

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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G.O., No. 384, 19th May 1908.

Kumbakonam College.

Recording the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction reviewing the report on the working of the — for the year 1907.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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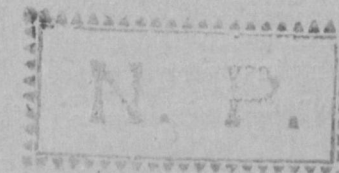
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G.O., No. 384, 19th May 1908.



Kumbakonam College.

Recording the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction reviewing the report on the working of the — for the year 1907.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of Public Instruction.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—the 8th May 1908.

No.—Cur. 3331/8.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a copy of my Proceedings, Dis. No. 3364, dated 4th May 1908, reviewing the report on the working of the Kumbakónam College for the year 1907.

ENCLOSURE.

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Dis. No. 3364, dated 4th May 1908.

Read the following letter from T. O. HODGES, Esq., Principal, Kumbakónam College, to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, dated 27th March 1908, C. No. 64:—

I have the honour to submit my report on the working of Kumbakónam College for the calendar year 1907.

2. *Staff*.—Mr. H. A. Hart, Lecturer in English, was transferred to Mangalore College and handed over charge on July 9th. The place remained unfilled until August 16th, when Mr. C. A. Wilkinson took over charge. Mr. Wilkinson acted as lecturer until December 20th, when he went on furlough. M.R.Ry. K. Sundararama Aiyar, History Lecturer, retired from Government service on October 3rd; from that date until the end of the year M.R.Ry. T. V. Sivakumara Sastriar acted as lecturer, his place being taken by M.R.Ry. S. E. Ranganadhan.

As sanctioned in your Proceedings, Dis. No. 3483, dated 5th June 1907, M.R.Ry. S. Balakrishna Aiyar was entertained as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer with effect from 11th July 1907; he continued to hold the post until the close of the year. He was confirmed as Sub-Assistant Inspector of Schools, Kumbakónam range, but was allowed to continue in his temporary post here (Proceedings, C. No. 7613, dated 14th October 1907).

S. A. Seshaiyar, clerk, was confirmed in his appointment.

By the retirement of M.R.Ry. Sundararama Aiyar, Government has lost an able and faithful servant, and the college, one of its best counsellors and friends. Officers under whom M.R.Ry. Sundararama Aiyar worked during his long service are unanimous in his praise; and to their testimony I need only add that personally I have found him an able lecturer, a conscientious tutor, and a most scrupulous, trust worthy and honourable officer.

3. *Strength and attendance*.—The strength of the college at the opening of the year was 286, the numbers for the respective classes being Post-graduate class 2, fourth-year class 32, third-year class 28, second year 104, and first year 120. At the close of the year, the numbers were 2, 33, 27, 50 and 110. The difference between the strength at the beginning and at the end of the year is explained in paragraph 8. There was a marked increase in the F.A. classes, but the numbers in the B.A. classes continued small. It is worth comment that a large number of students, on passing their First in Arts examination, at once proceed to Madras. The reason for this appears to be two-fold; on the one hand many students wish to take up Physical science as a special subject; but also the reputation of the lecturers in Madras Colleges and the fact that many of the University Examiners are to be found there must be of weight with a student whose immediate object in life is the passing of an examination. From the point of view of collegiate unity this is to be regretted. The number of students in the several science divisions of the two B.A. classes taken together was 25 in mathematics, 24 in history and 8 in philosophy, as against 28, 22 and 5 in the previous year. It is much to be regretted that so few students study philosophy.

4. *Classification of students*.—As in previous years, the mass of the students came from Tanjore district and were Brahmans by caste. This is perhaps rather an advantage than otherwise. The Principal residents in Kumbakónam take a lively interest in the affairs of the college and I have constantly been able to make use of their advice and help. Of the 222 students on the college rolls at the end of the year, no less than 214 came from Tanjore district, five came from Malabar, two from South Arcot, and one from North Arcot. According to caste, 212 were Brahmans, and 10 non-Brahmans, the latter almost entirely from the higher sudra castes. Divided according to wealth, 197 students belonged to the middle class, being for the most part sons of small landholders; 14 were of the poor and 11 of the richer class. As regards the occupation of their parents, 151 were the sons of landholders; the parents of 64 boys were officials or petty officials; traders and artisans were represented by six and one, respectively.

5. *Accommodation and equipment*.—The college continued to feel the want of additional class rooms. Proposals for increased accommodation were however sent in and the matter is under correspondence. The subject of the enlargement of the college playing-fields has also been taken up.

Proposals for the purchase of sundry maps, charts and atlases were made during the year, but the articles were not actually obtained during the calendar year as they had to be sent from England.

Four-squared black-boards for the teaching of practical geometry and for graphical methods were purchased. An additional table was obtained for the consulting library and a set of pigeon-holes was made for the office.

6. *Library*.—The work being done in the library in 1906 was continued during the year. The classification and cataloguing of books were completed at the close of the year. This work, which proved a particularly heavy and anxious task, was carried out by the Librarian and myself. The work done by the Librarian deserves praise. The result of the proper arrangement and classification of the books is evident. The number of books issued during 1907 was 5,361 as against 2,323 in 1906 and 2,699 in 1905. This figure does not include reference library books, nor books issued temporarily to lecturers for class room purposes. The total number of books in the library was approximately 5,200, the number of new books added to the library being about 300. When the large number of books taken out by members and the enormous importance of a library is taken into consideration, the work and the responsibility of the Librarian will be seen to be exceptionally heavy. The Librarian has done his work in a most conscientious and able manner, but he urgently requires help. The work done by the much smaller staff is small, and the post of the gymnastic instructor is a sinecure and not a particularly useful one at that; and I am strongly of opinion that the work done by these two persons might be more profitably employed in giving assistance to the Librarian and the clerk. The clerk's work is exceedingly heavy, and the Librarian is tied down to his desk for three hours a day, and the work of issuing and replacing books, apart from general supervision, is very heavy.

The books taken out of the library may be conveniently grouped under three heads—(1) books for class use or books for examination purposes, being more or less text-books; (2) books read for pleasure; and (3) Tamil and Sanskrit books. I find that out of each hundred books issued, 35 are text-books; 55 are taken out for pleasure and edification; and 10 are Tamil and Sanskrit works. A large number of the second class are novels—the writers in vogue being Scott, Dickens and R. L. Stevenson. It is gratifying to observe that a large number of these books are taken out by students of the junior classes, and I hope that, with proper guidance, students may, as soon as they enter this college, acquire an appreciation of the wealth of English Literature which is at their disposal.

7. *The tutorial system and discipline*.—The discipline of the college was quite satisfactory. The tutorial system started in 1906 continued to do excellent work. The tutors sent in to me detailed and confidential reports on the progress and conduct of each of the students under their care. By these means it is possible to acquire a more intimate knowledge of the work and behaviour of individual students.

Some sort of public spirit was evidenced, particularly in the games and other recreations, but the inborn want of self-reliance, enterprise, and united action for the common good of the college, continued. The college is regarded more or less as a lecturing institution, and no satisfactory remedy for this state of things can be hoped for until the college and the hostel are made practically co-extensive.

8. *Scheme of work and course of studies.*—The results of the University examinations seem to indicate efficiency in the teaching. The methods, however, which have been in vogue for many years, have been akin to those of a Crammer's establishment. During 1907, an attempt was made to improve the state of affairs by the increasing of library hours, and in history and philosophy in particular, a fair amount of the work was done by the students themselves in the library under supervision. This innovation proved popular and successful. In English, students were encouraged to read more widely and to make a digest of the books read, but too evidently much still remains to be done.

Both the F.A. classes were divided into two sections for mathematics, and the division is to be followed in Physiology also. Trigonometry was taught in the junior F.A. class and in both classes instruction was given in Practical Geometry. The employment of an extra hand on the staff was of great value; the mathematical instruction given to the first year class showing a great advance on previous years.

At the end of the first term a large number of the students of the senior F.A. class were sent away from the college. Some of these were old stagers, who already possessed the required term certificates—others were students of the college whose progress was not such as to justify their being sent up for the examination. The object was to reduce the class to a workable size, so that more attention might be given to individual students. Of 104 who were in the class at the beginning of the year, 24 were in April rejected as unfit or undesirable. The number of students ultimately selected to be sent up for the F.A. examination was 51. Of these, one student appeared privately and another, owing to ill health, did not apply for the examination. In the junior F.A. class, it is noticeable that no less than 35 out of 110 did not show sufficient progress to secure promotion. These figures seem to indicate fairly clearly that many students, who pass the Matriculation, are utterly unfitted for a college course.

9. *University examinations.*—The results of the University examinations are appended (*vide* appendix A). For the F.A. examination 49 candidates were sent up by the college and 36 passed, 4 being placed in the first class. The number of students sent up was less than usual, but the result is far superior to those of recent years. For the B.A. examination, a general improvement was noticeable. In English, 50 per cent. passed as against 46 per cent. in the previous year. This result is disappointing, but the teaching suffered from changes among the staff—the lectures on the language and literature being divided among three people in succession—and it was found impossible to get through the whole of the work. In history, 12 students appeared for the examination and eight passed, three in the second and five in the third class. In Mathematics, 10 were sent up and eight passed with five in the second class. The results were particularly satisfactory since the students, who passed in the second class, were all very high on the list. In philosophy, two students passed out of three sent up, one in the second class and one in the first (first in the Presidency). This success does great credit to the lecturers. The results in the second language were again excellent, the percentages of passes being 100 and 91 in Tamil and Sanskrit, respectively. In Tamil, the only first class in the Presidency was obtained by a student of this college.

10. *College examinations.*—The number of periodical examinations was largely increased. In making promotions from junior to senior classes and in selecting candidates for the University examinations, I have deviated considerably from what appears to have been customary in this college. In previous years, it has been usual to set an examination at the close of the year to select students for promotion and to set test-papers sometime in August or September to select candidates for the University examination. The result of this has been, in my experience, that students have "crammed" themselves for these examinations, and very little trouble has been taken to ensure general and continued proficiency. I have been at some pains to

cause papers to be set fairly frequently in order to test the students' progress. The chief examinations have been in April, in September and in December, but I have taken into consideration all kinds of written work during the year. Unfortunately, the Hindu student is not to be persuaded that the passing of examinations is the least important part of his university course; and some grievance has, I believe, been felt that examinations were "sprung" on the classes without sufficiently long notice being given.

Of 27 students who were studying all the subjects in the junior B.A. class, six were detained in English and one in mathematics. In the junior F.A. class, out of 110, 35 were detained and 75 were promoted.

11. *Scholarships and prizes.*—The Miller gold medal and the Samuel Sathianadhan gold medal were awarded by the University to C. Krishnaswami, and the Franklin Gell gold medal to N. Raghunathan, both of this college. The Edward Bird scholarship was awarded to T. K. Narasinga Rao. Subrahmanyan scholarships were held by—

N. Raghunathan (senior B.A. class).

R. Balasubrahmanyan (junior B.A. class).

R. Srinivasagopalachari (senior F.A. class).

N. Govindarajan (junior F.A. class).

As recommended in this office letter C. No. 62, dated 25th March 1908, the Morris medal and the Beauchamp and Muppanar's prizes will be awarded to the following students:—

Morris medal C. P. Sundara Rao.

Beauchamp and Muppanar's prize—

Do.	do.	(English) C. R. Narayanaswami.
Do.	do.	(History) S. Vaidyanathan.
Do.	do.	(Mathematics) S. Muthukrishnan.
Do.	do.	(Philosophy) C. Krishnaswami.

12. *Athletics and sports.*—Football, tennis, fives, and badminton continued to be popular. The students showed an increased keenness in athletics, and the College Athletic Committee continued to do useful work. The athletic sports took place in September and were again most successful. Members of the college also took part with distinction in the inter-collegiate sports at Tanjore.

The receipts of the athletic committee during the year amounted to about Rs. 660, the opening balance being Rs. 14-1-0. The expenditure amounted to about Rs. 770, the closing balance amounting to Rs. 79-3-8. The expenditure during the year was swelled by two items—the expenses of the Tanjore sports, which amounted to Rs. 90, and the cost of bamboo screens for the tennis courts and football field. M.R.Ry. T. V. Sivakumara Sastriar continued to act as Secretary to the athletic committee, and the interest taken in sports and athletics by the students is very largely due to his initiative and activity.

13. *Finance.*—The receipts, consisting of fees, fines and miscellaneous proceeds, rose from Rs. 15,323-10-9 to Rs. 19,069-14-2, the amount in the year 1905 having been Rs. 17,499-13-0. The rise is due to the great increase of the strength of the college during the year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 34,067-2-5 or about Rs. 700 less than that of the two previous years; and the total net cost of the college fell, therefore, to Rs. 14,997-4-3, and the net cost per student from Rs. 76 in 1905 and Rs. 94 in 1906 to slightly under Rs. 59.

14. *Hostel.*—The experiment of a fixed charge made at the beginning of the year proved a most successful one. It is, however, rather doubtful whether the system can be ultimately adopted as a permanent arrangement. The hostel is still looked upon as more or less an innovation in so conservative a place as Kumbakonam; and all methods must necessarily be more or less experimental; indeed, it may take several years before it can become really popular and its advantages be recognized. At the beginning of the year the number of members was 69; the number fell off during the second term owing to the decrease of strength in the college. There were three sections, for Aiyangars, for Smartha Brahmans and for Sudras, each section

having its own kitchen. Of these sections, the Smartha section was by far the strongest, the non-Brahmans numbering only three. The rates charged were Rs. 8 for "battels" and Rs. 2 and Rs. 1-8-0 for room-rent per month. The management of M.R.Ry. P. V. Seshu Aiyar was efficient and popular, and the tone of the students was particularly good. A reading-room was started by private subscription among the inmates and also a Badminton Court, which proved very popular. The finances of the hostel were hardly so satisfactory; although the institution paid its way, there are several urgent and expensive improvements required for the buildings and compound.

The accounts of the hostel appeared unnecessarily complicated, and an attempt was made to improve this during the year. Financial difficulties must always exist until it is recognized that the hostel is in the same position as a hotel and should be worked as a business concern rather than as a department. I have been indebted to the members of both committees for much useful advice and help during the year.

15. *Literary and other societies.*—The College Literary Society continued to hold meetings during the year, and the work done particularly in the first term was excellent. Several of the papers read showed a desire to read works outside the academic course, and papers on Ibsen and the Odyssey show the value of such institutions in increasing the general culture of the students.

APPENDICES.

A.—Results of F.A. and B.A. examinations, 1907.

	Number sent up.	Number examined.	Number passed.				Percentage for 1906.	Percentage for 1906.	Percentage for 1907.
			First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Total.			
First Examination in Arts	49	49	4	32	..	36	48	46	73
B.A. Degree examination—									
I. English Language division	18	18	..	4	5	9	26	46	50
II. Second Language division—									
Tamil	7	7	1	5	1	7	83	71	100
Sanskrit	12	12	..	4	7	11	71	75	91
III. Science division—									
Mathematics	10	10	..	5	3	8	43	58	80
History	12	12	..	3	5	8	32	83	66
Philosophy	3	3	1	1	..	2	86	..	66

B.—Statement of failures in the F.A. examination, 1907.

Subjects.	Number failed.		Percentage.	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
(a) English	19	8	54	61
(b) Sanskrit	14	1	40	7
(c) Tamil	3	1	8	7
(d) Mathematics	14	2	40	15
(e) Physiology	8	8	23	61
(f) History	18	1	51	7

					1907.
Number failed in one subject only	...	...	...	...	6
Do. in two subjects	...	...	...	...	6
Do. in three subjects	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	13

Dis. No. 3364, dated 4th May 1908.

Recorded.

2. The report bears evidence of progress in almost every direction. The Principal is sparing no pains to infuse the true academic spirit into the staff and students and to turn out men and not merely graduates. Many of his remarks may well be laid to heart by those whose interests are most at stake in the matter.

Firmness in the matter of promotions is generally unpopular with students and too often with parents, but most of those who have been kept back at the right stage will not regret it in after life. That many of those who pass the Matriculation examination are still unfit to enter upon a University course is well known in many colleges.

3. The Director desires to place on record his high appreciation of the good work done during his long connection with the department by M.R.Ry. K. Sundararama Aiyar, who retired from the service in the second term of last year.

4. Government have sanctioned the urgent preparation of plans and estimates for the construction of additional class rooms and for the other works required.

A. G. BOURNE,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Principal, Kumbakonam College, with spare copies.

„ Principals of other Government Colleges.

„ Inspector of Schools, III Circle.

„ Assistant Inspector of Schools, Tanjore Division.

Copy to the Collector of Tanjore, for information.

„ Editors, *Indian Journal of Education* and the *Educational Review*.

„ Government (with C.L.).

Order—No. 384, Educational, dated 19th May 1908.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

C. A. SOUTER,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 384, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 19TH MAY 1908.

[SUBJECT.—*Report on the working of the Kumbakonam College for 1907.*]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 8th May 1908, No. 3331.

The report appears to be in every way satisfactory. There is progress in all respects. The percentage of success in the History section of the B.A. Examination fell from 83 to 66.
Vide appendix A on page 6 of the report.

2. The draft placed below is for approval.
3. The report is usually marked for Editors' Table.

T.K.—14-5-08.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—14-5-08.

For perusal. A very good report.

C. A. SOUTER—15-5-08.

Approved.

M. H[AMMICK]—18-5-08.

C. A. SOUTER—19-5-08.

[G.O., No. 384, Educational, dated 19th May 1908]

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Received.....190 , Registered.....190

Subject.

Submitting for the information of Government a copy of
Proceedings Dis. No. 3364 dated 4th May 1908 reviewing the report
on the working of the Kumbakonam College for the year 1907.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

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Cur. No. 3331/8

Station Madras , Dated the 8th May 1908 .

From (Name) The Hon'ble Mr. A.C. Bourne, D.Sc., F.R.S.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for the information
of Government, a copy of my Proceedings Dis. No. 3364 dated
4th May 1908 reviewing the report on the working of the Kumbakonam
College for the year 1907.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

For Director of Public Instruction.

K.P.D.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No., dated.....190
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READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1097, From the DP-1, No. 3331, dated 8-5-1908.

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No. 384, dated 19-5- 1908.

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