

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

JAFFNA

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1890-1965

JAFFNA COLLEGE
UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENT

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YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

JAFFNA

1890 — 1965

Souvenir

to commemorate the



75th Anniversary Celebrations

ARCHIVES

ON

Saturday, the 12th February, 1966



Chief Guest :

Mr. Neil Haffey,

1st Secretary, Canadian High Commission in Ceylon.

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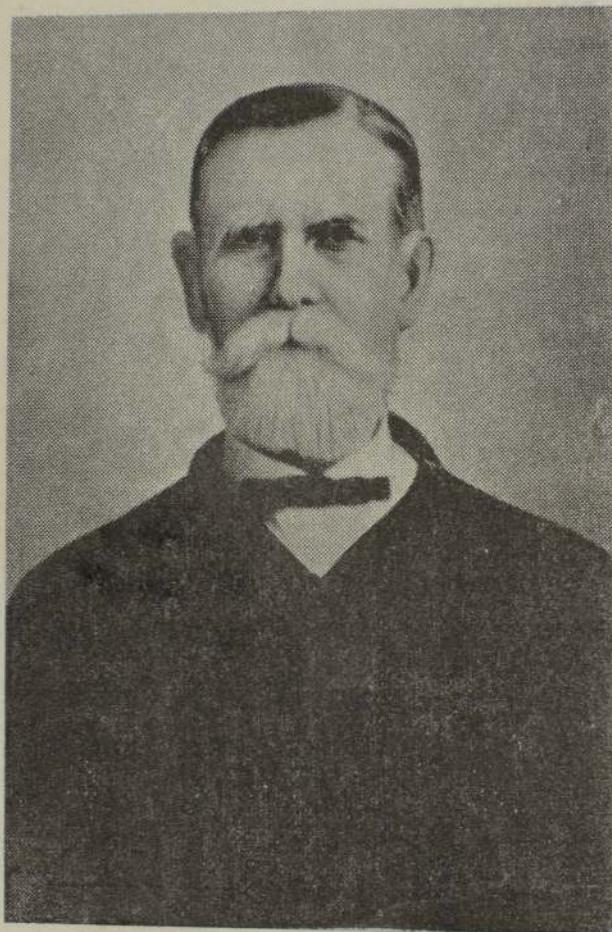
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ARCHIVES

SIR WILLIAM TWYNAM



President, Jaffna Y. M. C. A.
1890 — 1914

Programme

Chairman :

C. A. W. Edwards, Esq.
President, Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

- 1 - Prayer : *The Rev. J. T. N. Handy*
- 2 - Reading from the Scriptures : *K. Nesiah, Esq.*
- 3 - Welcome : *The President*
- 4 - Address : *Neil Haffey, Esq.*
- 5 - Greetings :
E. W. Kannangara, Esq.
The Rt. Rev. Emillanuspillai
The Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Kulandran
The Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles
S. Nagarajah, Esq.
N. Vyramuttu, Esq.
- 6 - Hymn for Ceylon :
- 7 - Benediction :

A Hymn for Ceylon

1

*Jehovah, Thou hast promised,
The isles shall wait for Thee;
The joyous isles of the ocean,
The jewels of the sea;
Lo! we this island's watchmen
Would give and take no rest,
For thus hast Thou commanded
Till our dear land be blessed.*

2

*Then bless her, mighty Father,
With blessing needed most,
In every verdant village,
By every palmy coast;
On every soaring mountain,
O'er every spreading plain;
May all her sons and daughters
Thy righteousness attain.*

3

*Give peace within her borders,
'Twixt man and man goodwill,
The love all unsuspecting,
The love that works no ill.
In loyal, lowly service
Let each from other learn,
The guardian and the guarded,
Till Christ Himself return.*

4

*To Him our land shall listen,
To Him our land shall kneel,
All rule be on His shoulder,
All wrong beneath His heel;
A consummation glorious
Which now by faith we sing!
Come, cast we up the highway
That brings us back the King.*

W. S. Senior

MESSAGES

From :

*The Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake,
Prime Minister, Ceylon.*

I congratulate the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary. Its contribution to social services and cultural activities are well-known. But, perhaps, the Y. M. C. A.'s most important contribution has been in instilling a sense of discipline and service not only among its many members but also among those large numbers of people with whom it has contact. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. is now a mature and an experienced institution and I have no doubt that these qualities would stand it in good stead in its future endeavours.

I wish the institution all success.

Dudley Senanayake.

Colombo,
December 10, 1965.

From :

Joel E. Nystrom,

*Executive Secretary, International Committee of the
Y. M. C. A.s of the United States and Canada.*

Dear Jaffna Y. M. C. A. Friends,

ON behalf of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A.s of U. S. A. and Canada, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the occasion of the celebration of 75 years of active service of your Y. M. C. A. in the community of Jaffna and Ceylon.

This event has particular significance for me as I was present at the inauguration of the finance campaign to build your timely and functional Y. M. C. A. building. I have always felt closely associated with you and your inspiring effort.

These 75 years have been eventful ones for you and your Y. M. C. A. In this span of time, you have touched and influenced many lives, and have given them direction and meaning.

May you, with the help of our Lord, continue to be sensitive to the needs of your community and your Nation in a dynamic, challenging and positive manner, as only the Y. M. C. A. can be now and in the future.

Most sincerely yours,

Joel E. Nystrom

New York,
December 7, 1965,

From:

*Mr. Neville Jayaweera,
(till recently Government Agent, Jaffna.)*

I have great pleasure and feel privileged on being given the opportunity to contribute a message to the Souvenir to be published by the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. for commemorating its 75th Anniversary.

This sense of pleasure and privilege is not unmingled with a feeling of pride that the founder and the first President of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. was one of my illustrious predecessors in office — Sir William Twynam, K. C. M. G. If Sir William Twynam lived today, I feel that he would, perhaps, consider the founding by him of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. as being among his most valuable and enduring contributions to the welfare and life of Jaffna.

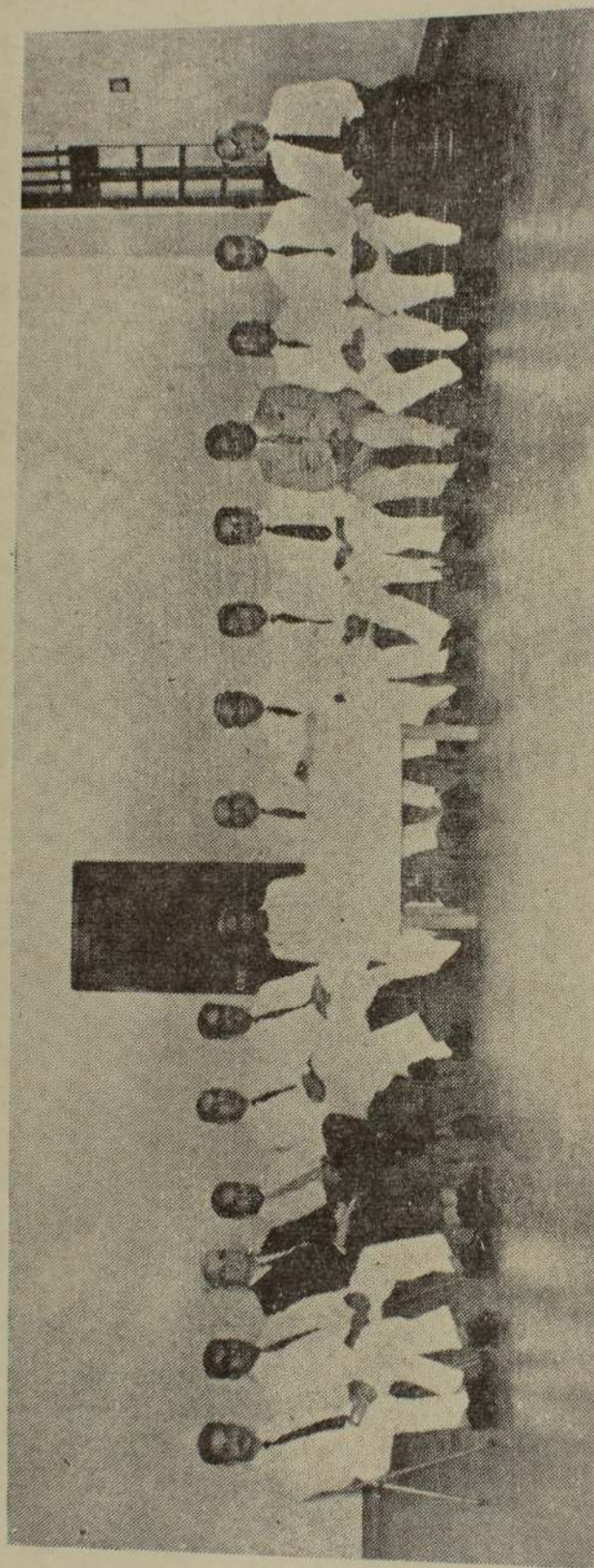
To my mind the principal virtue of the Y. M. C. A. Movement lies in its achievements as an instrument for giving Unity. I use the word 'Unity' in the widest possible sense — Unity to the Country, Unity to the Community and above all Unity and integration to the Human Person in terms of the finest Christian conceptions. I believe it is the pursuit of this ideal that prompts the Y. M. C. A. to lift itself above conventional, religious and sectarian interests and engage itself in the widest possible activities — religious, cultural, social and sporting.

I have no doubt that, in the years to come, the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. will sustain and intensify all the activities it is presently engaged in and continue to give to the community a wholeness and integrity informed by the highest Christian ideals.

Neville Jayaweera

Jaffna Kachcheri,
December 2, 1965.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JAFFNA Y. M. C. A.
1965



(*Seated L. to R.*) S. V. Ariarajah (*Business Secretary*), A. Gnanasundram, E. C. Lockwood, A. T. Duraiappah, A. A. Cooke, E. J. Jeyarajah, K. Nesiah (*Vice-President*), C. A. W. Edwards (*President*), J. G. Arasaratnam (*Hony. Treasurer*), E. A. Champion (*Hony. General Secretary*), Dr. R. E. W. Jehorathnam, Hudson Selvarajah, J. C. Handy, J. I. Rajaratnam and D. W. Chelvarathnam.

(*Absent*) Preman Niles and R. E. J. A. Setukavalar.

FOREWORD

BY C. A. W. EDWARDS,
President, Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

Three score and fifteen years ago Sir William Twynam and a small group met in Jaffna in response to their Master's call, just as much as George Williams and a group met in a little room in London in 1844; and today you and I are the inheritors of their calling and their vision. On the 12th of February, 1966, we meet primarily in thanksgiving to Almighty God in that He has placed His hands as the guiding destiny through these long years. No man who has known the history of this Movement, not only in Jaffna but the world over, can ever say that the Y. M. C. A.'s path has been a smooth one. On the contrary, the way has often been difficult and severe, but the ultimate goal has always been rewarding. This, briefly, is also the history of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

It has been given to me, as a humble duty, to preside over this institution during its 75th year. I do not presume for a moment to even think upon it as an honour conferred upon me, because, when I look back on those before me who have sustained and nurtured this institution, during some of its most troubled periods, I feel all the more humble. However, I thank those of you who have placed this confidence in me.

It is not my intention to chronicle the history of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. but rather to focus your

attention on its activities during the period beginning with the dedication and the opening of the new building in 1962 up to the present time.

Recently at an Executive Committee meeting of the National Council of Y. M. C. A.s of Ceylon, it was unanimously resolved that all these should give prime importance to work among the boys. The Boys' Department, it was felt, should be strengthened because therein lies the leadership of the future. I am glad to be able to record that the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. Board had one year earlier arrived at this decision and has now gone ahead to implement it. The Board decided to recruit an additional Secretary whose major responsibility would be the Youth Work. This Secretary has been able to form a well organized Boys' Department. In August this year the International Committee made known the availability of a scholarship to the Y. M. C. A. Training Institute, Hong Kong, and the Jaffna Board nominated Mr. Marcus Navaratnarajah, our Youth Work Secretary. Mr. Navaratnarajah was selected for this scholarship and is now in training in Hong Kong, and we are confident that on his return he will take charge of the Boys' Department and make it a significant feature of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

At considerable expense we have made available a flood-lit Badminton

Court and Table Tennis equipment conforming to international standards. Badminton and Table Tennis are popular games and, as a result of filip given to them by the Y. M. C. A., the Jaffna Table Tennis Association and the Jaffna District Badminton Association have been formed. Chess, Carrom and Basket Ball have also attracted enthusiasm and we hope that our Teams in these games will take part in Inter-Club Tournaments in the future. We also sponsored a coaching clinic in Table Tennis conducted by an internationally famous coach, Mr. Hu Hsuhsien. We always make our courts and tables available to other organizations for their tournaments.

Besides regular observance, discussions and prayer meetings conducted by us, the Y. M. C. A. has become the focal point of Christian activities in Jaffna. The Bible Society has a book stall, the Y. W. C. A., the S. C. M., the Jaffna Christian Union and Nava-jeevanam make use of the Y. M. C. A. for their meetings.

Our Social and Cultural activities have centred round the Lyceum, the Y.'s Men's Club, the Music Society and lectures and discussions led by eminent visitors to Jaffna on topics of public interest.

Prior to 1962 the membership was 100, while it is today 657. However, a large number are at this moment in arrears by non-renewal of membership. I appeal to all those who are in arrears to renew their membership and actively share in the fellowship of the Association.

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. has been to many people over the world a "Home from Home". The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. apportioned a major part of the building to serve this purpose. We are happy that today we are in a position to meet the need of those who seek accommodation. In providing accommodation we give them not only bed and food but also take them into the fellowship of the Movement. This is a service we provide at a minimum cost. True to the ideals of the Y. M. C. A. we look upon this as a service to the community.

Since the opening of the building we have endeavoured to provide a place where clean and wholesome food is available within the reach of the average man's purse. In rendering this service we have met with difficulties and financial loss because the patronage we received has not always been encouraging. However, at the moment the Board is confident that under the present management the restaurant will prove a success financially and also give our patrons the fullest satisfaction.

From the time we opened the doors of the new building the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. entered into a new field of work and activity. For a long time we had been able to carry on mainly through the interest of various persons working in an honorary capacity. In the new set up we had to start looking for persons who would take on Y. M. C. A. work as a full time occupation. The Board had to face the dual problems of finding suitable qualified personnel, and, at the same time, the finances to run this

establishment. The money collected during the development campaign was utilised entirely for the building. The Board was also faced with the problem of finance for the equipment of the building. To meet this urgent need, the Board of Directors after due consideration decided to raise a loan of Rs. 25,000/- from the People's Bank. The loan was given to the Y. M. C. A. on the personal security of fifteen members of the Board, repayable in a period of five years. I am sure the membership will appreciate the fact that each member of the Board was liable for Rs. 25,000/- personally to the Bank. In a sense, the liability is not that of the Y. M. C. A. The liability for this debt lies with the fifteen members who most willingly pledged themselves to the Bank. The members of the Board, who had gone so far in bringing to a completion this great task, have pledged themselves, because of their faith in the future of this institution.

I do not for a moment presume that an institution of this nature can ever be self-sufficient. We shall always be in want, because we shall always be wanting to do more than we are doing now. In this context the payment of a sum of Rs. 500/- each month from our income towards capital and interest on the loan is retarding our progress. Money which would really go into men and material to further the ideals of this Movement is in a sense being blocked. My appeal to you — members, friends and all those interested in the youth of our land — is an appeal to help us to move forward. Your contributions during the 75th year will be gratefully acknowledged as a token of your appreciation of the past, but more as a gesture of faith in the future. It is my earnest prayer that all those who read this appeal will respond in increasing numbers, that this Movement may be blessed and the youth of this land be profited.

Youth and the Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

BY MARCUS NAVARATNARAJAH,
Youth Work Secretary.

Greetings from Hong Kong

It gives me great pleasure in submitting this timely article on 'Youth and the Jaffna Y. M. C. A.' for the Souvenir in connection with the 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Our Y. M. C. A. during the past year has given much prominence to youth work. The year under review was one of experimentation, for the fact that we were involved in the task of testing the responses from youth members and their parents, in order to find out how best we could serve the youth. It might be said, through experience, that, if the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. wants to be effective with youth, it must first prepare the soil at home.

Education of family living must be in harmony with the purpose of the Y. M. C. A., and defined specific tasks through which the Y. M. C. A. youth could become a partner with the family. One of the main objectives in Y. M. C. A. work with the family is to help parents and children develop more helpful relationships based upon greater understanding and increasing skill in living together.

Many of the boys who come to the Y. M. C. A. range from 10 years to about 21 years, and most of these boys are those who have untied themselves from mothers' apron strings, so to speak, and have got into their own peer groups to explore what is ahead of them.

This is a natural process in the growth and development of youth,

and the Y. M. C. A. and the parents must understand this attitude and change. Quite a few of these boys have begun to realize that the 'Y' is their second home, and this is what we have right along tried to instil in the minds of our youth members.

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. seeks the co-operation of the parents and we are confident that together we can mould and shape the lives of these young people, for the betterment of all.

There is great potentiality for leadership among boys of the early adolescent group. This was observed during the activities this year, and these are boys who will play an important role in the future work of our 'Y', if we continue to guide them with tolerance and understanding. Let us keep this in mind as we think of our expansion programme.

What many young people want today, apart from security, comfort and luxury, is *Meaning* in their lives. If the Y. M. C. A. leaders and parents cannot give them great meaning, great conviction and great objectives, then, alas, our task is in vain, and they will settle for very shallow and trivial meaning.

The task of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. is, no doubt, an uphill one, but we are tools in the hands of the Creator, and let us not forget that with Him all things are possible.

The great adventure of serving youth has begun in our Y. M. C. A. Let us accept this challenge, and go forward in faith.

The Y. M. C. A. in Jaffna

BY LYMAN S. KULATHUNGAM

The Nineteenth Century was a most fruitful period in the history of Christianity. It saw not merely great revivals but also the birth of missions and several other movements, which have ever since wielded powerful influence over the world. Latourette in his "*A History of the Expansion of Christianity*" says: "The remarkable expression of Christianity in the nineteenth century was not simply or even primarily the result of a favourable environment. It was due to an upsurging, creating impulse within Christianity itself..... the environment aided more than it hindered, but the chief cause of the unprecedented spread of Christianity in this era was an innate energy within the faith itself. This vigour gave rise to more new movements than in any preceding period of equal duration". One such Movement was the Young Men's Christian Association launched in London by Mr. (later Sir) George Williams in 1844.

The Y. M. C. A. soon began to be introduced into other countries. In India the first Association to be started was in Calcutta in 1854, followed by that in Trivandrum in 1873, and those in Lahore and Bombay in 1875. In the early years of its existence in India the 'Y' had made such an influence in the life of the country as to make a Mayor of Calcutta say to Mr. Edward C. Carter, the then National General Secretary of India: "Tell the North American Associations that of the many gifts from North America to India the

greatest is the Y. M. C. A." And Sir Andrew Fraser, the Governor of Bengal, who was the President of the Calcutta Y. M. C. A., once said publicly that, when his duties as Governor proved so heavy that he would not have time to serve as President of the Calcutta Association, he would have to resign as Governor of Bengal.

The first Y. M. C. A. to be established in Ceylon was in Colombo in 1859, most likely by Mr. Robert V. Dunlop, who had worked with the founder of the Movement. It soon went out of existence, but was revived in 1882. The Association at Galle was started in 1884.

The story of the Y. M. C. A. Movement in Jaffna starts with the founding of the first Student Y. M. C. A. in Asia at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai. It was inaugurated on the 15th of March, 1884 by Dr. Frank K. Sanders and Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, two American professors of the College at that time. Within a few months of the inauguration of this Association we find an invitation from the Rev. A. E. Restarick, a Methodist missionary in Jaffna, to Dr. Sanders to go to the Jaffna Central College, to help in the founding of a "Y" there, and so in 1885 was founded the second Y. M. C. A. in Jaffna in that school. In the same year was also founded the Association in St. John's College, Jaffna.

The Movement in Jaffna began quickly to gather strength. In 1835,

the year after the inauguration of the Movement, the North Ceylon Y. M. C. A. Union was launched, consisting of seven Associations. No records are available as to exactly where the other four Associations, beside the ones at Jaffna College, St. John's College and Central College, were. In the History of the Y. M. C. A. in North America, published in 1957, we read that in November 1885 Dr. Sanders, as Editor of the Bulletin of the Jaffna College Y. M. C. A., reported the formation of the Jaffna Union of seven Associations, one of them mentioned as at Tellipalai. He also is reported to have remarked that there were then eleven Associations in Ceylon, inclusive of the seven in Jaffna.

1889 and 1890 are important milestones in the Movement's history in Jaffna. In December of 1889 we read of a Y. M. C. A. Convention held in Vaddukoddai for three or four days, which was attended by representatives from South Ceylon too. This was the first regularly organized 'Y' Conference in the East. At that time there are reported to have been three Y. M. C. A. Unions—the Colombo Union, the South Ceylon Union and the North Ceylon Union. Mr. G. A. Wille, who was one of those present at the Convention, in an article he contributed to the Special Golden Jubilee Number of the *Ceylon Men* of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. published in November, 1932, refers to the interesting two and a half days' journey he made by train to Matale, thence by horse coach to Anuradhapura, and finally by bullock omnibus to Jaffna. He also records in the same article that Jaffna was

very strong in Young Men's Christian Associations. This Convention owed its inspiration to the visit of Mr. L. P. Wishart, the Inter-Collegiate Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.s in America.

In 1890 the first adult Y. M. C. A. in Jaffna was started in the town with the grand Old Man of Jaffna, at that time the immensely popular Government Agent of Jaffna, Sir William Twynam, as its first President. It must have been about this time—records are not available to give the exact date—that the Uduvil Y. M. C. A. was started with Mr. T. C. Changarapillai, Proctor, as its President. The Naval Y. M. C. A. too was started in 1890, with Mr. S. P. Lawton as its President. The exact number of the Associations and where they were, I have not been able to find out with any definiteness. The old numbers of the *Morning Star* speak of Associations during the last years of the nineteenth century in, beside places mentioned already, Manipay, Pandaterruppu, Point Pedro, Kaddaively, Atchuvely, Uduppiddy, Nallur and Kopay. The reports of the North Ceylon Y. M. C. A. Union, appearing in the *Morning Star*, speak of 17 Associations in 1895 (8 in colleges and 9 in town and villages), 20, three years later and of 18 in 1900 (11 of them village Associations, 5 of these were conducted in English and 11 in Tamil).

The North Ceylon Union, which lasted for over twenty years, appears to have been very active—holding regular annual, semi-annual and public meetings, and in addition

Conferences for Secretaries. It was also responsible for the holding of Conventions. Four more Conventions, the first was in 1889, were held: in 1891 at Nallur, in 1894 at Chundikuli, in 1895 at Vaddukoddai, and in 1897 in the Fort Church, Jaffna. These Conventions were largely attended and proved extremely useful. The Convention in 1895 had as its chief speakers: Dr. John R. Mott, then Secretary of the World's Christian College Federation, and Mr. Robert Wilder, of the Kolapur Presbyterian Mission of India and of the Student Volunteer Mission. The Rev. G. S. Eddy, Secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement, spoke at the last Convention, which was held under the joint auspices of the Inter-Collegiate Department of Y. M. C. A.s and the Student Volunteer Movement of India and Ceylon. The Movement derived strength and inspiration from frequent visits by Mr. Louis Hieb, the Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A., Dr. Mott and Mr. Eddy. Among the indefatigable workers in the cause of the Movement the following deserve mention: the Revds. A. E. Restarick, J. Thompson (Principal of St. John's College) and Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, who were Presidents of the Union; the Rev. J. W. Fall and the Rev. J. Carter, (Principals of St. John's College), the Rev. W. M. P. Wilkes (Principal of Jaffna Central College) and the Rev. J. Bicknell (Principal of Jaffna College), who were Vice-Presidents; the Secretaries, the Rev. G. Leese, Messrs. A. A. Ward and W. S. Vyramuttu; and the Rev. C. C. Handy, who was the Treasurer for most part of this period of 20 years,

In passing, it may be mentioned that Dr. Mott made this observation of the Jaffna College Y. M. C. A., after his first visit to Jaffna in 1895: "This is not only the oldest of the foreign College Associations, but also one of the very best. Few, if any, Associations in America or Britain are doing a broader or deeper work".

Another significant fact about this Union was that it laid the greatest emphasis on the Religious work of the Y. M. C. A. At most of the public meetings held under its auspices, the lectures were on religious subjects like "Study of the Bible", "Sin and Salvation", "Conversion", and "Personal Work". As early as 1894 a prize was offered by the Rev. S. Knapp of Point Pedro on the best line written by a young man on "The Method of Salvation". This prize was won by Mr. C. S. Rajaratnam, who was at that time studying in the Junior F. A. class of Jaffna Central College, and who later became the well-known advocate of Kandy. Most of the missionaries working in Jaffna and the pastors of our churches appear to have shown a great interest in, and enthusiasm for, these Associations. That was clearly one of the potent reasons for the spread of the Movement and for the virility it showed in these years.

However, after the first decade of the twentieth century the number of Associations registered a progressive decline, though a few new Associations were started like the ones at Chavakachcheri and Chankanai. The Y. M. C. A.s of

Navaly and Uduvil were happily very much alive. The Association at Navaly, it must be recorded, has had an almost unbroken existence up to the present time. It was very fortunate to have at its helm men like Messrs. S. T. Arnold, S. P. Lawton, and S. C. Arnold. Of special interest is one of its activities, the editing of a paper. In its early years this paper was called "Young Men of Manipay" and since 1953 "Young Christian". It was the first 'Y' in Jaffna to build a home for itself. This was opened for use in 1914. The Uduvil Association has had its ups and downs. For several years till the twenties of this century it was very active, showing progress in every aspect of its work. Messrs T. C. Changarapillai, A. A. Ward, the Rev. S. Eliathamby, and his son John Eliathamby were its chief live wires. In 1926 it was resuscitated and continued to function till about five or six years ago. Mention may be made of the following who gave it dynamic leadership: Messrs. D. S. Seevaratnam, T. C. Rajaratnam, J. C. Stickney, R. C. Canagasingham and W. P. A. Cooke. I myself have enjoyed working in it as Secretary for seven years and President for ten years. It has also a building of its own, opened in 1930. In 1940 it had the privilege of acting as hosts to the Area Conference of the Ceylon Y. M. C. As. During these years the Movement in Jaffna gained a lot of stimulus by the visits of inspiring world leaders like Dr. Mott and Dr. Eddy, and great Indian leaders like Mr. K. T. Paul.

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. had its origin in 1890, but it appears to have gone to sleep soon. Eight years later it was revived and re-organized at the initiative of Mr. Louis Hieb, the then Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. It was very fortunate to have again as its President Sir William Twynam, the Government Agent of the Northern Province. Its Vice-President that year was Mr. T. C. Changarapillai, its Secretary the Rev. W. T. Garret, and its Treasurer Mr. T. M. Tampoe. The members of the first Board of Directors were, in addition to the officers: the Revds. G. J. Trimmer, H. Horsely, Dr. Rajasinghe, Messrs. Olagasegaram, De Kretser, T. S. Cooke, E. B. Hunt, and A. Arulampalam. Mr. W. S. Vyramuttu was the Assistant Secretary. The Association got busy at once and organized itself into good working order. At the very start, the Board decided to open a Reading and Reception Room, and for this purpose commenced raising a fund. Almost immediately a sum of Rs. 600/- was raised, Mr. R. W. Ivers, the Government Agent, leading the list of subscribers with Rs. 50/-. More was raised soon and "a good house on the 1st Cross Street was engaged, with accommodation for ten young men to lodge, a reading room, a meeting and social room and an office". The services of an experienced Assistant were also secured in the person of Mr. W. S. Vyramuttu. Records have it that the rooms soon became fully engaged and the building proved attractive to young men. However,

this building was not to be with the Association for long; it had to shift to new premises in the Main Street, opposite the Christ Church in two years, and later to another site. The Association became irritated at having to rent new places in quick succession; hence, the Board decided to buy a building plot and put up its own building. For that purpose an appeal for raising a sum of Rs. 15,000/- was launched in September, 1901. The list of subscribers was headed by Mr. William Mather, who gave Rs. 250/- on his account and another Rs. 100/- on his Company's account. In 1914 plans for the building were got ready and preparations were made for the laying of the foundation for it in the site on the Lotus Pond Road near the Esplanade. It was about one acre in extent and had been granted by the Government. Nothing concrete seems to have come out of these plans.

In spite, however, of its pre-occupation with securing a house for itself, the Association was alive with its religious, literary and sports activities. It also ran a hostel, which had to be moved from one site to another, with the following helping in its management in turn: Messrs. W. S. Vyramuttu, the Rev. N. G. Nathaniel and Messrs. W. A. Collette, C. A. Hannibals, R. R. Alexander and A. V. Charles. The Association owed its strength during those days principally to the following: Sir William Twynam, who remained as its President for over twenty years, the Revds. G. J. Trimmer, Jacob Thompson, Mr.

Leak, the Office Assistant of the Jaffna Kachcheri, Dr Isaac Thambyah, Messrs. Thambiah S. Cooke and T. H. Crossette, names to be reckoned with in the history of Jaffna, and to Mr. Murray Brookes, the Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A., who paid Jaffna frequent visits, and Mr. A. C. Harte, the General Secretary of the National Council. Quite obviously the Association then faced the same problem which the 'Y' now in Jaffna faces and which the 'Y' all over the world faces: the predominance of older men in its Councils of management. For that reason one of the earliest reports of the Jaffna Association reminded people that "when it is said that the Association is for young men, it means for every body who does not think himself to be an old man".

The period of the next thirty years saw the Association alive, though not always marked with the same virility as before. Two attempts were made to strengthen and expand its activities by the appointment of paid Assistant Secretaries in 1932 and 1939, but the experiment did not succeed. The first one to be so appointed, Mr. S. S. Arulampalam, worked for less than a year; and the other, Mr. R. S. Seevaratnam, appointed in 1939, remained in office for two years. In 1934 the Board was called upon to consider the proposal of one of its members to close the 'Y', sell its building, and with the interest of the sale to help young men from Jaffna in Colombo. The Board made the one decision possible and that was to reject the proposal. The hostel, run in the building, was placed under

the charge of the Rev. (now Ven.) J. A. R. Navaratnam, who as its Warden managed it very acceptably for a few years. In 1938 the decision was taken to sell the property, because the Board felt, and felt rightly, that its site and state of disrepair were no assets to the Association. Several negotiations made for its sale failed to materialise. At one stage the Board contemplated buying the Percival Hall. There was later an offer for the property for Rs. 8000/- and the Board was disposed to accept it, but fortunately the National Council stepped in and disallowed it. Thus it was that finally in 1943 the building was sold for a sum of Rs 13,550/-

The 'Y' during these years carried on several activities like Study Circles, Literary Meetings, Reading Room and some religious services. A very noteworthy feature of its activities in 1945 was its Social Service programme. The group in charge of it was very much alive to the social issues of the day and campaigned for the removal of the drink evil, reduction of crime, and the eradication of the beggar problem. It called upon the contestants at the Urban Council elections to give up the habit of influencing their voters with bottles of liquor. It also carried on a campaign of educating the voters on their rights and their privileges. Under the auspices of the Association a Conference of 'Y' Workers was held at the Jaffna Central College, led by Mr. J. S. Aiman, the Secretary of the National Council. In 1944 it celebrated the Centenary of the founding of the Y. M. C. A.

Movement, with a Public Meeting held at St. John's College. Beside Mr. Aiman, Messrs. R. O. Buell and J. H. Dunderdale, the Secretaries of the Colombo 'Y', and Dr. Stanley Jones were among the visitors the Association welcomed during this time.

The 'Y' is obliged a great deal to the Revds. E. M. Weaver, H. Peto, Dr. A. N. Coomarasamy, Dr. R. E. W. Jehorathnam, Messrs. L. P. Spencer, A. J. R. Vethavanam, C. S. Ponnuthurai, Sam Seevaratnam, and particularly Mr. J. Lewis Subramaniam, whose one concern was to drive the Association into perpetual activity, no matter whether he held any office in it or not, and what office it was.

The Y. M. C. A. ran into a lean period of a few years, but somehow its work was kept going through a Reading Room maintained at the bungalow of Mr. C. H. Cooke. Sports activities were continued on the grounds leased from the Ladies' Recreation Club. A fillip was given to the Association with the opening of these Grounds by the Government Agent, Mr. P. J. Hudson, on the 10th of September, 1949. It was about this time that the Association first thought of leasing from the Municipal Council the Kachcheri Gala land, on which the building is now sited. The idea originated with Mr. R. O. Buell, the Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A., and he started the ball rolling for negotiations with the Council. The final decision of the Municipal Council was taken on the 14th of October of that year to lease the grounds

to the Association for a period of ninety-nine years. It was an unanimous decision, and reflected the general conviction in the Town for the need of such a building for the expansion of the Association's work. It also reflected the appreciation of what the 'Y' was attempting to do. The plan for a building was soon mooted and on the 26th of January, 1952, the foundation stone of the new building was laid by the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, the then Prime Minister of Ceylon. The Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese, of the Church of South India, the Rt Rev. S. Kulandran, offered the prayer of dedication. From then onwards the Association has been concerned chiefly about bringing the building scheme into fruition. Ten years are not a long period for the scheme to have materialized. During this period the Board on several occasions thought of temporary structures and partial completion, but thanks to the generosity of the International Alliance and of the people at large, who gave liberally towards the building, it was opened in December, 1962 by Her Excellency, Miss Francis E. Willis, the American Ambassador to Ceylon.

The Association benefited greatly by the visits of Y. M. C. A. leaders like Dr. S. C. Leung, the Rev. F. Ranklin, Mr. T. D. Santwan, Mr. Allan Andrews, Mr. Richard Fitts, Mr. G. Eddy, Dr. Paul M. Limbert, General Secretary of the World's Alliance of Y. M. C. A.s, Dr. D. S. Malaiperumal, the General Secretary of the National Council of the Y. M. C. A.s in India and Ceylon, and

Mr. P. G. Miraflores of the Philippines Y. M. C. A.

The Association has also been able to send representatives to International Conferences. In December, 1948 its Secretary, the Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam, attended the Conference of Christian Youth held at Allahabad, India; Mr. Lyman S. Kulathungam went as a delegate from the Jaffna Association to the Third Asian Leaders' Conference held in December, 1953, at Baguio, Philippines; and in 1955 the following had the privilege of representing it at the World Y. M. C. A. Centennial Conference held at Paris: Messrs. E. R. T. Reginald, J. G. Aseervatham and A. D. Yogarajah.

The 'Y' is greatly indebted for what it has been able to achieve in recent years to Mr. E. R. T. Reginald, who became its Secretary in 1951. For seven years he threw himself into the Y. M. C. A.'s work with indefatigable energy and bubbling enthusiasm. He it was that galvanised the Association into real life. His untimely death, under tragic circumstances in 1958, was therefore astunning blow to the 'Y'. Mr. R. O. Buell is another person to whom the Association cannot render adequate thanks. He has been all these years behind the Association supporting all its efforts and awakening and driving it to action, when it was disposed to be inactive and dejected. It has also been very fortunate in its officers during these years: Messrs R. C. S. Cooke, J. M. Sabaratnam, E. J. Jeyarajah, Dr. G. N. R. Nathaniel (Presidents); Mr. E. A. Champion (Secretary); and Mr. J. G. Arasaratnam (Treasurer).

To Mr. Buell also goes the credit of organising the work of the out-station Y. M. C. A.s in the Island. The 1950s registered consolidation and expansion of this work in a great measure. The Regional Committee of the Y. M. C. A.s, launched early in this decade, not only brought together in close understanding and valuable fellowship with each other the various Associations functioning in the country, but also helped in developing their activities. Since his retirement from the Secretaryship of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. in 1958, after 25 years in that position, Mr. Buell has worked tirelessly in furtherance of this work, assisted ably by Messrs. Ed. Wyburn and Boris Kazimiroff. The Regional Committee gave way to the National Council of the Y. M. C. A.s in June 1962.

The Jaffna 'Y' owes very much to the encouragement, help and

guidance it has received from the Regional Committee and it receives today from the National Council. The Colombo 'Y' too has helped it much, especially in affording training facilities to its full time Secretary, Mr. S. V. Ariarajah. It also lent the services of one of its own Secretaries, Mr. W. M. S. Kingsbury, for six months in 1963.

What the 'Y' has done and is planning to do, now that it has a home of its own, is described at some detail elsewhere in this Souvenir. The Colombo Y. M. C. A. was once described in its annual report as a 'building dedicated and set apart to the temptation of young men'. This is a phrase which suggests the underlying purpose of the Y. M. C. A. "to lure young men into wholesome Christian ways", and the young men are in turn called to be missionaries of wholesome and Christian living.

Looking Forward

BY E. A. CHAMPION,

Hony. General Secretary, Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

'He comes to us as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same words, "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time, He commands. And to those who obey Him, He will reveal Himself in toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is'.

— *Albert Schweitzer.*

When the history of the Jaffna Town comes to be written, perhaps some future historian will have at least a passing remark to make about a small group of people who met at the request of Sir William Twynam to inaugurate, in remote Jaffna, a little branch of a World-wide Brotherhood. In this article, it is my intention to look forward and perhaps to dream of all the things this institution must be heir to. What we see in achievement today are the dreams of that small group 75 years ago. What we dream today, perhaps, will be the fulfilment and achievements of our children, of the young men and boys who are the rightful heirs of all that is good and noble.

The future of men and institutions necessarily depends on the past and the present. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. these 75 years has had its period of trial, its period of triumph and today in its 75th year is placed in a most challenging position. The years before the 2nd World War were years of experimentation, of successes and failures, culminating in the sale of the building situated in the town. But, right through the period, the Christian leadership in Jaffna was actively associated with

the Y. M. C. A. leadership coming from all denominations. Names such as, Dr. Isaac Thambiah, P. T. Cash; E. M. Weaver, Henry Peto, T. S. Cooke, Dr. A. N. Coomarasamy, Sam. Seevaratnam, Ven. J. A. R. Navaratnam, A. J. R. Vethavanam, Lewis Subramaniam, Dr. R. E. W. Jehorathnam, occur time and again in the records. With such leadership the Association could not but succeed. With the sale of the building the Y. M. C. A. was without a home, but not without friends. Even though at times only two or three gathered in His name to keep alive this great ideal, the Association was kept alive because of the zeal and enthusiasm of a few. Once again the names that appear are: Dr. H. R. Saravanamuthu, Rev. A. J. C. Selvaratnam, Lewis Subramaniam, W. G. Spencer, R. C. S. Cooke, Rev. T. K. Curtis, P. T. Mathai, R. M. Devadasan, Dr. R. E. W. Jehorathnam, E. J. Jeyarajah, E. R. T. Reginald, J. G. Arasaratnam, J. M. Sabaratnam, Dr. G. N. R. Nathaniel, C. A. W. Edwards, and so on the leadership comes to us in a never ending line. It is the consciousness of this trust that has been placed with us, that makes the leadership of today all the more important, because we must never fail those that have gone before.

Ever since the new building was dedicated, and opened its doors to the youth of Jaffna, the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. has entered into a new field of work and activity, and it is at this time when so much needs to be done that is so very essential that the vision of those at the helm of affairs must necessarily be a vision towards the fulfilment, not only of the primary objective "That they all may be one, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me", but also a vision that will unite and bind the youth of this land in common weal and common woe. Wherever the red triangle is seen, in whatever remote corner of the world, it has always been, not only a symbol of the unity of body, mind and spirit, but a unity symbolising the common brotherhood of man. It is in this perspective that whatever is planned, whatever goes forth from this building, must always proclaim that the Y. M. C. A., in a world torn into such fragments, symbolises the brotherhood of man in Christ Jesus.

The primary objective of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A., as we see it, will, therefore, not merely be work in the Jaffna town but in promoting and strengthening Y. M. C. A.s through the length and breadth of the Jaffna Peninsula. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A. will be called upon to use its resources of men and material to respond to the call of the rural units. In doing so, the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. must be prepared to re-orientate its outlook, to be able to adjust itself to the needs of the rural youth. This will mean an understanding of the needs of the youth in rural areas and also an appreciation of the particular

environment in which the Y. M. C. A. is set. This approach is all the more important because of the recent changes in the National organisation. In 1962 the National Council of the Y. M. C. A.s of Ceylon was established. If this Council is to grow, the peripheral units — North, South, East and West — must be fostered. Today the Y. M. C. A. Movement is largely an urban movement, meeting the needs of urban population, but the Y. M. C. A. as a National organisation will be very much isolated and out of touch if it does not derive its strength from rural and urban areas. We trust that the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. will give the lead in this sphere of work.

"This money goes to the 'Y' said he,
For the man I should like my son to be,
This money goes for the things I've learned,
To my sorrow by getting my fingers burned,
This money goes for the old, old truth,
I wish I had known in my early youth,
It goes for the things of the long ago,
Which I've said I wanted my boy to know."

This building is primarily dedicated to the youth of this land and to serve them must always be our primary aim. The National Council of Y. M. C. A.s recently resolved that all Y. M. C. A. units should have an active Boys' Department. The Jaffna Y. M. C. A., however, has shown great vision in that, even before the resolution was passed in the National Council, the Board of Directors had decided that the Boys' Department should be an essential feature of our Y. M. C. A. To give meaning to this, we employed a full time Secretary and have sent him abroad for specialized training in

youth work. We are confident that this far reaching policy will one day prove our greatest asset. For not only are we meeting the particular problems of our youth today, but we are building no longer with brick and mortar but with men. Young men and boys who will cherish the ideals of this Movement and foster the spirit of Brotherhood.

Our Boys' Department is composed of Christians and non-Christians from all walks of life. They come and we hope will keep coming, and learn in this place to be in the words of the poet, "The man I should like my son to be".

In planning for the future this aspect of our work has to be always given prime importance. The Y. M. C. A. must be in a position to meet the needs of Youth and their aspirations as they seek guidance from

us. In this the Y. M. C. A. has to work in close co-ordination with the schools and churches. This is all the more important because of the large numbers and the school cannot devote the attention which such large numbers require. The Y. M. C. A. is thus in a position to help and must not be found wanting.

The Y. M. C. A. has also a role to play in the Social and Cultural spheres. In this task, the role of the Y. M. C. A. will not be an easy one because of the different levels from which its membership is drawn. While the Y. M. C. A. Movement is essentially an International Movement, it has always identified itself with, blending and becoming a part of, the national texture. In Ceylon this task is all the more difficult because we are not a homogeneous community. The task, therefore, will be to strive for a unity which must be found in diversity.

யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம்

Jaffna Y. M. C. A.

75 ஆவது ஆண்டு விழா
(1890 — 1965)

[W. N. Thevakadacham; Navaly Y. M. C. A.]

ஒரு ஸ்தாபனத்தின் சரித்திரத்தில் அது தனது கடந்த கால நிகழ்ச்சிகளைப் பெருமையோடும், நன்றியோடும் நோக்கக் கூடிய ஒரு தினம் இடம்பெறுகிறது. யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் அப்பொன்னான், இந்நன்னாளையாகும். இன்று இவ்வியக்கம் அரும்பெரும் சாதனைகளைச் சாதித்து முடித்த 75 ஆண்டுகளின் எல்லையில் மகிழ்ச்சியுடன் தனது வைர விழாவைக் கொண்டாடுகிறது.

1844 ஆம் ஆண்டில் இலண்டன் மரநகரிலே பன்னிரண்டு வாலிபர் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து தங்கள் ஓய்வு நேரத்தைப் பயனுள்ள வழிகளில் செலவழிக்கக் கூடிய முறைகளை ஆராய்ந்தனர். அவர்களுள் ஒருவரான சேர். ஜோர்ஜ் உவில்லியம்ஸ் என்பவர் தங்களுடைய சீவியங்கள் பிறருக்குப் பிரயோசனமுடையவையாய் இருக்க வேண்டுமெனவும், அதற்கு வேதாகமப்படிப்பு அவசியமெனவும் ஆலோசனை கூறினர். அவருடைய தீர்மானத்தின் விளைவாக அங்கு வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் முதன்முதல் ஆரம்பமாகியது.

அவ்வியக்கத்தின் நோக்கங்களும் கொள்கைகளும் உலக மெங்கும் காட்டுத் தீபோக பரவியதால் இன்று உலகத்தின் எண்பது தேசங்களிலே இவ்வியக்கம் பரந்து மிகவும் உற்சாகத்துடன் அரியசேவை கொண்டிருக்கின்றன.

ஆசியாக் கண்டத்தின் முதலாவது வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம், வட்டுக் கோட்டை யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரியில்

ஆரம்பமாகியது. இது யாழ்ப்பாண மக்கள் பெருமையடைய வேண்டிய ஒரு சம்பவமாகும். 1884 ல் வட்டுக் கோட்டை யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரியிலும், 1885 ல் யாழ்ப்பாண மத்திய கல்லூரியிலும் இவ்வியக்கங்கள் ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்டன. யாழ்ப்பாண மக்கள் இவ்வியக்கங்களுக்குப் பேராதரவளித்தனர். 1889, 1890 ஆம் ஆண்டுகள் யாழ்ப்பாணத்தில் இவ்வியக்கங்களின் சரித்திரத்தில் முக்கிய இடம் பெறுபவை யாகும். 1889 ஆம் ஆண்டு வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் மகாநாடு யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்லூரியில் நடைபெற்றது. அதற்கு இலங்கையின் பலபாகங்களிலுமிருந்து பிரதிநிதிகள் வந்திருந்தனர். அம்மகாநாடு யாழ்ப்பாணத்துக்குப் பெரும் புகழும் ஈட்டிக் கொடுத்தது.

1890 ஆம் ஆண்டு யாழ்நகர வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் ஸ்தாபிக்கப்பட்டது. இவ்வியக்கத்தை நிறுவுவதற்கு அக்காலத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாண அரசாங்க அதிபராயிருந்த பிரசித்திவாய்ந்த சேர் உவில்லியம் ருவனம் என்பவரே காரணகர்த்தாவாயிருந்தார். இவ்வியக்கத்தின் முதலாவது தலைவரும் அவரே. அவ்வாண்டிலேயே திரு. T. C. சங்கரப்பிள்ளை அவர்களின் தலைமையில் உடுவில் வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கமும், திரு. S. P. லோற்றன் அவர்களின் தலைமையில் நவாலி வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கமும் ஆரம்பமாகின. நவாலியில் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட இயக்கம், தாழ்ச்சியோ வீழ்ச்சியோ இன்றி இன்றுவரை வளர்ச்சியடைந்துள்ள

ளது. திரு. S. P. லோற்றன், திரு. S. T. ஆணல்ட், திரு. S. C. ஆணல்ட் போன்றவர்களைத் தலைவர்களாகக் கொள்ளக் கிடைத்தது நவாலி வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் சலாக்கியமே யாகும்.

1890 ல் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் சேர். உவில்லியம் ருவனம் அவர்களின் தலைமையின்கீழ் செல்வர்க்குடன் திகழ்ந்தது. 1898 ஆம் ஆண்டில் திரு. T. C. சங்கரப்பிள்ளையவர்களும், யாழ்ப்பாணம் மத்திய கல்லூரியின் அதிபராயிருந்த வண. W. T. கற்ற அவர்களும், திரு. T. M. தம்பு அவர்களும் முறையே இவ்வியக்கத்தின் உப தலைவராகவும், செயலாளராகவும், பொருளாளராகவும் பதவியேற்றனர். வண. G. J. ரிமர், வண. H. ஹோஸ்லி, டாக்டர் இராஜசிங்கி, திரு. T. P. உலகசேகரம், திரு. டி. கிறெஸ்ரர், திரு. T. S. குக், திரு. E. B. ஹன்ற், திரு. A. அருளம்பலம் முதலியோர் இவ்வியக்கத்தின் முதலாவது நிர்வாக சபையில் அங்கத்துவம் வகித்தனர். திரு. W. S. வைரமுத்து துணைச் செயலாளராகக் கடமையாற்றினர். இவ்வியக்கத்துக்கு ஒரு வாசிகசாலையும், ஒரு வசிப்பிடமும் தேவையென்பதை உணர்ந்த காரியஸ்தர் அதற்காக நித்திரட்டு முயற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டனர். இம் முயற்சிக்கு அப்போதைய அரசாங்க அதிபர் திரு. R. W. ஜேவஸ் தமது ஒத்துழைப்பைக் கொடுத்தார். மக்களின் பேராதரவினால் திரட்டப்பட்ட நிதியின் உதவியால் பத்துப் பேர் வாசிக்கக் கூடியதான ஒரு சிறுவீடு யாழ்ப்பாண முதலாம் குறுக்குத் தெருவிலே வாடகைக்கு எடுக்கப்பட்டது. அங்கு இவ்வாலிப சங்கத்தின் முயற்சிகளும் வேலைகளும் நடைபெற்று வந்தன. ஆனால் அதன்பின் வாடகைக்கு எடுத்த வீட்டை விட வேண்டிய நிலைமையும் இச்சங்கத்துக்கு ஏற்பட்டது. இதனால் அதிருப்தி அடைந்த இச்சங்கம் ஒரு காணியை வாங்கி

அதிலே தனது சொந்தக் கட்டிடத்தை அமைக்க எண்ணியது. இந் நோக்கத்தைப் பூர்த்தி செய்வதற்கு 15,000 ரூபா ஈட்டும் முயற்சியில் சங்க அங்கத்தினர் ஈடுபட்டனர். இம் முயற்சிக்கு திரு. உவில்லியம் மேதர் அவர்கள் பேருதவியும் உற்சாகமும் அளித்தார். திரட்டப்பட்ட நிதியின் உதவியால் யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் இருபதாம் நூற்றாண்டின் முற்பகுதில் தனக்கென ஒரு இருப்பிடத்தை யாழ் நகரப் பிரதான வீதியில் தேடிக்கொண்டது. மார்க்க, இலக்கிய விளையாட்டு முயற்சிகளிலும் அதிக சிரத்தை எடுத்த இவ்வியக்கம் ஒரு வீடு திசு சாலையையும் நடத்தி வந்தது. அதன் நிர்வாகத்தை திரு. W. S. வைரமுத்து, கனம் N. G. நதானியேல், திரு. W. A. கொலெற், திரு. C. A. ஹனிபல்ஸ், திரு. R. R. அலெக்சாந்தர், திரு. A. V. சான்ஸ் என்போர் முறையே கண்காணித்து வந்தனர். இவ்வியக்கத்தின் ஆரம்பகாலந் தொடக்கம், அதற்குப் பெரும் சக்தியையும் பெரினையும் கொடுத்து, இருபது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக அதன் தலைவராயிருந்த திரு. உவில்லியம் ருவனம் அவர்களுக்கும், வண. G. J. ரிம்மர், வண. யேக்கப் தொம்சன், திரு. ஐசக தம்பையா, திரு. T. S. குக், திரு. T. H. குரெசெற் முதலியோருக்கும் இச்சங்கம் பெரிதும் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளது.

1942 ஆம் ஆண்டில் இவ்வியக்கம் தனது கட்டிடத்தை விற்க வேண்டிய நிலை ஏற்பட்டது. அதன்பின் அது தனது முயற்சிகளைத் திரு. C. H. குக் அவர்களின் இல்லத்திலுள்ள ஓர் அறையிலிருந்து தொடர்ந்து நடாத்தி வந்தது. 1944 ஆம் ஆண்டில் இவ்வியக்கம் வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் நூறுவது ஆண்டு வழாவையிலும் விமரிசையாகக் கொண்டாடியது.

அண்மையில் இவ் வியக்கத்துக்கு உறுதுணையாக வண. E. M. வீவர்,

வண. H. பிற்²ரு, டாக்டர் A. N. குமாரசாமி, டாக்டர் R. E. W. ஜெகோரத்தினம், திரு. L. P. ஸ்பென்சர், திரு. சாம் சேவரத்தினம் முதலியோர் இருந்துவந்துள்ளனர். விசேஷமாக திரு. லூயிஸ் சுப்பிரமணியம் அவர்கள் இச்சங்கம் உயிருள்ளதாகவும் முயற்சியுள்ளதாகவும் இருப்பதற்குப் பேருதவி அளித்துள்ளார்கள்.

1949 ஆம் ஆண்டளவில் கொழும்பு வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் செயலாளராகிய திரு. R. O. பியூவல் அவர்களின் சிறந்த அபிப்பிராயத்தின்படியாழ்ப்பாண வாலிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் கச்சேரியை அண்டியுள்ள நிலப்பரப்பை யாழ்ப்பாண மாநகர சபையிடமிருந்து குத்தகையாக எடுக்கத் தீர்மானித்தது. மாநகர சபையின் வாக்கெடுப்பின்படி நிலத்தை 99 வருடங்களுக்குக் குத்தகைக்குக் கொடுப்பதென்றும் முடிவுசெய்யப்பட்டது. மாநகரசபையின் இத்தீர்மானம் யாழ்ப்பாண நகரத்தில் இவ்வியக்கத்தின் முயற்சிகள் எவ்வகையில் மெச்சப்படுகின்றன என்பதையும், இவ்வியக்கத்துக்குள்ள ஆதரவளிப்பையுமே எடுத்துக் காட்டுகின்றது. நிலத்தைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்ட இவ்வியக்கம், அதி தீவிரமாகக் கட்டிடவமைப்பு முயற்சிகளில் ஈடுபட்டது. இதன் பயனை 1952 ஆம் ஆண்டு தைமாதம் 26 ஆம் திகதி அப்போதைய இலங்கைப் பிரதமரான அதிமதிப்பிற்குரிய கௌரவ D. S. செனநாயக்கா அவர்களால் ஒரு புதிய கட்டிடத்துக்குரிய அத்திவார்க்கல் நாட்டப்பட்டது. கலாநிதி வண. சபாபதி குலேந்திரன் அவர்கள் செபத்துடன் இவ்வைபவத்தை ஆசீர்வதித்தார். இக்கட்டிடம் 1962 ஆம் ஆண்டில் கட்டி முடிக்கப்பட்டது. இக்கட்டிடத்துக்காகப் பணம் திரட்டும் முயற்சியில் நிர்வாகஸ்தர் சோர்வடைந்திருந்த போது லிபீரியா (Liberia) வைச் சேர்ந்த கலாநிதி சான்ஸ் ஷேர்மன் என்பவர் உதவியளிக்க முன்வந்தார். அவரின் முயற்சியால் அகில

உலக வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்க நிர்வாக சபையைச் சேர்ந்த அமெரிக்க, கனடா வாலிய கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கங்கள் இம் முயற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டன; அகில இலங்கை வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கங்களும் நிதி திரட்டும் முயற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டன.

இந்திய இலங்கை வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கங்களின் சபையின் அபிவிருத்திச் செயலாளரான திரு. R. D. கூப்பர் என்பவர் இம்முயற்சிக்கு ஆலோசனை கூறும்பொருட்டு இலங்கை வந்தார். பிரதேச செயலாளராகிய திரு. R. O. பியூவல் அவர்களும் துணைப் பிரதேச செயலாளர் ஆகிய திரு. பொறிஸ் கசிமிரோவ் அவர்களும் இம் முயற்சி முன்னேற உதவியாயிருந்தனர்.

இந்நேரத்தில் யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் தலைவராக திரு. R. O. S. குக் அவர்கள் கடமை யாற்றியமை இவ்வியக்கத்தின் பெருஞ்சலாக்கியமேயாகும். அவரின் ஊக்கத்தால் செயலாளர் திரு. நவம் அப்பாத்துரை, பொருளாளர் திரு. J. G. அரசரத்தினம், டாக்டர் G. N. R. நதானியேல், திருவாளர்கள் E. A. சாம்பியன், ஹட்சன், செல்வராசா, T. பாலச்சந்திரன், சாமுவேல் தம்பையா, ஜோர்ஜ் சபாபதிப்பிள்ளை, K. பூரணம் பிள்ளை, A. A. குக், I. P. துரைரத்தினம் முதலியோரும், வேறு பலரும், இந்நோக்கத்துக்காக உழைக்க ஒன்று கூடினர். அமெரிக்க, கனடா, வாலிப இயக்கங்களின் அகில உலக நிர்வாக சபையின் செயலாளரான திரு. யோவெல் றிஸ்ரோம்மைப் பிரதான பேச்சாளராகக் கொண்டு யாழ்ப்பாண நகரசபை மண்டபத்தில் நடத்தப்பட்ட ஒரு பகிரங்கக் கூட்டத்துடன் இம்முயற்சி ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. 27,850 ரூபாவைத் திரட்டுவதே இம்முயற்சியின் இலக்காக வ்ருந்தது. ஆனால் இரு கிழமைகளுக்குள் இலக்குக்கு மேற்பட்டதான 46,098 ரூபாவுக்குரிய நிதியும் வாக்குகளும், பெறப்பட்டது.

இம்முயற்சியின் வெற்றிக்கு இரு சேவையாளர்களான திருவாளர்கள் பொறிஸ், கசிமிரோவ், R. O. பியூவல் என்பவர்களின் அயரா உழைப்பே காரணமாகும். இந்நோக்கத்தை நிறைவேற்ற முன்வந்த தொண்டர்கட்கு இவ் விருவரும் மக்களின் ஆதரவைப் பெறக் கூடிய முறையில் ஏற்ற பயிற்சியளித்தனர். ஆயிரத்துக்கு மேலான மக்களை இத்தொண்டர் அணுகி அவர்களின் ஆதரவைப் பெற்றனர். யாழ்ப்பாண கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கத்தின் தலைவராகக் கடமையாற்றிய காலஞ்சென்ற திரு. A. குலசிங்கம் அவர்கள் கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கக் கட்டிடத்தின் ஒரு பகுதியை யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் நிதி திரட்டும் முயற்சிக்குத் தலைமைக் காரியாலயமாக உபயோகிப்பதற்குக் கொடுத்துதவினர்.

அகில உலக நிர்வாக சபை இம் முயற்சிக்கு 1100 டொலர்களைத் தருவதாக வாக்களித்திருந்தது. மேல்மாடியைக் கொண்டதாகக் கட்டப்பட வேண்டுமெனத் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்ட கட்டிடத்தின் கீழ்ப்பாகத்தை மாத்திரம் 77000 ரூபா செலவிற கட்டி முடிப்பதென முதலில் முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டது. ஆனால் முயற்சி முன்னேறிச் சென்று அபிவிருத்தி அடைந்ததால் 145 000 ரூபா செலவில் முழுக் கட்டிடத்தையும் பூர்த்தி செய்ய வேண்டுமென அங்கத்தினர் துணந்தனர். இந்நேரத்தில் பொறியமைப்பாளர் திரு. G. S. அருளம்பலம் அவர்களின் சேவை இம்முயற்சிக்குக் கிடைத்த ஒரு பெரும் பேறாகும். அவருடைய திறமையான மேற்பார்வையின் கீழ்க் கட்டிடம் பூரணமாகியது.

பிரதேச செயலாளராகிய திரு. R. O. பியூவல் அவர்களுக்கு யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம், விசேட நன்றியுடையதாயிருக்கிறது. கொழும்பு, யாழ்ப்பாணம், மலாயா முதலிய இடங்களில் அவர் அனேகரைச் சந்தித்து அவர்களின் உதவியைப்

பெற்றனர். அவருடைய சோர்வடையா முயற்சிகளுக்கும் சுயநலமற்ற சேவைக்கும் மங்காப் புகழாக இக் கட்டிடம் இன்று விளங்குகிறது. கட்டிட வேலைகள் முன்னேறிச் சென்றுகொண்டிருந்த போது அதற்குத் தேவையான மூலப் பொருள்களைக் குறிப்பிட்ட நேரங்களில் வாங்க முடியாமலும் அதற்கு மிக உயர்ந்த விலைகொடுக்க வேண்டியதாயிருந்தது. ஆகவே இவ்வியக்கத்தின் முன்னாள் தலைவர்களுள் ஒருவரான டாக்டர் H. R. சரவணமுத்து நிதிதிரட்டும் நோக்கத்துடன் மலாயாவுக்குச் சென்றார். அவருடைய முயற்சியின்பேராக அங்கு 10,000 ரூபாவுக்கு மேலாகச் சேர்க்கப்பட்டது. இக் கட்டிடத்தின் கூரைவேலை சாமுவேல் அன்சன்ஸ் ஸ்தாபனத்தால் மிகத் திறமையாக 24, 156 ரூபா செலவில் முடிக்கப்பட்டது. திரு. பிற்றர் சாமுவேல் அவர்களுக்கு இவ்வியக்கம் நன்றியுடையதாயிருக்கிறது. மேலும் தங்களுக்கு அன்பானவர்களின் ஞாபகத்தின் பேரில் இக்கட்டிடத்தின் ஒவ்வொரு அறை கட்டப்படுவதற்குத் தனித்தனி 1500 ரூபாய் தந்துதவியோருக்கும் இவ்வியக்கத்தின் நன்றி உரித்தாகும். 16,000 டொலர்களை மனப்பூர்வமாய்த் தந்துதவிய அமெரிக்க, கனடா வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கங்களின் அகில உலக நிர்வாக சபைக்கும் இவ்வியக்கம் விசேட நன்றி யுடையதாயிருக்கிறது.

அண்மையிலே யாழ்ப்பாண வாலிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் அடைந்த அனுசூலங்கள் பலவற்றிற்குக் காலஞ்சென்ற திரு. E. R. T. ரெஜினோல்ட் அவர்களே காரணமாவார். இவர் 1951ஆம் ஆண்டில் இவ்வியக்கத்தின் செயலாளராகக் கடமையேற்றார். ஏழு வருடங்களாக விடாமுயற்சியுடன் அயராது உழைத்த இச்சேவையாளரின் திடீர் மறைவு இவ்வியக்கத்திற்கு ஈடுசெய்ய முடியாத ஒரு நட்டமாகும். இவ்வியக்கம் சோர்வடைந்து முயற்சியற்றிருந்த காலத்தில் அதற்குப் புத்துணர்ச்சி

தட்டியெழுப்பிய பெருமை திரு. R. O. பியூவல் அவர்களுக்கே உரியது. அவருக்கு இவ்வியக்கம் பெருநன்றியுடையதாய் இருக்கிறது. மேலும் இப்பிரதானமான வருடங்களிலே இவ்வியக்கத்தின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்கு உதவியாயிருந்த பெருமை அதன் தலைவர்களாகக் கடமையாற்றிய Dr. H. R. சரவணமுத்து, திரு. R. C. S. குக், திரு. A. E. R. கொறியா, திரு. E. J. ஜெயராஜா, திரு. J. M. சபாரத்தினம் முதலியோருக்கே உரியது. சமீபகாலத்தில் இளைஞர் மத்தியில் செய்யும் வேலையின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை இவ்வியக்கம் உணர்ந்தது. அதன் பெறுபேறாக திரு. மாக்கஸ் நவரத்தினராசா அவர்கள் இளைஞர் மத்தியில் வேலை செய்வதற்கெனப் பிரத்தியேக செயலாளராக நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். இவர்தற்போது ஹொங்கொங்கிலுள்ள பயிற்சி நிலையத்தில் இவ்வேலைக்கான பயிற்சியைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார். இவர் திரும்பிவரும்போது இளைஞர் மத்தியிற் செய்யப்படும் வேலை இவ்வியக்கத்தின் ஒருமுக்கிய அம்சமாக விளங்குமென எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது. 1962ஆம் ஆண்டின் முன் 100 அங்கத்தினரைக் கொண்டிருந்த இவ்வியக்கத்தில் தற்போது 657 அங்கத்தினர் இருப்பது மிக மகிழ்ச்சிக்குரிய விடயமாகும். திரு. C. A. W. எட்வேட்ஸ் தலைவராகவும், திரு. E. A. சம்பியன் செயலாளராகவும், திரு. J. G. அரசரத்தினம் பொருளாளராகவும் இவ்வியக்கத்துக்காகச் சிறந்த கடமையாற்றி வருவதைக் கண்டு நாம் அகமகிழ்கிறோம். இவர்கட்கும் இவர்களுடன் சேர்ந்து சேவை புரியும் இதர நிர்வாகிகட்கும் எம் இதய பூர்வமான நன்றி கலந்த வாழ்த்துக்களைக் கூறுகிறோம்.

திரு. லைமன் குலத்துங்கம் அவர்கள் சமீபத்தில் எழுதிய ஒரு கட்டுரையிலிருந்து பல ஆதாரங்களைப் பெறக் கூடிய வாய்ப்புக் கிடைத்தது குறிப்பிடத்தக்க விஷயமாகும்.

இவ்வாறாகக் கடந்த 75 வருடங்களாக இவ்வியக்கம் பல கஷ்டங்கள் மத்தியிலும் கடவுளின் கிருபையால் வழிநடத்தப்பட்டு இன்று பல முன்னேற்றங்களை அடைந்த நிலையிலே காணப்படுகிறது. இற்றைக்கு 60 வருடங்களுக்குமுன் அகில உலக வாஸிப கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கத்தின் காரண கர்த்தாவாகிய சேர். ஜோர்ஜ் உவில்லியம்ஸ் நியூயோக் பட்டணத்திலே பின்வருமாறு கூறினார். "இப்புதிய நூற்றாண்டிலே திடமான கிறிஸ்தவ குணதீசயங்களை யுடைய மக்களும், உறுதியான தைரியத்தையுடைய மக்களும், அசையாத நம்பிக்கையுடைய மக்களும், கிறிஸ்துவின் ஆவியால் நிரம்பிய மக்களும் தங்கள் அயலாரைச் சுயமாக அன்புடன் நேசிக்கும் மக்களுமே தேவைப்படுகிறார்கள்." அதே தேவையே இன்றும் நிலவுகிறது. ஒரு புதிய காலத்துக்குள்ளே இன்று பிரவேசிக்கும் யாழ்ப்பாண வாஸிபர் கிறிஸ்தவ இயக்கம் இத்தேவையைப் பூர்த்திசெய்ய வேண்டுமென்று நாங்கள் இன்று கடவுளைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறோம். இவ்வியக்கத்தைச் சேர்ந்த அங்கத்தவரின் முயற்சிகளும் சேவைகளும் மென்மேலும் விருத்தியடைந்து எங்கள் நாட்டிலே தியாகசின்தையும் மகத்தான நோக்கங்களும் கொண்ட ஒரு புதிய சந்ததி தோன்றும் வண்ணமாய் ஆண்டவரின் ஆசீர்வாதங்கள் இவ்வியக்கத்தின்மேல் பொழிவதாக.

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Physical Education and the Y. M. C. A.

By **W. M. S. Kingsbury,**

Secretary, Physical Education Department, Colombo Y. M. C. A.

From the inception of the Y. M. C. A. by Sir George Williams in 1844, one of the foremost objectives of the Y. M. C. A. was the healthy use of leisure time; and Physical Education was certainly the most pleasurable and useful way to promote health. At the time the Y. M. C. A. was founded in England, the young men who were mostly clerks and workers in Industrial Centres found very little time to pursue physical activities as they had to work long hours. It is not generally known that the Saturday half holiday in England was mainly due to the influence and agitation of the Y. M. C. A. that employees should be granted a half holiday for games and physical activities at the end of the week.

But the emphasis on Physical Education on a scientific basis was originated by the American Y. M. C. A.s, especially in the great American cities. Springfield College, which was founded in 1885 by the National Council of Y. M. C. A.s of the United States, gave particular emphasis to the study and propagation of Physical Education. All officials of the Y. M. C. A.s in the United States were sent for training to Springfield College to be appointed as Physical Directors, coaches and leaders of all branches of Sports and Athletics.

Springfield College is most famous for the introduction of the game of

Basketball in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith. Basketball is now played in more than one hundred countries of the world and it was given Olympic status in 1932 at Los Angeles.

When the Y. M. C. A. Movement was introduced to India and Ceylon in the last two decades of the 19th century, Physical Education was the main feature that brought young men and boys within the orbit of influence of the Y. M. C. A. National Council of India, Burma and Ceylon. Men of the standing of Dr. J. H. Gray, Dr. Noehren and Dr. H. C. Buck in India, and Dr. R. W. Cammack in Ceylon laid the foundation of Physical Education Programmes on a sound scientific basis. Dr. Gray started the first Y. M. C. A. Training School for Secretaries in 1912 at Bangalore in which Physical Education found a prominent place. Dr. Noehren, who was attached to the National Council Headquarters at Calcutta, visited all Y. M. C. A.s in India and organized Training Camps for Physical Education leaders as well as Coaching Camps for Athletics. Dr. R. W. Cammack, who arrived in Ceylon during the first World War, was attached to the Colombo Y. M. C. A. and was largely responsible for the encouragement given to Physical Education in schools and colleges. Dr. Cammack was also instrumental in starting the Municipal Playground Movement in Colombo through the

Colombo Municipal Council. Sixteen playgrounds were planned and laid out in the city of Colombo where Athletics, Football, Basketball and Volleyball were taught on scientific lines to the underprivileged boys, who did not have the opportunity of going to the big public schools. Dr. Cammack trained Mr. P. G. de Silva, a master of Wesley College, who was appointed Instructor at Price Park Playground, and he was later Chief Playground Instructor. Mr. P. G. de Silva was succeeded by Mr. D. S. Abraham, an Old Boy of St. John's College, Jaffna.

Though Dr. Cammack has been often referred to as the father of Physical Education in Ceylon, mention should be made of some of the pioneers who had laboured in this field in the early years. The Rev. Louis Hieb, who was the first full time American General Secretary of the Colombo Y. M. C. A., gave all encouragement to the Physical Education Programme of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. Mr. Donald Obeyesekere, Sir Edwin Hayward, Dr. David Rockwood, Dr. John Rockwood, Sir John Tarbat, Mr. H. Freudenberg, Mr. W. A. Cole, Sir Herbert Dowbiggin, Mr. Sam. J. C. Kadirgamar, Mr. N. Sathasivam, Mr. Jackson Kadirgamar, Mr. Charlie Hoole, Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar and Mr. George Atkinson were most prominent in the Y. M. C. A. Physical Programmes in the early part of this century. Mr. Donald Obeyesekere introduced Boxing, the Rockwood brothers encouraged Athletics, Mr. H. Freudenberg was the Honorary Gymnastics Coach and Sir Edwin Hayward was the Chairman of the Y. M. C. A. Football Club, the first

civilian Football Club started in 1902. Mr. N. Sathasivam introduced Wrestling to the Physical Department activities and he holds the proud record of having won the Y. M. C. A. Gymnastics Gold Medal for sixteen years, from 1908 — 1924.

The Y. M. C. A. organized Athletic Sports Meets on the Galle Face Football Grounds, which had been leased out by the Y. M. C. A. and these Athletic Meets aroused considerable enthusiasm among the Sports-loving public of Colombo as an important Sports event and get-together of all people interested in Sports and Athletics. Very often the Governors of Ceylon were the chief guests and, before the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association was started in 1921, the Y. M. C. A. Athletic Meet was the unofficial Championship of Ceylon.

Dr. R. W. Cammack, when he arrived in Colombo, gathered all these Sports enthusiasts and inaugurated the first Physical Education Council with these high talented sportsmen. He staged a number of exhibitions and lecture demonstrations in various parts of Ceylon and the impact of Physical Education began to be felt as a motive force of Y. M. C. A. work. He reorganized the Athletic Programme and founded the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association in 1921 with Mr. W. H. D. Perera as the Honorary Secretary. When Mr. Cammack's period of service was drawing to a close, he selected one of the Y. M. C. A.'s finest sportsmen, Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar, to be his successor and Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar was sent to the Y. M. C. A. College

of Physical Education in Madras, which had been established in 1942 at the Royapettah Y. M. C. A. Mr. Kadirgamar, who was an expert gymnast, athlete, soccer and basketball player, learnt much from Dr. H. C. Buck and returned to Ceylon in 1952, when he was appointed the first Ceylonese Physical Director of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. and succeeded Dr. R. W. Cammack in June 1925, just before his departure.

Mr. Gordon Kadirgamar was a man of tireless energy and carried the good tidings of Physical Education not only in the city of Colombo but to the various outstation schools, colleges and community centres.

In 1932, Mr. Kadirgamar joined the staff of St. John's College, Jaffna, and the young men of Jaffna benefited enormously from his experience and trained leadership. Mr. Kadirgamar was later appointed Secretary of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. and through the medium of the Jaffna Y. M. C. A. helped to establish a Physical Education programme in Jaffna.

In the meanwhile at the Colombo Y. M. C. A. Mr. J. V. Hill, an old Trinitian who had taken his degree at the University College and who had obtained his Diploma in Physical Education at the Y. M. C. A. College of Physical Education in Madras, was appointed Physical Director of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. With his youth, highly skilled training and zest for physical activities, games and sports, John Hill played a useful role in Physical Education Programmes in Colombo, Kandy, Galle and Jaffna,

through the Y. M. C. A. schools and colleges. In 1939, just before the War, John Hill joined the Education Department and Mr. N. Sathasivam, a veteran member of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. since 1907, was appointed Honorary Physical Director. Mr. Sathasivam, who had excelled in Gymnastics, Wrestling, Athletics and Soccer, had a wide and a versatile knowledge of Physical Education Programme. With the help of a number of other experienced members, he raised the standard of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. Programme in Boxing, Wrestling, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Athletics, Judo and Weight-lifting. Mention should be made of the valuable contribution to the Physical Department work made by Mr. D. G. Obeyesekere, the Cambridge University Boxing Blue, who captained Cambridge. Mr. Obeyesekere was for fifteen years the Chairman of the Colombo Y. M. C. A. Physical Department. Mr. Egon Bodtker, an Olympic Athlete, was Chairman of the Athletic Committee and coached for many years.

Mr. Obeyesekere was succeeded as Chairman of the Physical Department by the fabulous Mr. T. Rudra, a mighty man gifted with enormous natural strength, and he performed amazing feats at the Harbour Lights Carnival in aid of War Charities and numerous other Carnivals in aid of charity. He performed an almost unbelievable feat in the presence of Sir Andrew Caldecott, Governor of Ceylon, when he allowed a full grown elephant to walk along the bridge placed on his chest! Rudra, who had been a member of the Physical Dep-

partment for many years, gave much of his time to the administration of the Physical Department. Even when he was Deputy Mayor of Colombo and later Mayor during the Queen's visit to Ceylon, he was present at the Gym. at least twice or thrice a week, either wrestling on the mat or a work-out on the bars. He retained his locker with his Gym. kit until his untimely death.

Just after the War, the Colombo Y. M. C. A. initiated a Recreational Facilities Conference in which a number of delegates from Sports Associations and Institutions interested in community work, as well as officials in charge of school programmes, participated. A delegation from the Y. M. C. A. interviewed the Education Department officials and the Y. M. C. A. delegation also gave evidence before a Commission on Physical Education appointed by Sir John Kotelawela, when he was the Prime Minister.

The Y. M. C. A. Movement in Ceylon, which was under a Regional Committee affiliated to the Indian National Council of Y. M. C. A.s, formed the Ceylon National Council in 1962 with Mr. R. O. Buell who had served the Colombo Y. M. C. A. for nearly forty years as the first National General Secretary.

In 1959, Ceylon was fortunate when Mr. Boris Kazimiroff, who had taken his Master's Degree in Physical Education, was appointed as Fraternal Secretary to Ceylon. Boris, who had been a Physical Educational Consultant in Hong Kong and other parts of South East Asia, gave all his

leisure time to coaching Basketball, Swimming, Athletics and in holding Coaching Camps. He was also a specialist in Boys' Work and established a number of Boys' Clubs in existing Y. M. C. A.s. He revived the Annual Boys' Camp and Older Boys' Camp and gave a great fillip to Boys' Work in Ceylon. During his last year in Ceylon, Boris inaugurated the Physical Education Course in which seven men and three women were trained for Physical Education work.

It may be mentioned that the first All-Ceylon Inter Y. M. C. A. Basketball Championships for the Cammack Cup were held in August, 1965, when ten teams representing seven Y. M. C. A.s and three Boys' Clubs played in the Tournament held at the Army Basketball Court, Colombo. The Moratuwa Y. M. C. A. won the Championship, with Colombo second, Jaffna Y. M. C. A. third and Mt. Lavinia Y. M. C. A. fourth.

At the Jaffna College Y. M. C. A., physical activities were first encouraged by Mr. C. W. Phelps, who in 1921 started coaching Basketball and Athletics. After he left Ceylon, this was taken over by Mr. R. J. Thurairajah. After the second World War, Jaffna was fortunate in having Dr. Robert Holmes, who revived Basketball all over the Peninsula and organized Islandwide Basketball Tournaments at Vaddukoddai.

Mr. E. A. Champion, Honorary Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., has done much for the Physical Education Programme, both at Jaffna Y. M. C. A. and Jaffna College Y. M. C. A., particularly in Athletics and Athletic

Coaching Camps, Basketball, Badminton and Table Tennis.

There is much more to be done to put Physical Education in its rightful place in the Y. M. C. A. s of Ceylon, but lack of funds, lack of trained leaders and the need for modern equipment have prevented the Ceylon Y. M. C. A. s from making a more worthwhile contribution.

The greatest service that the Y. M. C. A. Movement in Ceylon has done to the cause of Physical Education is the unobtrusive leadership with which the Y. M. C. A. has nurtured and fostered various branches of Sports. As mentioned earlier, the Y. M. C. A. Football Club was the first civilian Club founded in 1902. Gymnastics was taught and practised at the Y. M. C. A. where it is still one of the regular features. Wrestling was introduced at the Y. M. C. A. and in 1939 the Y. M. C. A. sponsored the inauguration of the Amateur Wrestling Association with Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam as its first President and Mr. N. Sathasivam and Mr. Herbert H. Reid as Vice-Presidents. Table Tennis began to be played in the Y. M. C. A. from 1924 and for

twenty years the Y. M. C. A. Championships were virtually the Championships of Ceylon till 1944 when the Y. M. C. A. initiated the Ceylon Table Tennis Association. Badminton was introduced to the Y. M. C. A. by Mr. P. Sivalingam and Mr. A. Vythialingam, both of whom excelled in the game as students in Malaya and the Ceylon Badminton Association was formed in 1947 with Sir Charles Collins as its first President and Mr. A. Vythialingam as the Honorary Secretary. Mention has already been made of Dr. Cammack founding the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association in 1921. Basketball which had been introduced to Ceylon by Dr. Cammack was played and taught by the Y. M. C. A. members in all parts of Ceylon and in 1949 the Ceylon Basketball Association was founded with Mr. John Exter as its first President and Dr. J. J. Sarangapany as the first Honorary Secretary. Even to this day, the Y. M. C. A. s of Ceylon are fostering all these games and many of the Governing Bodies and District Associations of Sports hold their committee meetings and general meetings in the Y. M. C. A. s at Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna and Galle.

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