

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1004.

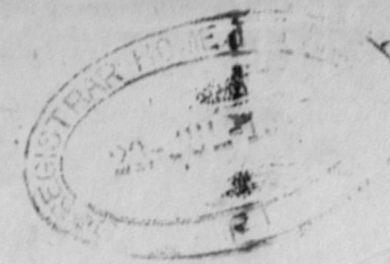
DATED 3-8-1917.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Indian Educational Service.

Recording letter from the Government of India requesting that the name of Mr. George Matthai may be brought on the general list of candidates for appointment to the _____.



No. 615.

Sc are not available

FROM

G. ANDERSON, Esq., M. A.,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India,

Con A

2531

Regd 2070

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home (Education) Department.

Department of Education.
Education.

Simla, the 13th July 1917.

SIR,

I am directed to enclose papers noted in the margin regarding Mr. George

1. Letter from the India Office No. J. & P.
412-17, dated the 12th April 1917, and enclosures.

2. Statement of particulars of Mr. Matthai's
qualifications.

Matthai who is a candidate for an appointment in the Indian Educational Service, and to request that, with the

permission of the Governor in Council,

Mr. Matthai's name may be brought on the general list of such candidates which was forwarded with this Department letter no. 209, dated the 6th March 1917.

(S)
info 387
20.8.17

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

G. Anderson

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

He also applied direct to the Govt. for a suitable vacancy
fo 571
2-5-17

J. and P. 412-17.

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL,

London, S. W. 1.,

12th April 1917.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,

With reference to your letter to Sir Thomas Holderness, dated 18th February 1916 about the vacant chair of Zoology at the Government College, Lahore, I enclose for your information copies of the testimonials of Mr. George Matthai, who, it is believed, would be willing to accept the appointment if it were offered him. From the enclosures you will see that Mr. Matthai has had a most brilliant academical career; and his testimonials are so remarkable that the Government of India may desire to secure the services of Mr. Matthai for the vacant post. It is of course only fair and right that in the ordinary course recruitment for this post should be postponed until after the war, but Mr. Matthai's record is so brilliant that it is very unlikely that any equally highly qualified candidate could be found for the vacancy at any later date. Mr. Afzal Husain would probably have to be considered for the post (see the Viceroy's telegram of the 22nd September last), but Mr. Matthai seems to have higher qualifications.

1. From Mr. Wood.

2. From Dr. Shipley.

3. From Dr. Bourne.

4. From Prof. Hopkins.

5. From Dr. Giles.

6. Statement of Academic Career at Cambridge.

Edn. B, September 1916, nos. 78-79.

If the Government of India agree that in view of the exceptional qualifications of Mr. Matthai he should be considered at once for the post, would you be so good as to telegraph their approval, and the necessary steps will then be taken here.

Yours sincerely,

M. C. SETON.

The Hon'ble

Sir E. D. Maclagan, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Simla.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE,

CAMBRIDGE,

9th December 1916.

Mr. George Matthai was admitted to this College in October 1911 and has since had a very distinguished academic career. Zoology was his principal subject of study but he was anxious to make himself familiar with English methods of teaching and laboratory instruction in allied subjects and so took the Honours Courses in Botany, Physiology and Geology as well. At the same time he devoted himself to Research in Zoology and, at the end of two years, submitted a thesis for the B. A. degree which was accepted. This made him eligible for a Research Studentship of this College and for the Sudbury-Hardyman Prize, which is given for the best original dissertation of the year. Both of these distinctions he won in normal times against a strong field. For purposes of research he has travelled widely and has examined collections of coral or donemarine Zoological

work at Paris, Berlin, Copenhagen, Vienna, New York, Harvard, Yale, Washington, Tortugas and Bermudas.

With regard to his qualifications for teaching, he came to us with four years' experience behind him and has given a course of advanced lectures in this University. From my knowledge of him I have no doubt whatever that he would be a stimulating teacher and quite capable of handling his students.

With regard to Research it is not too much to say that few students have had a more distinguished record. The award by the Royal Society of London of the Mackinnon Studentship and its renewal in two successive years is a testimony to which nothing need be added.

Personally I have known him well. He has got on well with everyone with whom he has come in contact and has entered keenly into the social life of the College. He has overcome race prejudices where these existed and has formed many friendships. He is a thoughtful and cultured student, with interests much wider than Zoology or even Natural Science and whether as a teacher, a research student, or a colleague I cannot recommend him too highly.

(Sd.) ALEX. WOOD, M.A.

*Fellow and Tutor, Emmanuel College,
Cambridge.*

CHRIST'S COLLEGE LODGE,

CAMBRIDGE.

9th December 1916.

I wish to testify to the abilities of Mr. George Matthai, who is already a Zoologist of eminence, and his published work is of great merit.

Mr. Matthai has travelled extensively and the mere fact that he has received grants from the Balfour Fund, and has been a Mackinnon Student of the Royal Society, and has published in the 'Transactions of the Linnean Society,' his Paper being subsidised by the Royal Society, is enough to establish his claim to distinction as a man of Science.

He was *proxime accessit* for the Rolleston Prize, which is open to Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, in the year 1916.

Mr. Matthai's published works place him high amongst the younger school of Zoologists. He has had considerable experience as a teacher, having lectured for four years at the Madras Christian College, and has also given a course of Advanced Zoology in Cambridge, being, I believe, the first Indian to lecture in Science in the University. I strongly recommend him for a post under the Indian Educational Department.

(Sd.) A. E. SHIPLEY, Sc.D., F.R.S.,

*Master of Christ's College, Cambridge,
and University Reader in Zoology,*

December 11th, 1916.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have had exceptional opportunities for appraising the value of Mr. George Matthai's work, particularly his large memoir on the Revision of the recent Colonial *Astræidæ*, and consider that this and other original research carried out by him gives evidence of great industry, a thorough grasp of the principles of Zoological Science and exceptional ability in drawing conclusions from the study of the large mass of material which he has collected and worked through.

Taking into consideration his proved capacity for original research, his wide and extensive training in Zoology at the University of Cambridge, and the experience he has gained as a Lecturer in the University, I am confident that Mr. Matthai is fully qualified for the post of Professor of Zoology or Biology in the Indian Educational Department.

(Sd.) GILBERT C. BOURNE, D.Sc., F.R.S.,

Linacre Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, Oxford.

BIOCHEMICAL LABORATORY,

CAMBRIDGE.

December 12th, 1916.

I have known Mr. George Matthai, B.A. of Emmanuel College for 5 years and have a very high opinion of his ability and scientific attainments.

While unable to judge of the technical merits of his research work, I can testify from personal knowledge that he has brought enthusiastic interest and disinterested industry to its accomplishment. I have listened to him with some frequency in discussion and debate—formal and informal—and am sure that he is specially capable of clear exposition and statement. I believe therefore that he would always prove a successful teacher.

I can from every point of view strongly recommend Mr. Matthai for a post in the Indian Educational Service.

(Sd.) F. G. HOPKINS, F.R.S.,

*Fellow of Trinity College and Honorary Fellow of
Emmanuel College, Professor of Biochemistry in
the University of Cambridge.*

EMMUEL COLLEGE LODGE,

CAMBRIDGE.

December 11th, 1916.

I have much pleasure in supporting the application of Mr. George Matthai, B.A., for an academical post in India where it will be possible to make the best use of his great abilities as a Zoologist and his undoubted talent for research. I have no claim to a technical knowledge of Mr. Matthai's Zoological work, but it has been my duty to collect information regarding it when he was a candidate for one of the studentships for research offered by this College to graduates and again when he submitted a dissertation in competition for the Sudbury-Hardyman Prize at this College. On both occasions Mr. Matthai's work was spoken of in the highest terms. His dissertation was examined by two University Professors who both expressed the opinion that his researches had gone far to revolutionize the accepted views on the formation of coral. The dissertation has since been published by the Linnean Society with the help of a large grant from the Royal Society for illustrations. Aided from various sources Mr. Matthai has been able to study the material for his special subject not only in the museums of this country and the Continent, but also to pay a prolonged visit to America where Harvard University gave him special facilities for research at the University Zoological stations.

Mr. Matthai, so far as my knowledge goes, has done more in research than any of his countrymen and for their sakes as well as in the interest of scientific study it is of great importance that his abilities should be employed to the best advantage. He is not a novice in teaching for he was on the staff of the Christian College, Madras, for four years before he came to this country. While

resident in Cambridge he has familiarised himself with the regular science course by attending the courses of lectures which are given for the Tripos, and he has also had the opportunity of giving an advanced course of lectures in the University himself. Nor is he merely a specialist. He is a man of wide reading and he has been a popular and influential member of the College during the five years that he has been a member of it. I know him well personally and am confident that students under his charge will not merely be instructed in Zoology, but will be inspired with high ideals.

(Sd.) P. GILES, *Litt. D., LL.D.*,

Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Statement of Academic Career at the University of Cambridge.

December 16th, 1916.

I was admitted into Emmanuel College, Cambridge, as an Advanced Student in June, 1911, and pursued a course of research in Zoology at the University during 1911-13 under Professor J. Stanley Gardiner, F. R. S. I was awarded the B. A. Honour's Degree by Research in June, 1913.

I was then elected to a Research Studentship of £150 at Emmanuel College, which was supplemented by a grant of £30 from the Balfour Fund of Cambridge University.

In the Summer of 1913 I travelled to Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Copenhagen to examine Coral Collections in connection with my research on "A Revision of the recent Colonial *Astræidæ* possessing distinct Corallites." The Thesis was published in the Transactions of the Linnæan Society. The Royal Society gave a grant of £70 from their Publication Fund towards the cost of the plates.

In May 1914 I was awarded the Sudbury-Hardyman Prize of £30 at Emmanuel College open to Graduate members of the College for the best thesis of the year.

In July 1914 the President and Council of the Royal Society awarded me the Mackinnon Research Studentship of £150 a year open to Science Graduates of any University in the British Empire. This was renewed to me for a second year in 1915, and renewed again for a third year in 1916. This is the first time that the Mackinnon Studentship has ever been renewed for a third year.

In May 1915 I proceeded to America with Grants of £150 from the Balfour Fund and £30 from the Government Grant Committee of the Royal Society to carry out further Research on "A Revision of the *Mæandroid Astræidæ* based on the Comparative Anatomy of Polyps and Skeleton." I spent over six months examining Coral Collections in New York, Harvard, Yale and Washington. I also studied living Corals at the Carnegie Biological Station at Tortugas (Gulf of Mexico), and at the Bermuda Biological Station (in the Atlantic) maintained by Harvard University.

In the lent Term of 1915 I gave an Advanced Course of lectures at the University of Cambridge to students preparing for Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos. I am the first Indian who had the honour of lecturing at the University.

In May 1916 I was declared *proxime accessit* by the Judges of the Rolleston Memorial Prize at the University of Oxford. The Prize is open to Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, and awarded once in two years for original research in any subject bearing on Animal and Vegetable Morphology, Physiology and Pathology and Anthropology. The Prize itself was awarded

for research in Physiology to Mr. Douglas Adrian, M.A., M.B., B.C., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, who was several years my senior.

In October 1916 the Managers of the Balfour Fund of Cambridge University made me another Grant of £100 in furtherance of my research.

I have now completed a Paper on "Colony-formation in *Astræid Corals*" which will shortly be published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society. By June 1917 I hope to complete a Monograph on a "Revision of the *Mæandroid Astræidæ* based on Comparative Anatomy of polyps and skeleton" which will be published in the Transactions of the Linnæan Society.

During 1911-14 I took all the University Courses in Zoology, Botany, Physiology and Geology for the Natural Sciences Tripos (Part I) and the Advanced Courses in Zoology for Part II of the Tripos. During the Easter Vacation of 1912 I took a practical course on "Experimental Morphology and Dynamics of living matter" under Dr. Cresswell Shearer, F.R.S., at the Marine Biological Station, Plymouth. I have also taken course on "Genetics" under Professor R. C. Punnett, F. R. S. and on "Cytology" under Dr. Doncaster, F.R.S.

Before I left India I was a member of the Madras Christian College. In 1907 I took the B. A. Degree of the Madras University in the First Class, and in 1909 the M. A. Degree. In both examinations I was placed first on the list.

I was Lecturer in Zoology at the Madras Christian College during the four years 1907-11.

I am a member of the Ancient Christian Church in Malabar, South India. I have now completed 29 years of age.

Statement giving particulars of Mr. George Matthai's candidature for an appointment in the Indian Educational Service.

No.	Province.	Name of candidate.	Qualifications.	Particular appointment applied for.	Remarks and references.
		George Matthai	Madras :— B. A. 1st class (1907). M. A. 1st class (1909). Cambridge :— B. A. Degree with Honours by Research (1913). Holder of Royal Society's Mackinnon Studentship (1914-16).	Professorship of Zoology.	At present in England.

Sept. 11.10 (b)—L-17

Home Ed.) DEPARTMENT.

J. 3. 8

Recording letter from the Govt. of India requesting that the name of Mr George Mathai may be brought on the general list of candidates for appointment to the —

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191

191

READ ALSO:—

READ ALSO:-
C. No. 2531A. From the Govt. of India Dept. of Education, No. 615, dated 13.7.1917

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191

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Misc.

No. 1004, dated 3. 8. 1917

Recorded

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