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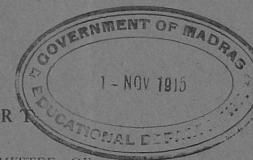
Report. Passing orders on the distribution
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Advisory Committee for Indian Students
in England

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REPORT OF A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

ON DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY

INDIAN STUDENTS IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM.

WITH AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM
THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY,
LONDON ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
TO THE
UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
INDIA.

SIR,

9th February 1915.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, ending with your letter of 26th November 1913, I am now directed to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State and for such action as his Lordship may think desirable, the Report of the Sub-Committee appointed in October 1913 to inquire into the grievances of Indian Students, as finally amended and adopted by the Advisory Committee at a meeting held on the 4th February 1915, together with a copy of a Resolution passed at that meeting.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) R. E. FIELD,

Secretary to the Committee.

The Under-Secretary of State for India.

COPY OF A RESOLUTION PASSED BY
A MEETING OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, HELD ON THE
4TH FEBRUARY 1915.

Resolution.—That this Report, as finally revised and amended, be sent to the Secretary of State as the unanimous Report of the Advisory Committee, with a recommendation that it may be published.

Report of the Sub-Committee of the
Advisory Committee for Indian
Students, as amended, approved
and adopted by the Advisory
Committee at a Meeting held
on the 4th February 1915.

CONSTITUTION AND WORK OF THE
COMMITTEE.

1. On the 6th October 1913, the Advisory Committee, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, appointed a Sub-Committee "to inquire into any regulations of the Inns of Court and other public bodies which appear to press hardly upon Indian Students, and to present a Report to the Committee." The Sub-Committee was constituted as follows:—

Sir M. M. BHOWNAGGEE, K.C.I.E. (Chairman).

Mr. ABBAS ALI BAIG, C.S.I.

Mr. C. A. LATIF.

Major N. P. SINHA, I.M.S. (Retired).

Mr. R. E. FIELD (Secretary).

2. On the 3rd November the Sub-Committee was authorised "to use its discretion to inquire generally into the complaints of Indian Students."

3. The Sub-Committee held its first meeting at the India Office on October 22nd, 1913, to settle preliminaries, and further meetings were held on November 20th, December 5th, 8th, and 22nd, 1913, January 21st, February 19th, March 4th and 11th, and May 21st, 1914.

4. With a view to making the appointment of the Sub-Committee generally known, a communiqué was issued to the Press, and letters of invitation to send in written statements were addressed to certain representative Indian Students and others, who the Sub-Committee were informed might have evidence to lay before them.

5. In reply to these invitations written statements were received from Mr. J. A. Master, Mr. J. K. Singh (on behalf of the Indian Engineering Union), Mr. A. N. Sen, Mr. B. K. Chaudhury, Mr. S. C. Ghose (on behalf of seven other students), Mr. H. N. Lall, Mr. A. P. Sabavala, Mr. Jelal Shah, Messrs. Sri Prakasa and G. S. Monjia, Mr. J. M. Mehta, Mr. J. N. Sahai, Mr. V. M. Pawar, Mr. R. S. Bajpai, the Rev. Dr. S. D. Bhabha, and Dr. J. N. Mehta (on behalf of 29 London Medical Students). Mr. B. Dubé, an ex-member of the Advisory Committee, also sent in a written statement. Several of these statements purported to represent the views of bodies of students and not only those of the actual signatories.

6. It may be stated that some of those who have in the past been foremost in voicing the alleged grievances of the Students declined to submit any evidence or to appear before the Sub-Committee when invited to do so.

7. In addition to forwarding written statements to the Sub-Committee, the following gentlemen were good enough to attend and give oral evidence before us:—Mr. N. P. Verma, Mr. J. M. Mehta, Mr. B. K. Chaudhury, Mr. A. N. Sen, Mr. J. N. Sahai, Mr. R. S. Bajpai, Mr. J. K. Singh, Mr. P. V. Chari, and Dr. J. N. Mehta. Mr. M. A. Jinnah, who was an honorary member of the Advisory Committee last year, and who expressly desired that his evidence should be treated as private, also appeared before us to express his views.

8. Both Mr. C. E. Mallet, the Secretary for Indian Students at the India Office, and Mr. T. W. Arnold, the Head of the Bureau at 21, Cromwell Road, kindly supplied the Sub-Committee with written memoranda dealing with the more tangible complaints of the students, and also gave oral evidence. We also received from Mr. J. N.

Campion a Note which he kindly prepared for us upon certain questions raised by the Engineering Students.

9. On the 16th March the Sub-Committee visited 21, Cromwell Road for the purpose of ascertaining the allotment and disposition of the various rooms and the domestic arrangements there. Our thanks are due to Miss Beck and Mr. Arnold for the assistance we received on this occasion.

10. It will, of course, be understood that, as the Sub-Committee was an unofficial one, facilities for taking verbatim reports of the evidence given before us were not available, and it was only possible to secure brief summaries of the oral evidence given by the various witnesses.

11. We propose to divide this Report into two main sections, viz. :—

- (1) The specific difficulties under which Indian Students labour, which do not arise in the case of English Students in educational institutions.
- (2) The complaints they have submitted regarding the Indian Students' Department of the India Office, including the house known as 21, Cromwell Road.

DIFFICULTIES OF STUDENTS.

12. The bulk of the Students who come here aim at pursuing courses of study in Law, Medicine, Engineering, and Arts, and have to join the Universities, Inns of Court, and other institutions.

13. The specific difficulties of which the students complain may be summarised as follows :—

LAW.

14. In former years, so far as Indian qualifications were concerned, the matriculation examination of any Indian University was the standard required for admission. Recently this standard has been raised to that of a degree of an Indian University. This somewhat drastic

change has created wide-spread dissatisfaction. It is urged that the average age at which an Indian youth graduates is 21 or 22 years, and a period of three or four years would be necessary thereafter before he could be called to the Bar. This prolonged course, it is argued, will have the effect not only of placing an Indian barrister at a serious disadvantage as compared with his English confrère in regard to the question of seniority and precedence in the Indian Courts, but might also exclude him from Government service. We consider this to be a reasonable ground of complaint, and, while we realise that there are several alternative qualifying examinations for admission to the Inns of Court which an Indian Student can take in Great Britain, and while we are in complete sympathy with the desire of the Inns to fix the standard of admission sufficiently high to ensure a solid basis of educational attainments on the part of those who take up Law as a profession, we think that the object in view can be fully secured by accepting as the standard for admission the Inter-Arts or Previous examination of the Universities of India.

15. Another complaint under this head relates to the regulations recently laid down by the High Courts in India for the enrolment of advocates. In an Interim Report, dated the 2nd January 1914, we have stated our conclusions on this subject and made certain recommendations. To these we adhere.

16. There is one point in connection with the Allahabad High Court rules, which has been brought to our notice since our Interim Report was submitted, and to which we consider the attention of the authorities concerned should be drawn. The new rules of the High Court require that an applicant for admission to the Roll of Advocates shall, in addition to certain other requirements, have either—

- (i) Taken a degree in Law in the University of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Calcutta, or Allahabad; or
- (ii) Read in the chambers of a practising barrister in England for one year.

It has been pointed out to us that the LL.B. degree of London University is not recognised by the Allahabad High Court. Considering that a very large number of Law Students reside in London, it seems both anomalous and unfair to them that the London LL.B. degree, notwithstanding its recognised value, should find no place in the Allahabad rules. The omission was perhaps unintentional, and we trust that when it is pointed out to the Judges, the necessary amendment in the rules will be made.

17. In this connection we think that it is desirable that steps should be taken to bring about as much uniformity as possible in the rules of the different High Courts in India relating to the enrolment of advocates.

18. With regard to the general question of reading in chambers, we are entirely in favour of a year's chamber work being required before enrolment, but there is a consensus of opinion on the part of competent and expert authorities that such apprenticeship would be more effective and useful if gone through with barristers of recognised position practising in India. In this view we entirely concur, for we do not think it is reasonable to expect that facilities can now be found in the chambers of barristers of sufficient standing practising in London for the training of a large number of Indian Students. It might have been possible in past years, when the amount of conveyancing and other paper work to be found in the chambers of an English barrister with a fair practice was far greater than it is at the present day. Recent alterations in the procedure of English Courts have led to much restriction in that kind of work which in the past was available to the young barrister who was reading in chambers. The result is that English Students now find it very difficult to secure the training desired even when prepared to pay heavy fees, and we do not think it is reasonable to suppose that barristers of standing would be willing to take Indian Students into their chambers when they are turning away their own countrymen.

19. We would, therefore, strongly urge the desirability of Indian Students being given the option of taking their

chamber work in India, where they would have facilities for a close study of subjects which would be of use in their Indian practice, such as the procedure of Indian Courts, Hindu and Muhammadan Law, and the various Indian Codes, and where, moreover, they would be brought into close touch with local solicitors with whom they would ultimately have professional dealings. None of these advantages could be secured by reading in chambers in England.

20. As regards the certificates as to character, &c., required from Indian applicants for admission to the Inns, we find that there is considerable discontent among the students on the assumption that they are being compelled to resort to Mr. Mallet as the sole authority whose certificate could be accepted. But we find that in the new Consolidated Regulations recently issued by the Council of Legal Education, the Secretary for Indian Students is named merely as one of the officials, such as Collectors, Deputy Commissioners, Political Officers, and Secretaries to Government in India, who are competent to grant such certificates. This alternative provision, which furnishes an additional facility to Students and makes an appeal for help to Mr. Mallet voluntary, ought to dispel the unfortunate misunderstanding, which has caused considerable dissatisfaction.

21. But we are of opinion that it should be represented to the Council of Legal Education that in the case of Students who have received or are receiving their education in the United Kingdom other evidence of character, such as a certificate from a responsible person who has known the student for a year or more, and another from the Head of his College or School, as laid down in clause (a) of regulation 2 (ii) should not be disallowed.

22. There is some misapprehension with regard to the information upon which Mr. Mallet bases his certificates. We understand that the procedure adopted is as follows:—

When an Indian Student is proceeding to England to join the Bar, he forwards to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee for his Province two or three

certificates from responsible persons stating that he is, in their opinion, fit to be admitted to the Bar. These certificates need not be from officials, but may be from barristers or business men or others, provided they are responsible men upon whose opinions the Advisory Committees in India can rely. These Committees then forward the certificates with their recommendation to Mr. Mallet, who interviews the Student on his arrival and gives him the necessary certificate for admission to the particular Inn he wishes to join. We are informed that Mr. Mallet does not veto the Advisory Committee's recommendations, but invariably acts upon them. We also understand that in the case of students who have come without completed papers from India, Mr. Mallet has sometimes acted on the recommendation of responsible persons in this country who happen to know them.

MEDICINE.

23. The main difficulty brought to our notice by Medical Students is the unwillingness of Medical Schools and Hospitals in London to admit students as freely as in the past. Certain Schools in London appear to be unwilling to admit any Indian Students, and others have very materially restricted the number of entrants. Whatever the causes or motives from which this difficulty has sprung in recent years, it cannot be denied that it acts as a great hardship to Indian Students. But it should be remembered that there are first-rate Medical Schools at several other British Universities, of which Indian Students would do well to avail themselves more freely.

24. When it is borne in mind that a prolonged course of medical training in this country is deemed essential, not only for the I.M.S. appointments, but for all the higher medical posts and professorships in India, we think that a moral obligation rests on the authorities here to do their utmost to remove the difficulties in London, and to secure that equality of opportunity to Indian aspirants desirous of serving their country to which they are entitled. The

aim of British policy is declared to be the spread of Western scientific methods in India, especially in the domain of medicine, surgery, and sanitation; and when it is borne in mind that the Indian Medical Schools and Colleges are still in a preliminary stage of development, and are not for a long time likely to be so well equipped and staffed as to provide such adequate opportunities for study and practical training as are obtainable in the United Kingdom, it would be both equitable and politic to widen the opportunities of medical study here, and thus to dispel the impression which is spreading in India that Indian Medical Students are being heavily and unfairly handicapped when they have to compete with Englishmen for the higher medical careers in their own country.

25. One of the scarcely concealed causes of this unsatisfactory state of things is that English and Colonial Students, particularly the latter, in the Medical Institutions, have in recent years been manifesting prejudice against Indian Students. An unfortunate indication of this feeling was given recently at a meeting of the English Students of the London Hospital. But it is satisfactory to note that the Dean of the Hospital in an official communication has expressed great sympathy for the welfare of Indian Students, and has offered to encourage the reception of suitable Students in the Hospital. We, therefore, strongly recommend that all possible influence should be brought to bear upon the Heads of Hospitals and Medical Schools for the admission of a fair proportion of qualified Indian Students.

ENGINEERING.

26. The complaints of the Engineering Students (under this head we include Students who are receiving a technical or industrial training in this country) may roughly be divided into two heads:—

- (1) The difficulty of securing the necessary practical training, especially in Civil Engineering; and
- (2) The regulations of the Institution of Civil Engineers, which require applicants for enrolment as

Associates of the Institution on the strength of having obtained an Engineering Degree in certain Universities in Great Britain to have undergone a full three years' course at these Universities, thus annulling the benefit of any exemption granted by the Universities on the ground of previous educational qualifications secured in India.

27. As regards (1), the Students strongly urge that the Secretary of State should insert a clause in the contracts given by the Stores Department, requiring firms which tender for them to admit a limited number of Indian Students to their works for practical training. We are aware that this proposal has repeatedly met with strong opposition in certain quarters, and we fully realise that the first object of the Stores Department of the India Office is to obtain the best goods at the lowest possible prices. We have, however, been informed that both the Japanese and the Chinese Governments make some such provision in favour of their Students, and we are not aware that they have suffered in any way in consequence. We think it possible to deal with this matter in a way which would enable India to get her stores on as favourable terms as at present, and at the same time to afford the Students the facilities that are so essential for their practical training. We would recommend that two lists of firms should be kept in the Stores Department at the India Office. One general list should contain the names of all the firms qualified to tender for contracts in the gift of the Secretary of State. On a second *special* list, should be placed the names of the firms willing to admit Indian Students to their works in the event of their securing contracts from the India Office. Then in considering the tenders received from the firms on the general list, as well as on the special list, preference should be given to the firms on the latter list, all other things, such as quality, prices, time of delivery, &c., being equal. This course will have the double advantage, in our opinion, of strictly maintaining the business aspect of all transactions, and at the same time of providing the requisite facilities for the practical training of Indian Students.

28. As regards (2), it appears that the Institution of Civil Engineers will not recognise any exemptions granted to Indian graduates in Science by certain Universities in the United Kingdom. For instance, if a Student, having passed his B.Sc. in India, goes to Armstrong College at Newcastle, and is exempted from the Matriculation Examination and one year's residence there, and thus secures his B.Sc. degree in Engineering at Durham University in two years, the Institution of Civil Engineers refuses to accept that degree as qualifying for their Associateship, on the ground that the Student has not passed the Matriculation Examination of Durham University, and has not resided for three years at Armstrong College. This condition seems quite unfair to Indian Students, in view of the fact that in selecting applicants for appointments to the Imperial Public Works Department the India Office has generally been following the regulations of the Institution of Civil Engineers. We consider that this Institution should not be given any undue preference in regard to appointments in the Public Works Department over those Universities which have well organised Engineering Faculties, and that its regulations should not entirely govern the eligibility of candidates.

THE UNIVERSITIES.

29. The complaints about the difficulties of Indian Students in the Universities chiefly relate to Oxford and Cambridge.

The grievances brought to our notice are :—

- (i) The reluctance of one or two Colleges to admit any Indian Students, and the exceedingly close limit placed upon their number in others.
- (ii) The insistence upon Latin as compulsory for the B.C.L. degree.
- (iii) The non-acceptance of the Inter-Arts Examination of Indian Universities as exempting from Responsions and the Previous.

30. With regard to (i), we are aware that the limit placed upon the number of entrants is due to a certain

extent to considerations of space and accommodation, and in that respect it must be granted that the Heads of Colleges are the best judges. Another reason of the refusal to admit students is that timely applications are not made as required by the regulations of Colleges. But after making every allowance for these and similar other reasonable limitations, we believe that there is some legitimate ground for complaint on the score of mere unwillingness, or even prejudice, on the part of the College authorities to receive Students from India. When it is remembered that Oxford and Cambridge are training grounds for the Indian Civil Service, the door for admission to which is wholly closed to Indians in their own country, the unfortunate attitude of these two great Universities, which we understand receive certain contributions from Indian revenues, is naturally looked upon as a further obstacle in the way of Indian competitors at the Civil Service Examination. Unless the Universities in this country adopt a more generous attitude towards Indian Students, one of the consequences will be that the demand for simultaneous examinations in India for the Civil Service will receive an impetus and a justification which it may be difficult to discount on the ground that Indians and Englishmen have similar opportunities in the United Kingdom for qualifying for the premier service in India. We trust that this aspect of the question will receive the consideration it deserves, and will also be pressed upon the attention of the authorities of these two Universities, and a reasonable proportion of admissions secured for Indians.

It may be observed in this connection that the Universities, and more especially the Medical Colleges, show an inclination to treat every Eastern Student—Chinese, Japanese, Egyptian, Indian, &c.—alike, by allowing a small percentage of admissions to all Orientals lumped together without discrimination. It is forgotten that the doors of the higher appointments in their own country are not closed, owing to the insistence of the authorities on English training and qualifications, against any of these races with the exception of Indians, who for that reason alone, and moreover as British subjects, are clearly entitled to equitable and special consideration by way of counter-

balancing, in some measure, the disadvantages under which they labour.

It is acknowledged with gratitude that the Secretary of State takes the keenest interest in the welfare of Indian Students and has been endeavouring to promote it; but it appears that the educational institutions in this country have not yet been roused to a true sense of their responsibilities in this matter. If the attitude of the British nation, which on the one hand expects Indians to possess what are described as "English qualifications" for all the higher careers in their own country, and on the other substantially restricts the opportunities for the acquisition of such qualifications, is beginning to be misunderstood in India, the blame, we are afraid, cannot be entirely placed on Indian shoulders. We trust that the Universities will be persuaded to take a generous view of the situation.

31. With regard to (ii), we think that the difficulty experienced by Indian Students owing to Latin being a compulsory subject for the Oxford B.C.L. degree is a real one; and we would recommend that the Students' Department should endeavour to secure some relaxation of the rules in this respect in favour of Indian Students. It is, in our opinion, undoubtedly a fact that the insistence upon Latin in many English examinations has been a source of hardship in the past. Many English educational institutions now allow the substitution of Arabic or Sanskrit or some other Oriental classical language, and we believe that the University of Oxford will not be less generous in this respect if approached in the proper manner.

32. With regard to (iii), it seems somewhat hard upon Students, who, after a College course of some years in India falling short of the attainment of a degree, come here for advanced studies, that they should be required to pass Responsions or the Previous. The Inter-Arts standard at the Universities in India is fairly high, and does not compare unfavourably either with that of Responsions of Oxford or the Previous of Cambridge. We, therefore, venture to suggest that a representation should be made to the two Universities to secure for Indian Students, who have passed the Inter-Arts in India, exemption from their entrance tests.

33. With regard to the other Universities in the United Kingdom, no specific grievances have been brought to our notice. But in connection with some of these, as with Oxford and Cambridge, a general complaint has been made by almost all the witnesses who appeared before us regarding the appointment of representatives of the Students' Department as guardians. Their main objection to this official guardianship arises from their assumption that, whether they wish or require it or not, Students are compelled to place themselves under it; that the agency is meant to place them under some sort of restraint and surveillance; that it distinguishes them to their disadvantage and loss of personal dignity from their fellow students of other nationalities, and that it cuts them off from direct intercourse with their professors. This complaint is loudest on the part of advanced students. We think that it may be traced to a mistaken impression on the part of the students that the system was initiated and imposed upon them by the Students' Department of the India Office. They are unaware that both Oxford and Cambridge had desired such guardianship before the organisation of the Department. The subsequent appointment of Advisers at other University centres strengthened this mistaken impression. The provision of a sympathetic and helpful guardianship at the larger centres of education is, in our opinion, certainly no disadvantage, provided no direct or indirect compulsion is brought to bear upon Students to place themselves under it. The recommendation we have to make on this point will be found at the end of our Report.

34. Another complaint submitted to us in connection with almost all Educational Institutions, is the exclusion of Indian Students from the Officers' Training Corps. This exclusion is said to be the result of a regulation of the War Office. In previous years, Indian Students, we understand, were permitted to become members of Volunteer Corps of the Universities and of the Inns of Court; and even now it is open to them to become members of School Cadet Corps. Their exclusion from the corps of the higher Educational Institutions when they join them is regarded by them

as a slur upon their loyalty, a humiliating differentiation from other British subjects, and, in the case of students competing for the Medical, Civil, and other Government services, a denial of opportunity to acquire a training which is calculated to prove useful to them in the discharge of their future duties. We are not aware of any special reasons which justify such exclusion. On the contrary, as it withholds from those Indians who eventually enter the Civil and Medical Services a training which is of value to the effective discharge of their duties, specially on emergencies like riots and disturbances, and thus exposes them to unfair comparison with their English confrères, to whom this training is open, we consider that a strong case has been made out for allowing Indian Students to join the corps, especially in view of the fact that Indians in their own country are debarred from acquiring such training owing to their exclusion from all volunteer organisations.

THE STUDENTS' DEPARTMENT.

35. We now proceed to deal with the second section of our enquiry, namely, the complaints against the Indian Students' Department and with regard to 21, Cromwell Road.

36. One very general complaint on the part of the Students who gave evidence is that, contrary to the practice previous to the establishment of the Educational Bureau, they are compelled to procure the certificate of the officials of the Indian Students' Department before their application is at all entertained by the heads or authorities of some educational institutions. Their objection is based on the following grounds:—

- (i) that it creates a race distinction in regard to Indian Students; and as such is humiliating;
- (ii) that it compels them against their wishes in most cases to place themselves, in a sense, at the mercy of the officials; and,
- (iii) that at the very commencement of their career in this country such a demand implies a reflection upon their loyalty and nationality.

37. After carefully examining the history of the establishment and development of the Students' Department, so far as the materials available to us admitted of our doing so, we find that prior to the creation of the Bureau under Mr. Arnold, there was ample evidence that the Universities, especially those of Oxford and Cambridge, the Inns of Court, and the Medical and Engineering Schools, had shown a disposition to restrict the admission of Indian Students. They had also complained that they had no proper or sufficient means of ascertaining the character and qualifications of applicants for admission, and that there were no responsible guardians in this country to whom they could directly refer any questions concerning the antecedents, character, and pecuniary position of students. It appears that the Secretary of State regarded this situation as unsatisfactory and, with a view to providing a remedy, created the post of Educational Adviser, with the object, on the one hand, of assisting the Heads of the institutions to secure the desired information, and on the other, of facilitating through its good offices the admission of students to those institutions. When the Advisory Bureau was organised, it was declared that *its functions and responsibilities should only be assumed at the spontaneous request of Indian parents, and that it should be made quite clear that the Bureau had no desire to force its guardianship upon young men whose parents had not expressed a wish for it.* This was a condition essential to its success, and so far as the Students' Department is concerned we are assured that that condition is being strictly observed. Unfortunately, in the case of all the Colleges at Oxford and about half the Colleges at Cambridge, and at the Royal College of Agriculture at Cirencester, an element of compulsion has been imported into what was originally avowed to be a purely voluntary system, and was subsequently announced to be such by the Parliamentary Under Secretary in the House of Commons. This has produced an impression among Indian Students that some of them are unnecessarily compelled to place themselves under official guardianship, and that others are being driven to beg for the intervention of the Department for admission. It has been pointed out

to us that this enforced guardianship is at present insisted on by some of the Colleges. On the other hand, it must be admitted that educational institutions are justified in demanding detailed and trustworthy information regarding applicants. It is also obvious that in the case of students who, for the want of friends or independent guardians in this country, are unable to furnish properly authenticated information, the Students' Department can render them valuable help in this respect. It should be realised that, so long as Oxford and Cambridge Colleges insist on guardianship as a condition of admission, the Local Advisers there are affording assistance to students in enabling them to comply with it. It is hoped, however, that gradually the system of guardianship at Oxford and Cambridge will be made purely voluntary.

Again, with a steadily increasing number of students, occasions often arise when parents in India have to appeal for enquiry and report about their sons, who have wasted their time and resources or have fallen into undesirable ways. It is a matter of common knowledge that anxious enquiries of this nature are directed to persons here who find it difficult to answer them. In such cases also the Students' Department might be able to do useful work, not only by furnishing the necessary information, but by making some effort to reclaim an erring boy. While, therefore, we are of opinion that the Students' Department supplies a desideratum, we think that its functions ought to be undertaken only at the requests of parents or students. It strikes us that any appearance of compulsory recourse to the Department for its intervention should be modified. This might be done by conveying an official intimation to all educational institutions to consider the credentials of applicants for admission independently, and act upon them according to their own judgment, without insisting upon official introductions only. This would remove the suspicion attaching to the present system, and would make it clear that the provision for official help was not meant to be compulsory and had no other underlying motive than that of devising an assured and easy way of facilitating the admission of Indian Students into educational institutions.

We believe that the adoption of the course we recommend would not seriously lessen the number of Students who would spontaneously seek the good offices of the Students' Department for admission, for they will soon find out for themselves that the official organisation was after all the most direct and effective means for attaining the object in view.

21, CROMWELL ROAD.

38. Some of the complaints submitted to us against this house were mainly on the score of the expenditure in maintaining the establishment being disproportionate to its utility to Indian Students. As this is a matter which does not fall within the terms of reference we cannot offer any remarks on the subject. Other complaints were that the student class for whose benefit the house was established derived very little advantage, that the accommodation reserved for them was limited, that the house was overstaffed, a good many rooms being taken up to accommodate officials and servants, that the House Committee was entirely official without any independent Indian representation, that the place was thoroughly "officialised," the location of Mr. Arnold's office there specially investing it with an official atmosphere. After hearing evidence on these points we inspected the house. We are of opinion that it is calculated to serve the purpose originally intended, but there appears to be some ground for the complaints that the accommodation reserved for Students is at certain times of the year cramped, and that the location of the Bureau there imparts to it an official character which arouses distrust. We think it desirable for the fulfilment of the benevolent intentions of the Secretary of State that great attention should be paid to the Students' feelings and susceptibilities in regard to official supervision. We also believe that independent Indian representation on the House Committee is desirable, as it would secure a better understanding of the habits and wants of the Students and make them feel more at home.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

39. Our principal conclusions and recommendations are briefly recapitulated below :—

Law.

I. That the Secretary of State be approached with a view to bringing to the notice of the Inns of Court the hardship imposed upon students coming from India by laying down in their case a higher standard of admission, namely, an Indian University degree, than that prescribed for English entrants, and to recommend the recognition of the Intermediate examination of the Indian Universities for that purpose.

II. That certificates admissible under clause (a) of Regulation 2 (ii) of the Regulations issued by the Council of Legal Education should be accepted in the case of Indian students who have received or are receiving their education in the United Kingdom.

III. That it should be left to the option of a Student to read in the chambers of a barrister either in India or in this country either before or after his call to the Bar.

IV. That the LL.B. degree of the London University should be recognised in the new rules of the Allahabad High Court.

V. That it is desirable to bring about as much uniformity as possible in the rules of the different High Courts in India relating to the enrolment of advocates.

Medicine.

VI. That efforts should be made to secure the admission into the medical institutions in this country, and in London in particular, of a larger number of Indian Students than is the case at present.

VII. That all possible influence should be brought to bear on the Heads of Hospitals and Medical Schools to counteract the increasing racial prejudice on the part of European, and especially of Colonial Students, which operates to the disadvantage of Indian Students.

Engineering.

VIII. That in selecting candidates for appointment to the Imperial Public Works Department, the India Office should not follow such of the regulations of the Institution of Civil Engineers as run counter to those of the Universities in this country which have well organised Engineering Faculties, and no undue preference should be given to the Institution in this respect.

IX. That, with a view to securing increased facilities for the technical training of technical and industrial scholars, the Stores Department of the India Office, in accepting tenders for stores, should be requested to give preference, when all other conditions such as quality, price, &c., are equal, to the firms (of which a list should be kept) that may be willing to admit Indian students into their works for that purpose.

The Universities.

X. That the Secretary of State should be approached with a request to secure the admission of a larger proportion of Indian Students into the Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge than these two Universities have shown a disposition to admit in recent years.

XI. That it should be made optional in the case of Indian Students at Oxford to take up Latin or an Oriental classical language for the B.C.L. degree.

XII. That the Intermediate examination of Indian Universities should exempt Indian Students from passing Responsions and the Previous examination of Oxford and Cambridge respectively.

XIII. That the bar against the admission of Indian Students to the Officers' Training Corps attached to the various educational institutions should be removed.

The Students' Department.

XIV. That the present system of recourse to the Students' Department for its intervention in securing the admission of Students into educational institutions should be so modified as to admit of the

credentials of applicants for entrance being considered on their own merits and independently by the authorities of the institutions concerned.

Guardianship.

XV. That no compulsion should be exercised upon Indian Students by the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge or any other educational institution, to place themselves under the guardianship of the Central Bureau or of the Local Advisers, and that the voluntary character of the scheme, as originally contemplated, should be maintained.

21, Cromwell Road.

XVI. That two Indian gentlemen should be appointed to serve on the House Committee.

XVII. That the question of locating the Educational Adviser's Office elsewhere so as to enable more rooms in Cromwell House to be placed at the disposal of students, receive careful consideration.

40. In conclusion, we have much pleasure in expressing our appreciation of the great assistance we have received from Mr. Field, who has had to cope single-handed with a large body of evidence in somewhat difficult circumstances.

(Signed) M. M. BHOWNAGGREE.
M. A. A. BAIG.
C. A. LATIF.
N. P. SINHA.

LETTER FROM THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA

TO THE

SECRETARY, ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDIAN STUDENTS, LONDON.

SIR,

31st March 1915.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th February, forwarding the report of the Sub-Committee appointed in October 1913 to enquire into grievances of Indian Students, and to express Lord Crewe's appreciation of the work which has been done and the trouble which has been taken by the Sub-Committee.

2. Many of the Recommendations in the Report have already engaged the close attention of the India Office. The question of the value to be attached in Great Britain to examinations passed in Indian Universities, referred to in Recommendation I and again in Recommendation XII of the Report, is one which the Secretary of State is prepared to ask the Government of India to bring to the notice of Indian Universities, with a view to action on their part if they think right. Of late years the tendency has been to decline to accept the Intermediate Examination of Indian Universities as equivalent to Responsions or the Previous Examination at Oxford and Cambridge, and to insist on an Indian degree instead. The University of Oxford has since the beginning of 1912 required an Indian degree to exempt Indian candidates from Responsions; the University of Cambridge is understood to be considering the subject now; and the Consolidated Regulations of the Inns of Court have, since the discontinuance of the Preliminary Examination in 1910, required an Indian degree as one of the qualifications for the admission of Students to the Inns of Court. But if the Indian Universities were able to convince the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge that the Indian Intermediate Examination ought generally to be regarded as equivalent to Responsions and the Previous examination, it would, no doubt,

carry great weight with the Council of Legal Education and the Inns of Court.

3. Recommendation II advocates a system which is already provided for by the Consolidated Regulations of the Inns of Court, and the attention of the Inns has already been drawn to the matter.

4. Recommendations III and V raise questions which have been the subject of correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Government of India since May 1911. In March, 1914, the Secretary of State proposed that these questions and others relating to the training of Indian advocates should be considered in informal conferences between representatives of the Indian High Courts and the authorities in this country. The first of such conferences was held in London, under the Chairmanship of the Lord Chancellor, in June 1914, at which Judges of the Madras High Court were present, and arrangements were in progress for similar conferences with representatives of the other Indian High Courts, when the outbreak of war compelled their postponement. Temporary delay is unavoidable, but it is proposed to resume these conferences as soon as the war is over, and the points raised in the Sub-Committee's Recommendations will then be considered again.

5. The attention of the High Court of the United Provinces has already been called to the point raised in Recommendation IV.

6. The policy advocated by the Sub-Committee in Recommendations VI and VII has been the policy of the Secretary of State for some time past. No opportunity is lost of urging upon the London Hospitals the claims of suitable Indian candidates, of endeavouring to secure greater facilities for them, and of discouraging any racial prejudice that may stand in their way. At the same time it should be borne in mind that over 70 Indian Students were admitted to the principal London Hospitals in the year ending on the 30th June 1914, and that outside London there are first-rate facilities for medical training to be obtained in several Medical Schools and Universities

in England to which as yet very few Indian Students have sought to obtain admission.

7. The course proposed by the Sub-Committee in Recommendation VIII has already been adopted by the Public Works Department, and the present regulations for candidates for that Department do recognise, even though the Institution of Civil Engineers may not, the exemptions granted to Indian graduates in Science by certain Universities in the United Kingdom.

8. Recommendation IX raises again a question which has more than once been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State. The Report proposes that the Stores Department of the India Office should in accepting tenders give a preference, when all other conditions are equal, to contractors who will undertake to offer facilities to Indian Students. The Secretary of State adheres to the view that it would be contrary to the public interest to introduce conditions of this nature into the consideration of tenders and contracts, which must be treated on a business footing. This rule does not prevent the Stores Department, and has not deterred it in the past, from giving students introductions in a few special cases when they may be of use. But it would be a mistake to suppose that, even were the recommendations of the Sub-Committee adopted, the opportunities of Indian Students as a whole would be substantially increased. Facilities for practical training in Civil Engineering on railways, bridges, docks, and roads are now undoubtedly difficult to secure in Great Britain, not for Indian Students only, but for all Students alike, because there is comparatively little new constructional work to be done, and in this respect it is very doubtful if the Stores Department could give much help. But practical training in other forms of Engineering, and in other technical and industrial pursuits, can generally be obtained by Indians without much difficulty, and without the agency of the Stores Department, especially when the Students are willing to take a thorough and continuous course. Competent and reliable Students who will comply with the necessary conditions, spend the necessary time in workshops, and pay the fees which are in some cases required, ought not now to find serious

difficulty in securing the opportunities they desire. The Local Advisers of the Students' Department, especially in Manchester and Glasgow, have been very successful in securing practical facilities for Indian Students in factories and workshops there, even without the payment of a fee; and, although trade customs and trade secrets may sometimes render manufacturers unwilling to admit any Students, to whatever nation they belong, experience proves that British manufacturers are not as a whole unwilling to afford facilities to Indian Students likely to use them well.

9. As regards Recommendations X and XV, the Secretary of State has during the last few years made strong representations to Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge with a view to securing more admissions for Indian Students there, and, as a result of these representations and of the efforts of the Local Advisers, every College at Cambridge and every College with two exceptions at Oxford has now consented to reserve vacancies for Indian Students. During the last six months the number of vacancies offered at certain Oxford Colleges has been sensibly increased, and every opportunity is being taken at both Universities to urge the claims of Indian Students. But at the same time it should be realised that the response made to these claims, and the welcome afforded to Indian Students at Oxford and Cambridge, will always depend principally on themselves. Every Indian Student who wins good opinions by his conduct and abilities at Oxford and Cambridge strengthens the case for the admission of others. Any Students, on the other hand, who fail in these respects inevitably prejudice the claims of others. The College system at Oxford and Cambridge is a thing by itself, and each College has its own rules and requirements, which Students who join it are expected to accept. So long as several Colleges make it a condition that Indian Students whom they admit should be placed under the financial guardianship of the Local Adviser, students who desire to enter those Colleges must comply with the condition, and the Secretary of State can only provide machinery which may enable them to do so.

10. As regards Recommendation XI, the Secretary of State is not prepared to ask the authorities of Oxford University to dispense with the study of Latin, if they regard it as a necessary part of the training, in the case of the B.C.L. Degree.

11. The question of the admission of Indian Students to the Officers' Training Corps at British Universities, referred to in Recommendation XIII, is one which has lately engaged the close attention of the Secretary of State for India, who has brought it to the notice of the Secretary of State for War. But it is one of several military questions which can only receive adequate consideration from the Military authorities after the conclusion of the war.

12. As regards Recommendation XIV, the Secretary of State, while desiring that all applications from Indian Students should be considered on their merits, thinks it would be inadvisable, in the interests of Students themselves, to invite English educational institutions to consider their applications wholly without reference to the India Office. Some English institutions are at present willing to admit Indian candidates only if the India Office will afford help in regard to their applications, and the power to admit is in their hands. An official intimation of the kind suggested to these institutions could only, his Lordship fears, be prejudicial to the candidature of the Students for whom an opportunity of entrance has to be obtained.

13. As regards Recommendation XVI and XVII, the former has already been adopted, and the latter will be carefully considered.

14. Subject to such observations as are indicated above, the Secretary of State will endeavour to further the Sub-Committee's Recommendations, and he is prepared to publish their Report as they desire, but with this reply attached, in such form as will render it available to the Students and institutions interested.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. W. HOLDERNESS.

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From

G. Anderson, Esq., M.A.,

Asst. Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Educational Department.

Sir,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy (with 30 spare copies) of the report of a Sub-Committee of the London Advisory Committee for Indian students and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency in Council, copies may be circulated to the local provincial advisory committee and to the principal newspapers in the presidency.

2. Copies of the report are also being placed on sale with the Agents for Government publications in this country.

rs
x Sent Separately

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. Anderson

Asst. Secretary to the Government of India.

J.B.N.

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