



BULLETIN OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF JAFFNA
CEYLON.

Chakkaram

CHARTER NO 5369

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Vol. IX.

December 1961

No. 6.

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Editor of Bulletin :	... Rtn. H. A. C. Ratnesar.

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Editorial

One half of our Rotary year is past and it might be profitable to take stock of our Rotary activities during this period.

What have we done to increase the influence and prestige of Rotary in our community? We have definitely made more headway in this direction. Our activities to serve the community has enhanced the influence and prestige of Rotary in our city under the able leadership of Rtn. Sathia Nathan and our Secretary Rtn, Mather.

During this half year we played hosts to one of the most successful One-Day District Institute held for the first time in the history of Ceylon clubs.

There was also a successful Inter-City meeting attended by Rotarians from the 8 clubs in Ceylon.

Our District Governor Rtn. K. V. Srinivasan paid his official visit to the club.

As regards Community Service activities, our members contributed towards gifts of sarongs and towels to all the 162 inmates of the Home for the Aged.

Our Club donated a tractor to the Trade School run by the Youth Council for Social and Economic Welfare.

Film shows were arranged for

prisoners at the Jaffna prison.

Prizes were donated at the Annual Sports' Meet at the Fernham Institute (Borstal).

Good work continues to be done in collecting funds (about Rs. 3000/-) to help the inmates of the Deaf and Blind School for providing them with beds and other amenities.

Plans are being drawn to construct a Sick room at the Deaf and Blind School at an estimated cost of Rs. 4000/- in memory of our late President Namasivayam Chettiar.

Club Service in our club does not receive the attention it deserves and it reflected on the functioning of the club. We have given the rules of attendance and payment of club dues a wide berth and carry with us a growing liability in the shape of indifferent members. The habitual absentees and defaulters have no place in Rotary. The bylaws prescribe automatic termination and playing with the rule and procrastinating them has had a deleterious effect on the club moral. Let every one of the members have due warning—in time. But let the rules take their own course as they meant to be.

Everyone of us should have intimate knowledge of the organization to which we owe allegiance and fulfil our obligations. Is the spirit of Rotary lacking in our club?

Candid Confession of a New Rotarian

The author of this article is a member of the Liverpool Rotary Club who holds the classification of 'Religion: Free Churches.' He has been a Rotarian for less than two years, and the text printed below was originally delivered to his fellow members in the form of a Club address.

Having been invited to express my impressions of Rotary seen through the eyes of a new boy I want to get over to my fellow members (as being my own discovery) that I have found myself in a fresh environment and a type of fellowship new to me. We each have an environment formed by our business interests, political contacts, our recreations, our cultural interests; and these make the world in which we live. This is particularly true of a person. A minister of religion lives in an aura from which he finds it very difficult at any time to escape. He meets an infinite variety of people; the business man, the artisan, the scrounger, very often the rogue, and these become the world which he tries to serve, and in a sense there is something very limiting about it. A minister or parson finds it very difficult to deal with people outside of that religious environment which is his. He is not really permitted by the very people who come within his orbit to be anything else but a person. When he speaks to them he is a minister, and when they speak to him they approach him as being a minister, and more or less he has

to move in that atmosphere, even within his own home, because his own children are bound to be influenced by the profession that is his very life.

In some senses this is a very splendid thing; it is the environment which I chose and in which I am glad to find myself, but at the same time it limits one.

When I came into Rotary I found myself in something which was particularly fresh, something quite different from anything I had known before. Joining this club one steps into a world that is particularly invigorating and refreshing, because it has nothing of the sort of limitation I have described. In this club I am not a minister; I have felt that I am the man Copplestone, for what I am—good or bad—and that has a tremendously stimulating effect upon someone who is more or less inured to a somewhat artificial environment.

To begin with, I was scared of you all. I found it very difficult (if I may say so) to adjust myself to your language. It was not that I found any strangeness in an occasional "Damn", because parsons are

not altogether shaken by colourful language, and are not so ignorant of it as is sometimes supposed. But I found amongst you an unusual manner of expressing views upon life; upon politics, and upon every sort of interest that we touch in conversation.

As a minister you hear a certain vocabulary, and a form of expression that you get accustomed to but here I found a freshness in expression and point of view that has been one of the real delights of this club to me—people saying something about something in a way that one oneself never thought of expressing in the same way.

Interpretation of Fellowship

That began to make me delve for the reason. Why did I find something that was fresher apart from the more intimate spirit of the Church? I came to the conclusion (rightly or wrongly) that in the club there is something distilled that is far greater and worthier than that which could be created by any individual member of the club, or

by any little group within the club, I found that the club unconsciously interpreted fellowship as form of self-giving service which to me has become the fundamental principle of Rotary.

I know I am not wrong in that, and I don't believe that I have made mistake when I suggest that as club members we deliberately try to submerge some of the inhibitions which separate us when we meet as individuals, and thus create a fellowship which is a form of sacrificial giving. To me that is one of the most glorious things about Rotary.

In the club we are each of differing views, and yet can link ourselves together in a movement which unifies. Bearing in mind the international character of Rotary, it is my opinion that this should make a very valuable contribution to international peace.

Apologetic Service

My next impression or confession is that I sense in the club a sort of self-conscious ashamedness of being idealists, We are living in a queer

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world, with queer people; and one of the things that seems to me to be most queer is that people do not like to be caught out doing a good deed. We sometimes can be caught out telling a lie without blushing but if we are observed doing a good turn, helping someone, a little shame-facedness creeps in, and we are apologetic.

The Rotary club is fundamentally a very serious thing. I say that advisedly. I believe we are in the club because we subscribe to the principles that are basic to the whole of the movement and not because of the lunch, not because it is a special privilege to meet each other here. I believe that we feel that this is not just a movement, but that it has a spiritual basis. By that I mean that there is an element of beauty bound up in it—a personal responsibility of moral obligation. So when we enter into the club life we are conscious of a movement based on idealism, but on those occasions when we are found asserting this idealism we suddenly jerk ourselves into a denial of idea-

listic intention, and we become a little hard-boiled.

I have heard again and again in the club someone saying something of an action of his which was purely public-spirited and idealistic, and then he has suddenly realised that he has talked as if he is a good fellow and he has hedged by saying, "Of course, you know, if you do that sort of thing it is good business" ... just trying to lower the level of the motivation of his action, which is really false modesty. I think it is wrong if that little bit of reserve creeps in which we become aware as Rotarians that we stand for big things.

Candles in a Naughty World

There is good reason for not letting your Rotary light be hidden under a bushel. We live in a naughty world, and I think it is a good thing for those of us who are Rotarians and idealists to let our candle shine in that naughty world, and to let people know that this movement stands not just for social

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intercourse and talks that may be useful to us in business, but for things of the spirit and for things that have a service basis or moral obligation.

My next impression of my new Rotary friends is that there is a response (and a very healthy response) to sincerity rather than to competence or brilliance. I do not know of any company of men who listen to a wider range of subjects than we do at our meetings, and I have tried to assess the reaction of the club to what has been said. The comments I have heard as we have made a mad rush to return our badges have been based not so much upon what the speaker has said but upon an appropriation of the type of man the speaker has shown himself to be. He may have said something diametrically opposed to all our convictions, perhaps politically, religiously, or the like. I suppose if we met outside we would be at it tooth and nail, but despite the difference of judgment or opinion, I have found again and again there was a most remarkable reaction in the way of favourable comment. The fact that somebody was getting something over with a sincere approach, and that the man himself believed what he was saying, and that whatever he was

talking about, whether you agreed with him or not, was sincere, made you appreciate the type of man rather than the subject of his discourse.

I feel that here is a most valuable thing in Rotary—that the relationships in the movement do not depend on any uniformity of judgment, interests, or opinions. We are all so different, thank God. There are some here who politically and even religiously might be in another sphere of the world from me, but we are not here as a sort of club of diverse people; we are here as those who are linked together in a movement that unifies us because we are big in our opinions of each other, and we like each other even if we contest or even detest each other's convictions.

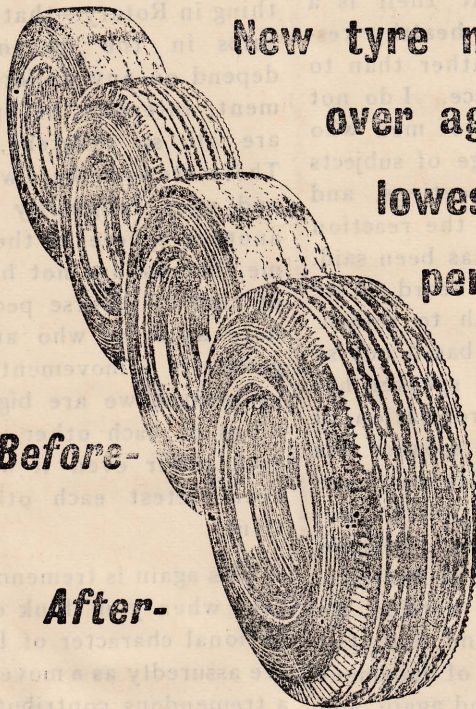
This again is tremendously important when you think of the international character of Rotary. We are assuredly as a movement making a tremendous contribution to world peace.

Do not let us be ashamed of the idealism of Rotary. If there are ideals in Rotary shout them from the house-top rather than try to hide them under a bushel.



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Club Dues. Rtn. Treasurer informs me that some members are in arrears of subscription and other dues. Art. IV Sec. 6 of our Club Constitution says, "Any member failing to pay his dues within 30 days after prescribed time shall be notified by the Secretary and if said dues are not

paid on or before 10 days of said notification said membership shall automatically terminate." Fellow Rotarians please do not let your Secretary do the last notice job, It is in your hands. Please hurry up. Settle your dues.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Hony. Member Rtn, H. A. C. Ratnesar on his son Pathmanathan's success at final M. B. B. S. Examination of the Ceylon University.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Rtn. Dr. W. L. Jeyasingham 7th January
Rtn. Dr. F. J. Ratnesar 7th January

RESIGNATIONS

The Board of Directors has accepted with regret the resignation of
1. Rtn. C. Thanabalasigham 3. Rtn. Yusuf Hashim
2. Rtn. Anton Joseph 4. Rtn. Navam Niles (Transferred)

② ② ②

Our meetings in the month of December

5-12-61 Fellowship meeting.
12-12-61 Business meeting.
19-12-61 Recorded speech by Dr. Shelton on "Health"
26-12-61 No meeting (Christmas holidays)

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Happy Birthday

Rotary clubs world-wide will celebrate "Rotary's Magazine Week" on 21—27 January—the 51st birthday of our Magazine, which is published in Spanish and English editions. With a combined circulation of 429,000. THE ROTARIAN and REVISTA ROTARIA go into 136 countries and geographical regions. Our Club will commemorate this natal day on the 30th January with a Dinner meeting.

② ② ②

Programme for the month of January

- January 9th. *Speaker* : Dr. K. Kanagaratnam.
Retired Medical Superintendent of Hospitals.
Subject : " Filariasis "
- January 16th. *Speaker* : President Rtn. V. Sathia Nathan,
Subject : " The District Conference at Tanjore "
- January 23rd. *Speaker* : Mr. A. T. G Britto, Proctor.
Subject : " Inter Planetary Clashes "
- January 30th. Dinner meeting to commemorate the 51st
Birthday of " The Rotarian ".

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Attendance from July to December

Number of meetings 23.

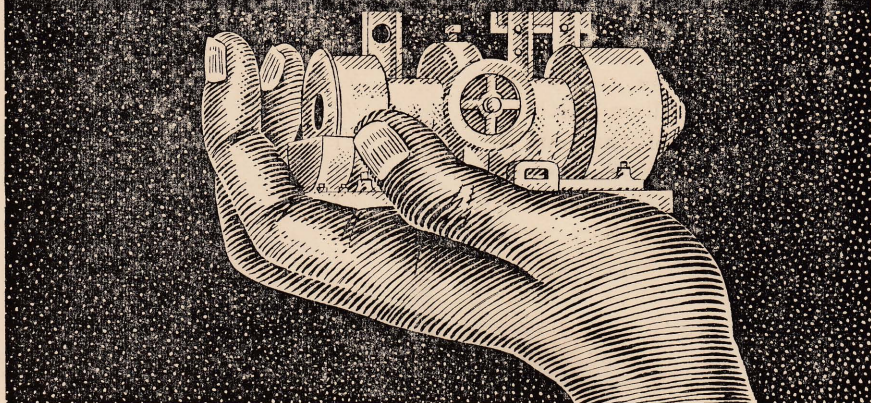
		No. of meetings attended	Percentage
1.	Rtn. V. Sathia Nathan	23	100 %
2.	„ William Mather	22	95·6 %
3.	„ C. Muthuthamby	21	91·3 %
4.	„ W. S. Somasundram	20	87·0 %
5.	„ Dr. G. Chelvadoray	19	82·6 %
6.	„ Dr. M. Saravanabalasuriar	18	78·7 %
7.	„ Dr. W. S. Jayasingham	18	78·7 %
8.	„ Pat Wye	18	78·7 %
8.	„ A. Arulambalam	16	70·0 %
10.	„ A. S. Mahadeva	15	65·3 %
11.	„ R. K. Arulampalam	15	65·3 %
17.	„ Dr. F. J. Ratnesar	15	65·3 %
13.	„ Anton St. George	14	60·9 %
14.	„ Emmanuel Joseph	14	60·9 %
15.	„ A. K. Kanaganayagam	13	56·5 %
16.	„ Dr. A. G. Arudpragasam	11 (20 meetings)	55·0 %
17.	„ B. S. Joseph	12	52·2 %
18.	„ Rev. S. K. Bunker	12 (1 month leave)	52·2 %
19.	„ D. Doulatram	12 (1 month leave)	52·2 %
20.	„ A. C. Rajasuriar	9	39·1 %
21.	„ V. Sathyalingam	8	35·8 %
22.	„ S. Kanagaratnam	8	35·8 %
23.	„ J. S. Machado	7	30·4 %
24.	„ S. X. Francis	6 (1 month leave)	26·1 %
25.	„ H. A. C. Ratnesar	23	100 %
	(Hony. Member)		

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