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PRIME MINISTER MEETS THE PEOPLE DISCUSSES THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Urgent Need for Co-operation

ALL the way from Wellawatte to the extreme limits of Galkissa in one direction and from Dehiwala in another, to the hinterland of the Wellawatte-Galkissa Electorate, flags, garlands, and decorative pandals greeted the Prime Minister. Mr. Dudley Senanayake, on Sunday on his first visit to that electorate, once the citadel of the Reds now happily transformed into a peaceful haven with ardent supporters of the United National Party.

The Prime Minister, who was received by Mr. S. de S. Jayasinghe, the representative of the electorate in Parliament, was accompanied by Sir John Kotelawala, Minister of Transport, and Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Minister of Finance, and was conducted through the entire rural area which included Dehiwala, Nedi-male, Attidiya, Nikape, Boralessa-muwa, Kalubowila, Ratmalana, Galkissa, Kawdana, Laksapathiya, and Pamankade. The various associations of the area were well represented in response to the invitation by Mr. M. P. Wijesinghe, Secretary of the U.N.P. Branch.

The members of the Dehiwala Urban Council were introduced to the Premier by the Chairman at Dehiwala bridge after which the tour of the area began. The fishing village of Ratmalana, the site of the proposed housing scheme for the fisherfolk was visited. The other housing scheme at Mount Lavinia was also inspected. Wherever he went, leading residents welcomed him and submitted the needs of the locality which the Premier promised to consider sympathetically. At Attidiya where large tracts of paddy-fields are available, requests were made that necessary improvements and facilities be provided which were bound to step up food production as they had been in the days of King Parakrama Bahu VI of Kotte.

PUBLIC LUNCH

It was in the afternoon when at the conclusion of the tour that the Premier and party arrived at the Grand Hotel, Mount Lavinia, where lunch, accorded by the residents, was served, covers being laid for over two hundred. Sir John, who presided, proposed the toast of the Prime Minister in the course of which he dwelt on the arduous tasks imposed on the Head of the Government and the responsibilities with which he was burdened. If in the discharge of those duties anything went slightly askew, the Prime Minister had to bear the blame, whereas when things went smoothly the credit was shared by everybody. He called for the co-operation of all in assisting their "young Premier" to carry on the Government of the country and serve the people and preserve their freedom.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake, in reply, thanked them for the honour done him in inviting him to their area and affording him the opportunity of seeing for himself the actual condition and what and where improvements should be effected. There were requirements which could not all be met overnight but by a gradual and wise process improvement would certainly come. It was certainly the sincere intention of the Government to do all that was reasonably possible to improve the amenities of the area. He was convinced that the people were now

aware of the principles and policy of the Party in which they had placed their confidence. He was fully aware of his responsibilities and he was thankful to them for their confidence in his party.

PUBLIC MEETING AT FRASER AVENUE

There was a very large concourse of people at the public meeting held at Fraser Avenue, Dehiwala, the vast open maidan within the Urban Council area which serves as the "lung" and a marine promenade for the residents. The Prime Minister was conducted in procession, from the main road along the approach road which was lined by cheering crowds, Kandyan dancers preceding the procession and a number of little girls greeting him in song. The proceedings began with the Prime Minister presiding. Others on the platform were Sir John Kotelawala, Mr. S. de S. Jayasinghe, M.P., Mr. M. P. Wijesinghe, Secretary of the Wellawatte-Galkissa U.N.P. Branch, and Mr. Vincent Mendis.

Mr. Jayasinghe, the first speaker, thanked the gathering for their presence in such large numbers and described in detail the tour of inspection by the Prime Minister who had seen for himself the work done so far for the U.C. area and learnt what the needs were for future improvements. Representatives of associations and leading residents had the opportunity of personally stating what they had to say which was really satisfactory. He referred to the housing schemes proposed, water supplies which were needed and improvement of roads towards which he hoped to receive support and assistance from the Central Government in a more liberal measure than hitherto.

Sir John who addressed the gathering next said that that was the second occasion when such a large gathering of U.N.P. supporters had assembled after the General Election. Time was when that constituency was under a dark cloud when Senasura's influence prevailed but today it was under the influence of Brahaspathy, a benefic planet. They had as their representative in Parliament one who had the welfare of his constituency at heart.

While he (Sir John) was away from the Island he had not seen the newspapers but he understood that the Leftist leader had offered him the leadership if he would join hands with the Sama Samajists. His name was Kotelawala and he would remain Kotelawala still and be loyal to the Party to which he had the honour to belong. He appealed to the people not to be misled by the Leftists but support the Government with loyalty.

(Continued on page 2)



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PRIME MINISTER MEETS THE PEOPLE

(Continued from page 1)

PROBLEMS FACING THE GOVERNMENT

The Prime Minister addressing the gathering availed himself of the opportunity thus offered to draw the attention of the people to the vital problems facing the country and the arduous task of the Government to meet the adverse situation. Sacrifices were needed on the part of the people in order to tide over the financial crisis. He would see that in whatever measures taken to solve the problem, that they would not be to the detriment of the people. The food problem touched the people keenly but a reduction of the quantity by a quarter measure of rice would not, he believed, be unduly hard on the people, for were they not aware during the war period that the ration was much less and the people readily adopted substitute foods? Why could they not resort to the same method during the present emergency? The decision taken by the Government to collect Rs. 15 million from the taxpayers was not with the view of burdening the poor alone but distributed among the rich as well as the poor. "We had expert advice," said the Premier, "to increase the price of rice, but declined to do so as that step would have hit the poorer classes. Instead we reduced the quantity of the ration by a quarter measure in order to save enough to make up the deficit in the subsidy Government has to pay to purchase the rice the price of which had soared to astronomical heights at the source of supply. The Government depended on the revenue avail-

able to meet the expenditure it has to face. The Government has found the revenue diminishing and accordingly the expenditure has to be curtailed. The falling prices of our exports were a grave concern. Then there was the illicit immigration menace when thousands of unwanted folk found their way into this country thus adding to the number of consumers of food. There were people in this country who befriended them, gave them ration-books, obtained by stealth and gave employment to them. He proposed to have legislation to penalise those misguided and disloyal elements in our midst who harboured the illicit immigrants. The increase in population was startling as many as two lakhs yearly while food production was static. Of course, they had the long-term policy to attain self-sufficiency in our food supply by colonization of the Dry Zone and stepping up production. There were people who objected to the steps taken to prevent illicit immigration by the use of the Army and who went so far as to not only support the immigrants but willing to grant them citizenship rights. Let them not be misled by these Leftists and spurn their overtures. Finally he thanked those assembled for having given him the opportunity of giving them a true picture of the present situation and the steps taken by the Government to avert the crisis.

Mr. Vincent Mendis also spoke.

As the whole day's programme of the Prime Minister concluded a most welcome shower of rain fell, which, after a long spell of drought lasting nearly eighty days, was acclaimed a blessing indeed.

REHABILITATING CEYLON CONVICTS

"New Look" in Prison System

THE prison system in Ceylon has acquired a new look. Time was when law-breakers were sent to prison to be punished in jail where, after languishing for a period of enforced detention, the offenders with a past leave without a future. Today it is different.

Public interest was aroused by the appointment of a Prisons Commission in 1949, under the Chairmanship of the distinguished Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. N. Gratiaen. The Gratiaen Commission, as it was called, after searching inquiry produced a report based on the experience of other countries and the result was a sudden and dramatic change in the penal system that obtained in our jails. Prisoners under the recast and remoulded system undergo training intended to equip them for a new life. Employment of prisoners has always been an important aspect of prison life. Today it is used to give the prisoners a technical training sufficient to help them in their search for employment after they are discharged from prison. Discarded human material is transformed into useful citizens.

Each of the prisons in the Island has organised facilities for training in a variety of trades, which include carpentry, building and masonry, tailoring, weaving, shoe-making, rattan and fibre work, printing, laundry work. Two large central prisons accommodating more than 500 prisoners of various types have up to date machinery in most workshops while all other prisons provide limited industrial and agricultural training. Every aspect of

a man's life is covered with a programme of training which will be useful to him in the future.

PRISON WITHOUT BARS

The importance of industrial employment of prisoners has been recognised in the separate appointment of a Superintendent of Prison Industries who is assisted by Vocational Instructors and Industrial Supervisors attached to every prison. The prison administration appreciates the importance of agricultural training with a view to rehabilitation and the value of minimum security conditions in the character training of offenders. Hence "a prison without bars" has been set up in Pallekele, a fertile plot of about 150 acres of land close to a large central prison. Fifty selected prisoners with a hand-picked staff set off as pioneers in this penal experiment. "It was a venture faithfully justified by its complete success," says the Commissioner of Ceylon Prisons and Probation Services who declares that "the men work unrestrained by fetters or stalked by vigilant officers. We trust them and they trust themselves; they have justified our trust. As a reward they have well developed facilities for recreation, education and healthy activities. A policy of re-education is being substituted for exploitation, in our effort to meet the needs of men in quest of a new world. Imprisonment to them will not mean annihilation or mental atrophy. They will and must leave our prisons not embittered by rigidity and repression but fully equipped and alive to the prospects of their future as useful and law-abiding citizens of a free country."

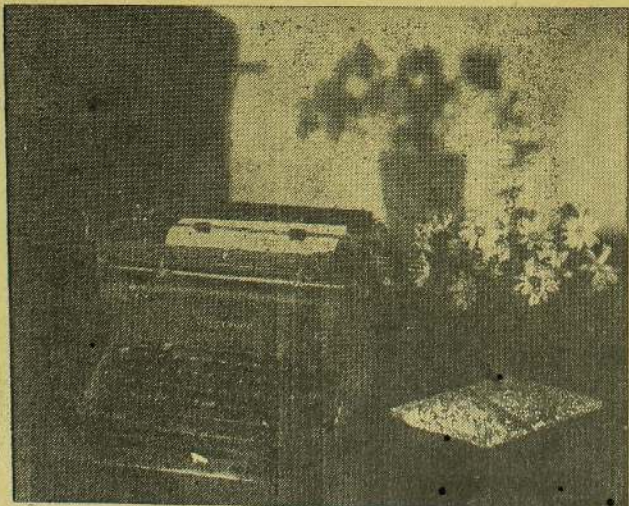
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8-Point Plan to Provide for Food Supplies Rice Ration Reduced, Price Unchanged

OWING to adverse financial circumstances which the country is faced with, all the steps that are necessary for tackling the heavy balance of payments which Ceylon was confronted with from the beginning of the present year are being taken, including a reduction in the size of the weekly ration, restriction of imports, a surcharge (temporary) to be levied from all persons who are liable to income tax, and a 10 per cent increase on "luxury and semi-official items." Thus in the case of a taxpayer who is liable to pay Rs. 1,000 as income tax, the temporary surcharge will be Rs. 100. The increase of import duties will represent one-tenth part of the existing duty; for example, if the existing duty on any specified goods is 20 per cent., the additional temporary duty will be at the rate of 2 per cent.

Authorized dealers and distributors of rice are issued rice with a quarter measure less for each ration book. The cut of the weekly ration of rice will bring a saving of Rs. 60,000,000 to the Government. The net Government subsidy for the next financial year is estimated at Rs. 299 million and out of this only a sum of Rs. 161 million has been provided in the current Budget. Apart from the saving of Rs. 60,000,000, the Minister of Finance has to find Rs. 78,000,000 to meet the subsidy bill. It is understood that from the income tax surcharge the Government hopes to get Rs. 15 million and the surcharge on import duties will produce less than Rs. 10 million.

The introduction of these taxation measures plus the proposed cut in the ration of subsidised rice, are calculated according to official circles, to ensure that all sections of the community share the burden in helping Government to tide over the present adverse financial circumstances.

GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS

Here are the proposals which the Premier announced to meet the financial crisis:—

1. Surcharge of 10 per cent. on the existing import duties on certain luxury and semi-essential goods.
2. Surcharge of 10 per cent. on the assessed income tax for a period of one year.
3. Doubling of present rate of betting tax.
4. Continuance of recent increase in price of sugar.
5. Reduction of rice ration by ¼ measure in all groups.
6. Increase in guaranteed price of paddy from Rs. 9 per bushel to Rs. 12; of maize from Rs. 7 to Rs. 7.50; of kurakkan from Rs. 6.75 to Rs. 7; of sorghum from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8.
7. Restriction of imports from non-sterling sources.
8. Strict control of non-urgent expenditure appearing in the Estimates for 1952-53 by about One Hundred Million Rupees.

The additional revenue Government hopes to get from the taxation measures is about Rs. 25 million.

There will also be further measures to be considered for the pruning of non-urgent expenditure.

SUBSTITUTES FOR RICE

With reference to the proposals to provide for the food subsidies which the Government has to contribute Senator (Dr.) N. Attygalle made the following observations in the Senate:

By Senex

"Whatever the steps taken to curtail expenditure the Government must see that the people in village areas get at least a substitute for rice. I do not say that rice is an absolutely essential ingredient in the diet of our people. We must educate our people to use substitutes for rice. Rice consists of easily assimilable carbohydrates, but there are other substitutes, like jak, breadfruit and manioc yam, all of which contain an abundance of carbohydrates. So that rice can be replaced, to a certain extent, by such substitutes. We must, at some stage, teach our people to use other grains than rice, namely, kurakkan and manioc. If the Government is therefore unable to balance the budget without curtailing the expenditure on imports of rice, then it is absolutely necessary to reduce the ration of rice. However, before that is done, it should explore all avenues available and see that the reduction is effected in the branches of expenditure other than on rice."

TOO MUCH RICE EATEN

Senator (Miss) Cissy Cooray, referring to the food problem during the discussion in the Senate on the Appropriation Bill said that she had been earnestly studying the subject of our rice supply. There is a world food shortage and Ceylon will have to face this problem and find ways and means of tackling the present situation.

"We are faced with a shortage of rice. Are we going to scour the whole world to get more and more rice, and spend more and more money which we can ill afford?" asks this lady Senator who proceeding, states: "Statistics have shown that we have increased our output of rice during the last few years, but we still want to buy more and more rice..... The fact is that we eat more and still more rice."

VILLAGERS' THREE RICE MEALS A DAY

"In rural areas and in colonization areas, it is a fact that villagers eat rice three times a day—for their morning meal, for their afternoon meal, and then again at night. I do not want anyone to misunderstand me and to think that everyone has three meals of rice a day, but what I do want to point out is that we must equalize the distribution and see that those who have extra rice are made to sell it to the Government, so that it may be distributed to others who are not able to get enough for even one meal a day. If we cut down our rice ration we can supplement our meals with other foods which are available. We can always get substitutes such as kurakkan, Indian corn, sorghum, many varieties of yams, jak, breadfruit and wheat flour, all of which are of more nutritive value than rice.

Nobody starves in the country today for lack of rice, but people die as a result of malnutrition. What we need is a change of diet of better nutrition value. We can cut down our rice consumption even by half, and introduce other foods in its place..... I feel that the only solution is to take drastic steps to cut down by degrees the importation of rice, by gradually lessening the quota allowed and to cut down the subsidy in rice in the same way, so that the people may be compelled to take substitutes.

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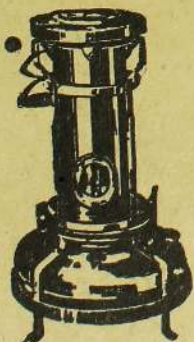
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CO-OPERATION FOR PROSPERITY

By Quintus Delilkan

THE Government has decided to take a serious line of action, vigorous and comprehensive, to meet the threatened crisis. In regard to rice the public cannot have it both ways. Either there should be an increase in price or there should be a cut in the quantity issued. The Government inclines to the view that the proposal which most people would prefer would be to cut down the quantity of the issue. The reduction which is to be made is not very large in respect of each individual. It represents a sacrifice which can be borne without any grave hardship. If the impending crisis is to be met with any degree of effectiveness, it is proper that the resultant saving should be substantial as this economy is applicable to all the inhabitants of Ceylon. The Government in the proposed course of action which it is taking to ward off disaster, appears to acknowledge the validity of the requirement that the incidence of sacrifices should be evenly spread, as far as possible, throughout all classes in the community. This ought to make the public realise that the Government is acting on a principle of justice to which no exception could be taken.

The raising of the import duty on certain classes of luxury and semi-essential goods is a measure which has been long overdue. There has been a steady influx into this country of several classes of luxury goods which have had their close bearing on making the financial stability of the country progressively unsound. Especially at a time when there is every possibility of industrial development in this country, it would have a very salutary effect on the initiative and enterprise of the people here to engage in industries which though they may not be large, can yet give the public many articles which have not to be imported from abroad. When there is so much distress in the public mind over the uncertain position ahead, it is not proper that there should be a spate of articles, which can be dispensed with temporarily coming into the country unhindered and draining our resources.

There will not be any great reaction on the part of the public towards the doubling of the Betting Tax. Where so much money passes between the public and those who represent the racing institutions of the country it is not by any means unfair that the Government should derive a much larger revenue from this source. When the Government takes in this way, it is for the purpose of doing the public a service. This is evident, and private institutions should not be hurt by this necessary action which is designed to give back to the people some benefit which is created by improving the financial stability of the country. Those who pay in-

come tax cannot grudge the Government the slightly higher rate they would have to pay for a defined period. An increase of the amount proposed will not seriously affect the individual, but the total return will represent a substantial contribution towards the process of financial rehabilitation which has become so urgently necessary.

Imports must necessarily be cut down. When our principal exports were fetching very high prices and our income was almost fabulous, there was every reason for our imports being allowed a very wide field and an unrestricted range. But today the position has changed. The factors which made it possible for us to sell at extremely high prices are somehow no longer operative, and we cannot afford to import on the previous scale. It is good and sound, and also necessary policy in the circumstances that there should be a considerable reduction of our imports. This again will enable new industries to spring up to supply any need that might be felt. The door has been opened for small industries to flourish. It is good to have the opportunity of giving the people the necessary incentive to take a hand in supplying some of the Island's needs. We need not be so dependent on all kinds of imports as we have been before. Every crisis of the kind we are facing must have the effect of making us more industrially enterprising. It is only in situations of this kind that people begin to take a great interest in establishing small industries. Even when prosperity returns, it would be possible for the Government to restrict the importation of those articles which are being produced in a satisfactory manner by local industries which may have sprung up and attained a high standard. We cannot make ourselves a soundly prosperous country unless we adopt measures which will enable the people here to use all their opportunities to establish new sources of wealth and prosperity.

The Prime Minister has very rightly asked for the co-operation of the people of this country in the situation that has arisen. Immense schemes have been put in hand for the benefit of all classes of the community. The Government, during many years, has spent prodigiously to make this country happy and prosperous. The old rate of spending, however, cannot be maintained for reasons that are now obvious. The people who have received so many benefits should realise that it is now their duty to accept the sacrifices which have to be borne by all sections of the community. The increased prices for paddy should stimulate production, and the peasants should be satisfied with this substantial increase, and do their best by the Government and the country. With an united effort to meet every adverse circumstance courageously and without rancour and intemperate protests, such as the opposition favours, we should be able to meet the crisis and overcome all our difficulties in due course.

Massage—Exercise for Health

MOST of us forget that the largest organ of the body is the skin in which is encased all other organs and when massage is applied it effects the skin before any of the internal organs are stimulated.

Physical exercise exerts direct action upon the muscles and could be said to have greater influence upon massaging of a muscle internally, by the contraction of the countless number of fibres in a muscle; and further rubbing and pressing upon the neighbouring muscles by the muscle which is being exercised. Nature has installed an automatic massage for certain organs of the body that needs stimulation throughout life.

The diaphragm, in respiration

make a continual passive movement with alternate pressure upon its neighbouring organs, above and beneath. Should these movements be restricted, due to lack of exercise or by any other means, the health of the person is bound to suffer in multiple ways.

By the alternate contraction and relaxation of these muscles a regular flow of blood is maintained. Should a muscle become over active it produces fatigue which means that waste is greater than repair. It can also happen due to lack of activity, which may be called lack of muscle-tone. This condition is due to accumulation of toxic materials in the muscle tissue, the removal of it is best effected through massage.

(Continued on page 5)

TASKS BEFORE THE NATION—III

By Stanley Morrison

WITH a population increasing at the rate of 200,000 a year and a food crisis threatening to hold up all plans for developing the resources of the country, the Government is in a quandary. It is a grand time for the critics of the Government, who are being given a heaven-sent opportunity to display their wares. It would be tragic, therefore, if in this predicament, the Opposition Members in Parliament were to indulge in destructive criticism and expect the Government to continue to distribute rice at the old rate of 25 cents a measure when it buys this rice at 95 cents a measure. It is to be hoped that when Parliament meets this week the Opposition will make constructive suggestions for tiding over the crisis instead of advocating a "bread and circuses" programme.

Meanwhile, every man and woman owes the country a duty—the duty of exercising restraint in criticising the Government in some of the unpopular measures it may find itself compelled to execute in order to save the country from bankruptcy. However, in the coming time of austerity, no greater disservice could be done to the public cause than for these irresponsible elements among the wealthy classes to continue to indulge in those ostentatious displays of their wealth which make the poorer classes feel that the Government is directed against the poor if these rich hoodlums can find the money for luxurious weddings and wild parties at which foreign liquor flows like water. It is things like these that drive a poor slum-dweller to despair and make him seek solace in the opium of Communism. If Communism is not to make progress in this land in the future days of hardship, the rich will have set a better example than they have set during the post-war economic honeymoon. We want no Pashas in Ceylon. The irresponsible rich here must know what has happened to that class of rampageous, pleasure-seeking class of wealthy men and women in Egypt. And if these irresponsible elements here do not curb their Babylonian instincts, they will have only themselves to thank if the Government begins to lose the favour of the masses.

But it is not only the rich who have a special duty to perform in the days of austerity ahead. It is high time that other privileged class, more privileged than any similar class in any other country, namely the Ceylon Government servant, abates his zeal for demanding ever new privileges at the hands of the Government and at the expense of the masses. In no country in the world, except Russia, is the bureaucracy in a more privileged position than in Ceylon. And the gap between them and the poorer classes is an appalling one for a poor country. And curiously enough, it is the Marxist element among them who clamour for more and more privileges at the expense of the masses. Very soon, at the rate at which the Government servant is being accorded amenities of all kinds, his salary will amount to nothing less than pocket money, the Government giving him all his daily needs gratis and for nothing. But still they ask for more while as a class they are utterly lacking in a sense of public duty. Today, in independent Lanka, the most exasperating element in the country is that very large class of government servant who, in his dealings with the public, treats the public with contempt. And apart from the privileged position he enjoys, in many departments he demands from the members of the public a bribe if he is to perform his duty expeditiously. In other words, he is paid by the Government not to do his duty unless members of the public are prepared to bribe him to do it. And no class of Ceylonese contributes a bigger quota towards the fund of public resentment against the Government than this type of

public servant. People blame the Government every time they have to deal with these petty nabobs, who grow fat not doing their work unless they are fed on baksheesh.

In the coming time, when Government controls are likely to be re-established with war-time rigour, no duty is more imperative on the Government than to take steps to stamp out corruption in Government departments and to see that every public servant does his duty for the salary which the Government pays him instead of his refusing to do his duty unless the public pays him bribe. On the other hand, if the present system continues whereby a certain class of public servant makes money "on the side" out of the hardships of the poor, the Government will find public indignation against it growing to uncontrollable proportions. At present, one of the chief hindrances in the way of stamping out corruption from among the ranks of the public service is the apathy and indifference of the higher officers to public complaints. Most staff officers just cannot be bothered about inquiring into public complaints against their subordinates although invariably the staff officer himself is above corruption. But the fact is the staff officer will do nothing to shift himself out of the comfortable groove into which God has called him, especially if doing anything out of the way of routine is likely to deprive him of that time-hallowed institution, his afternoon nap under an electric fan.

However, if the staff officer cannot be got to pay heed to public complaints of corruption, the Government could easily scotch the dreadful practice of public servants extracting money from the public by putting a special branch of the C.I.D. on the job. The mere knowledge that the police are on their trail will intimidate the corrupt public servant into doing his duty without a bribe.

If I emphasise this point so much it is because no activity of the public servant creates so much exasperation in the minds of the public than the deliberate victimisation of the public which goes on at so many public departments.

Massage—Exercise for Health

(Continued from page 4)

Massage builds more red corpuscles, and more haemoglobin; exercise accelerates action of the heart and after a time diminishes blood pressure, which means an increase in the rapidity of the current, and in the quality of the flow through the relaxed, distended or stretched blood-vessels. Massage also diminishes blood pressure, but without increasing the activity of the heart.

Exercise for the skeletal muscles is of utmost importance, for activity of the limbs increase the functions of lymph glands. These glands are very important as they act as filters in the general circulation in arresting dust, bacteria and other foreign matter from entering the blood stream, and also in transporting nutrition to the tissues.

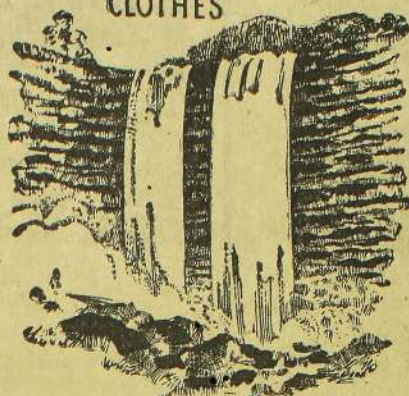
As in the case of bed-ridden patients, prolonged inactivity tends to impede normal nutrition, digestion and assimilation. These are the reasons that massage has taken a leading place in medical science.

Massage has the power of revitalising the nerves of the spinal cord by stimulating the reflex action. In the treatment of neuralgia and neuritis, also for those suffering from feebleness and mesassimilation are cured through the influence of massage.

By KAMAL WIJESINGHE
Asst. Sec., Ceylon Amateur Weight Lifting Association.

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SHARING THE BURDEN

The opportunity was availed of by the Prime Minister when he toured the Wellawatte-Galkissa electorate last Sunday to impress upon the people the necessity for the measures devised by the Government to increase Government revenue and to remedy the deficit in revenue to meet the heavy subsidization of food. The Prime Minister explained the impossibility of continuing the present subsidy on rice owing to the soaring prices of this commodity at the source of supply which the Government was called upon to pay. That there is a world shortage is well-known and the solution of the problem can only be in a reduction of the quantity of the ration, rather than in an increase in the price. As the Prime Minister announced at the public meeting at Dehiwala Government has to buy rice at 95 cents a measure and distribute to the people at 25 cents. That this method of carrying the heavier burden by the Government is not bearable now owing to the diminution in revenue from export. Even Governments, just as much as private establishments, have to incur expenditure, according to the revenue received to maintain a balance and to avert financial disaster.

Anyone who recognizes the real situation as stated by the Prime Minister will not deny that Government has adopted the only feasible decision in taking the measures detailed in the eight-point proposals to tide over the present financial crisis. Summarised, they are a surcharge of 10 per cent. on the existing import duties on certain luxury and semi-essential goods; a temporary surcharge of 10 per cent. on the assessed income tax; doubling the betting tax; continuance of the recent increase of the price of sugar; reduction of the rice ration by a quarter measure in all groups; restriction of imports from non-sterling sources; strict control of non-urgent expenditure by about one hundred million rupees;

Polio in the United States

IT is polio season again. Everywhere health officials are worrying over reports by the Public Health Service that cases are running ahead of last year, which was bad enough. Actually it is too soon to tell how most of the U.S. will fare this year. But there is no doubt that Texas is in the grip of a severe epidemic. No fewer than 860 cases have been reported there since the beginning of the "disease year." In late March (compared with 280 a year ago). Houston, with the rest of Harris County, is especially hard hit.

It was in Houston therefore that the National Foundation for Infan-

and increase in guaranteed price of paddy from Rs. 9 per bushel to Rs. 12; of maize from Rs. 7 to Rs. 7-50; of kurakkan from Rs. 6-75 to Rs. 7; of sorghum from Rs. 7 to Rs. 8.

This list by no means exhausts the possible measures of increasing revenue. It is true Government cannot continue the subsidization when the revenue derived from the country's exports is declining. There are essential development works which must be financed and these could not be side-tracked, just because the subsidy on food should be maintained. The present proposals are based on a bold decision to adequately meet the situation. There must be other untapped sources of revenue. While it is proposed to double the betting tax, there is a corollary to it, the "bucket-shop business" which might be taxed with considerable profit to revenue.

This is a measure which is long overdue. The Police have pointed out the futility of sporadic raids which have by no means eradicated this "business." Keepers of these bucket-shops are known to pay income tax openly describing their source of income as "bucket-shop business"; though illegally obtained. Such a step as legalising the "bucket-shop business" should certainly bring about a substantial addition to revenue.

Another means of finding the money for the various schemes mooted by the Government, or to make up for the dwindling revenue as suggested by a Senator is a thorough overhaul of Government Departments and decentralization of some of them. There are departments which are over-staffed and top-heavy. One department in which the Senator had served for many years, is the Education Department which is "manned by one Director, two Deputy Directors, one Chief Inspector, five Assistant Directors, twelve Accountants and four Administrative Assistants" a truly formidable higher staff. The Senator's firm belief is that if the work of the department is decentralized a great saving could be effected.

This serves to show that further exploration is possible to find untapped sources of revenue in order to redress the balance of trade in the present situation and to tide over the crisis.

tile Paralysis decided to conduct its biggest test of an inoculation which may make polio milder if it strikes and saves the victim from permanent paralysis. There is no evidence that it can prevent polio. The material to be inoculated is gamma globulin, a blood fraction which contains antibodies against several diseases. Tried in Pavo, Utah, on a scale too small to be decisive it is to be given this week to half of 35,000 Houston youngsters aged one to six; the other half—the "control group"—will get innocuous gelatin.

Meanwhile, for parents who actually have to face the responsibility of handling an attack of polio there

(Continued on page 8)

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National Languages as Media of Instruction

English Schools 654; Sinhalese and Tamil 4,754

A VERY interesting and useful discussion and various points of view were expressed in Parliament with regard to our schools, the media of instruction and the training of teachers in Sinhalese and Tamil to man the rapidly increasing number of schools. It is a difficult thing to satisfy every quarter from which views are expressed. Nevertheless the Government is following a certain line of action and policy.

"The intention of Government is to make the national languages the official languages of the country," declared the Minister of Education, "and that policy is being pursued. A Commission has been appointed and they are investigating this possibility and as early as it is practicable steps will be taken in that direction."

"In the educational sphere the mother tongue has been accepted as the medium of instruction. There have been difficulties in implementing that decision at every stage of the education of a child and those difficulties have been faced up to. The policy that education in the primary standards should be in the mother tongue has been enforced and is being carried out. Today in all schools education is being imparted to students in the mother tongue, that is, in Sinhalese or Tamil, or in the case of certain children in English. In furtherance of that policy, the Director of Education, acting under certain regulations, notified the fact that from the year 1953 the medium of instruction up to Standard VI should be the mother tongue. There are 18 subjects in which the medium of instruction will be the mother tongue. In the case of those schools which do use English as the medium of instruction, the number is limited and very small compared to the total number of schools in the Island. There are 654 English schools as against 4,754 Sinhalese and Tamil schools.

PROGRESSIVE INTRODUCTION

Continuing, the Minister said that the mother tongue was being used in a large number of schools without any interruption. But a difficulty has arisen with regard to those schools the medium of instruction in which is English. "It is there that we are in a difficulty, and it is true that they have said that it is very difficult to shift from English to any other language. So that progressively in 1953 we will be using the national languages up to Standard VI; in 1954 it will be up to Standard VII and in 1955 up to Standard VIII. That is the present arrangement of the Government in regard to the use of the mother tongue."

While welcoming a definite declaration,

so to speak, as to the use of the national languages, it would help a great deal in shaping the educational policy as well as university education, he added. It was felt that once a child is educated in the medium of the mother tongue and he goes for higher education there should be every facility for imparting instruction through the medium of the national languages. So that, an early decision on that matter also from the university point of view would certainly be easing the position as far as the Education Department is concerned in using the medium of the mother tongue. The question was raised as to the efforts that were being made by the Government.

Are we training a sufficient number of teachers?

What is the position of the English language?

Is it going to be used parallel with the national languages?

Or is it going to be second language?

These were some of the questions asked.

English is being taught as a subject in the schools up to the Third Standard. In certain schools due to insufficiency of teachers and lack of textbooks—those were the reasons given—the English medium was used. Gradually these schools will switch over to the mother tongue and English will be continued as a second language.

As regards the training of teachers there has been a great step-up. English teachers were being trained not only to man English schools and take up subjects in English alone but also to change-over to the mother tongue.

ENGLISH AND MORE ENGLISH

"You go anywhere, to any part of the Island of Ceylon, you will find the parents today want English and more English for their children," declared the Member for Vavuniya, who pleaded that every parent in the wilds of Vanni, in Hambantota, in the North, everyone wants an English education for his child—for excellent reasons. They think world advancement in modern times is possible only if their children have a good knowledge of English language, that they cannot be doctors, engineers, lawyers, that they cannot take to the learned professions, excepting teaching, unless they have a very good knowledge of the English language. "Every child should be allowed or given the opportunity of studying English, English as a spoken language, as a living language which has virtually added to all modern scientific thought."

He added that in the North there is a very strong opinion "that we are poor people that we do not have tea, rubber or coconut estates, and today the Public Service is of the biggest interest to my friends in the North."

BIYAR JAYO.

Ceylon's Vulnerability to Communicable Diseases

IN spite of strict vigilance that is enforced by the Medical Department and restrictive measures imposed on arrivals from India, experience shows in what a vulnerable position Ceylon is from endemic centres in India," writes the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in his Administration Report for last year.

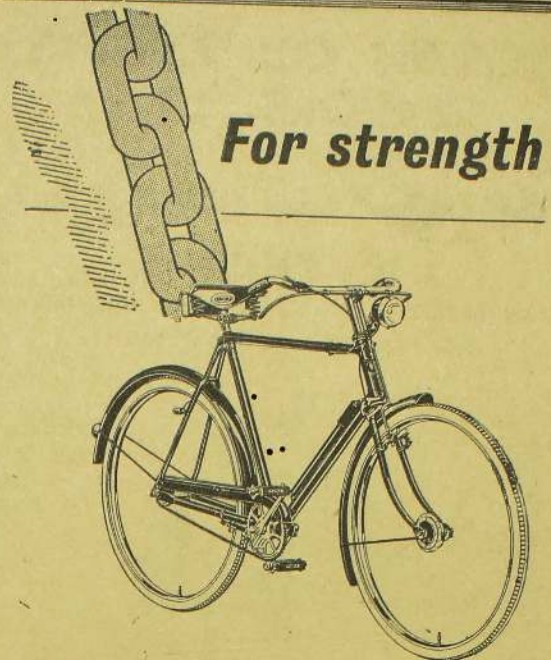
This country has been free of plague infection in man or rodents for the thirteenth consecutive year, the last case of human plague having occurred on May 29, 1938, and that of rat plague on August 23 of the same year. The regular importation of the greater portion of this country's requirements of rice and other merchandise from countries which are infested with endemic plagues makes it imperative that

anti-plague measures should be carried out without relaxation. No case of cholera occurred during the year. Small-pox occurred right throughout the year. There was a total of 344 cases and 48 deaths, the cases having been reported practically from every province except the North-Central and North-Western.

HOW CEYLON CAN BE INFECTED

The epidemiology of this incidence brought out the various methods by which Ceylon can be infected with small-pox from the neighbouring continent. The first known case occurred in Pungudutivu, an island off the coast of Jaffna, in the first week of February. In the Badulla

(Continued on page 10)



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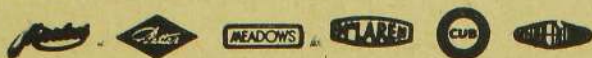
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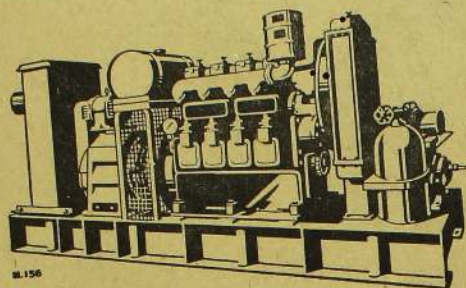
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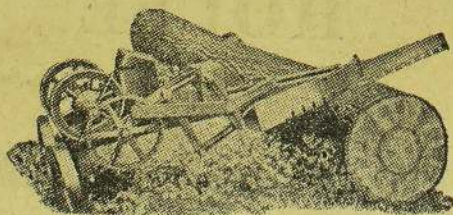
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DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVT. DEPARTMENTS

ONE of the means of finding money for the various schemes mooted by the Government suggested by Senator Mudaliyar A. B. Rajendra is a thorough overhaul of Government departments and decentralization of some of them.

Most of our departments, he says, are top-heavy. Most of them work in water-tight compartments. There is no space for the staff in some of them. These departments should be grouped together and each group should be investigated separately. For that purpose the services of some retired officers should be enlisted. Each group could be gone through in a month's time. All big departments should be decentralized.

The Senator mentioned the instance of the Education Department where he had served for several years. "It is manned by a Director, two Deputy Directors, one Chief Inspector, five Assistant Directors, twelve Accountants and four Administrative Assistants in addition to a galaxy of clerks and subordinate employees. Besides these there are thirteen Education Officers, 28 District Inspectors and 121 Inspectors.

DECENTRALIZATION SCHEME

"My firm belief is that if the work of the department is decentralized, a great saving could be effected," declared the Senator who outlined the following scheme:

"For purposes of the Education Department, the Island can be divided into three ranges, Northern, Central and Southern—to each of which certain Provinces should be assigned. They should be under the charge of Assistant Directors who would have under them Accountants and a certain number of clerks and other subordinate staff. The present provincial offices may be placed under the charge of District Inspectors. All education officers should be field officers visiting the various types of schools, instead of wasting their time and experience in sub-offices.

DELAYS IN CORRESPONDENCE

He notices a radical change in dealing with correspondence and the avoidable delays which are far too common and vexatious. In the old colonial days there was a rule that a letter received in a department should be submitted to a staff officer within three days and a reply sent by the fourth day. Now it takes at least three months before a letter is replied. He quotes an instance:

"In Valvettiturai, Jaffna, a meeting of the parents-teachers was held. The manager of the school where the meeting was held, drove away

the children of the so-called depressed class and refused to allow the meeting to be held in the school, although his permission had been obtained for the purpose. When the matter was brought to my notice I wrote to the Minister of Education on the 24th of March this year. A reply to that letter was received on the 28th of June, saying that the Director of Education had reported that there was no truth in the allegations made against the manager of this school, but the reply took three months.

THE TORTUOUS PROCESS

The Senator took up the matter with the Minister again relating the incident which occurred in the presence of hundreds of people present including the Education Officer, Northern Division. Probably the Minister who was too busy may have asked the Permanent Secretary for a report. He would have referred it to the Director who would have called for a report from the Education Officer who in turn must have forwarded the papers to the District Inspector. The last named must have referred it to the Circuit Inspector, who has to make his report on the incident. This process is long-winded and is responsible for the delay. That is the reason why he asked for a thorough overhaul of the departments and their decentralization.

SENEX

Polio in the United States

(Continued from page 6)

was some sound advice from Manhattan Pediatrician Philip M. Stimson. Until recently, wrote Dr. Stimson in the A.M.A. Journal, all the emphasis was on rushing every suspected case of polio to the hospital at once. Now that there are more facilities for diagnosing and treating polio, this is no longer necessary or even desirable.

In the first place, from 10 per cent. to 30 per cent. of suspected cases admitted to hospitals turn out not to have polio at all. And even in confirmed cases, says Dr. Stimson, home-care at first is often better because the patient is saved fatigue, excitement and excessive handling. These, in the early stages, can aggravate the disease. Since most patients are children, a mother's care is best, anyway, and there is a further advantage in having the regular family doctor remain in charge, though he may want to call in a specialist for help. Finally, home care of the milder, non-paralytic cases saves money and leaves hospital free for the more serious cases, which must be hospitalized.—(From "Time").

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SENATOR CHALLENGES LEFTISTS' STATEMENT

SENATOR Mudaliyar S. T. P. Rodrigo in his contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill in the Senate, challenged the statement made by members of the Opposition that there was no definite plan before the Government, that Government was groping in the dark and that the Six-Year Plan did not emanate or originate from anything that was definite.

"I say that there was a definite plan before our independent Government came into existence," asserted the Senator.

"Before the Donoughmore system of Government was brought to a close the then Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce were asked to draw up what were called post-war development proposals. The Ministers who were holding office then took a great deal of trouble over the whole thing and those responsible were enthusiastically looking forward to the improvements to come. I shall quote the following from the introduction to their report:—

"The new Parliament of Ceylon which will come into existence early next year under the scheme of Soulbury Reforms will have, to all intents and purposes, full

power to enable the Government of the day to assume the responsibilities which the execution of a comprehensive national plan of economic development must entail."

I can say that what is now being done is mainly based on the proposals that were advocated by the Ministers of the last Government. I can say that with authority because I was one of those who appeared before the Minister of Local Administration on behalf of fisheries and laid down certain requirements that were very necessary and urgent for the rehabilitation and reorganization of the fishery industry in Ceylon."

A MYTH EXPLODED

Referring to the suggestion made by a Senator who represents the Leftist group that "the only salvation of the poor man was to copy Russia," the Mudaliyar quoted from the Journal of Industry and Commerce wherein Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, a delegate to the Moscow Economic Conference, says that bread, butter, clothes, shoes, food cost in Russia astronomically high prices as compared with India.

Mr. Lalchand Hirachand is Director of the Premier Automobiles Ltd., and is a brother of Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Director of Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

OMEGA.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

IN the field of maternity and child welfare a special effort is being made by the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services, for the care of premature babies. Prematurity is said to be the chief cause of infant deaths. A mobile premature baby unit for the rapid transfer of premature babies for institutional care on the Chicago model which is expected shortly, and the return of two local Nursing Sisters who have been trained in

this specially in the United Kingdom will greatly facilitate this work.

The care of the mother and the child continues to occupy an important place among the activities of the Department. Availability of midwives has since helped to a great extent to intensify the domiciliary midwifery service which is intended to afford individual care and expert attention to the mother and child in all aspects, namely, ante-natal, natal, post-natal, infant and pre-school stages.

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Ceylon's Vulnerability to Communicable Diseases

(Continued from page 7)

district one case occurred, that of an estate labourer who, after he had been vaccinated at Mandapam, developed the disease on the estate setting up a focus of infection. In March, Mirigama saw a case of small-pox due to impersonation of a recent arrival from India who was under surveillance. The same month a steamer passenger from Calcutta was landed suffering from small-pox and was isolated at the I.D.H. At about the same time a focus of infection was set up in Watawala area by the arrival of an estate labourer from Villipuram, South India. The infection spread to Norton Bridge, Nawalapitiya, Agarawatte Estate and Gampola. Thence it spread to Tennakumbura and Ketakumbura. There were 122 cases and 14 deaths, the largest foci of infection in recent times. September saw the spread of small-pox to the outskirts of Colombo, at Peliyagoda Pattiya, Wanawahala, Mulleriyawa and Embaraluwa. All those were traced to Daulagala, infection having spread through lines of traffic (principally by lorry traffic).

INFECTION THROUGH ILLICIT IMMIGRANTS

Hardly had the outbreak in the environs of Colombo subsided when a case occurred at Chali in Trincomalee area. Investigations revealed that infection had been brought from Valvettiturai in the Vadamarachi Division of the Jaffna Peninsula, where a resident of Valvettiturai had illegally landed in Kariakal, India, and had returned after a month, also illegally, into the Island, while incubating the disease, and infected the residents of Valvettiturai and Chali who had attended a wedding in his residence. Communication between Valvettiturai

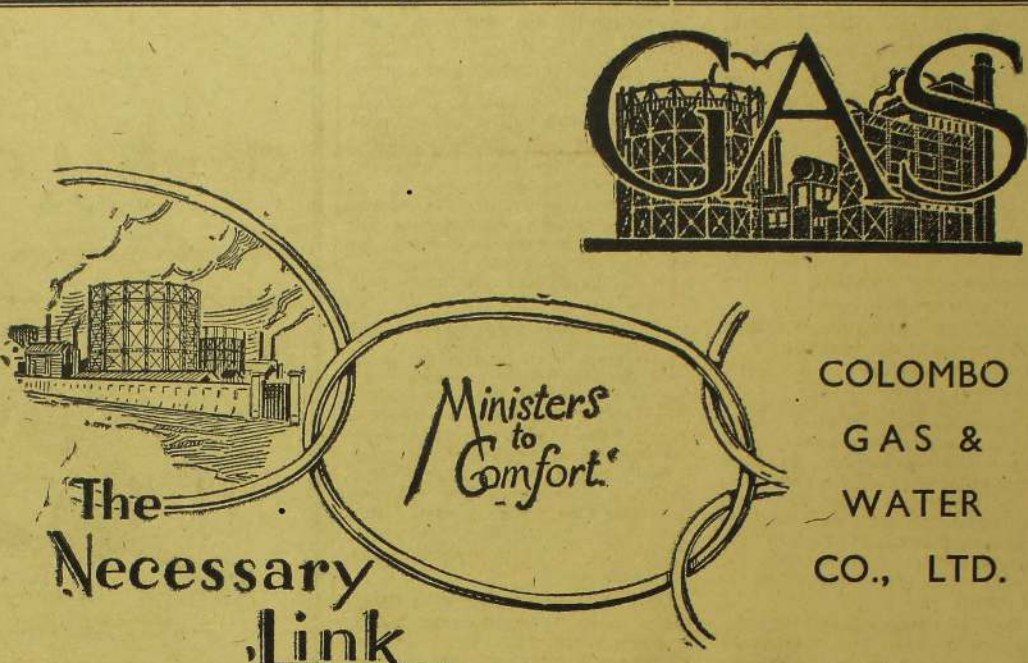
and India is common during the North-East Monsoon season owing to the favourable weather conditions, as the people in the area engage in contraband trade and this particular case is one who had visited India for the purpose. Here too the outbreak was introduced from India

owing to concealment of the original case and misdiagnosis of a subsequent case. There was a total of 84 cases and 11 deaths. The last case to occur in the Island was in December at Monerakande Estate in Koslanda area, where an illegal immigrant was detected suffering

from small-pox about 14 days after her illegal entry into Ceylon.

The above testifies that the statement of the D.M. and S.S. is well-founded and the vulnerability of Ceylon to infection from endemic centres in India.

BIYAR JAYO.



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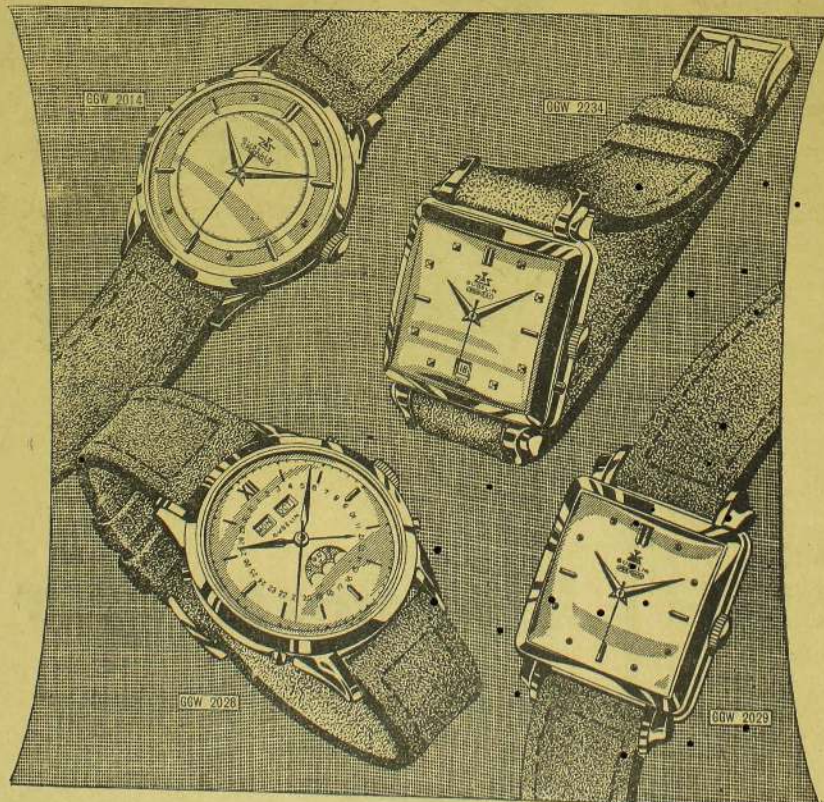
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"There is Only One System of Medicine in the World"

Says Senator Dr. N. Attygalle

"THERE is only one system of medicine in this world or there should be one—the modern system of medicine. Under that system—call it Ayurveda or Western medicine or whatever you like—must be taught modern medicine," said Senator (Dr.) N. Attygalle during the debate on the Appropriation Bill in the Senate.

Continuing, he declared: "Use what is good in Ayurveda and discard what is bad in the Western system of medicine. Let all the facilities available to practitioners of Western medicine be made available to those who treat patients under the indigenous system of medicine. I am not the only one who holds this view."

Dr. Attygalle next quoted the following from the Report of the World Bank Mission:—

"Although the indigenous system has rendered valuable service in giving medical relief to a large number of people both in the urban and rural areas, neither in India nor in Ceylon, has there been, broadly speaking, any careful controlled study to evaluate the principles on which the system is based....."

The following detailed suggestions as to training are made:—

- (1) The standard of admission should be the same as in the Medical College for modern medicine, namely, intermediate science with physics, chemistry, botany and zoology as compulsory subjects.
- (2) Teaching in anatomy, physiology and pathology should be improved.
- (3) Sufficient knowledge of minor surgery should be required to enable the practitioner to be in a position to call in a surgeon when necessary.

- (4) Teaching should be re-oriented to impart knowledge in up-to-date diagnosis and nomenclature of diseases.
- (5) Special training in bacteriology and in the causes, prevention and control of infectious diseases should be provided.
- (6) Adequate training in midwifery and maternity and child welfare work should be instituted.
- (7) Training should also be given in the technique of vaccination, inoculation and prevention of diseases.

The above are the recommendations made by Dr. Mehta, a person who is versed in Western medicine, so that this is not a problem that is engaging only the minds of the practitioners of indigenous medicine, it is also engaging the minds of Western medical practitioners, because it is necessary that there should be one unified system of medicine in this country.

GENESIS OF THE HEALING ART

Dr. Attygalle next detailed how medicine originated and spread to different parts of the world. "The art of healing existed in Egypt, India, China and Greece and in other countries and from there spread all over the world," he said, "and the system of medicine practised in ancient Greece attracted much notice and it was from that country that the art of healing spread. The modern system of medicine spread to India with the invasion by Alexander the Great, who brought out philosophy and medicine to the East, and it is that system, the Unani system, that is practised in India. Subsequently the Arabian and Byzantine powers disseminated medicine in the South—in Spain and other countries—and as they were great travellers, they established their systems of medicine and treatment practically all over the world."

ABSENCE OF INSTRUMENTS

Unfortunately after a time the Indian system of medicine was placed in the predicament of not having at its disposal the advantages of the instruments that were available to the West. In the West they got hold of an instrument called the microscope which was the product of a Dutchman—not Russian as a recent claim published. It was during that time when the theory called humoral pathology was being gradually superseded by the theories of microbiology and cellular pathology, that the Indians, the Chinese and others were unable to take advantage of instruments like the microscope as they were not available to them. As a result their systems of medicine remained static at that point.

PRACTICE IN INDIA HIGHER THAN IN ENGLAND

In the early eighties the practice of medicine and surgery in India, asserted Dr. Attygalle, was at a higher level than those practised in England at the time. There were two distinguished men, Susrutha and Charaka, the former a surgeon and the latter a great and eminent physician, but their systems remained static. The people in the West thought more of the cellular and microbic theories and gave an entirely different interpretation to medicine. They developed those theories and discarded the humoral theory. Whether that was good or not, has yet to be proved, because we have now reached a different era when allergy and immunity are coming into play in the medical world. So that whether all that was in the humoral theory was true or not, no one knows. We cannot say we have the last word in medicine today, because probably in another hundred years it might be held that we had proceeded on the correct lines but that we had not gone far enough, in spite of the many advantages we had."

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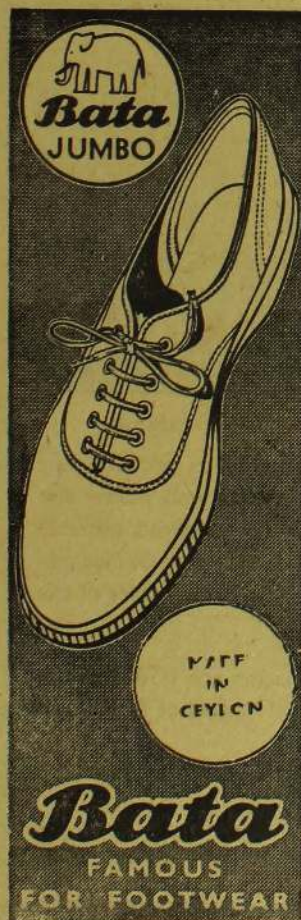
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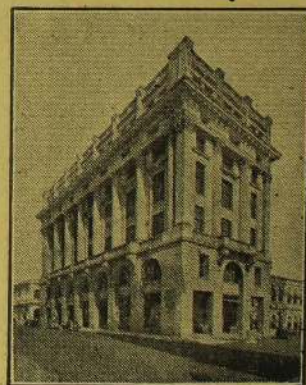
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