

# The Ceylon *Fast Nightly* Review

Vol. XIII

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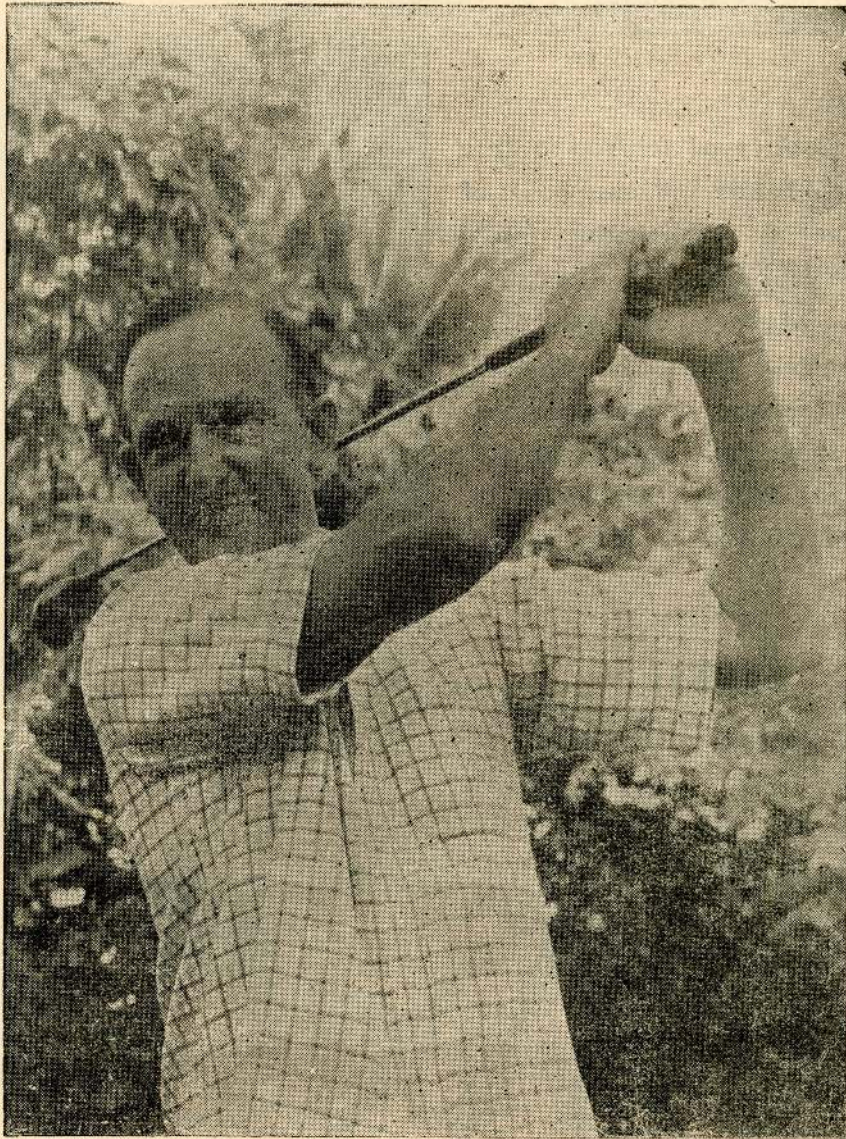


Photo by John & Co.

**M. G. Thornton**

*FOR the second year in succession "Mike" Thornton annexed the Amateur Golf Championship of Ceylon at Nuwara Eliya, in addition to winning the Victoria Cup for the best medal round.*

*His score of 76 was easily the best returned by a good class of competitors, including D. L. Anderson, a top-ranking golfer from Bangkok.*

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## ASSISTED SCHOOLS

THE schools take-over law has placed many of the older institutions in a tragic dilemma, such are the alternatives that confront them. The choice before them is to become unaided schools, which few of them, if any, will be able to do, or to submit to a referendum of teachers and parents if they wish to convert themselves into fee-levying schools. The requirement that 75 per cent of the votes should be in favour makes the result of the referendum unpredictable because in many schools most of the parents and a good number of teachers are not of the religion of the management.

\* \* \*

THE situation in which these schools find themselves is indeed poor requital for the profound contribution they have made to national education, in some cases over more than a century. A point that has not received sufficient attention is that, if most of them have pupils belonging to a religion different from that of the management, it is the result of Government policy, for schools were forbidden to refuse admission to pupils on the ground that they were not of the same denomination as the body running the school. In other words, they are now being penalised for having abided by the law.

\* \* \*

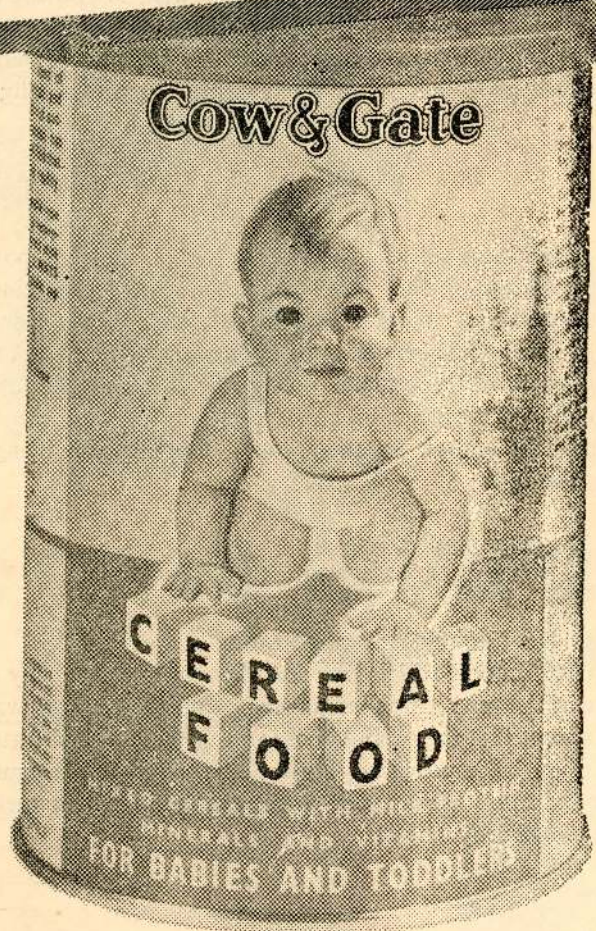
THE new law also has the effect of perpetrating a contradiction. There are already some private schools which levy fees, having opted to stay out of the free education scheme at the time it was introduced. But their choice was not subject to any condition except that they should conform to the national system. Why then should a referendum be imposed on those that entered the scheme but now would like to resume the *status quo* in view of the change in Government policy? The discrimination is manifestly unjust.

\* \* \*

AS the Bishop of Colombo said in addressing the Diocesan Council, what is to be deplored is the haste with which the Government is proceeding to take over the schools without giving itself or the denominational bodies concerned time to go into all the implications of the transformation. The Minister of Education has said that the character of the schools will not be affected under state management. This it will be difficult to accept. Either the schools should function in a religious atmosphere or not. It is no part of the state to teach religion. If it does, it will not be in the spirit in which it should be done.

THE EDITOR

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# MATTERS OF MOMENT

—By BRUTUS—

AN event of far-reaching effect was the passing in the last week of October, of the Bill empowering the Government, as a first step in taking over assisted schools, to vest their management in the Director of Education. A second Bill is to be introduced to provide for details of the national education system contemplated by the Government.

There were early indications that the Government would seek to have the Bill disposed of in one day, but the former Minister of Education, Mr. W. Dahanayake, started a filibuster which entailed his continuing his speech the following day—he spoke for eight hours. In the end the Bill was debated for a whole week. The second reading was passed by 101 votes to 44, the UNP and the Federal Party voting against the Bill. The division on the third reading was 63 to 17.

\* \* \*

THE Government has now begun to woo the Tamil-speaking areas. The campaign opened at Trincomalee, where the Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, opened an office of the SLFP. The party put forward a Tamil candidate, Mr. E. R. S. R. Coomaraswamy, advocate, for Trincomalee at the general election without success. Of the two members returned by the adjoining dual-member constituency of Mutur, however, one was an SLFP man, Mr. A.L. Majeed.

Courtship of Jaffna was a combined effort on the part of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalla and the Minister of Home Affairs, Industries and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, who, having had part of his education at St. John's College, is conversant with Tamil. They did not go empty handed. One of the gifts they bore was a new railway station for Jaffna, for which Mr. Kalugalla laid the foundation stone. He also arranged for expansion of the accommodation at the Jaffna post office. Improvement of the port of Kankasanturai with World Bank aid is under examination at the moment.

A significant statement made by Mr. Bandaranaike at Trincomalee, evidently as spokesman for the Prime Minister as her parliamentary secretary, was that a federal form of government was not suited to Ceylon. The resources of the northern and eastern provinces were not sufficient to maintain a separate government, he said. The Government had a socialist programme, he added, and every part of the country would be developed. He gave the assurance that Sinhalese would not be forced down the throats of the Tamils, nor would there be discrimination against Tamils in the public service.

A long term project he envisaged was development of Trincomalee as a commercial port.

In Jaffna the ministers were received with garlands at the airport and taken to a public reception in procession with music. Among the speakers was a former senator, Mr. S. R. Canaganayagam, who said that the welcome to the visitors was not on party lines. The Sinhalese and the Tamils could not do without each other, he asserted.

AT a dinner given by St. John's College old boys, at which Mr. Bandaranaike was chief guest, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, who as Minister of Transport at the time introduced the Sinhalese Sri symbol in the number plate of motor vehicles, said that he was under great pressure at the time to implement the Official Language Act. He explained that his choice of the symbol was because it was neither Sinhalese nor Tamil but Sanskrit, which was common to both languages. He thought he was being fair but it led to unfortunate repercussions. He would do all in his power to heal the rupture between the two communities, he declared.

The ministers visited the Kankasanturai cement factory and the Paranthan chemicals factory and the naval station at Karainagar. A conference held by Mr. Kalugalla at the Jaffna kachcheri was attended by five Federal Party M.P.'s.

\* \* \*

AT a savings rally in Jaffna which Mr. Senanayake inaugurated, Mr. Bandaranaike said nobody could deny that a language issue existed in Ceylon. Nevertheless three ministers had come to the north in a spirit of friendship to study the common problems of the people.



Times Photo

The Royal Ceylon Air Force celebrated its tenth anniversary with a cocktail party at the headquarters office in Colombo. The picture shows the Commander of the RCyAF, Air Vice-Marshal J. L. Barker, with two of the guests, Mr. B. N. Kapur, High Commissioner for India (left), and Mr. H. E. Tennekoon, former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs.

## MATTERS OF MOMENT

A peon created a sensation by speaking in Sinhalese at a meeting of the Government Clerical Service Union which Mr. Bandaranaike attended.

The Federal M.P. for Kayts, Mr. V. A. Kandiah, was present at the opening of a bascule bridge at Pannai by Mr. Senanayake. In his speech here Mr. Bandaranaike invited Mr. Kandiah to come to his constituency of Dompe and preach federalism. He claimed no communal feeling prevailed there. He gave the assurance that no distinction would be made between the north and the south in schemes of national development.

Mr. Kandiah said: "The Tamils are still bleeding from the wounds inflicted in the recent past and the Government will not only have to stop the bleeding but also cure the wounds".

\* \* \*

RUSSIAN oil is shortly to be available in Ceylon. A Ceylonese company has signed a contract to import 130,000 tons of petrol annually. The representative of a distributing agency came to Colombo to sign the contract for the Soviet side. It is expected that the Russian oil will be about 25 per cent cheaper than the prices obtaining at present.

The former Admiralty tanks in Trincomalee will, it is reported, be used for the storage of the Russian oil. Retail sales will be through cooperative societies, in keeping with the new policy of the Government to Ceylonise trade by the establishment of broad-based organizations.

\* \* \*

AN offer of Rs. 75 million in aid made by China in 1958, at the rate of Rs. 15 million annually, is to be availed of by the Government.

\* \* \*

THE Ceylon-Australia shipping conference has raised the freight rates between the two countries by 6 per cent. It is explained that the "upward revision in rates" is entirely attributable to increased handling charges in Australia and general operating costs, and is in no way connected with port conditions in Colombo.

The official statement added: "The general freight increase is introduced after four years of stability and follows those which have recently been announced in other trades to and from Australia".

\* \* \*

WHILE talks for the purchase of rice from Burma have been dead-locked on the question of price and Burmese imports from Ceylon, the United Arab Republic has offered to sell rice to Ceylon at world market rates and take Ceylon produce in exchange. A trade delegation from UAR is due in Colombo shortly.



Mr. W. T. Greswell

*This former well known Ceylon merchant and sportsman presided at the recent Horn Club dinner held in London.*

Egypt is a consumer of Ceylon tea, but there has been a falling off in imports in recent years on account of exchange difficulties. It is now indicated, however, that UAR is willing to enter into a trade pact under which rice suitable to Ceylon would be supplied and in return purchase would be made not only of tea but other commodities.

\* \* \*

SIR Eric Jansz, C.M.G., has just retired as Chairman of the Public Service Commission, a post which called for the highest qualities which a public servant should possess. The Public Service Commission was established to create

confidence among Government officers in the impartiality of the administration and among the people in the efficiency and incorruptibility of the Public Service. It has great authority and power, without any court of appeal to over-rule it. The Chairman is a whole-time officer.

Sir Eric had been trained in an older tradition of the Civil Service, which placed a high value on discipline, keen attention to duty, first-hand knowledge of the conditions of the people and high moral standards.

\* \* \*

THE Civil Service cadet in those days had the best possible training in a provincial kachcheri. Early judicial experience gave him an independence and impartiality which fitted him for high office in later years. As a District Judge, Sir Eric gained that comprehensive knowledge of the land laws and land problems which made him an ideal Settlement Officer. The wisdom and fairness of the administration of Crown lands under Civil Servants like Sir Eric Jansz and E. F. Marshall mitigated the rigours of what would otherwise have been an oppressive law.

\* \* \*

THE late Mr. D. S. Senanayake was Minister of Agriculture for sixteen years and during that period came into close contact with a number of Ceylonese Civil Servants who looked up to him as a friendly guide. The late C. L. Wickremasinghe was an adviser on whose judgment and experience he relied greatly. There were others like Sir Eric Jansz, L. L. Hunter, N. E. Ernst and C. Coomaraswamy, whose careers he had watched and whose loyalty he cherished. He knew that these men had a high sense of duty and would be willing to serve their country even after they had retired from the Civil Service during the important transitional period. Many of them, at the age of fifty-five or sixty, were in their prime, and Mr. Senanayake was determined to make the best use of such men.

Sir Eric Jansz, who will be seventy on the 13th of this month, entered the Civil Service in September, 1914, and was attached to the Kandy Kachcheri. He served for many years in the Land Settlement Department after a period of service as Police Magistrate, Kalutara.



## MATTERS OF MOMENT

At the time of his retirement from the Civil Service he was Settlement Officer.

He was educated at St. Thomas' College, where he had a brilliant career.

\* \* \*

**C**OLLABORATION between India and Ceylon in tea sales promotion will be discussed when a delegation from India, led by the Chairman of the Indian Tea Board, comes to Colombo shortly. The director and secretary of the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board, Mr. C. O. Coorey, has already had talks with the Indian Tea Board in Delhi on contributions for joint promotion in America and other countries.

Meanwhile, following a visit to Ceylon of an Irish tea delegation, Ceylon is considering joining the Irish Tea Council, of which India is already a member. The Irish delegation first went to India, which is the main source of supply of tea to Ireland. From talks the delegation had with Ceylon tea interests it is believed that there is scope for developing the market in the Republic. Last year exports to Ireland, chiefly mid-country tea, showed an increase.

\* \* \*

**I**T appears that in Ceylon the net demographic effect of malaria control for the present could be to reduce population pressure by providing more living space, says Dr. Harald Frederiksen, program officer of the U.S. Public Health Service's Division of International Health, discussing effects of Ceylon's anti-malaria campaign in an article entitled "Malaria Control and Population Pressure in Ceylon" in the October issue of "Public Health Reports". He notes that the campaign is relieving the population "explosion" by opening up the four-fifths of the island which previously had been so malarial that it was almost uninhabitable.

Many persons feel, he points out, that the campaign is contributing to over population in Ceylon and they cite the fact that the death rate had greatly decreased while the birth rate has remained steadily high. Persons expressing this opinion feel that the increasing population may eventually lead to poverty and famine in Ceylon, he says.

**D**r. Frederiksen asserts that malaria control efforts have, however, had only a limited effect on the death rate in Ceylon. The areas in which malaria bearing mosquitoes have been systematically sprayed with insecticides—four-fifths of the country—previously were so badly infested with the insects that only 38 per cent. of Ceylon's population lived there. Further, the most dramatic reduction in Ceylon's death rate took place in the second half of 1946, when only 81 per cent. of the national population had been protected from malaria. In that period the number of deaths declined 25 per cent. in all Ceylon and 24 per cent. in the unsprayed fifth of the country. He concludes that the difference is insufficient to establish malaria control as the significant factor for the dramatic decline.

He concludes that the available evidence fails to establish malaria control as the sole or major cause of a population explosion in Ceylon.

**M**R. N. Y. Tarakanov, the new Soviet Ambassador to Ceylon, arrived in Colombo on October 25, accompanied by his wife. He was received by the Russian Charge d'Affairs, Mr. N. S. Orlov, and Mr. N. de Silva, Assistant Protocol Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs.

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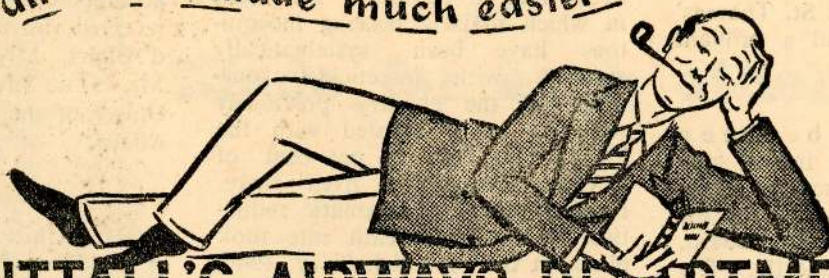
**T**HE Chief Justice of Ceylon the Hon. Mr. H. H. Basnayake, and Mrs. Basnayake dined with Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace during their two-week visit to the United Kingdom. They also attended the opening of Parliament. Their schedule includes visits to Cambridge, Oxford and Newcastle. They return to Ceylon on November 15.

Mr. and Mrs. Basnayake, who arrived in London on October 31, had a full programme arranged for them by the British Council



Julian Harris wears "Cascade", a wrist watch in a setting of fine baguaille diamonds valued at approximately Rs. 93,000, which was on show at this year's Watch and Jewellery Trade Fair in London. The watch features a new technique of setting diamonds invisibly. The design was inspired by a stream of clear cool water, the effect of the movement of water being simulated by mounting a spray of diamonds on springs, giving a cascade effect as the light strikes the moving gems.

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# THE FORWARD LOOK

— BY ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON —

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

**I**N an age when anniversary celebrations concerned with people and events crop up almost every day—silver and golden jubilees, diamond ones, centenaries, bi-centenaries and so on—it made a refreshing change the other day to discover that British Railways had “forgotten” the centenary of London’s Victoria station.

This famous terminus, the “gateway” between Britain and the Continent of Europe used so extensively by overseas travellers, was first opened on October 1, 1860. The only people to recall the fact, it seems, were a small party of enthusiasts who made a pilgrimage to Victoria from the Railway Historical Society in the Midland town of Derby. A British Railways official was quoted as saying: “We are occupied with the future, rather than living in the past”.

I think this answer was a good one. Britain, which was pioneering the Railway Age with a country-wide network of tracks more than a century and a quarter ago, is putting through the biggest scheme of rail modernisation in history. Something like £600,000,000 has been spent already in a 15-year plan which may run to £1,600,000,000 or more, and seasoned travellers need not look far to note the enormous progress in speed and comfort over the past few years. The steam engine is on the way out. More and more streamlined electric and diesel expresses whisk us from city to city.

\* \* \*

## SAFER IN A TRAIN

**B**UT these are only the obvious improvements. Much escapes the ordinary passenger’s notice because it is going on behind the scenes—the remodelling of the freight services, for instance, and the installation of new automated marshalling yards, to say nothing of better tracks and safer signalling arrangements.

It looks as if the safest place to be in last year was a train on British Railways. In 1959, only one passenger was killed in a train accident according to the latest annual report

from the Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways. There are more fatalities in people’s homes, certainly more on the roads. The Report includes graphs showing how, since 1946, the train fatality rate has been halved. Collisions and derailments have dropped by a third, and failures of rolling stock and tracks are less than a quarter of the 1946 figures.

\* \* \*

## LAST OF ENGLAND’S TRAMS

**F**OR purely sentimental reasons, I am sorry the steam engine is to disappear. I can shed a meta-



Sir James Robertson

*Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria since 1955, became the first Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria on the Federation’s attainment of full independence last month.*

phorical tear, too, for the good old electric street tram. In the steel city of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, we have just waved farewell to the city’s last tram, driven off the streets into the depot by the Lord Mayor. It brought up the rear of a ceremonial procession of 15 trams carrying 1,000 “mourners” from all over Britain, and at least one from the United States of America.

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Scotland, incidentally, still has a few tramway routes, notably in the city of Glasgow, but England has now gone over almost completely to buses. Four of Sheffield’s trams will be preserved as “antiques” in a museum in the county of Derbyshire.

\* \* \*

## QUEUES FOR NIGHT SCHOOLS

**A**S an “old boy” of London’s famous Regent Street Polytechnic, pioneer establishment of the night school movement, I got a thrill the other day at the sight of about 200 prospective students lining up outside for enrolment forms. Subjects for which they were prepared to give up their evening leisure included architecture, cookery, civil engineering, modern languages, accountancy, electronic computers and micro-wave radio.

It is the same story in night schools all over Britain.

Perhaps “night school” is too sweeping a term. Many students are really in search of relaxation, taking courses which mark a complete change from their everyday work.

Two schools I know teach mountaineering (one has a miniature indoor ski run) and several run courses in advanced motoring. There are waiting lists of students for art courses, notably painting, modelling and wood carving. Lots of people, apparently, want to learn how to write creatively in their spare time, and there is an eager following for subjects like “Design for Living” and “Design in the Home”.

\* \* \*

## EATING YOUR TICKET!

**D**ESIGN-consciousness in the United Kingdom extends to litter bins. In the Embankment Gardens bordering London’s River Thames, citizens can pick their fancy from an open-air exhibition of specimens which have won diplomas or commendations in a competition organised by the Council of Industrial Design. The one I liked best was essentially functional—it contained a wet-proof paper sack which could be removed when full and replaced by an empty one. As a practical litter-saving device, it struck me as second only in ingenuity to the recently-proposed edible ‘bus tickets, which passengers would consume at the end of their journey!



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## A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

—By CROSS-BENCHER—

IF the late Mr. Bandaranaike's economic programme was bedevilled by the controversy over the official language, the government of Mrs. Bandaranaike seems to be storing up trouble for itself by the legislation to take over assisted schools. Opposition to the scheme has been chiefly on the grounds that it was not in the election manifesto of the SLFP and that it was not contemplated by the late Mr. Bandaranaike, who, it was contended, was for schools being handed over voluntarily. On educational grounds it is urged that the denominational schools, apart from signifying religious freedom, had established standards which would be lowered by the adoption of a uniform system. Those who supported the Bill, while welcoming the wider opportunities that would be afforded to all children by the scheme, criticised the concession given to assisted schools to opt to be private unassisted schools or, after a referendum among parents and teachers, to become fee-levying schools.

\* \* \*

THE principal opponents of the scheme are the Roman Catholics, supported by a section of the Hindus. Simultaneously with the third reading of the Bill the Roman Catholic hierarchy issued a statement which stated, *inter alia*: "We need a Catholic atmosphere and effectual Catholic supervision in schools frequented by Catholic children. The present Bill does not provide the means to realise that need, unless it is substantially amended. Accordingly, we the Catholic Bishops of Ceylon declare that we oppose the take-over of the denominational schools, which restricts the free exercise of the religion of a section of Ceylon citizens, and we call upon all lovers of true freedom in the country to join with us in warding off an attack on fundamental human rights."

Earlier the Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. A. R. Graham Campbell, addressing the Diocesan Council, deplored the hasty take-over and spoke of the "valuable contribution to the vitality and enrichment of the educational life of the country" made by the partnership hitherto between the state

and denominational schools. He endorsed the opinion of a former principal of Royal College that "state monopoly or any other monopoly of education can lead to the most rigid determination of educational aims" and that such formal efficiency as might be gained was lost in "the resulting inflexibility which obstructs freedom of experiment."

\* \* \*

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, declined to accede to a request that Roman Catholic schools be excluded from the take-over scheme at an interview she gave representatives of the hierarchy at Temple Trees on Sunday night, October 23rd. The delegation was led by the Archbishop of Colombo, Dr. Thomas Cooray, and included the Bishop of Chilaw, Dr. Edmund Peries, and the Bishop of Kandy, Dr. Leo Nanayakkara. Among those associated with the Prime Minister were the Minister of Education, Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud; the Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike; and the Minister of Justice, Mr. S. P. C. Fernando. The talks lasted two and a half hours.

The Bishops gave the undertaking that the schools would conform to the Education Code. They would, however be conducted in a Catholic atmosphere, which was regarded as of paramount importance. The Government's view was that to make an exception of Catholic schools would defeat the national education concept. However, it was suggested that the Catholic viewpoint be presented in Parliament in the committee stage of the Bill.

\* \* \*

THE position of the Government had been expounded earlier in a letter from the Prime Minister to the Archbishop in reply to two letters he had sent to her. In the course of it she said that in providing for a referendum to allow schools taken over by the Government to be turned into private fee-levying schools, the Government had done precisely what the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sought to uphold,

namely the right of parents to choose the kind of education that should be given to their children. But the Government could not accept the interpretation of the Article to be that "parents are not at liberty to do what they like but must be guided by their religious convictions or their conscience." The Bill also did not seek to restrict the free exercise of any religion as stipulated in the Constitution, nor impose any restriction on the teaching of religion to children.

The letter also stated: "My government is also aware that the Roman Church has in many countries accepted the system of state education without any stipulations."

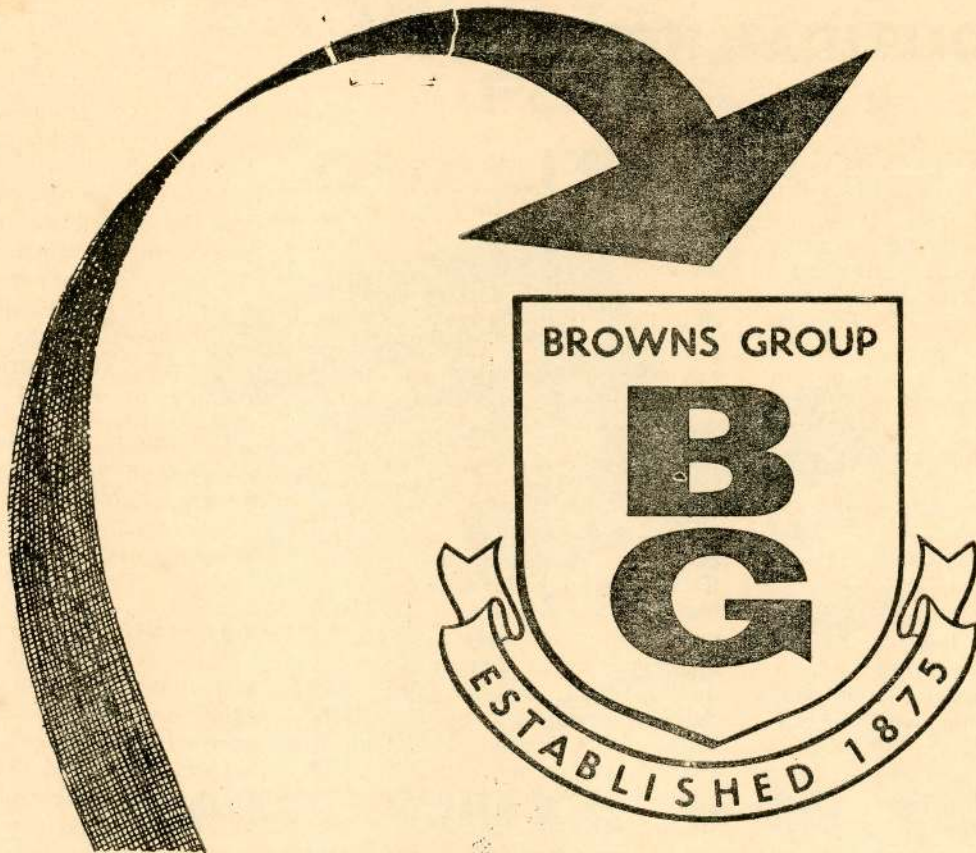
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MOVING the second reading of the Bill, which he said was the first of two Bills for establishing a national system of education, the Minister of Education, Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, said that it provided for the appointment of the Director of Education as manager of every assisted school in the country: the Director already had the power to take over a school the management of which was unsatisfactory.

The next Bill, the National Education Bill, Mr. Mahmud said, would deal with the take-over of the schools without compensation, the settlement of disputes, the option of teachers to retire with compensation, the formation of welfare boards to assist the education authorities, etc. The Bill would also provide for the administration of the schools on a regional basis by an Assistant Director of Education, assisted by regional councils, and for the establishment of a National Education Board.

The national well-being demanded the distribution of educational opportunities to all and sundry so that the specialists and skilled workers required by the nation would come from the whole population and not from a limited privileged class, Mr. Mahmud declared. He claimed that national education in this sense had the support of the vast majority of teachers and thinking parents.

Various amendments moved by members in the Opposition were defeated.



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## “YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE DOCTOR”

—BY DR. LUCIAN DE ZILWA—

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

MANY years ago our family used to go to the jungles for the Christmas holidays—not for sport, for we never carried a rifle, but to get away from the madding crowd, to imagine the life suggested by the ancient ruins, and to be still in the forests, passively receptive of their sights and sounds. Having booked rooms for the night at Matale we left Colombo after lunch, and stopped at Kadugannawa for tea. On calling for the bill I was asked to pay only the occupation charges. As for the tea, our party of five were the resthouse keeper's guests. The reason given was that some time back he had shown me his son, who was suffering from a chronic complaint, and my prescription, given free of charge, had cured the boy. This is typical of the gratitude of Ceylon people from Dondra to Point Pedro.

At Matale we were welcomed by the resthouse keeper, Abeysekere, who was a patient of mine. We stayed until after lunch next day, and started for Anuradhapura when the heat had abated. Here too mine host insisted on treating us as his guests, although I reminded him that whenever he came to see me, I not only felt his pulse but also touched his pocket.

\* \* \*

AFTER some days at our headquarters I wired to Trincomalee to reserve two rooms for two nights, and on being assured of their readiness, arrived at the resthouse at sunset. Mr. Balasupramaniam, the young keeper, who used to accompany his father when the latter came to me in Colombo, greeted me with the terrible news that every room in the resthouse was occupied, but he dispelled our fears when he added that there was a furnished vacant bungalow next door, and he had got our rooms ready there. Next day at lunch we had window-pane oysters, which I had never seen before. You perhaps will not be surprised to hear that for the third time we were told we had nothing to pay except the occupation charges due to Government.

How true was the saying *Rajakang nethnam vethakang*. If it be true that the prestige of our profession is on the wane let us not blame the people, but examine our own conscience to discover how we have forfeited their esteem.

\* \* \*

IN the last 50 years medical science has made such progress that the student's curriculum has been overloaded, and an encyclopaedic knowledge has been expected of him. It has been said that some of the subjects must be jettisoned. It would, however, be a mistake to reduce the teaching of the ancillary sciences of chemistry, physics, botany and zoology, for they are the cornerstones of the foundation on which our practical knowledge is built. The complexity of every branch of medical science is such that the only solution is specialising.

Thus, 25 years ago, 36 different human viruses were known. Since then 116 new ones have been discovered. The pathogenic bacilli, like those of enteric fever, pneumonia and tuberculosis, are destroyed by antibiotics, but the viruses are invulnerable. The only weapon we have against them at present is preventive inoculation, and this can be done only by a virologist.

A specialist like a virologist, an ophthalmic surgeon, or a thoracic surgeon, would never be required to attend a maternity case and vice versa. Why should they be required to waste time and energy in acquiring a degree and knowledge which they are never going to use. The student, after doing the ancillary sciences, should study the usual subjects up to an easy pass standard, and devote himself to an intensive study of his chosen speciality. A specialist undertaking work outside his domain except as an emergency should be charged with infamous conduct. His motto should be *Ne sutor ultra crepidam*—let the cobbler stick to his last.

A specialist is like a horse with blinkers.

\* \* \*

IN my Utopia there would be family physicians, general practitioners, men of common

sense, with a sound general knowledge, who may be trusted to treat straight forward cases, and to advise their patients which specialist, if any, they should consult.

It is related that a young doctor, newly qualified, wishing to become a specialist, asked one of his seniors what he would recommend. He was told that if he wanted a comfortable life, with no night calls and a steady income, there was no better investment than dermatology.

A skin patient never needs a night visit, and never leaves his doctor in the lurch like a pneumonia case by either recovering in a short time, or dying. A skin case goes on for weeks and months, and, when he imagines he is cured he gets a relapse. A dermatologist never has to work hard in the small hours of the morning, like an obstetrician, who has to tug at forceps like a horse towing a barge. A general surgeon has to attend to casualties at night.

\* \* \*

FINALLY I must say a word about research. It has been said that Ceylonese doctors are good at learning and using what others have discovered, but they are lacking in originality. The reason is that they have never had the two conditions essential for research—freedom from financial anxiety and leisure. All Government medical officers started in the third grade on Rs. 75 a month. In the provinces their time was occupied in routine duties in the hospital, filling up forms, and going on estate calls.

The staff of the Colombo hospital was sweated and exploited. Each of them had charge of about 150 beds, and they had to teach chemical medicine and surgery. At the Medical College, they did the work of full-time professors for an allowance of about Rs. 1,000 a year. In the hour or two left at their disposal they had to chase the elusive rupee of private practice in order to make ends meet.

But we now see the dawn of a new era, with the cheese-paring policy of the bad old days abandoned, and the members of our profession may be afforded greater facilities for investigating the diseases and the remedies of this country, and of enlarging the bounds of knowledge.



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# A LOOK ROUND

— BY PERISCOPE —

(Fortnightly Review Special)

"IN the Days of Sri Wickrama Rajasingha" is the title of a delightful book, dealing with the last phase of the Kandyan Kingdom. Many books have been written about this period of Ceylon history by contemporary authors, like Marshall, Davy and D'Oyly, but the present work, by Mr. Punchibanda Dolapihilla, brings to the reader a different kind of narrative from the usual historical writing. The author tells a number of stories from traditional sources, handed down by men and women who lived, and played a part, in the tragedy of Sri Wickrama Rajasingha's unfortunate reign. Conspirators and King-makers, patriotic chieftains and brave peasant soldiers, courtiers who marched to their execution with dignity and priests who refused to be awed by royalty—these stride across the pages on a background of regal glamour and sad tragedy. Dolapihilla's knowledge of Kandyan customs and folklore is unique, and the present book, which is well produced by the Saman Press (Rs. 15), should find a public far beyond the shores of Ceylon.

\* \* \*

THE man who galvanised the drama in Ceylon is dead. Elias Benjamin Neumann Jubal died in Sydney, Australia, on September 22nd. He first came to Ceylon in 1952, at the suggestion of Dr. E. F. C. Ludowyk and his wife, to work for several months each year for the University Dramatic Society. In addition he took charge of productions outside the University working with veterans like Winston Serasinghe, Iranganie Meedeniya, Lucien de Zoysa, Sita Jayawardena, Johann Leembruggen, Percy Colin Thome and Olga de Jacolyn and among his "discoveries" were Arthur Weerakoon, Ranjani Ellepola, Sidhat Sri Nandalochana and G. T. Wickremasinghe. Among his productions were Molnar's Liliom, the Capeks' Insect Play, Ibsen's Enemy of the People, Shaw's Major Barbara, Gogol's Government Inspector and Moliere's Malade Imaginaire (in Sinhalese in association with Dr. E. R. Sarathchandra).

Jubal was born in 1901 in a little town in Poland, now part of the Soviet Ukraine. His father died young and his mother (she was "only a Jewish mother", Jubal said) was poverty-stricken and was murdered by the Nazis in 1943. Making his way to Vienna, where he learnt German, he discovered theatre was in his blood and went to work with the famous Max Reinhardt. He was making his way in the profession and achieving fame as a producer when Hitler annexed Austria and the Jews were in trouble, Jubal fled to Switzerland and later



*The application of electronics in the medical field has made great strides, particularly in regard to diagnosis. Here a "radio pill" is being swallowed by a patient. The "radio pill", the size of a cocoa bean, contains a miniature radio transmitter which emits signals concerning changes in the physical condition of the body.*

joined his sister in Australia. He returned to Vienna once but too much had happened since 1938 and he found himself a stranger.

He wrote last year to a friend in Colombo: "Now we have the right and proper ending to my fairy tale. I have married a friend who knew me in old Vienna."

SUBSTANCES discovered in certain white cells of horses' blood may lead to an entirely new way of treating asthma and hay fever, it is claimed in London. The discovery, made in the course of veterinary research, was described by Dr. W. R. Woolridge, Scientific Director of the Animal Health Trust. He said that at the Equine Research Station at Newmarket a substance had been discovered which played an active part in the control of histamines. Histamine is a frequent cause of surgical or accidental shock, skin lesions of nettle rash type, and such allergies as asthma and hay fever.

The discovery was made during prolonged investigation of the basic functions of the blood of race horses. It is considered to have such far reaching potentialities for human sufferers that workers of the Medical Research Council and the National Research Development Council are co-operating in its further development.

\* \* \*

THE United Kingdom High Commissioner in Malaya, Sir Geofroy Tory, recently handed over the Royal Air Force base at Kuala Lumpur to the Malayan Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak bin Dato Hussein, as a gift from the British Government. The base, estimated to be worth about £3,000,000, will now be occupied by units of the Royal Malayan Air Force. The last British units have withdrawn to bases in Butterworth, in north-western Malaya, or to the independent State of Singapore.

During the 12 years of British Commonwealth support for ground troops fighting Communist terrorism, 37,500 sorties covering 1 million air miles were flown from the Kuala Lumpur base.

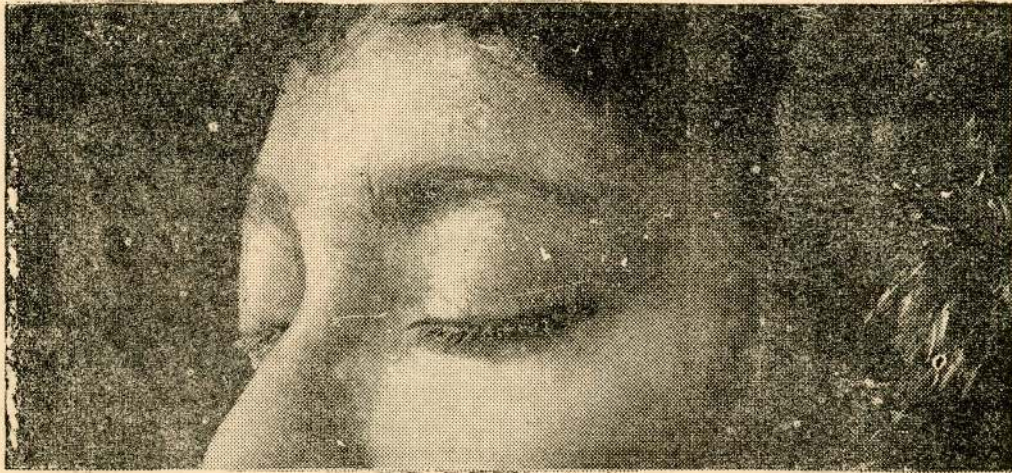
\* \* \*

THE fixing of norms of work as a corollary to the laying down of minimum wages was suggested at the annual general meeting of the Institution of Engineers by the President, Mr. W. T. I. Alagaratnam, former Director of Irrigation.

He said that the labourer is worthy of his hire meant also that he should do an adequate amount of work for the hire. He suggested bonuses where the norms were exceeded.

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# A LETTER FROM MR. W. T. GRESWELL

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

Taunton, October 20

## HORN CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

ON October 7th at the East India & Sports Club, London, a dining room became once more a corner of Ceylon as we old ones remember the detectable and happy Island of our younger days. The occasion was the Annual dinner of members of the Horn Club and their guests. The attendance was as near forty as does not matter and the evening was a most enjoyable one.

Mr. Wilfred Rettie was the dinner secretary for the 12th year running. His hard work in, firstly, securing a good attendance and, secondly, in providing them with a sumptuous reception at his Club is most praiseworthy and has always been greatly appreciated. It will be readily agreed that it needs a "live wire" to stimulate their annual response. It is not easy and there is on occasion an element of frustration, but Wilfred Rettie has done his job right nobly. He now claims a well deserved retirement from it and has handed on the torch (or is it "burden"?) to Mr. Charles Cameron, who we know will carry on the good work undaunted. I hardly think "Charles" will ever take "No" for an answer, so we look forward to 1961 etc. in top gear.

\* \* \*

## MR. NOEL GRATIAEN A GUEST

I would like to mention the names of all those present at the dinner last week but I have not a list with me and a senile memory does not assist. Five acceptances did not face the starter and cried off at the last moment, one of them being Sir John Howard, whom I had hoped so much to see. Of the old regulars there were Messrs W. H. Miles, D. Finch Noyes, J. A. Loram and Dr. P. J. Chissell. These as usual sat near each other and were obviously happy about it. Mr. Noel Gratiaen was present, no doubt ready to maintain law and order, but in this respect he was not called upon! The Horn Club prides itself on a certain dignity whatever the strain put upon it. In any case Bill Adams could have been chucker out.

SITTING next to me was Major Harry Greer, 81 years of age I think he told me, but carrying his years very lightly. Next to him was his son, young Harry (am I right?) and next to me was my R. A.F. son, who is now at Coastal Command H.Q.s. wrestling with N.A.T.O. problems. I trust the evening afforded him some relaxation. After all, the aroma of a good wine should be able to put to flight radio-active fears.

So the evening passed well and truly and was voted by all as good as any in the London history of the Horn Club.

\* \* \*

## WEST INDIES' AUSTRALIAN TOUR

IT was very interesting to learn from you of the optimistic view held by the West Indians regarding their chances in the coming Tests in Australia, when they passed through Colombo. It is certainly better to be optimistic than the reverse. The Australians are, at the moment, an almighty and well balanced side. If the West Indians think they have three fast bowlers who may shake the Australian batting, memory at once calls to mind the dubious tactics which these said bowlers employed against England's batsmen recently during our tour of the West Indies. Their persistent bowling of "bumpers" in rapid succession by way of intimidation did not bring them victory, and I feel convinced that England, on last season's showing, has not got a side which might be reasonably sure of success when we meet Australia here next year.

\* \* \*

## FAST "BUMPER"

I rather incline to the view that the Australian wickets are not as favourable to fast "bumpers" as those of the West Indies and intimidation is more likely to be suffered by the West Indian bowlers, not the Australian batsmen. It should be first class entertainment from Australian "barrackers" if the visitors try to bowl bumpers at the rate of 8 an over, and their hosts with an equal bombardment of "throws", just to even things out. How I would like to be a spectator!

## NO-BALLED FOR THROWING

WHICH reminds me, I read in the Press recently that one bowler was no-balled for throwing and another for "dragging" in a State match in Australia (of all countries)! Highly significant, but what's in the wind? Many of us would like to know in view of Australia's visit here next season. I believe that a meeting of M.C.C. Board of Control will take place very shortly and there may be some interesting information thereafter on this very troublesome development in cricket of the highest class. The situation is pregnant, to say the least of it.

\* \* \*

## IRRITATING RAIN!

NEXT to the volatile antics of Mr. Khrushchev in New York, rain is capturing the press headlines. This depressing element arrested itself in the first week of July and has continued with increasing vehemence until a very wet September produced 4.44 inches, more than generous for England, but of which nearly 4 inches has fallen twice at my home. A little further West, over Exmoor and Dartmoor, the fall has been far in excess of this and has created flood damage and distress without precedent. When some years ago disaster fell upon Lynmouth it was caused by a cloud burst, on the heights above Exmoor, of short duration and great intensity. Last week the river Lynn rose 3ft. higher than on that occasion, but the rain was spread over a 24-hour period and the fortifications at Lynmouth contained successfully the raging waters.

There is every excuse for wondering if there are any desperate and nervous people building arks to rival that of Noah!

THE West Indies cricketers have already had more than a taste of the present strength of Australian cricket and they can look forward to a very stiff task when they come up against the stronger State teams and later against the full might of Australia in the Tests. That well known Australian cricket writer, Ray Robinson, pays a high tribute to Garfield Sobers, the world Test record-holder, who hit a brilliant century against W. Australia. Sobers is said to have received a great reception at Perth.

## PEOPLE

ONE of the many hundreds of founder readers of this journal, Col. O. B. Forbes writes to us from his home in Mayfair, London, to say: "Like so many of Ceylon's other old friends in the U.K., I look forward to receiving my *Fortnightly Review* and read it all with great interest. I can assure you that all the members of our family who have seen the article you wrote of the passing of Admiral Sir Charles Forbes much appreciated the very nice way in which it was expressed. I am very sorry that he has gone as our ways had not crossed very much all these years and now that I have come to live at home I was hoping that we would be able to see more of each other".

Col. Forbes, who left Ceylon early this year on retirement after having completed fifty years residence in the Island, says how much he enjoyed living here. Both Col. Forbes and his wife filled a very large place in the social, musical and sporting life of Colombo and they will always be remembered for all they did for the welfare of Ceylon.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER esteemed founder reader of this journal, Dr. Chevalier St. John Puvirajasinghe of Jaffna, writing to us last week says: "I wish to tell you how much I appreciate your *Fortnightly Review*, which makes delightful reading, especially in the selection of the writers who contribute to it. More so the forthright manner in which you deal with all topics. I wish you a long, long existence".

PAST and present members of the 17th Colombo (Toch H) Scout Group held a rally in the form of a parent's day to bid farewell to Mr. C. Dymoke Green, their scoutmaster, who leaves Ceylon shortly after 31 years. It began with an inspection by Mr. Green of a guard-of-honour by present members, followed by the flag-break, the grand howl by the cubs and a march past, Mr. Green taking the salute. He also cut a special cake with the scout emblem on it. Mr. C. Dharmakirti, Assistant Chief Commissioner of Scouts, and Mr. M. Ali Ossen, a former District Commissioner, referred to the manner in which Mr. Green had furthered the scout movement in Ceylon. A presentation was made to Mr. Green, who said that the 17th Colombo Group would always be in his thoughts though he might be thousands of miles away.

\* \* \*

TWO puisne judges, Mr. M. F. S. Pulle and Mr. K. D. de Silva, retired last month, having reached the age limit.

Mr. Pulle was educated at St. Benedict's College and became an advocate in 1925. After practising for five years he joined the Attorney-General's Department. He was for some time Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission. He was appointed Solicitor-General in 1947 and acted as Attorney-General. Appointed puisne judge in 1949, he was a member of the Supreme Court Reconstitution Commission and of the Judicial Service Commission.

Mr. de Silva joined the judicial service after practising for some time in Galle. As district judge he

served in Avissawela, Panadura, Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna and Galle. In 1948 he was Secretary of the Judicial Service Commission. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 1953.

\* \* \*

MR. Gamini D. Wijewardene of the Department of Education has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Education by the University of California, with honours in counselling psychology and higher education.

A graduate of the University of London, Dr. Wijewardene studied in 1952 at the University of Stanford and in 1959-60 at the University of California.

\* \* \*

THE University of Cambridge has conferred the degree of Ph. D. on Mr. R. P. Salgado of the Central Bank for a thesis entitled "The Ceylon Economy 1920-38; A National Accounts Study.

Educated at Royal College, Mr. Salgado graduated from the University of Ceylon, obtaining first class honours in mathematics. Going to England, he completed his course for the economics tripos in two years and engaged in research in Cambridge University on a scholarship from the Central Bank.

\* \* \*

FRIENDS of the late Col. Victor Thompson of the Salvation Army will be interested to learn that his widow writes to us to say that their son, Arthur, who was a geologist with Shell Co. and had a very promising career before him, has decided to follow in the footsteps of his father and has entered the Salvation Army training college for officership training in the "army".

Mrs. Thompson herself has taken up a Salvation Army appointment at its Trade Headquarters. Their daughter Eileen is Senior Medical Registrar at Chelmsford Hospital, while the other daughter, Jean, who visited her parents in Ceylon when they were here, has a nice home and little son who is just 17 months old.

\* \* \*

MR. G. O. Secker, a former well known planter in the Kalutara district, now living in retirement, with Mrs. Secker, in Liphook, Hants, where so many old Ceylon residents have made their home, writes to

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PEOPLE

say that the *Fortnightly Review* is always welcome as it gives them all the news they require about the Island where they spent so many years of their lives.

\* \* \*

MR. Francis W. Dowse, Chairman of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Ltd. arrived in Colombo by the "Orcades" on October 25.

\* \* \*

MR. James C. Baird (Jr.) has been appointed Director of the United States Operations Mission to Ceylon in succession to Mr. John L. Roach, who is posted to Nepal as director of the US aid mission to that country.

Mr. Baird has been in the East for some time, having served with the American assistance programme in Pakistan from 1954 to 1956 and been director of the US aid mission to Indonesia from 1956 until early this year. He and his family paid a brief visit to Ceylon in 1956 on their way to Indonesia from Pakistan.

Earlier Mr. Baird was an engineer with two large utilities companies and with various consulting firms in the eastern states of America. He is owner-manager of a 1,000-acre cotton plantation in Mississippi, his native state. During the war he was on active service with the army.

\* \* \*

THERE must be a large colony of Ceylon Burgfers now in West Australia and chiefly in Perth, where the West Indies cricketers have been in action during the past two weeks. Among these Burgfers are three octogenarians—all tremendously keen on the game. One of them Mr. George E. Pereira, former Accountant of the Survey Department, was 84 on the 3rd November. He left Ceylon with his wife and other members of his family and are very happy in their new-found home.

The other two in the early eighties are Dr. J. A. Scharenguivel, one of the most distinguished Ceylonese cricketers of all time, who played in representative cricket in the late nineties in Ceylon while still at St. Thomas', and W. G. McCarthy, a contemporary of Scharenguivel in the Thomian

cleven of the late nineties. McCarthy's only son, Pat, who captained Royal in his day, is the only Ceylonese up to now who has had the distinction of playing in Australian State cricket and making good. He used to be a brilliant batsman while playing for Royal and in Ceylon representative cricket.

\* \* \*

THE Governor-General has appointed Mr. L. B. de Silva a Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice M. F. S. Pulle. Mr. de Silva joined the judicial service in 1938 and had been functioning as a Commissioner of Assize.

\* \* \*

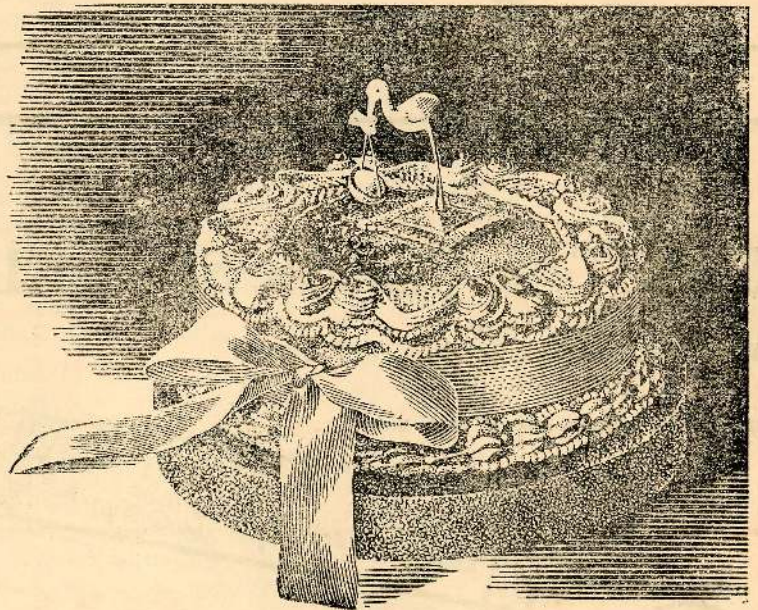
ON one of his periodical visits to the Island is Mr. A. O. Haller, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Messrs. A. Baur & Co., Ltd., who after being in charge of the Ceylon business, took up

work at the head office in Zurich, Switzerland, many years ago. He is well known in Ceylon and counts many friends.

AIR CEYLON'S ELECTRA

A milestone in the progress of Air Ceylon was marked last week by the inaugural flight to Amsterdam as its guests of a plane-load of V.I.P's including the Minister of Transport, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugala, and M.P's in its newest acquisition, the Lockheed Electra, which will fly on Air Ceylon's International route.

The plane arrived a few days earlier on its outward flight from Amsterdam with a load of Air Ceylon guests from abroad, including travel agents. Comfort is the key-note of the new machine, and Air Ceylon's latest venture should pay handsome dividends.



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## ART, MUSIC &amp; DRAMA

— By "LYRICUS" —

A Conference of Artists from Eastern & Western countries was held at Vienna, from September 24th to October 2nd, to which Gate Mudaliyar A. C. G. S. Amarasekera was invited to represent Ceylon as the President of the National Association of Plastic Artists and a member of the UNESCO National Commission. The Conference was organised by the International Association of Plastic Artists in Paris within the framework of the major project of UNESCO for the mutual appreciation of Eastern & Western cultural values. It was attended by over 200 delegates from 40 different countries.



Six countries from the East and six from the West were appointed to form the Committee with one expert as Chairman each of the East and the West.

THE above photograph shows the Committee before the general assembly in session. They are from (left to right) representatives of Pakistan, Italy, Ceylon, France, Mr. B. Lardera, General-Secretary Mr. R. Huygho of the Academie Francaise, Chairman, Mr. J. Anand, Chairman for the East, France, India, U.S.A., Iraq, Japan, and Thailand.

After the Conference in Vienna, Mudaliyar Amarasekera visited Holland accepting an invitation from Mr. T. Leeser—the President of the Plastic Association of Ommen, and from Dr. T. Polderman, who had arranged a reception to meet members of the Amsterdam Magic Circle. Dr. Polderman

is a distinguished amateur magician who visited Ceylon recently and gave several magical performances in aid of local charities.

CEYLON is depicted as an artist's country and a country of painters in an exhibition of about 100 paintings opened by Ceylon's High Commissioner in London, Mr. Gunasena de Soysa, at the South London Art Gallery at the week-end. It is undoubtedly the most representative collection of Ceylon paintings ever shown in London. Although fewer than 20 artists are represented, the art of Ceylon is shown through the ages from the 5th century to the present day. The future is represented in a selection by young and child painters. Judging by the work of 15-

year-old Anil Gamini Jayasuriya, who last year became the youngest artist ever to exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, and three child artists, art in Ceylon has a brilliant future.

The selection devoted to modern artists includes works by George Keyt, Ivan Peries and Richard Gabriel, all of whom have become well known in Europe. Traditional and ancient art is depicted in a collection of reproductions by Manjusiri. There are copies of work from the fifth to the beginning of the 20th century, many taken from original wall frescoes.

LUCIEN de Zoysa and The Players brought to the Colombo stage last month a play which is believed to have been presented only once in France and not as yet performed anywhere else. I have it on good authority that a visiting actress was so excited by the

presentation at the Lionel Wendt Theatre that she cabled her company in the U.K. urging that it put the play on the boards.

The play was Jean-Paul Sartre's "Kean", immortal of English actors and the originator of the realistic style of acting. One critic described Lucien de Zoysa's performance in the star role as a tour de force. Considering that he both produced and directed the play, too, he deserves high praise, Olga de Jacolyn, another old timer so to say, gave, as she usually does, a polished and skilled performance as Anna Danby, and Norman Impett made a very convincing Prince of Wales.

T. Arasanayagam was in charge of the decor and Lt. H. Davis stage manager and both did a good job indeed.

In addition to those already mentioned, the cast included Elena, Countess de Koefeld (Jeanette de Vaz), Amy, Countess of Gosville (Carmen Impett), Gidsa (Heather Claasz), Solomon (Laddie Hettiratchy), Peter Mott (Alfie Williams), and the gay group of acrobats (Selvam Canagaratna, Jeremy Margan Gamini Don Michael, Gamini Samarasinghe, Blanchette Mant and Wendy Koch).

Said the producer's note of the play: "...a play which demands the services of the most talented and able cast and producer to do it full justice". Lucien de Zoysa and The Players certainly did not disgrace themselves. Very much the contrary.

THE concert at the Lionel Wendt Theatre on October 24 by the Ceylon Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Steuart Wilson, and the Catholic Choral Society (conductor, Dr. Earle de Fonseka) drew tremendous applause from critic and the audience. Praise for Sir Steuart was unanimous and the choice of a sensible programme which was both entertaining and lively was extolled.

The concert, with the exception of a flute for the Fifty Brandenburg Concerto and some clarinets in the Boyce Concerto, was one for strings, said a critic, rightly using what has always been the strongest point of this little orchestra.

(Contd. on page 31)

# CADBURYS FOR QUALITY

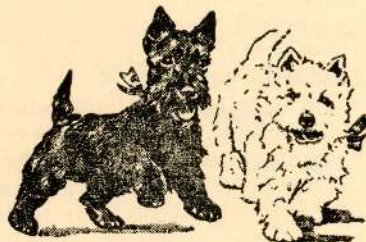


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# LIGHTER INTERLUDES

—BY TWEEDLEDUM—

THERE were at least eighteen jokes on this page last month and I hope they provoked at least eighteen hundred chuckles. Perhaps some of you are still laughing. It is encouraging to note that nobody has yet told me that he heard most of these quips way back in the year 1896.

One reader, intrigued by my pen-name asked me: "What is the difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee?"

I pretended not to know. And he whispered in my ear: "It's the difference between a liar and a politician."

A girl working in a Fort shop said to an ugly customer: "I never go out with a perfect stranger". "But I am not perfect", said the persistent wolf. It was said of a more resourceful young lady: "Mary had a little wolf; she fleeced him white as snow".

THE English teacher wrote on the blackboard: "I didn't have no fun over the week-end".

Turning to the class, she said: "Now, Johnny, how should I correct that?"

"Get yourself a boy friend", said bright little Johnny.

SCIENCE Professor: "Miss Jones, would you care to tell the class what happens when a body is immersed in water?"

Miss Jones: "Sure, the telephone rings".

AN American motorist says that when he gets within range of Hollywood, all the road signs read: "Soft shoulders and dangerous curves ahead".

AT a performance of the farce "One Wild Oat" a girl was explaining the plot to a friend.

A man in the row in front of her turned round and said: "Would you mind waiting till this scene is over, please? They are making so much noise on the stage that I can't hear what you are saying".

AT a cocktail party a woman writer was very rude to an Editor who had refused to publish one of her articles.

So he said to her when everyone was listening: "Don't look now, my dear, but I am afraid your rejection slip is showing".

THERE is at least one eminent physician in Colombo whose hand-writing is surprisingly easy to read. He will be amused when he hears this story of a London doctor who wrote out a prescription in the usual illegible hand. The patient recovered quickly and didn't bother to take it to the chemist.

In time he forgot what the little piece of paper in his wallet was. For two years he used it as a season ticket. Twice it got him into the Palladium and once into the F.A. Cup Final.

It came in handy as a letter from his employer to the company cashier to increase his salary. Finally, his daughter played it on the piano and won a scholarship to a conservatory of music.

DOCTOR: "Keep telling yourself you don't want to smoke".  
Patient: "It's no good, doctor, I know what a liar I am".

WHEN he had read the daily medical column a man in wild alarm telephoned his doctor that he was sure he had a fatal liver disease.

"Nonsense," protested the doctor. "With that disease there is no pain or discomfort of any kind".

"I knew it", gasped the patient. "My symptoms exactly!"

AFTER working his way up to a high Government position, Mr. Obadiah Bogusappah, O.B.E., visited the village where he was born.

"I suppose the people here have heard of the honour that has been conferred on me?" he asked an old school fellow.

"Yes," was the gratifying reply. "And what do they say about it?" "They don't say anything", was the reply, "they just laugh".

I have noticed with astonishment", remarked the old-timer "how reluctant young men of today are to marry and settle down. They actually seem to fear marriage. Why, before I was married I didn't know the meaning of fear".

FATHERLY employer: "Son, we don't whistle while we work here"

Office boy: "It's all right, sir I'm not working".

SIX-year-old Billy was having high tea at his aunt's. Another piece of cake, dear?" inquired his aunt attentively.

"I can't auntie," said Billy. "You can't dear", echoed his aunt. "Why not?" "Because", explained Billy carefully, "I haven't had my first piece yet".

THE doctor was surprised to find the patient worse.

"Did you do all I said?" he asked.

"Yes doctor", said the patient.

"Did you smoke no more than ten cigarettes a day?"

"Yes, doctor, but I think that's what made me worse. You see, I never smoked before".

THE Hippocratic oath, administered to young apprentices, demanded a high standard of honour. "With purity and with holiness I will pass my life, and practise my art". It demands more than the medical ethics which the General Medical Council tries to enforce by penal regulations, striking names off the Register on conviction of infamous conduct.

The Babylonian king Hammurabi (2300 B.C.) was very hard on the profession, and severely punished deaths from misadventure or carelessness. If one caused the loss of a limb or of life he should have his hands cut off. The *lex talionis* required an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. The safest speciality for a man in those days would have been gynaecology!

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# "HOLIDAY TOWN"

## SCENIC RAILWAY

— BY FELICITY —

THOSE good people who think it preferable to "See Lanka By Car" are missing something. A visit to Holiday Town should include one trip, at least, by train, provided the weather is fair and visibility good!

This thought came to me some years ago, as the train on which I was travelling to Nuwara Eliya climbed from Haputale to Ohiya (5,820 feet above sea level) and to Pattipola (6,201 feet) winding in a vast curve round the mountain sides and unfolding a stupendous, awe-inspiring panorama over undulating patana country.

There far below me lay the landscape into which for years I had been absorbed: hilly and graciously varied though it had seemed to me at close quarters, it now looked flattened out and reduced to the proportions of a contour map in some school exhibition. Yet many loved landmarks could be discovered. Plain in view was the winding track which I had seen from Ohiya Station one well remembered dawn, and following its general trend I thought I could almost certainly distinguish among many tree-clothed valleys the one we knew as "Littlefold".

The sun shone, the atmosphere was dazzlingly clear, and blue sky persisted as far as Ambawela; then we slipped through the gap into another world of mist and cloud and rain-sodden slopes all grey and green and sepia, for the short distance one could see them! And so, to Nanu Oya with its sordid, unpicturesque surroundings and the long, steep boring ascent to the Sanatorium.

\* \* \*

I told myself this part of the journey spoiled it all. To atone for it I must stay overnight and travel back next morning on an early goods train (in the guard's van for preference). Then I might step off at Pattipola and walk over the plains to Ohiya, there to catch the afternoon train back to Holiday Town.

It was an attractive idea and I stopped at the Post Office and sent a wire to my husband warning him

not to expect me that night. I had just finished doing this when a pretty little Tamil woman of the labouring class, who had been standing beside me waiting to send a telegram, created a diversion by suddenly swaying away from the counter, to fall full length on the ground, the back of her head hitting the tiled floor with a tremendous smack.

I stopped over to assist her, and seeing she had not fainted told her to lie still, and quickly turned to retrieve my handbag from the counter where I had left it. Tucking it firmly under one arm, I then picked up her telegraph form, which was still on the wooden ledge, though the rupee she had been about to tender in payment had fluttered to the ground.

\* \* \*

GLANCING at the form, I found the message written in an educated hand and signed by a Sinhalese: "Your daughter Abeymenike is seriously ill in hospital. Please come immediately." Not "Daughter serious", you will note. I pondered this as I supported her to drink the water some one had brought her. She sat up then, huddled on the floor with one pretty braceleted arm trailing limply, the other curved to hide her face.

When I roused her to ask her name, she answered: "Abeymenike". This was odd. Could she herself be the hospital patient to whom the father was summoned? Hospital patients were surely not expected, or allowed, to dispatch their own urgent telegrams!

I interviewed the Postmaster, who, good man, was already in the act of telephoning police and hospital on her behalf. He then gave orders for her to be assisted to a quiet corner of the side-porch, where a comfortable cane chair was placed for her.

I had done all I could and returned to the post office to recover a magazine I had left there in the general excitement. It could not have taken me more than a minute or two. Yet as I stepped outside again someone in European costume informed me: "She's vanished!"

"Impossible!" I exclaimed, "I've only just left her helpless in the side porch." "That's right," he said. "She was off no sooner your back was turned".

I felt oddly disturbed. I had both seen and heard that crack on the back of her head. It was, of course, not unheard-of for people suffering from concussion to walk about as though they were normal for a time, but what would happen to her eventually?

As I went on my way to an appointment for which I was already overdue, I shifted my handbag and then discovered that the zip fastener across the back of the bag had been ripped open. Fortunately the compartment thus exposed is always empty and apparently no one had found time to explore further, before I turned round, for inside the bag the contents were intact.

\* \* \*

HAD the swoon been staged and did confederates attempt to rob me in those few moments when all eyes were on the girl? If so, the telegram still required some explanation, for the money the girl had dropped was picked up by one of the onlookers and handed over to the clerk, and I saw the change and receipt pressed into her hand.

\* \* \*

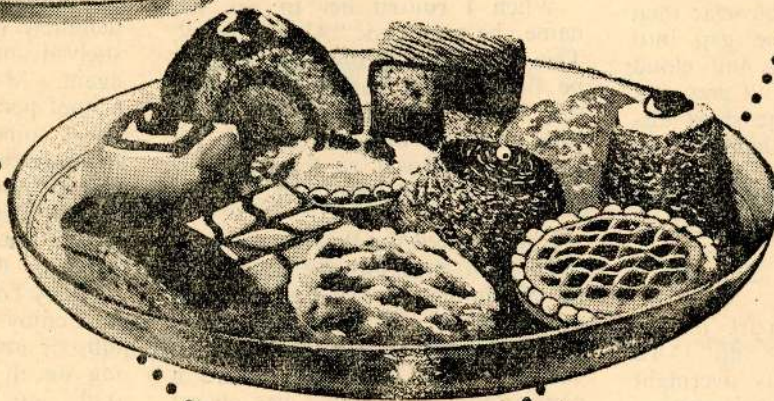
MY husband telephoned me early next morning to warn me to postpone my proposed hike from Pattipola. It had rained all night, he said, and was still raining. In his opinion the monsoon had now definitely set in, so the scheme is shelved until the fair weather comes again. Meanwhile I must see if I cannot persuade the Railway authorities, some time before next April to consider attaching an Observation Car to the trains for that section of the daily run, and to agree to special fares and facilities for picnic parties. One could then leave Holiday Town at 8-30 in the morning and enjoy many hours high in the hills or on the lofty plains, returning on the afternoon train, which puffs into Holiday Town Station just before nightfall!

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# A SPORTS CAUSERIE

—By "ITINERANT"—

## RACING

THE curtailed November Race meet—three days telescoped into two—was one of the most successful meets staged by the Turf Club in a long time. The give in the going and the prospects of no racing until well into December had much to do with the number of entries, which in turn made a success of the meeting.

Excellent racing was witnessed on both days with close finishes being the order of the day, and though the favourites did not oblige, neither did any rank outsiders turn up.

\* \* \*

ON the first day, Jirjir Hamed annexed the Chundikulam Stakes (5 fur 23 yds) in facile manner and Vitesse returned to racing after a long lay-off to canter to victory in the Havelock Stakes (7 fur). Surety II once again finding his best racing form made sure of the Delft Island Stakes (1 mile), while Confair's reward for consistency was the Karawanella Stakes (7 fur). Then came excitement.

Veteran Royal Coronet had to be driven to pip that promising newcomer La Mignonne in the Rakwana Stakes (6 fur). Then the day's hottest favourite, Nichol, found himself squeezed between Tich and Hill Castle and sandwiched out of victory in the Katugastota Plate, 6 fur. Tich emerged winner but lost the race in the Stewards room to Hill Castle on Nichol's objection. And the day's racing wound up with the inconsistent Rawnaq just holding out against Tamasha's challenge which was delayed for want of an opening.

\* \* \*

RACING on the following Saturday started from where it left off the previous week as far as thrills went. Chapel Rock surged forward to beat Tickle in the Lunuwatta Plate (6 fur.) while Peter Pan and Jamal Karim went past Chapel Rock locked together in the Vavuniya Plate (1½ miles) not even the camera being able to separate them though it just managed to separate Surety II and Zaer from them and each other.

THE thrills continued with Ayman Saad ripping Mashur by the shortest of heads in the Moratuwa Plate (7 fur) and Anthony John bringing the crowd to its feet as he led the field into the straight and then ploughed through the mud with raking strides to pip Skelbo Star, Judar and Vicence on the post in the Kalutara Plate (1 mile)

B. Perera, who brilliantly rode Anthony John, was even better astride Select Allow, who edged Copper Belt in a rousing finish in the Kotmale Plate (9 fur). Then in the Maha Oya Plate (1 mile), Rum'n Hock, Fascination and Quick Sale staged a thrilling fight down the straight before finishing in this order, the first named pulling away strongly towards the end. And then Madlul Nazi added the final thrill as he proved too good for the late-coming Sarem and the struggling Kosaj al Bahrain in the Kekirawa Plate.

Trainer Clement Wallis swept the board at the meet, helping owner Idroos Noordeen to top the prize list, with Mrs. Wallis second. Brilliant riding was a feature of the meet, being exhibited by Frank Smith, B. Perera, and Foley, the former gaining the championship.

\* \* \*

## "SARA" TROPHY CRICKET

AGAINST an accurate Colts attack the Sinhalese S.C. found run-making difficult in their first division "Sara" Trophy encounter, but they nevertheless carried too many guns for this young team and emerged 1st innings victors. Moratuwa, meanwhile, displayed excellent form, spirit and fielding to take the honours from the strong Saracens side, while the following rain-affected week-end found the S.S.C. and Moors in a no-decision match, with all the kudos to the latter, who were aided by poor S.S.C. fielding.

In the second division the Tamils 'B' were trounced by an innings by the B.R.C. (C. E. Reid 101) while their 'A' just managed to hold out for a no-decision against the unhappy Bloomfield XI. On the following week-end despite the rain the Catamarans gained their first

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victory at the expense of the Saracens B, while the Tamils B (S. Silva 7 for 19) collapsed against Bloomfield.

Best bowling in a long time was N. Tamitta's 7 for 7 for the SSC 'B' in a Daily News' Trophy match.

\* \* \*

## HOCKEY

THE Havelock Sports Club's invitation hockey tournament proved a great success with the Tamils emerging winner by the odd goal of three penalty goals. They beat the B.R.C. in a rousing match, that was marred to some extent by the unsatisfactory grounds and some unnecessary body play.

The Tamils had to struggle to beat the CH & FC, then bounced the United Youngsters to enter the final. The BRC had to replay the CR & FC, then edged the Havelocks to make the grade.

\* \* \*

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

CEYLON'S first-ever rugby team to go out of the island—India excepted—are the CR & FC who are making a flying three-match visit to Thailand. Amongst the matches is a representative match probably against the Thai team which recently held Malaya to a draw in an 'international'.

\* \* \*

## WEST INDIES LOSE

THE victory of West Australia in the first important match played by the West Indies touring team shows clearly that the youngest State side in Australia now challenges comparison with the senior States like New South Wales and Victoria. Few expected that the formidable West Indies side would succumb to West Australia, but that is cricket all over. However, so early in the tour it would not be fair to judge the strength of the team led by Frank Worrell and we can expect better things when they run into their best form.

In the recent match at Perth the West Indies put up a fine bid to avert defeat after being set 488 in their 2nd innings to win. At one point they seemed in a position to force victory. This followed a power-packed 119 from Garfield Sobers, an aggressive 97 by Seymour Nurse, and a useful contribution from Worrell. But the State

(Continued on page 28)

## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

(Continued from page 27)

recovered the initiative when Hubert Bevan dismissed Sobers and Worrell in one over. Then a stubborn eight wicket stand of 69 between Hendricks and Ramadhin almost steered the visitors to a draw.

West Australia owed most to R. B. Simpson for their great win. Simpson, who proved such an outstanding batting success in the recent Commonwealth tour in S. Africa, played the finest innings of his career in scoring an unfinished 221 in W. Australia's second innings, which yielded 444 for five wickets (declared).

The West Indies are now playing a strong Australian XI at Perth and their next important match will be against South Australia at Adelaide. From there they go to Melbourne to meet Victoria. Their real test before they proceed to Brisbane for the first of the five Test matches will be at Sydney where they will be up against such batsmen as O'Neil and Neil Harvey. New South Wales will probably be led by Richie Benaud, Australia's captain in the last series of tests against England, whose damaged spinning finger during the Commonwealth tour in South Africa has progressed sufficiently for him to play without risk this week end.

\* \* \*

## NEWS OF RAJAH PRAESOODY

**R**AJAH Praesoody was just a lone figure in a track suit running round a deer park in Warwickshire. As he ran he flexed his right arm as if to serve an imaginary ball with an invisible racquet. The lone runner was Ceylon's tennis player and he swung the arm to exercise the shoulder he smashed in a road accident in Ceylon two years ago. His mind was on Wimbledon, 1961, and the sound of ball on racquet on the centre court. "That's my target", he said, "and I am going to reach it. I had to scratch this year because of my shoulder but it is getting better every day."

Proof of the improvement came when he won the chief event in the Warwickshire tournament and the Coventry city tournament. "The shoulder hurt when I made over-arm shots and it ached so much afterwards that it kept me awake, but that is going now", he said.

## CEYLON AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

### M. G. THORNTON'S THIRD TITLE

—“BY OLD-HAND”—

**O**NE of Ceylon's finest golfers, "Mike" Thornton won his third Championship in eleven years when he surpassed himself in the recent Title meet at Nuwara Eliya. There was never any doubt at any stage of the tourney as to his ability to counter all opposition after his standout performance in the Medal round for the Victoria Cup, when he returned a brilliant 76 under weather conditions that were far from ideal for golf. In his two previous successes in 1949 and last year, Thornton had to go all out to defeat George Koch, a dour fighter, by 1 up at the 37th hole, on the Ridgeways, and Neville Greene last year on the same course by 1 up on the last green.

\* \* \*

**I**N the recent Title meet, Thornton after playing superb golf in the medal round for the Victoria Cup, never looked back, winning all his matches in the Championship without being seriously stretched until he entered the final. Here he met a classy player in D. L. Anderson, an American, well known in Far Eastern golf, having figured prominently in championships played at Singapore, Hongkong and Bangkok. Some years ago he was in the final of the Hongkong championship, when he lost to Wing Commander C. H. Beamish, who it will be remembered won the Ceylon Championship at Nuwara Eliya six years ago, defeating another competitor from Singapore in Flt. Lieut. Niven, at Nuwara Eliya.

Anderson showed his best form in the earlier rounds to dispose of such players as J. B. MacLachlan, who had won the honour in 1937 and 1946, when he defeated a previous champion in T. K. Anderson 3 up and 2. Anderson's win against F. J. de Saram in the third round at the 20th hole showed conclusively that he had to be seriously reckoned with for the title. In the semi-finals Anderson scored another excellent win over John Mayer, another good golfer.

\* \* \*

**R**IGHT from the start Thornton gave his supporters confidence that he was equal to the occasion,

leading by 3 up at the 18th and later 5 up at the 21st. He had been playing so well that his big lead was not to be wondered at. Later Thornton was 5 up and 6 to go. He missed an eighteen-inch putt at the short 13th or 31st in Switzerland and was then 4 up and 5 to go. Thornton, however, put the issue beyond doubt at the 32nd hole with a four to win 5 up and 4. Anderson, though beaten played extremely well in patches, but could hardly stand up against the form Thornton displayed all the way.

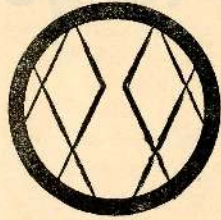
\* \* \*

**C**OMING of good golfing stock —Thornton's father C. G. Thornton, was one of Ceylon's leading players in the early years of this century, and his mother was well above the average lady player (she was once winner of the Irish Ladies' Championship and several times winner of the Ceylon title)—Mike Thornton has been regarded as one of the best European golfers Ceylon has ever had. Many years ago while on a holiday in the U.K. he figured with a large measure of success in the British Amateur Championship, reaching the fourth round before being eliminated.

**T**HE folk play by Andre Obey, "Noah", which was presented by the Ceylon American Youth Society at the Lionel Wendt Theatre, has an interesting history. It is the old Bible story told in the language of the 20th century. It was written for a group of actors, young people specially picked for the purpose, who served as an experiment for the French producer, Jacques Copeau, who tried out new methods to bring to life on the stage a simple dramatic sequence without set text, to portray life by actions.

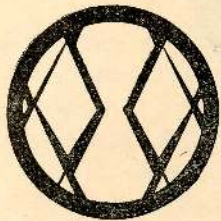
Karl Goonesena, a veteran of the local theatre as readers of this page know, played the leading role and Monohari Paiva was Noah. It was produced by Dennis Bartholomeusz, whose "Tea House of the August Moon" will be remembered, and the supporting cast of new comers showed talent.

# THE TYRE WITH THE SELF-ADJUSTING TREAD



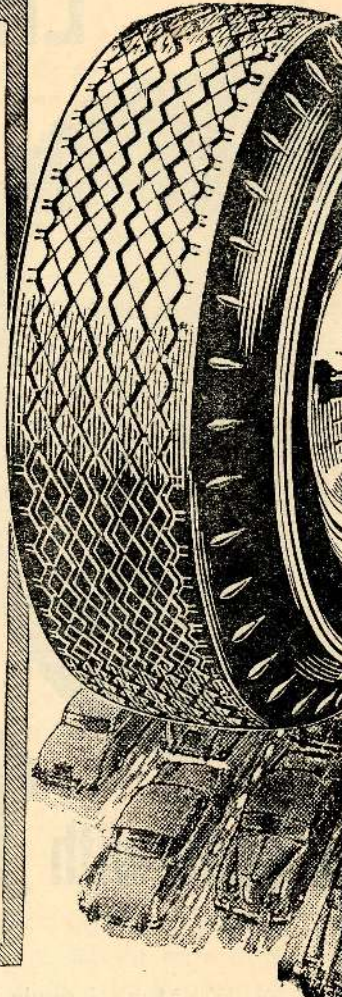
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## A WOMAN'S DIARY

—By "BETA"—

A question which is attracting a lot of attention and which is calling forth a number of diverse opinions is, at what age should a child start going to school. Naturally enough, almost everyone feels they have a right to their own opinion and also usually feels that their opinion is the most reasonable, and all other people would feel the same if they were reasonable too! It may seem that, with all the opinions and discussions on this subject with which we have been favoured, any further comment is superfluous, but there are just a few ideas which I would like to pass on.

The first and most important matter to settle is what we mean when we say 'school'. To too many people the word conjures up a picture of rows of boys or girls sitting decorously at desks or forms, in regimented quietness, while a teacher painstakingly tries to transfer various facts from his or her memory to theirs. Naturally enough to such people, the idea of subjecting tiny mites of four and five to such conditions is horrible and with all their might they protest against it. But a nursery school should be far different. A nursery school should be one where children are able to meet other children of their own age, and learn to co-exist with them.

\* \* \*

IN the olden days, when families were much larger, and people had children much closer together than they do now, it was possible for children to have sufficient companionship in their own families, and learn from their own brothers and sisters those supremely important lessons in sharing and in getting on with other people which all must learn if they are to be able to get the best out of life. But in these days of small families, and with much longer intervals between children, this companionship is no longer found within the family, and so it must be supplied from outside. The best place to find this companionship is in the well run nursery school, where the children can be unobtrusively watched and helped by the teachers specially trained for this work.

It is also a good thing for children who at home tend to have too much attention focussed on them, especially if they are only children to spend part of their time in a more impersonal atmosphere.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER great advantage of nursery schools is that they offer much more scope for active little bodies to harmlessly exercise themselves. Few modern homes could produce equipment such as climbing frames, mat slides, etc, and all these provide healthy ways for children to develop under supervision. Even where such equipment could be provided, part of good effects would be lost if the correct atmosphere is not maintained.

Yet another factor which makes nursery schools very necessary places is the fact that in present day homes most mothers have got to do their share to contribute to the family income. Those who can make their contribution while working at home are fortunate, but the majority have to leave their homes daily. This means that children must be provided for during the times their mothers are away. Leaving children to the care of servants is never very satisfactory, and unless some reliable person can be depended on to supervise, may sometimes even be dangerous. Under these circumstances to know the child is safe in school with responsible people in charge is a great relief to the mother.

\* \* \*

OF course, all these advantages are nullified if the nursery school is inadequate. Unfortunately, in this, as in every other walk in life, quacks are quick to pick on what they think of is easy money. A person who has not been trained to look after young children and help them to develop their capabilities naturally may do untold harm by trying to force little minds to tasks beyond them. It is also necessary for there to be sufficient teachers to look after the children, for if the groups become too large they are unwieldy, and competence will not be possible. It is the duty and responsibility of parents to make sure that schools are fit and competent places before they entrust their children to them.

The whole question of the school going age therefore resolves itself when we consider what is to be meant by education. If we mean

mere book learning, it is natural enough to seek to postpone it until a child's brain is capable of absorbing and reproducing facts, and is also capable of somewhat prolonged concentration over one subject. If, however, we mean by education the fitting of a child to live in a world full of other people, where the action and reaction of his personality on others is vitally important to his happiness and his usefulness as a citizen of a nation, this process should be started as soon as he achieves a certain measure of independence, and as soon as his home alone no longer supplies all the factors necessary for his development. A home should always, of course, supply some of these factors, but if we are really honest with ourselves I am sure we will admit that few of our homes can produce all.

## ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

(Contd. from page 21)

Specially remarkable was with Brandenburg Concerto which was the most ambitious work of the evening and came off very well. Arthur Fernando, in particular, showed himself as a flautist of the greatest promise. Loise Mack was clear, lively and unfussy in her rendering of the piano part and Eileen Prins was as good as expected.

The Choral Society proved, if proof were necessary, that they are the nearest thing to perfection we have in the way of concerted music, a critic enthused.

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# “THE GREAT ISLAND OF CEYLON”

## BALDEUS' DESCRIPTION

—By G. V. G.—

THE seventeenth century saw the arrival in Ceylon of three Europeans who were destined to place the Island prominently on the map of historical literature. They were the Rev. Phillipus Baldeus, a Dutchman, Capt. Joao Rebeiro, a Portuguese, and Robert Knox, an Englishman. All three wrote graphic and valuable accounts of the country and of their experiences in it. Their books were published within a few years of each other, between 1672 and 1685.

Though, of the three, Baldeus was the last to arrive in Ceylon (in 1656) his book was the first to be published—in 1672 at Amsterdam. Knox's and Rebeiro's works were published in 1681 and 1685. English translations of the two latter are of course now well-known in Ceylon, but the same cannot be said regarding Baldeus' book, of which no translation direct from Dutch into English had for many years past been known to exist. The original work had indeed been translated into German, from which version what purported to be an English translation of most of it was published in 1703 as part of “Churchill's Voyages”, a compilation not now available to the public—which is perhaps not so regrettable, for in the opinion of the late Fr. S. G. Perera, S. J., the Churchill translation was “only a summary one, omitting and abbreviating sentences”.

\* \* \*

CRITICISMS of the translation had also been made in 1895 by D. W. Ferguson in the Monthly Literary Register. Despite its defects, however, Churchill's translation was reprinted several times, and lastly in 1752, since which date no English translation of Baldeus has been offered to the public anywhere. Unknown to fame, however, a complete translation had come into being, accomplished about 1835 and in Ceylon too! It was by Pieter Brohier, who had presumably hoped to publish it, but, on learning of “Churchill's Voyages”, had lost interest in his accomplishment, so much so that after his death the manuscript

passed out of the keeping of the Brohier family on being lent to a friend and was practically forgotten by Pieter Brohier's descendants till some 23 years ago, when it was, appropriately enough, found in the Library of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, by none other than Mr. R. L. Brohier, a great grandson of the translator.

\* \* \*

IT had been “presented” to the Society by a gentleman who owing to the fact that the manuscript bore no name of the translator or any other indication of ownership, thought the Society would be the best custodian of it. The manuscript was examined by Fr. S. G. Perera, who strongly recommended its publication. And now, thanks to Mr. R. L. Brohier's fortunate find and the editorial zeal of Mr. S. D. Saparamadu, not to mention the cordial approval of the R.A.S. it is at last offered to the reading public of Ceylon and overseas by the Ceylon Historical Journal. What we now have therefore is a complete translation of all the 51 chapters of the book, which deal with the Portuguese occupation of Colombo and other towns, their overthrow by the Dutch, the relations of the latter with the Kandyans, the nature and characteristics of the Sinhalese and the Tamils and the National History of Ceylon. It contains all the maps and illustrations and marginal notes of the original edition, supplemented by a comprehensive Introduction by Mr. Saparamadu and also by footnotes relating to matters of historical, geographical or scientific interest and by a Glossary of Place Names.

\* \* \*

THAT the Manuscript was the work of Pieter Brohier was easily established by reason of the family tradition that there had been in existence one such “written in demy sheets of paper in a volume some five inches thick”. Its perfect caligraphy also agreed with that of a translation which had been made by Pieter Brohier of another Dutch document which had not strayed from the custody of the family.

SOME biographical details regarding Baldeus would doubtless interest readers. He was born at Delft in South Holland, in October 1632. When he was only four years old both his parents died of the “plague”. He was then cared for by relatives, one of whom was a Predicant stationed in Formosa. He was educated at Groningen and Leiden. In 1654 he was, to use his own words, “after lawful appointment at Amsterdam sent to the distant regions for the sacred Service and extension of the glory of God in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.” He and his wife arrived in Batavia in July 1655, but in a few months he was bereaved of her. He married again in November 1656. He served not only in Ceylon but also in other parts of the Dutch Indies. He learnt Tamil sitting alongside children, and tracing the letters of that alphabet in the sand. He later practised with a quill but soon took to using a stylus on palm leaves. He wrote a number of books, not only in Dutch but also in Portuguese and in Tamil.

Returning to Holland in 1666 he settled at Hague where he began to write his book. Illness, however, interrupted the progress of the work. He died in his fortieth year. D. W. Ferguson thought it “even possible that he was denied the satisfaction of seeing his *magnum opus* published.”

MEMORIES of Japanese raids over and about Ceylon were revived by the visit to Colombo recently of two Australian naval vessels, the destroyer Vampire and a frigate. The Vampire's predecessor was sunk off Batticaloa by Japanese dive bombers in the Easter Sunday raid in 1942.

Four survivors of the old Vampire being on the two ships, they were enabled to drop wreaths at the spot where Vampire I was sunk by the ships anchoring at the spot for a memorial service for their comrades. Capt. E. J. Peel, one of the survivors, conducted the memorial service. The other three were Lt. Commander Carter, Lieut W. P. Devine and CPO Chandler.



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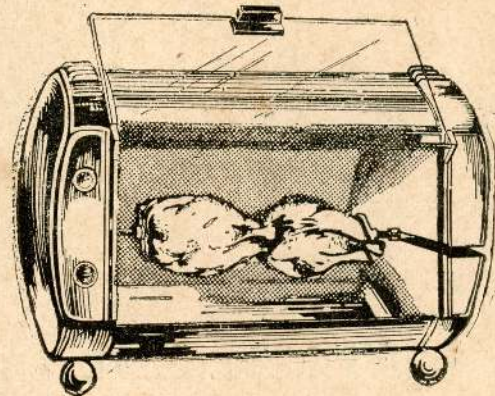
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