

# The Hindu Organ.

"Aisei Avakel and stop not till the goal is reached."

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS

HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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### THE HINDU ORGAN.

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Y. 24.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Worshipper:— We have received more than one letter on "The Nautch Dance at Valakki Temple and the Reception given to Europeans in the Temple". As the matter has been sufficiently dealt with in the columns of "Intu-sathanam," we do not think it necessary to publish the letters in English. We hope that the Manager of the temple will not give room for such complaints in future.

The Hindu Organ.



JAFFNA, MONDAY, MAY 5, 1924.

ALL-INDIA AYURVEDIC CONFERENCE.

It has been the rare good fortune of Ceylon to have the 13th All India Ayurvedic Conference held in it. The usefulness of such a conference being held in Ceylon is self-evident. It has created an interest in the system of Ayurvedic medicine in the hearts of the people of Ceylon and given an impetus to its advancement in the Island, which we do not think can be caused by any other means. The greatness of the Ayurvedic system of medicine and the remarkable state of efficiency in which it flourished in ancient times were well expressed by Dr. Paul E. Pieris, and by the Hon. Sir P. Ramasathan, the Grand Old Man of Ceylon. The speeches delivered by these two eminent men, by Dr. Pieris, who had the honour of opening the Exhibition in the absence of the Prince of Cochin, who was to open it, and by the Hon. Sir P. Ramasathan as the Chairman of the Reception Committee, were very happy and appropriate and admirable both in the sentiments expressed and the language in which those sentiments were put. Speaking of the graciousness which the promoters of the Conference in India have shown in consenting to hold the conference in Ceylon, the learned Doctor said, "It is as if the aged mother is once again visiting the daughter—the daughter from whom she would have appeared for some years to have been estranged, and the daughter, bright-eyed, full of intelligence and very beautiful to look upon is eagerly awaiting to greet the mother, to make to that mother a filial obeisance, to sit down at her feet and to listen to those words of wisdom which she has not heard for many years." Dr. Pieris's reference to the object of the Conference was equally happy. He said, "After all, all of us who are here today are bound together by this one common bond that our great desire is to develop the prestige and renown of that ancient system of science as ancient as the birth of man, which you represent. It was that renown which led Alexander of Macedon to place his wounded Hoplytes in charge of an Indian Kaviraj. It was that prestige which centuries later led Ghazni, the author, to exclaim that India of his time, the India of the 16th century, had in its doctors of medicine, who would grace the most learned professorships in the continent of Europe." Those who read these impressive words can very well understand from what height to what depth the Ayurvedic system of medicine has fallen and how very important it is that all leaders in India and Ceylon should conjointly work for the resurrection of the system which alone can promote satisfactorily the health and physical welfare of the people of the two countries.

The Hon. Sir P. Ramasathan laid stress on a very important point when he spoke of the lack of due appreciation of the Ayurvedic system of medicine by a very large number of people in India and Ceylon who have received English education. Said the great Knight in the course of his speech, "Those who had been flocking to the colleges in all Presidencies of India in order to study the English language and literature had so far forgotten their best interests as to believe that that only was valuable to them which came from the mouths of Englishmen and from the efforts of Englishmen, or rather the British people. And they had forgotten not merely the Ayurvedic, but also the four principal vedas, ruk veda, ajur veda, sama veda and adaryana veda. They had forgotten the principal vedas which had been guiding the destinies of a hundred million people for thousands of years from the remotest times up to the present." We are of opinion that while all this may be quite true of many valuable things which, though they are the heritage of the people of India and Ceylon, are yet neglected and forgotten owing to the influence of

Western education and civilisation, the Ayurvedic system of medicine is not duly recognized by the educated people of the two countries, not because they have received English education, but because the system of medicine has fallen into disrepute owing to a variety of causes which are well-known. We feel confident that if the Ayurvedic system of medicine is made to regain the prestige and renown it has lost, if steps are taken with promptitude and care to make the services of well qualified Ayurvedic physicians and the aid of well established Ayurvedic hospitals and dispensaries available to the public, they will be most readily and cheerfully availed of by all classes of people in India and Ceylon including the educated class.

The address delivered by the distinguished President of the conference was thoroughly worthy of his profound scholarship, ripe experience and remarkable ability as an Ayurvedic physician with a sound knowledge of English medical science. We reserve our comments on the address and on the other proceedings of the Conference for a future occasion.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

The principal object of Hindu Schools is to give Hindu boys and girls a Hindu training and prevent them from falling under the proselytising influences of Christian Missions, and the principal object of Christian schools is to give the students attending them a Christian training, so that Christian students may become well-grounded in the teachings of Christianity and Hindu students may be converted to Christianity. The two classes of schools are opposed to each other in their principal aims. While Christian Missions think it their duty to propagate Christianity by various means, of which the establishing and conducting of schools is one, the Hindus think it their duty to counteract the influence of Christian missions by all means in their power. We think it the duty of every Hindu to see that all Hindu children are only under Hindu influences. We regret that owing to the want of the religious zeal among many Hindus, a large number of children are allowed to grow under Christian influences which are sure to have a most prejudicial effect on their religious life. It is a very sad fact that even in these days when Hindu schools have increased in number and efficiency, Hindu children are sent to Christian institutions very often owing to influences and considerations which should not for one moment weigh against the great, the supreme consideration of Hindu training for Hindu children. The question of keeping Hindu students from Christian influences is one of such vital importance to the future religious and national welfare of our people that it requires the very serious consideration of all sincere and conscientious Hindus. If Hindu parents and guardians cannot render service to their religion and their children in so simple and practical a matter, we do not know what else they can do towards the preservation of their great religion and the right upbringing of their children.

We do not know whether there is another people on the face of the earth among whom were current to so great an extent as among the NURSERY STORIES AND RHYMES IN TAMIL. Tamil stories of various kinds possessing a high degree of wit and humour and radiant of the superior keenness of mind and intellectual vision for which the Tamil people have always been so famous. It is to be much regretted that owing to the spread of Western education, most of these stories have been forgotten. It is particularly regrettable that the large and varied stock of pretty and amusing nursery stories and rhymes which used to be the delight of children in days gone by have been forgotten to a great extent. It must be admitted that these stories and rhymes were the fruits of the genius, wit and humour of a large number of clever Tamil men whose sympathy for children is truly remarkable. The loss of these stories and rhymes means the loss of so much joy, amusement and instruction to our children, and only a literary mind can form a correct estimate of the loss. It is a comfort to think that though a large number of stories and rhymes have been forgotten, all have not been. We are of opinion that there is excellent scope for one who has the necessary qualifications to collect and publish the stories and rhymes which are extant for the benefit of the children

of this country. We are sure that such work will meet with success if done in the proper spirit and way.

We hear it often complained that the dust nuisance is becoming more and more serious. We do not know why the authorities responsible have not yet begun to take effective steps to put a stop to the nuisance. The alarming proportions the nuisance has assumed are due to the unnecessary and inhumane increase of motor car traffic in this country. Is it not the bounden duty of the Government to cause at least those parts of our roads where the traffic is great and where the dust nuisance is most keenly felt to be watered regularly and effectively so that those who use them may not be inconvenienced and harmed by the almost incessant clouds of dust caused by motor cars? The unmindfulness of the authorities in this matter indicates their indifference to the health and convenience of the people. We hope that steps will be taken without delay to free the people as far as possible from the nuisance, which is daily becoming more and more intolerable.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE WEATHER.—There is an occasional faint blowing of the south west wind. The expected rains have not fallen in sufficient quantity to allay the great heat which is felt at this season. There is reason to expect that the south west wind will begin to blow steadily only after a fairly heavy fall of rain.

A RECEPTION.—The minor headmen and members of the Village Committee of Valigaman North, gave a reception to Mr. B. R. E. Kumaranalingne, Retired Magistrate of Valigaman North on the 28th ultimo at 5 p. m., at the Office of the Village Committee. Mr. K. Thambiah, Proctor, presided over the function. Mr. S. Sivagnanaswami guarded the Magistrate, and Mr. B. Thammavathar, Uthayar of Telipallai, read an address to him. Speeches were made by the Chairman, and Messrs. T. S. Thuralappah, Notary Public, T. A. Thuralappah Pillai, N. Sallappah, Post Master, and Mr. A. Obellappah, the new Magistrate. All the speakers spoke of the great qualities of head and heart of the retired Magistrate and of the faithful and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties of the high post for a quarter of a century. The Magistrate replied feelingly thanking all for the honour done to him. The function terminated with the distribution of passports.

RAILWAY CIRCULAR ASSOCIATION.—A general meeting of this Association was held on the 12th ultimo at the Railway Premises Jaffna, under the Presidency of Mudaliyar V. Canagasaby, the President of the Association.

INTERPRETER OF THE SUPREME COURT.—Mudaliyar T. Welivesthan, Second Tamil Interpreter of the Supreme Court, has been appointed Senior Tamil Interpreter, to which post he succeeds Mudaliyar N. N. Thambaram, who assumes duties as Chief Tamil Translator, Colonial Secretary's Office.

THE CIRCULAR EXAMINATION.—Four questions papers set for the Government Circular Examination held recently have been discovered to have been stolen from the printers. The candidates were re-examined in English and Arithmetic and the authorities have decided to examine once again in the remaining subjects, only those who pass in these two subjects and select the required number of candidates from the final results.

NEW PRINCIPAL FOR TRINITY COLLEGE.—The Rev. K. Macdonald Campbell M. A. (Oxon), who is at present Fellow and Tutor of Hertford College, Oxford, has been appointed Principal of Trinity College, Kandy. The Rev. A. G. Fraser, who has long been the Principal of the College, is now in England, and is expected to return to Ceylon before the end of May in order to remain here for about two months and settle his affairs.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.—We hear that Mr. E. M. D. Robison, who is now on leave in England, has been appointed to the post of Assistant Director of Education by His Excellency the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State for the colonies. Mr. Robison is to fill the vacancy caused lately by the retirement of Mr. E. Evans.

KANDY SHOW.—The Kandy Agricultural and Industrial Show will be held this year on the 18th 19th and 20th August, the last three days of the Esala Perahera. This Show is going to be held on a much grander scale this year than ever before. Arrangements are being made to have one or more Historical Pageants among the side shows. His Excellency the Governor is expected to open the Show.

PLAGUE IN CEYLON.—It is reported that there were 230 cases of plague in Ceylon the whole of last year and that 209 of them proved fatal. It is only after 1914 that cases of plague have been reported from different parts of the Island.

A BOAT SUNK NEAR-TALAIMANNAR.—A boat loaded with cargo from Colombo sank a few miles from Talaimannar on its way to Jaffna. The boat sank most unexpectedly causing thereby a loss which has been estimated to be not less than a lakh of rupees.

OBJECTIONS AGAINST CANDIDATES.—Objection have been raised against the inclusion in their respective electoral registers of the Hon. Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu, Mr. P. Kularatne and the Hon. Mr. Martin.

NEW COLOMBO ROADS.—The Colombo Municipal Council has decided to open a great number of new roads in different parts of Colombo where they have been found to be absolutely necessary. The need for these roads has long been felt but the work in this direction had to be held up owing to lack of funds. The Council has also decided to widen a few of the existing roads.

RAILWAY "SLEEPER'S" LOSS.—A teacher who was travelling by train last week between Polgahawala and Colombo was robbed of his trunk while he was sleeping in the train. The trunk which was stolen is reported to have contained several valuable books and a couple of Crown deeds.

A PUBLIC LECTURE.—A very interesting and instructive lecture on "Gandhi in the Modern Politics: Evolution of India" was delivered by Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan, M. A., B. L. B., at "Darby House", Colombo, on Wednesday the 30th ultimo. Mr. A. E. Goonesinghe presided on the occasion and the lecture was delivered under the auspices of the Gandhi Sangham.

MR. HARPER'S VISIT TO WIRELESS STATIONS.—Mr. E. Harper, Superintending Engineer of the Ceylon Post and Telegraph Department, has been asked by the Government to visit several of the latest wireless stations in Europe with a view to gaining further knowledge of the most up-to-date methods for the improvement of the wireless system in Ceylon. Mr. Harper will leave the Island shortly on three months leave which will be followed by a similar period of official duty to be performed on the continent in connection with the visit of the wireless stations.

RAILWAY CROWDING.

Sir,—I was present on the Maradana Railway Station platform, when the first train carried to Jaffna the Easter excursion ticket holders. This train had one or two first class, two or three second class and a few third class compartments. The second class ticket holders were not able to find accommodation in the train as their compartments were not able to find space to accommodate even half of the number. Some had to stand for long and weary hours subjecting themselves to various kinds of agony, while breathing unhealthy and foul air. Others who were fortunate to find some space to sit were packed like sardines. A few who were not privileged to get either standing or sitting accommodation in the second class compartments through the courtesy of the guard got into his van and seated themselves on some of the mail bags. When the train was in motion the guard made known to the occupants of his van the fact that they remained there only on sufferance and that they should vacate the place if it was not his pleasure to have their company. Whether there was room or not in the compartments it was not a matter for His Royal Highness the guest to trouble himself about. The G. M. R. should note this! As regards the passengers who travelled in the third class compartments and their sufferings I could only say that it was a crying scandal and that no human being could have borne the tight without tears flowing down his cheeks. I was also present on the Maradana Station platform when the last train carried the excursion ticket holders. This time the scandal of mismanagement was more terrible, shocking and revolting. The hundreds of my young countrymen who came here in connection with the recent Circular Examination and others on business travelled by this train. From the manner in which the train was crowded, I feared that Ceylon might also be the scene of a gruesome tragedy similar to the "Mapha Train Tragedy." If I have overdrawn the picture I hope that some of my countrymen will correct me. What are the Council Members of the N. R. doing?—Yours etc. April 18. A. P. THAMBYAH.

MIS-EDUCATING THE MASSES.

By WILLIAM HEWLETT.

In the January number of this Review I was privileged to put forward some novel and perhaps rather presumptuous suggestions for improving our national system of Education. My point was, that home influence, being



