

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1909.

Enclosures

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G.O., No. 306, 21st May 1909.

Law College.

Recording report on the working of the — during the year 1908.

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

2

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G.O., No. 306, 21st May 1909.

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Recording report on the working of the — during the year 1908.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Mr. A. G. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.
Dated—the 11th May 1909.
No.—Cur. 3336.

I have the honour to submit herewith a copy of my Proceedings, Dis. No. 2921, dated 6th May 1909, reviewing the report on the working of the Madras Law College during the year 1908.

ENCLOSURE.

Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Dis. No. 2921, dated 6th May 1909.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from C. E. ODGERS, Esq., M.A., B.C.L., Barrister-at-Law, acting Principal, Law College, Madras.
To—the Director of Public Instruction.
Dated—the 5th March 1909.
No.—66.

I have the honour to forward the annual report on the working of the Law College for the year 1908.

2. *Staff.*—Mr. R. A. Nelson, the Principal, was on leave on urgent private affairs in continuation of the summer vacation for six months. During that period his leave was commuted into leave on medical certificate up to April 16, 1909, and subsequently extended up to October 16, 1909. During the absence of the Principal on leave I have been acting as Principal and Dr. Swaminathan as junior Professor with the exception of one day, viz., 30th June, when Dr. Swaminathan acted as Principal. There has been no change among the Assistant Professors.

3. *The College Council.*—No meeting of the council was held during 1908, no matter necessitating a meeting of the council having arisen.

4. *Strength.*—The number of students on the rolls on the 31st December 1908 was 316 against 396, thus showing a decrease of 80 students. The figures for the three preceding years are furnished for comparison :—

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
B.L. Class	120	112	89	167
F.L. Class	214	179	168	173
Pleadership class	37	38	41	42
Special class	..	..	5	14
Total	371	329	303	396

The extraordinary increase in the numbers in 1907 has not been maintained (as was hardly to be expected) and the figures for the year under review stand midway between those for 1905 and those for 1906. Figures regarding the distribution of the students according to classes of the community, the occupation and financial status of their parents or guardians, and vaccination appear in appendices A and B. The district distribution of the students is set out in appendix C.

5. *Examination results.*—(i) *University Law Examinations.*—(1) *B.L. Degree Examination, January 1908.*—The number of students appearing direct from the college was 168. Of these 61 passed—a percentage of 36.31 as compared with the extraordinary high percentage of passes, viz., 67.05 in the previous year.

Appendix D shows the corresponding figures for the four previous years, and the results of the B.L. Examination of 1908 do not compare unfavourably on the whole with those of 1904—1906. It is in my opinion improbable, if not undesirable, that the high percentage recorded in 1907 will be repeated. It must not be forgotten that students have only one year in which to prepare for a searching examination, and I regard about 40 per cent. as the normal to be expected.

(2) *First Examination in Law, December 1908.*—The number of students appearing direct from the college was 164, of whom 78 passed, 22 in the second and 56 in the third class, showing a percentage of 47.56 as compared with 44.38 of last year, a slight increase.

Appendix E gives the corresponding figures for the four previous years. The general successful percentage was greater by 3.8 than last year and the college percentage by 3.2.

(ii) *Pleadership Examination, January 1908.*—For this examination 40 candidates appeared from the college, viz., 30 for the first grade and 10 for the second grade. The number passed in the first grade is 3 and that for the second grade is 28, giving a percentage of 10 and a general percentage of 77.5. The percentage of successful candidates in the first grade both from the college and elsewhere is lower than it has been for the last five years. It will be observed that among other candidates the percentage of successes is only 13.2. The general results compare favourably with last year, being 77.5 as against 70 and are in fact higher than any in the last five years. They compare favourably with the 45 per cent. obtained by other candidates.

Appendix F gives the figures for the four preceding years.

(iii) *Class examinations.*—There were two examinations held during the year—one in April before the summer vacation and another in September before the students submitted their applications for the F.L. and B.L. Examinations of the University. Both the B.L. and F.L. classes were examined in every subject (except Indian Constitutional Law) required for their University examinations and the results were on the whole satisfactory. In my opinion these examinations are of doubtful utility as it is found that they cause two breaks in the work for which a year is barely sufficient and also that a large proportion of students absent themselves chiefly on grounds of ill-health or family affairs.

Tutorial hours have been regularly assigned throughout the year during which students may consult the Principal. I find that students do not avail themselves of these but prefer to come informally as before. Even then they very rarely come with difficulties in their work, but generally with a view to advice as to the books they should read or buy, etc. This is, I fear, due to the fact that students are very slow to learn the wisdom of gradually acquiring their knowledge throughout the year. They still trust to getting up their subjects in the last few weeks before their examinations and are meanwhile adverse to displaying their ignorance of a subject before they have studied it. An attempt is made to correct this state of things by holding small classes in one of the most difficult subjects—Property.

6. *Library.*—The number of volumes in the library on the 31st December 1908 was 2,499. Of the 85 volumes added to the library, three were added to the lending section and the remaining 82 to the consulting section. Of the latter 33 are the latest editions of standard works.

Use of library.

	Consulting.		Lending.	
	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Students	3,133	3,480	1,581	1,829
Staff	2,114	1,698	25	25
Total	5,247	5,178	1,606	1,854

7. *Scholarships.*—(i) *Morehead Law Scholarship.*—The holder of this scholarship was S. Kasturi who passed in the first class in the F.L. Examination held in December 1907.

(ii) *College scholarships*.—There are two scholarships of Rs. 100 per term. One was awarded to P. D'Souza who stood first in the second class and next after S. Kasturi, the Morehead scholarship holder. The other being reserved for Muhammadans or Uriya students was awarded to Ganesh Mahapatro, an Uriya, as there was no Muhammadan student qualified.

8. *Accommodation*.—I am anxious to utilize two of the class rooms, at present unused, as "Common Rooms" for the students. At present the only rooms available for students who are anxious to work in the college are the class rooms or the library, both of which are unsuitable for study for lack of comfortable seating accommodation. I wish to encourage students to spend their day in the college and not to rush away as soon as their lecture and class work is over. Under present conditions students are naturally not anxious to remain in the college longer than they are obliged and desire to have their lectures and classes for consecutive hours as far as possible between 10 and 12 or 10 and 1. If two of the class rooms were arranged with tables and chairs and the present raised platforms and benches abolished, I believe students would be content to make the college a place of study instead of as at present a place wherein they merely hear lectures. I would also suggest that the library be furnished with chairs, etc., for the same purpose.

9. Financial summary.—

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
From 1892-93 to 1907	8,28,665	6,19,377	2,09,288
1908	49,306	30,404	18,902
Total ..	8,77,971	6,49,781	2,28,190

10. *Service books*.—The service books of the members of the establishment who are required to maintain them have been kept and verified up to date.

APPENDIX A.

DISTRIBUTION of students according to classes of community.

Classes of community.	B.L. Class.	F.L. Class.	Pleadership Class.	Special Classes.	Total for 1908.	Total for 1907.
Europeans and Eurasians	1	1	..	..	2	2
Native Christians	6	4	2	3	15	14
Muhammadans	..	1	..	..	1	4
Hindus { Brahmans	81	113	38	7	239	306
{ Non-Brahman	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Hindus	17	39	2	1	59	70
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	105	158	42	11	316	396

APPENDIX B.

DISTRIBUTION of students according to occupation of their parents or guardians.

Classes.	Officials.	Petty officials.	Land-holders.	Traders.	Artisans.	Others.	Total.
B.L. Class	42	..	59	2	1	1	105
F.L. Class	75	3	68	9	..	3	158
Pleadership Class	17	..	24	1	..	..	42
Special Classes	6	..	4	..	..	1	11
Total for 1908 ..	140	3	155	12	1	5	316
Total for 1907 ..	174	1	195	19	1	6	396

DISTRIBUTION of students according to the financial status of their parents or guardians.

Classes.	Richer class.	Middle class.	Poorer classes.	Total.
B.L. Class	6	95	4	105
F.L. Class	9	146	3	158
Pleadership class	1	39	2	42
Special classes	3	8	..	11
Total for 1908 ..	19	288	9	316
Total for 1907 ..	26	360	10	396

VACCINATION.

Classes.	Vaccinated.	Small-pox marked only.	Unprotected.	Total.
B.L. Class	95	10	..	105
F.L. Class	142	16	..	158
Pleadership class	38	4	..	42
Special classes	11	..	..	11
Total for 1908 ..	286	30	..	316
Total for 1907 ..	343	53	..	396

APPENDIX C.

DISTRICT distribution of students.

	B.L. Class.	F.L. Class.	Pleadership Class.	Special Classes.	Total for 1908.	Total for 1907.
Ganjam	4	4	6	..	14	7
Vizagapatam	2	1	2	..	5	8
Gódvári	4	7	5	..	16	26
Kistna	1	10	..	..	11	9
Guntár	2	7	..	..	9	8
Nellore	4	7	2	..	13	10
Madras	7	17	4	2	30	29
Chingleput	4	3	2	1	10	13
North Arcot	3	4	1	1	9	23
South Arcot	4	1	4	..	9	11
Trichinopoly	7	6	1	1	15	17
Tanjore	17	15	2	2	36	46
Madura	4	7	6	..	17	22
Tinnevely	4	7	6	1	18	21
Coimbatore	2	9	..	..	11	17
Salem	4	4	..	..	8	17
Cuddapah	2	..	..	..	2	1
Kurnool	..	..	1	..	1	2
Bellary	..	1	..	..	1	1
Anantapur	1	1	..	..	2	3
South Canara	7	9	..	..	16	14
Malabar	9	16	..	..	25	31
Travancore	..	1	..	1	2	8
Cochin	4	6	..	1	11	13
Mysore	4	11	..	..	15	13
Bangalore	3	4	..	1	8	18
Pudukkóttai	2	..	..	..	2	8
Hyderabad (Deccan)	..	..	..	..	..	2
Coorg	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tumkur	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pondicherry	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	105	158	42	11	316	396

APPENDIX D.

RESULTS of the B.L. Degree Examination, January 1908.

				Number of students examined.	Number of students passed.	Percentage.
1904	{	From Law College	198	52	26.26	
		Other candidates	197	14	7.10	
	Total ..		395	66	16.60	
1905	{	From Law College	117	49	41.88	
		Other candidates	357	149	41.73	
	Total ..		474	198	41.77	
1906	{	From Law College	110	47	42.72	
		Other candidates	256	64	25.00	
	Total ..		366	111	30.32	
1907	{	From Law College	88	59	67.05	
		Other candidates	271	106	39.11	
	Total ..		359	165	45.9	
1908	{	From Law College	168	61	36.31	
		Other candidates	189	57	30.16	
	Total ..		357	118	33.0	

APPENDIX E.

RESULTS of the First Examination in Law, December 1907.

				Number of students examined.	Number of students passed.	Percentage.
1904	{	From Law College	.. .. .	209	88	42.0
		Other candidates	.. .. .	181	57	31.0
		Total	..	390	145	36.5
1905	{	From Law College	.. .. .	181	53	29.28
		Other candidates	.. .. .	241	49	20.33
		Total	..	422	102	24.17
1906	{	From Law College	.. .. .	168	94	55.95
		Other candidates	.. .. .	262	114	43.51
		Total	..	430	208	48.37
1907	{	From Law College	.. .. .	178	79	44.38
		Other candidates	.. .. .	193	48	24.87
		Total	..	371	127	34.23
1908	{	From Law College	.. .. .	164	78	47.56
		Other candidates	.. .. .	246	78	31.70
		Total	..	410	156	38.04

APPENDIX F.

RESULTS of the Pledership Examination, January 1908.

				Number of students examined.		Number passed.		Percentage.	
				First grade.	Second grade.	First grade.	Second grade.	First grade.	Second grade.
1904	{ From Law College	{ Other candidates .. .. .	.. .. .	8	..	4	4	50.0	50.0
				41	118	7	80	17.0	67.7
	Total ..			49	118	11	84	22.4	71.1
1905	{ From Law College	{ Other candidates .. .. .	.. .. .	25	4	8	13	32.0	72.41
				57	99	12	69	21.05	69.69
	Total ..			82	103	20	82	24.38	79.61
1906	{ From Law College	{ Other candidates .. .. .	.. .. .	31	4	8	15	25.8	65.71
				50	150	12	63	24.0	37.5
	Total ..			81	154	20	78	24.69	41.7
1907	{ From Law College	{ Other candidates .. .. .	.. .. .	29	1	9	12	31.03	70.0
				60	121	4	58	6.6	34.25
	Total ..			89	122	13	70	14.6	39.3
1908	{ From Law College	{ Other candidates .. .. .	.. .. .	30	10	3	28	10.0	77.5
				68	154	9	92	13.24	45.49
	Total ..			98	164	12	120	12.24	50.38

Proceedings Dis. No. 2921 of 1909.

Recorded.

2. The fall in the strength of the College which occurred in all the classes except the Pledership class is noted.

3. The results of the examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Laws did not compare favourably with those of the previous year, while those of the First Examination in Law continued to be fair. The results obtained in the First Grade Pledership Examination were far from encouraging.

4. The Director regrets to note that the tutorial hours have not been as popular as might have been expected and that a large proportion of the students absent themselves from the class examinations without sufficient reasons. The step taken by the Principal in encouraging the interviews of individual students with him is however noted.

The Director is not in favour of discontinuing the class examinations and it is hoped that greater strictness will be observed in enforcing the appearance of the students at these examinations.

5. The suggestion made in paragraph 8 of the report should form the subject of a separate communication.

A. G. BOURNE,
Director of Public Instruction.

To the Principal, Law College, with 20 spare copies.
 " Principals of other Government Colleges.
 " President, Law College Council, with a spare copy.
 " Honourable the Chief Justice,
 " Honourable the Advocate-General, } with C.L.
 Copy to the Director-General of Education,
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 " " Government with C.L.

Order—No. 306, Educational, dated 21st May 1909.

Recorded.

2. Attendance during tutorial hours should be regarded as compulsory, just as much as attendance on the regular lectures.

(True Extract.)

L. M. WYNCH,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.
Editors' Table.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 306, EDUCATIONAL,
DATED 21st MAY 1909.

[SUBJECT.—*Report on the working of the Law College for 1908.*]

From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 1st May 1909, No. 3336.

Paragraph 4 of report.

Paragraph 5 of report.

A diminution of the attendance may be regarded with equanimity.

G. S. F[ORBES].

The strength of the college declined and the results of the B.L. examination were not so good as in the preceding year. The results of the Pleaders' examination, first grade, were also not good. The report calls for no other remarks.

2. The draft below is for approval.

3. The report is usually placed on Editors' Table.

T.K.—15-5-09.

The percentage of passes in the B.L. Degree examination in 1907 was exceptionally high (67·05 per cent.). The percentage in 1908 was only 36·31 as compared with 26·26 in 1904, 41·88 in 1905 and 47·72 in 1906.

The percentage of passes in the First Grade Pleaders' examination (10·0) among students who went up for the examination from the Law College, is the lowest on record during the past five years. No explanation has been given of this poor result.

Vide appendix F of report.

Too many absentee professors.

C. A. SOUTER—12-5-09.

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—17-5-09.

C. A. SOUTER—17-5-09.

For perusal.

L. M. WYNCH—18-5-09.

Attendance during tutorial hours should be compulsory. That is what was intended.

G. S. F[ORBES]—19-5-09.

Issue.

L. M. WYNCH—21-5-09.

[G.O., No. 306, Educational, dated 21st May 1909.]

" " " " * ? "

190

C. No. 959, From the S. P. I., No. 3336, dated 11-5-1909.

” ” ” ” ” ” ” 190

9) "....." 9) "....." 9) "....." 9) "....." 9) "....." 190

No. 306, dated 21-5-1909

P. S.

2. Attendance during tutorial hours sh^d. be regarded as compulsory, just as much as attendance on the regular lectures.

Recorded

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Cal
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To

The D.P.D.
-- E.J.

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