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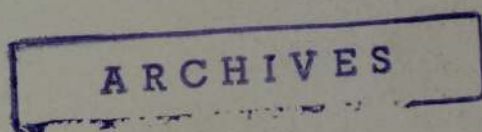
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RAMANATHAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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RAMANATHAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE



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தாவி லாழித் தண்ணளி
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Vol. 9

JANUARY, 1936

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Distinguished Visitors' Impressions of Ramanathan College

LADY STUBBS

"I wish we had more time to spend in this most interesting College, where the students all look so happy and cheerful."

W. MARJORY STUBBS

6-2-35.

SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, K.C.I.E.

"It was a very great privilege to live on the premises of the Ramanathan College during my stay in Jaffna, to visit the Temple raised in memory of the Founder, to hear the students chant the sacred melodies which are the glory of the Thamil language and to inspect the College at work and in play. The institution represents a great idea worthy of Sir P. Ramanathan and I deem it a great honour to have even for a short time participated in its life.

I wish the College all prosperity and success."

C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR

14-10-35.

RAMANATHAN COLLEGE MAGAZINE

Vol. 9 Editor: Miss R. R. Chelliah, M.A. No. 1

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EDITORIAL NOTES

EBB AND FLOW.

We look backward and forward and attempt to take a position that holds a balance between what is going and what has come. From the mountain top point of view, we watched with alternate hope and fear, the rise and fall of the tides of success as we tried to hold the vision of the ultimate values in education. The year 1935 brought in its train both a harvest of beauty and fruit of sorrow. There is an "in excelsis" and equally a "de profundis."

Lacrimae Rerum.—We regret to record the death of Adigar Ramalingam who was acting Manager of Ramanathan and Parameshvara Colleges while Sir P. Ramanathan and Lady Ramanathan were away in England. His work had that incisive reticence which was characteristic of his life. We are much the poorer for his passing away.

Many friends at Ramanathan College shared the sorrow of her family when the sad news of the death of Mrs. Canagaretnam reached us. She was one of our distinguished old girls and an active secretary of the Old Girls' Association. The tributes paid to her in the last Old Girls' Association Annual Meeting, clearly indicated what a large place she held in the affections of the College. The tears of the dumb dark glisten in the stars and we know that things which are eternal never suffer diminished glory like things which are seen.

Envoys of Goodwill.—We rejoice that we had the good fortune to welcome many an illustrious envoy of Goodwill, this past year. Well, there is something in tradition after all; the long and honourable tradition of Ramanathan College invites its passing retrospect as it stands to-day at the parting of the ways, with new records to make as well as old memories to cherish.

In February, His Excellency Sir R. E. Stubbs, G.C.M.G., Governor of Ceylon and Her Excellency Lady Stubbs honoured the

College by giving us one happy hour with their gracious presence ; everything in and around presented a lively and smiling appearance.

Towards the middle of the year, the Hon'ble Mr. T. P. Rajan (Minister of Development of the Madras Government), Hon'ble Mr. Peri Sunderam (Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce) and Mr. T. R. Chandran (Agent of the Government of India), and Mrs. Chandran were the guests of Mr. S. Natesan, M.S.C., and paid a visit to the College.

In October Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer who came to inaugurate the Ramanathan Memorial Lecture was the guest of the President, Lady Ramanathan.

The great poet Rabindranath Tagore also called on Lady Ramanathan quite unexpectedly and visited the Samadhi of Sir Ramanathan. As it was Sunday many of the students and Teachers had gone home for the week-end and therefore few had the opportunity of seeing him. His charming visit is a most treasured memory.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chas. Batuwantudawe, the Minister of Local Administration presided over this year's Prize Giving and made touching references to the memory of the noble founder of this College.

These enlightened voices from the outer world enriched our experiences and created a fresh urge to see the world afresh every morning.

The New Year.—Truly did Mr. Batuwantudawe proclaim that Ramanathan College enjoys a reputation in the island for preserving the best of the National Culture of the Thamils. Activities like Girl Guiding, Indian Music, Team Games and House Systems are calculated to bring about beneficial results. Lady Ramanathan's thought-provoking article on Indian Music in schools brings home the ever-growing need and importance of Indian Music in Ceylon schools, and we feel sure that her research work in this direction in Madras for the benefit of our College, will also be to the lasting benefit of Jaffna and the people of Ceylon. Music is the finest expression of the human spirit and is undoubtedly the most important of all cultural subjects in as much as it enters into the life of the whole people. Children nurtured under such creative influences have greater power of self expression and new interests with new

standards of taste and judgment. Healthy recreations go a long way to stimulate keenness in the game of life.

Our Music students will be happy to hear that Lady Ramanathan has offered a prize for Indian Music and Thevaram in each class for the year (1936) and that Mrs. Natesan has offered the prizes for the singing of *Kirithanas*. Mrs. Natesan is pursuing her studies in Indian Music in the University of Madras. Her diploma course covers a wide field of Carnatic Music, including both theory and practical, and we look forward with great pleasure to extensive alterations in the study of Indian Music in Ramanathan College, with her aid, when she has finished her course. We wish her all success.

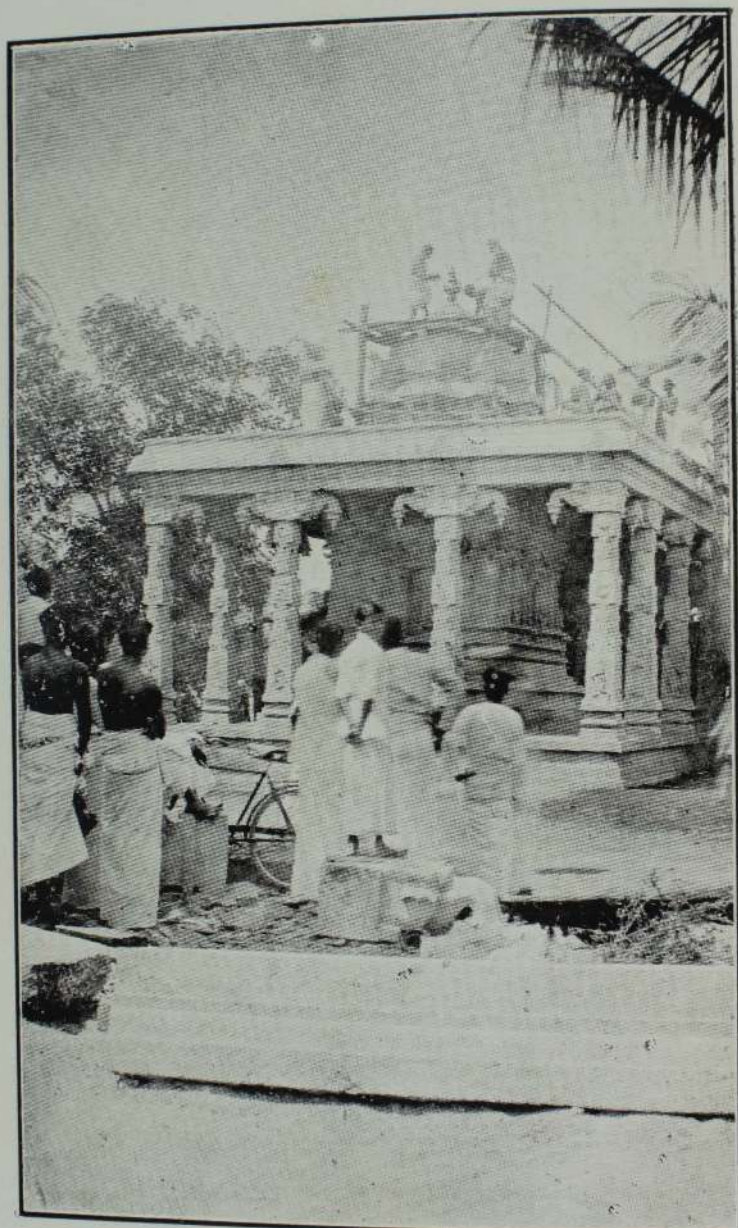
We also wish to say a very grateful "thank you" to Lady Ramanathan who has helped a great deal in the production of this number by her suggestive criticisms, and encouragement.

We heartily congratulate her on the great honour she has received this year from His Majesty the King in the form of Their Majesties Silver Jubilee Medal.

Is there a song for the New Year with its great load of months? In the dance of Shiva, there is appreciable rhythm, supple and continuous. "The Lord of Tillai's Court a mystic dance performs; What's that, my dear?" All the forces of life take part in the divine concert, their very dissonances blending into a most exquisite harmony. "From the depths of millions of eyes, we meet the look of the One." Tagore has expressed this sentiment in matchless lines:

"I shall find hidden Thy infinite joy
In every splendour of smell and vision and sound;
Even while a thousand fetters still bind me to the wheel
I shall taste Thy infinite liberty."

We hope the New Year will bring to all, its joyful message of goodwill and loving service.



SAMADHI TEMPLE IN MEMORY OF SIR P. RAMANATHAN

INDIAN MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

By LADY RAMANATHAN

Indian music has become very popular in the Schools in Madras. Every Indian School of any standing there has a music teacher on the staff, and the Schools have public demonstrations of their music. These demonstrations have been held annually for five years now. To quote from the last annual demonstration programme.—

“ The object of these Annual Demonstrations of Indian music is to bring about a gradual improvement in the standard of performance and a finer appreciation of classical music. By periodically inviting the co-operation of the public and by encouraging healthy emulation among the various schools and by prescribing as much as possible classical pieces for study, this object is being gradually achieved.

“ This is the fifth Annual Demonstration of school music contributed by the Indian Schools of Madras. The first event took place on 27th February, 1930, and within this short period the Demonstrations have already proved their utility. They have also *helped to emphasize the necessity of including music as a subject in the school curriculum, and of providing a qualified music teacher on the staff of each school. The extent to which music as a school subject can be developed depends very much on the possibilities it provides for group work rather than individual work, and it is this aspect that the organisers of the demonstration are trying to develop at present.*

“ Each year shows progress in some direction. This year the *advance is in the orchestral side. The pieces selected are more ambitious* and represent a higher standard of attainment. This has been made possible by the issue of a printed copy of the pieces in *sa ri ga ma notation to each performer for individual study and practice.* The Orchestra this year consists of 51 instruments. The total number of performers, vocal and instrumental is 167.

“ Owing to the keen interest taken and the large number of schools anxious to take part, it has been necessary to limit the

demonstration to secondary schools. It is hoped to organize later in the year, a separate demonstration for Elementary schools."

The programme of the 1935 demonstration consisted of compositions by celebrated composers such as *Muthuswami Dikshitar* and *Tyagaraja*, and were rendered very creditably considering the performers were all the school children. They had not the finished grace of Tagore's school, but they had a charm and grace all their own. At the end of the concert, which was held in the Museum Theatre, Lady Marjorie Erskine congratulated the pupils on their performance which she said she had enjoyed and she hoped that all had enjoyed it as much as she had. She also congratulated Prof. P. Sambamoorthi on his excellent organisation of the entertainment, as its success was very largely due to his tireless work, and perseverance in encouraging the schools to participate and leading them as regards their selections. He conducted the performance throughout. Every item was a classical one, and every school had kept to that high level. The instruments used consisted of vinas, tamburs, violins, flutes and a little drum. It was a delight to find that only one school had resorted to the use of the harmonium, on account of which their voices were hard, their music loud, and out of proper tune. Mr. Champion, *Director of Public Instruction*, in proposing a vote of thanks to Lady Marjorie Erskine, said that the three noteworthy features of the concert were the *perfect tonal pitch*, the *unison of voice and orchestra* and the *rhythmic modulation of the voice*. He had heard Indian music rendered by the girls in schools for the last twenty-five years and would say without hesitation that the music they had that day marked a very great step forward, and he would also say, a revolutionary step forward brought about by the enthusiasm of Prof. Sambamoorthi. The music they heard was of a very high quality. He hoped that the movement started in Madras would spread over the Presidency. The presence of Lady Marjorie Erskine and her appreciative reference would encourage them to go still further and the speaker expressed on behalf of those present their thanks to her.

This Demonstration was indeed a revelation as to what can be done by schools as regards group work and the rendering of the very difficult classical Indian Music. At the close of the performance the whole group of students numbering 167, sang "*God Save the King*" together in excellent time and tune.

Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, K.C.I.E.,
inaugurates
Ramanathan Memorial Lectures
at
Parameshvara College, Jaffna

Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan lived a full life. He was a great lawyer, a profound scholar, learned in the Law both divine and secular, a remarkable statesman and above all an educational seer who bestowed on his race gifts in the shape of Temples of Worship and Learning. The two Colleges and several literary works in Tamil and English are lasting monuments of his all round greatness. His work for God, Crown and Country is far more enduring than any statues made of bronze or marble. Lady Ramanathan, therefore has struck at the most correct note in establishing the annual Ramanathan Memorial Lectures in Tamil and English to be delivered by scholars of outstanding repute. These Memorial lectures are unique in the history of education in Ceylon in that they serve the purpose of University Extension Lectures long before Ceylon can get a University of her own. Parameshvara College, as originally planned by its founder to be the nucleus of a Federal University of National Culture, is singularly fortunate in getting the Memorial Lectures inaugurated in her assembly hall. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.I.E., is one of India's great sons of to-day. Likē Ramanathan of Ceylon, Ramaswami Aiyar of India is a versatile personality. A very successful lawyer, a great scholar, a constructive statesman looming large in the political horizon of New India just at the Cross Roads of India's National progress, Sir C.P.R. is just the man to open the series of lectures in the memory of the man who stood at the parting of the Old and the New Ceylon looking far ahead into the glorious future of his country.

Lady Ramanathan, when she extended a special invitation to Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar hit upon the right man, and he hit upon the right thing when he chose "At the Cross Roads" as the most suitable subject for inaugurating the Ramanathan Memorial Lectures, for just now the East and the West are "At the Cross Roads" of civilization.

Jaffna gave a right royal welcome to Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar when he came to sing the glories of her hero. Parameshvara College hall, which is the biggest hall in Jaffna, was tastefully decorated for the occasion and witnessed a record gathering when Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar gave his two soul stirring addresses on the full moon days of the 12th and 13th October, 1935. On the first day Hon. Sir Baron Jayatilaka, a life long friend and the successor in unofficial leadership of Ceylon's Legislature of Sir P. Ramanathan presided.

On arrival at the College premises Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar and Sir Baron Jayatilaka escorted by Lady Ramanathan, Mr. and Mrs. S. Natesan and Mr. A. Mahadeva were taken in procession with music to the Assembly hall. The Parameshvara College Boy Scouts formed a Guard of Honour to welcome the distinguished guests. They will always feel proud that they had the great privilege of seeing Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar and doing innumerable services on the occasion of his visit for three days both at Parameshvara College and Ramanathan College. He is the only man in India who has been awarded the *Silver Wolf* badge for his great services to the Boy Scout movement. Parameshvara Collge Boy Scouts look upon him and Sir P. Ramanathan as great and living examples to them of the heights to be reached by a boy in the course of his life by devotion to high ideals, sincere service, goodwill, and hard work.

Mr. S. Natesan, the Principal of the College warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and briefly explained the purpose of that day's meeting, the varied aspects of the life of the man in whose revered memory the Memorial Lectures were being inaugurated. He paid a delightful tribute to the great services rendered to India and the League of Nations by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar and said that they were most fortunate in being able to get him to start the Memorial Lectures now, on the eve of his great work for the Federation of India, when he had very little time to spare. He then briefly explained

the title of the lectures "At the Cross Roads" and their scope, and in charming words overflowing with enthusiasm and appreciation, he introduced the distinguished guests to the audience.

Sir Baron Jayatilaka paid a most glowing tribute to the memory of the Grand Old Man of Ceylon. He welcomed Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar. He said he had heard so much of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar's activities in India and his brilliant record of service in Law, Politics, Education and International affairs for a long period of years, that he was expecting to see an old gentleman with a long flowing beard and a philosophical look. But when he reached Jaffna Station that morning, Mr. Natesan introduced him to a handsome young gentleman who took him completely by surprise. He could hardly believe that so young a man could be the great personage he had heard so much of. It gave him the greatest pleasure to welcome him. He felt proud to associate himself with the organisers of the Ramanathan Memorial Lectures, for in his opinion that was the most enduring form of keeping green the memory of one of Ceylon's greatest sons of modern times.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar electrified educated Jaffna by his address entitled "At the Cross Roads" to such an extent that the second day also saw the elite of Jaffna in the spacious hall of Parameshvara College. Mr. A. Mahadeva, B.A. (Cantab.), M.S.C., Manager, Parameshvara College at the close proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and the lecturer.

Prior to the lecture on the second day, a group photograph was taken with Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar as the central figure. Mr. Nevins Selvadurai, B.A., J.P., M.B.E., M.S.C., the veteran Educationist of Ceylon presided. At the end of his address on the second day Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar paid a most loving tribute to the revered memory of Sir P. Ramanathan and wished several more years of life to Lady R. L. Ramanathan to continue the great work of Sir Ramanathan, the greatest man of Ceylon of his day.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who was highly impressed with all that he saw in the two Institutions and in Jaffna in general, and all those who heard him on these never-to-be-forgotten days took certainly a genuine delight in keeping fresh the memory of one who gave his best to his country.

(Sir Ramaswami Aiyar's Memorial Lecture has been printed separately on a booklet of 33 pages, and may be had from the President).

T.M.

VISIT OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES SIR REGINALD AND LADY STUBBS to Sir Ramanathan's Tomb and Ramanathan College

The following extract is taken from the *Ceylon Observer* of 7th February, 1935, when His Excellency the Governor and Lady Stubbs visited Sir Ramanathan's Samadhi and Ramanathan College. This was their second visit to the College, the former one being in October, 1913. The College had been opened in January of the same year, and they were among the first great personages to visit the Institution. On that occasion Sir Ramanathan himself took them round. This time it was his tomb in the College grounds they visited first, and then the College.

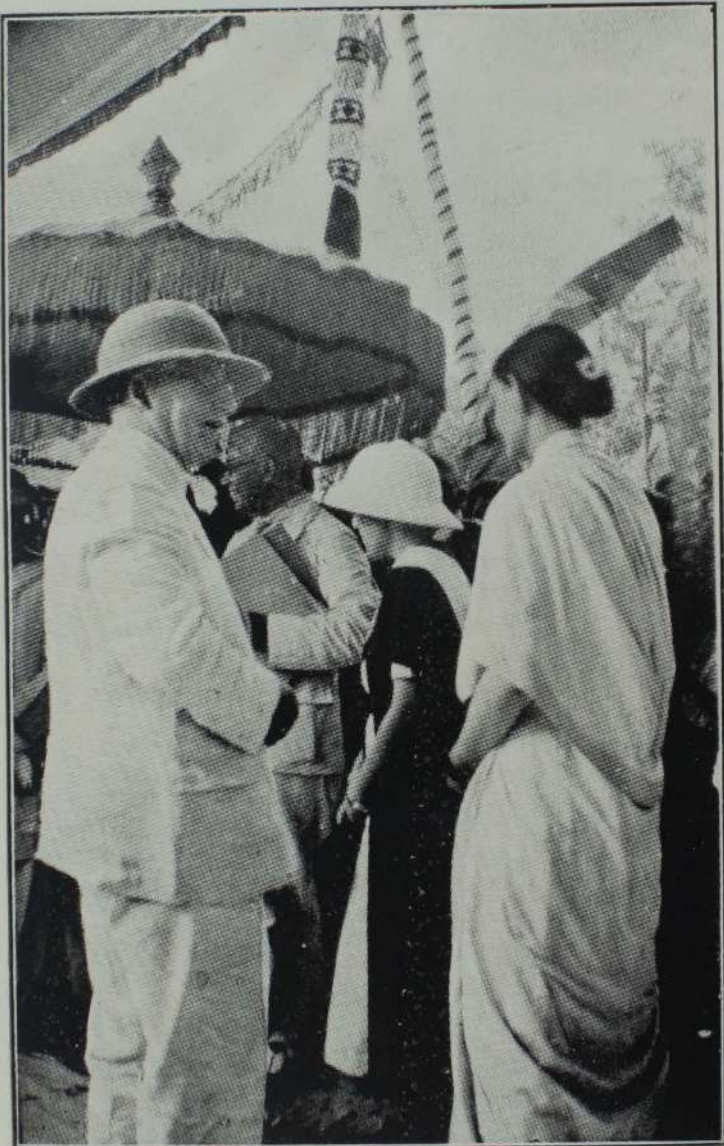
Legislative Council Memories Revived

Governor at Tomb of Sir P. Ramanathan

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Stubbs, accompanied by Mr. Edmund Rodrigo, Government Agent, and attended by Mr. A. C. M. Hingley, Private Secretary and Capt. G. M. Oliver, A.D.C., arrived at Ramanathan College at 10.35 a.m. to-day.

They were received under a decorated pandal, erected at the Maruthanarmadam junction, by Mr. S. Natesan, Member of the State Council, and a large number of the residents of the locality, and taken in procession under huge silk umbrellas to the premises. The Boy Scouts of Parameshvara College lined the route and presented arms at the entrance to the "Samadhi" of the late Sir P. Ramanathan.

Here the Governor and Lady Stubbs were received by Lady Ramanathan, Mrs. Natesan, Miss V. F. Carleton (Principal) and a



HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MRS. NATESAN
AND MISS CARLETON

large number of teachers and old and present girls of the College. The visitors walked up to the "Samadhi" under "Alavattam" over "Nilapavadai," while a chorus of girls sang songs of welcome and showered flowers over the visitors. As the Governor and Lady Stubbs ascended the steps of the temple, the priest performed a "Poojah" and blessed them. The priest then brought garlands and "Santhanam" from the inner sanctuary, and Mr. Natesan garlanded His Excellency while Mrs. Natesan garlanded Lady Stubbs.

The Governor and Lady Stubbs expressed their great admiration of the architecture displayed on the granite walls of the Sivan temple built over the "Samadhi" of the late Sir P. Ramanathan. They then went in procession to the College hall, the Girl Guides of the College lining up the route on either side.

Reading of Address.—Under the portico the Governor and Lady Stubbs saw a beautiful pattern of "Kolam" drawn in flour by the girls of the College. At the entrance to the College hall was a "Kumbam" with two huge brass lamps on either side, and their significance was explained by Mr. Natesan to the visitors. In the hall an address was read by Miss Tambipillai Maheswari on behalf of the girls of the College.

An imposing scene was presented by a number of girls. It was an allegorical representation of the benefits of learning and culture conferred on the Tamil girls of Jaffna by the late Sir P. Ramanathan. Ten girls came one by one with lights in their hands, representing religion, music, art, science, literature, physical culture, Tamil learning, and domestic science and recapitulated briefly the services done by the late Sir P. Ramanathan in the cause of education.

This was followed by a tableau, which was a visual representation of what the College song expressed. Miss Savitri Devi Devarajan represented the goddess Lanka, with the crown of Jaffna on her head. She was surrounded by her votaries, the pupils of the College, who paid homage to her and brought out in apt postures the various activities of the College. The dancing of the girls, who sang an invocation to the goddess Lanka and to their alma mater was applauded by the Governor and Lady Stubbs.

The visitors were next conducted to the College Chapel and to the dormitories, class rooms and the laboratory. A "Kolattam" exhibition was given by the little pupils of the Ramanathan Vernacular Training School.

Governor's Remarks.—On returning to the hall where the girls had assembled, the Governor addressed the gathering. He was very sorry, he said, that his visit to that College was so short and hurried. It gave him and Lady Stubbs great pleasure to visit the College again after so many years. He was glad to see that the College which was in its infancy when he last visited it 21 years ago, was a flourishing adult now.

"I am sure," continued the Governor, "my friend Sir Ponnambalam would have rejoiced very much to see the performances of the girls to-day, if he were alive. I remember how firmly he used to talk to me on matters educational and how he tried to carry out his desire to educate the Tamil girls of Ceylon. When Sir Ponnambalam and I were continual opponents in the Legislative Council, I very well remember how much he respected me, just as I respected him, and how friendly we were outside the Council. Our association was a most pleasant one, and I am exceedingly thankful to Lady Ramanathan for specially coming down from Madras to meet us here and give us a chance to pay our respects to my departed friend and rejoice over the result of his labours in the cause of education."

After spending about an hour in the College the Governor and Lady Stubbs left amidst loud applause and songs of farewell.

Ceylon Observer, Feb. 7th, 1935.

ADDRESS OF THE STUDENTS OF RAMANATHAN COLLEGE

To His Excellency

Sir Reginald Stubbs, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Ceylon.

May It Please Your Excellency,

We the students of the Ramanathan College, beg to welcome Your Excellency and Lady Stubbs to this College and to express our sincere thanks to you for having found the time to pay a visit to us. We feel that your gracious presence here is not only an honour and a sign of the interest you take in our people and the culture of our race, but also a tribute to the memory of the revered founder of this College. Though he is not with us in body yet his spirit continues to permeate the work of this College which is being conducted on the lines laid down by him.

About twenty years ago, when the College was in its infancy, Your Excellencies paid your first visit to our College on that occasion Your Excellency came as the Acting Governor. We consider ourselves fortunate in having the privilege of welcoming you now as the Governor of this Island, and the happy memory of Your Excellencies present visit will be always enshrined in our hearts.

We cherish the fervent hope that Your Excellency and Lady Stubbs will continue to take that sympathetic interest which you have shown hitherto in the welfare of our College.

We beg to remain, Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servants,
The Girls of The Ramanathan College,

Inuvil, Jaffna,
6th February, 1935.

II. STUDENTS' SECTION

“ Go, my Songs—
Go in a friendly manner
Go with an open speech.
Be eager to find new evils and new good,
Be against all forms of oppression.
Go as a great wave of cool water
To those who have lost their interest.”

EZRA POUND

II. STUDENTS' SECTION

“Go, my Songs—
Go in a friendly manner
Go with an open speech.
Be eager to find new evils and new good,
Be against all forms of oppression.
Go as a great wave of cool water
To those who have lost their interest.”

FRANK POUND

MY LIFE AS A FAKIR

I am a professional fakir. My wages are variable and not always paid in the same coins. My "Kavi" uniform proclaims the man and I am authorised to demand charity by the three lines of holy ash adorning my forehead, shoulders, elbows and wrists. My hair is made into a knot on the crown of my head, a rare privilege of my order. My beard sweeps down to my chest. A staff three feet long, I carry under my arm, which adds dignity to my calling. Thus accoutred and armed, I go from door to door, singing psalms and devarams.

I walk along the streets and lanes and come to a halt at the sight of a rich house. "Harokara, sampo sivam," introduces me to the household and the solemn repetition of these words procures my promotion. I thrust my three fingers into the "Vipoothy-bag" and outstretched are the palms of each individual clasped in reverence to receive the holy ash. If the inmates are women, I grow eloquent of my own merits with interjections, "Harokara, sampo sivam," at intervals. The present, future and the past are within my keeping and I am endowed with the power of bestowing benedictions and maledictions. My purse is enriched. However, the trying part of my business is only when I come in contact with the educated girls and boys. The very sight of them makes my heart quiver. All my divine powers fail me. I am no longer great with pretensions to divinity. "Sivam, read my palm and my future," and the echo resounds from all quarters. I am at a loss. I feel like satan before the synod of the fallen angels :

"Thrice he assayed, and thrice, in spite of scorn,
Tears, such as Angels weep, burst forth; at least
Words interwove with sighs found out their way."

I am ridiculed and called a liar ; my spoils are plundered and my grave beard is in danger. Thus my fortune changes. At one moment, I stand on a pinnacle and soar on the wings of fame. In the next moment, I am pulled down from the heights ; trampled under foot and levelled with the earth. There is something truly sublime upon the ups and downs of my fortune.

"Such is the world, little to-day, and great tomorrow."

ATPUTHAM KANAPATHIPILLAI,

London Matric.

TO REMEMBER FOR YEARS

The time draws nigh to bid adieu to our Alma Mater. Just a month more, and no more will we be seen wielding our pens in the Senior Classroom. Nor shall we be in the midst of our teachers and comrades sharing life's plenty, within the four walls of the College. However, when we depart from the beloved premises, we carry with us its blessings. Soon we will be shoved from shore to shore, without a principal to protect, a teacher to guide, a friend to comfort and aid us in so dangerous a voyage. Now, that we are obliged to embark in the wide world for the first time alone, we realise with gratitude, the precious worth of school life.

At this juncture our recollection catches fleeting moments of happiness, mischief and fun, hopes and fears, pranks and doubts in strange juxtaposition. Good old days were they when we entered the College with minds as happy as the lark. From that time onwards we passed from room to room, and from teacher to teacher who studied our minds well and moulded our individualities. What trouble—nay disappointments—we gave them by our slackness!

Mr. Mylvaganum, our former Tamil Master, was dear to us. He inspired us to learn our mother tongue and appreciate its beauties. It was with deep regret that we heard of his untimely death. Little did we expect that his call would come so soon.

We remember, we remember the inestimable advantages we enjoyed under our head-master, Mr. Swaminathan. He roused in us a deep interest in the field of science. His hygiene periods were profoundly interesting, we could hardly forget his wrinkled forehead, telling eyes, explanatory actions and suggestive postures as he enthusiastically explained the heart contraction, the blood circulation, and the food values. His ripe experience, besides inspiring us to aim higher, had also lit in us the fire of reasoning and understanding the depth of everything. By his retirement, we lost an adorable master.

These are not the only landmarks in our College life, at which we pause ; we shall treasure in our hearts, our class motto, "Beauty is Truth, Truth is Beauty." We may not have followed it on many occasions. We confess failure. But we feel that this motto influenced the workings of our minds in one way or the other, from the Junior form up till now.

"The Dawn"—the harbinger of the day that is yet to come—was one of our greatest achievements and those hectic days in the fifth form, when we edited this paper, form part and parcel of the bygone days that are no more. We had many dreams and in our desire to give our wild fancies a local habitation and a name, we edited this paper. The experience enriched us and we take it with us to remember for years. In our attempts to edit this paper, we realised that there was something grander than cramming and book-knowledge. The formation of our Dawnite Committee bound us together by the silken ties of fellowship. But not without petty quarrels did we succeed.

Wordsworth and Coleridge helped to dispel the darkness of ignorance and narrow prejudices. They told us that "we had eyes, yet see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that neither feel nor understand." It dawned upon our minds that "we receive but what we give." How delightful were the hours that we spent with those bards who built their altars in the fields :

"And the blue sky my fretted dome shall be,
And the sweet fragrance that the wild flower yields
Shall be the incense I will yield to Thee,
Thee only God !"

We were attracted by Viola, and Rosalind and Portia, "the mortal breathing saint," and what fun we had to prove by experiments whether her wise saying :

"How far that little candle throws his beams !
So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

was really true. Our acquaintances with Dickens, Addison, and Goldsmith were not without thrills. Years may roll on, but we shall remember them.

Our aspirations were high, our hopes were great. But our deeds were far too small. However, all we have willed or hoped of

good shall exist, not its semblance but itself." Our minor successes and our major failures we bring to thee—Alma Mater.

Now as we stand, just about to step into the threshold of the unknown future, our fears and regrets are great. We look back into the past with mixed pleasure—joy for the good things that have come on our way and regret for the little done and the vast undone.

The poetic situation of our college! We will remember for years; how we were enamoured of the magnificent appearance of the school, its spacious and beautiful natural surroundings. How many times at unguarded moments did we sit, unmindful of the lesson in class, lending our ears to the harmonious chirping of the birds perched on the slender boughs of the shoe-flower bushes. With the din of youthful voices sauntering along the verandahs and the mystic rustle of the mango tree, opposite our classroom, often we fell into reveries between two worlds, one real and the other dreamy and ethereal. Then the vision of

"A light in sound, a sound like power in light,
Rhythm in all thought and joyance everywhere"
floated midway on the waves of our fancy. We believed with Coleridge that nature can only—

"Tremble into thought as o'er them sweeps,
Plastic and Vast one intellectual breeze."

But it is our fervent prayer that wherever we be, we do not loose touch with our College. Girls may come and girls may go, but our Alma Mater goes on for ever.

"This is our prayer to Thee Our Lord—
Strike, strike at the root of penury in our hearts.
Give us the strength lightly to bear our joys and sorrows,
Give us the strength to make our love fruitful in service,
Give us the strength never to disown the poor, or bend our knees
before insolent might.
Give us the strength to raise our minds high above daily trifles
Give us the strength to surrender our strength to Thy will with
love."

Camb. Seniors.

WHY CANNOT WE HAVE A NATIONAL PARK IN CEYLON

The attraction of Ceylon is its scenic beauty. The ravishing beauty of the forests and hills have a poetry and glamour of its own.

A National Park can add to the glory of a country and be one of the centres of tourist attraction. The Jasper National Park is one of the most wonderful parks in the whole world. It is a magnificent area of 5,300 square miles. "It is truly an ensemble of the most beautiful and awe inspiring mountain scenery to be found in North America. The park is a game sanctuary, and in its forests and on its mountain slopes roam large numbers of moose, caribou, deer, black and grizzling bear, mountain sheep and goat." It is the largest and the most beautiful park, and the colossal glacier-clad mountains add a charm to it. So if we have such a park, it will enhance the beauty of our sunny isle of Lanka.

The government and public apathy prevent us from having a National Park in Ceylon. The fauna and flora of Ceylon have a strange and arresting novelty, but public apathy has been the cause of these lives coming to an end on the face of the earth. The ancient denizens forests have perished, and gone too are the rare plants that bloomed in the Asoka forest of Ravana !

Do we for a moment try to bring before our mind's eye the elephants' graceful walk, the cheetahs' beautiful pose in prowling, the foxes' sly move, the monkeys' prattle almost human, the peacocks' beautiful dance, or the jungle fowls' "George Joyce." Some of us have seen them in their natural surroundings, most of us have not ; and the latter form a very poor opinion when they see them in a museum, zoo or in a circus menagerie. These collections reveal not one hundredth part of an animal's natural life. However carefully they are looked after, they are but prisoners in the hands of man.

One has to see them in their natural surroundings, among their friends and foes, to understand and admire their natural instincts and habits. Even imagination cannot produce an exact picture of this. But we, at least most of us, instead of trying to preserve wild life, are engaged in waging unfair war against them under the false name of game. It is common sense that both parties should have equal chance in a game. Cowards as we are, we wait in an ambush like assassins on a loft or behind something to shoot at a thirsty animal when it happens to come to a pool of water to quench its thirst; or we flash the electric torch in the face of an innocent animal, and daze his sight before we kill him; or we set up a trap to get at an unsuspecting animal or bird; or we even administer "dope" to dull their senses. All this is covered by the term "sport," but this is exactly what it is not.

We must understand that we have no more right to kill or imprison another life except on very valid reason. The contention that every thing was made for man to enjoy is nonsense pure and simple. If that is to be believed, we must concede that even man was made for the man-eater;—crocodile, tiger, lion, etc.

The public must be educated as to the duty they owe towards wild life. Even the boy on the street makes it a point to kill a frog or a bird. A picnic means some destruction of life at least a water-fowl.

Sport! Away with this slogan of civilization and extend to animals the kindness they need.

Plant life—they are superb—they give unto man food, clothing, drink, wood, fire, shelter and even perfume. They are entitled to our care and protection. It is not a pastime to hew down a forest giant for nothing. Trees are useful alive or dead. They do not retaliate our wrongs—all the more reason why we should not harm them.

Government apathy is born by public apathy. No government can be deaf or dumb to public demand. Therefore let us urge on the public and government, to take steps to have a National Park, thereby remove the reproach that we Ceylonese are not alive to our responsibilities as regards our national heritage.

KAMALAPOOSHANY ARAMBAMUTHALY,

Fifth Form.

THE MYSTERY OF "THE ANGEL"

In the year 18— there stood a very popular hotel, known by the name of "The Angel," in the grand City of Bombay. It was constantly visited by travellers of different nationalities. In fact there were so many strangers that no one cared to know more about the guests of The Angel.

It was a Saturday evening. All the guests of The Angel had taken their supper. They were amusing themselves in several ways when a traveller entered the parlour of the hotel.

His face, his gait and his looks revealed that he belonged to a noble family. His clothes displayed his wealth. The landlord welcomed him with great hospitality.

While the stranger was served food he observed everything that was within his eye-reach very carefully. But he was very careful not to attract attention.

Soon after he took his supper, he told the manager of the hotel that he had travelled a long way and that he wanted to rest as soon as possible. The manager showed him to his room, which was well furnished and well lighted. After surveying the room for a few seconds, the stranger asked the manager whether that was the room given usually to the richest of his guests. The manager answered in the affirmative.

Do you know who this guest was? He was a famous detector of that age. The name of the detective, Thulasi Das, was well known.

Did he come to The Angel merely as a casual visitor or did business bring him to this popular resort? The newspapers spread like wild fire the mysterious disappearance of a very rich merchant. The place in which the merchant was seen last, was The Angel. Many inquiries were made about the disappearance, but nothing came to light. However, there were many who suspected that he had been killed in The Angel, but no one could prove their suspicion.

Thulasi Das was sent to The Angel to see whether he could collect any information concerning this disappearance. He rejoiced to hear that his room had been the one which was favoured by the richest guests of the hotel. He had great expectations of getting some clue that would reveal the mystery of the disappearance. He observed the room keenly. But he could not find any clue to satisfy him.

After a long and vain search of the room, he went quietly to bed and lay there with open eyes and beating heart. He was restless and anxious. The clock struck two. Still he could not sleep. A few seconds later he found the shadow of a man at his window. It moved slowly till a man appeared at the window. He waited there listening to the most indistinct sound that he could hear. Then he climbed up the window and came into the room. The detective exercised all his self-discipline and presence of mind. He pretended to be fast asleep. He could hear his heart beating. The man tiptoed to the bed side, bent low down and looked into Thulasi Das' face. Then he quietly went out through the window.

As soon as the man went out of the room, Das got up from the bed and began to walk up and down the room. His eyes continually rolled in their sockets. Suddenly his attention was drawn to the bed. The mattress divided itself at the centre, till the opening between the two parts was big enough to allow a man lying on the bed through it. As the opening was widening, the stick which the detective had with him, and which he had left on the bed when he got up, began to roll and passed through the opening. Immediately after the stick disappeared the mattress regained its former appearance. What a neat piece of work that was! At once fearing some possible danger at any moment, the detective got out through the window without being noticed by anybody and went directly to the nearest police station. Armed with a police force, he returned to The Angel.

With the help of the policemen he made a thorough search of the hotel. It was found that there was a wonderful mechanism, which worked secretly and which communicated from the manager's room to the bed in the room reserved for the rich guests.

After many threatenings the manager was forced to confess that he had killed four of his rich guests. But as the three of them were

entirely strangers to the city no one knew who they were or where they were seen just before their disappearances. So no one suspected this honest looking man till the last murder was committed. Murder will out.

It was discovered from his confessions that by the secret contrivance in his room, an opening was formed in the mattress. The sleeper was rolled towards the opening and was pushed down through it. I suppose the person who went down the hole would feel like Alice in the white rabbit's hole. Then he reached a channel which lead to the sea. In the channel he died of asphyxia. Then his body was carried to the sea by the channel. The detective proved it from the fate of his stick. He found his stick floating on the sea. Thus the vigilant detective got his promotion.

Now I leave it to my readers to guess what awaited the manager after all these ghastly confessions.

EASWARY THAMBIMUTTU,
Fifth Form.

"It is therefore our business carefully to cultivate in our minds, to rear to the most perfect vigour and maturity, every sort of generous and honest feeling that belongs to our nature. To bring the dispositions that are lovely in private life into the service and conduct of the common wealth."

EDMUND BURKE.

Dictator Fashion

Mankind has always been a slave to fashion—the heir of all the ages. It is like Proteus who constantly changes his forms. The history of the nations of the world, present an everchanging record. But the diverse forms of “Rex Fashion,” will surpass even the most thrilling records. We live in an age of marvels, and wonders cease to be wonderful. Yet Dictator Fashion has not exhausted his charms. He is the most powerful of the Modern Dictators, and has the greatest following. Therefore it is not surprising that his absolute leadership is unchallenged. Young and old, men and women, lords and ladies are his helpless victims. There is no escape from his tyrannical wiles.

To-day women copy their fashions from Paris—the romantic capital of France and men copy theirs from London. Fashions are also copied from film stars. When something comes into Fashion, the people decide to adopt it. Familiarity breeds contempt, and before it has spread over half the world, the fashion is changed, at the place where it originated. Fashion is very contagious and the authenticity of it is often unknown.

Science has come to the aid of fashion and many ingenious scientists toil hard to make possible the fashions of Hollywood. Permanent waves and curls, eyebrow lines and shades of hues for the hair come under their careful survey. The dressmakers have a hard time too. Paradoxical as it may seem, a dressmaker in Paris finds that before he has finished a dress that fashion had changed—fashions being so fleeting. For women, sleeves, necklines and length of skirts are the most important points of consideration, and men look into details such as the folds of the trousers, number of buttons on their coats and the type of collar they use.

Now that slimming has come into fashion, women are very busy with slimming exercises and special diets. Fashions that are unsuitable for our tropical climate cause a great deal of inconvenience to us. Never-the-less no one can afford to neglect it. Smoking, drinking and also eating unsuitable foods are done, in accordance with the dictates of fashion. The wearing of flannels and woollen clothing are not uncommon sights in our hot country.

Thus fashion becomes a tyrant when it comes into conflict with hygienic principles.

Thus the world keeps swinging passively to the different tunes of Dictator Fashion.

P. JEYALAKSHMI,
Form IV.

TO THE STUDENTS

“Students should be adequately informed about the different humanitarian institutions and movements which are shaping the history of modern countries. They should be carefully saved from the danger of forming wrong opinions about the manners, customs and usages of other countries through indifference or adverse bias.

Experience in helping others in distress and readiness to serve neighbours in every way ; many sided knowledge about one's own country and development of proper responsibility towards it ; keeping up-to-date information about various Social Service organisations and new cultural experiments in other countries. In short, the aim of our education is that students should in the fullest sense be true to their humanity ; and in their thoughts, feeling and behaviour express this truth.”

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

MY CONFESSION ALBUM

My ideal virtue	..	..	Charity
My idea of Beauty in Nature	..	..	Nandavil
My idea of Beauty in Art	..	..	Taj Mahal
My favourite subject	..	..	Botany
My favourite flower	..	..	Senkalanir
My favourite colour	..	..	Saxe blue
My favourite quality in a girl	..	..	Unselfishness
My greatest happiness	..	..	A bird's sweet song
My greatest misery	..	..	Term tests
My favourite amusement	..	..	Singing
My favourite author	..	..	Stevenson
My favourite poet	..	..	Shelley
My favourite musical composer	..	..	Thyagarajah
My favourite instrument	..	..	Veena
My favourite hero in real life	..	..	Mahatma Ghandi
My favourite heroine	..	..	Damayanthi
My favourite actor	..	..	Charlie Chaplin
My favourite animal	..	..	Cat
My favourite name	..	..	Ahila
My favourite quotation	"If winter comes, can spring be far behind"
My motto	"Nothing slip-shod"

VETHANAYAKY KANAPATHIPILLAI,
Third Form.

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THE STRANGEST DAY IN MY LIFE

When my parents decided to send me to Methodist College I was very happy. I remember the 14th of September, 1933 very well. I got up unusually early, as I was rather excited. I found that my mother had already done the necessary packing. I felt grand indeed.

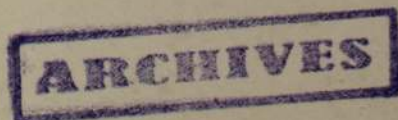
My little sisters were willing to do anything for me. It was only when the car came that I felt unhappy to leave my home. As I lingered, my father hurried me, and after bidding farewell to my mother and the other inmates of the house, I got in. I was sad at heart though I pretended to be cheerful. It was the first time, I was leaving "Home, Sweet Home."

When we came near Methodist College, my heart thumped fast. We got down from the car and went to the principal's office room. The Principal was very kind and assured my father that I would be happy with the other girls.

Then the matron came and took me to the hostel. I arranged my bed and tidied myself. Then the school bell rang for morning prayers, and a girl came and took me to the hall. When I entered the 1st Form class, I felt that I could not walk, for everyone started staring hard at me. I was the only Tamil girl in my class.

I did not listen to any of the lessons, as I was feeling like a fish out of water. I was longing to get away from the classroom. I was frightened whether any of the teachers would question me but luckily no one asked me anything. That day seemed to be the longest day in my life. I kept my mouth shut except when a few girls asked me for my name. The girls looked very active and merry especially in the dining room. I could not eat anything though the

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girls next to me passed all the dishes to my side. They must have pitied me. I guessed this from their looks.

I was glad when the 4 o'clock bell rang. I rushed upstairs and lay on my bed, and cried. When the tea bell rang, a guide came up to me, and was surprised to see me crying. She dragged me out and we both had tea together. Then we marched to the playground and played games. For a short time I forgot my loneliness because everyone was cheerful and happy.

At 6:30 p.m. we went upstairs and dressed for dinner. At 7:30 p.m. we had dinner and went for our night study which lasted till 8:45 p.m.

When I went to bed, I felt miserable and lonely and wished that I could go home. The girl next to me tried her best to make me happy. She told me interesting stories about her school life ; thus I dozed off, and had pleasant dreams of my home.

It was indeed the strangest day in my life.

MAHESWARY VELAYUTHAM,
Form III.

“ Back of the gloom—
The bloom.
Back of the stripe—
Sweet life.”

FRANK L. STANTON.

OUR CLASSMATES

We are a jolly set of girls, who have great fun in and out of class. Our classroom is one of the finest in the school, sheltered from the glare of the sun by the shady mango tree outside. It is the classroom that inspires us to be airy, light and gay. We are noisy and get into trouble often. One comfort is that we suffer in a band.

Our Meddlesome Matty has a long face with a prominent forehead in the form of a crescent moon. Her brow overhangs the eyes which are large, dark and unlike those of the tribe in general, rather mischievous than brilliant. The face is carefully brushed from time to time so as to give it all the due advantage of contrast to the dark locks which fall carelessly on either side of her cheeks.

Meddlesome Matty loves maths so much that during the maths periods, she is happy and is hardly on her chair. She cries for daily tests but some of us keep her in check.

Do you want to know of our gay Pat? She is lean and fairly tall with bandy legs and bony arms.

Gay Pat has a child's face and a prominent nose which is distended at the nostrils like a Satyr's. Her eyes are small but full of mischief.

The remarkable thing about her forehead is that it forms a pentagon. Gay Pat has a face which you imagine in one, born under a prosperous star. Though she is mischievous, yet she is the star of the class.

We have a Laughing Gas who has a dark broad countenance. Whatever question is put to her, she will smile and stand in a funny attitude. Sometimes she twists her eyes in some funny way and looks like an owl. She is the artist of our class. She is very fond of drawing and spends most of her time in it. She likes rocking in her chair and knocking at her desk with her finger as a drummer does. Though she is blunt in her ways, she is a pleasant girl.

Our "Studios Maiden" never wastes a minute and she is as gentle as a lamb. We have a "Nightingale" who provides music whenever it is wanted and gives a helping hand at all times.

Who can forget our "Hopping Jill." She is like a butterfly and is never found in her place.

We also have a Dreamer. She is in dreamland even when the teacher is in class. She will be looking at the "manoranchitham" tree through the door, and laugh and chat to herself. We understand her quite well.

Our "Merry Puck" keeps us all merry. One day the Dreamer was about to sit on her chair and Puck pulled the chair back, and down toppled the Dreamer. We enjoyed the fun greatly.

Our baby is pretty but she is too short. Her forehead is neither large nor small. She has small beautiful eyes which are ready to shed tears at all times.

She is very quiet in and out of class, and speaks very gently. She is very fond of story books, and will always be found reading them.

The smallest one in our class reminds us of the Dormouse of Mad Hatter's Tea Party. She likes William the Silent of all the heroes in History. Therefore she imitates his silence.

Like her, our Quaker, is very studious, and she is the first girl in our class. She sets an example to the mischievous ones, that if they are quiet, they will be very clever. She is a good orator.

Our Smiling Belle is a comforter to us in our difficulties. Whenever any one is in trouble, she will do her best to cheer them. She is taken for all the tableau, but she is not proud of her beauty.

It is too soon to say anything about our new comer. She keeps too much to her books.

Our picture is complete with the affectionate cousins. They are interesting companions, who love chatting. Both are taken for actings and they do their parts well.

So that is the end of the tale about ourselves.

Third Form.

A WET MORNING

I live in a village, one mile away from my school. I enjoy my walks to school and back on fine days, but I cannot say so on very hot or very wet days.

It was a sultry November morning. I was anxious to go to school early; we had the needle work inspection on that day. The sky was dark with clouds and down came the rain. I waited a while, but it did not stop. So I made up my mind to face the angry monsoon wind. I rather liked the idea of using the rain coat which my father had bought me, the week before. I put on the rain coat, tucked my sewing box inside the pockets, and set out bravely with a slender umbrella.

As soon as I had crossed the lane, I got the rain and wind right on my face. I had to fight against it all the way. On my way, I saw the shepherds driving their sheep which were drenched. The men and the beasts were shivering. I saw the market women, running at different speeds with their baskets on their heads; one of them slipped down, while some women cursed the passing 'buses which splashed water on their clothes. Farmers went back from their farms with unhappy faces. Their fields were in floods. I saw a herd of cows, standing with their backs to the wind, looking very wet and sorrowful.

I saw a small girl standing under a bo-tree with a tattered umbrella. She was crying because her books and her lunch basket had fallen into a pool of water near the tree. I helped the girl and took her to school with me.

The wind blustered, and the rain battered on all sides and the way seemed much longer than usual. The crows on the branches of the trees swayed to the wind. Some children were singing, others made paper boats and left them in the drains to float. I saw that the girls were very happy. It was strange. Out on the road, I had seen every one unhappy. Inside the school, all were merry because they had a rain holiday.

SIVACOLUNTHU SINNATAMBY,

Form II.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF OUR SCHOOL CLOCK

I lived in the Black Forest of France and grew with many other trees. I was a lofty and shady tree. So all the travellers sought shelter under me. The birds came and sang to me. One day some cruel wood-cutters cut me down and they sent me along the river Rhine to Switzerland. Some clock makers bought me and made me into a clock. I felt the pain very much. They pierced me on all sides and decorated me well. I was very happy when I was fully transformed.

In the year 1913, I was packed in a beautiful box and sent to Colombo. I felt very sad to part from my friends and felt home sick in the middle of our voyage. After some weary days in the ocean, the steamer reached Colombo harbour. After some time, I was taken along with the other parcels to the jetty. The next day a merchant took me to his shop in a lorry.

I stayed there with my new friends for two days. I felt the dreadful heat and the dust was unbearable. I was surprised that my other friends were chiming so merrily. I forgot my sad plight when I was admired by many customers. On the third day, a tall Afghan came and bought me for Rs. 100. He packed me to the Jaffna Apothecaries and from there I was brought to Ramanathan College, and all the girls flocked to see me. After a great deal of excitement I was placed on the wall of the College hall. I felt proud as I went on tick, tock, tick, tock. Some gazed at my polished frame, some liked my dial, and some praised my musical chimes.

Once a week, a teacher gives me energy and sets me to work in the right way. My past life was a peaceful one and many eventful

things happened in this school in my time. Once a year they white-wash the college, and the servants remove me from my abode. They handle me roughly so I aged before my time. I was unable to do my work well. I began to move slowly and unsteadily.

I am cursed by many people now for my irregular habits. I have to blame them for not looking after me carefully. I am getting old and I find it difficult to move fast. The teachers remark that I am a slow coach.

It is difficult to please everybody. Some girls hate some lessons or feel sleepy at night study. Then they want me to go fast, and look at me every minute. There are some girls who like to chat with their friends. They hate me for moving fast. In trying to please everybody, I please nobody.

My life now is unhappy. I like my school so much that I do not like to part from it. But I fear that a new and a better rival will take my place soon.

JAYALAKSHMY SUBBIAH,
Form II.

“ The only wrong act that matters is not doing
one's best work ”.

MY TRIP TO GALLE

I looked forward to the 1934 mid-summer holidays, with feelings of delight. For my sister had written and wanted me and our parents to spend the holidays at Galle. She was living at Galle at that time and had said many good things about that southern capital. The idea of a long journey by train thrilled me. Leaving Jaffna at about sunset on a warm August day, we spent a sleepless night in the train. Our party consisted of my father, mother, myself and our little brother. In spite of the jerking of the train, I slept and then got up to hear a porter cry out the name of a wayside station. What amused me more was the sight of the station hawkers with bread, plantains and tea and other things, training their voices in different pitches.

By 5.30 in the morning the train passed the town of Polgahawela. The day was beginning to dawn. The rays of the sun lit up the tops of hills that appeared on the sides of the railway track at a distance. As we proceeded further, we saw around us the low-lying fields with young paddy plants, and small streams running between them. Here and there were peasants goading the buffaloes through the fields. At a far distance, one never fails to see groves and groves of coconut trees. The next thing that drew my attention was the Kelani Ganga, which silently flowed under the bridge. This river had many times overflowed its banks, causing a lot of damage to life and property.

While I was musing in this fashion, the train blew a loud whistle and shortly steamed into the Fort station which is the central station in Colombo. Colombo or at least a good part of it could be seen from this station. As we had to change trains here, we got down and waited for the next train. The din of other trains coming at frequent intervals; of tram-cars and omnibuses on the road, showed what a busy city the Metropolis was. After sometime, we changed into a

cosy compartment of what was called the Galle Express. The train started on its journey of 72 miles to Galle and ran without stopping at a number of stations. After we left Mount Lavinia, we did not lose sight of the blue calm sea. The first thing that strikes one travelling along the coast in south Ceylon, is the fertile country side. Quite different from the dry area of the north, the south is full of green spots. Besides, the country is thickly populated. There are houses all along the route, and the coconut palms, are seen everywhere. South Ceylon is lucky in another way. There are many rivers. All along the railway route, there are many rivers which empty their waters into the sea. After passing a number of stations, we reached our destination at about noon. Thinking of the pleasant scenery I saw on the way, I had almost dozed off. I was awakened by the shrill whistle of the slowing train, and to my great delight, I found my sister, who had come to receive us, on the platform.

MAHESWARY NALLATAMBY,

Form II.

“ Every truth that we know is but the husk of a deeper truth ”. L.R.INGE.

THE MAGIC RING

It was a summer evening. I went through a big forest to my grandmamma's house. The birds sang gaily among the trees. The evening sun shone through the tall and slender palms. Among the lovely rose-flowers, I saw a beautiful butterfly. As the butterfly flew in the sunshine, its wings shone like gold. I wanted to catch it, so I chased it through the wood. The butterfly went very far and I ran behind it; still I could not catch it. Then I thought of Rama chasing the golden deer and losing Sita ; but I was not afraid.

The butterfly flew to a great rock by the sea-side. As it came near the rock, it was changed into a lovely fairy. The fairy had a wand in her hand and as she touched the rock with her wand, there stood a big gate. When the fairy sang a sweet song the gate opened. The fairy who saw me panting asked me to go with her. We went inside. It was the fairyland. I saw a number of fairies coming to welcome us. They crowded round us like bees. Then at the order of the queen of the fairies, a fairy brought some wine in a cup and gave it to me. When I drank the wine, I was changed to a fairy.

Then the fairies took me to a beautiful lake. There were golden lotuses floating on the water and there were silver fishes leaping to and fro. Snow white swans were idly swimming about. We bathed in that lake and then the fairies took me to a big hall. In the middle of the hall, there stood a platform. On that platform was a throne built of corals and other precious stones. There sat the queen. The queen ordered the fairies to play on their fiddles. They sang sweetly. After the feast was over, the queen gave me a ring. She said that in future if I either tried to catch the butterflies to harm them ; or if I tried to pluck the flowers carelessly, then I would be unhappy. If I was gentle, the ring would bring me luck. The fairies took me back to the gate through which I came. The gate closed with a deafening noise. The cocks crew. I awoke from my sleep. I looked for the ring. But there was no ring. It was only a dream.

NAGESWARY SUBRAMANIAM,

First Form.

LITTLE ROHINI AND THE FERRY-MAN

F. M.—Would you like to go for a row across the ferry ?

R.—I like it, but mummy will scold me.

F. M.—Well then, run up and ask your daddy. I am sure he will allow you.

R.—But he has gone to town to buy presents for Sita's birthday. To-morrow she will be seven.

F. M.—What will you give your sister, Sita ?

R.—She loves flowers. I came to this wood to get some flowers for her. Will you tell me where I can get roses, sambangi and manoranjitham ?

F. M.—Yonder is a beautiful garden.

R.—How am I to get there ? Will you take me across.

F. M.—Then get in. It is getting dark and your mother will be worried if you stay late.

(They sail across the stream to the other side).

R.—I will come soon with my basket laden with flowers. Oh ! Sita will love them.

(She goes into the wood).

R.—How lovely ! I wish I could take the whole garden to our house. But I need the wonderful lamp of Alladin.

(She hears a shrill cry).

R.—Help ! Help ! Ferry-man. Save me.

F. M.—That is Rohini's voice. What is the matter.

(He runs into the wood).

R.—Oh ! Do come quickly. There is a bear behind that rose-bush. I heard some funny sounds.

F. M.—What a foolish girl you are ! That is only a mina. See she wont do you any harm.

R.—Are you quite sure, Ferry-man ?

F. M.—Yes, she is a dear.

R.—Sita will like her. I am sure. May I take her home ?

F. M.—Then you must treat her kindly and not shut her in the cage always. Get into the boat now.

(They sail across).

R.—Good-bye, Ferry-man. I thank you for taking me across the stream. I shall call this pet Ferrina to remember your kindness.

F. M.—Good-bye, I hope we shall meet again.

SELVARANI RAJARATNAM,

Fifth Standard.

MY WISHES

My wishes are many, but not even one has come true. When I see my small baby sister playing with all her toys, I wish I could be like her. At the same time, when I am in school, I feel it something very great to carry huge books like my sisters in the upper forms. So as soon as I go home, I would go to my father's office room and carry his big books from place to place. I wish to be a teacher and I always take my teacher's chair when she is away.

When our teacher relates us stories, I wish she should not hear the bell. I wish I were a butterfly so that I could fly through the window when I do not do my home work. During the class hours, I like to chat ; but our teacher will not allow me to do so.

I like to dress in beautiful silk sarees and read big books. I like to be a fairy, because I can dance with the other fairies ; I can make fairy rings ; I can fly where ever I like, and I can give sweet dreams to small children. My last wish is a pleasant New Year to you all.

S. YOGESWARY,

Second Year.

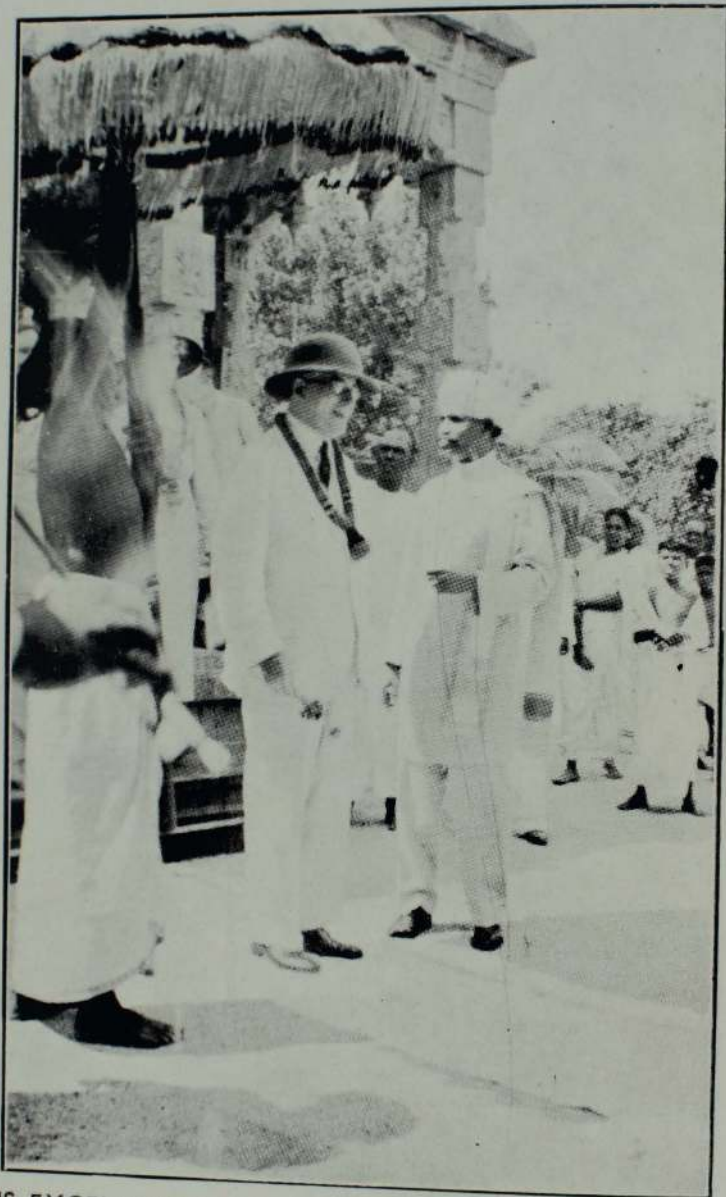
A FARMYARD

One day my teacher brought to our class, a pretty picture of a farmyard. I liked it very much and wished to see a real one. After a few days our teacher took us to a farmyard. There I saw many horses tied to the carts. They were all full of hay. Near a shed I saw many big cows. They were all eating grass. Two women were milking the cows. In another place, I saw many ducks, geese, and hens. There was a pond. The ducks were swimming in the pond. Hundreds of doves were flying in the air. An old woman was there. She gave me some corn to feed the hens. Then a pussy came running and jumped on my shoulders. She was a very pretty one. She had big round eyes and soft hair over her body. I liked her very much. So the old woman gave me the pussy. It was very hot and our teacher said that we must go. So I thanked the old lady and came home with my dear little pussy.

NAGESWARY SOMASUNDRAM,

First Year.

A FARMYARD



HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AND MR. NATESAN
AT THE SAMADHI OF SIR RAMANATHAN

RECEPTION TO SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYAR AT RAMANATHAN COLLEGE

The 14th day of October 1935, was a red letter day in the annals of Ramanathan College. On this memorable day, Lady Ramanathan was "At Home" in honour of that eminent lawyer and statesman of Modern India, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K.C.I.E., who came down to Jaffna then on the special invitation of Lady Ramanathan to inaugurate the Ramanathan Memorial Lectures. As Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar had given a thrill to educated Jaffna on the two days previous to the function at Ramanathan College by his soul-stirring memorial lectures "*At the Cross Roads*," there was a large gathering of the elite Jaffna showing how Jaffna honours truly great men. The College and its premises were tastefully decorated and illuminated for the occasion and bore altogether a most festive appearance, and the weather was fine and cool. Long before 5 p.m. the guests began to arrive and were escorted to the College hall which was transformed into a drawing room for the occasion, where the early arrivals were entertained to choice music both vocal and instrumental.

At about 4.45 p.m. Mr. S. Natesan, B.A., B.L. M.S.C., took Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar the chief guest of the evening around and introduced all the visitors individually after which the guests adjourned with them to the College quadrangle for tea. The arrangements were perfect and light refreshments were served lavishly. The scouts of Parameshvara College helped in serving the guests and a group of girls of Ramanathan College gave a musical dance which heightened the effect of that beautiful and enjoyable evening.

After tea the party returned to the College hall where the girls contributed a musical item in English, and before the College song was sung in Thamiz by the College choir, Lady Ramanathan spoke a few words most touchingly to give expression to her thanks to

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who in spite of his serious responsibilities of State came to Jaffna to honour Ceylon's Greatest Man of Modern Times to inaugurate the Ramanathan Memorial Lectures. Addressing the assembled guests Lady Ramanathan said :

" I feel quite unable to find words to express my deep appreciation of Sir Ramaswami Aiyar's kindness to us in coming here to inaugurate Sir Ramanathan's Memorial Lectures, and my gratitude for all that he has said. It has been more than a privilege to have listened to him, to have followed his train of thought through all the departments of knowledge that mankind has gathered, and to have come in the end to those comforting words that unless with it all we have an abundant store of kindliness and good will, we shall not be able to get through our difficulties in a satisfactory manner. It seems to me that that is the key-note of his message, and it is one that all of us can strive to attune our lives to. The standard of his lectures is very high. The ideals set forth require a life of strenuous devotion to Truth and work. I do not think that present day methods of living will help any one to get near those ideals. In the lives of both Sir Ramanathan and Sir Ramaswami Aiyar there has been this active devotion to Truth. They have both lived very simply, working hard and continuously, mingling in all the activities of life, and yet preserving their own light and purity in a way that is undreamt of by most people. I feel the time of Sir Ramaswami Aiyar's stay has not been long enough, though possibly he may find it trying. I would like to be able to learn from him the methods of that cultivation of kindliness and goodwill which he has so briefly touched upon. One feels as one goes on, that there is a lot to unlearn if one is to get nearer to the Truth. Our lives seem to be spent in gathering so much, only to have to throw it all away. But he has accounted for this apparent waste of time and energy too—by reminding us that in gathering, the ultimate aim is not the collection of all these things, but making of our own minds more fit and able to rise to the real work of life, *viz.*, the growth of the spirit within us, the expansion of the small light that each of us has, the cultivation of that goodwill and kindliness, which is the essence of our being, but which seems to dwindle into darkness often and remain unseen. I deeply treasure these words coming from one who has fought and is fighting life's battles valiantly out in the open field—one who is a deep

thinker, a great student of life and people and things, one who has made a brilliant success of his life from many points of view—how great the success is can be seen when he emerges from the tangle of thought brought about by centuries of study and diverse opinions, and stands above them all, serene and happy in his work and his search, sure of his goal, a devoted leader, a student, a child in his faith and simple ways of life, a warrior in his struggle, who is winning fast his way to his great ideal.

We have been greatly honoured and blessed by his coming—perhaps when strength was failing and depression setting in, his message has come to dispel it and encourage us to push on. We pray that his journey home may be pleasant, that he will not forget us, and that we shall at no very distant date be permitted to have the honour and privilege of welcoming him again.”

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in reply electrified his audience in returning his thanks to Lady Ramanathan. Those five minutes he spoke were so tense indeed that everybody in the hall was visibly moved. All felt the influence of the spirit of the departed hero. Sir Ramaswami Aiyar said :

“ I am doubly embarrassed ladies and gentlemen, because I am interrupting sweet music by my harsh voice and because I was wholly unprepared for the generous feelings expressed by Lady Ramanathan. In her address Lady Ramanathan has asked a question. I can only say that the answer to that is furnished by the lives led by the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and Lady Ramanathan united by the devotion to selfless public service though belonging to different races and regions. They have set the best example of an ideal life united by common service to humanity and self sacrifice. By a happy union of the best culture of the East and West Lady Ramanathan has been a true help mate to Sir Ramanathan in fulfilling his great ideals and noble aspirations. Her life is a magnificent example of kindness and goodwill—the only things that will remedy the unhappy and unsettled condition of the world today.” Continuing he asked them all to work unitedly for the country and bid them all a most affectionate farewell.

The College song composed in Thamil by Mr. S. Natesan, Principal of Parameshvara College and sweetly produced in an action song

depicting the various activities of the College was indeed a most fitting finale to that most memorable week-end spent in the ever refreshing memory of Ceylon's National Hero. The people of Jaffna can never forget the unique personality of Sir Ramaswami Aiyar and his deep interest in them, his kindness in coming to remind them of their own great Leader, and his oft expressed wish that they should all work in unity and kindness and so bring about their freedom—as he said in one of his lectures, if people worked unitedly and with goodwill "Self Government would not be given to them, but would come to them."

Sir Ramaswami Aiyar then took leave of the assembled guests with reverential and graceful namaskaram, clasping their hands warmly in both his own and bidding them farewell. Taking his seat in the car he called out 'good-bye,' once more adding with much feeling "I dare not say *au revoir*," hearing which everyone present felt the echo of Lady Ramanathan's words in their hearts as he drove away—that at no very distant date they might have the honour and privilege of welcoming him again.

RAMANATHAN COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The Prize Distribution at Ramanathan College took place on 23rd November. There was a fairly large attendance consisting mostly of Old Girls and parents of present girls. The Hall was tastefully decorated with coconut leaves and flowers. A "Kumbam" was placed at the entrance and a "Kolam" design was done in the portico according to the wishes and ideals of Lady Ramanathan, whose unavoidable absence was much felt.

Mr. Batuwantudawe, Mr. Dyson, Mr. Natesan, Mrs. R. R. Nalliah and the Principal were accommodated on the platform. The Principal first read the report in which she summed up the year's record of work and the examination results. Mr. Natesan, M.S.C., next introduced the chief speaker of the evening in a short and telling speech. He said that everyone was conscious of the rare privilege of the visits to our college from eminent people. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar's recent visit was still fresh in their minds. That day they had with them another great minister, holding a responsible post in Ceylon. Mr. Batuwantudawe and his father before him had had a distinguished career. Their ripe scholarship was well known. They were good friends of Sir P. Ramanathan. Mr. Natesan also expressed deep regret at Lady Ramanathan's absence, and on her behalf welcomed the distinguished visitor to the College.

Mr. Batuwantudawe who rose to speak amidst cheering applause said he was aware of the fact that Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar had honoured the College by his recent visit. He acknowledged the greatness of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar—India's most gifted lawyer and speaker. He certainly did not come in the same category, but he too like Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar was one of the trusted friends of Sir P. Ramanathan who combined in him the noble virtues of a sound heart and a sound mind. He could not help recollecting the 1915 disorders. The South was in turmoil and moved in troubled

waters. In the dire hour of need, the valiant son of the North came readily and generously to help them. They claimed him as their saviour. Jaffna and Ceylon should be proud of her great son. The late Sir P. Ramanathan set aside petty divisions and narrow prejudices and identified his interests with the whole nation. They all should remember that remarkable achievement of his, for all ages. There should be no barriers, no distinctions between the Thamils and the Sinhalese but both should work for the common weal. Then there could be no doubt about the advancement of their country—if only all of them like the late Sir P. Ramanathan remembered that there should be a “give and take” policy. Better understanding and mutual sympathy were the surer steps to unity and progress.

The speaker had been listening with interest to the careful report read by the Principal and the results were most encouraging. He has great admiration for the Education imparted in this Institution and it should be followed in all parts of the Island. The system of Education was generally criticised as being unsuited to supply the needs of our boys and girls adequately. But he noted with great satisfaction that here was an Institution which conformed to the traditions of the past and faithfully adhered to the noble ideals of Sir P. Ramanathan. It was gratifying that the religious side of Education was receiving great attention. Culture and Religion as was cultivated in this school would undoubtedly produce women who would carry the love and the desire to walk in the light of their religion. Then one could expect a happier generation of citizens in the future.

Another important feature of a school should be the physical culture. Sports should occupy a prominent place in the curriculum. A good sportsman was good all round. Love of games should be inculcated when the children were quite young. The forms and kinds of sports did not matter so much as the spirit that one brought into the game. Girls' schools should be equipped with gymnasiums, to facilitate the promotion of good physique. A sound physical training will develop healthy constitution among the girls. A “good sport” would cope with the difficulties of life in masterly way. The most important thing was to lead a healthy life. He trusted that this Institution would give a prominent place not only to religious culture, Education but also to physical culture. That would comprise the best kind of liberal education.

He understood that in this Institution of Sir P. Ramanathan, national customs were observed closely. Childhood was the most impressionable period and as such it was the best period of a girl's life to drive in the respect for one's national culture. They grow to be proud of their national heritage. There was a tendency in the past to adopt the Western manners but that is gradually on the decline. Here was an Institution which imparted the best of the East and the West. The result must be salutary and the gain beneficial. It was vital that the future mothers should receive a good education; then their children would be brought up in the right way.

The girls should do their best to give the school better results in the future. He was not depreciating their work. He fully appreciated the work done, but one should strive to do more and more. He would like to see Ramanathan College enjoying a reputation of turning out the best and useful students in the Island. The message he extended to the students was one of friendship and goodwill. It mattered not in the least whether the pupils secured a prize or not. Prize winner or no, each one must do what was set before her, in the best manner. They then would have the satisfaction that they had done their best. Those who did not get any prizes need not feel disappointed. He had not secured many prizes in his school days. He was happy in a way as that would have made him a "spoilt" boy. Prizes were not always the criterion of merit. There was a temptation to work for prizes and neglect all other interests. However he was not under-estimating the prize winners. They had done well.

Mr. Natesan had mentioned that rain came but once in a way to Jaffna. He trusted that like torrents of rain, great and illustrious people who occasionally came to Jaffna, would not fail to visit this Institution of Sir P. Ramanathan and give their showers of blessings.—

He left behind him his good wishes.

Mrs. R. R. Nalliah then distributed the prizes. This was followed by a short musical programme which consisted of the following items:—

1. Thevaram.
2. College Song.
3. Vocal Solo by Mr. Saraswathi Selvadurai.
4. Toys.—A short English play by the 1st and 2nd years and Standard V.
5. Group singing (Thyagarajah Keerthanam).
6. Thevaram.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We feel this a memorable as well as a most happy occasion, as we welcome in our midst the Minister for Local Administration, who has so kindly spared us this evening from his busy visit to Jaffna, and Mrs. Nalliah who has so charmingly signified her interest in our affairs by consenting to distribute our prizes.

It is a long time since I had the pleasure of telling you about our activities, as on the last occasion of the last prize-distribution, on Old Girls' Day 1933, I was ill. However, as I understand our distinguished visitors are in somewhat of a hurry, and as the distribution of certificates will take some time, I regret I can do no more than mention a few incidents in our life and work for the past year and a half. As you know this prize-distribution was postponed from the F.P.'s, Day in 1934 on account of the passing away of Mrs. V. Canagaretnam, the P'S Secretary. We are reminded of her tonight and her warm interest in us, as all the Mathematics prizes down to Form C and the Sixth Form English prize are her gift.

Our thanks are also due to Mrs. V. T. Pasupathy, Miss A. M. Sivakolunthu Manikam, Mrs. S. Thiagaraja, Mr. S. Natesan and Mrs. S. Nagaraja, to whose generosity the other prizes are due.

In the past year and a half a few changes in staff have occurred. Miss K. Balambikai left us at the end of the first term of 1934, her place being taken for one term by Miss Meenakshy Saravanamuttu, and then by Miss Senthichelvam Ramanathan. For 3 months we had Miss Ponnudurai as a part-time teacher. In August 1934 we welcomed Mr. Parameshawara Aiyer as music master, and in June this year Mrs. S. Nagaraja who joined us to take charge of the new orphanage, and for hostel work.

As regards the examination results, which I fear are all too often made the sole aim and the sole criterion of girls' education, in 1933 we had one pass in the Senior Cambridge and 6 in the Junior; in 1934 again one Senior pass and 4 in the Junior. June, 1934 saw our first candidate's success in the London Matriculation, and in June

this year we had another pass in this examination. In the future we intend to continue to present candidates for this examination.

As usual we have presented candidates for the Vivekananda Society's examinations, although they are held at such an awkward time that many girls cannot appear for them. In 1933 we had 6 successes and in 1934 1.

At the end of 1933 we sent in candidates for the first time for the examinations of the Royal Drawing Society, with satisfactory results. We continue to present candidates every year. These certificates are distributed for the first time to-day.

In December, 1934 we were able to participate in a most interesting exchange of art work with schools in many countries. Thanks to the kindness of the organisers of this exchange, we had a miniature art exhibition of work from schools situated from the U.S.A. to Japan—*via* Europe. In May this year a similar exhibition of work from Vienna schools was held. We hope to continue this exchange next year. So far one school in Jaffna has joined us in this.

In May this year Mr. S. Muttusumaru very kindly presented a sports challenge cup which was won at the inter-house sports by the Jasmine House. I, personally, am very grateful for this gift, as I should like to see more interest in sports and games.

Our numbers have now risen to 180 of whom 130 are boarders, a number which we can accommodate with some difficulty, especially as one of our rooms was given to the new orphanage this summer. It may be that I look far ahead, but it now seems necessary to extend the hostel.

No sketch, however summary of our life for the past year can be complete without mention of the memorable and delightful visits we have received. In June, 1934, when all Jaffna flocked to see and hear Rabindranath Tagore, his daughter and grand-daughter favoured us with a visit. Early this year we were honoured to receive their Excellencies the Governor and Lady Stubbs, and we shall long treasure the memory of their kindly interest and charm. In July the Minister for Agriculture from Madras and our even Minister for Labour, Industry and Commerce paid us a visit and we try to deserve the very complimentary remarks they made. In October we had the privilege of receiving Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, and I like to remember that as he drove away, it was not good-bye he said but *au revoir*.

RAMANATHAN COLLEGE OLD GIRLS' DAY, 1935

The long expected Old Girls' day dawned on Saturday, 20th July, 1935. The abishekam at the Samadhi of the venerable founder—Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan—and at the College temple pealed the notes of the happy reunion day. Early in the afternoon the old familiar faces beaming with gladness greeted each other affectionately. Assembled in groups they talked of other days that would never return. They recalled happy memories as they glided past their class rooms, dormitories and play ground. A stranger's envy would have left him lonely in a crowd, awakening in him that loyalty and love for his institution which he had never felt before. Sights transform natures.

The business meeting commenced at 3 p.m., with Miss V. F. Carleton in the Chair. She extended a cordial welcome to the Old Girls and said that the reunion of the Past and the Present girls was an occasion of great joy. She then called upon the Secretary to read the telegram from the President, Lady Ramanathan, expressing regret at her and Mrs. Natesan's absence, and wishing the meeting all success.

Then a vote of Condolence was passed to the late Mrs. Canagaratnam the secretary of the O.G.A. for a successive number of years. Miss Chelliah was next called upon to speak on the many sided activities of Mrs. Canagaratnam. She dwelt on the wonderful charms of Mrs. Canagaratnam, and of the suddenness of her call before she could fully achieve all that she had planned out. Whatever she touched she adorned. As a mother, teacher, social worker, and educationist, she set an example to all around her. She lived and had her being in an atmosphere of friendliness, and was perfectly at home in any society, high or low, Christian or Hindu. Adaptibility, genial disposition and above all her sincerity in any work she undertook, gave her friends and a popularity that was unprecedented.

Ramanathan College in particular, lost in her a most loyal old girl and a true friend. Well might she be compared to Adam in "As You Like It"—"How well in thee appears the Constant Service When service sweat for duty, not for meed."

Then the Acting Secretary, Mrs. A. Mylvaganam presented the report for the year.

Ramanathan College Old Girls' Union Annual Report 1934-1935

This report closes another chapter of the glorious annals of the Old Girls' Union of the Premier Hindu Girls' College in Ceylon. Its name and fame is spelt in flaming letters in the hearts of all the Old Girls who left its portals within the last quarter century. Wherever they are and whomever they meet, their chief topic is Ramanathan College, its successes and failures. The much loved and admired founder's legacy to the Hindu Public is the envy of the other sectarians. His aim was to serve man and God through a simple and purified form of Hindu life. His aim is our goal. It is the duty of every Old Girl to follow the precepts of life learnt here and jealously guard her privileges and rights inherited from the saintly founder. It is our solemn duty to watch over our sacred mother institution and keep its spirit unalloyed and free from outside forces.

These pleasing and awe-inspiring thoughts are mixed with grief when that noble figure "clothed in white samite" and her daughter Mrs. Natesan are absent from our midst. Lady Ramanathan, always enlivened our gatherings with her mirth and geniality. Today she is miles away yet her spirit pervades the whole atmosphere here.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. S. Natesan on being elected to the State Council. Let us hope that he will be returned unopposed to the next council and follow the worthy precedent set by Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan.

It has fallen to my lot as an Old Girl to record with grief the early and unexpected demise of Mrs. Canagaretnam our Secretary. Her task in life is over. Her love for the institution is known to all the Old Girls. Keeness and enthusiasm were her maxims in life and these won the love of all those she met. I am confident I am voicing the sentiments of all present when I express the desire that this meeting conveys its heart-felt sympathies to Mr. Canagaretnam

and family. I wish to add that special mention be made of our appreciation of her loyal and affectionate services to the school.

It is my pleasant duty to ask all the Old Girls to present a purse to Mr. C. K. Swaminathan for his valuable services rendered to the college. I would further suggest that some lasting appreciation of his duty be installed in the College. I expect a spontaneous and liberal response from all the Old Girls.

The number of Old Girls has been considerably strengthened by the addition of the Ramanathan Training School past students. The President was keen that they should join the Union as they do great national service in spreading the religious and academical knowledge gained in this institution. Their lives are a long sacrifice to the betterment of the mother tongue so long unreasonably neglected by all concerned.

Our numbers are undoubtedly sound but our finances are unfortunately very unsound. I earnestly hope that all Old Girls will contribute towards the Prizes and also pay in their subscriptions early. A regular fund of the Old Girls would be a firm foundation for many purposes, particularly to open the ample pages of knowledge to deserving Hindu Girls.

Then the Treasurer Miss C. Rajarajeswary presented the balance sheet.

The following office-bearers were elected for the years 1935-1936 :—

<i>President:</i>	Lady R. L. Ramanathan.
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Miss V. F. Carleton and Mrs. S. Natesan.
<i>Secretaries:</i>	Mrs. T. Muttucumaru and Miss C. Rajarajeswary.
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mrs. A. Mylvaganam.
<i>Committee:</i>	Mesdames K. Alvapillai, A. R. Ariacutty, V. Balasundaram, A. Cumarasamy, C. N. Devarajan, K. Gnanasunderum, S. R. Kanaganayagam, R. Kanagasabai, V. K. Nathan, T. Nadarajah, S. Nagarajah, V. T. Pasupathy, S. C. Somasegaram, Sam Sabapathy, S. Thiagarajah, and Misses R. R. Chelliah, V. P. Padmavathy, S. Sabaretnam, A. M. Sivakolunthu, K. Sathasivam.

Mrs. Thiagarajah spoke eloquently on the great services rendered to the College by Mr. C. K. Swaminathan, B.A., who retired after being a headmaster for over 20 years.

He combined in him the perfect qualities of a teacher. His meekness conquered everything, and the girls reacted splendidly to his encouragement. He understood the capacity of each girl, and taught her accordingly. He demanded from each according to her ability, and gave to each according to her need. It is meet that the Old Girls should liberally subscribe and show their esteem and love, either by a handsome purse, or a Swaminathan Scholarship or both.

Mrs. Kanagarayer next spoke shortly on the Prize Fund. Prizes, she said, are the effective means of encouraging the efficiency of the school.

Then the meeting adjourned.

There was a Net-ball match between the Old and the Present Girls in which the latter won by a majority of three scores. The Old Girls were served to tea in the Quadrangle by the Guides after which the entertainment in the open air began. The guides acted a pantomime in English, welcoming the past students and showing the silken cords of fellowship that knit the past and present. The selection from "Thiruvilayadal Puranam" where Thiru Gnanasambandar performed a miraculous raising of the dead man, was charmingly rendered in Tamil with a choice sprinkling of music. This was followed by Tennyson's Dream of Fair Women. The graceful flowing dresses and the modulated actions added picturesqueness and naivete to the rippling melody of the Poet. The Old Girls, Misses R. Gnambikai and K. Sivananthavally gave violin and vocal solos. The last item was a pleasing orchestra by the Old Girls, and with a vote of thanks by Miss C. Rajarajeswary, the meeting came to a close.

SAIVA MANGAYAR SABAI

The Saiva Mangayar Sabai forms a golden link between the Ramanathan College and the Hindu Ladies of Jaffna in particular and Ceylon in general. We are glad to report that this year also the Sabai has kept up to its traditions, thanks to the untiring support of our President, Lady Ramanathan.

Under the auspices of the Saiva Mangayar Sabai, a Sangeetha Kachcheri was held at Ramanathan College on 28th June, 1935, by the girl students of Kuala Lumpur Sangeetha Apivirithi Sabai. Mrs. Natesan (Vice-president) also entertained the audience by her ravishing renderings of Thiagarajah keerthanai. The programme consisted mostly of classical music which the members and visitors greatly appreciated. A small admittance was charged for the benefit of the Sabai, and we take this opportunity to thank Mr. M. Kandiah of Singapore for his generous help. He has been working hard for a number of years to keep the Tamil children in the F.M.S. in touch with their National Music and has met with much success.

The Sabai is supporting some girls in the Ramanathan Tamil Training School and Tamil Practising School by giving them free scholarships. Passed students are doing good work in Village schools. The President Lady Ramanathan will consider deserving applications by girls who wish to become Tamil teachers when the present scholarships become vacant.

We regret that owing to unavoidable circumstances and increasing responsibilities at home, Mrs. R. R. Nalliah and Mrs. T. Nadarajah have resigned from their arduous work as Hony. Joint Secretaries. The Sabai strove to maintain the ideals of Sir Ramanathan under their diligent care and enthusiasm and they as the moving force

have greatly helped on the good work that is being done. We owe a debt of gratitude to them for their unselfish and valuable services and hope they will continue to work for the Sabai in other ways as members of the Committee.

The Anniversary of Sir Ramanathan's passing away called the "Guru Puja" which the Saiva Mangayar Sabai Members undertook to perform yearly, was done on a grand scale this year and was one of the most successful functions, the details of which appear in another column. We take this opportunity to thank the members who sent their subscription to the Guru Puja Fund and who attended in large numbers. We are grateful to the members for their loyal support rendered to the Sabai, and hope many more will follow in their wake.

Our best wishes to all the members.

"Woman must rise in capacity, not fall.
Awake! Awake! Plans grow and work themselves
Thou Mother of blessings
Thou the Giver of desires,
Thou the doer of all good,
To thee our salutation.
Thee we salute, Thee we salute."

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA.

THE GURU POOJA CELEBRATIONS

The Guru Pooja anniversary of the great patriot and sage of Lanka, Sir P. Ramanathan who attained Samadhi in the Thiruvonam of the month of Kartikai was celebrated under the auspices of the Saiva Mangayar Sabai on Sunday, the first of December, 1935.

Abishekam and Pooja were conducted in the forenoon at the Sri Ramanatheswara Temple. In the afternoon a well attended public meeting was held in the College hall to do reverence to the memory of the great soul, after which services were again performed and the deity was carried in a procession round the Temple.

The special feature of the day's proceedings was however the feeding of the poor on a large scale. Alms-giving is one of the commendable ways of commemorating the liberal nature of Sir Ramanathan. The poor and the needy, the pandarams and the religious mendicants were sumptuously treated at noon under Lady Ramanathan's personal supervision. For this purpose, kitchen and dining accommodations were specially arranged and the organisers successfully and satisfactorily accomplished the task of feeding over 700 persons on that day. It was a happy sight to see the twinkle of joy and the smile of contentment playing on the faces of the poor as they filed out. If their expression was a sure criterion of their inward glow, then there was no doubt they had enjoyed that day, and took with them grateful memories of the magnanimity of Lady Ramanathan and of her wonderful devotion to Sir Ramanathan whose memory was kindled and commemorated in this useful and gratifying fashion.

Another remarkable feature was the almost miraculous cessation of the rain which had been pouring in torrents during the previous week. It looked as though the forces of nature had rallied together in one accord to pay their homage to the veteran son of the North. This not only facilitated the work of the organisers but also enabled the public to attend in large numbers, to participate in the celebrations.

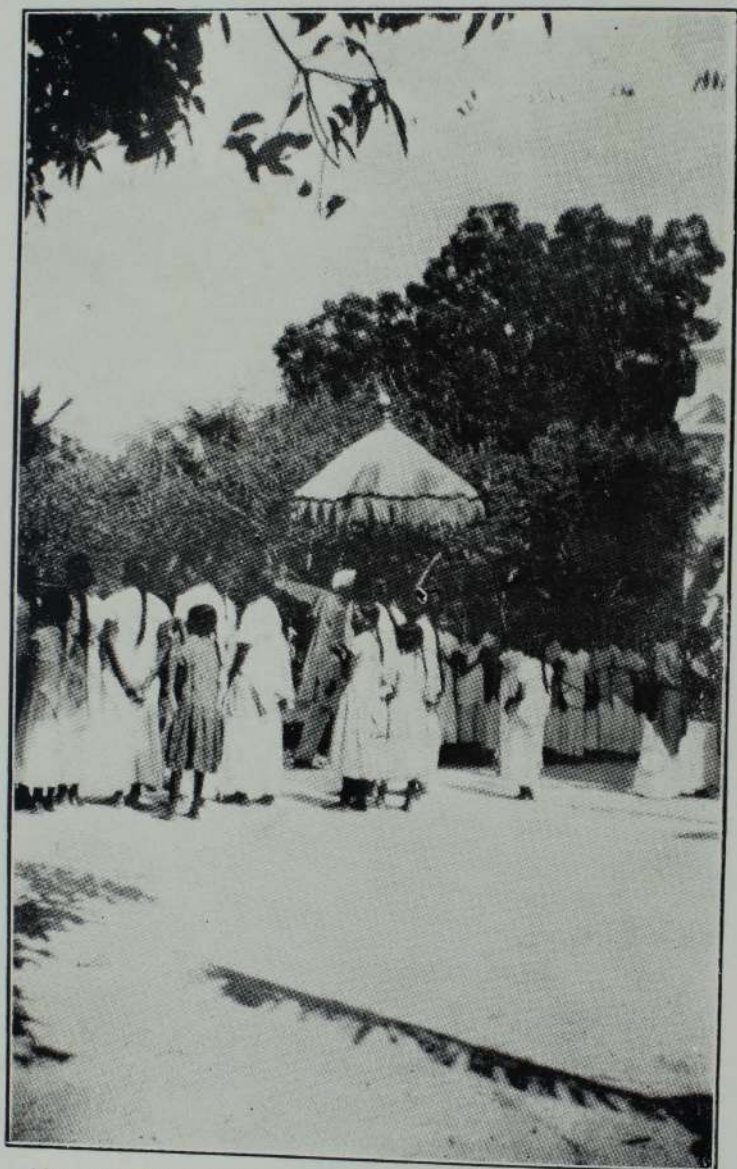
The public meeting commenced at 5 p.m. in the College hall which was daintily decorated with flower garlands and palm leaves. The President Mr. S. Natesan, B.A., B.L., M.S.C., introducing the lecturer explained the significance of the Guru Pooja and referred to similar celebrations in honour of Sir P. Ramanathan that were being held in other parts of the Island. The speaker of the evening Mr. A. Ponniah, Retired Principal of the Government Training School, Kopay, said that he had moved with Sir P. Ramanathan closely and was a great admirer of his character and attainments. Sir Ramanathan had combined in himself the quint-essence of the culture of the East and the West. His aim in founding the educational institutions was to graft the progressive ideas of the West upon the original stock of Tamil culture and civilisation. Sir P. Ramanathan stood in the foremost rank as a Raja Rishi, an educationist and public benefactor. His name connoted the admirable attributes of piety, integrity and sincerity. Mr. Natesan next dwelt on the philosophic traits of Sir Ramanathan. He quoted a few instances to show that Sir Ramanathan held a close communion with the infinite one, always realising and pondering at the same time on the essence of divinity in man.

Mr. C. K. Swaminathan, B.A., proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker and the meeting terminated with the singing of Thevaram.

* * * *

“ They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old :
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”

LAURENCE BINYON.



HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR AMONG THE
CHILDREN

IV.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

“ Yet do thy work ; it shall succeed
In thine or in another's day ;
And, if denied the victor's meed,
Thou shalt not lack the toiler's pay.”

WHITTIER

IV. REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

“Yet do thy work ; it shall succeed
In time or in another's day ;
And, it denied the victor's meed,
Thou shalt not lack the toiler's pay.”

WHITTIER

HOUSE REPORT

In reviewing the activities of our six houses namely, Lotus, Rose, Daisy, Jasmine, Violet and Lily, I must begin apologetically. The houses have not been sleeping but they can also boast of no exciting record of work. The house mistresses keep a kindly watch on the work of the house captains, whose chief duty it is to see to the cleanliness and tidiness of the dormitories.

In front of each dormitory, the respective houses have plots of ground assigned to them for gardening. Each house tries its best to produce the best garden full of beautiful flowers. Most of the girls love gardening and take a keen interest in it. It is their favourite hobby. Every girl takes her turn to weed and water the plants carefully. Last term being the dry season, we could not do much in the gardens. We were grieved to see the tender plants and the young shoots scorched by the burning rays of the sun. The Rose House and the Lily House laboured in spite of it and watered their gardens diligently. How gladly we welcomed the rain this term! Now we are busy digging and weeding the gardens. The Peacock's Plumes, Shoe flowers and Thiruvathy look very attractive on a pleasant morning. The Rain Lilies are now in full bloom, and they present a beautiful border line to the gardens. At night the Jasmines waft their fragrance along the verandahs into the bedrooms. So great an enthusiasm is taken in gardening that it will be difficult to judge the best garden at the end of the year.

The members of all the Houses maintain a steady position in games as well as in studies. In the June 3rd sports, all the Houses showed the usual interest and the athletes of each House carried off a great number of prizes. In the Inter-house sports also, each House put up a brave fight to win the cup, that was presented by Mr. S. Muthucumar. The Jasmines did splendidly and carried the trophy.

We are delighted when distinguished visitors pay visits to our college. The dormitories look a pretty sight, with the counterpanes and curtains to match the House colours.

This year, interest was evinced in Kolam. On clear fine mornings, we can see Kolam designs before the various House gardens.

At the beginning of this term, there were one or two cases of measles which gave us some anxious moments. Lily House and Jasmine House suffered most. They had to sleep outside on the Verandahs, and all enjoyed the moonlight and the fresh air. After proper disinfection, the dormitories were occupied as usual and the fear of infection died.

We express our sincere thanks for our warden, Mrs. Nagarajah, who took a great deal of tender care with our sick children. Our good wishes for a Happy New Year.

PACKIAM CANDIAH,
Captain,
Lily House.

THE SENIOR LITERARY ASSOCIATION

We have our meetings on Tuesday evenings. As we were anxious to raise the literary standard, we proposed to have fortnightly instead of weekly meetings, so that girls might have sufficient time to prepare well.

In the Committee meetings held once in a term, interesting programmes were drawn up, including a variety of items such as debates, essay readings, impromptu and prepared speeches. Speeches on the favourite authors were appreciated by the girls. Milton, Coleridge, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Goldsmith and Sir Walter Scott were some of the popular choices.

Essays were read on a wide range of subjects :

Ambition	..	..	..	Vasanthy	..	6th Form
Ceylon Scenery	..	..	..	Maheswari	..	5th Form
The Home as the Unit of Society	..	..	..	Jayalakshmy	..	4th Form
Benefits of Working for a Living	..	..	..	Maheswari	..	3rd Form
School Life	..	..	..	Vethanayaki	..	3rd Form
A Sunset	..	..	..	Rajalakshmy	..	2nd Form
Dogs	..	..	..	Jayalakshmy	..	2nd Form
Politeness	..	..	..	Pavalamany	..	1st Form
Idleness	..	..	..	Mahalakshmy	..	1st Form

Short speeches were delivered by the following members :—

Poetry and its charms	..	..	..	Atputham	..	Matric
Newspaper Reading	..	..	..	Kamalapooshamy	..	5th Form
Letter Writing	..	..	..	Pathmavathy	..	4th Form
Holiday Thrills	..	..	..	Maheswari	..	3rd Form
Home	..	..	..	Kanagamary	..	3rd Form
A Farmer	..	..	..	Buaneswari	..	1st Form
A Post-man	..	..	..	Mahalakshmy	..	1st Form
Hobbies	..	..	..	Santhirathelagam	..	2nd Form

We had many interesting debates throughout the year. The debates were very lively and animating :—

(1) " The Progress of a nation depends on Women."

Proposer	..	..	..	Kamalapooshamy	5th Form
Seconder	..	..	..	Sivapackiavathy	3rd Form
Opposer	..	..	..	Vasanthi	.. 6th Form
Seconder	..	..	..	Jayalakshmy	.. 4th Form

The proposer won by a large majority.

(2) " The Mother tongue should be the medium of instruction in schools."

Proposer	..	..	..	Packiam	.. Matric
Seconder	..	..	..	Devy	.. 3rd Form
Opposer	..	..	..	Nallanayaky	.. 4th Form
Seconder	..	..	..	Selvarany	.. 3rd Form

The most interesting part of our programme was undoubtedly the Inter-school debate on "The Cinema can never replace the Stage" between us and the Uduvil school. Irene Ankitel from Uduvil was the proposer and Savithri Devarajan of our school was the opposer. The subject was well discussed by both sides. Arguments and counter-arguments added liveliness to the debate. The future of the Cinema and the Stage was discussed with vehemence. Some were optimistic and some pessimistic in their predictions. However, when the vote was taken, the opposition won by a majority of seven votes. We thank the Uduvil girls for accepting our invitation.

The last session of this term was a lecture on " Facing things " by our Vice-president, Miss R. R. Chelliah.

Our thanks are due to the President, Miss Carleton and to the Vice-president, Miss Chelliah for the great interest they take in the welfare of the Association. We hope the Association will continue to do good work in the future.

A Happy New Year to all,

MESHWARI KUMARASINHAM,

Secretary.

SPORTS

The girls showed increased activity on the whole in sports and games during the year under report. Keen interest was taken in Net-ball and Volley-ball.

The Jasmine House came off with flying colours in the Inter-house Sports held in March and obtained the much-coveted Carleton Cup which was presented by Mr. S. Muttucumaru to whom we offer our heartiest thanks. The competition was very close between all the Houses. The Violet House which scored equal number of points as the Jasmine House, lost the first place in the final Tug-of-War. On the King's birthday, we had an enjoyable programme of games. Girls who joined in the games won many prizes which were awarded by Mrs. Natesan. The most exciting item was the Class Relay Race which was won by Std. V.

On the Old Girls' day, the Old Girls challenged the Present Girls to a Net-ball match in which the latter won by six to three. The old girls put up a good fight though they had no practice.

We wish the Day Scholars were keen on games, and would make it a point of duty to be present on the games field.

Owing to the rains, we did not enjoy the game of Tennis. We hope to begin it with renewed vigour next term. We express our sincere thanks to the Games Mistress, Miss Sabaretnam, for the great interest she evinces in our games.

SENTHIMANY RAMANATHAN,
(Captain).

GUIDE NOTES

1935 has on its record many eventful and grave issues. The authority of the League of Nations is challenged. The Emperor of Abyssinia has a sad tale to tell the world. But the year has given many pleasant memories to the IVth Jaffna Guides.

The number of our Guides has increased. The company consists of four patrols, namely, Lotus, Maghil, Thulasi and Sunflower.

We look forward with pleasure to our Guide Evenings on Wednesdays, when we spend our time in Company drill, Badge work, singing rounds, games and Guide displays.

This year, great enthusiasm was displayed by the Guides to win a number of proficiency badges as Needlewoman, Embroideress, Health, Athlete and Basket-worker. Some are working for the Cook's, Artist's, Entertainer's and Hostess' badges. We are also glad that our Captain has won the First-class badge and we heartily congratulate her.

Our Guides take great interest in gardening. We have a small plot behind our Guide Room to do gardening. Cosmos and Balsam seeds sown recently have sprung up and the Lilies are in full bloom after the rains. The Rose, Jasmine and Shoe-flower cuttings show signs of life, but it is too soon to say whether they will grow.

One of the pleasurable events this year was the opportunity we had on February 5th to attend the Rally at the Old Park, when Lady Stubbs met all the Guides of Jaffna. Each company demonstrated a badge. We took the Spinning badge and demonstrated the different stages of cotton weaving and spinning, to the accompaniment of the Veena.

On July 10th, Miss Baker paid a visit to our Company and enrolled six recruits as Tenderfoot Guides. She presented the Second-class badges too. We invited the Inuvil Rangers also on that

day. Miss Baker taught us country dancing and afterwards each patrol acted a Guide law. We spent the evening happily and ended it with a tea-party.

On November 20th, our Captain, Lieutenant and Patrol leaders were invited by the Vth Jaffna Company for an enrolment ceremony. There, Miss Chelliah, our Captain enrolled some recruits. There was a varied programme of country dancing, games and rounds and we had a pleasant time with our sister Guides.

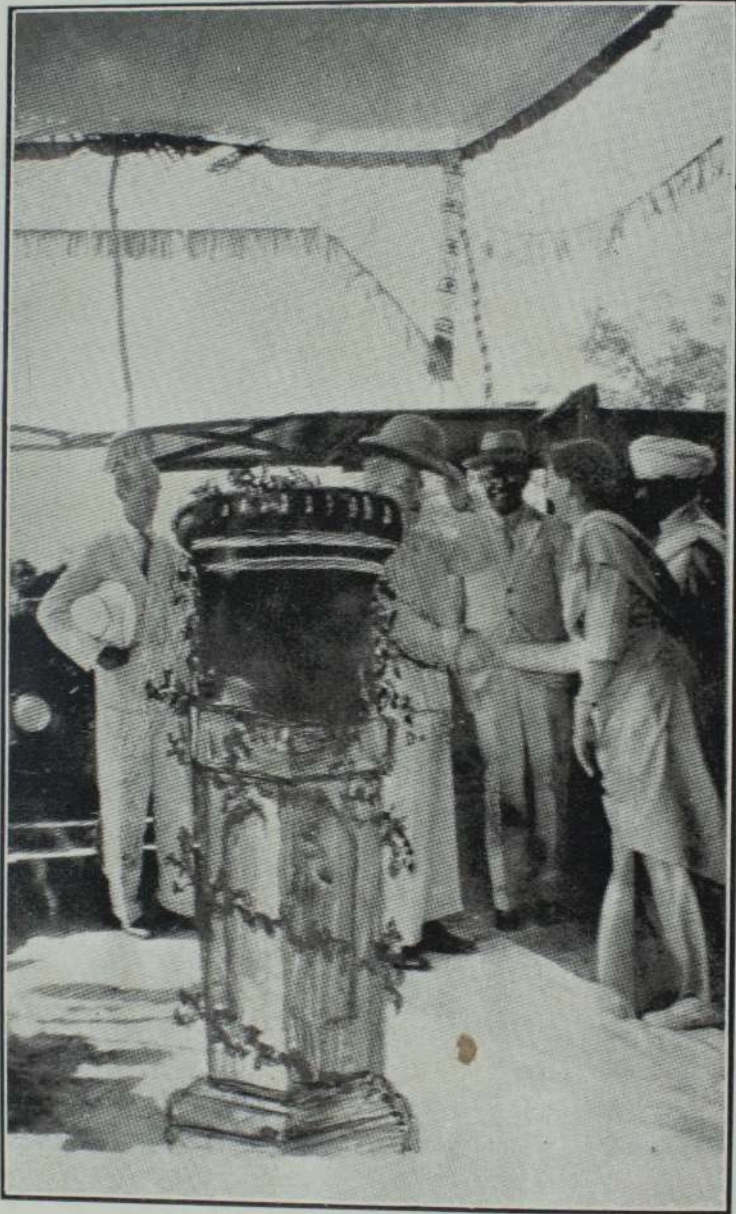
Our sincere thanks are due to Mrs. Mahadevi Ramanathan for the useful present of an alarm clock to the Company. She was one of our most active Guides, and we wish her a happy married life.

Also we owe our gratitude to our Captain and Lieutenant who spend their precious time and take great interest in us.

Guiding has always been very pleasant and, in the coming year, with the loyal support of every Guide, the IVth Jaffna Guides expect to do still better work. Smart drilling, neat bandaging and quick signalling are necessary to the achievement of Guide efficiency. However, the best signs of the true Guide spirit are happy smiling faces, discipline and helpfulness.

“ May we be truthful and ever loyal be,
May we be useful and ever friendly be,
May we be courteous and ever kindly be,
May we be obedient and ever cheerful be,
May we be thrifty, pure in thought word and deed,
And may we be faithful to all mankind.”

MARUKKOLUNTHU ARUMUGAM,
(Secretary),
IVth Jaffna Company.



LADY RAMANATHAN RECEIVING HIS EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR AT THE SAMADHI GATE

V.
THAMIL SECTION

“தூக்கும் பனுவல் துறைதோய்ந்த
கல்வியுஞ் சொற்கவைதோய்
வாக்கும் பெருகப் பணித்தருள்
வாய் ; வட நூற்கடலும்
தேக்குஞ் செந்தமிழ்ச் செல்வமும்
தொண்டர்செந் நாவினின்று
காக்குங் கருணைக் கடலே
சகலகலா வல்லியே.”

.V

"மயிசென்ற நகைநகை

தமிழ்க் கலாவிருத்திச் சங்கம்

கலைமகளின் திருவருளினால் கலாவிருத்திச் சங்கம் இனிது தழைத் தோங்குகின்றது. அங்கத்தினர் யாவரும் இச்சங்கத்தை விருத்திசெய்வ தில் மிகவும் ஊக்கம் காட்டுகின்றனர்.

சங்கக்கூட்டங்கள் இரண்டு கிழமைக்கு ஒருமுறையாக வியாழக் கிழமைகளில் நடக்கின்றன. அத்தருணம் அங்கத்தினர்களால் கட்டுரை வாசித்தல், சொற்பொழிவுகள், சமயோசித சொற்பொழிவுகள், நாடக சம்பந்தமான காட்சிகள், வாக்குவாதங்கள் முதலியன நடத்தப் படு கின்றன. வாக்கு வாதங்களுக்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட விஷயங்கள் பின்வருமாறு:—

- (1) இலங்கைக்கு ஓர் சர்வாதிகாரி வேண்டும்.
- (2) தாவர போசனமோ, மாமிச போசனமோ மனிதர்க்கு நல்லுணவு?
- (3) பாலிய விவாகம் கூடாது.
- (4) சாதிவேற்றுமை இருத்தல் வேண்டுமோ? இருத்தல் கூடாதோ?

வாக்குவாதங்களில் அங்கத்தினர் பலரும் மிகவும் உற்சாகத்தோடு கலந்து கொள்கின்றனர்.

இச்சங்கத்தின் நன்மையைக்கருதி கலையறிஞர்களாகிய ஸ்ரீமதி மா. மங்களம்மாளும், ஸ்ரீமான் இராமச்சந்திர ஐயர் அவர்களும், உபந்நி யாசம் செய்து அங்கத்தினர்களுக்கு அறிவூட்டி உதவும்படி அழைக்கப் பட்டனர். ஸ்ரீமதி மா. மங்களம்மாள் அவர்கள் “மாணவர்கள் தேசத் திற்குச் செய்யவேண்டிய கடமை” என்னும் விஷயமாக ஓர் அரிய பிரசங்கம் செய்து சபையோர்க்கு மகிழ்ச்சியளித்தார். ஸ்ரீமான் இராமச் சந்திர ஐயர் அவர்கள் “நான் இவ்விடுமுறையில் தரிசித்த ஸ்தலங்கள்” என்னும் விஷயமாகப் பொருள் பொதிந்த ஓர் உபந்நியாசம் செய்து செவிக்கும் மனதிற்கும் இன்பமூட்டினார்.

இச்சங்கத்தின் அங்கத்தினரது அறிவு வளர்ச்சிக்காக “ஆனந்த விகடன்” என்னும் வாராந்தப் பத்திரிகையும், “வீரகேசரி” என்னும் தினசரிப் பத்திரிகையும் வருவிக்கின்றோம். சங்கத்தாரால் “சிந்தா

தேவி” என்னும் நாமத்தோடு ஓர் கைமுத்துப் பத்திரிகை வெளியிடப் படுகின்றது.

இச்சங்கத்திற்கு அக்கிராசனம் வகித்து சங்கத்தின் முன்னேற்றத் துக்குப் பெரிதும் உழைத்துவரும், ஸ்ரீமதி இ. ராஜராஜேஸ்வரி யவர்க ளுக்குச் சங்கத்தார் மிகவும் நன்றியறிதலுடையவர்களாக விருக் கின்றோம்.

இச்சங்கம் தளராத ஊக்கத்துடன் என்றும் தழைத்தோங்க இறைவ னின்னருள் புரிவானாக. சுபம்.

த. ஈஸ்வரி,
காரியதரிசி.

புதுமைப்பெண்

1. போற்றி போற்றியோ ராயிரம் போற்றி! நின்
பொன்னடிக்குப் பல் லாயிரம் போற்றி காண்
சேற்றிலே புதிதாக முளைத்த தோர்
செய்ய தாமரைத் தேமலர் போலொளி
தோற்றி நின்றனை பாரத நாட்டிலே
துன்ப நீக்குஞ் சுதந்திர பேரிகை
சாற்றி வந்தனை மாதரசே யெங்கள்
சாதி செய்த தவப்பயன் வாழி நீ!
2. மாதர்க் குண்டு சுதந்திர மென்றுநின்
வண்மலர்த்திரு வாயின் மொழிந்தசொல்
நாதந் தானது நாரதன் வீணையேர்?
நம்பிரான் கண்ணன் வேயங்குழ லின்பமோ?
வேதம் பொன்னுருக் கன்னிகை யாகியே
மேன்மை செய்தெமைக் காத்திடச்சொல்வதோ
சாதல் மூத்தல் கெடுக்கு மமிழ்தமோ
தையல் வாழ்க பல்லாண்டுபல்லாண் டிங்கே!
3. அறிவு கொண்ட மனித வுயிர்களை
அடிமை யாக்க முயல் பவர் பித்தராம்
நெறிகள் யாலினும் மேம்பட்டு மானிடர்
நேர்மை கொண்டயர் தேவர்களாதற்கே
சிறிய தொண்டுகள் தீர்த்தடிமைச் சுருள்
தீயி லிட்டுப் பொசுக்கிட வேண்டுமாம்
நறிய பொன்மலர் மென்சிறு வாயினால்
நங்கை கூறு நவீனங்கள் கேட்டிரோ!

பாரதியார்.

காபூலி

என்னுடைய குழந்தை மீனா ஓயாமல் எதும் சொல்லிக்கொண்டே இருப்பாள். நான் அவள் பேச்சுக்களைக்கேட்டு மகிழ்வேன். ஆனால், வீட்டிலுள்ள மற்றவர்களுக்கு அவள் ஓயாமல் பேசுவது வெறுப்பாய் இருந்தது.

ஒரு நாள் நான் ஓர் நாவல் எழுதிக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய வாசிக சாலையில் இருந்தேன். அப்பொழுது மீனா அங்கு வந்து, “அப்பா அடுத்த வீட்டுத் துலுக்கனுக்குப் பேசத்தெரியாது; மனிதரைக் காக்கா என்கிறான்” என்றுள். நான் இதைப்பற்றி விளங்கப்படுத்துமுன் அவள் வேறொரு கேள்வி போட்டாள். “அடுத்தவீட்டுப் பாலன், ஆகாயத்தில் ஒரு யானை இருந்து அதன் தும்பிக்கையால் தண்ணீரை ஊற்று கின்றதாம், அதுதான் மழையாம் என்று சொல்லுகிறான். அது மெய்தானா?” என்றுள். நான் மழை பெய்வதெப்படி என்பதை இம்முன்று வயதுக் குழந்தைக்கு எப்படி விளங்கப் படுத்தலாம் என்று யோசித்து விளங்கப்படுத்துமுன் அவள் என்னுடைய காலடியில் இருந்து விளையாடத் தொடங்கினாள். நான் அவளுடைய விளையாட்டைக் குழப்ப விரும்பாமையால் மறுபடியும் என்னாவலை எழுதத்தொடங்கினேன். இரண்டாவரி எழுதமுன் அவள், “தெருவில் ஒருவன் முந்திரிகைப்பழம் விற்கிறான், எனக்கு அதை வாங்கித்தா” என்றுள். நான் முந்திரிகைப் பழம் விற்ப அக்காபூலியைக் கூப்பிட்டேன். அவன் வருமுன் மீனா அடுப்பங்கரையில் ஒளித்துவிட்டாள். அவள் அவன் வைத்திருந்த பையைக்கண்டு அதற்குள் தன்னைப்போற் சிறுவர்களைப் போட்டு வைத் திருக்கிறாள் என்றும், தன்னையும் அதற்குள் பிடித்துப் போட்டுவிடுவான் என்றும் நினைத்தே பயந்து ஒளித்து விட்டாள். நான் அவளுடைய பயத்தை நீக்குவதற்காக அவளை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு வந்தே முந் திரிகைப்பழத்தை வாங்கினேன். காபூலி பழத்தைத் தன் கையினாலேயே கொடுக்க எண்ணி அதை அவளுக்கு நீட்டினான். அவள் பயந்து வாங்க வில்லை. பின்பு அவன் அதைத் தூரத்தில் வைத்தான்; அவள் எடுத்துக் கொண்டாள்.

சில நாட்களில் எப்படியோ காபூலியும், மீனாவும் சினேகமாய் விட் டார்கள். ஆறடி உயரமும், அதற்கேற்ற பருமனும் உள்ள பருத்த

மனிதனை காபூலியும், மூன்று வயதுள்ள சுகுமாரியான குழந்தை மீனாவும் நண்பர்கள் போற் சிரிக்கும் சிரிப்பும், பேசும் பேச்சும், விளையாடும் விளையாட்டும், பார்க்க மிகவும் வினோதமாயிருக்கும்.

காபூலி வந்தவுடன் மீனாபோய், “அந்தப் பைக்குள் என்ன இருக்கிறது?” என்பாள். அவன் “யானை” என்று பதிலளிப்பான். உடனே இருவருமாகச் சேர்ந்து சிரிப்பார்கள். பின்பு காபூலி, “நீ எப்பொழுது மாமனார் வீட்டிற்குப் போகிறாய்?” என்பான். அவன் இந்தியாவில் பெண்கள் சிறுவயதில் விவாகம் செய்து மாமனார் வீட்டுக்குப் போவது வழக்கமென்பதை நினைத்து அப்படிக்கேட்பதுண்டு. ஆனால் இதன் அர்த்தம் நவநாகரீகம் படைத்த எங்கள் குழந்தைக்கு விளங்கா விட்டாலும், தனக்குத் தெரியாதென்பதைக் காட்ட விரும்பாமல், “நீ எப்பொழுது மாமனார் வீட்டுக்குப் போகிறாய்?” என்று திருப்பிக் கேட்பான். அவன் அவள் கேட்கும் மாமனார் வீட்டுக்கு மறியற்சாலை என்பதே கருத்து என்று நினைத்து, “நான் மாமனாருக்கு நல்ல அடி கொடுப்பேன்” என்று கையையும் ஓங்கி, மீசையையும் முறுக்கிக் காட்டுவான். உடனே இருவருமாகச் சிரிப்பார்கள்.

மீனாவினுடைய தாயாருக்குக் காபூலி அடிக்கடி வந்து மீனாவுடன் விளையாடுவதால் அவன் மீது சந்தேகம் உண்டாயது. அவள் காபூலியை எங்கள் வீட்டுக்கு வரவேண்டாமென்று தடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று என்னிடம் சொன்னாள். நானும் கவனித்த அளவில் காபூலி சிற்சில வேளைகளில் மூலையில் பதுங்கிநின்று எங்கும் உற்று நோக்குவதைப் பார்க்க எனக்கும் சந்தேக முண்டாவதுண்டு. ஆனால் மீனா வந்து அவனுடன் பேசத்தொடங்கியவுடன் எல்லாச் சந்தேகமும் நீங்கிவிடும். மீனாவினுடைய தாயார் காபூலியை வரவேண்டாமென்று தடுக்கச் சொல்லியிருந்த பொழுது நான், எப்படி ஒருவனை என்வீட்டுக்கு வர வேண்டாமென்று சொல்லுவது என்று நினைத்து ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை.

ஒரு நாள் நான் மேன்மாடியில் இருக்கும்பொழுது வீதியில் ஒரு பெரும் சத்தம் கேட்டது. ஜன்னல் வழியாகப் பார்த்தேன். சற்றுத் தூரத்தில் ஒரு சனக்கூட்டத்தைக் கண்டேன். கீழே இறங்கி வந்து வீதியில் நிற்கும் சனக்கூட்டத்தண்டை செல்வோமென்று நினைத்தேன். ஆனால் அதற்கிடையில் அச்சனக்கூட்டம் நான் நிற்கும்திசையை நோக்கி வந்தது. நடந்தது என்னவென்று விசாரித்ததில் காபூலி ஒருவனைக் கத்தியால் குத்தியபடியால் கைது செய்யப்பட்டதாகத் தெரிய வந்தது.

அச்சனக்கூட்டமும் என்னுடைய வீட்டிற்குமுன் வந்தது. அச்சம் யத்தில் மீனாவும் என்னுடன் நின்றாள். அவள் காபூலியைக் கண்ட

வுடன் தன்னுடைய இரண்டாம் கேள்வியைக் கேட்டான். உடனே காபூலி “நான் மாமனார் வீட்டுக்குத்தான் போகின்றேன்” என்று சொன்னான்.

அவனுக்கு ஒன்பது வருஷத் தண்டனை விதிக்கப்பட்டது. நாங்கள் அவனை மறந்துவிட்டோம். மீனாவும் வளர்ந்து மங்கைப்பருவம் அடைந்தான். அவளுக்கு மணம் பேசி விவாகமும் குறித்தாய் விட்டது. என் வீட்டு விளக்கான மீனா இன்னொரு வீட்டிற்குப் போகப் போகின்றாள் என்னும் எண்ணம் என் மனத்தைச் சிறிது வருத்தியது.

விவாக தினத்தன்று நான் சில கணக்குகள் பார்ப்பதற்காக என்னுடைய வாசிகசாலைக்குச்சென்று அங்கே இருந்தேன். அப்பொழுது கதவு திறக்கப்பட்டது. உடனே ஓர் எழை மனிதன் வந்தான். நான் அவனை ஓர் பிச்சைக்காரன் என்று நினைத்து, இன்றைக்கு விவாகதினமாகையால் பிச்சை கொடுக்கமாட்டார்களென்று கூறி அவனைப் போகும்படி சொன்னேன். அவன் தான் பிச்சைக்கு வரவில்லை என்று சொல்லி ஓர் பையை மேசையின்மீது வைத்தான். வைத்துவிட்டு, “அந்தக் குழந்தை எங்கே?” என்றான் அப்பொழுதுதான் நான் இவன் பழைய காபூலி என்பதை அறிந்தேன். நான் “இப்போது அவனைப்பார்க்க முடியாது” என்று சொன்னேன். அவன் அப்பையை மீனாவிடம் கொடுக்கும்படி சொல்லிவிட்டுச் சென்றான். அவன் செல்லும்பொழுது மிகவும் துக்கமுடையவனாகக் காணப்பட்டான். நான் அவனைக் கூப்பிட்டு மீனாவைக் காட்டுவோமா என்று நினைப்பதற்கிடையில் அவன் திரும்பி வந்து “நான் மறியலில் இருந்தபடியால் ஒரு காசக்கும் வழிஇல்லை; ஒருவரிடம் கடன்வாங்கியே அந்தப்பழத்தை அக்குழந்தைக்குக் கொண்டு வந்தேன். நான் இக்குழந்தையின் வயதுடைய என்னுடைய குழந்தையை ஊரில் விட்டு வந்திருக்கிறேன். அக்குழந்தைமீதுள்ள ஆசையையும், அன்பையும் இக்குழந்தைமீது வைத்து மகிழ்கிறேன். ஒரு முறையாவது அவனைக் காட்டமாட்டீர்களா?” என்றான். “சரி” என்று சென்றேன்; உள்ளே பலர் என்னைத் தடைசெய்தனர்; “மணப் பெண்ணைத் துலுக்கனுக்குக் காட்டுவதா?” என்றனர். நான் ஒருவருடைய சொல்லையும் பொருட்படுத்தாமல் மணவணியுடன் இருந்த மீனாவை அழைத்து வந்து காபூலிக்கு முன்பு நிறுத்தினேன். அவன் குனிந்து நிலத்தைப் பார்த்தபடியே இருந்தான்.

காபூலி திகைத்துப்போனான். தான் ஒன்பது வருடங்கட்கு முன் விட்டுப்போன மூன்று வயதுச் சிறு குழந்தையையே மீண்டுங் காணப்போவதாகவும், அவன் தன்னுடன் பழையபடியே சிரித்து விளையாடுவான் என்றும் எண்ணியிருந்த காபூலிக்கு, இப்பொழுது தன்னை ஏறெடுத்தும் பாராமல் குனிந்தபடி நிற்கும் சுந்தர யுவதி மீனாவோ என்று நம்ப முடியவில்லை. அவனது ஆச்சரியத்தையும், ஏமாற்றத்தையும் அவன்

முகமே காட்டியது. தன் குழந்தையும் இப்படியே வளர்ந்து தன்னை அறவே மறந்திருப்பான் என்று நினைக்க அவனுக்குச் சொல்லொணாத துக்கம் நிரம்பியது.

அவன் நினைவை முகக்குறியால் உணர்ந்த யான், “ஆம் உன் குழந்தையும் இப்போது பெரியவளாகி இருப்பான்; நீ விரைவில் ஊருக்குச் சென்று அவனைக் கண்டு அவளுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டியதைச் செய்தல் வேண்டும்” என்றேன்.

“என்கையில் ஒரு தம்பிடி கூட இல்லையே” என்று பரிதாபகரமாகக் கூறினான்.

நான் விவாகச்செலவிற்கு வைத்திருந்த பணத்தில் ஐம்பது ரூபா கொடுத்து அவனை ஊருக்குப் போகச் சொன்னேன். இதனால் வாண வேடிக்கை முதலியன நின்றுபோய் விட்டது. ஆயினும் நான் மிகவும் சந்தோஷமடைந்தேன். காரணமென்னவென்றால் இதனால் ஓர் ஏழை தன்னுடைய புதல்வியைக்கண்டு அவளுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டியதைச் செய்து சந்தோஷப்படப்போகின்றான் என்பதுவே. இது என்மகளின் நல்வாழ்வுக்கும் ஆசியாகுமல்லவா?

இ. சிவகாம சுந்தரி,

Form IV.

(தாசுர் எழுதிய “காபூலி” என்னும் கதையைத்தழுவி எழுதப்பட்டது).

சமுத்திரம்

[ஆங்கிலப் பாட்டு ஒன்றைத் தழுவி எழுதப்பட்டது]

ஆழி! ஆழி! அகன்பேராழி!
நீலப் புதிய நிறஞ்சேர் ஆழி!
எல்லை இல்லா இரும்பேராழி!
மாநிலந் தன்னை வலஞ்சூழ் ஆழி!
விண் முகிலோடு விளையாட்டயரும்;
வாளைப் பழிக்கும்; மாதா மடியில்
தூங்கும் குழுவியில் துயிலும் சிறிதே!

கடல்மேல் உள்ளேன்! கடல்மேல்—என்றும்
இருக்க விரும்பும் இடத்தில்—உள்ளேன்!
மேலே நீனிற வானம்! கீழே
நீல ஆழ்கடல்—நெடுந் திரைப் பரவை!
எங்கு சென்றிடினும் ஏகநிச் சப்தம்!
சுழல் காற்றெழுந்து சூழ்திரைப் பரவையை
ஆழ் துயில் எழுப்பி அலைப்பினுந் தானென்?
அலையிசை ஊர்வேன் அமைதியில் துயில்வேன்!

வாளை முற்றி வளைத்தெழுந் திரைகள்
விண் மதி தன்னை விழுங்கிக் கீழே
பூமியின் போக்கும் புகன்று கோடைச்
சண்ட மாருதந் தானெழுந் தூறும்
காரணம் கூறிக் கடம்புயற் பண்கள்
இசைக்குங் காலை இருநுரை சிந்தி
உருத்தெழுந் திரைமேல் ஊர்ந்திடல்—ஆஆ!
இன்பம்! இன்பம்! எத்துணை இன்பம்!

வீரம் அறியா வியன்கரை மீது
சற்றே தங்கினும், தாயின் சிறைக்கீழ்
அணைய விரையும் சிறுபார்ப்பெனவே,
ஆர்வம் பெருக ஆழி அன்னை

அலைமார் பணையும் ஆவல் மீக்கூர
விரைவிற் பறந்து மீள்வேன் அவள்பால்
அன்றும் இன்றும் அவள்என் அன்னை !

வெண்ணிறமாகி விளங்கிய தாழி ;
செந்நிறமுற்றுத் திகழ்ந்தது காலை ;
பேரொலியிடையே பிறந்தேன் யானும் !
துள்ளின மீன்கள் ! துந்துபி என்ன
ஆர்த்தன சங்கம் ! ஆழிமகன் யான்
பிறந்த பொழுதிற் பேரொலி போல
முன்னும் இல்லைப் பின்னும் இலையே !

ஆழியிற் பிறந்தேன் ! அமைதியிற் புயலில்
ஆண்டுகள் ஐம்பஃ தாழியிற் கழித்தேன் !
செல்வமுண்டு செலவிட ; வேண்டியாங்
குழிதர ஒலிநீர்ப் பரவையும் உண்டே ;
வேறுவாழ்க்கை வெஃகிலன் கணமும் !
மரணமும் என்பால் வருங்கால்
அலை கடல் மிசையே அடையும் எனையே !

கு. இ.

எனது தங்கையும், தம்பியும்

எனது தம்பிக்கு இப்போது நான்கு வயதாகின்றது. தங்கைக்கு இப்போது ஐந்து வயதாகின்றது. தம்பிபெயர் ஜெயநாதன். தங்கை பெயர் ஜெயதேவி. இருவரும் நான்தோறும் பள்ளிக்கூடத்துக்குப் போய்வருவார்கள். முதல்நாள் பள்ளிக்கூடத்துக்குப் போய்விட்டு வந்து “பள்ளிக்கூடம் நன்றாயிருக்கின்றது” என்றனர். அப்படியே அக்கிழமை முழுவதும் கந்தோஷமாகச் சென்றார்கள். அடுத்தகிழமை எங்கள் வீட்டில் ஓர் கொண்டாட்டம் நடந்தது. அம்மா அவர்களைமறித்துவிட்டார். பின்பு அடுத்தகிழமை பள்ளிக்குச் சென்றார்கள். பள்ளிக்கூடம் தொடங்கி சிறிது நேரத்துக்கு பேசாமற் சந்தோஷமாக இருந்தார்களாம். பின்பு ஜெயதேவி ஜெயநாதனைப்பார்த்து “நீரும் அழும் நானும் அழுகிறேன், அழுதால்தான் எங்களை உபாத்தியாயர் வீட்டுக்கு அனுப்புவார்” என்றாளாம். பின்பு இருவரும் அழத் தொடங்கினார்களாம். அழவே உபாத்தியாயர் அவர்கள் அழுவதைப் பார்த்து இரங்கி அவர்களை வீட்டுக்கு போகும்படி அனுப்பினார்.

அடுத்தநாள் அம்மா இருவரையும் அழைத்து “இனிமேல் பள்ளிக் கூடத்தில் இருந்து அழப்படாது” என்றுசொன்னார். இருவரும் சரிஎன்று மறுநாள் பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்குச் சென்றார்கள். அங்கே உபாத்தியாயர் மற்ற மாணவர்களுக்கு கல்விகற்றுக் கொடுத்துக் கொண்டு இருக்கையில், இருவரும் புறப்பட்டு வந்து வீட்டுப் படலைக்குக் கிட்டவந்தவுடன் கூச்சலிட்டு அழுதுகொண்டு வந்தார்கள். ஏன் என்று கேட்க வயிற்றை வலிக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ஏன் வீட்டுப்படலையைக் கண்டவுடன் அழுகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்க, “அம்மா எங்களைப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் அழவேண்டாம் என்று சொன்னார். அப்படியே அங்கே அழாமல் வீட்டுக்கு வந்து அழுகின்றோம்” என்றார்கள்.

மறுநாளும் இவர்களை அம்மா கூப்பிட்டு, “பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் மணி அடிக்கும்; அப்போதான் வெளிக்கிட்டு வரவேண்டும். முந்திவரக்கூடாது” என்று சொன்னார். இருவரும் பள்ளிக்கூடத்துக்குச் சென்றார்கள். அன்று தினம் சிறிது நேரம் முந்திச் சென்றமையால் பள்ளிக்கூடம் உடனே தொடங்கவில்லை. சிறிது நேரத்திற்குப் பின் பள்ளிக்கூடம் தொடங்க மணி அடித்தது. ஜெயநாதனும் ஜெயதேவியும் ஒருவர்

கையை ஒருவர் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு வீடுவந்து சேர்ந்தார்கள். அம்மா இருவரையும் என் வந்துவிட்டார்கள் என்றுகேட்க, இருவரும் “பள்ளிக் கூடத்தில் மணி அடித்துவிட்டது, நாங்கள் மணி அடித்தபின்தான் வந்தோம்” என்றனர்.

ஒருநாள் இருவரும் அம்மாவிடம் சென்று ஒருகதை சொல்லுங்கள் என்று கரைச்சல் கொடுத்தார்கள். அம்மா வில்லியம் ரெல் என்னும் வீரனது கதையைச் சென்றார். “ஒரு ஊரிலே ஒரு இராசா இருந்தாராம். அவர் ஓர் முச்சந்தியில் ஓர் தடிநட்டு அதிலே ஒரு தொப்பி வைத்தாராம். பின்பு அதற்குப் பக்கத்தாற் போகிறவர்கள் எல்லாரும் அத்தொப்பியைக் கும்பிட வேண்டும் என்று கட்டளை வைத்தாராம். ஆனால் வில்லியம் ரெல் அதற்கு உடன்படவில்லையாம். இதை அறிந்த இராசா வில்லியம் ரெல்லை தன்னிடம் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு வரும்படி கட்டளை இட்டாராம். பின்பு அவனுக்கு என்ன தண்டனை கொடுக்கவேண்டும், என்று பக்கத்திலிருந்தவர்களைக் கேட்டாராம். அங்கே இருப்பவர்கள் ‘வில்லியம் ரெல் அம்பு எய்வதில் மிகக் கெட்டிக்காரன்’ என்றார்களாம். பின்பு இராசா அவனது மகனையும் அழைத்து வரும்படி அனுப்பினாராம். அடுத்தநாள் வில்லியம் ரெல்லின் மகனும் வந்து சேர்ந்தானாம். இராசா வில்லியம் ரெல்லின் மகனது தலையில் ஓர் அப்பிள் பழத்தை வைத்து, வில்லியம் ரெல்லிடம் இரண்டு அம்புகளைக் கொடுத்து இரண்டுமுறைக்குள் பழத்தைப் பிளக்காவிட்டால் அவனைக் கொன்றுவிடுவதாக கூறினாராம். இலக்குச் சிறிது தப்பினால் மகன் இறந்துவிடுவான். இருமுறைக்குள் பழத்தைப் பிளக்கவும் வேண்டும். வில்லியம் ரெல் நெடுநேரமாக இலக்குவைத்து கடைசியாக ஒரே அம்பால் அதை இரண்டாக எய்து பிளந்தானாம். ஒரு அம்பு மிச்சமாக இருந்ததாம் அதை இராசா கண்டு ‘இந்த அம்பு ஏன்’ என்றுகேட்டாராம். ‘என்மகனுக்கு ஏதாவது காயம்நேரிட்டால் இந்த அம்பால் உன்னைஎய்ய’ என்றானாம். இது கேட்ட இராசன் கோபம்கொண்டாராம். உடனே, வில்லியம் ரெல்லைக் கட்டின கட்டுடன் ஓர் தோணியில் ஏற்றி, அவ்வூரில் இருக்கும் ஓர் குளத்துக்கு அப்பால் இருக்கும், மறியல்வைக்கும் இடத்துக்குச் சென்றார்களாம்.

செல்லும்போது ஓர் கடுங்காற்று எழும்பவே, தோணி தாழ்ந்துவிடும் போல் தோன்ற, இராசா வில்லியம் ரெல்லை அவிழ்த்து விரும்படி சொன்னாராம். பின்பு வில்லியம் ரெல்லை அத்தோணியைச் செலுத்தும் படி சொன்னாராம். வில்லியம் ரெல் தனக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரிந்த இடத்திற்கு அத்தோணியைச் செலுத்திக் கொண்டுபோய் தனது அம்பையும், வில்லையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பாய்ந்து ஓடிவிட்டானாம். பின்பு இராசாவும் மற்றவர்களும் வில்லியம் ரெல்லைத் தேடித்திரிகையில், மரங்களுக்கு இடையிலிருந்து ஓர் அம்பு வந்து இராசாவைக் கொன்ற

தாம். அது எய்தவன் வில்லியம் ரெல்தானும்.” என்று கூறி முடித்தார் அம்மா.

அடுத்த நாள் ஒரு அப்பிள் பழத்தை எடுத்து, ஜெயதேவி, ஜெய நாதனின் தலையில் வைத்து, ஓர் கத்தி எடுத்து வெட்டப்போனாள். அதற்கிடையில் அம்மா கண்டுவிட்டு “என் பழத்தைத் தலையில்வைத்து வெட்டுகிறீர்கள்” என்று கேட்டார். “நீங்கள் நேற்றைய தினம் ஓர் கதை சொன்னீர்கள், அதுபோல் செய்து பார்க்கிறோம்” என்றனர்.

“குழல் இனிது யாழ் இனிது.....” என்ப, தம் மக்கள் மழலைச் சொற் கேளாதவர்.

தமயந்தி தேவராஜன்,

Form II.

செவ்வந்திப்பூ

அநேக வருஷங்களுக்கு முன் பட்சிகளும், மலர்களும், மரங்களும் கதைத்த காலத்தில் ஒருநீரூற்று ஒருகாட்டின் மத்தியில் தோன்றினது. சூரியனின் சிறுகதிர்களெல்லாம் இலைகளுக் கூடாகச்சென்று அந்நீரூற்றில் பட்டு அதை வெள்ளி போல் பிரகாசிக்கச்செய்தன. அது அநேக சிறுகிளைகளை எவ்விடமும் பரப்பிக் கற்பாறைகளின் மேல் கூத்தாடிக்குமிழிகள் வரச்செய்தது. இன்னும் கீழே, அது நித்திரை செய்கின்ற குழந்தைபோல் மிகவும் அமைதியாக குளிர்ச்சியான பச்சை பசேலென இருக்கும் புற்களின் கரைவழியாகத் தண்ணீரின் கரையை நாடினது.

ஒரு நாள் செவ்வந்தி நாதன் என்னும் ஒரு கந்தருவ வாலிபன் காட்டுக்குள் வேட்டையாடிக் கொண்டிருக்கும் பொழுது தன் சிநேகிதர்களை இழந்துவிட்டான். அவர்களைத் தேடிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் பொழுது அந்நீரூற்று சூரிய வெளிச்சத்தில் பிரகாசித்துக் கொண்டிருப்பதை மரங்களுக் கூடாகக் கண்டான். அவனுக்கு வெப்பமும், தாகமும் அதிக மிருந்தபடியால் உடனே அவ்விடத்திற்குத் திரும்பினான். அவன் அதன் சமீபத்தில் வந்ததும், தண்ணீர் விழும் சத்தத்தையும் கேட்டு, அது தெளிவாக விருப்பதையும் கண்டு ஆனந்தமடைந்தான். அவன் தனது நெற்றியின் வெப்பத்தைத் தணிப்பதற்கும், தனது காய்ந்து வறண்ட உதடுகளைக்குளிரச் செய்வதற்குமாக குளிப்பதற்குக் குனிந்தான்.

அவன் புல் பரந்தகரையில் முழந்தான் படியிட்டுத் தண்ணீரின் மேல் குனிந்தபொழுது நீரில் தனது நிழலைக் கண்ணாடியில் காண்பது போல் கண்டான். அவன் அது அந்நீருற்றினுள் வசிக்கும் ஓர் அழகிய நீராமகள் எனநனைத்து அதைப் பார்த்துக் கொண்டேயிருந்தான். தண்ணீர் பருகவும் மறந்துவிட்டான்.

அந்த ஒளிபொருந்திய கண்களும், சுருண்ட மயிரும், வட்டமான கன்னங்களும், சிவந்த அதரங்களும் அவனுக்கு மிகவும் அழகாகத் தோன்றின. அவன்தனது நிழலின்மீது ஆசைகொண்டான். ஆனால், அவன் அது தனது நிழலென்று அறியவில்லை. பார்க்கப் பார்க்க அந்த உருவத்தின் அழகு அதிகரிப்பதுபோல் தோன்றியது. அவன் அதைத் தழுவி முத்தமிட விரும்பினான். ஆனால் அவன் தனது கையைத் தண்ணீருக்குள் வைத்து அதை முத்தமிட முயல், அந்த அழகான உருவம் மறைந்து விட்டது. அவ்வாலிபன் அவ்வழகான உருவத்தைத் திரும்ப காணவியலாது என்னும் பயத்தால் துக்கமடைந்தான். அவன் அவ்வுருவம் எங்கே பறந்து சென்றது என்பதை அறிவதற்காக எவ்விடமும் பார்த்தும் பயனில்லாமற் போனது.

அவன் தண்ணீருக்குள் திரும்பிப் பார்த்த பொழுது நீர் முன்போற் றெளிவாக இருந்தது. அவ்வுருவமும் முன்போல் காணப்பட்டதைக் கண்டு அவன் மிகவும் ஆனந்தமடைந்தான். அவன் புன்சிரிப்புக் கொள்ள அதுவும் புன்சிரிப்புக் கொண்டது. அவன் பேசிய பொழுது அதுவும்தனது உதடுகளை ஆட்டிப் பேசுவது போல் தோன்றியது. ஆனால் அதனிடமிருந்து ஒரு சத்தமும் வெளிவரவில்லை.

அந்த வாலிபன் “நான் உன்னை என் முழுமனத்துடன் விரும்புகிறேன். நீ நீருற்றினின்றும் வெளியில் வந்து என்னுடன் வசிப்பாயானால், என்னுடைய பொருட்களெல்லாம் உனக்கே தருவேன்” என்று அவ்வுருவத்திற்குக் கூறி தன் கையை நீட்டினான். அவ்வுருவமும் புன்சிரிப்புடன் தனது கைகளை வெளியே நீட்டியது. ஆனால், அப்பொழுதும் அது ஊமைபோல் இருந்தது. அவ்வாலிபன் அதனுடன் திரும்பவும், திரும்பவும் பேசிய பொழுதும் ஒரு மறுமொழியும் கிடைக்காததால் கடைசியில் அவன் அழத்தொடங்கினான். அவனுடைய கண்ணீர் அந்தத் தண்ணீரின் மேல் விழுந்து நீரை அலையச் செய்த படியால், அவ்வுருவத்தின்முகம் அழகு குறைந்தது. அவ்வாலிபன் திரும்பவும் அது போகப்போகிறது எனநனைத்து அதனை நோக்கி “அழகிய உருவமே! நின்றுகொள்! உன்னைத் தொடாவிட்டாலும் உன்னை நான் பார்க்கும்படியாவது நில்” என்றான்.

அவன் தண்ணீரின் அருகில் நின்றுகொண்டு அவ்வழகிய முகத்
தைத்தவிர மற்ற எல்லாவற்றையும் மறந்தான். சூரியனும் அஸ்த
மித்தது. நக்சத்திரங்கள் ஒவ்வொன்றாகத் தோன்றலாயின. சந்திர
னும் உதித்தது. அவனும் அந்நீரூற்றின் அருகிலேயே நின்றான்.
இவ்வாறே பகலும், இரவும் அங்கேயே இருந்து துக்கத்தால் மிகவும்
மெலிந்து கடைசியில் இறந்தான். நீரூற்றின் அருகில் அவ்வாலிபனின்
சிநேகிதர்கள் அவனுடைய பிணத்தைக் கண்டார்கள். துக்கத்துடன்
பெருமூச்செறிந்து பிரேதச் சடங்குக்கான சாமக்கிரியைகள் தேடப்
போனார்கள். அவர்கள் திரும்பிப் பிணத்தை எடுக்க வந்தபொழுது
அவனது உடம்பு அங்கே காணப்படவில்லை. அந்தத் தண்ணீரின்
கரையில் அந்த வாலிபன் இறந்த இடத்தில் ஒரு நூதனமான சிறு
பூ தனிமையாக வளர்ந்திருந்தது. அவர்கள் “அவன் ஒரு பூவாக
மாறிவிட்டான்” என்றார்கள். அவர்கள் அந்த புதுப் பூவுக்கு ஒரு
பெயர்வைக்க விரும்பினார்கள். அவர்கள் “இதை நாங்கள் எங்களுடைய
இறந்த சிநேகிதன் பெயரால் அழைப்போம்” என்று அப்படியே அவ்
வாலிபனுடைய ஞாபகார்த்தமாக அப்பூவைச் “செவ்வந்திப்பூ” என்று
அழைத்தார்கள். இன்றும் அது செவ்வந்திப்பூ என்ற பெயராலேயே
வழங்குகிறது.

சி. சிவக்கொழுந்து,

Form II.

சூரிய அஸ்தமயனக் காட்சி

யானும், என் சித்தப்பாவும் கடற்கரையோர உலாவுக்காகப் புறப் பட்டுச் சென்றோம். நேரமோ சாயங்காலம். மாலை வெள்ளி குறுநகை செய்யத் தொடங்கிவிட்டது. கைத்தொழிற் சாலைகளில் கூலிவேலை செய்வோரும், சந்தைகளில் சாமான் விற்போரும், முற்ற வெளியில் பந்தாடும் சிறுவர்களும், காலை தொடக்கம் மாலை வரையும் வயலில் தொழில் புரிந்த கமக்காரர்களும், தத்தம் தொழில் முடித்து தம் இல்லத்தை நோக்கிச் செல்கின்றனர். பசுமந்தைகளெல்லாம் தாம் தாம் வேண்டியவாறு புல்மேய்ந்து வயிற்றை நிரப்பி, பால் சுரந்து தம் கன்றுகளை நினைந்து இரங்கி, தம் தம் கொட்டிலை நோக்கி ஓடுகின்றன. பட்டி பட்டியாக ஆடுகள், இடையர்கள் ஒச்சக்கோல் கொண்டு துரத்த, மெள்ள, மெள்ள அசைகின்றன.

பெண்கள் கையிலே துடைப்பங்கொண்டு பெருக்கி நீர் தெளித்து, கோலமிட்டு வீட்டிலுள்ள பொருள்களை அழகுபட உரிய இடங்களில் வைக்கின்றார்கள். வீடுகள் எல்லாவற்றிலிருந்தும் வாசனை வீசுகின்றது. பூ விற்போர், முல்லை, மல்லிகை, பவளமல்லிகை முதலிய அரும்புகளால் கட்டப்பட்ட பூமாலைகளையும், ரோசா, செங்கழுநீர் முதலிய மலர்களையும், செவ்வந்தி முதலிய பூங்கொத்துகளையும் வீதியில் கொண்டு திரிந்து விற்கிறார்கள். பெண்கள் அப்பூமாலைகளை வாங்கித் தலைகணிகிறார்கள். சிலர் மலர்களைக் கோவிலுக்கு வாங்கி தட்டங்களில் வைக்கிறார்கள். சிலர் பூங்கொத்துகளை வாங்கி பூச்செண்டுகளாக அழகிய லோட்டாக்களில் வைக்கிறார்கள். கோவில் மணியோசை கேட்கிறது. அவ்வோசையானது முழுமுதல் இறையின் திருவடிகளில் குவியச் செய்கின்றது. மணியோசைக் கேட்டதும் பெண்களும் ஆடவர்களும் பழம், பாக்கு, வெற்றிலை, கற்பூரம், மலர்கள் முதலியவற்றைத் தட்டங்களில் எந்தி கடவுளைப் பூசிப்பதற்கு வெகு துரிதமாக கோவிலுக்குச் செல்கிறார்கள். கோவிலுக்குப் போக வியலாதவர்கள் முகம், கை, கால் கழுவி சுத்தி செய்து சந்தியா வந்தனம் செய்கிறார்கள்.

இதோ கடற்கரைக்கு வந்துவிட்டோம். சூரியன் அஸ்தமயனமாகின்றது. மரஉச்சிகளில் சிறிது மஞ்சள் வெய்யில், ஆகாயத்தில் முகில்களில் சூரிய ஒளிபடுவதால் பல நிறங்கள் தோன்றுகின்றன. முகில்களில் மஞ்சள் நிறம் சிவப்பு நிறத்திற் சேர்ந்து மறைகிறது. இதோ

இம்முகில்களில் ரோசாப்பூவின் நிறம். அதற்குப் பக்கத்தில் இருக்கும் முகிலில் சிறிது சிறிதாக சிவப்பு நிறம் அதிகரிக்கிறது. அதோ ஒரு முகிலில் ஊதா, மஞ்சள், விளக்குச் சூடின் நிறம், சாம்பலின் நிறம் முதலியவை தோன்றுகின்றன. இங்கே கூட்டமாயிருக்கும் முகில்கள் துள்ளி விளையாடும் சிறு கன்றுகள் போலத் தோன்றுகின்றன. அதே கிழக்குப் பக்கத்தில் சில முகில்கள் தண்ணீர் குடிக்கும் பொன்மான்கள் போலத் தோன்றுகின்றன.

தடாகங்களிலுள்ள தாமரை மலர்களெல்லாம் தந்தலைவனை மீட்டும் வரவேண்டுமென்று சிரமேற் கைகூப்பி, வணங்குவதுபோல் இதழ் குவித்து வாளாகிடக்கின்றன.

எல்லா உயிர் வார்க்கத்துக்கும் இயக்கம் அளிக்கும் காற்றுத் தானும் ஒரு சிறிய அமைதிபெற்று நிற்கின்றது. இயற்கை தன் தொழில் முற்றி ஆறுதலைத்தேடி நின்றது எனல் மிகையாகாது.

நீலக்கம்பளம் போன்ற கடல் நீரின்மேல் செம்பட்டுப் போர்த்த குடம் ஒன்று கவிழ்த்தது போன்றிருக்கிறது கதிரவன் பிரகாசம். அச்சென்னிறம் கடல் நீரின் நீல நிறத்தோடுசேர்ந்து, கடலுக்குப் புதிய நிறம் அளிப்பதுபோலத்தான் தோன்றுகிறது. இப்போது ஆகாயத்தில் ஓர் புதிய காட்சி தோன்றுகிறது. சில முகில்களில் ஊதா நிறம் தோன்றுகிறது. குங்கும நிறம் உள்ளவை சில. சிலவற்றில் பொன்னிறம் தோன்றுகிறது. இப்போது அவை ஒட்டகங்கள் போலவும் தோன்றுகின்றன. நீல ஆகாயத்தின் மத்தியில் பொன்னிறத் தீவுகள்போலத் தோன்றுபவை சில. பகலவன் பகல் முழுவதும் பூவுலகத்தில் நாங்களிருக்கும் பாகத்துக்கு அரசாட்சி புரிந்து. மறுபாகத்துக்கு அரசாட்சி புரியவேண்டும் என்று நினைந்து போலும் சிறிது சிறிதாக மறைகின்றன. நட்சத்திரங்கள் ஒன்றின்பின் ஒன்றாக உதிக்கின்றன. முல்லை, மல்லிகை, இருவாட்சி, பவள மல்லிகை முதலிய புஷ்பங்கள் ஒருங்கே மலர்கின்றன. ஆகாயத்தில் நட்சத்திரங்களைப்போல மலர்கள் பூமியில் நிறைந்திருக்கின்றன. அவை தங்களுடைய வாசனையினாலும், நிறங்களாலும் வண்டுகளை அழைக்கின்றன. வண்டுகளும் விருந்தாளிகளைப்போல வந்திருந்து தேனாகிய மதுவை உண்கின்றன. நகர்ப்புறம் நோக்க ஆஹா! என்ன அழகான காட்சி! எங்கும் விளக்கேற்றப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. மகளிர் இரவுக்காக ஓர் கோலம் கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். எங்கும் இலட்சமீகரமாக விளங்குகின்றது.

யானும், என் சித்தப்பாவும் இருட்டிவிட்டதென்று வீடு திரும்பி னோம்.

க. மனோன்மணி,
ஏழாம் வகுப்பு.

THE RAMANATHAN TRAINING SCHOOL

The Ramanathan Training School students have been very successful at the Final Examination year after year. This year, they produced hundred per cent. passes.

In the newly organised Housecraft Competition for Jaffna Schools, they came second and reached a very high standard.

The Department has increased the number of students from twenty-four to thirty. This is a definite move forward. Further the training of students now comes under a three years' course. Those who gain the Ceylon Teachers' Certificate are exempt from the first year course, while the others who join the school with the Senior School Certificate undergo a three years' course.

The Ramanathan Practising School and the Mylani Saiva Vidyasalai schools help the students to go through the practical teaching which forms the most important part of their training.

The short and simple annals of the Ramanathan Training School abound with intrinsic value. Students put into practice all the religious and scholastic knowledge imbibed within these sacred precincts when they take up work as Teachers in village schools. Thus village reconstruction will receive much impetus from their labours in years to come.

சென்ற வருடம் (1935-ல்) எங்கள் ஆசிரியப் பயிற்சிக் கழகத்தில் பரீட்சை எடுத்தோர் எழுவர். அவர்கள் எழு வரும் சித்தியெய்தினர். அவர்களின் பெயர்வருமாறு:—

1. சொர்னம். சங்கரப்பிள்ளை
2. நாகம்மா. முருகேசு
3. முத்தம்மா. தம்பிமுத்து
4. ஈஸ்வரி. இளையதம்பி
5. செல்லம். சபாபதி
6. யோகம்மா. வேலுப்பிள்ளை
7. விசாலாட்சி. தம்பாபிள்ளை

ஸ்ரீ ராமனாத சாதனா பாடசாலையி லிருந்து J.S.C. (க.த.ப.) வகுப்பிலும், S.S.C. (சு.த.ப.) வகுப்பிலும், இவ்வருடம் சித்தி யெய்தினோர் நாமங்கள் பின்வருமாறு:—

J.S.C.

1. பொ. தங்கரத்தினம்
2. மு. செல்லம்
3. மு. பஞ்சவர்ணம்
4. மா. நல்லம்மா
5. இ. அன்னம்

S.S.C.

1. சி. சின்னம்மா
2. மு. லக்குமிஅம்மை
3. பெ. செல்லம்
4. வை. காசிப்பிள்ளை
5. க. நாகம்மா

VI. PRIZE LIST

VI. PRIZE LIST

PRIZE LIST, 1934

VI.	Thamil	..	..	Savitri Ponnudurai
	English Subjects	..	do	do
	Mathematics	..	do	do
	Sciences	..	do	do
	Drawing	..	..	Sundaranayaky Sabapathy
V.	Thamil	..	..	Maheswary Thambu
	English Subjects	..	..	Gayathri Ponnudurai
	Mathematics	..	..	Vasanthi Thilliampalam
	Sciences	..	..	Gayathri Ponnudurai
	Drawing	..	..	do do
IV.	Thamil	..	..	Easwary Thambimuttu
	English Subjects	..	..	K. Maheswary
	Mathematics	..	..	V. Rajalakshmy
	Sciences	..	..	K. Maheswary
	Drawing	..	..	do
III.	Thamil	..	..	Mangayarkaraisi Kanaga-sabai
	English Subjects	..	do	do
	Mathematics	..	do	do
	Sciences	..	do	do
	Drawing	..	do	do
	Sewing and Housecraft	..	do	do
II.	Thamil	..	..	Vethanayaky Kanapathy-pillai
	English Subjects	..	do	do
	Mathematics	..	..	K. V. Maheswary
	Sciences	..	..	Devi Ponniah
	Drawing	..	do	do
	Sewing and Housecraft	..	do	do

I.	Thamil	..	..	Sivakolunthu thamby	Chinna-
	English Subjects	..	..	do	do
	Mathematics	..	..	do	do
	Sciences	..	..	do	do
	Drawing	..	..	Mayathri Ponnudurai	
	Sewing and Housecraft	..	..	Rajalakshmy Candiah	
Std. 5.	Thamil	..	..	S. Mahalakshmy	
	English Subjects	..	..	do	
	Mathematics	..	..	do	
	Drawing	..	..	Sitrapathy	
	Sewing and Housecraft	..	..	do	
2nd Year.	Thamil	..	..	P. Chellammah	
	English Subjects	..	..	Paruvathapathini	
	Arithmetic	..	..	S. Chellammah	
	Drawing	..	..	V. Maheswary	
	Sewing and Housecraft	..	..	P. Chellammah	
1st Year.	Thamil	..	..	V. Rajambal	
	English	..	..	Sivasoundarawally Muttu cumaru	
	Arithmetic	..	..	Pathumakomalam	
	Drawing	..	..	Parameswary Rajah	
	Sewing and Housecraft	..	..	do do	
	Kolam Prize	..	..	Thangammah Kandappoo	
	House Prize.	Violet House		Capt. Savitri Ponnudurai	

CERTIFICATES

1933.

Junior Cambridge :

Maheswary Thambu

Vasanthi Thilliampalam

Atputam Kanapathipillai

Gayathri Ponnudurai

Pakiam Kandiah

1934.

Senior Cambridge :

Savitri Ponnudurai

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ARCHIVES

1934. Junior Cambridge :
 Easwary Thambimuttu
 Marukolunthu Armugam
 Rajalakshmy Vettivelu
 Sivapakiam Kanakasabai
-

VIVEKANANDA SOCIETY, 1933

- Higher. Thangammah Kandappoo
 Sundaranayaky Sabapathy
- Inter. Sivagamasundry Eliathamby
 Easwary Thambimuttu
 Senthimany Ramanathan
- Lower. Sri Jaya Devi Ponnudurai
 T. Buveneswary
- Inter. (1934) Nallanayaky
-

VIVEKANANDA PRIZES

- Senior. Thangammah Kandappoo
- Inter. Sivagamasundry Eliathamby
- Lower. Sri Jaya Devi Ponnudurai
-

ROYAL DRAWING SOCIETY CERTIFICATES

57 GIRLS

LONDON MATRICULATION

1934. Senthichelvam Ramanathan
1935. Savitri Ponnudurai
-

DONORS

Mrs. Pasupathy
 Mrs. Thiagaraja
 Mrs. Canagaretnam
 Miss Sivakolunthu Manikam
 Mrs. Nagaraja
 Mr. & Mrs. S. Natesan

University of Jaffna

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