

CEYLON *Today*

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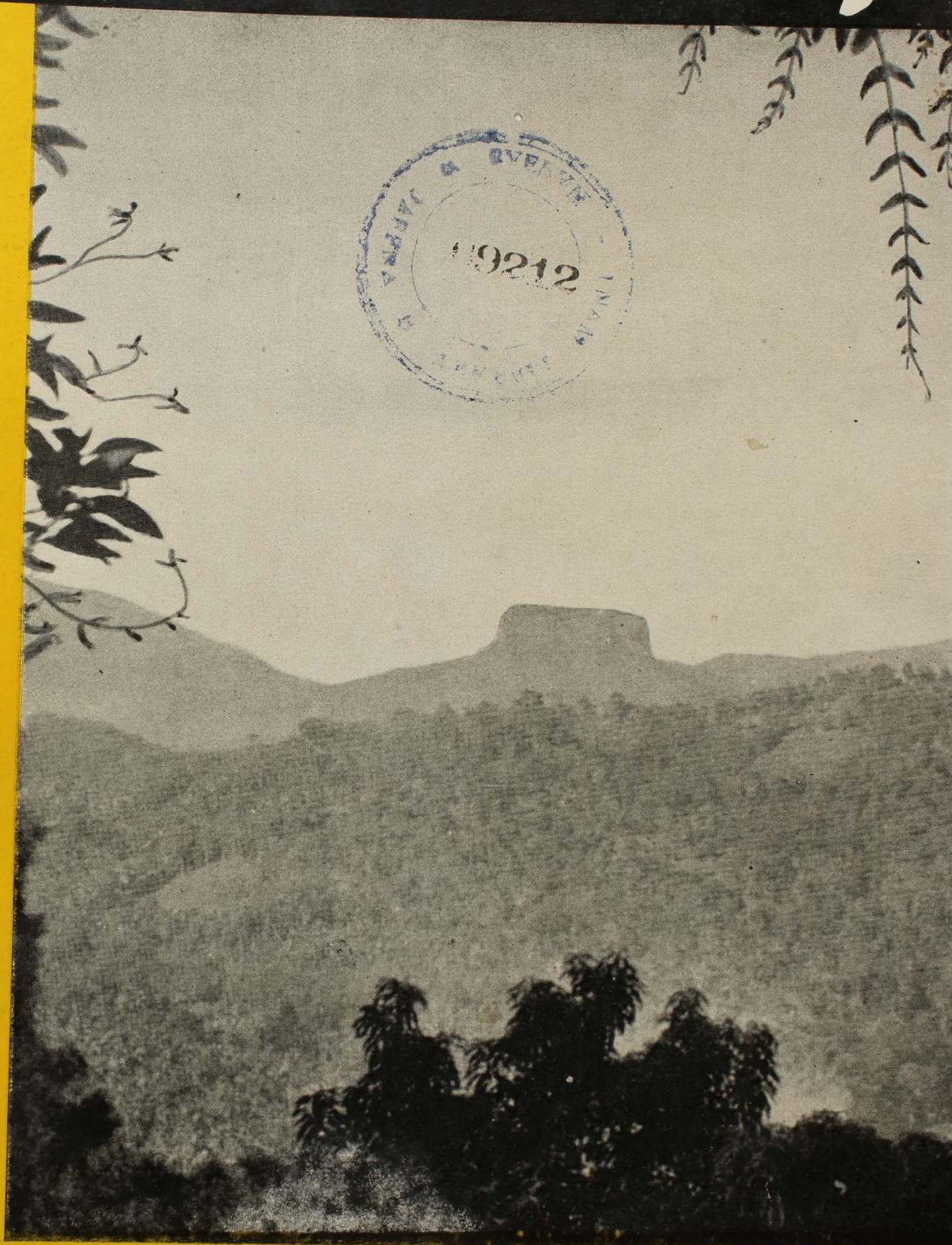
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LYN de FONSEKA

On the Road to Kandy



SEPTEMBER, 1955

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Ceylon in English Literature

R. SIRIWARDANA

I HAVE tried, in this article, to collect some of the more interesting references to Ceylon in imaginative literature in English, both prose and poetry. I do not claim that my investigations have been in any way exhaustive, but I shall be satisfied if I can introduce you to at least a few little known passages and works in which Ceylon has left its mark on English literature.

I believe it was Warden Stone of St. Thomas' who once playfully and ingeniously argued that the enchanted island of Shakespear's "Tempest" was Ceylon. A fascinating theory which unfortunately has little foundation in fact: it is almost certain that the material which went into the creation of Prospero's island came from the stories which seamen were bringing back from the New World. Yet it was during Shakespear's lifetime that the first Englishman reached Ceylon—Ralph Fitch, who found it "a brave island, very fruitful and fair". And Ceylon, of course, had been known of by hearsay in Europe for many centuries. It had figured on maps as early as Ptolemy, and it has been conjectured by historians that stories of its wealth helped in the making of the legend of Atlantis. Ceylon was for those Europeans who had heard of it a land of fable: it might well have

been one of those exotic places which Othello described to the wondering Desdemona in his traveller's tales:

"Of antres vast and deserts idle,
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills whose
heads touch heaven
It was my hint to speak . . . such was
the process;
And of the Cannibals that each other eat,
The Anthropophagi, and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders."

In "Paradise Regained"

THAT Englishmen of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries would have thought of Ceylon as a land romantically remote and legendary is confirmed by the first definite reference to Ceylon in any English literary work of consequence which I know of. It occurs in Milton's "Paradise Regained", in the passage where Satan is attempting to tempt Christ with the prospect of earthly power. He speaks of the empire of Rome

where embassies come from the most far-flung lands :—

“ For the Asian kings (and Parthian among these)
From India and the Golden Chersoness ;
And utmost Indian isle Taprobane,
Dusk faces with white silken turbans
wreathed. ”

“ And utmost Indian isle Taprobane ”. . . the line has a sonorous ring which, no less than the picture of the dusky faces and the silken turbans, calls up the atmosphere of what Milton elsewhere called “ the georgeous East ”. If we now travel across two and a half centuries and turn to another great English poet, we find that Ceylon still remains an exotic world of the poetic imagination. I am thinking of Keats' poem, “ Isabella ”. Keats is building up a picture of the fantastic wealth of the two Florentine merchants who were Isabella's brothers. With a vision that is almost Marxian, he describes how men the world over toil so that they may enlarge their pile, and to suggest how far the power of their money extends, he gives us these lines :—

“ For them the Ceylon diver held his breath,
And went all naked to the hungry shark ;
For them his ears gushed blood ”.

If I might be allowed to digress from my immediate subject for a moment, the mention of pearl divers reminds me that there is an opera of Bizet entitled “ Les Pecheurs de Perles ” or “ The Pearl Fishers ”, whose setting is Ceylon during what is ingenuously described as “ barbaric times ”. Its story deals with the love of Zurga, chief of the pearl fishers, and of his friend Nadir for the beautiful priestess Leila. The opera has been said to contain plenty of “ local colour ” in the form of choruses and dances with an oriental flavour, but Nietzsche damned it by saying that it was “ reminiscent of the worst kind of Wagnerian sentimentality ”. I have not myself heard this intriguing work, but anyone who wishes to listen

to it can conveniently do so on the gramophone, since a complete recording of it was brought out recently.

The fantasy of Ceylon as a romantic wonderland survives in a debased form in the pot-boiler English novels of to-day with a Ceylon setting which come out from time to time. Indeed, in these novels, Ceylon is very close to the celluloid Eden of Hollywood's South Sea Islands. I quote from the novel “ Idiot's Vision ” by Mr. Harry Williams, author of “ Ceylon, Pearl of the East ”.

“ Physical passion was part of the breath of life to these simple, elemental people. Men were made so that they needed women to complete them ; a fact so calmly obvious, rounded and absolute that Michael doubted whether anyone, man or woman, could be found in the length and breadth of the island of Ceylon to look upon the seduction of woman by man as morally wrong. Socially wrong was very much another story, but regarded solely as a biological act it was not merely right, it was a duty. ”

Mr. Harry Williams, curiously enough, spent no less than fifteen years in Ceylon as a tea-planter, and found, in his own words, “ that by far the most thrilling occupation for leisure-time was study of the local people ”.

James Joyce's “ Ulysses ”

IN one of the great English novels of the twentieth century, there is a passage which purposefully exploits the popular notions about Ceylon current in the West. I refer to James Joyce's “ Ulysses ”. “ Ulysses ”, as you are probably aware, is built on a point-by-point parallel with the “ Odyssey ”. In the episode which corresponds to that of the Lotus-eaters in Homer's epic, Joyce's hero, the advertisement canvasser Leopold Bloom, is standing before the window of the Belfast and Oriental Tea Company in Dublin, reading the legends on the packets of tea. In his characteristic

staccato style Joyce suggests the disjointed thoughts of his character :—

“ His right hand once more slowly went over again : choice blend, made of the finest Ceylon brands. The far east. Lovely spot it must be : the garden of the world, big lazy leaves to float about on, cactuses, flowery meads, snaky lianas they call them. Wonder is it like that. These Cinghalese lobbing around in the sun, in dolce far niente. Not doing a hand's turn all day. Sleep six months out of twelve. Too hot to quarrel. Influence of the climate. Lethargy. Flowers of idleness. The air feeds most ”.

The notion of Ceylon as a land of lotus-eaters has been confirmed by many outraged efficiency-experts and go-getting Westerners who have visited us. It is interesting to note that one of the most percipient observers of the Sinhalese character—Robert Knox—also described the “ Chingulays ” as “ delighting in sloth, deferring labour till urgent necessity constrains them ”. It is perhaps more surprising that he seems even to bear out Leopold Bloom's notion that in Ceylon it is “ too hot to quarrel ”. Knox says of the Sinhalese that “ they are not very malicious towards one another ; and their anger does not last long ; seldom or never any bloodshed among them in their quarrels ”. Even if this was true of the Kandyans of the seventeenth century, it is doubtful whether Mr. Bloom could find any backing in the present-day crime statistics of the Island.

Edward Lear

SO much for Ceylon as land of fable, exotic Eden and lotus-eaters' paradise. There was a distinguished English writer who visited Ceylon in the seventies of the last century whom one might have expected to create out of his visit, fantasy of a different sort. This was Edward Lear, nonsense poet, limerick writer and landscape painter. It was his painting that brought Lear to Ceylon as part of an immense undertaking to

execute a series of Indian landscapes. Unfortunately, Lear came to Ceylon towards the end of his Indian tour, when he was already tired out by the interminable travelling and the hard work he had already done. This increased his natural irritability and ill-temper, and he conceived an antipathy to Ceylon from the outset. He found much of the scenery impressive, but the people were another matter. Whether that was what the good Bishop meant or not, Lear would certainly have agreed that in Ceylon, “ every prospect pleases, and only man is vile ”. “ The brown people of this island ”, he wrote, “ are odiously inquisitive and bothery-idiotic ”. And his final verdict on Ceylon was that it was “ a bore of the first quality—and as disgusting a place—at least in the phase I see of it—as I have known in any part of my travels ”. Apart from these generally unfavourable remarks in his travel-diary and some sketches, Lear left no record of his visit. Ceylon did not stimulate his fantastic muse as India did with “ The Akond of Swat ” and that charming poem beginning :—

“ She sate upon her Dobie
To watch the evening star ”.

I should like to think that if Lear had been in a more agreeable mood when he visited the Island he might have immortalised the Ceylon Dhoby as well. Certainly an extract from a letter he wrote while in India to the Viceroy will strike a responsive chord in many of us. “ Does your Excellency know ”, he asked Lord Northbrook, “ that in various places in your empire the Dhobies fill shirts, drawers, socks, etc., with stones and then tying up the necks, bang them furiously on rocks at the water's edge until they are supposed to be washed ? Surely, no country can prosper where such irregularities prevail ”.

Bernard Shaw

ANY discussion of Ceylon in English Literature would be incomplete without some mention of Bernard Shaw. His “ Simpleton of the Unexpected Isles ” is believed to have a setting

inspired by Ceylon, while in the play "On the Rocks" there is a Cingalese gentleman with the most un-Sinhalese name of "Sir Jafna Pandranath", who makes however a characteristically national utterance on the well-known theme of "when your ancestors were painted savages, we had a great civilization", etc.

I should like to conclude this talk with a brief reference to what I think are the three most substantial contributions of Ceylon as material to English literature. They are Knox's book, Leonard Wolf's "The Village in the Jungle" and D. H. Lawrence's poem "Elephant".

The excellence of Knox's "Historical Relation" as a historical document and a study of Ceylon life is well-known, and I need not remark any further on this aspect of it here. But it deserves a permanent place in English literature for two reasons. One is that it is a minor prose classic in the same tradition which produced Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress", the work of a middle-class seventeenth century Englishman, who had no academic learning but who was steeped in the Bible and who wrote with a natural ease and vigour which make his book a literary achievement even though he may have been unconscious of the fact.

The other reason is that Knox's work almost certainly played a part in the making of a great English novel, Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe". That Defoe knew the "Historical Relation" is certain; he made a summary of it in his own "Captain Singleton". It has even been conjectured, though on flimsier evidence, that Defoe knew Knox personally. But there are enough parallels between the story of Knox the captive and that of Defoe's castaway to make it probable that Defoe drew on Knox in creating "Robinson

Crusoe". There are several details in both books which are comparable—notably, the incident of the unexpected finding in one case and purchase in the other of a Bible which becomes for the lonely exile a source of spiritual sustenance. But more than any single incident, what gives plausibility to the theory that Knox influenced Defoe is the central situation in both works of a man in an alien environment, sustaining himself by his strength of character, his resourcefulness, commonsense and faith.

I do not think it necessary to spend a great deal of time in drawing attention to the literary excellence of Leonard Wolf's well-known novel, "The Village in the Jungle". It is far and away the finest piece of imaginative writing on Ceylon, and it has always surprised me that it is not better known in England as a novel purely on its literary merits. Perhaps the achievement of Virginia Woolf as a novelist has helped to overshadow that of her husband.

The last work I wish to mention is D. H. Lawrence's poem on the Kandy Perahera entitled "Elephant". Lawrence visited Ceylon in the nineteen-twenties, and wrote, apart from this poem, a number of very provocative letters containing some references to Buddhism which I fear would be not unlikely to bring down on them the axe of the Principal Collector of Customs under our new censorship law if he ever got round to reading them. The poem on the Perahera is memorable for its wonderfully vivid description and rhythmic life through which it evokes the sights and sounds of the procession. It is a pity that while the tin-trumpet verse of the Rev. Senior is often inflicted on school children, Lawrence's "Elephant", undoubtedly the best poem written on a Ceylon subject, is not better known.



The Ves in the Kohomba Kankaria

The Kandyan Dance

M. D. RAGHAVAN

EVERY country has its distinctive dances. Some of these so truly reflect the traditions of the people, and are so typical of the land, that they rank as National Dances. The Scots have the Highland Fling, a vigorous dance going back to the days of the Kelts. South India has the Bharata Natya. Malabar has the Kathakali. Ceylon has the Kandyan Dance,—so called from its genesis and

development in its home land, the Kandyan Provinces of the Sinhalese Kingdom. As an art, it has witnessed such remarkable development in the past few decades that today it ranks as the National Dance of Ceylon.

The traditional custodians of the art are the Beravaya, a very numerous group of most of Ceylon. A community of dancers, drummers,



Students learning the first steps

Kandyan dance traditions drawing its main inspiration from the dance in the cult of the Gods with the dancers donning the full ceremonial regalia of the mythical King of Malaya Desa, "*Suseta Abharana*" the full costume of the Ves dancer today—Back to the Vedas is the trend of thought in a classical approach to the study of the Ves—An alignment with Vedic traditions has indeed been claimed for the Ves, the sacrificial dances in propitiation of the Vedic Gods blending with the indigenous elements, evolving in the course of ages in the Kandyan Ves dance—This line of thought, disposes the student of the subject to see in the Ves, a reflection of the highest expression of the Tandava dance, reaching its peak in the Kohomba Kankaria—the highly theatrical ceremonial worship of the Gods.

The term "Ves" indeed is redolent of the idea of *Vesham*, in the sense of the costume, the Kandyan dancer in his colourful costume and profusely ornamented, being a figure most resplendent

to behold. Technically called the *Suseta Abharana* or the sixty four ornaments, an inventory of these is hard to take, though most of these can be enumerated—over thirty—on the person of the dancer. Among the most striking, is the *Avul hera*, the gleaming colourful beadwork covering the chest. This and the rest—the *Ura Bahu*, the shoulder plates; the *Todu Pat*, the ear bands; the *Bandhi Valalu*, the six armlets on each hand; *At Hade*, the wrist ornament; The *Banda Patiya*, the waist belt, with the *Ina-hede*, the flashing adornment suspended from the belt; the *Silambu* or anklets; the frilled white garment, and the underpants, the *Kalisama*—, are all details common to all the varieties of the Kandyan Dance.

The Head Gear

THE distinguishing feature of the Ves dancer is his head gear—a composite structure of inter-related parts—the semi-circular *Sikha bandanaya*,



Palm Avenue, Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya

the silvery crown with its array of bo-leaf pendants ; the *Nalal Hede* or *Netti Malaya*, the bow shaped forehead plate ; the *payim-potha*, the seven silvery spokes rising rays like overtopping the crown, the stylised *Jatava* of carved wood, immediately behind, and the *gatapatiya*, the long ribbon trailing down from the top of the *Jatava*—these combine to perfect a regalia at once ostentatious and attractive.

Conspicuous in peraheras, as in State processions and social ceremonials, the Ves today has both the religious and social values, harmoniously blended.

Steps and strides of a subdued character employing both the "close" and the "extended" movements are featured in the *Naiyadi*. A very graceful and showy dance, with elegance and charm of movement, it may easily have been one of the court dances danced by the danseuse whose art the poets of the Sandasa Kavyas have sung.

The Udekki

THE next to claim our attention is the *Udekki*, the dance form named after the hour-glass shaped

drum of the same name, to the accompaniment of which the players sing and dance. A drum essentially ritualistic, its association with this particular type of dance, is highly suggestive of its ritual origins in the cult of the Gods. Held by the narrow waist, and played by the hand, the metallic sound fills the air with its weird resonance. A diminutive form of the *Udekki*, is the *Damaruka*, the instrument held in the hand of Siva when the God danced the cosmic Nataraja dance.

The fourth type is the *Pantheru*, named after the jingling Pantheruwa held in the hands of the dancers. Played to the accompaniment of the drum, a group of players in serried ranks holding the *Chakra* shaped instrument, with many a flourish and turns and twirls alternating from hand to hand, is a sight at once stimulating and joyous. With a good deal of the character of a martial band, the dance may very possibly have found a place in the fighting forces of the land, animating the combatants on their march to battle.

I am glad to acknowledge the help I have received from Mr. J. E. Sederaman in my study of the Kandyan Dance, a short resume of which is here presented. The photographs of the component parts of the dancer's regalia are of the collections at the Kandy National Museum, reproduced here with acknowledgments to the Director, National Museums, Ceylon.

A group of young Udekki dancers





His Excellency welcoming the delegates at the opening ceremony

Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance of Women

ESME RANKINE

CEYLON has again been the venue for a first-time West-come-East gathering when 105 delegates, representing 35 countries, met together at the Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance of Women, held at St. Bridget's Convent in Colombo, in the last two weeks of August this year. Except for one Congress in the United States this is the first time in the fifty years of the Alliance's history that its triennial Conference has moved out of Europe. Ceylon is proud that she has been given the opportunity to play first Asian hostess.

A reception to meet the delegates was the first formal occasion, given by the All-Ceylon

Women's Congress. The following afternoon the Congress was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, in a graceful ceremony conducted in the traditional pattern, with Kandyan dancers, *magul bera*, and the symbolical oil lamps, in the lighting of which all the distinguished guests took part.

In his opening address His Excellency commented on the social service work done in Ceylon among the rural women, which, he said, was our prime concern for the moment. He wished to make the point that there was still much room in this field for more voluntary workers. He spoke of

the great power for influence that was woman's special gift, which in his opinion, contained a potential, women themselves did not fully realise. Speeches of welcome were made by Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, President of the All-Ceylon Women's Congress, Dr. N. M. Perera, the Mayor of Colombo and Miss Ester Graff, President of the IAW, followed by a roll-call of delegates, and greetings from the United Nations in the person of the Director of the UN Information Centre for India, Burma, and Ceylon, and Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, each representing a "Region" of the Alliance. Ceylon's acknowledgment of these courtesies was made with a garland. The colourful opening ceremony then came to a close. The business of the Conference began with the sessions that opened the following morning.

Conference Highlights

THE pattern the Conference followed was: sessions in the mornings, group discussions in the afternoons followed by leaders' reports, and evenings given to social entertainments where the delegates could meet and be met and exchange their views and impressions. The highlights of the social occasions were the IAW Birthday Party given by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Honorary President of the IAW, the Governor-General's Party at Queen's House, and the Prime Minister's Party at Kandawela. On the final night there was a Congress Dinner held at the Galle Face Hotel. There were also excursions of varying length arranged by Ceylon Tours for the visiting delegates.

The Conference got off to a gingery start with Professor T. L. Green of the Ceylon University

His Excellency being conducted in procession to the venue of the conference





The delegate from Africa receives a garland

making some acute observations as to the "typical but not representative" gathering of ladies before him, and his hope that enthusiasm would not cloud the very real moral issues that were the avowed purpose of the Conference. The subject under discussion in this first session was the Secondary Education of Girls, and Professor Green went on to outline the position as he saw it in Ceylon. "Political freedom does not mean cultural freedom", he warned, and in Ceylon the conflict of these two aspects was retarding and vitiating rather than assisting the development of her youth. "Education is the only agent that can change society. If you want your girls to grow up to become balanced, poised, interesting characters you must choose their teachers."

He raised the question of evaluation. "What are the measures of success? If education is a

preparation for learning new future attitudes and values we must begin by looking into the future . . . the opportunity to do something the West has failed to do."

In the discussion that followed UNESCO raised the point that a girl who has had spent on her education her parents' or her country's money should fulfil that obligation. While he did not wish to minimize the creative aspects of educated women in the role of family life there was also the consideration of the economic and emotional waste involved when she married. "Where there is limited possibility in the economy of a country, is it fair," he posed the question, "to take these opportunities from those who would more fully fulfil them?"

The Chief Inspector, Education Department, Mr. S. F. de Silva, having read a discursive and highly

statistical paper dealing with Technical and Vocational Training in Ceylon, was brought back to earth by Journalist Ann King-Hall from Great Britain when she wanted to know what machinery there was in Ceylon for relating supply and demand.

The deceptiveness of the statistical approach was again brought out in the report of the Commissioner of Labour relating to the figures of employment of females in Ceylon and the minimum wage-fixing machinery operating in Ceylon.

Flag Waving

THE sessions as a whole were academic and statistical rather than constructive, in contrast to the South-East Asian Regional Conference which was

held here last year and, although much smaller in compass, appeared to have more common meeting ground and, in general, a more objective approach. There was an element of flag-waving in the debates—especially so in the presentation of the discussion on Equal Moral Rights and the Repression of Traffic in Human Beings—that seemed out of key with the intention of the Conference. Perhaps the Commissioner of Labour for Ceylon himself felt the need to soft-pedal the enthusiasm of the ladies when he said, in the course of the discussion on the employment of women: "While you should have complete equality of opportunity and all women should have complete freedom to do all things at all times in all places I venture to suggest that in the exercise of these rights you also exercise caution and judgment".

Mrs. Deraniyagala and Miss Ester Graff with guests at the inauguration party





Some of the guests at the inauguration party given to the delegates by the All-Ceylon Women's Association

Of the positive contributions to the Conference Nina Spiller, Editor of the International Women's News, offered some pertinent suggestions on practical political education, with emphasis on the importance to women of intelligent civic consciousness. Two interesting papers were read on the Peaceful Development of Nuclear Energy, by Mrs. John Sprague Bauman and Professor A. W. Mailvanagam, which called forth a pregnant remark from the chair, occupied by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who foresaw its power for "reducing the disparity between the resources of nations". Part-Time Work and the Employment of Older Women provoked some lively discussion which was more amusing than purposeful.

The occasion was important in that it provided meeting ground for a gathering where both East and West were so fully represented and whose

common purpose over-rode barriers of language, custom, and ideology, although the fundamental disparities between Eastern and Western planes of thinking were perhaps never more clearly emphasized. As the Conference progressed it became increasingly evident that the basic problems of people are the same all the world over, and the solutions of these problems lay in the humanities more than in the sciences. The West had attempted the technological approach and was caught in the vortex of its own advancement. Were we in the East to follow suit? "Accept the reality which is history". It was not technical aids but the moral ill-health of the world that needed attention.

These attitudes were clearly assessed in the expositions made by the two Indian speakers and the Pakistani delegates, in their recognition of the

emotional and spiritual values underlying the problems of the world today. A sincere and wise assessment of the moral responsibilities involved in the demands for equal rights for women was made by Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, President of the All-India Women's Congress and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, India, when she discussed the importance and practical use of women's political rights and the need for political education. "The importance of the right to elect and get elected to public affairs rests on its purpose. If politics is the science of government, it is necessary that it should be known and used by those who are potential administrators. When we agitate for equal rights let us not forget these things. The acquisition of a right is not half so difficult as keeping it". Analysing the electoral behaviour of women she said they "carried moral issues to the ballot box". Their attitudes were characterized not by deep thinking of minute details but by insight.

Spiritual Value

PROFESSOR MUKERJI, Chairman of the Department of Economics, Muslim University, Aligarh, also raised the importance of spiritual values in combating the social effects of industrialization on the structure of family life and the position of women in the family. He explained the "extended family" system as the unit of Indian life, that was breaking down under the impact of industrialization. The increase of population was driving the peasant out of the land and the pace of industrialization was not fast enough to absorb him. The special features of India were (a) civic, political, and economic rights were obtained, even if theoretically, without a special struggle; (b) protective economic legislation for women and children in organized factories came earlier in India than in other under-developed areas—as early as 1881; (c) social reform, centred in improving the status of women, came even earlier, more than a century ago; and (d) the entire history of economic and

social progress is reflected in the Indian scene, in the co-existence of the various levels of development. The best evidence, which is not a statistical one, is the common experience that in a conflict of loyalties it is still the family that wins.

One's mind goes back to those pioneer days in Ceylon, beginning fifty years ago, and the small and gallant band of dedicated women whose names have now been forgotten who met at the invitation of that turbulent spirit, Dr. Mary Rutnam, than whom no single woman has done more for Ceylon, "to discuss the possibilities of organising themselves for the study of problems relating to homecraft, mothercraft, and citizenship"; out of which the Ceylon Women's Union was born, the first private body of women in Ceylon to undertake organised social and public health service, the initial seed that has since borne fruit of so many shapes. In 1931, after adult universal franchise had been granted, the name of the association was changed to the Women's Political Union, later sub-divided by the Women's Franchise Union, from which rose the All-Ceylon Women's Conference inaugurated in 1934.

Today in Ceylon there are $3\frac{1}{2}$ million voters of whom 1,650,000 are women. There are two women elected to the House of Representatives and three women Senators in the Upper House. It is interesting to note that two of them, Lady Molamure and Miss Cissie Cooray, are names associated with the earliest days of the women's movement in Ceylon. In the Colombo Social Service League inaugurated in 1914 by Sir James Peiris and Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalem there was a special women's section with which from its inception Miss Cooray's name has been associated; Lady Molamure was one of the two first women members to be elected to the State Council. But Dr. Mary Rutnam holds the distinction of being the first of them all, when she was elected to the Municipal Council when for the first time in Ceylon women were permitted to contest a seat.



Dental Nurses attending a theory class

The Dental School, Maharagama

KEEPING the nation's youth dentally fit is a very important task and in Ceylon young women of suitable scholastic attainments and good physique are now being trained for the purpose, with aid from the New Zealand Government.

The origin of the project in Ceylon goes back to 1947 when Dr. W. G. Wickremasinghe, then Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, visited New Zealand. Incidentally, New Zealand pioneered the School Dental Nurse system and began as far back as 1921 to train girls to do dental work among schoolchildren.

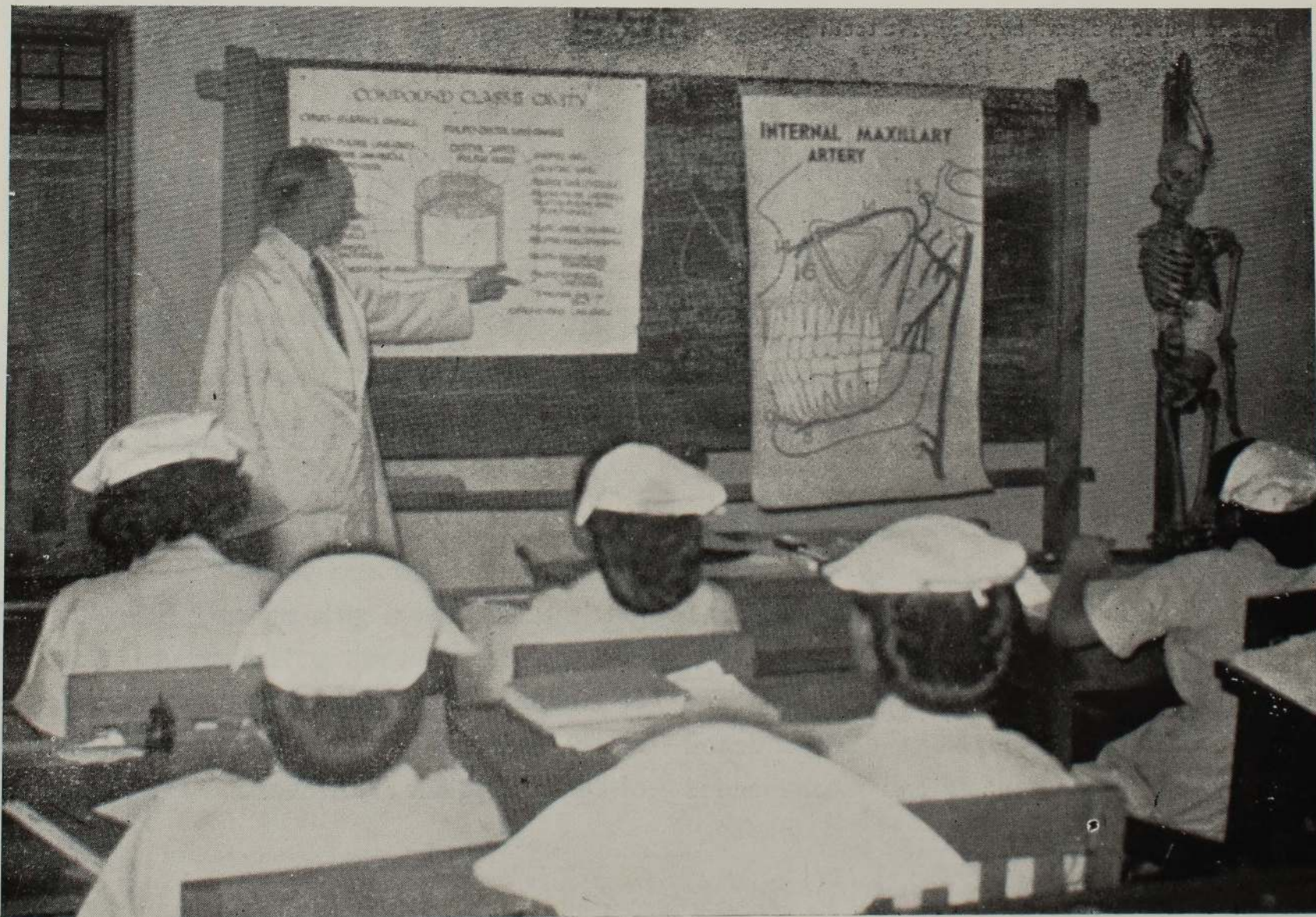
Dr. Wickremasinghe saw something of this service in action and conceived the idea of a similar system in Ceylon. Negotiations began under the Colombo Plan and New Zealand eventually agreed to accept six Ceylon girls for training along with her own.

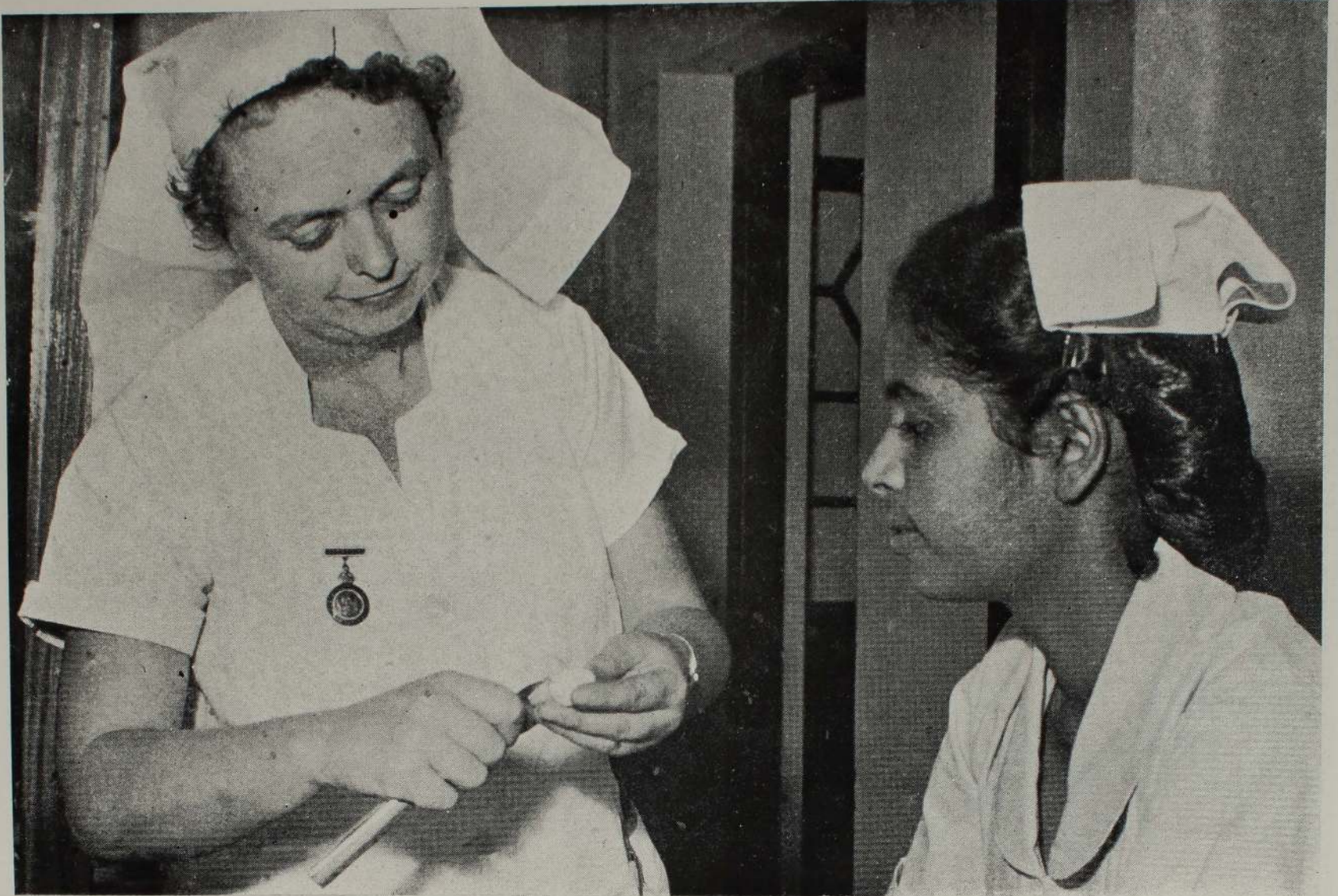
The Ceylon girls commenced training in March 1951 and returned to the Island in July 1953 at the completion of their course. Meanwhile, six more girls had left for New Zealand in September 1952, and they returned at the end of last year.



Trainee-nurses with models of teeth they have made in a practical class

Dental Nurses being taught with the aid of charts





A Trainee Nurse is shown how to carve teeth

The first batch, when they came back, were posted to six dental clinics which had been established in six schools in Colombo. The clinics had all been equipped by New Zealand. The second batch started work in January: an extra clinic was opened and two dental nurses were posted to each clinic where formerly there had been one.

In September 1953, the New Zealand Government sent Mr. J. L. Saunders, Director of the Division of Dental Hygiene in the New Zealand Department of Health, to Ceylon, to report on the dental services in the Island. Mr. Saunders saw the need for developing further the school dental health system in the country and recommended

the establishment of a Training School in Ceylon with Colombo Plan aid.

Dental Surveys

THIS recommendation was accepted by the New Zealand Government which was also prepared to arrange for a senior officer to direct and coordinate the dental services in Ceylon. And so it is that 15 Ceylon girls are now being trained in school dental health at Maharagama, a suburb of Colombo. The Principal of the School is Mr. F. B. Rice, Assistant Director of the Division of Dental Hygiene, New Zealand Department of



Dental Nurses, off duty, enjoying a game of carom

Health, and he is assisted by two dental tutor sisters, Miss B. V. Webber and Miss K. M. Salter, both from New Zealand. The technical equipment for the school has come from New Zealand which is building a training school and hostel at Maharagama.

The 15 girls, who commenced training in March this year, are now residing in temporary quarters at Maharagama. The sketch plans for the new

buildings have been approved and it is expected that they will be ready by March next year.

From then on, the Training School will be able to take in at least 25 trainees each year. As the duration of the course is two years, it can be said that, from 1958, there will be 25 nurses graduating from the school, who will be available for appointment to the dental clinics throughout Ceylon.



A general view of the statue with the remains of an ancient shrine after conservation

The Rock-cut Image at Avukana

Dr. S. PARANAVITANA

THE Archaeological Department recently completed one of the heaviest and most difficult works which it has ever undertaken, namely, the restoration of the stone masonry enclosing the colossal rock-cut image at Avukana.

In the course of the final operation in this undertaking, the officer engaged in the work made

a remarkable discovery. Placed in front of the feet of the statue is a semi-circular lotus pedestal, 15 ft. 3 in. in diameter and 3 ft. 10 in. in height, which is not a part of the rock on the face of which the image is carved. This immense mass of granite had sunk and in raising it to its original level it had to be shifted forward, revealing that the

rock below the feet of the image curves inwards. Within the cavity thus formed, a small enclosure, measuring 1 ft. 8 in. by 1 ft. 9½ in. had been fashioned by placing a stone slab at a level about a foot below that of the shrine, two more slabs on the northern and southern sides and a number of small pieces of stone at the back, i.e., the western side. Within the enclosure had been placed five bronze images of gods.

The image in the centre of the enclosure, 10¾ in. in height with the pedestal, is iconographically unique. The deity represented, by the fact of his having four faces, is proclaimed to be Brahma (the Creator). He has four arms. Of the pair of right hands, one holds the rosary and the other a long *danda* (club). Of the other pair of hands, one holds an object which can be identified as a sacrificial ladle (*sruva*). In all these characteristics, our image agrees with other images of Brahma found in India. One of the hands on the left holds a quoit (*valaya*), which has not been found connected with images of Brahma. The deity stands on a tortoise with six heads around. The tortoise is well-known as an avatar of Vishnu, but in early texts, Prajapati, the Creator, is said to have assumed the form of a tortoise in order to create offspring.

Four Images

ON each side of the enclosure was placed an image of smaller stature. These four images are identified as of the four protectors of the World by means of the weapons held in their hands.

We have Indra, the god of rain and guardian of the East, holding the thunderbolt; Kuvera, the wealth-giver and guardian of the north, brandishing the mace; Yama the Lord of justice and protector of the South, bearing the club; and Varuna the Lord of Waters and guardian of the West, holding the noose. The immense pedestal when placed in position blocked the chamber very effectively, hiding from view the images of gods deposited therein.

The meaning of those who installed the gods in that position is clear enough. The insignificant enclosure six feet below the feet of the Buddha the centre of which is dominated by the Creator god and of which the sides are occupied by the protectors of the quarters, represents the Universe, and the colossal rock-hewn Buddha towering majestically above it is thus indicated to be transcending the World (Lokottara). The humble position given to the gods and their diminutive size when compared to the stature of the Buddha image, leave us in no doubt that the Avukana image has been consecrated to represent Buddha as god surpassing gods (Devatideva).

The images are of considerable artistic merit; stylistically they may be ascribed to about the fifth century, the corollary being that the Avukana image and the neighbouring Kalavava were created about the same time. With the consent of the Ven. Udurove Dhammadinna, the Abbot of the Avukana Vihara, the images have been brought to Colombo. In addition to the images, the enclosure also had a small gold object deposited in it.



Ceylon's new High Commissioner in Australia, Mr. P. R. Gunasekera, took up his duties in Canberra on August 16, in succession to Mr. J. Aubrey Martensz. Mr. Gunasekera is seen here with the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. R. J. Menzies

Foreign Affairs

Governor-General Opens Golden Jubilee Congress of International Alliance of Women

THE Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, opened, on August 18, the Golden Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance of Women at St. Bridget's Convent in Colombo.

In the course of his address, His Excellency said: "I am always conscious of the very great

work that the women of Ceylon are doing, particularly since we gained our freedom".

His Excellency said that the objectives of the International Alliance of Women as indicated were "Equal Rights—Equal Responsibilities".

Referring to the first half of their objective, Sir Oliver declared that for nearly 25 years women of Ceylon had enjoyed the right of adult suffrage. Today, out of a total number of

3,500,000 voters in parliamentary elections, 1,650,000 were women. Out of a total of 1,660,000 million pupils attending schools, 900,000 were boys and 760,000 were girls. Out of a total university population of 2,400 students, 600 were females. The literacy percentage of males was 70 and of females 44.

The Governor-General, referring to the second half of their objective, said: "I am always conscious of the very great work that the women of Ceylon are doing, particularly since we gained our freedom. But may I suggest an enquiry whether the responsibility they shoulder is adequate.

"For instance, we are placing great hope on the success of our rural development movement. There are today 6,000 men's rural development societies covering the whole Island. We must have each of these areas covered by a women's society as well. But there are only 800 mahila samitis and 1,200 kantha societies."

Earlier the Governor-General was received on arrival at St. Bridget's Convent by Mrs. H. H. Basnayake and Mrs. Ezlyne Deraniyagala.

Miss Ester Graff, President of the International Alliance of Women, said that they were there to broaden their outlook as citizens and to gain fresh impulse for their activities.

The Mayor, Dr. N. M. Perera, offered a warm welcome to the delegates. He said that he had followed the movement both as a student and as a politician. He said: "You have achieved much, but you have still much more to achieve. You will inspire women here to struggle until all barriers of race, caste, and sex, have been removed".

Mrs. Deraniyagala, President of the All-Ceylon Women's Conference, said it was a matter of pride that Ceylon had been chosen as the venue for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the International Alliance of Women.

More than 30 countries were represented at the Golden Jubilee Congress.

Ceylon will help to solve Arab-Israeli Dispute

THE Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, offered, on September 11, assistance of the Government of Ceylon in the search for a peaceful solution of Arab-Israeli issues.

In a statement on Arab-Israeli relations, the Premier welcomed the statements made by Mr. John Foster Dulles, U. S. Secretary of State, and the United Kingdom Government in this connection.

The Prime Minister said :

"The ending of the strife and bitterness that have so long affected Arab-Israeli relations, and the restoration of peace in the Middle-East, are matters of concern to all countries alike. The Government of Ceylon therefore welcome the initiative taken by the Government of the United States in putting forward constructive proposals for the easing of tensions in the Middle East, and earnestly hope that the parties concerned would find it possible to examine these proposals in a spirit of conciliation and good neighbourliness.

"The Government of Ceylon would, for their part, be ready, as they have always been, to assist in the search for a peaceful solution. They would be willing, and glad, to do everything within their power to contribute to the efforts of the parties concerned and of other friendly States in facilitating the restoration of peace, stability, and progress in the Middle East."

Capital Aid from Canada

THE Prime Minister made a statement in the House of Representatives on September 6 regarding the exchange of notes with the Canadian Government for the supply of capital aid to this country under the Colombo Plan.

Sir John announced that capital aid aggregating Rs. 10,005,000 was being provided for development projects in the fields of Education, Fisheries, Land Development, Agriculture, and Transport.

Most of the aid would take the form of capital goods and equipment and free gifts of flour, which would generate counterpart funds for local expenditure, he said.

He further told the House that an aerial survey of Ceylon was included in the aid that was provided. The results of that survey should be of valuable use in the development of Ceylon's economy.

He expressed his gratitude to the Canadian Government for the assistance that it had given to Ceylon.

Ceylon's Delegation to World Bank Conference

THE Minister of Finance, the Hon. M. D. H. Jayawardane, and Dr. Gamani Corea of the Planning Secretariat left by air on September 8 for Istanbul to attend the World Bank Conference to be held there. The Finance Minister was also accompanied by his Private Secretary, Mr. Peter Abeysekera.

Mr. Jayawardane told pressmen shortly before he explained that the present position of the pound sterling would be one of the most important items on the agenda of the forthcoming conference. Among other matters to be discussed would be the establishment of an International Finance Corporation which would lend money to the private sector in member-countries for industrial development, without the necessity of Government backing.

The Finance Minister was expected to attend later an informal meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in Istanbul. This conference will review the economic progress of the Commonwealth countries.

Ceylon's Delegation to C-Plan Conference

THE Minister of Finance, the Hon. M. D. H. Jayawardane, will lead Ceylon's delegation to the forthcoming meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan to be held at ministerial level in Singapore on October 17.

Mr. R. Coomaraswamy, Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, will lead the delegation to the meeting at official level, scheduled to commence on September 29.

The other members of the Ceylon Delegation are : Mr. M. Saravanamuttu, Commissioner for Ceylon in Malaya ; Mr. E. L. P. Jayatilleke of the Planning Secretariat ; Mr. D. P. H. P. Abeysekera, Private Secretary to the Minister of Finance ; and Mr. D. Samarasinghe of the Ministry of Finance, who will function as Secretary to the Delegation.

Central Bank Governor's Discussions in U. K.

THE Governor of the Central Bank of Ceylon, Sir Arthur Ranasinha, was reported to have said in London that his talks with bankers and insurance companies in U. K. had been successful. Sir Arthur was on his way to attend the World Bank Conference in Istanbul.

The discussions were held to persuade bankers and insurance companies in U. K. to contribute to the Development Finance Corporation and generally provide credit facilities to those who wish to undertake development schemes in Ceylon.

Sir Arthur has stated that the bankers and insurance companies had assured support for the Development Finance Corporation.

P. M. Calls for Ceylon's Admission to UNO

THE Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, in a message to the Tenth Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of U. N. Associations held in Bangkok, said : "As Vice-Patron of the U. N. Association of Ceylon, I have watched the steady growth of the Association in a country which has not yet been able to secure admission to the United Nations".

Sir John added : "It would not be out of place for me to remind the member-countries of your organization that this discrimination against

peace-loving countries like Ceylon is a reflection on the United Nations itself and constitutes a situation which should be remedied without delay.

“The recent Asian-African Conference, which was sponsored by five Asian powers including Ceylon, recognized the injustice of such a position.”

The Prime Minister in conclusion hoped that it would not be long before the United Nations became a fully representative body and was enabled to play its part effectively on behalf of humanity.

Sir John's message was read at the Assembly by the Ceylon delegate, Mr. C. M. Fernando.

Ceylon at East Asia Rural Reconstruction Conference

CEYLON was represented, at the East Asia Rural Reconstruction Conference held in Tokyo, by Mr. V. G.W. Ratnayake, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Land Development, Mr. S. M. Rasamanickam, M.P., and Mr. A. Merza, M.P.

A view of the Ceylon Section in the International Trade Fair held recently in Melbourne, Australia. The Ceylon High Commission in Australia organized the Ceylon Section on behalf of the Ceylon Department of Commerce, the Department of Cottage Industries and the Coconut Board. This is the first time that Ceylon took part in an Australian exhibition of this kind



Praise came for the Ceylon Rural Development movement after Messrs. Rasamanickam and Ratnayake outlined the developments in the movement and achievements during the last eight years to the rural reconstruction sub-committee of the Conference. The other delegate from Ceylon, Mr. Merza, presided over another sub-committee on Agricultural Co-operatives.

Eight Countries attend Training Centre on Farm Mechanization

A REGIONAL Technical Meeting and Training Centre on Farm Mechanization and Workshop Problems, including Land Development, began in Ceylon on September 19, and will continue until October 14. Participants from Burma, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Malaya, and Ceylon, are attending the Centre.

The Centre is sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations under its expanded Technical Assistance programme, in co-operation with the Government of Ceylon. The Centre is being held in the Gal Oya Valley which is the site of Ceylon's combined hydro-electric, land development and settlement scheme carried out by the Gal Oya Development Board.

The object of the Centre is to provide, to the Governments in the Region, information and detailed training in the selection of equipment, techniques of operation, the need for adequate base and field workshops, services and maintenance facilities, repair and economics of machinery for land development, reclamation, and mechanization in agriculture.

Premier Lays Foundation-stone of Institute of Technology

THE Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, laid on September 14 the foundation-stone for an Institute of Technology at Moratuwa.

The Institute, which is being established at a cost of Rs. 5 million, is a gift from the Canadian Government under the Colombo Plan. Large numbers of students will be trained at the Institute which will be equipped and conducted by Canadian engineers and instructors.

The acting Canadian High Commissioner in Ceylon, Mr. L. V. J. Roy, in calling upon the Ceylon Premier to lay the cornerstone, said that the Institute would stand as an enduring and practical manifestation of the Colombo Plan. It was evidence of the great friendship which united Ceylon and Canada in the Commonwealth and in the modern democratic world.

The Prime Minister, in thanking the Canadian Government for the gift, said that the Institute was an outcome of the close relationship that existed among the countries of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth, Sir John said, was a club where the members helped one another. It was because Ceylon was a member of that international club that the gift came from a far-away country like Canada. The club worked in very close understanding and co-operation to foster democracy in the world.

P. M's Message to Pakistan

THE following is the text of a message sent to the Prime Minister of Pakistan by the Prime Minister of Ceylon on the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day on August 14, 1955:—

“ On the occasion of the Eighth Anniversary of the Independence of Pakistan, the Government and people of Ceylon join me in sending you our sincere felicitations and good wishes for the coming year ”.

P. M's Message to Indonesia

THE following is the text of a message sent to the Prime Minister of Indonesia by the Prime Minister of Ceylon through the Ceylon Legation in

Indonesia, on the occasion of Indonesian Independence Day on August 17 :—

“The Government and people of Ceylon join me in sending you greetings and good wishes on the 10th Anniversary of the Independence of your country”.

P. M. receives Netherland's Highest Honour

THE Charge d'Affaires of the Netherlands Legation in Ceylon, Mr. D. M. de Smit, presented to the Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, on August 18, the Grand Cross of the Order of the Netherlands Lion which has been conferred on him by Her Majesty Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. Addressing the Prime Minister, Mr. Smit said : “The name of Sir John Kotelawala signifies understanding in world affairs, good international relations, peace to the world and good guidance to the people of Ceylon”. He further said that it was the highest honour awarded to any foreigner by the Netherlands Government. Sir John had done much to foster goodwill among the people of the Netherlands and Ceylon.

Sir John replying said that he was grateful to the Netherlands Government for the honour and said that he would always work for goodwill between the two countries.

Mr. G. de Soyza, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, and Mr. P. Nadesan, Official Secretary to the Prime Minister, were also invested with the insignia of the Grand Officer of the Order of Orange of Nassau and Commander in the Order of Orange of Nassau, respectively.

Ceylon's Legation in Japan is now an Embassy

THE Government of Ceylon has, with the concurrence of the Government of Japan, decided to raise the status of its Mission in Tokyo to that of an Embassy with effect from October 1, 1955, and to appoint Sir Susantha de Fonseka, at present Ceylon's Envoy Extraordinary and

Minister Plenipotentiary in Tokyo, as its first Ambassador to Japan.

Sir Susantha is expected to assume the duties of his new appointment about the first week of October.

Ceylon's Trade Mission to China Leaves

CEYLON'S trade delegation to Peking, led by the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Fisheries, Mr. S. C. Shirley Corea, left the Island by air on August 31. The delegation will negotiate for the revision of the rubber price under the contract for 1955 and also the prices for rubber and rice for 1956 under the Five-Year Trade Agreement with China.

The Commerce Minister took with him a number of gifts for the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou-En-Lai, from the Ceylon Premier, Sir John Kotelawala.

Portuguese Envoy Arrives

Dr. ALVARO LABORINHO, the Portuguese Charge d'Affaires in India, who was compelled to close his Legation at New Delhi, arrived in Colombo on August 11. He was accompanied by his wife.

Dr. Laborinho is the Charge d'Affaires of his Government in Ceylon. Interviewed by pressmen shortly after his arrival, he said that Portugal stood for the sovereignty of Goa just as the people of Ceylon stood for the sovereignty of their country. He said that it was up to India to recognize the sovereignty of Goa.

Sweden's New Envoy to Ceylon

THE Government of Sweden has, with the concurrence of the Government of Ceylon, decided to appoint Madame Alva Myrdal as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Ceylon concurrently with her appointment as Swedish



The High Commissioner for Ceylon, H. E. Sir Claude Corea, held a tea party at his residence in Addison Road, W., to the British delegation who left for Ceylon on August 18 for the Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance of Women. Sir Claude Corea (High Commissioner for Ceylon) chats with some of the officials. *Left to right*—Mrs. Corbett Ashley, Lady Huggins, Sir Claude Corea, K.B.E., Mrs. Renner of Sierra Leone and Mrs. Hennings.

Minister in India, in succession to Mr. P. G. A. Wijkman.

Mrs. Alva Myrdal was till recently head of the Department for Social Questions of the UNESCO. She has been a member of and adviser to numerous Swedish social committees, and Swedish delegate to several international conferences. She has presided or vice-presided over many Swedish and international organizations, among the latter the Federation of Business and Professional Women

(1938-47) and the World Council for Pre-school Education (1947-49).

Japanese Parliamentary Delegation here

FIVE members of the Japanese House of Representatives, led by Mr. D. Takaoka, arrived here by air on September 2, in the course of a goodwill tour of South-East Asian countries.

The delegation made a close study of prevailing conditions here with a view to increasing

the co-operation now extended by Japan to Ceylon towards her rehabilitation.

Mr. Takaoka said that Japan was fully conscious of Ceylon's plans for industrial expansion, and particularly her desire to create a state of self-sufficiency in food production. The Japanese government was willing to aid Ceylon substantially with equipment and technical skill, he added.

The other members of the delegation were Messrs. Y. Satsama, T. Hasimoto, T. Kuboto, H. Imamura, and H. Masaoka.

The delegation left Ceylon on September 7.

Envoy for Austria in Ceylon

THE Federal Government of Austria has, with the concurrence of the Government of Ceylon, decided to appoint Dr. Albin Lenukh, at present Minister for Austria in New Delhi, concurrently as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Ceylon.

Dr. Lenukh is expected to present his credentials early in October, 1955.

The Government of Ceylon will not make a reciprocal appointment for the present.

Dr. Lenukh entered the Austrian Foreign Service in 1931 and held various diplomatic appointments before the war. He re-entered the Foreign Service in February, 1952, with the rank of Counsellor and has been Austrian Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi before his appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary there in July, 1955.

Envoy for Spain in Ceylon

THE Government of Spain has, with the concurrence of the Government of Ceylon, decided to appoint Senor Don Manuel Galan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary designate to Pakistan concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ceylon. Senor Galan has held several Foreign Service appointments since January, 1920. He is at present

Consul-General in Algiers. The Government of Ceylon will not make a reciprocal appointment at present.

WHO Aid to Ceylon

THE World Health Organization will give a million rupees' worth of assistance to Ceylon during 1957. The grant of such assistance has been approved by the eighth session of the organization's regional committee which met recently at Bandung, Indonesia. Ceylon's requests for assistance were placed before the committee by the Director of Health Services, Dr. D. L. J. Kahawita.

The items approved include a three-member medical planning team to advise the Health Ministry on re-organizing. The team will consist of a specialist in medical care, a public health administrator, and a specialist in medical statistics.

Another new project that will be started in 1957 with WHO aid is in the field of nutrition. The committee has approved Ceylon's request for a specialist consultant on nutrition to evaluate the existing nutrition programme and to recommend a scheme to integrate nutritional activities with the health services. The items approved by the regional committee will now be submitted to the World Health Assembly early next year for formal approval.

Ceylon at U. N. Congress on Prevention of Crime

CEYLON participated in the First United Nations' Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, held in Geneva from August 22 to September 3, 1955.

The Government of Ceylon was represented by—

Mr. C. Mylvaganam, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs ; and

Mr. V. N. Pillai, Deputy Commissioner of Prison and Probation Services.

Japan thanks Ceylon Government for its Support

THE Government of Japan through its Ambassador in Ceylon, H. E. Mr. Shiroji Yuki, has conveyed to the Prime Minister and the Government of Ceylon their sincere thanks for the consistent support given by Ceylon towards securing Japan's membership in the GATT Organization.

The Ambassador, in his message, recalls with pleasure the friendly attitude always adopted by Ceylon towards his country, particularly from the time of the San Francisco Conference on the Peace Treaty with Japan, which has materially assisted Japan in taking her due place of responsibility as a democratic power in the post-war world.

New Residence for Ceylon's Envoy in Italy

THE Ceylon Legation in Rome is to be one of the permanent overseas missions of this country, and the Government has therefore decided to purchase a suitable building as a permanent residence of the Ceylon Minister there.

At present the Ceylon Minister in Rome occupies a villa for which a rental of Rs. 27,360 per annum is paid.

A supplementary estimate for a sum of Rs. 444,000 was tabled in the House of Representatives on August 15, to meet the cost of the new residence of the Ceylon Envoy.

Ceylon's Delegation to Inter-Parliamentary Conference

THE Ceylon delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to be held at Helsinki, Finland, shortly, left the Island on August 19. The delegation was led by the Minister of Justice, Mr. E. B. Wikramanayake, Q.C., and included the Minister of Education, Mr. M. D. Banda. The other members of the delegation were

Mr. R. G. Senanayake, M.P., Mr. D. C. W. Kanangara, M.P., Mr. J. C. T. Kotelawala, M.P., and Mr. A. F. Molamure, M.P.

Ceylon Film Screened at Edinburgh Film Festival

A CEYLON Government Film Unit production, "Migrant Fishermen", completed this year, was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival on August 26.

The Ceylon film shared the honour of being screened with 46 others from 17 countries. Originally 358 films from 38 countries were submitted for screening and of these 46 were selected, including "Migrant Fishermen".

Delegations from 14 countries were present at the Festival. Ceylon was represented by Mr. George Wickremasinghe, Director of the Government Film Unit, who is now in the United Kingdom on a Colombo Plan award to study modern techniques of film-making.

"Migrant Fishermen" was produced by Mr. Frederico Serra and directed by Mr. H. P. Perera.

Government Scholarship for Ceylon Cricketer in U. K.

GOVERNMENT has decided to grant a scholarship to Gamini Goonesena, the brilliant Ceylon cricketer, for his unique achievements in England. The scholarship will help Goonesena to complete his studies at Cambridge University.

Meanwhile, the Leader of the House, the Hon. J. R. Jayewardene, has announced that Government would ask, at the next session of Parliament, to provide funds for the scholarship.

Gamini Goonesena, who recently achieved the rare distinction of scoring 1,000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the same season, has been acclaimed by sports writers as one of the best all-round cricketers in England today.

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