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VYAYAM

A PHYSICAL EDUCATION QUARTERLY



The Late Shri C. C. ABRAHAM
Editor, Vyayam

FEB.—MAY 1956

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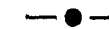
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FEBRUARY-MAY 1956

CONTENTS



	PAGE
Editorials ...	iii
C. C. A. Memoir ...	1
News Letter ...	2
Abstracts from Condolence Messages ...	4
The Late Mr. C. C. Abraham—by C. A. Abraham ...	9
“C. C.” - A Memory—by A Former Editor ...	12
Accreditation of Physical Education Institutions—by S. D. Chopde ...	14
The Ideal Teacher—by C. F. A. Powell ...	18
Development of Sports & Games in India—by V. E. Easaw ...	19
Alumni News ...	21
Sports Councils in India ...	23

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EDITORIAL

Tribute to late Editor Sri C. C. Abraham

The premature demise of Sri C. C. Abraham is a great loss to Vyayam - the pioneering journal of Health and Physical Education in India, and to the cause of the Physical Education profession.

Vyayam has continued to serve the profession during the last quarter century largely because of the selfless and untiring efforts of its Honorary Editors. It had a unique beginning in as much as the very founders of modern Physical Education in our country were among its first Editors. Dr. Henry Gray, and the late Mr. Harry Crowe Buck were the life and soul of this new profession. Both were recognised and respected as eminent authorities in this area of education; and both served Vyayam as editors during its infant stage.

The editorship of Vyayam was subsequently entrusted to men who had studied under these masters, and who in turn had attained high positions of leadership in the profession. The late Sri C. C. Abraham was one of those editors who was given the honour and the privilege of shouldering the none too easy task of editing the journal. We are convinced that Vyayam made significant progress during his editorship.

The editorship of Vyayam, somehow or the other, has been associated - barring some notable exceptions - with the Principalship of the College. This practice may have its disadvantages. But Sri Abraham's skillful management of the affairs of the journal in keeping with the policies laid down by its founders served to turn the seeming disadvantages for example the danger of the journal becoming merely a college news bulletin, into making it a professional magazine for country wide use.

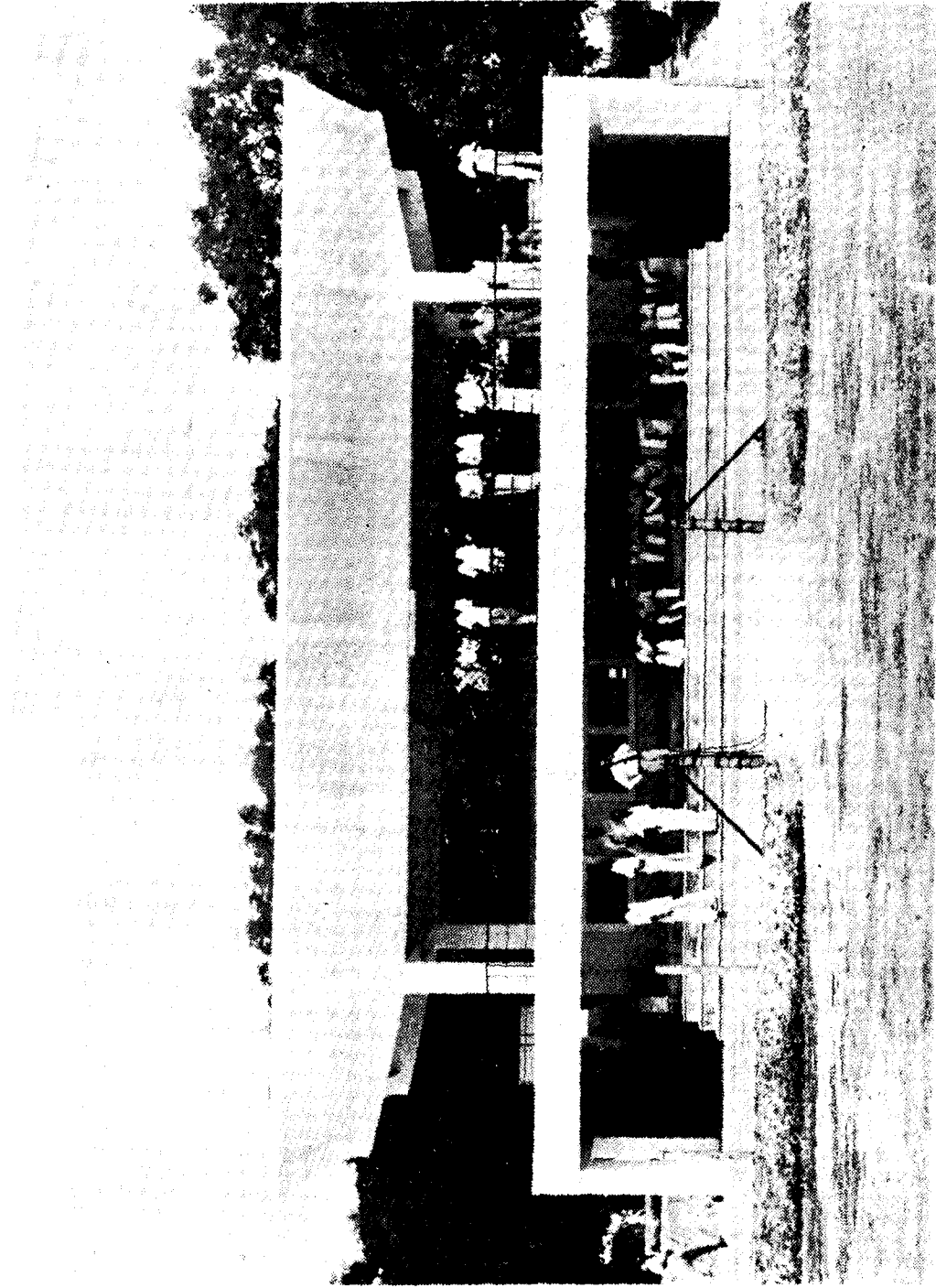
We are certain that the readers have appreciated the many changes initiated by Sri Abraham in respect of the general get-up and printing and the quality of articles published in Vyayam. It would have been difficult to imagine Sri Abraham's personal qualities of neatness and his sense of aesthetics not being extended in his tasks of editing Vyayam. We believe that he used more photographs of activities and personalities for illustrating the journal so as to make it attractive and useful to the readers. In the selection of articles his efforts were directed towards making the journal as up-to-date as was possible under the circumstances. His policy of reproducing articles from other noted magazines

could have been misunderstood. But he nevertheless aimed to keep the professional workers in touch with the trends and developments in Physical Education and Recreation, which otherwise may have passed unnoticed by them.

In his editorial comments Sri Abraham put the democratic concept of freedom of speech to full test. He was not afraid to take stand on problems and issues in Physical Education however unpopular or contrary to the thinking of those in authority for

shaping the policies in this area of education. He invariably succeeded at least in gaining wholesome respect for his point of view, if not winning the opposition entirely on his side. He applied himself with diligence and patience in the tackling of current problems through his writings and face-to-face contacts with others.

Vyayam has lost the services of one of its able editors. It is difficult to fill the gap that has been created in his premature passing away. May his soul rest in peace.



C. C. ABRAHAM MEMORIAL PAVILION

Kind Courtesy of the Hindu.

The Construction of the Sports Pavilion-Cum-Recreation Hall under the Campus-Work-Project was possible largely because of Sri Abraham's untiring efforts to provide fine facilities for this pioneering and premier college of Physical Education. It is but fitting that the pavilion should be named as the Abraham Memorial Pavilion. We wish to thank the Ministry of Education for permitting us to call it as such.

—Ed.



C. C. A. MEMOIR

Mr. C. C. Abraham was born at Kottayam, T-C State on September 23, 1902. After graduating from the Madras University in 1926, he passed the Diploma in Physical Education from the YMCA College in 1930; and was immediately appointed as lecturer at the YMCA College, in which post he remained till 1939. In that year he obtained the Master's Degree in Physical Education from Springfield, U.S.A. with an excellent record of 36 awards and 95 honour credits. Following a period of service as Health Director of the YMCA College, Mr. Abraham was Vice-Principal of the College in 1947 and became Principal and Correspondent in 1949.

Mr. Abraham was a member of the Senate of the Madras University, the Central Advisory Board of physical Education, Government of India, and the All India Sports Council. He was the President of the National Basketball Federation of India and Honorary Secretary of the Madras Olympic Association. He was besides connected with various other Sports Associations in the Madras State. He was the author of several publications on Physical Education and edited VYAYAM, a Physical Education quarterly.

Mr. Abraham is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

NEWS LETTER*

Dear Friend :

This personal letter is written with a view to share with you the sense of grief and deep loss felt by us at the college by the premature and utterly unexpected passing away of Shri. C. C. Abraham, Principal of the college.

The sad demise of Shri. Abraham came to us, even the staff and students, as the most shocking evil tidings on the morning of Wednesday, 22nd February, 1956. The news was all the more incredible because Shri Abraham was attending to the college work until very late hours on Tuesday. Some members of the staff had seen him at his residence around five in the evening, and even as late as ten at night. He had talked with them cheerfully enough, and there was nothing to indicate either in his appearance, or manner to cause any anxiety about his health. It is doubtful whether even Shri Abraham had any inkling that the end was near and that only a few short hours were granted him.

It appears that Shri Abraham had a sudden heart attack. He had gone to bed apparently in good spirits and had slept well until around 3.30 A.M. when he called Mrs. Abraham because he had pain in the chest. Dr. (Mrs) Abraham rushed to the telephone to call the Doctor, a little alarmed, because Shri Abraham appeared to be restless due to pain. The Doctor said that he would go over immediately if a car could be sent to fetch him as his driver had gone home. Mrs. Abraham returned to the bedside of her husband to tell him that she would take out the car and go to bring the doctor. Shri Abraham only replied : "You don't want to leave me now." Those were his last words. He made one final effort to control pain, hit his head against the bed and passed away. Besides Mrs. Abraham, their young son was the only member of the family to be at his bedside. Shri Abraham's face in death was as calm as that of one in sleep.

Some history of his indisposition, one can hardly call it illness, is that he had felt some pain in the chest while at the Annual Inter-Collegiate Sports Meet on Friday afternoon at the Presidency College grounds. He returned home and retired to bed. He had some cough, which was supposed to be due to a slight attack of bronchitis. Mrs. Abraham made him stay in bed the whole of Saturday. Sunday morning he felt much better due to the medicines that were given to him. He had suggested that the family go out a bit in the evening. But some visitors came home, and he sat chatting with them for couple of hours instead. Monday morning he came to the College. When I asked him how he felt, he gave his characteristic laugh, and replied that it was a touch of bronchitis; but that he felt much better. There was no work at the college, still he stayed on for some time.

* This news-letter giving information about the premature demise of Sri C. C. Abraham was sent to friends of the College. It is reproduced here so that thousands of his students and other friends may know about it more intimately.

Tuesday, he got up as usual, shaved and bathed. But Mrs. Abraham insisted that he stay at home. So he arranged to have any urgent work sent on to his house. In the mean time Shri. Abraham had gone and had himself thoroughly examined by the best heart specialist in the city. His verdict was that there was nothing the matter with his heart, but only bronchitis. This news was a great relief to him, as one of his brother had suddenly died of heart failure a few years ago, and whose death he had taken much to heart. Nevertheless, it is certain that it was a case of severe and sudden heart attack that abruptly ended his busy and active life in the service of the college; in and through which he had opened out new horizons for the enrichment of the lives of the youth of our country.

The funeral service was held at the Marthoma Church adjoining the Christian College High School in the afternoon. As the cortege arrived at the college gate, the body was received by a representative group of alumni, students and staff of the college and was solemnly taken in procession to the college with the choir in front singing hymns and students lining up along the roadside.

Floral tributes were paid after the body was placed at the foot of the Bust of Mr. H. C. Buck, Founder Principal of the college, by numerous Institutions, friends, alumni, the present students and staff of the college. Dr. S. D. Malaiperuman, General Secretary, The Council of YMCA of India and Ceylon paid tributes to the services of the late Shri. Abraham. He is laid to rest in the college burial ground slightly at the top and between his two former teachers and colleagues : Mr. H. C. Buck and Shri N. K. Mia.

The college and the bereaved family have received hundreds of condolence messages from all parts of India and from abroad. All these messages have been acknowledged to the best of our abilities, except some telegraphic ones due to the lack of adequate addresses.

It may be possible to make use of some of these messages in the publications like VYAYAM which is planning to bring out a special issue in honour of its Editor, Shri. Abraham.

In Shri Abraham's passing away, the College has lost a valued teacher, a trusted guide of the staff, and an experienced administrator. The profession, the various Sports Organisations and Committees on Physical Education, with which he was associated will be all the more poorer because a competent leader is no more to help mould and shape their destinies.

Shri Abraham had numerous dreams to promote the cause of Health and Physical Education to every nook and corner of the country so that young and old may experience the joy of living the abundant life. These are and should be our dreams; and these can and shall come true in the rapidly changing settings of the newly awakened India.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Yours faithfully,
S. D. CHOPDE,
Principal-in-charge.

[Page Three...

[Page Two...

ABSTRACTS FROM THE CONDOLENCE MESSAGES

[We regret that it is not possible to include the numerous messages of condolence received both by the College and Dr. (Mrs.) Abraham on hearing about the sad demise of the Principal Sri C. C. Abraham, and Editor of VYAYAM—Editor.]

SHRI SRI PRAKASA, GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

"Mr. Abraham was really an authority on physical education, and I have had occasions to come in contact with him at functions in the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education. In his death, the College has lost an eminent Principal. Madras University availed itself of his services, as he was a member of the Senate. May his soul rest in peace."

* * *
SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR, VICE-CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS, MADRAS-5

The late Mr. C. C. Abraham was an outstanding exponent of Physical Education and after the untimely demise of Mr. Buck, was largely responsible for its continuance and for its efficient working on the lines on which Mr. Buck had intended. It was a shock when I heard of the news of his demise. He took a very leading part in all discussions in the University in the sphere of Physical Education. I hope and trust that his memory will be kept green by the staff and students of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education and that the ideals that he pursued will be followed up.

* * *
DALTON F. MCCLELLAND, FORMER GENL. SECY. COUNCIL OF THE Y.M.C.As.
OF INDIA, PAKISTAN & CEYLON

"He has lived a most useful life and has made a great contribution to the cause of Physical Education and to its integration in the Educational system of India. He not only gave outstanding leadership, but he won the confidence and esteem of leaders in India from the central government down, and a host in the Y.M.C.A. will remember him with the deepest appreciation. We share with you all the sense of bereavement and mourn the loss of one who has lived nobly and usefully."

* * *
MR. HERBERT P. LANSDALE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF Y.M.C.As., NEW YORK

C. C. was a great person and a great leader, as I am sure you are aware. His going will be a loss not only to the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, but to the Indian Movement and to the Y.M.C.A's throughout the

[Page Four...

VYAYAM

[FEBY.—MAY 1956

world. Everywhere I hear high tribute paid to him and to his great accomplishments.

* * * *

JAY B. NASH, ESQ., BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY, U. S. A.

During the time when I was with you, I learned to admire him greatly as an administrator and to respect him as a man of sterling character and real worth.

He will be missed around the world by his many friends.

* * * *

MR. FREDRIK FRANKLIN, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN. (Religious Secretary,
National Council of Y.M.C.As, India, Burma & Ceylon)

The news came as a great shock to us, as it must have been to everybody, and it is difficult to visualise the college without him, since so much of it was due to the impress of his own personality and initiative.

* * * *

MISS S. J. NARSIAN, ASSISTANT EDUCATIONAL ADVISER, MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION, INDIA, NEW DELHI

I am deeply shocked to read in the newspaper the sudden death of Mr. C. C. Abraham. A very able and valuable adviser we had in him both in the field of Sports and Physical Education.

* * * *

SRI T. R. JAYARAMAN, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVT. OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

"It is regrettable that he should be snatched away so suddenly at the premature age especially when his services are very much required for the benefit of Physical Education as a whole and for the down-trodden physical education teachers in India. Mr. Abraham had always fought for justice and fairplay in the selection of Indian Teams for International Competitions and has been a guiding factor in the organisation and administration of sports in general in India."

* * * *

MR. NORMAN F. FORD, COUNCIL BOYS WORK SECRETARY,
INDUKURPET, NELLORE DT.

Mr. Abraham made a significant contribution to India's youth through the college. His work shall stand always as a living memorial to one who always lived a life of service to others.

* * * *

SRI P. M. JOSEPH, PRINCIPAL, TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, KANDIVILI, BOMBAY

C. C. has been one of my best friends—a friendship that grew into a strong bond of understanding over these 25 years. In many things I sought

[Page Five...

his advice, and I know how much he consulted me. I have lost a good and a wise friend. It is difficult to say how much I would miss him, his happy ways and his wise counsel.

* * *
SRI M. G. DHARMARAJ, WARDEN, Y. M. C. A. HOSTEL, NAGPUR-1

His premature and tragic death has undoubtedly created serious breach in our ranks, which it would be difficult to fill. He was one of our most outstanding Secretaries who gave himself selflessly to the tasks that he had undertaken. For the furtherance of the interests of the college, he spared no pains. His great influence, undoubted tact and marvellous ability contributed a great deal for the success of the College.

* * *
MR. HERBERT THEODORE SCHUELKE, CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER,
U. S. I. S., MADRAS-2

Mr. Abraham will long be remembered for his unstinted help and co-operation in the field of athletics and for the support given us in mutual programmes. Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education has lost an outstanding leader.

* * *
SRI K. GOVINDARAJULU, SRI VENKATESWARA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
TIRUPATI, ANDHRA STATE

The country has lost one of its most useful citizens, and the Profession of Physical Education in India is the poorer for his untimely demise. I have lost a good and staunch friend; while the college whose destiny he controlled so well these years can hardly get his like to replace him.

* * *
SRI S. BAJIRAO, HONORARY SECRETARY, MAHARASHTRA BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION, POONA-2

India has lost its noble son and has been poorer by his disappearance—from this world particularly the sporting world of India.

* * *
MR. M. JOHN THOMAS, SECRETARY, Y.M.C.A., WELLINGTON, NILGIRIS

His untimely death has created a void in the world of Physical Education. His many friends here in India and abroad has lost a sincere colleague. For the Y.M.C.A. Movement particularly in India, it is an irreparable loss.

* * *
FROM REV. H. A. POPLEY, SUNEEM, COONOR

This is a very sad blow and a great loss to the College. Mr. Abraham has been for 25 years and more attached to the College and has been for the past 8 years the Principal. His leadership has I know meant a great deal to the College as well as to the whole Y.M.C.A. Movement in India. He was a great leader and endeared himself to all by his charming personality.

* * *

FROM S. W. HADIKAR, DIRECTOR ACADEMY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION,
SULTAN BAZAR, HYDERABAD-DECCAN

I write this to express how sorry we all-my colleagues and myself are to learn Shri Abraham's unexpected and untimely death. He was an important person in the development of Physical Education in India and it will not be easy to fill up his place.

* * *
FROM D. B. KOTHIWALE, LECTURER, TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL
EDUCATION, KANDIVILL, BOMBAY

Shri C. C. was a teacher of mine in 1931-32 when I was a student at the Y.M.C.A. College. I remember his jovial and helpful personality. I had several occasions to meet him afterwards and I always appreciated the frankness and vigour with which he used to espouse a cause. In the capacity of the Principal of the College, he had rendered very valuable service to the College and through it to the professional preparation of the teachers of Physical Education for our country. In different other capacities in which he has worked he has left his mark. His services will always be gratefully remembered.

* * *
FROM R. V. SATYANARAYANA RAJU, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PHYSICAL
EDUCATION, KAKINADA

As an ardent lover of Sport and a staunch believer in the cause of Physical Education, Mr. Abraham contributed a great deal towards its propagation through his untiring efforts. His significant contribution particularly to the promotion of Basketball and Athletics will ever lie green in our memory. In his untimely death the profession has lost one more Champion of its cause.

* * *
FROM SRI T. S. RAJAGOPALAN, SECRETARY, THE MADRAS TEACHERS'
GUILD, MADRAS-5.

On behalf of the members of the Madras Teachers' Guild, I write to express our deep sense of sorrow at the sudden demise of C. C. Abraham.

* * *
FROM SRI V. S. RATNASABHAPATHY, STATE SECRETARY, THE BHARAT
SCOUTS AND GUIDES, MADRAS-5.

We were shocked to hear of the sudden passing away of Mr. C. C. Abraham, the popular Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education and a best friend of ours at a premature age. His work in the field of Physical Education is considerable and all those interested in Physical Education will remember his services with gratefulness.

* * *
FROM SRI T. V. A. SANKARAN, SECRETARY, THE EGMORE FRIENDS'
UNION CLUB, MADRAS-8.

We have been shocked to hear the untimely and sudden demise of Mr. C. C. Abraham. He has been a tower of strength to the sport bodies

in South India and particularly to us. No amount of praise or appreciation of him can recount the services rendered by him to sports in India and Madras in particular.

FROM M. A. KURUP, TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOL, HARAR, ETHIOPIA

It was with the profoundest grief that I learnt about the sad and sudden demise of Mr. C. C. He with his most genial temperament and likeable attitude towards others had won many a friend during his splendid and most promising career as one of the important national leaders in the cause of Physical Education.

FROM P. NATARAJAN, REGIONAL INSPECTOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, COIMBATORE

His death has not only been a personal loss to me, but a loss to the Y.M.C.A. College also, and to the whole country. He was one of my lecturers in the Royapettah College in 1930, and now when I see, all his kindness and goodness, genius, his general love and good will and great humour rise up before me, then you can imagine how acute and immeasurable is my grief. He was a genial administrator and a good Sportsman.

FROM THE LECTURER-IN-CHARGE, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY, ANNAMALAINAGAR

At a meeting of the members of the Department of Physical Education, Annamalai University, it was resolved to convey to the members of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet and to the bereaved family, the deep sense of sorrow at the sudden demise of Mr. C. C. Abraham, Principal, Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Madras, who devoted his life to the furtherance of Physical Education in this country.

FROM DR. PAUL M. LIMBERT, SECRETARY GENERAL, THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF Y.M.C.A.'s GENEVA

I am deeply grieved to learn of the passing of this strong leader in our Movement.

From my former association with Springfield College I have a special appreciation of the leadership which C. C. Abraham gave in the training of Physical Education leaders for the whole of India. We regarded him as one of the foremost men in this field in your country and were proud to claim him as a graduate of Springfield. His leadership in the Y.M.C.A. Movement of India will also be greatly missed.

THE LATE Mr. C. C. ABRAHAM*

by C. A. ABRAHAM

Madras Christian College, Tambaram

It was with some hesitation that I accepted the invitation to speak at this memorial meeting. It is difficult to talk about a person who was known to me very intimately ever since I was a child. We bore the same name. We belonged to the same family. And, above all, we were most intimate friends. We were often mistaken one for the other. We have played together, shared our joys and sorrows together, and worked together as brothers and as colleagues. We have even quarrelled with each other, as intimate friends sometimes do. His sudden death is therefore a greater loss to me personally than to most other people. So, it is difficult for me to express adequately how I feel. I shall only try to assess his qualities and some of his contributions to the profession to which we both belonged.

What was the impression that one receives when you first met C. C. (as he was affectionately known to most people)? It was his friendliness. He was a friendly man, who put you at your ease instantly. You instinctively liked the man. His bubbling good humour and his hearty laughter were infectious. He made any company a jolly, happy group. When I think of C. C. I am reminded of that story about Dr. Johnson as told by his biographer, Boswell. Returning late in the night after a party and walking with his friends along dark and deserted streets, Dr. Johnson burst into his roaring laughter, laughter that echoed through the empty streets, woke up the sleeping Londoners and brought them to their windows. C. C.'s laughter was of that brand-full throated, hearty and uninhibited. C. C.'s laughter was proverbial and could be heard and recognised at great distances. It is not

often that we come across, in these sophisticated days, persons who literally let themselves go for a good laugh. What a cheerful friend and companion he was! We shall certainly miss him for this alone, if not for anything else.

Again, when I think of C. C., his boundless optimism is what comes to my mind. He had a flair for thinking big and planning big. He was undaunted by difficulties. To him difficulties were not quite so important as the goal he had in view. Many a time I had cautioned him against his impetuosity, his readiness to tackle big things without counting the cost. In the end, however, he would talk me round to his view, by his sheer enthusiasm and persuasive optimism.

The All India Olympic Games of 1950 were held in Bombay. C. C. had just succeeded me as Secretary of the Madras Olympic Association and we both went to Bombay for the Games. C. C. was attending his first meeting of the Indian Olympic Association. I had attended these meetings before and was not particularly anxious to go. The meeting took a long time and when it was over, C. C. came out with a beaming smile and like a child which was just given a new toy. I can still remember his jubilation. He came running and declared, "I have just managed to get the next All India Olympics for Madras!" I was dumfounded. I knew what this meant—the weeks and months of planning and hard work, the difficulty about raising sufficient funds, the lack of a proper running track and stadium in Madras and the thousand and one reasons for not taking on this stupendous task.

*The text of the speech delivered at the Memorial Meeting on Monday 12th March 1956, at the Y.M.C.A., Esplanade, Madras.

“C.C.”—A MEMORY

By A FORMER EDITOR

I write of a dear and beloved friend and co-worker ; and I write at the bidding of the Editor. I happened to be Editor of this Journal before him ; and it would have been the more appropriate thing for a successor to write of his predecessor. But strange things do happen in this sad world ; and so I have now to write of a successor in office who has been taken away all too suddenly from our midst.

“C. C.” was known by his initials from his year of training in 1929-30 ; and as C. C he stayed on. His affability and remarkable cheerfulness, his boyish enthusiasm and his ready willingness, to identify himself completely with his immediate environment became noticeable from the start and these traits of his rather than any marked achievements in activity that gave him a post at the College and secured for him a “Hut” to live in—in close proximity with the students. The “Hut”, a small palm-leaf shed at a place over which the main college road now runs and not far from the Basketball courts, was the rendezvous of most of the staff (there were then but few) and of such prominent old boys as were able to visit the Alma Mater from time to time. But those who kept together at that Hut, it is sad to say so now, went each their way ; and two of them are in the grave.

C. C was always full of ideas ; and he shared them with his colleagues and friends ; and he liked being acclaimed for them. For this he has been often blamed. For the jealous and the suspicious claimed that he was fond of flattery. But, knowing him as I do, and there never was any need for me to be jealous of him or suspicious, I must say that it gave me always great pleasure to hear him speak of his doings large and small with a zest that knew no limits and a happiness that could

only arise out of a true spirit of service. And he was ever willing to listen to those whom he respected ; and ready to take suggestions which he felt were worthy of the man giving them. But though C.C liked praise, he did not seek it. It was a genuine desire for understanding or appreciation that impelled him to speak to friends of his doings and achievements and his pet references were always to the College, Vyayam or the many public schemes and national and state bodies pertaining to sport in which he became keenly interested and involved.

C. C's interest in his work was always keen ; and his devotion to duty led him into many preoccupations which ultimately placed a strain on both his body and mind. Within recent years he felt quite ill ; and was growing heavy and “out of condition”. That he did not heed this warning sign was apparent to those who knew him closely for he continued to worry over many things pertaining to the College and pet schemes of enlarging the scope of work done by the College for the country and its new set up in the field of Health and Physical Education. Once I placed in his hands a book on the new science of Geriatrics (I quote this word from memory) and I presume he read it and kept it ; but apparently, he did not like the idea of growing old. His optimism was without limit ; and his laughter, so free and loud and so unrestrained was most characteristic of the man and his outlook. In fact, he would not like others to grow old too. But the law of life is inexorable ; and so in each man there arise faults and shortcomings which help to serve Fate faithfully. With worry in his mind, and an irrepressible fondness for good food, C. C was for some years unconsciously bidding

Fate to come. But, also the end came with a shocking suddenness.

It will be vain to estimate his work just at present. But he did undoubtedly yeoman service to the College in the way he sought grants from Government and got them, the way he got people in high positions to visit the institution and see its work and then obtained their praise. If H. C. Buck helped to found a great school of Physical Education in India, it was C.C who helped to place it on a new pedestal of usefulness in the related fields of coaching and control. The influence of the College thereby increased greatly and the Staff also acquired opportunities of service and advancement which they should never have got otherwise. C. C. lent lustre to many State and National Associations ; and but for

the misfortune that we in South India are too far away from all central activities, he would have helped to place YMCA organisations in Physical Education on an enviable level of new usefulness in the national schemes.

The way CC organised and conducted State and National Games showed that he had a flare for organisation rarely found in the normal Physical Director. The newsmen always gave him high praise ; and they were most deserved ; and in fact, others who got on the basis of his initiative and enterprise, often profitted through his good work. Now that he is gone, the College will be the poorer by his loss. It will be no easy task to maintain the stature he gained, especially at a time great and nationwide changes are coming over the field of physical education.



THE IDEAL TEACHER

C. F. A. POWELL

Recently I asked 2,042 elementary, intermediate, and secondary students to list honestly and frankly the qualities, traits, and practices they would mention if they were to describe a perfect teacher.

I feel their answers are worth sharing even though student polls of this kind are fairly common and 2,042 is only a tiny sampling of the millions of youngsters crammed into our schools.

A few of the replies were flippant, but the majority reflected the sincerity with which most students gave their opinions.

The ability to maintain good discipline was mentioned twice as often as any other quality. Students wanted the ideal teacher "strict but not too strict," "not to let the class get away with murder," "warn twice and then really lay it on."

Students asked that teachers "look neat and nice," "not be overdressed," "not let themselves get fat and sluggish," "not wear the same clothes every day," and "watch personal habits."

Suggesting that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," they advocated teachers with a "good sense of humour," those who "kid around a little bit" and "let the class have some fun."

Many students expressed the desire for a helpful teacher. He should, they said, "be willing to work extra with poor students," "reason with students and tell them why something is right," "never be too busy for you," "be someone you can come to with difficult situations," and "be helpful outside of class as well as in."

Their ideal teacher would "be friendly in and out of class," "show understanding of students," "have a good disposition," and "be able to smile and be happy most of the time."

In their opinion, an ideal teacher need not abolish homework as long as assignments are justifiable and the amount is reasonable. They recommended "a break on holidays and vacations," and "no busy work." Other

respondents wanted teachers who "keep the amount of work consistent" and "really make you work."

"Patience" and an "even temper" are held in high regard by the sample group, as is the ability to "handle unexpected situations with ease."

The ideal teacher should "understand each and every one in the room," "be able to put himself in the child's place."

Students also want a teacher who can "explain assignments," "express himself clearly and concisely," "make hard things look easy," and "use effective methods to get the point across."

Fairness is another trait frequently mentioned. The ideal teacher "treats all students alike," and "doesn't let one or two students do everything."

Often mentioned was the teacher's voice. He should "have a modern vocabulary," "use a clear, normal voice," "talk to the students and not into space," "pronounce words correctly."

Superior knowledge of subject-matter was called for, but primarily on the secondary level. Ideally, the teacher "knows what he is talking about," "has vastly superior knowledge," "teaches without leaning on a textbook," and "has knowledge but isn't smart about it."

Elementary students thought that an ideal teacher should give them variety, including "occasional films," "free work and play periods," "more field trips, parties, and picnics."

These student answers show clearly that boys and girls know what they want in a teacher. And surprisingly enough, there appears to be little difference in most cases between what they want and what educators think is desirable for them to have.

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[Page Eighteen...]

DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS AND GAMES IN INDIA

By V. E. EASAW

Lecturer, T.M.C.A. College of Physical Education

Sports and games are vital to the physical and mental health of youth and are therefore vital to the well being of the nation. Except in Hockey, India has not been able to make a mark in the world of sports and games. Our games are even today rather old fashioned compared to the revolutionary changes that have taken place in other parts of the world. This is mainly because so far there has been little organised attempt to improve the standard of games. To a large extent, until recently our games and sports were patronised by a few rich Princes and Nawabs with hardly any interest shown by the general public in these matters.

The formation of the Indian Olympic Committee in 1923 was the first step towards an organised attempt for the development of sports in our country. After the Olympic Association was formed sports competition on an organised basis became a regular feature. This was followed by the formation of the various federations for the various games. But owing mainly due to lack of funds these federations were able to do but little for the promotion and improvement of games and sports except conducting annual championships.

Another reason for this general apathy was the unfortunate development of intrigues in the field of sports. Amateur sports organisations were sponsored and started by men who were filled with real love of games and sports. Men who replaced them and took the lead in sports organisation were not always prompted by genuine love of sports and true sportsmanship, but were influenced by communal ten-

dencies, partisan spirit, power politics and personal gains. Even today we are not free from these debasing motives.

Sports and games have received more careful consideration after independence. The health minister's keen interest in the matter has led to the formation of the Raja Kumari Sports Coaching Scheme. It is mainly concerned with the improvement of standard by imparting scientific coaching to athletes and sportsmen. Another measure undertaken by the organisers of this scheme has been the sponsoring of visits of sports personalities of international fame, which has proved to be extremely popular and useful. The efforts of the scheme has made the country conscious of our backwardness in the field of sports and of the need for coaching on a scientific basis.

The formation of All India Council Of Sports by the Ministry of Education was the first effective step towards organised promotion of sports and games by the Central Government. The Council owes its origin to the far-sightedness of our Education Minister Moulana Abul Kalam Azad. Presidents of different All India Sports Organisations are members of the council. The Council fulfills the long felt need for a Central Co-ordinating body for the promotion and proper development of sports and games in our country.

One of the main reasons for our backwardness has been our emphasis upon training of selected personnel leaving the mass of people untouched. There is no use of training and coaching people who had attained a little proficiency and who are over the age of 21. Our

[Page Nineteer

by some matches with the present students. At 9 P.M. there was a sumptuous dinner and at 8 P.M. there was the Initiation ceremony when 338 students were admitted to the folds of the Alumni.

Mr. N. C. Parappa has returned from States after earning his Master's degree and is employed at Bangalore.

Messrs. V. E. Easaw and Srinivasan

were asked by the Rajakumari Coaching Scheme to help in Basketball coaching at Kashmir. They were there for a fortnight.

Mr. V. Hubert Dhanaraj who was requested by the Ceylon Volleyball Federation to conduct coaching classes in Volleyball was there in Ceylon for a month. He writes that he met many Alumni when he went round and had one or two Alumni get together.



THE ALL - INDIA COUNCIL OF SPORTS

For some time past the Government of India have had under consideration the need for an effective organisation for promoting a proper development of sports and games in the country. There was a feeling that the standard of sports in India was going down while in the international field the standard was improving day by day. With a view to check this downward trend and also to give an incentive for raising the general standard of sports, the Minister for Education convened a conference of the Presidents of the National Sports Organisations in August, 1954. On their recommendations an All India Council of Sports, composed of the Presidents of the National Sports Federations, was set up by the Government of India. The objectives of this Council are clear enough. The Council is to remain an advisory body to advise the Government of India in matters concerning Sports Organisations. It is also to act as a liaison between its constituent bodies and the Government. The constitution of the Council is as follows :

- (i) The President is nominated by the Government of India.
- (ii) One representative each of the national sports organisations recognised by the Council.

- (iii) One representative each of specialised sports organisations recognised by the Council.

(a) Indian Railways Athletic Associations.

(b) Inter-University Sports Board.

(c) Services Sport Control Board.

(iv) One representative of the Indian Olympic Association.

(v) One representative of the National Sports Club of India.

(vi) Not more than 5 members nominated by the Government of India in their individual capacity.

The organisations named at items (ii) to (v) above are represented by their Presidents and if any of them is unable to attend a particular meeting, he is represented by a Vice-President nominated by him. The Council ordinarily meets at least once every year. So far the Indian Olympic Association has not affiliated itself to the All India Council of Sports.

2. The Council has elected a standing Committee consisting of seven members which is its principal Executive Body. This body meets from time to time and has laid down certain policies for giving grants etc., to Sports Federations.

3. Since the constitution of the Council, Government have undertaken a number of activities and given grants to the Federations in their endeavour to promote interest in sports. One of the important activities of the Ministry of Education in the field has been the organisation of camps for training coaches for educational institutions. It is encouraging to find that a number of Universities and State Governments have responded favourably and deputed their nominees for these coaching camps. So far coaching camps have been conducted in Cricket, Kabaddi, Wrestling, Athletics, Football and Hockey. The second phase of the coaching programme is to start in the third week of May, 1956.

4. In so far as the training camps conducted by the Federations are concerned, the policy has been to give them adequate funds so that the Sports Federations may assemble members from their Sports Associations in a particular place for holding the camp and accept the responsibility of seeing to their efficient training.

5. Visits of foreign teams give an added impetus to sports and games. In this field, Government gives financial assistance to the federation whenever it is needed to cover the travelling expenses of these teams.

6. Similarly, financial assistance is also given to Indian teams going abroad for participation in international tournaments. It is, however, keenly felt that the Sports Federations should ensure not only that good players are sent abroad but that only there are selected players who bring a good name to the country by their general behaviour and disciplined way of life. India's honour is in a relative manner bound up with the conduct and behaviour of our players abroad.

7. For the improvement of amenities in the field of sports and games, the Government of India sometimes offer grants to Sports Federations for the purchase of equipment. Construction of Stadia and guest houses for sports men also form a part of the programme for the promotion of Sports. Steps are also being taken for the set up of Sports Councils in the States so as to ensure the healthy development and progress of Sports in the country.

It is hoped that with the better appreciation of the idea that physical and mental development has a close connection with playing of sports and games, sports will occupy its rightful place in the sphere of recreational activities.

—Courtesy National Sports - May 1956

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