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MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE AND HUMAN PERSONALITY

WHAT IS MYSTICISM?

By C. S. Bagi, M. A., B. T.
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THE best use we can make of life is to let it burgeon into a many-sided worship of the All-Giver. It is also the highest mystical act to convert all life's activities into a confession of gratitude to our Maker. The following words of Sri Basava express the sincere devotee's prayerful attitude towards God.

"I here be some that are rich;
they may build temples to you
(or they may not)—
stony, mortal edifices.
I am not rich—poor me!
And yet, be my legs the pillars,
my body the shrine,
my head the golden pinnacle;
thus will I decree
your imperishable home,
O Lord, Kudala Sangama!"

Of all blasphemies, therefore, that of disputing a mystic's sanity is the least excusable. What seems like lunacy in him is his passionate conviction of the Divine Cause. He knows no rest nor comfort until he gains his goal. He is loath to make peace with the giddy whirl of life on any terms foreign to his goal. We call this madness, mania, obsession, compulsion, and may be a score of other technicalities of the psychoanalyst's jargon. But how can we be sure that our psychoanalysis is not itself a matter for further psychoanalysis? How can we be sure that our weird names for mystical mania are not themselves but symptoms of a worse mania? It may be that we secretly relieve a repression by calling a mystic a masochist. One never knows. One often suspects the *bona fides* of psychoanalysts' pretensions. How often do they not seek refuge in their learned technicalities when honest abuses would land them in certain trouble? But let us hear that the great mystic Jesus says in the matter.

"But woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because ye shut the kingdom of heaven against men; For ye enter not in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering in to enter."

What then is mysticism? What are mystics travelling to teach us?

The plain answer is "We do not know." Mr. Karel Wienfurter almost frightens us out of our attempts to know. "The way of the mystic" he tells us, "is narrower than a hair, and can be compared to the edge of a razor stretched over a precipice."

Perhaps it is. But disappointing as our attempts to understand mys-

ticism are likely to be, it will be an even greater disappointment not to know why we do not understand it. We account it no serious disability that we do not grasp particular intricacies of the theory of Relativity. But our entire selfhood protests if we fail to see why we cannot follow Einstein beyond a certain point. Is mystical experience like Relativity a specialized branch of Higher Discipline?

The analogy of Relativity suggests to us a possible clue to the mystery of mystical experience. The Mystic Way is not a negation of the Human Way even as Relativity is not a denial of the simple Laws of Numbers. It would be truer to say that mystical experience is the complement, extension and transcendence of the human.

Paradoxical as it seems what we call a human being is a pure convention, a figure of speech by which we signify a part for the whole. Man is no more complete Being than a 'mill hand' is only a detached forelimb or a 'madcap' an article of wear. Surrounding us and extending from us is an infinitely bigger Personality who moves with our movement and stays with our stopping, like a faithful double of ourselves. It is no idle boast, but a veritable fact, that a whole mountain moves somewhere in space if Mr. Tom Thumb but lift his little finger, and the Eternity resounds if he but whisper.

Poor Man! Perhaps it is to some benefit that he has not disciplined his perceptions and faculties to a recognition of his total selfhood. Else he were frightened by his own immensity as a child is by its magnified shadows.

In the dizzy scramble of Evolution we either would not or could not (certainly we did not) grow a Sixth Sense to see ourselves as Heaven made us. A deep spell guards us from self-knowledge. Nothing short of a Mystical Cataclysm can restore us to our full stature.

"There is an inmost centre in us all, Where truth abides in fullness; and around Wall upon wall, a gross flesh hems it in, This perfect clear perception—which is truth;and to 'know' Rather consists in opening out a way Whence the imprisoned splendour may escape, Than in effecting entry for a light Supposed to be without!"

"India First" Slogan

Mr. Amery's Suggestion

London, Dec. 12.

THE slogan "India first" was suggested by Mr. L. S. Amery, speaking at a luncheon in London today as a watchword which could be effectively applied to affairs in India in this present difficult juncture, and applied by Indians of every community or section in their relations with each other, or to the British Government, and also by Englishmen, whether in Britain or in India.

Explaining the slogan, Mr. Amery said that by "India first", he meant India as a whole with her infinite diversity and underlying unity. After referring to the various external influences to which India had been subject from Aryan settlers and Muslim invaders to British rule in India, Mr. Amery said that British rule alone had succeeded in giving India that political unity which was an indispensable condition of her free and peaceful development. He said that once broken up into separate and independent entities, India would relapse, as it did in the decline of the Mogul Empire, into a welter of contending powers in which free institutions would inevitably be suppressed, and in which no one element would have the resources with which to defend itself against external attack, whether by land or sea.

Need for Compromise

Putting himself in turn in the position of a follower of Congress, an Indian Muslim, a ruler of an Indian State and an Englishman, Mr. Amery declared that the slogan "India first" demanded from every element, comprehensive tolerance and compromise, the acceptance of the real India as it exists today, not the uncompromising insistence upon immediate and complete realisation of a theoretical India, which any particular element or party had inscribed upon its banner.

Mr. Amery declared; "Believing, as I do, that the highest interest of Britain lies in the strength and permanence of the British Commonwealth I know the strength of that commonwealth and the permanence of that commonwealth can only be based on the fullest freedom, the fullest developments and the fullest variety of individual life in each of its parts."

Viceroy's Offer

Mr. Amery said that it was from that point of view that the Viceroy had made his statement three months ago. That offer had for the moment been rejected, not because it was in itself inadequate, but because the spirit of "India first" was strong enough to overcome the insistence on unpractical demands, on

(Continued on page 5)

OFT REPEATED CHARGE AGAINST MINISTERS

UNFOUNDED, SAYS V. C. MEMBER

NEW UDAIYAR OF MYLIDY S. FETED

THE charge has often been made that the Sinhalese Ministers were unmindful of the interests of the Tamil Community. As a Tamil I make bold to state that such a charge is unfounded. We of this rural area can vouch for the fact that the ministers have always been alive to our vital needs," declared Mr. K. Ponnampalam, a Member of the Village Committee of Myliddy, speaking on 11-12-40 at a largely attended public meeting held at the Palar Gnanothay-Sanga-Vithiyasalai Hall at Myliddy South in the Kankesanthurai constituency.

The meeting was convened to felicitate Mr. P. Pathinathar on his appointment to the newly created post of headman of Myliddy South.

Mr. P. Paramanathan, Manager Mahadeva Vidyasalai, Kurumbakaddy in Myliddy South, who presided congratulated the residents of that area on securing as their headman Mr. P. Pathinathar a man of character and social standing. He (the speaker) had known Mr. P. Pathinathar both as a student and as a member of the teaching profession.

After addresses by Pandit R. Namasivayam and V. Muttukumaru and Mr. M. Sinnappu, Mr. K. Ponnampalam moved the following resolution.

"The residents of Myliddy South at public meeting assembled thank the Honourable the Minister for Home Affairs and the Government Agent, Jaffna, for having decided to appoint a separate headman for this area."

In moving this resolution Mr. K. Ponnampalam said that that office was abolished 10 years ago but the people had repeatedly made representations to the ministry concerned and the Government Agent as to the hardships entailed by its suppression. After making the remarks quoted above, the speaker said that the Sinhalese ministers had been most willing to attend to their needs and that the Minister of Communication and Works had included in the Budget a large sum for the acquisition of lands to construct a flood channel from that area to the sea.

Mr. N. Sinniah seconded. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The meeting authorised the Secretaries to forward this resolution to the authorities concerned. (Cor)



Hindu Organ.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1940.

IS IT A SURPLUS BUDGET?

A CAREFUL PERUSAL OF THE budget estimates for 1941 of the Jaffna Urban Council, a copy of which was forwarded to us, leaves one disappointed at the manner in which the framers of the budget have performed their task of balancing it. The draft estimates anticipated a surplus of Rs. 1476, after providing Rs. 331,724 for expenditure out of a revenue estimated at Rs. 333,200. The Council which passed the budget at its meeting on Friday has gone one better and increased the anticipated surplus to Rs. 2,100, the altered figures of revenue and expenditure being Rs. 332,750 and Rs. 330,650 respectively. What the Council has done with the revenue side of the budget was to underestimate only the revenue it could expect next year from Vehicles and Animals tax and reduce it by Rs. 450, anticipating only Rs. 5500 instead of Rs. 6000 provided in the draft estimates, and to overestimate the yield from "sale of refuse" under head scavenging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. The Council has thus perfectly satisfied itself that the revenue prospects for 1941 were so rosy as to yield an increase of revenue to the tune of Rs. 4,981 over the current year's anticipated income of Rs. 347,769. This is optimism of a type that bears no relation to facts but only a case of wishful thinking. A glance over the summary of the estimates, appended to the draft budget, would show that under no head of revenue is there any noteworthy increase anticipated over the current year's figures except under Electricity which, it seems to us, is unconscionably strained to yield Rs. 149,580 as against Rs. 136,560, anticipated estimate for the current year, and Rs. 142,382 63, actual revenue for 1939. This means an increase of about Rs. 13,000 over current year's earnings and about Rs. 7,000 over actual revenue under this head in 1939. In view of the fact that no provision, except a taken vote of Rs. 10, has been made for extension of the lighting scheme in 1941, and of an anticipated fall in the current year's revenue, we fail to see what hope there is, for expecting such a phenomenal jump in the figure for next year. This is an unjustifiable overestimate of the figure with a vengeance. The most optimistic estimate under this head, allowing a margin for any possible in-

crease, should be in the neighbourhood of the figure for 1939 i. e. Rs. 142,382-63. It would have been more correct budgeting if, leaving all the other estimates untouched, a deficit of about Rs. 5000 was shown, or if the budget was to be balanced a cut could have been made in some heads of expenditure, or provision made for extending the Electric lighting scheme justifiably expecting therefrom an increase of revenue under this head. Under no other circumstances can one justify the surplus budget that has been passed by the Council. We are constrained to observe that the present Council has not acted fairly in the legacy it is leaving to the new Council that will assume the reins next month. The new Council, constituted under the new Ordinance and with a number of members new to the job, will, we fear, have the inconvenient experience of entering upon its career with a budget which on the face of it shows a surplus, but in reality a deficit. This is the conclusion that has naturally forced itself on us on a perusal of the budget, particularly the revenue side of it. We shall touch on the other aspects of the budget later. But in the meantime let us impress on the new Council not to begin its career under the false hope that the revenue of the Council for 1941 would be what it is depicted to be in the Budget.

JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL

Nominated Seats

A message just received from Colombo states that the Executive Committee for Local Administration has, at its meeting today, recommended Messrs. V. Suppiah and Chas. S. Pathirana to be nominated as members of the Jaffna Urban Council.

No Telephone To Delft Now

The wireless telephone service proposed to be opened between Jaffna and Delft from tomorrow has been postponed indefinitely owing to the war, and will be inaugurated at the conclusion of the war.

Colombo Mayor Wins

Colombo Sunday.

Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, Mayor of Colombo and leader of the Labour Party, defeated Dr. A. P. de Zoysa, M. S. C., Colombo South, for the Maradana South Ward in the Colombo Municipal elections yesterday.

Another victory for Labour was registered by Mr. J. R. Dharmasena, the candidate for the Dematagoda Ward who defeated his Congress rival, Mr. J. N. Jinedradasa. Congress, however, retained the Mutwal electorate by the victory of Dr. A. F. K. Casie Chetty over his Labour contestant Mr. B. R. de Silva.

COURT DRESS FOR PROCTORS

Black Coat and Gown Condemned

Court dress for Proctors was one of the subjects discussed at the week end conference of proctors in the Additional District Court of Colombo.

Mr. S. J. C. Kadirgamar stressed the necessity of establishing a Law Society and denounced the waste of time that was now taking place over payment orders owing to red tape. He also condemned the lack of facilities afforded the Press to report judicial proceedings.

Mr. Valentine S. Perera said that they should be allowed to appear in national costume with a black gown.

Mr. T. F. Paulickpulle condemned the black coat and black gown. Their dress must suit local conditions, he said. The wearing of the wig, he added, was an abomination. Something suitable should be evolved so that they could be distinguished from the layman without having recourse to black, of all colours.

Mr. Alagasunderam Chettiar said that in India the lawyers appeared in Court in their national dress with black coats.

Mr. Kadirgamar said that it was not necessary to copy England or India. They had to evolve something best suited to this country.

U. S. AID TO BRITAIN

Two Proposals

Washington, Saturday.

Two proposals for aiding Britain at sea have been formulated by advocates of greater assistance, according to authoritative reports here, and will be brought to the attention of Mr. Roosevelt next week.

They are the conveying of supplies to Britain in United States ships protected by United States warships and selling to Britain some or all 143 foreign cargo vessels, especially Danish ones, which are tied up in American ports.

It is emphasized that these proposals are still only in the stage of discussion and would need Congressional approval. The plan to sell or barter to Britain the remaining 75 over age United States destroyers is still being talked about.

CHANGE IN FRENCH GOVT

Pétain Sends Laval Out

London, Saturday.

"Pierre Laval is no longer a member of the Government", dramatically announced Marshal Pétain in a message broadcast tonight by the Lyons radio.

Marshal Pétain prefixed his announcement with the words, "Frenchmen, I have just taken a decision which I trust is in the interest of the country" and added that M. Flandin had taken the portfolio for Foreign Affairs.

"The act which nominated M. Laval as Pétain's successor is

30,000 ITALIANS TAKEN PRISONERS

Blackshirts Fighting Desperately

Cairo, Saturday.

Blackshirt divisions are fighting desperately, hard up against the Libyan frontier, to prevent the rout of the Italian Army in the Western Desert. They are being engaged by advance units of the British armoured formations which continue to clear Marshal Graziani's forces from Egypt with lightning speed.

Twenty-six thousand prisoners—30,000 unofficially—have been taken by the British Forces besides guns, tanks, and other equipment.

They are hammering away at the Italian rear, with bombing raids on ports and bases day and night, and strafing by eight-gun fighters on troops and transports.

In aerial combat British fighter pilots destroying 15 Italian planes for the loss of four of their own. Three of the pilots are safe.

Obituary

MR. L. STONER—
RAJARATNAM.

The death occurred on Tuesday, the 10th inst at the Green Hospital, Maunipay, of Mr. Lawrence Stoner Rajaratnam, Retd. Apothecary.

Mr. Rajaratnam was 61 years old of age and was in the Ceylon Government for over 35 years. He was last stationed at Kenniya, Trincomalee District, and retired from active service in last May. He was loved by one and all alike.

The funeral took place the following day and was largely attended. The funeral service both at home and the graveside was conducted by Rev. J. J. Mather, M.S. Chinniah, J.V.J. Arnold and S. Jegasothy. The chief mourners are: Mrs. Rajaratnam (widow), Messrs. R.N. Rajaratnam and V.N. Rajaratnam Asst. Irrigation Engineer, Colombo, (Sons) Mr. and Mrs. Thurairatnam and Son (Son-in-law daughter and Grand-Son). (Cox)

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(Y. 19. 2-5-40 to 1-5-41.)

cancelled Marshal Pétain said. "It is for high reasons of internal policy that I have taken this decision. It has no repercussions at all in our relations with Germany. "I remain at the helm—the national revolution continues."

The message was in the Marshal's own voice, no doubt recorded, and the Marseillaise was played at the end.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Eye of the J.H.C. Old Boys' Association and Directors

Sir,—Hindu Girls' Colleges for Jaffna are a long felt want and that the urgent need for one at Jaffna Town was strongly felt by our popular Government Agent, of the Northern Province, at the Annual Dinner of the Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys' Association this year.

All these years the matter of opening up a National College for girls was put off by the Old Boys' Association, Jaffna Hindu College and the College Board of Directors perhaps with the hope that somebody else would step in to do this piece of work. Now as this matter was rightly brought up by no less a personage other than the Government Agent, Northern Provinces, at the Jaffna Hindu College Hall at the O. B. A. Annual Dinner, we are of opinion that the Directors of the said College and the old students in Ceylon and Overseas will not hesitate any more to supply this urgent need.

We also feel that a sum of one lakh of rupees should be collected for this purpose. So we urge the Board of Directors to take the initiative in this matter along with the help of the Old Students at Ceylon and Overseas and also with the co-operation of the general public of Ceylon and Jaffnese in Malaya.

In this connection we would suggest an Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition be arranged in 1941 at Colombo with Ceylon produce only along with various side attractions for about 10 days. Subscriptions also could be raised from private individuals, business firms, associations etc.,

We earnestly hope that this matter will not be delayed any longer. We also promise to do our bit in this town when a general appeal is made for funds for a National Girls' College for the Jaffna Town.

We are,
Yours faithfully,
V. Nadaraja, Ipoh. (P. O. Box 24)
A. Velupillai, Ipoh. (Sanitary Bd.)
S. Duraiappah, P. W. D., Ipoh.
C. Somasundram, Audit Office, Ipoh,
Ipoh.
5 - 12 - 40.

ELECTION OF U. C. CHAIRMAN, JAFFNA

Sir,—Now that the Urban Council Elections in Jaffna are over, party strife should cease and that a person chosen for the Chairmanship should be one who could command the support of the majority party and also able to get the co-operation of the pro-Municipal party, if the administration of the Town is to be carried on in the interests of the vast majority of the rate payers.

The Urban Council is not the place for factions to flourish and personal animosities to have any sway. The Town can be administered satisfactorily either by an Urban Council or a Municipality without additional taxation, if all parties co-operate leaving aside their personal ambitions.

Such being the case we want a Chairman with previous experience in the Council—but not necessarily one who had been the Chairman previously. Chances

should be given to new men to show their abilities in Urban Council administration.

We want in the new Chairman a strong and able administrator who will not be too good to one and all, but be firm towards the staff and the public when necessity demands.

Yours etc.,
C. K. S. NATHAN.
11th December 1940.

JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1940

Sir,—Hats off to the Jaffna Rate-Payers' Association for securing a convincing majority of 5 out of the possible 8 elected members of the Urban Council. The achievement of the Association is certainly to be commended, and this should serve as a salutary lesson to all local politicians who labour under the misconception that once they are returned to Council they are free to think and act as they please. Councillors should be guided rather by the wants and wishes of the Rate-Payers, than by their own ideas and fancies.

As the Association-candidates are pledged to oppose the establishment of a Municipality and all additional taxation they should work in conjunction and carry out a policy beneficial to the Rate-Payers at large. The primary condition for such a policy would be unity of action. Here I wish to warn the Association—members against possible attempts to weaken their strength on the part of those who do not belong to their party.

Now that brisk canvassing is going on for the Chairman's office, let me make one observation: When the question of converting the U. C. into M. C. was mooted, the advocates of a Municipality shouted at the top of their voice that municipal constitution provided for a Commissioner who would carry out the various duties now imposed upon a Chairman who was generally a lawyer with very little time at his disposal. It was therefore pointed out that the work of the Urban Council could be facilitated by the appointment of men who were prepared to do if necessary full time work, i.e. one with plenty of leisure should be Chairman. I am sure that the Association candidates will elect such men to fill the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Having secured these offices the Rate-Payers' Association would be in a position to follow a well thought-out scheme which would prove very beneficial to the citizens of Jaffna.

DEMOCRAT.
Jaffna, 3rd December, 1940.

Youth Social Service League

Sir,—Kindly allow me the courtesy of your valuable journal to thank the public for the help they rendered in bringing to a success the free classes in Sinhalese, Spinning and first aid organised and conducted at the "Kala

Nehru's Life in Prison

Letter to His Sister

It is now one month since the prison-gates closed on Mr. Nehru. An intimate account of his life in prison, such as those which form some of the finest passages in his Autobiography, is given by him in a letter to his sister, Mrs. Krishna Huthee Singh.

In the course of his letter, Pandit Nehru says: "I am keeping well. I have been a month in prison out of 48 months. If there was any likelihood of my forgetting this, the New Moon was there to remind me, for I came to prison with the New Moon. I have taken things easily this month. I wanted to get rid of the feeling of tiredness. It takes some time to settle down. I have read and spun a great deal of good yarn. It is surprising how many jobs can be done in prison. Cleaning, washing and generally keeping my own quarters, in a decent condition as is possible absorbs quite a deal of time.

Digging and Asanas

"Then, I started digging. It was hard work at first, for the soil is strong, and I was annoyed at myself when I found I got tired easily. I improved with practice, but digging is hard exercise. Then I do Shirshasana and Sarvangasana. My body had become stiff and I could not balance it properly, I have gone back to form and every morning as the dawn is creeping I sit and gracefully on my head to welcome it. I get up very early with the stars shining away brightly out. I go to bed equally early.

"I am definitely thinner in the right places. You will agree that it is all to the good. I had a companion with me, but he has now been discharged. I am alone, but not for long, as I am told someone else is coming to join me."

Regarding interviews Pandit Nehru says: "The rule is two interviews a month and two letters a month, only for business purposes. This rule may be stretched. Has not Amery said that I live in my own quarters and have frequent interviews, may correspond, read books, etc.—a description with which I have no quarrel even though it is incorrect. But people may imagine that I live in a kind of private shack and otherwise get queer notions. It is almost sylvan life minus the silva."

Indira Nehru's Return

Referring to his daughter, Indira Nehru, who is in Europe, Pandit Nehru says: "I am glad Indira has decided to return. There are all manner of risks and dangers, of course, but it is better to face them than to be isolated and miserable. If she wants to return she may do and

Nilayam" by the above Society for males and females, in April last. The classes will be closed for Christmas and Pongal Holidays for a period of 1 month from the 15th of December 1940 to the 15th January 1941.

Yours etc.
S. SENATHIRAJAH,
(Secretary.)
Kokuvil,
10th Dec. 1940.

SCHOOL FEEDING IN URBAN AREA

Memorandum of Jaffna Association Sub-Committee

The following is the text of a memorandum prepared by a sub-committee of the Jaffna Association on the subject of school-feeding in Jaffna Town:—

At a meeting of the Committee of the Jaffna Association held on the 22nd October, the subject of the midday meal to school children was discussed and it was resolved that Messrs C. K. Tambe, Cosmas W. D. Alwines and C. Arulampalam, the Secretary, be appointed members of a sub-committee to urge on the Urban Council, Jaffna, the necessity of accepting the offer of the Central Government to provide mid-day meals for school children in the schools of the Urban Area.

Since the meeting of the Committee, the subject of school feeding came up before the Urban Council. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. S. C. Thurairaj, with commendable initiative, stressed the necessity of a mid-day meal. The Chairman was also in sympathy and the Council accepted the principle and promised to make provision for the supply of mid-day meals when the Budget for 1941 was to be considered.

We are given to understand, on good authority, that the quota the Council will be called upon to pay to initiate the measure is close upon Rs. 16,000. In preparing this memorandum the members of the Sub-committee wish to create a greater interest, both among the members and the public in Jaffna and outside, in this vital topic of national health, and remove certain misapprehensions that exist among a large section of the public.

Chief Aim

It will be accepted as an axiom that the chief aim of an Urban Council is to conserve the health of the people. The people within the Urban Area pay taxes to the Council and expect the Council consider to ways and means to evolve and maintain a sound policy on the question of the health of the ratepayer. That is the paramount need. Roads and drains, markets and works of public utility are all subsidiary to the main ideal—the health of the people. A ratepayer in sound health is an asset to the Council, a sick ratepayer is a liability.

We are glad to note that the Urban Council is endeavouring to reduce the infantile and mor-

(Continued on page 5)

take the consequences. Life grows harder for all of us and the soft days of the past already belong to the age that is gone. When will they return? No one knows, or will they ever return? We must adapt ourselves if not, physical risk and suffering are after all petty compared to the troubles and tempests of the mind, and whether life is soft or hard one can always get something out of it, but to enjoy life ultimately one must decide not to count the cost."

(Bombay Cor., Madras Hindu)

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School Feeding in Urban Area

(Continued from page 3)

ternal mortality within its area. The various clinics, the increase in the number of mid-wives, the appointment of a Health Visitor, the building of a Maternity Home are crying needs. One is only inclined to ask why these schemes so vitally needful took such a long time to evolve. The Jaffna Council is 18 years old.

Essential Conditions

Healthy maternity and healthy infancy are essential preliminary conditions. Unless the third stage, the health of the child received the attention it deserves, the health policy will be extremely short-sighted and wasteful. Every body accepts the principle that the health of the child is the foundation of national health. But a very large number do mere lip service to this ideal.

We wish to refer to the history of school feeding in England, since legislation in Ceylon is always based on the English model. In 1870 the Education Act made attendance at school compulsory. It was soon proved that sickly and ill-nourished children could not benefit by the education imparted. In 1906 Parliament decreed that undernourished children in schools must be fed. The principle which Parliament accepted as the basis for the introduction of the school meal is important. The principle adopted was that school feeding is educational in character and not in the nature of relief. We wish to stress this fact because there is a good deal of loose thinking and wrong notions about this vital measure. School feeding is not charity. If school feeding were charity, then grant-in-aid schools, government hospitals, scholarships, subsidised industries etc. are all different forms of charity. If, as some say, it is the duty of the parent to feed the child, irrespective of the parent's economic resources, then it is the duty of the parent to bear the full cost of education of his child. Then, why have free education in the Vernacular and grant-in-aid schools for the teaching of English? Why should 15 per cent of the revenue of the Island be spent on subsidising schools and relieving parents of their duty? Every form of social legislation which progressive countries have adopted and are adopting will be acts of charity—old Age pensions, National Health Insurance etc. etc.

Malnutrition

The problem of malnutrition among the school going section of the population in Jaffna is a matter that deserves very serious attention. In big English schools, the percentage of malnourished children are about 60 per cent of the defects found. In the vernacular schools the percentage is well over 80. In plain language what does this mean? It means that more than three-fourths of our future men and women, potential ratepayers, are going to be short lived. If they survive adolescence they may be stunted specimens of humanity, incapable of hard work or sustained effort. Few of them would reach that perfection of manhood and womanhood which nature intended for them. Theirs would be a weary existence, punctuated by frequent bouts of disease and disablement. Is it any wonder that an authority on Nutrition in the East says: "A child suffering from malnutrition is an accusation not of wickedness on the part of the educated and governing classes, but of incompetence. Something, we feel, should be done about it without delay. Organized

social action, not charity is called for."

Though Vernacular education was compulsory, parents who did not send their children to school were rarely prosecuted. Children between the ages of 6 and 14 often helped their parents in the field of the farm, some sought different kinds of employment and thus helped their parents. According to a circular recently issued by the Department of Education, the School Attendance Officers and the Managers and teachers have been instructed to make a census of children of school going age and parents will be prosecuted if they do not send their children to school. Many a parent got his child to work and not attend school through sheer poverty. Now the parent will be forced by the rigours of the law to send his child to school. One cannot blame the Department for tightening up the law. If children of school going age cannot afford a meal before they go to school, the Department is willing to pay for it. In rural areas the Department pays the full cost of the meal. In urban and municipal areas the Department expects the local authority to share in the cost of the meal.

We have stressed these facts to show the urgency of the situation. In matters of health, thanks to the rapid advance of preventive medicine, we have reached a stage when it can be said in the words of the motto of a famous town "public Health is purchasable". This attitude towards Public Health depends on three things: 1. a desire to purchase 2. The understanding of what is to be bought and 3. Financial resources. We trust the first two conditions are obtaining in the Urban Council.

Coming to the third condition, we cannot be blind to the fact that the financial resources of the Council are limited. We feel that the ruling of the Central Government that all local bodies should bear half the cost of school feeding, regardless of the resources of those bodies is impractical. To bracket the Jaffna Urban Council along with the Colombo Municipal Council is like harnessing a bullock to a racehorse. We would therefore urge the adoption of one of the following measures:

1. The appointment of a Committee to inquire into the ways and means of effecting savings in various items already budgeted so that the amount needed may be provided.
2. The accepting of school feeding on a more limited scale as a temporary measure.

We trust the Council will not choose the path of least resistance and turn down the measure on the grounds that its finances would not permit its adoption. It will not be out of place for the Council to urge, through the Association of Urban Councils, the provision of a sliding scale of contributions by local bodies.

We trust the facts that we have urged in this memorandum will merit the serious consideration of the Council. A Public Health Service that does not include nutrition work in its programme is neglecting one of the most powerful means towards fulfilling the object for which it exists—the creation of a strong and healthy people. We wish to conclude in the words of a well-known writer. "In the growing individual, nutrition is the most important thing, if that is unsatisfactory every other consideration must be pushed aside until it is righted; questions of education are but vanity, and to raise thrift or self-help into the discussion is hypocrisy, if these things stand in the way of remedying ill-nutrition in the child."

King Celebrates Birthday

London, Saturday.

The King celebrated his 45th birthday today and hundreds of congratulatory messages from all parts of the British Empire and from other countries began to arrive at an early hour this morning.

CLERICAL SERVICE EXAM.

Results of October Test

The following candidates have been selected for appointment to the lowest grade of the General Clerical Service, on the results of the examination held on October 26, 1940.

It is stated that the Government does not undertake to provide the candidates with posts immediately but they will be given appointments as vacancies occur:—

W. P. O. V. de S. Abeydeera, A. P. E. Abeyuriya, W. J. Abeywickrama, E. A. de A. Amarasekara, J. B. C. Anandappa, K. Arunasalam, D. N. Asmone.

P. V. M. Cooray, H. D. Cornelius, H. R. Dabera, P. K. A. A. de Alwis, A. S. Deane, H. de Mel, G. G. de Silva, G. M. G. de Silva, M. W. R. de Silva, P. L. N. de Silva, S. C. H. de Silva, S. P. de Silva, D. M. J. Dharmasiri, C. L. A. Direkze.

M. B. Ekanayake, C. S. M. Fernando, H. O. F. Fernando, K. A. S. W. Fernando, M. Q. Fernando, W. W. T. Fernando, S. K. Francis.

P. N. Gunasinghe, D. H. J. Gunawardene.

S. D. N. Holmes, O. L. M. Ismail.

D. N. E. Jayamanne, E. Jeyaveerasingan, R. Joseph.

T. Kanagaratnam, K. S. Kanapathipillai, S. Kanapathipillai, W. D. Karunaratne, S. Kasipillay, T. P. de S. Kudahetty, M. B. Kulatunga.

M. C. Manatunga, A. Masilamany, B. B. H. Mendis, C. Nadarajah, K. Nadarajah, S. A. Nanayakkara, M. Navaratnam.

S. Pa'asandiram, E. S. Pararajasingham, S. M. Pathirane, L. L. V. Perera, P. Perera, U. T. Perera, S. H. Peterson, J. A. L. Pietersz, K. Ponnambalam, K. K. Poornananda.

B. C. T. Ranasinghe, B. S. C. F. Ranasinghe, H. M. Ranasinghe, S. Rasiab, S. Ratnam, W. G. Rupasinghe.

T. Sabarathinam, N. Sabaratnam, S. Sabaratnam, T. A. Saldin, V. Sanmugam, P. L. Scharenguivel, G. L. D. P. Senaratna, S. Senathirajah, S. N. Shanmuganathapillai, D. W. Silva, K. L. E. R. Silva, L. J. C. F. Silva, T. S. Silva, N. D. Simon, S. Singharetnam, P. L. Sirisena, K. Sittampalam, S. Sivaenanam, T. Sivarajah, T. Sivarajan, H. D. Soysa, W. K. W. M. R. M. Soysa, S. Sundaralingam, M. Suppiramaniam.

D. P. Tampoe, D. R. Thambyah, P. Thangaratnam, V. Thavamany, V. Thuraiarajah and A. Theiventhiran.

C. Valasubramaniam, K. Vallipuram, N. Velupillai, V. Vijayaratham, N. Vijisahara,

K. R. Weerappa, L. A. Weerasinghe, C. Wickramaratne, S. Wickramasinghe, G. Wijayasekera.

T. Yogagura.

"India First" Slogan

(Continued from page 1)

one side, or undue suspicion on the other.

"I am not prepared," said Mr. Amery, "to believe this to be India's final reaction to the offer which is still before her."

He continued that there must be many of every party and every community in India, younger men with ideals and yet wide eyed for reality, and practical men of affairs, who between them should be able to find a way out of the deadlock among the contending Indian claims, which could not serve either India or that common cause in the present conflict which every Indian knew was as much his own, as it was ours. "It is to them above all, that I would commend the watchword "India first" concluded Mr Amery.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 957
In the matter of the estate of the late Subramaniam Appadurai of Jaffna Town

Emily Chelvaratnam Sinnaturai widow of S. Appadurai of Jaffna Town
Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Guweswari daughter of Appadurai of de
2. Vaitilingam Sabapathy and wife
3. Rajeswari both of Civil Medical Stores Colombo and
4. Appadurai Wijayagunaratnam of Jaffna Town

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before C. Coomaraswamy Esquire District Judge, Jaffna, on the 19th day of November 1940 in the presence of Mr. R. R. Nalliah Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner having been read:-

It is ordered that the 4th Respondent be appointed Guardian-ad-litem over the minor the 1st Respondent for the purpose of protecting her interests and of representing her in these testamentary proceedings and that Letters of Administration to the estate of the abovenamed deceased be granted to the Petitioner as his lawful widow unless the Respondents appear before this Court on the 20th day of December 1940 and state objections to the contrary.

The 19th day of November 1940.

Sgd. C. Coomaraswamy
District Judge

(O. 74. 12 & 16-12-40)

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(Mis. 165. 16-12-40—)

RAMANATHAN DAY AT KANDY

Celebration by Thamils' Association

The Kandy Thamils' Association celebrated Ramanathan Day in befitting style on Saturday, 30th November 1940 at the Dharmarajah College Hall. There was a large gathering present and this included representative Tamils from Matale, Gampola and Nawalapitiya.

The celebrations began with a Social in which light refreshments were served. A musical entertainment followed in which Mrs. V. Ramanathan, Mrs. N. Rasiyah, Miss. N. Coomaraswamy and Misses. S. Thiagarajah contributed delightful songs to the accompaniment of the Veena and the Violin.

In the unavoidable absence of the President of the Association, Mr. C. S. Rajaratnam, Advocate, on account of ill-health, Mr. W. T. Jegasothy, Office Assistant, Kandy Kachcheri and Vice-President, presided. The Hon. Secretary Mr. V. Ramanathan, read out messages from Lady Ramanathan, Adigar A. Naganathan and others regretting their inability to attend.

The President recalled the great achievements of Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan who was a national idol for the whole of Ceylon and helped to place this little Island of ours on the World Map and invited Adigar T. B. Panabokke to address the gathering.

The Adigar spoke of the unique personality of Sir Ponnampalam. He had been an admired contemporary of his father in the early eighties of the last century in the Legislative Council and the speaker had the privilege of watching him making his valuable contribution to the deliberations of the Council in 1920 and later still. He well deserved the confidence all the communities in Ceylon placed on him by electing him to the educated Ceylonese seat in 1911. He had won a permanent place in the hearts of the Sinhalese by the undaunted way in which he faced the perils of the mine-infested seas to fight their cause in Whitehall. The services he had done to the cause of education, the valuable contributions he had made to the religious and the legal literature of the country and the splendid piece of architectural beauty he had left behind at the Sivan Temple at Kochchikadde were all imperishable monuments of his greatness. Gratitude was an important virtue enjoined on Buddhists by their Religion and they on their part would never fail to pay their quota of tribute to the revered memory of Ramanathan.

Mr. C. Suntharalingam, Barrister-at-Law, speaking next recalled his student day experiences with Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan. He had grown up in admiration of his stature and later he had the privilege of being associated with him in some of his labors in the cause of our country.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF JAFFNA
at Point Pedro.
Testamentary Jurisdiction
No. 137/P/T.

In the matter of the Estate of the late V. Eliyathamby Vaittalingam of Valveddy Deceased.
V. Eliyatamby Rajaratnam of Valveddy Petitioner.

Vs.

1. V. Eliyatamby Mailvaganam
2. V. Eliyatamby Coomarasamy alias Appadurai
3. Annapillai widow of V. Eliyatamby all of do

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before S. Rodrigo Esqr. District Judge Jaffna on 18th November 1940 in the presence of Mr. S. Appadurai Proctor on the part of the Petitioner and the Petition and affidavit of the Petitioner having been read:

It is declared that the Petitioner as brother and one of the heirs of the said intestate is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said Intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall on or before the 19th day of December 1940 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this court to the contrary.

This 21st day of November 1940.
(Sgd S RODRIGO,
Addl. District Judge.
(O. 73. 12 & 16-12-40)

His thoroughness and love for detail placed him in the ranks of the greatest of any land. With remarkable accuracy he had foreseen the evil results found to accrue as a result of the granting of Universal Franchise by the Donoughmore Commission and he had fearlessly opposed it. This Constitution has reduced the State Council to the level of a farce.

Mr. S. Thangarajah, Advocate, stressed the fact that Sir Ponnambalam was a figure which rose far above the level of communal questions. He thought of himself as a Ceylonese and all his public fights were fought on that plane.

Mr. S. U. Somasegaram, District Inspector of Schools, addressed the gathering in Tamil recounted a few of the achievements of Sir Ponnambalam. His unique powers were mainly due to the fact that he had based his life on spiritual foundations. The democracy of the Donoughmore Constitution made great, if not impossible, demands from our leaders of today. In commemorating the memory of our late hero it was fitting to remember our present leaders also. He deplored the fact that while the virtues of our present leaders were ignored, exaggerated versions of their defects were dinned into the ears of the public by irresponsible leaders themselves. Every community got the leaders it deserved and it behoved every individual to be considerate and charitable in interpreting the actions of our present leaders. Their greatness would depend on the cooperation and love given them. At the end of his address he proposed the following resolution:

"The Kandy Thamils Association resolve to give its hearty cooperation to any movement that may be organised in Jaffna for commemorating the memory of the late Sir Ponnampalam Ramanathan."

Mr. V. Ramanathan, Hon. Secretary of the Association, spoke in support of the resolution and concluded by thanking all those who had contributed to make the celebrations a grand success. (con.)

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[Mis. 5-2-40-J]

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