet had to be one not only in party but also in opinion, and that opinion his own. He would brook no opposition. When he came into office with his brother-in-law Townshend, he said "The firm is now Townshend, Walpole & Co., tomorrow it will be Walpole, Townshend & Co., and the next day Walpole alone;" and the prophecy duly came to pass.

2. CHESTERFIELD—a second rater of the very first rank, who just seemed to lack that vigour which would have transformed his dilettantism into genius. He was of the "porcelain" school, versatile and cultured, and was quite a competent diplomatist, man of letters, and collector. Good taste and convention were his gods, emotion was rigidly suppressed; but it is interesting to note how it peeps out in his letters, when he laments that he failed to make either his son or grandson a gentleman. He kept the great Johnson waiting in his ante-room. That in itself of course would have made that stalwart fume, but when he found it was on account of a mere actor, Cibber,—even of Garrick the Great he found it difficult to speak with

restraint—his indignation knew no bounds. "That fellow," he snorted "I had thought him a lord among wits: now I find him only a wit among lords." It may be noted that Johnson, of whom Boswell relates many such anecdotes, was also able to utter aphorisms of the Oscar Wilde, Chesterton, Bernard Shaw type; for example his definition of remarrying after one had been widowed, as "the triumph of love over experience."

3. CUMBERLAND—son of George II and uncle of George III, whose father Frederick Prince of Wales died nine years before George I. He was commander-in-chief in the War of the Spanish Succession, and must be regarded as an adept, if not a genius, at strategy; for, though he lost nearly all his battles, it must be remembered that his own allies were worthless, and that he was faced by such a marvellous leader as Marshal Saxe and by his matchless troops. Under such circumstances it is to his credit that Fontenoy was merely a retreat and not a rout.

Again the title of "Butcher of Culloden" is perhaps a little too severe when the feelings of his day are taken into account. He was of course practically brutal, but he was not refinedly cruel. He would not seem to have got personal pleasure out of the massacre. On retiring from the army he became a patron of sport, and this aspect of his character has already been described. While he patronised Broughton the waterman, his brother the Prince of Wales championed Stevenson; and thus they brought even into sport the family feuds which were another unamiable feature of the Georges, George II supported his mother Sophia against his father George I; George II's wife Caroline publicly stated she longed for the death of her son the Prince of Wales, and unseemly quarrels between King and Heir lasted until Victoria's time.

4. POPE—if not a poet, was a very great prose-writer in verse, and indeed was the foremost literary giant of the age. He did for Romanticism what Tennyson did for Classicism. He appealed to the intellect not to the emotions: he was aesthetic perhaps in the rhythm and beauty of his language, but not in the profundity of his thought. He lacked the revelation, the creative power, of the real poet: he expressed in the most forcible way thoughts which every one had known before. His brilliance was from this point of view superficial; his matter often banal. We think of the rapier scintillating in the light, remembering that the ordinary as well as the skilled strokes flash alike, and liken it to the effect of his play with words upon one's mind. In reading him one comes again and again on passages which arrest the attention, one feels compelled to stop and read them over

and over again; but when we come to analyse the underlying thought, we find it to be one which we had often formulated ourselves in our own poor and mediocre way. This accounts for the frequency with which we come across quotations from his works, and reminds us of the farmer who was taken to see the play of *Hamlet*, and who said that the thing which struck him about it was that it was full of quotations!!

In character he was mean and embittered because his deformity prevented him from cutting a dash in society. He wasted his divine gift in stooping to denounce and ridicule and satirise scribblers who would never have been heard of but for his works. He published his letters by a despicable subterfuge. He surreptitiously arranged for their printing, and on their appearance protested against the iniquity of giving to the public a man's private writings!! He stoutly maintained that some one had stolen them from the house of Swift while the latter was in one of his insane fits, and by such Machiavellianism got credit both for the literary ability of the letters, and for a modesty which he never possessed. Again, though he knew scarcely any Greek, he had the effrontery to publish a translation of Homer as his own work. He started by plagiarising from others, and at last got so sick of the whole business that he paid scribblers to complete the job for him.

5. FOX—a great leader of Opposition whose personal magnetism can still be gauged by his letters. His coalition with North, who had formerly been his bitter opponent, can be explained by their joint desire to drive the younger Pitt out of office. He led an extraordinarily versatile and vigorous life—Greek verse in the morning, a four hours speech in the afternoon, gambling in the evening, drinking at night. Another country squire.

6. PITT—the Younger was not so sweeping in genius as his father, the Great Commoner, who won the American colonies and India. He was Prime Minister for 17 years, almost as long as Walpole. He was upright, honest, though occasionally pettily mean; he tabooed racing and gambling, and his only weakness was port. He suffered from gout, kept himself aloof, and was idolised rather than loved.

If these few notes reveal a little of the entrancing interest of history, and reconcile you to text-books which may have hitherto seemed dry and dull, they will not have been written in vain.

LONDON,
October 1928.

CHAS. B. COCKAINE.



Mr. G. A. Nafsan, B. A.,
Member, Council of State.

L'Allegro and Il Penseroso.

[By A STUDENT OF II U. C.] •

L'Allegro and *Il Penseroso* are two pictures studiously opposed and complementary to each other, the opposition being mainly effected by means of the clear contrast in the mood with which nature and art are regarded by one and the same person. In the one, Milton describes scenery, and various occupations and amusements as contemplated by a man in a joyous and cheerful frame of mind; in the other, similar objects viewed by the same person in a serious and studious mood. The individuality of the poet is seen in the calm and somewhat grave cheerfulness of the one, as well as in the tranquil though not sombre meditateness of the other. His joy is without frivolity, and his melancholy is without gloom. He is sometimes in a frame of mind that leads him to seek enlivening social intercourse, and sometimes in one that leads him to seek communion with all that is serious in himself and in his fellowmen, and consequently to withdraw from the "various bustle of resort." The poet does not set before himself the alternative of living wholly with either the "goddess fair and free", or the "goddess sage and holy"; what he does intend is, in his livelier moods, to shun "vain, deluding joys, the brood of Folly," and in his more serious mood to avoid that "loathed Melancholy" which is attended by "horrid shapes and shrieks and sights unholy." "With thee, Mirth," he declares, "and also with thee, Melancholy (if ye can give these delights and these pleasures), I intend to live." It is interesting to compare these two poems, for every picture in the one corresponds with close parallelism to something similar in the other.

Thus the beautiful opening lines of each poem express the royal audacity of youth, banishing with an air of irrevocable decision the mood opposed to the inclination of the moment. *L'Allegro*, the cheerful man, in no measured terms expels the repulsive Melancholy to her congenial dwelling in hell, and invokes Euphrosyne to come to him with a retinue of kindred spirits, so that he may participate in her "unreproved pleasures free." *Il Penseroso*, the pensive man, on the other hand, warns off the vain deceptive joys, and invokes the presence of the sage and holy goddess Melancholy.

With *L'Allegro* the ideal day begins at dawn. He is awakened by the skylark, the cock, and the hunter's horn, and walks out no

unseen in the shade of the elm trees to see the gorgeous sunrise. He then observes the ploughman whistling a merry tune as he ploughs his field, the milkmaid singing merrily, the mower sharpening his scythe, and the shepherd telling the tale of his sheep under the hawthorn bush. The gradual unfolding of the landscape under the growing radiance of the dawn is quite enchanting. In the evening, the cheerful man takes particular pleasure in visiting the hamlets where

".....the merry bells ring round,
And the jocund rebecks sound
To many a youth and many a maid
Dancing in the chequered shade ;
.....
Till the livelong daylight fail :
Then to the spicy nut-brown ale,"

and the day terminates with ghost stories and fairy legends. The cheerful man then goes to enjoy the more courtly and elaborate pastimes of the great city, such as the tourney, the dance, the marriage feast. At night, he goes to see the representation of the comedies of Ben Jonson and Shakespeare. Finally, as a protection against encroaching anxieties, L'Allegro entreats the goddess of mirth to wrap him

".....in soft Lydian airs,
Married to immortal verse."

On the other hand, the Pensive man commences his solitary contemplative wandering with the song of the nightingale. He takes an interest in observing the moon riding to her zenith in her apparently irregular course. At times he hears the distant tolling of the curfew in some far-off village. If the weather is inclement, the thoughtful youth retires to his chamber,

"Where glowing embers through the room
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom,"

and sits meditating disturbed by no sound save the chirrup of the cricket on the hearth or the drowsy voice of the passing bellman. At midnight, he communes with the ancient philosophers on the destiny of the soul. Sometimes, he studies Greek tragedies and mediæval demonology. The night thus spent, the morning comes, not gay, but sombre and cloudy, when the pensive man sallies forth alone to lose himself in some forest of monumental oaks or pines, where sleep may overtake him. Before he rejoins the society of men, he pays a visit to the Gothic cathedral to raise his mind to its highest with the

music of the pealing organ. Finally Il Penseroso entreats divinest Melancholy to provide him in his old age with a hermitage, where he may study Astronomy and Botany and follow similar pursuits,

"Till old experience do attain
To something like prophetic strain."

Thus *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso* may be considered as virtually two divisions of a single poem, which may be entitled 'The Ideal Life,' each describing a day of twelve hours, the one a mood of light cheerfulness, and the other a mood more serious, thoughtful and melancholy.

The Economic Survey of a South Indian Ryotwari Village.

[By V. K. SAMBAMURTI, IV HONS.]

III. Land—an important factor of production.—(Continued.)

The enquiry into the evolution of the land tenure, the mode of assessing the land revenue, and the existing condition of agricultural holdings outlined in the last issue of the Magazine, naturally call for a study of the capacity of the land, and the share thereof obtained by the State and the landholder respectively, together with the incidence of land revenue. Reserving for a future paper the study of the crops and their cultivation, we shall at this stage take into consideration the average produce of the different kinds of village fields.

The table appearing below gives the Government classification of the fields, and their land revenue. The total area of the village (Sarukai) is 854 acres. The unassessed peramboke covers 240 acres.

WET LAND. 443.59 ACRES.				DRY LAND. 180 ACRES.			
Double Crop Area.		Single Crop Area.		Special.		Ordinary.	
Area in acres.	Assessment in Rupees.	Area in acres.	Assessment in Rupees.	Area in acres.	Assessment in Rupees.	Area in acres.	Assessment in Rupees.
281.37	17 to 22½	162.22	10 to 15	96.36	5 to 6½	75.75	4 to 5.

Though there may be some variations, yet the capacity of the land generally conforms to the broad divisions laid down by the Government.

14 ECONOMIC SURVEY OF A S. I. RYOTWARI VILLAGE.

I have endeavoured to eliminate both the over and the under estimates. The best land of the village, subject to a revenue of Rs. 22-8-0 per acre, is known to have yielded 70 kalams of paddy per acre under the most favourable conditions, i.e., when there was no failure in water-supply, when the rainfall was sufficient and well-timed, and when the ryot spent something like Rs. 80 in raising the crop. But such conditions are rarely fulfilled, and just as rarely do we have so prolific a yield. It is therefore reasonable to take into consideration only the normal yield under existing agricultural conditions.

With these preliminaries we can proceed directly to estimate the capacity of the different kinds of land. To be accurate we may make some modifications in existing *tharams* as laid down by the Government. Leaving the dry lands as they are, we may subdivide the present classification of the wet lands into superior and inferior. Their average gross produce, the minimum cost of cultivation, the rates of assessment, and the market value of the land, are given below. The valuation is calculated at Rs. 1-12-0 per kalam of 24 Madras measures of paddy.

Classification.	GROSS PRODUCE		Cost of cultivation.	Assessment.	Value of the land.
	In kalams	Valuation.			
Wet.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Double Crop, Superior ...	57	100-0-0	50-0-0	22	2000
Do. Inferior ...	50	87-8-0	47-8-0	18	1800
Single Crop, Superior ...	38	66-8-0	32-8-0	15	1600
Do. Inferior ...	25	43-12-0	21-12-0	10	1200
Dry. Special ...	Rent of	33-0-0	...	5 to 7½	1300
„ Ordinary ...	Rent of	15 to 20	...	5	900

The wet lands are capable of yielding more than they do at present. The comparatively low yield may be attributed to two causes—the inability of the cultivator to put sufficient capital into the land, and the time-honoured method of carrying on agricultural operations. To get a high income it is necessary to spend Rs. 80 to raise two crops from one acre of the best land. But the ryot as a rule will not invest more than Rs. 50. The manure, consisting of cowdung, ashes, and

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF A S. I. RYOTWARI VILLAGE. 15

street-sweepings, which used to cost him 4 annas a cart-load formerly, now sells at the rate of 12 annas. Green manure cannot be obtained in sufficiently large quantities. The partial failure of the water-supply from irrigational sources, and of the rains when they are urgently needed, is largely responsible for this comparatively low yield. The possibility of the failure of the rains, the ryots say, prevents them from using chemical manures, which in their opinion will be injurious to the crops if there happens to be a breakdown in the regular supply of water. Whether their arguments are sound or not, the fact is that the gross produce is much below the real capacity of the fields.

In the case of lands classed as dry, the pattadar apparently gets a higher percentage of net income. But we should take into consideration the fact that the crops raised on these lands are subject to great fluctuations. The return is not guaranteed. Further it demands much labour from the ryot, since the higher percentage is obtained chiefly by raising subsidiary crops and by mixtures which are justly exempted from land revenue. In the settlement which is just drawing to a close, about 18 acres of superior dry land are re-classified as wet, thereby doubling the assessment. It may be mentioned in passing that the present abnormal rise in the price of garden crops and pulses, which form the main produce of these fields, has greatly affected the rent. If the price of these articles were to fall, there should be a corresponding reduction in the rent.

To get the full benefit from the land it is necessary that the mirasdars should devote their personal attention to it. A few of the big landholders are absent from the village, and their fields are leased out for shorter or longer periods; and yet it is they who could put into the land all the capital that is needed. Their absence is indeed a great drawback. The ryots do their best to get as much as they can; but they lack the necessary funds. They are not in a flourishing condition, saddled as they are with large families and debts. The rise in wages and the unwillingness on the part of the hired labourer to work hard, not to speak of the scruples of some people who have come to think that it is humiliating to touch the plough, are some of the factors which prevent them from getting adequate returns. While the cost of cultivation has a constant tendency to rise, the efficiency of labour does not increase in the same proportion owing to the lack of trained supervision. In the more advanced countries of the West, supervision has become a science. Here it is practically non-existent. Those cultivating ryots who put their shoulders to the wheel, can of course get a better income, but they suffer from characteristic disabilities. Lack of education and of opportunities to come into contact

with demonstration farms and enterprising agricultural pioneers keeps them in the old groove. They carry on their trade in the time-honoured fashion, and with antiquated implements. Scientific progress in the art of agriculture is conspicuous by its absence. Tradition is not broken, and no new crop is imported and given a trial.

Private enterprise and governmental activities are woefully lacking in these parts. The present attempts of the Agricultural Department are sporadic, and do not touch even the fringe of the great ocean of peasant life in this Presidency. More demonstrations and a vigorous propaganda are required to stir the great depths of ignorance and self-complacency. There is no need to despair of the peasant. A successful demonstration may very well induce him to adopt new methods and cast off the old. The evils of the leasing system also are not to be minimised, especially when the periods are short as is usually the case. It is not to the interest of the temporary leaseholder to use a large quantity of manure and carry on efficient farming, since he apprehends that the landlord will take immediate advantage of an increased yield to raise the rent.

A consideration of the capacity of the land and an estimate of its yield, pave the way for an examination of the respective shares which the State and the landlord receive out of its produce. The following tabular statement gives in a nut-shell all the information that we require in order to grasp the whole question.

Sarnkai Village, Tanjore District (1923).

CLASSIFICATION.	Gross produce including straw.	Cost of cultivation.	Net Produce.		Market-value of Land.	Percentage of assessment to gross produce.	Percentage of assessment to net produce.
			Assessment.	Ryot's share			
Wet.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	About	
Double Crop, Superior...	105	50	22	33	2000	21	40
" " Inferior ..	92.8	47.8	18	27	1800	20	40
Single Crop, Superior ...	71.8	32.8	15	24	1600	21	38
" " Inferior ...	47.12	21.12	10	16	1200	23	39
Dry. Special ...	Rent Rs. 33	5 to 7½	25 to 27	1300	...	...	20
" Ordinary ...	Rent Rs. 20	5	15	900	...	...	25

The average price of gross produce is calculated at Rs. 1-12-0 per kalam of 24 Madras measures of paddy, the minimum rate obtained by the ryots of this village from the middlemen when they disposed of the yield of the first crop some two months ago. But there is a sudden rise in the price, owing to famine in adjoining districts caused by the failure of the monsoon in some parts and by heavy floods in others. The cost of cultivation covers all the expenses incurred by the ryot cultivating with hired labour. It represents the normal amount spent by him. A cultivating farmer may get something more on account of the labour supplied by his family. The assessment rates have been worked out from the general Government order issued recently enhancing the land revenue by 25 per cent. The re-settlement is now drawing to a close. In arriving at the ryot's share I have not made any deductions for the vicissitudes of seasons, for merchants' profits, the distance from markets, etc., generally allowed by the Government in calculating the net produce for settlement purposes. If this reduction (of 20 to 25 per cent) is made, the net income of the ryot will approach the assessment rate. This is in accordance with the policy of the Government, which is not to take by way of assessment more than half the net produce. The percentage of assessment to the gross produce worked out above ranges from 20 to 23 in the case of wet lands, and is more or less equal to that given for the wet lands of the Tanjore District in the Resolution issued by the Government of India. The percentage of assessment to the net produce is about 40 when the usual reduction allowed by the Government is not made. If such an allowance is granted it will be near 50. In other words, the assessment will be nearly half the net produce, and equal to the net income of the ryot. It also agrees with the rules laid down by the revenue authorities.

The next topic which we have to discuss is, in the words of Dr. Slater, "the incidence of land revenue." The figures given above show that the State takes away about 20 per cent of the gross produce, 40 per cent without making the usual allowance, and 50 after making customary deductions on the net produce. But this question is a highly controversial one. At this stage of my enquiry I have no inclination to enter into it. I shall only give the arguments put forward by various authorities. The following quotation from Dr. Slater reveals the different views held on the subject. In his "Some South Indian Villages," he says: "It has been maintained by certain Indian writers, that the revenue collected from land in India is an oppressive tax, and a main cause of the poverty and indebtedness of the peasantry. Such statements as that the land revenue exceeds one-fifth of the gross produce of the land; that it is one half or more than one half

of the net produce, and even that it is in excess of a fair economic rent, are not uncommon."

After thus summarising the opinions of Indian publicists he gives a number of instances to prove his point, that "the kist is on an average 6 per cent of the stated gross produce, which, in most cases, includes the grain only, and not the straw, and 14 per cent of the stated rent or net produce." Out of the instances given by him I shall take Kshetralapuram Village, as it lies in the same deltaic portion of the Tanjore District irrigated by the Cauvery and some 20 miles east of Sarukai, the field of my investigations.

Kshetralapuram, Tanjore District.—1918.

CLASSIFICATION.	Value of gross produce.	Rent or net produce.	Kist.	P. C. of Kist to gross produce.	P. C. of Kist to the net produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Single Crop, Paddy ...	55	28-12-0	7	12.7 %	24.4 %
Double Crop, Paddy ...	83	38	8	9.6 %	21.0 %
Garden (Plantains) ...	215	95	6	2.8 %	6.3 %
Ordinary, Dry ...	43-8-0	17	3	7.0 %	18.2 %

These figures of Dr. Slater appear to prove his contention that the incidence is light. But we may point out a factor which weighs heavily against accepting his conclusions. In the case of this village he is endeavouring to justify the assessment rates fixed in 1890 by putting forward the figures obtained in 1918, when prices were more than double what they were in 1890. Perhaps he was not aware of the fact that the village was on the eve of another settlement, which comes round with clock-like precision once in 30 years.

Let us see what Professor H. Stanley Jevons says. Reviewing Professor V. G. Kale's book in the December (1918) issue of the *Indian Journal of Economics*, he says: "In the United Provinces, in some instances which have come under our own notice, there was considerable variation in the ratio of revenue to rent, the average being about 35 per cent, and the lowest figure in a district at some distance from a railway about 20 per cent, the highest nearly 50 per cent."

After giving the views advanced by different authorities, I conclude this paper with the hope that the investigations being carried on in this field by such eminent scholars as Dr. Harold Mann, will supply us with accurate and abundant data to come to a right understanding of this much-debated point, namely the "incidence of land revenue."

Dididi and Pipidi.

The wife of one of our prominent chemists recently undertook to telegraph information regarding rubber accelerators to her husband, and over the telephone dictated the following: "Cannot get dididi. Blank will make half pound pipidi, and will ship early next week."

The telegraph operator refused the message on the ground that the rules forbade the use of code words in day letters. The chemist's wife then asked for the manager, and he came on the wire, confirming courteously the same points that had been made by the operator. It was explained that the mysterious words were not code words but were abbreviations. Although at first the telegraph officials insisted that anyone could see that these must be code words, it was admitted that it was customary to accept abbreviations, whereupon the chemist's wife said, "I will tell you the words for which these are abbreviations, and leave it to your judgment whether you accept the abbreviations given or wire the words themselves. It will be equally satisfactory to me. The first word, for which dididi is the abbreviation, is dimethylammoniumdimethylthiocarbamate. The second word, for which pipidi stands, is piperidinepiperidylthiocarbamate."

Almost simultaneously with the pronunciation of the last syllable, the manager exclaimed, "You win!"; and one has a mental picture of him figuratively throwing up his hands.

[*American Paper.*]

The Ratio on Teaching in Secondary Schools.

VI.

Text-Books for Class-Work.

It would be difficult indeed to lay down hard and fast rules to be always observed in appointing reading-books for high school classes. *The Ratio* gives no such rules; the Rector is free to choose what texts shall be read. The rules given are concerned with the expurgation of classical texts, should they require it, with the moral standard of books in the modern languages, with the timely preparation of lists of books to be retained or changed each year, and with the timely placing of orders for books with local booksellers. Guidance for the choice of texts may, however, be inferred from the practice of the Society and from the very many lists which we have of books appointed by Rectors in different countries from the beginning of the sixteenth century down to our own days.

Books to be explained or read in the class-room were chosen in accordance with the definitely conceived standard of each form, but also, and perhaps chiefly, in accordance with the needs of the set of boys passing from a lower to a higher form. A set of boys passing from, say, IV to V Form, might be in need of more or less, or of simpler or more difficult prose or poetry than their predecessors in the V Form, and the particular need of this set of boys was taken into consideration in appointing text-books.

Books intended to convey information only,—histories, books of mathematics and sciences—needed to be changed only as new information had to be added, or exploded errors removed or corrected. Grammars, which in the high school were descriptive of usage and idiom, needed very little change until the middle of the nineteenth century. But books for formative and educational purposes needed frequent change to meet the varying needs of succeeding sets of boys. Instances might not serve my purpose just now, for it was the classical languages chiefly that were used for the training and education of boys, and instances of the preference given one year to certain books or certain authors, would not be enlightening for readers whose recollection of the classics may not be quite fresh or complete.

• But whatever the standard of the form, and whether the text-book is chosen for the *prælectio*, or detailed study, or for class-reading, or non-detailed study, it must be a sample, or contain samples, of the very best in thought, style and composition in the language; of the best in the golden age of the classics, and of the very best in modern languages. The subject-matter of texts for detailed study must be such as the boys will, with the help of the teacher, understand and admit to be worth working at, and giving their whole attention to. The merely interesting will not do for class work; it might suffice for home reading, or occasionally in books for non-detailed study; but in books for detailed study, it will not do. The thoughts, feelings, scenes and incidents, and the wording, must be of such general human interest, truth and beauty, that the thorough study of the text will be a positive gain, intellectual and moral, for the boys, by awakening or satisfying a longing for the excellent or even for the wonderful, by starting the critical faculty on such subject-matter and expression as deserves thinking over and assigning a value to. The lessons to be done in the class-room should fix themselves in the memory and remain there as models for imitation and standards of comparison.

Books for non-detailed study should be easier in every respect than those for detailed study. Both subject-matter and language should be simpler than the easier portions of the previous year's detailed study; in such English, v. g., as we are accustomed to call '*your own words*' in our examination papers. V Form boys may be supposed to be learning the language of the V Form reading-book, and to have acquired some facility to use that of their IV Form book, and still greater facility to use the language of the III Form book and of the easier parts of the IV Form book. This language which they can speak and write easily and fluently is '*their own*'. But, however simpler and easier than the texts for detailed study, these texts must be equally perfect as language and literature.

The *Ratio* would not tolerate our practice of perverting the language and literature periods into periods for the acquisition of *general knowledge*. A book like *The Wonders of Transport* ought to be the concern of the history and geography teacher, not of the English teacher. Books of this kind are doing immense harm to the teaching of English in our schools. They do serve one of the purposes for which they are intended, namely, to convey useful information, historical, geographical, and technical, of every description; but the teacher of language and literature should not be engaged on things of this

kind; they belong to the special subjects department. The presence of such books in the English class-room should make it still more evident, if more evidence were necessary, that our programmes and syllabuses do not meet the needs of our boys. But books of this kind, we are told, do meet the needs of English boys in English schools in England. That may be; but English is the mother-tongue of English boys, whereas it is a foreign tongue for our boys. It should not be necessary to make such an obvious reflection; but yet it is necessary. Our boys should not be obliged to learn the language, and at the same time to absorb all kinds of information.

Still less would the *Ratio* countenance "*Abridgments of Literary works*" of the kind with which our class-rooms are deluged. Whatever purpose they may serve in England—and it is open to question whether they can serve any other purpose than that of examples of epitomizing—they are positively harmful in our class-rooms. The finest works are cut down to a rapid enumeration of incidents, and the brief statement of an issue; the situation is scamped, and the most necessary reflective and descriptive elements are omitted. Once the list of incidents is known, the book loses its interest for our boys; they must all the same keep on working at it, because an examination is coming, and they must have their list pat. But our boys want something to think about, something more than the interest of incident; they want a situation rather elaborately exposed, and detailed descriptions of scenes and seasons, to realize the worth of the incident, for the worth of an incident depends on situation, time and place. And our boys want above all the reflections of the author and of the characters. They are reading a foreign literature which has no point of contact with their own ideas and ways of life; they must, therefore, be provided with all those accessories of incident which the author thought necessary or helpful for his readers, if indeed they are at all to realize the incident as a manifestation of western life.

We must give our boys complete works. But needless to say that complete works, such as one of Scott's or Dickens's long novels, would soon be very wearisome in the class-room. And why not, therefore, let us have abridgments of these long books? Is'nt half a loaf better than no bread? Half a loaf is better than no bread; but half a loaf with the leaven left out would be a bad meal even in a big man's healthy stomach. Why trouble with half loaves at all? Let us give our boys not half loaves, but small whole loaves.

We have no need whatever of big long books for the complete works we want. English literature abounds with complete works,

by the best authors, in the shorter forms of composition: the story, the description, the essay, the speech, and so on. A careful selection of the best compositions of this kind would be the right thing for our class-rooms. Such a selection would have all the advantages claimed for the reading of long continuous works; it would give the habit of continued mental effort; it would give a clear impression of the author's method and style; and it would give the sense of an artistic whole. It must, of course, be recollected that we are dealing with immature minds and training them to mental effort, scarcely yet to continued mental effort, which will not come until some purpose to be secured only by continuity of effort presents itself. Besides, however true it may be that a trained adult mind may be interested in an author's method and style, and able to read a long work through with the sole stimulant of literary interest, it would be a mistake to suppose that boys take any literary interest in the books they read until the teacher's pains and patience have opened their minds to it; a boy's interest lies in situation and action, if he reads at all, until the teacher has made him realize that there is still something better than that in good books. Besides, it is much easier both for the teacher and for the boys to deal with a complete composition of about the length of one of Addison's essays than with a book of the length of our abridgments, especially when it is question of pointing out artistic work in the finish of style, the completeness and unity of the whole, and the proportion and balance of parts. A selection of such complete compositions would introduce the boys to a variety of literary subjects and styles, and to a variety of literary treatments of one and the same subject.

Excerpts of similar length and easier than those chosen for detailed study, might, if sufficiently self-contained, serve the purpose of class reading for detailed or for non-detailed study.

One minor advantage of selected complete works is that they would introduce the boys to the names and works of many different authors.

There is no detail of the secondary school curriculum of such importance for education as the choice of appropriate reading books. The lessons must be lovable rather than interesting or useful, if the boys are to take to their language lessons heartily, to become lovers of books, and to undergo the moulding into wise-headed, large-hearted men, which should be the result of literary studies. The practical utility of the information contained in books should be, and so it is in

24 THE RATIO ON TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

the *Ratio*, the weakest consideration in choosing books for use in the class-room.

Nothing that I have said would prevent the presence in the class reading-book of models of those conventional forms of composition and expression which an educated man is supposed to know: business letters, v. g., and the formal expression of congratulation or condolence, formal invitations and replies to them. These conventionalities have to be taught, or to be learned some day or other. They are usually taught by the language teacher, perhaps because there seems to be no other member of the staff expected to deal with them. It is not obvious, however, why the teacher of arithmetic should not teach the technicalities of business correspondence, nor is it obvious what teacher, if not the teacher of language, should instruct boys in the conventionalities of social correspondence. No grievous injury would be done to our boys if these items were omitted from our programmes and left to be picked up as opportunities may occur. But very grievous injury would be done if the teacher of language and literature failed to fulfil his rôle of educator; this teacher is the member for education on the staff, but a great deal of his success depends on the books he has to deal with.

Creditor—"Is your master at home?"

Servant—"Yes, please walk in."

Creditor—"Thank heaven, I shall see some money at last."

Servant—"Don't make that mistake. If he had any money he wouldn't be at home."

* * * *

One of the characteristics of a true proverb is to be cynical; that element is abundant in Chinese proverbs; for instance:

"Though a man has eaten gentian, he keeps his trouble for himself."

"Men mourn for those who leave fortunes behind them"

"A dwarf cannot kick up his feet to any great height."

"To fell a tree to catch a blackbird."

Thackeray.

Thackeray is one of the greatest figures in the history of fiction. In him and in Dickens this literary kind attained its zenith; and the reader, who has grown weary of the sentimentality of Richardson and the romanticism of Scott, finds in Dickens and Thackeray better exponents of life. Dickens is exuberantly optimistic; Thackeray is, at least on the surface, pessimistic. But this pessimism is not of the same order as Swift's, which degenerates into downright cynicism. Though the follies of "society" seem to provoke his satire upon mankind itself, yet he is not devoid of sympathy, and he stands for the fundamental goodness of man. At bottom that is his topic. The writer who could sympathize with Dick Steele and conceive a Colonel Newcome, is no cynic.

Thackeray's novels, like Dickens', are realistic; even his historical novels are so. He and Dickens mark the reaction against the idealized unreal life of the Romantic novelists, but they do not carry their realism to the extreme degree which is seen in Miss Austen's novels. Thackeray, it is true, introduces little accidents which profoundly affect his plots, but there is nothing out of the common in them. The sudden return of George Warrington to London, the secret of Esmond's birth, the failure of the Bundecund Bank, are accidents or occurrences quite within the range of experience. He does not portray Clive Newcome as being so madly in love with Ethel that he remains a bachelor when he fails to secure her hand; nor is Dobbin on the shores of far-off India left weeping and pining away, like the lovers of old Romance.

Melancholy broods over Thackeray's novels: something is always wanting to the happiness which his characters enjoy. His lovers are bowed down under the weight of contrary circumstances, and as in the typical case of Amelia Sedley, heroines make the wrong choice. The reader is made to ponder over the sad fate of men and women, while the panorama of a sham, artificial, heartless world unfolds itself before him.

Thackeray's characters are real. No complaint is made, as in the case of many of Dickens' characters, that no such persons as Becky Sharp, the Sedleys and others, ever did or could exist. To many of his characters originals have been assigned. Becky's scheming and prudent foresight may be seen in the modern fortune-hunting

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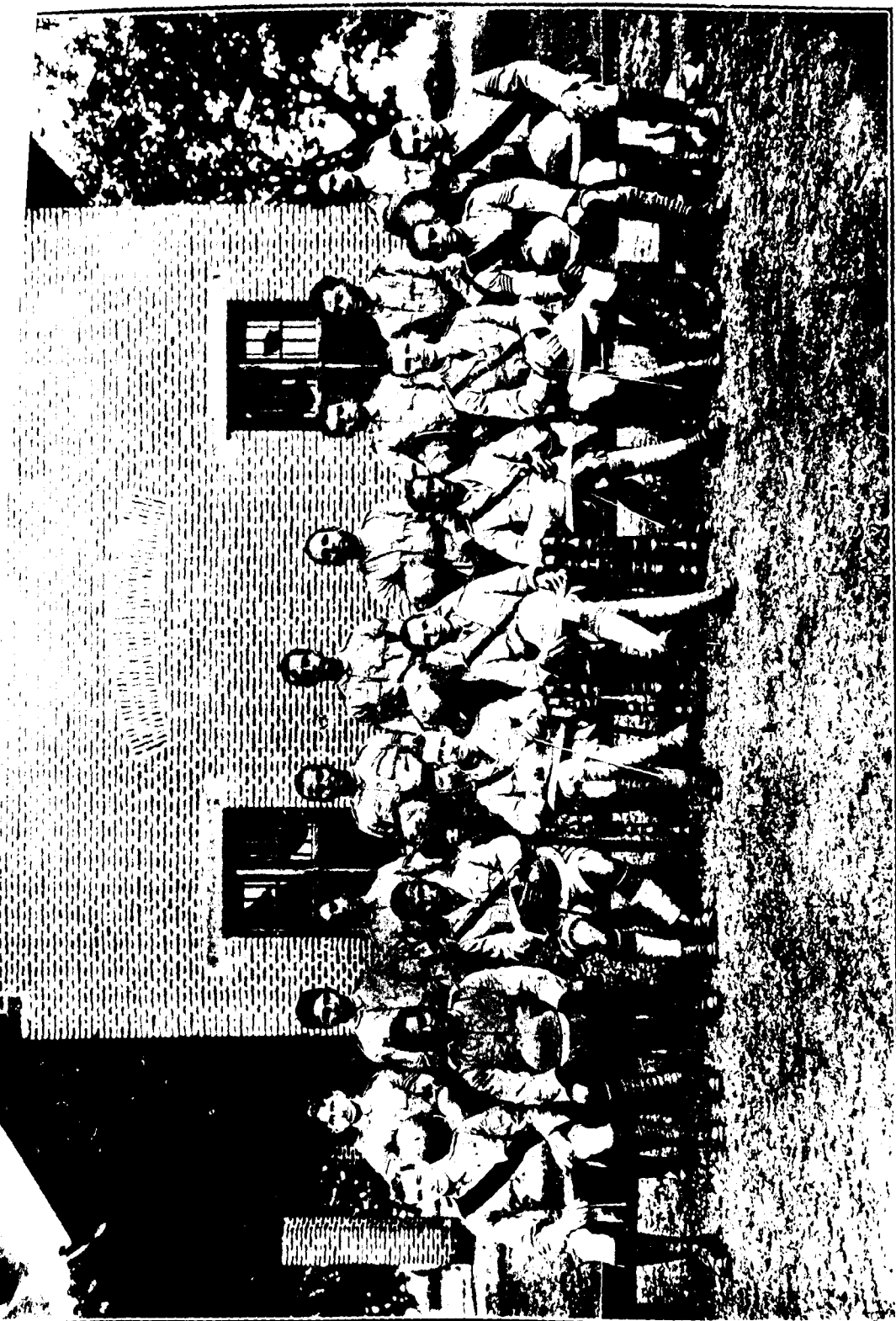
young lady; the excessive sensitiveness of Amelia Sedley is by no means an uncommon failing.

His world is the world of fashion. The higher classes pay one another compliments as insincere as they are elegantly worded. Noblemen gamble with affected carelessness while their fortunes depend on the cast of the dice, and take the news of their ruin with imperturbable composure. Rank and wealth without conscience are satirized, and hearts are laid bare which no longer respond to a noble appeal.

Like the pages of the eighteenth century humourists whom he studies so closely, his pages sparkle with sharp, brilliant sayings, and contain ever memorable portraits. Steele with his excessive reverence for Addison, Addison with his decent pride and assuming airs over poor Dick, live again in the pages of *Esmond*. Lean Mr. Richardson and the big Dr. Johnson in the *Virginians* are complete pictures of the authors of *Clarissa* and the *Dictionary*. Yellowplush is worthy of the greatest humourist, and his naive criticism and ingenuous remarks are a delight for ever. *The Book of Snobs* is the acutest satire ever penned upon the higher classes.

His novels are loosely constructed. The *Newcomes* and *Vanity Fair*, for instance, have no plot at all; the chapters give us phases of life as it unfolded itself before the author. This was due to the method of publication in serial form. The books were not first written in their entirety; they were sent to the press chapter by chapter as required by the monthly magazine, and the opportunity was wanting of revising the earlier portions as the later came from his hand. The result was a loss of climax.

Like Dickens, though in a different way, Thackeray aimed at reforming society. Individual weaknesses and social foibles were gently reproved; the greater vices were sternly chastised. But there was an underlying tenderness even in the sharpest rebuke, which recalled the sinner to the path of virtue.



Officers and N. C. O.'s "G" Company, 5th U. T. C.

College Notes.

The University Training Corps.

We have not recorded any of the doings of the College Company of the U. T. C. hitherto, because, apart from the enrolment of new men to fill the gaps made by the discharge of those whose University career was over, and the usual parades on Rogers' Ground, there was nothing of particular interest to write about. During the last two months, however, the U. T. C. has been to the fore. Immediately after the College was closed for the Christmas vacation, our soldiers were marched, or rather motored, into camp in the Indian Infantry Lines, Cantonment. From all accounts we gather that quite a pleasant and useful time was spent at the camp, the main object of which was to initiate the boys into the mysteries of the weapon known as the Service Rifle. After a few days of preliminary instruction in Arms Drill and Musketry, the boys were taken to the long range to fire their Annual Musketry course. Many and varied were the sensations experienced—the exhilaration of firing for the first time out of a real rifle with ammunition quite capable of doing the most deadly work, the excitement of running up high scores to swell the Company average, and above all, the exquisite pleasure of bruised shoulders. Howbeit, our musketry average was something to be proud of—79.6 out of a possible 130; and better still, the best shot of the Battalion in our Company, L/Cpl. M. S. Chinniah, who scored 112 points.

And there were other satisfactory features. The "Q" Department run by 2nd Lieut. P. V. Srinivasa Aiyar of our Company and 2nd Lieut. V. Asirvadam of the Bishop Heber College Company, was all that could be desired.

But most satisfactory of all from the Company Commander's point of view, was the excellent spirit of discipline maintained right through the Camp, and the equally excellent work of the N.C.O.'s ably led by C. S. M.—S. A. Asirvatham, Sergt. K. Srinivasan, and Cpl. K. Sadagopan.

A special word of praise and of thanks is due to S. S. I.'s Kearns and Isaacson, on whom fell the chief burden of training the Company.

On the 22nd January, the Company was inspected on Rogers' Ground by Major-General J. Ponsonby, O.M.C., C.B., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding the Madras District.

Our Company was drawn up in line with "H" Company (the Bishop Heber and National College contingents), and the General on arrival was met with the general salute. After a detailed inspection of the men by the General, the two Companies marched past in Column of Route. Our unarmed platoon was then asked to do some escalating work, while those who had the honour of carrying rifles on the parade were put through a few details of musketry.

Before leaving, the General congratulated the boys on the smartness of their turn-out and their steadiness on parade. He expressed himself particularly well pleased with the fact that the boys showed plenty of life in the movements they carried out.

The following is extracted from the official Report of the General :—

"The General Officer Commanding was very pleased with the turn out and the steadiness of all ranks on parade.

"The physical exercises were well carried out.

"Good progress in the handling of arms has been made, but the marching requires more attention.

"In this connection I am to say that the General Officer Commanding did not consider that the Officers and N. C. O.'s paid sufficient attention to the correction of faults.

" platoons and squads should be halted and the various mistakes pointed out.

"This was particularly noticeable in the marching. N. C. O.'s were content to shout out the step, but made no efforts to see that the men kept step.

"The General Officer Commanding hopes that it will be possible to give lectures on Military subjects, especially Military history, in order to stimulate the Military spirit of the Corps."

The Elections.

The turmoil of the elections to the various public bodies of the Presidency has subsided ; and it is time for us to take stock of the results from the College point of view. The following gentlemen are either members of the College Staff, or are Old Boys of the Institution.

I. The University of Madras.

A. THE SYNDICATE.

The Rev. F. Bertram, S.J.

B. THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL.

The Rev. F. Bertram S.J., St. Joseph's College.

The Rev. C. Leigh, S.J., St. Joseph's College.

The Rev. P. Carty, S.J., (University Reader), St. Joseph's College.

The Rev. D. Honoré, S.J., (University Reader), St. Joseph's College.

Mr. M. Ratnaswami, M.A., Principal, Pachaiyappah's College, Madras.

Mr. G. V. Krishnaswami Aiyangar, M.A., Sri Minakshi College, Chidambaram.

Mr. K. S. Vaidyanatha Aiyar, M.A., L.T., Government College, Kumbakonam.

Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan, B.A., *Dip. Ag.*, Agricultural College, Coimbatore.

C. THE COUNCIL OF AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

The Rev. F. Bertram, S.J., St. Joseph's College.

Mr. P. A. Ganesa Aiyar, B.A., L.T., St. Joseph's College.

Mr. C. J. Varkey, M.A., St. Aloysius' College, Mangalore.

Mr. P. A. Subrahmanya Aiyar, M.A., Sri Minakshi College, Chidambaram.

Mr. P. Pattabhiramayya, M.A., L.T. Noble College, Masulipatam.

The Rev. F. Mathew Purakel, M.A., Principal, St. Berchmans' College, Changanacherry.

D. THE SENATE.

(a) Ex-Officio.

The Rev. F. Bertram, S.J., St. Joseph's College.

(b) Elected by the Registered Graduates.

Mr. P. T. Srinivasa Aiyangar, M.A., L.T., St. Joseph's College.

(c) Elected by the Academic Council.

The Rev. C. Leigh, S.J., St. Joseph's College.

Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan, B.A., *Dip. Ag.*, Agricultural College, Coimbatore.

(d) Elected by the Council of Affiliated Colleges.

Mr. C. J. Varkey, M.A., St. Aloysius' College, Mangalore.

Mr. P. Pattabhiramayya, M.A., L.T., Noble College, Masulipatam.

Mr. P. A. Subrahmanya Aiyar, M.A., Sri Minakshi College, Chidambaram.

Mr. Arthur Paul, M.A., L.T., A.E.L.M. College, Guntur.

Mr. P. A. Ganesa Aiyar, B.A., L.T., St. Joseph's College.

(e) **Elected by the Headmasters of High Schools.**

Mr. P. A. Subrahmanya Aiyar, B.A., L.T., Headmaster, Hindu High School, Triplicane.

(f) **Elected by District Boards and Municipalities.**

Khan Bahadur P. Kalifulla Sahib Bahadur, M.A., B.L., Trichinopoly.

Mr. V. J. Samu Pillai, B.A., B.L., Cuddalore.

Mr. M. C. Rajagopal Naidu, B.A., L.T., Srirangam.

Mr. K. V. Subba Rao, B.A., B.L., Salem.

(g) **Elected by the Legislative Council, Madras.**

Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar, B.A., L.T., Trichinopoly.

(h) **Nominated.**

Mr. N. Tyagaraja Aiyar, M.A., L.T., Principal, Maharajah's College, Pudukotta.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai M.A., L.L.B., C.I.E., I.S.O., President, Legislative Council.

Mr. S. N. Durai Raja, Pudukotta.

II. The Legislative Council, Madras.

Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar, B.A., L.T., Trichinopoly.

Khan Bahadur P. Kalifulla Sahib Bahadur, M.A., B.L., Trichinopoly.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha, B.A., LL.B., Mangalore.

Mr. M. Ratnaswami, M.A., Bar-at-Law, Madras.

Mr. S. C. Ponnuswami, B.A., B.L., Dindigul.

Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Aiyar, Kulitalai.

III. The Legislative Assembly, Delhi.

Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar, B.A., B.L., Madura.

IV. The Council of State, Delhi.

Mr. G. A. Natesan, B.A., Madras.

Old Boys.



Dewan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAY,
M.A., B.L., LL.B., I.S.O., C.I.E.
President of the Legislative Council, Madras.

The Event of the season :—Dewan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai M.A., L.L.B., I.S.O., has been appointed President of the Madras Legislative Council, and made a C. I. E. There are some people whom it is superfluous to praise: they are above praise. This is so with L. D. S., even shorn of all his titles—and we leave it at that.

We have great pleasure in recording the success, at the last B. L. Degree Examination, of S. Tyagaraja Aiyar, B.A. (Hons). He is first in the first class, bracketed with a former student of the Bishop Heber College. He wins the L. C. Miller Medal and the R. Lakshminaras Reddi Medal.

Our congratulations to Tyagarajan, and may he have more successes to record!

In the F. L. we find our old friend S. Parthasarathi ("Little Pachoo"), second on the pass list in the first class.

Another "Old Boy" has been brought back to Trichy by the usual working of the official machinery. Mr. K. S. Narayana Aiyar, M.A., of Deputy Collector grade, is now in charge of the office of the Settlement Officer, Trichy.

A lucky man is our old friend R. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar, M.A. (first class Mathematics Honours, 1915). From Superintendent of the Accountant-General's Office, Madras, he has risen to the post of Personal Assistant to the Deputy Controller-General, India.

There is a fine feat of "pole jump" for you! But Sivaramakrishnan has a splendid pole to pull himself up with: talent, dogged

perseverance, hard work, and devotion to duty. We have not seen the last of his "pole jumps" yet.

* * * *

His next brother, R. Lakshminarayanan, has returned from England a full-fledged Engineer, and has secured a good appointment on the B. N. Railway.

* * * *

And who should walk into the College compound the other day but the last of the trio, R. Krishnan, who had just returned from England! It was very kind and thoughtful of him to break his journey here to look us up. And he was rewarded for it: for while here he got a wire offering him the post of Assistant to the Commissioner for the Indian section of the British Empire Exhibition. He has already sailed back West, and our best wishes go with him.

* * * *

Our friend N. Anantanarayanan M.A., I.F.S., is back in the old country. He was first posted to Ganjam, but the appointing officer must have guessed our secret desire to have him nearer to us, and on second thought, posted him to the Chingleput District. May we inform our Launcelot Gobbo that we anxiously await his visit, which we consider overdue.¹

* * * *

K. O. Antony, B.A., a footballer of renown in days gone by, is doing good work as Welfare Superintendent, the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras. The papers of November contained several accounts and highly eulogistic opinions from the Mill Director and others on the usefulness of the Welfare Institute, and on the manner in which it has been conducted.

* * * *

The "Little Shrew" *alias* "Jessica" *alias* S. V. Ganapati, the contemporary of Launcelot Gobbo, is at the Madras Water Works, Kilpauk, in a snug well-appointed laboratory, waging war on the mischievous microbes which threaten the health and the life of the good citizens of Madras. He is Analyst to the Corporation of Madras; and the best man for the job, for it requires a "Little Shrew" to hunt up and exterminate these insidious, microscopic little things.

¹ As we go to press, we learn that Ananta has been re-posted to Ganjam.

From a Visiting Card—

S. MUTHUSWAMI,

Proprietor, The United Concern,

Manufacturers' Representatives and General Merchants,

Perumal Tank, Madura.

This is Muthu of Madura, son of Mr. A. Subbaiya, Retired Deputy Superintendent of Police, and once an actor—another who abandoned his books for the counter, and he is jolly glad he did. And how much capital had he on starting?—A good head on his shoulders, a pair of sharp eyes in his head, and a fluent tongue in his mouth—yes, a sweet tongue, for Muthu is a suave, pushful young man, who would not kill a fly, but knows perfectly well how to kill a Rupee.

* * * *

The T. G. brothers, T. G. Singaravelu, B.A., B.L., now of Madras, and his worthy *tambi* T. G. Sanjivirayan, M.A., Assistant Superintendent of Police, Tanjore, our two old Tennis champions, have instituted a Tennis Cup in the College. We fancy they have a room full of trophies at home. Whether or not they are still devotees of the racket we cannot say, but their giving a cup to the College proves that they still cherish an abiding interest in the noble game.—Let the present generation show that the spirit of sportsmanship is not yet dead in the College.

* * * *

This reminds us of another sportsman, P. S. Sitaraman, who, about ten years ago, was more than once pitted against Singaram. They were worthy rivals—Sitaraman and Singaram. It was a feast to the eye to see them play, for both combined grace and skill to a marvellous degree. What has become of Sitaraman? He went overseas to Mesopotamia in 1914, we know, but we have long lost traces of him. Could anybody enlighten us as to his whereabouts?

* * * *

Our old friend, V. D. Parthasarathi, B.A., Sub-Registrar, Kamuti, Ramnad District, was on leave in Trichy recently. He put us on the traces of a number of old boys, lost to sight for the past few years. We found, to our satisfaction, that a regular crop of Sub-Registrars, Magistrates, and Tahsildars, had sprung up among them. Well done, Old Boys! Carry on, and be worthy of your Alma Mater!

We wish V. D. P. had more imitators, who would enlighten us about our Old Boys.

* * * *

Herr Vembu sends us a card from Berlin acknowledging what he calls our "highhanded action" in inserting his photo in the Magazine, and the *angesprochene aber wohl gemeinte* (outspoken, but well-meant) note which accompanied it. The language he uses would almost make one believe that he is angry; and if he really were, we feel sure his wrath would melt like the morning mist before the sun, when he returns in March and realises the interest his photo and our note have aroused.

Let the Secretaries of the College Societies be on the look out for Herr Vembu when he comes back, and put him on the platform for a speech—not in German, of course! He is sure to have no end of interesting things to say.

We hear that P. Susainathan, of the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, has been promoted to an imperial post in the Customs, in connection with the Insect Pests Act, and posted to Basra. These pests have their good points after all, Susainathan will agree.

V. Subrahmanyam, B.A., writing from the Indian Institute of Science, Hebbal, Bangalore, gives us an account of our Old Boys at the Institute. The list of those who have gone through it begins to be a lengthy one. Mr. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, M.A., Mr. K. Sundaram, M.A., Mr. C. K. Taylor, now in England on a Government Technical Scholarship, our unforgettable Herr Vembu, B. Dasannacharya, Joseph Ittyerah of the Tata Oil Mills, Ernakulam, and M. Raman Nayar, now Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Lucknow University.

The list of present students includes V. V. Sivaraman, S. Narayana Aiyar, T. S. S. Perumal, and P. Tyagaraja Pillai, all graduates. They are engaged in research work of various kinds, and some of them read papers at the Indian Science Congress. We wish them every success.

We hear that V. Gopalan is now Assistant Professor in Metallurgy and Mining in the Benares University. Gopalan passed out of the College in Chemistry in 1919, went to Jamshedpur, then to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, from where he rose to his present post. If it is true that we are living in the "Iron Age," there are people lucky enough to get gold and silver out of iron.

It is never too late to learn, says the proverb. We are not ashamed to confess we are every now and then making discoveries concerning our old boys. We are glad to consign our finds to these

pages, in token of the eagerness with which we watch the fortunes of our old boys. Besides, we owe them, in justice, a recognition of the success they have achieved, and a measure of praise for the merits they have displayed.

We discovered an old boy in the Presidency College in the person of Mr. M. R. Rajagopala Aiyangar, M.A., English Lecturer. He was betrayed—a very venial betrayal!—by his son-in-law, a promising youth now in the college. In expectation of the day when we shall have the pleasure to renew acquaintance with him, we convey our best wishes to him.

If any can be said to have a genuine grievance against us, it is Mr. P. Subbaiya Mudaliar, District Judge, Nellore. He is at our very door, and we have overlooked him so long! Well, we make amends, late, indeed, but better late than never! and we request the "learned judge" to come and receive our apologies in person—a good way to renew acquaintance.

Another old boy who may well feel aggrieved at our forgetfulness is Mr. A. V. Venkatarama Aiyar, known as Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar, C. I. E., Deputy Controller of Currency, Bombay. We may be excused for not knowing what is happening in Bombay; but now that we have an opportunity to renew contact, we seize it with pleasure, and, to begin with, we offer our distinguished alumnus our warm congratulations on his success, and our best wishes.

The foregoing particulars were supplied by Old Boys, incidentally, in the course of conversation. But there are among our present students, many who are related to Old Boys whose traces have long been lost to us, and who, after 15, 20, or more years' service, still appear on our list of graduates with the ignominiously belated description: "Clerk, Collector's Office," or something similar; whereas they probably are much higher up on the scale, or perhaps even gazetted officers. We wonder at the callousness of these boys making so cheap of the honour of their family, and we call on them to correct any mistake they may detect in our list of graduates. We doubt not we shall shortly be deluged with letters in answer to our call. We would request intending correspondents to state clearly the name and initials of the person concerned, title or dignity if any, present office, the year of graduating (i.e., the year in which the degree was taken in Convocation), and the optional groups taken in the B. A.

It appears to us that the proper channel for this correspondence is the Secretary to the Old Boys' Association, who of all persons ought to be in close and constant touch with the Old Boys. We are sure Mr. P. E. Subramanya Aiyar and his assistant Mr. V. Raghavachariar, will be glad to receive mountains of letters. All communications to be in writing, please, and signed.

We convey the same request to all our Old Boys who may chance to read these lines.

A few years ago we discovered, among our students, the son of a well-known and distinguished old boy, a youngster who, unknown to us, had been in the College from the First Form. On complaining to his father of this "incog." we received this Spartan reply: "Father, I purposely avoided telling you about my son. Let him be known not for being my son, but for his own merit." True, but one does not prevent the other. We may obtain efforts, improvement, and therefore greater merit, by reminding a boy that he is his father's son. While, therefore, commending Mr. X as an admirable father, we would not recommend him as altogether worthy of imitation, at least from our point of view.

Be this as it may, we expect an early and full response to our call.

* * * * *

We have great pleasure in welcoming back to Trichy several Old Boys who have already achieved, or are achieving, distinction in their career.

First among them is Rao Bahadur S. Bhaskara Aiyar, B.A., B.E., our new Superintending Engineer. The Rao Bahadur passed the F.A. from the College in 1891, being first or second on the pass list, if our memory does not fail us. This first success has been followed by many more, as events show, and it needs no prophetic insight to foretell more to come. Mr. Bhaskara Aiyar has kept lively recollections of his old College days, particularly of Father Sewell and Father de Noircourt. He will be glad to find at the R. C. Mission, Cantonment, his old English Professor, Father Santiago, still green and vigorously bearing his 76 years. He is assured of a hearty welcome to the old College whenever he honours us with a visit.

The next in order of seniority but "*longo proximo intervallo*," is S. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar (II-A Honours, 1916). He is now Manager, III Survey Party, Trichinopoly.

The Survey Department is not very much in the public eye. Survey Department people are, we take it, silent workers, oftener out in

the open country than in towns, and in consequence possibly somewhat out of touch with the rest of the world. Be that as it may, we are sure that with men like S. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar, good work is being done, and that is enough.

Mr. G. Venkataraya Pai, the last arrival, is almost a student of yesterday. He took the first place in the first class in the Mathematics Honours Examination of 1921, and was almost immediately after taken into the Accounts Department. He is now among us as District Inspector of Accounts. We wish him a happy stay in Trichy and every success in life.

* * * * *

Museum.

The Curator gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:—

(1) A cotton teal, and a tern: from Mr. Natesa Vandayar, Gymnastic Instructor.

(2) A spotted billed duck, a purple moor-hen, and a green pigeon: from Mr. B. Subbiah (III U. Cl.)

(3) Squirrel skins: from Mr. A. C. Kuriacose (IV U. Cl.) and Mr. P. J. Alexander (V Hons.)

(4) Two pythons [rock-snakes]: from the Pudukottai State Museum. One of them, a grand specimen, weighs 45 lbs.; the length has not been ascertained, for the good reason that my lady is very fierce and too strong to be stretched to her full length. The smaller of the two, a male about 10 ft. long, after sloughing, devoured with ease a dusky horned owl on the 18th January.

(5) A beautiful new Stamp screen, costing Rs. 100, which Mr. M. S. Ragunatha Tatachiar, Zemindar, Srirangam, very generously paid for.

Fr. Rigly has undertaken to set the Stamp Collection in order, and to redistribute the stamps on the two screens. Stamp-collectors are kindly requested to contribute what they can spare for the Museum. Any contributions, particularly from the Native States of India and from Asiatic countries, will be thankfully received.

(6) Two Belgian helmets, a small incendiary bomb, a hand grenade, and a monstrous-looking German gas mask: from the Rev. G. de Munter S.J., Shembaganur.

Convocation.

4th December 1923.

A large number of candidates from this College took degrees at the Convocation held on the 4th December, 1923. To give exact figures is impossible, as we have no means of checking the names of old boys who took degrees *in absentia*, or who received professional diplomas. Of three candidates answering to the name of, say, S. Subrahmanyam, which is ours, which is not? An insoluble problem, unless we go and rummage the Registrar's Office—a task for which we feel no inclination.

From the Convocation list, we find that 6 candidates were presented for the M. A. Degree, 15 for the B. A. Honours Degree, and 111 for the B. A. Degree.

Were presented,—but by whom? Not by the Principal. A great disappointment to the Principal himself and, if we believe reports, to the candidates as well. Who is to blame for the disappointment? The mosquitoes of George Town, the terrible *Anopheles*, the carriers of the malaria microbes to which the Principal fell a victim. How small man is! at the mercy of mosquitoes!

(N.B.—The Principal desires us to assure the candidates that the mosquitoes were genuine *Anopheles*, and that the fever was genuine malaria, not diplomatic fever.)

The same mosquitoes are also responsible for the meeting of Old Boys, and the Convocation photo, being dropped.

Our candidates were presented by Dr. Mathai of the Presidency College and University Professor of Economics, so that the function lost nothing in dignity from the absence of the Principal. Our candidates may be proud to have been ushered through the portals of the University by such a distinguished patron. We thank Dr. Mathai for the great honour he did the College and our candidates.

The supplemental Convocation held on the 17th January, 1924, was on a much more modest scale. The Principal (now recovered from the attacks of the George Town *Anopheles*) presented a mere handful of graduates, exactly 13.

And now boys, to your books! Win your ticket for the next Convocation!

Review of Books.

Mr. C. J. Varkey's *Analytical History of India* (Third Edition, 1923) will be of much use to the B. A. students, for whom it is intended. The author has laid under contribution some of the standard works on the subject, and the well-known scholars themselves are made to tell the tale. The value of the last part is increased by the use made of Mr. P. E. Roberts' *Historical Geography of India*. It is no disparagement to say that the book would have been made more useful if a few more of the valuable works recently brought out had been consulted. The inclusion of the Madras University B. A. Examination Papers from 1913 to 1923 adds to the utility of the book. The printing and get-up are excellent.

Historical and Literary Introductions and Notes to the 19th Cent. Essays selected by Sampson, and the Literary Essays selected by Rawlinson, —(published by S. Krishnaswami & Co., Teppakulam). This little book is unique of its kind. The aim of the writers has been, as their Preface says, to enable students to grasp thoroughly the subject-matter of the prescribed essays; and they have certainly spared no effort to this end. There has been a very wise and judicious avoidance of the usual profuse, and practically worthless, extracts from standard works of criticism. The brief historical and literary introduction to each essay gives a student just the information that he requires to be able to read the essays usefully. The notes are reduced to a minimum. They help the student to understand the text for himself, instead of tempting him to memorise mere words and phrases.

Exchanges.

Bishop Heber College Magazine, Trichy; The Ignatian, St. Ignatius' College, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.; The Loyola Quarterly, Chicago, U.S.A.; The Arni Board High School Magazine; The Ernakulam College Magazine; The Journal of the Kumbakonam College; Progress; The Medico; The Mungret Annual; The Good Shepherd, Bangalore; The Catholic Educational Review; The Findlay College Magazine, Mannargudi; The Pachaiyappa College Magazine; The St. Joseph's High School Magazine, Pavaratti; St. Francis Xavier's College Magazine, Liverpool; A Government College Miscellany, The School Folk; The Stonyhurst Magazine; The Pattamadai H. S. Quarterly; Ecole Ste. Geneviève, Versailles; The Treasure Chest; The Journal of the Fergusson College, Poona.

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