

Education

(1913)) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 291

DATED 7-4-13

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sanctioning the proposal of the Syndicate of the University
to grant S. Ramanijan a special — of Rs 75
per month for a period of two years.



C. 1165 Col
5.4.13

University of Madras.



No. 1557

SENATE HOUSE,

4- APR 1913

Enclosures *1*

FROM

Francis Dewsbury Esq., B.A., LL.B.
Registrar, University of Madras,

TO

The Secretary to Government
Educational Department.

Sir,

I have the honour, by the direction of the Syndicate, to forward herewith the enclosed copy correspondence relating to S. Ramanujan, a clerk in the Accounts Department of the Port Trust Office, Madras, who appears to be a mathematician of exceptional promise. The Syndicate referred his case to the Board of Studies in Mathematics for investigation, with a request for a recommendation from the Board thereon. It will be seen from the reply received from the Chairman of the Board that it is of opinion that S. Ramanujan should receive special assistance from the University in order to enable him to devote all his time to the study of Mathematics. The Syndicate has accepted the recommendation of the Board that a scholarship of ~~Rs~~75/- per mensem for two years be granted to him on the conditions laid down by the Board, and has directed me to approach Government with a request for sanction to this payment. The Regulations of the University do not at present provide for such a special scholarship. But the Syndicate assumes that Section XV of the Act of Incorporation and Section 3 of the Indian

Universities Act, 1904, allow of the grant of such a scholarship, subject to the express consent of the Governor of Port St George in Council.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Francis Dushy

Registrar.

No.

Dated

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

To

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Letter No.T.12, dated February 26, 1913, from Mr. Gilbert T. Walker, Director-General of Observatories, to the Registrar of the University of Madras.

I have the honour to draw your attention to the case of S. Ramanujan, a clerk ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the Accounts Department of the Madras Port Trust. I have not seen him, but was yesterday shown some of his work in the presence of Sir Francis Spring. He is, I am told, 22 years of age and the character of the work that I saw impressed me as comparable in originality with that of a Mathematical fellow in a Cambridge College; it appears to lack, however, as might be expected in the circumstances, the completeness and precision necessary before the universal validity of the results could be accepted. I have not specialised in the branches of pure mathematics at which he has worked, and could not therefore form a reliable estimate of his abilities, which might be of an order to bring him a big European reputation. But it was perfectly clear to me that the University would be justified in enabling S. Ramanujan for a few years at least to spend the whole of his time on mathematics without any anxiety as to his livelihood, and I would suggest that they should communicate with Mr. G. H. Hardy, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, with whom he is already in correspondence and assure Mr. Hardy of their interest in him.

Letter No.1003, dated March 10, 1913, from the Registrar, University of Madras, to the Chairman, Board of Studies in Mathematics.

I have the honour, by direction of the Syndicate, to refer to your Board the accompanying letter from the Director-General of Observatories bringing to the notice of the University the original character of the work in mathematics produced by one

No.

Dated

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

To

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

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S. Ramanujan, a clerk in the Port Trust Office, and stating that the University would be justified in enabling him for a few years to spend his whole time on mathematics without any anxiety as to his livelihood, and to request the favour of the Board's recommendation thereon.

Letter dated March 10, 1913, from Arthur Davies Esq., Secretary, Madras Students Advisory Committee, to B. Hanumanta Rao Esq., B.A., of the Mathematical Board of Studies, Madras University, Mylapore.

I am directed by ^{my} the Committee to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter dated 3rd February, 1913, from the Secretary for Indian Students in London, about a gentleman named S. Ramanujan as it is understood that his case is being considered by the Board of Studies.

Mr. Ramanujan has definitely declined going to England.

Copy of letter from the Secretary for Indian Students, London, to the Secretary to the Advisory Committee for Indian Students, Madras, dated 3rd February, 1913.

I have an enquiry from one of the Mathematical Tutors at Trinity College, Cambridge, about a young Indian called S. Ramanujan, who is a Clerk in the Accounts Department of the Port Trust at Madras. It appears that Mr. Ramanujan has sent to the Tutor of Trinity a series of mathematical studies and theorems, which are so remarkable and which show such an extraordinary aptitude for Mathematics, that, if they are his own work, as I assume they are, the Tutor in question thinks it possible that he may prove to be a Mathematician of the very highest class. If this be so, it would seem worth while enquiring whether some means cannot be found of getting him a Cambridge education.

Would you very kindly make full enquiries and report

No.

Dated

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

To

Enclosures

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to me about this young man? If the work sent to Cambridge is really his own work, evolved by a man without any University training, we ought to see if anything can be done for him.

Letter dated March 25, 1913, from the Chairman, Board of Studies in Mathematics, to the Registrar, University of Madras.

In returning herewith the letters from Dr. Walker and Mr. Arthur Davies, I have the honour to inform you that the Board of Studies in Mathematics has examined the work of S. Ramanujan and is of opinion that he is a person of very remarkable ~~intuition~~ ^{intuition} in the domain of Pure Mathematics, especially in the Theory of Numbers and Series. His results appear to be wonderful; but he is not, now, able to present any intelligible proof of some of them.

S. Ramanujan, who is now 23 years old, is an undergraduate of this University, having gone through the old F. A. Course. He has sufficient knowledge of English and is not too old to learn the modern methods from books. The Board does not consider that he will profit by the course of studies, usually given in our affiliated Colleges.

If Ramanujan were placed in such a position as to devote his whole time to the study of Mathematics and have access to the mathematical books of the University Library, he might turn out highly original work. For this purpose it will be necessary to keep him and his family above want and to free him from all anxiety about his livelihood. The Board, therefore, recommends that he be awarded a scholarship of ₹75/- per mensem.

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If the Syndicate accept this recommendation, Ramanujan may be required to furnish the Board of Studies, once in three months, with a statement of the work done by him during the previous quarter. The scholarship may, in the first instance,

No.

Dated

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

To

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

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be granted for a period of two years, with the proviso that it
may be discontinued at any time on the report of the Board of
Studies.

(True Copies)

Senate House

April 4, 1913.

Francis B. Swinburn
Registrar.

No. _____
Dated _____

FROM

THE REGISTRAR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS,

To

Enclosures _____

SUBJECT.

C.No.1165, from the Registrar, University of Madras, No.1557, d/4-4-13.

Subject.

Grant of a special scholarship of Rs.75 per mensem for a period of two years to S. Ramanujan, a clerk in the Accounts Department of the Port Trust Office, Madras.

Please see the regulations ^{for} ~~for~~ research,

studentships printed on page 3 of G.O.No.625, Edl., dated 25th November 1909. These regulations apply only to graduates. In the present case the student is only an under-graduate (P.A.) and any scholarship that is given to him should be outside these regulations. The amount and the tenure of the scholarship proposed are ~~lower~~ the same as those provided in the regulations. There seems to be no objection to sanction the special scholarship recommended by the syndicate. The general provisions of section 3 of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, and section XV of the Act of Incorporation appear to cover this expenditure. A draft order is submitted below for approval. After the issue of the order the file may perhaps be sent to the Marine Department for perusal.

A.
5.4.13

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unnecessary.
The draft may issue.

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5.7.13

C.No.1165.

ORDER: 291. 2-2-13
 Hrs. 7.4.13

The Government are pleased to sanction the proposal of the Syndicate to grant ^{S. Ramamurthy} a special scholarship of Rs.75 ^{per} ~~month~~ ^{month} for a period of two years.

~~to be sanctioned.~~

Ca
 5/4/13

5.4.13

To the Registrar,
 University of Madras.

- A.G.

Signature
 9/4
 7/10/13
 8-11-13

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

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READ AGAIN G.O. No.
 191

DATED

No.

to C. No.

GOVERNMENT.

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GOVERNMENT.

MENT WITH DETO.

CASES NOT FILLED UP. BRING WANT FOR DISPATCH
 IN GENERAL.

V.E.-

A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 F = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.