

Jaffna College Miscellany

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CHRISTMAS AND THE CHANGING ORDER

We are quite sure these are 'changing days'. Whatever the effects of the war for evil or good, it has brought a changed world. There are great changes in the boundaries of some of the kingdoms of this world. Austria, from being a real power, has been reduced to a population but little greater than that of our little island of Ceylon. There are great changes in the form of government in many nations. Germany herself has become a republic. There is a decided change in the relationship of nation to nation that has bound the world together in the League of Nations. These are but factors in the 'changing order' which means a departure from the old thoughts, the old forms, the old systems, and in some cases the old ideals; and an entrance into the new.

Perhaps there is no field to which 'changing days' may be more fittingly applied than to the industrial. Our papers are full of the reports of strikes, of the conflict between Labour and Capital. Outwardly these are strikes for more pay and less work. Really that is only a way station; for labour has a through ticket for the station, a New Order of Things in the Industrial World. They are seeking nothing less than this.

Not all men are sure that we are now changing to anything better than the past: some leaders have spoken pessimistically about this. Chaos in Russia, carnage in Turkey, strife in England and America, continued bitterness and jealousy in the Balkans, failure to conform to the terms of the Peace Treaty on the part of some countries, these do not seem to be happy auguries of the dawn of a 'better day'. It has been said that now we have a brood of wars where a year ago there was only one. And we are too well aware that in the normal affairs of life there rages

"black hidden warfare
Of fouler cast than where the hosts
engaged,
Warfare of commerce grinding men to
nought;
Warfare of class with class and rancorous
hate,
That would all save itself annihilate."

This is, however, only a part of the story: the papers do not trouble to report much of the more cheering side. Our old world is much chastened and humbled; it has learned some lessons from the suffering, the sacrifice, the heroic purpose of those four frightful years. We cannot believe that, as it looks out over the ruin wrought by its past folly, it can again return to that old order. During

this early period of change things may seem, for the time being, to be worse than even during the war. The old has been cast out, and it may be that the present state is worse than when that evil spirit 'the old order' was tenanted this sphere; but we believe the new spirit will soon come to expel this unholy legion. Periods of change though dark themselves are full of promise.

The Christmas season comes round again to remind us that we are justified in this hope. This is the time for the celebration of the entrance into the world of the One who came to fulfil the highest

hopes of man. All we need to do is to unbar the door and let him into our hearts and then the 'sweet life-giving light will shrivel all foulness, and earth be made all clear for Him to build upon'.

"And His dispensed grace changed all men's hearts,

Made His will theirs, and their wills wholly His;

So that they strove no more each for himself,

But each for good of all, and all for Him.

Man's common aim was for the common good;

The age-old feuds were of the past,

And all mankind joined hands at last

In common brotherhood."

At Christmas time it is not too much to dream such a dream as this.



The Christmas spirit is a glad spirit. Every day should be glad. Our Lord left his peace and joy with us, that our peace should be abiding, and our joy always full. The Christmas spirit is an unselfish spirit. Every day should be unselfish. Our Lord came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and he bade us to be content to be as our Master, and to imitate his life of service among men. The Christmas spirit is a spirit of kindly fellowship. We lay aside all grudges then; we envy no one; we rejoice in all men's joy. We feel that we are brothers to all mankind. But our Lord came to make such kindly brotherhood as this universal and abiding. The very things that make Christmas so good a day are what we need to make all days heavenly.

We can carry the Christmas spirit through the year by carrying Christ through the year. We do wrong when we confine him to certain seasons or places, to Easter and Christmas, to spiritual conferences or sacred places. Christ longs to be used, to be carried into all the common life, as a guest at every table, as an influence in every home, as a friend in every difficulty, as a deliverer in every temptation, as a sharer in every joy, as a solace in every sorrow, as strength in every weakness. There is not a need which he cannot supply, nor an hour when he ought not to be felt to be near. Christ can never be used too much.

Robert E. Speer.

AN UP-TO-DATE LITERATURE IN TAMIL

A SYMPOSIUM

[We invited a number of representative gentlemen to contribute to a symposium on the question of creating a modern, up-to-date literature in Tamil. We proposed the following questions:

(1) Is it worth while attempting the creation of a modern up-to-date literature?

(2) If it is, what measures, in your opinion, should be taken to accomplish this object?]

I

The Hon. K. Balasingham

(1) If Tamil is to become a progressive language it must become the language of Government. But as that is out of the question, we must encourage Tamil learning by offering substantial prizes annually for the best Tamil books published in the country. The *Lanka Subodha Vilasa-Sabha*, Colombo (a society for the promotion of Tamil literature, music, art, and drama), has now offered a prize for the best Tamil drama on a modern theme; but the society's usefulness suffers for the want of more funds. Our wealthy men must become patrons of Tamil learning. Who is going to offer a "Nobel" prize of at least 1000 Rs. annually for Tamil literature?

(2) Government should be induced to confer titles of honour on men pre-eminent for their Tamil learning. The Government though British in its personnel, should assume the role of Patron of Ta-

mil learning like our ancient kings. It should give pensions to Tamil scholars of note. A small pension of Rs. 50 per mensem will go a great way to encourage many a struggling pundit.

(3) One great impediment to Tamil becoming a more popular language both amongst Tamils and strangers, is its script and peculiar word combinations. We want a reform of the Tamil alphabet; and each word should be written separately. Most of our literature is inaccessible owing to the way the words are joined together. Even with a good dictionary, a man of ordinary education is often unable to understand the meaning of much of our classics, as it is difficult to separate the words.

(4) The books we should encourage are not those based on ancient models and dealing with old world kings and celestials, but books on modern themes written in a simple style.

II

Rev. Fr. S. Gnanapragasar O. M. I.

To anyone casting about to find suitable Tamil books for putting into the hands of intelligent Tamils who do not know English, our existing Tamil literature as a whole—and vast as it is—must appear horribly out of date. There is no doubt that we want an up-to-date Tamil literature. We do not want a *rechauffe* of the mediaeval poetical production so notorious for their hyperbolic conceits and their morbid appeals to the lower nature in man. We want *prose* literature, and we want it free from pedantry, free from a certain vulgarism commonly associated with translations made by persons little acquainted with the true sources of a language—the classics.

But the creation of an up-to-date Tamil literature, it must be confessed, is beset with some difficulties.

First, there is the form or style to consider. I am strongly of opinion that Tamil prose style is still in the making, or rather in the incipient stage of it. The Catholic priest, Constantine Beschi, is the acknowledged Father of Tamil prose, and he died as recently as in the year 1747. Since then, prose writers have been few and far between. Take Jaffna, till recently famous for its Tamil culture. The number of writers in Jaffna who have produced anything to be called literature can, I think, be counted on one's fingers. Of South India the same can be said *pro*

rala. This accounts for the fact that no proper prose style has so far been evolved for the Tamil language. Hence the difficulty of creating *at once* the literature in question. A start, however, should be made for the realization of that object in the not-far-distant future.

Secondly, there is the question of the matter to be treated. English literature is an excellent thing. But *modern* English literature has its dangers for us Tamils who have been justly praised for our inborn veneration for God and His Religion. Modern English literature has robbed many of their faith in God. It is *infidel* in great part. It jeers at Religion. It unsettles the unwary man's belief in immortality. It enthrones empirical science as its supreme and only God. Are we to have a literature of this sort in Tamil? Is the proposed literature to be religious? Then I cannot appeal to the general public who are here divided into so many warring faiths. Is it to be scientific? Then we want a security that the *infidel* scientific literature of Europe shall not be presented to us in a Tamil dress.

Lastly comes the decisive question: Will it pay? Let us suppose that work embodying sound matter and clothed in chaste Tamil are produced and printed. Are our people ready to buy them? In other words: Is the Tamil land ripe for appreciating Tamil literature and paying for it? I hope

I won't be branded as a pessimist when I answer this question in the negative. I hold that our people have yet to be educated to appreciate their own language, and in order to achieve this, the better course will be, it seems to me, to begin by introducing high class periodical literature which is interesting and instructive at the same time. The publication of books and booklets may be gradually brought in. This will develop taste for reading among the people and create a demand for the

literature now contemplated. It is also noteworthy—at any rate in Jaffna—that little works which had once appeared in a magazine have proved better sellers when reprinted in book form than new work put on the book market. Writers themselves, I believe, can be more readily won into a writing mood, if their efforts are to be called forth only from time to time, and especially if their productions have the chance of appearing in print at once.

III

Rev. Giles G. Brown, B. A., B. D.

The question of the study of Tamil in our schools and the creation of a modern up-to-date Tamil literature, is one of the most important questions before our educational leaders. I think that no one who has ever heard me speak on the subject has any doubt about my attitude. I am simply reiterating what I have already said over and over again when I say that it is amply worth while to attempt to create and to develop a modern Tamil literature. I am aware that other men hold quite the contrary opinion. But from any point of view which I can now conceive, the study of Tamil by Tamils and the creation of a worthy modern literature seems to me to need no argument in its favour.

How can it be done? The following suggestions occur to me:—

1. The authorities of all our

schools, particularly our English schools, should put greater emphasis on the study of Tamil. Do not allow any boy to be promoted who fails to pass a worthy test in Tamil reading, grammar, and composition. Create a sentiment in the country which will make a student feel ashamed to be able to speak and to write in English, while he cannot do equally well in Tamil. A thorough-going and insistent attitude on the part of principals and managers will make a great change.

2. I suggest the organization of a Tamil *Sangam* in Jaffna similar to the Madura *Sangam*, to encourage the study of Tamil and the production of modern Tamil literature. The members of such a society should be well educated men with the modern spirit, who can bring to their task, not only accurate knowledge of the language

age, but also a knowledge of the modern world and its demands on modern men. A modern Tamil literature should reflect modern life and thought. The practice of glorifying the past should be frankly abandoned, and the common people should be introduced to the modern world through their own language. We must, to a large extent, forget the things which are behind, and press on toward the things which are before.

3. This Tamil Sangam could accomplish much by offering substantial prizes to students in all schools and to riper scholars for definite Tamil productions. It ought not to be difficult to get up a series of examinations and contests which would call out good and honest work; essays, stories, and dramas would soon appear if encouraged by worthy rewards.

4. At present I have little faith in the value of Tamil as a subject in the London and Cambridge examinations. It seems to me to be inserted as a means to get an easy pass rather than as a subject for serious study. But if Tamil had a truly worthy place in every

English school in Jaffna, encouraged and stimulated by an enthusiastic society, little by little it might take a worthy place in the higher examinations.

5. Public contests in the delivery of addresses on important public topics ought to stimulate interest in Tamil.

6. A thoroughly up-to-date Tamil magazine, edited on broad lines, political, social, industrial, economic, and well illustrated, would be of incalculable service, not only in stimulating the study of Tamil, but in spreading modern information among the people.

These are some of the thoughts which suggest themselves to me in this connection. But nothing can be accomplished by simply talking and writing. We need some far seeing Jaffna patriot to come forward with a generous endowment under a well organized Board of Trustees. Such a fund would start a magazine and provide prize funds, until the public is aroused to the value of Tamil and the serious loss which the country is sustaining by its neglect.

IV

Mr. N. Selvadurai B. A.

Tamil Literature is ancient, wide in its scope, and well cultivated. It was neglected for many centuries when the Tamil land fell a prey to foreign invasions. Under the benign British rule, it has revived to a degree and has now

a golden opportunity to grow and develop.

The study of English cannot be supplanted by a revival of our national literature. The study of English and of Tamil will both receive the attention they deserve.

Tamil literature will be enriched by the study of English literature, for our literature must adapt itself to the new environment in which we are placed, and give expression to the new thoughts that sway our lives. The time will soon come when Tamil will be studied from the lowest class till one obtains a degree in the University. Our educated men will then be in a position to interpret the thoughts of the West to those of our people who have not received an English education. To accomplish this, there must be the birth of a modern Tamil literature, of original works, and translations which will place before our people all that is of enduring value in the literature of the world, and will give expression to the aspirations and ideals of the Tamil people. High-class magazines must be started, societies for the promotion of Tamil literature should be established, and there must be a Tamil Academy which like the Tamil Sangam of old must pre-

serve the purity and culture of the new literature that will spring up. The members of the Academy will be the *litertai* that will be the guardians of Tamil culture, having the last word to say on the excellence or otherwise, of the literary productions in Tamil. Tamil is a living language, spoken by nearly 20 millions of people. It has survived the shock of political changes and has vitality to grow. Under the changing condition of the world it will be the one bond uniting the Tamil people into a nation. The language in which we give utterance to our deepest emotions, whether of love or affection or spiritual devotion, must ever remain to us our dearest heritage. Let us embody in it our highest and best thoughts, our noblest aspirations and our cherished national ideals. Our literature will ever be the index of our national worth. We rise when it rises, we fall when it falls.

V

Mr. W. D. Niles B. A.

The Editor has been submitting to me two questions to be answered. The first is, "Is it worth while attempting the creation of an up-to-date Modern Tamil Literature?" This question is easily and readily answered in the affirmative. There can be no gainsaying that until the end of time, or rather so far as we could let our imagination peer into the great future that lies before us, we have to be

Tamils by race, and have to use as our common medium for communicating thought, the Tamil language. We have the further argument that the Tamil language has a great and glorious classical literature, and it will be heinous folly if we sit with folded arms without making any attempts to foster the creation of a modern Tamil Literature, if not on a par with our Tamil classics, yet

of a fairly high standard. Thus not only will a living continuity of the Tamil Literature be maintained, but also the portals for the reception of modern philosophic and scientific thought into the Tamil language will be opened.

The second question is, "If it is, what in your opinion, should be done to achieve the object?" If any real and genuine stimulus is to be given to the study of the higher classics in the Tamil language, among the Tamil people as a whole, and not sporadically here and there, the founding of a Ceylon University where Tamil will form a subject in the curriculum of studies, is an absolute necessity. A sure and steady growth of modern Tamil literature consisting of original writings and translations from European literature, is observable in the Madras Presidency. This inspiring result is due to the importance attached to the second languages by the Madras University. The tendency of graduates to devote their post-graduate energies and leisure to the study and cultivation of the Tamil language, is in marked contrast to the habit of educated thought in Ceylon. Well, a Ceylon University is yet to come! When Universities in India are founded with electric speed, the Ceylon Government moves with extremely slow pace, not the slowness born of caution and deliberation, but of parsimonious frugality and want of sufficient sympathy with the aspirations of the people. We beg of the Government to found a University for Ceylon, with that degree of warmth and

expedition with which they pass Salaries Bills in Council.

What steps shall we take for the present, to achieve the object we have in view? I would suggest the formation of a Tamil Sangam which should contain the best Tamil talent in Ceylon. The headquarters may be in Jaffna. All the leading Tamil scholars should be invited to become members of it. The ways and means of producing modern Tamil literature could be devised by the Sangam. I may suggest that it should consist of translations from modern European Literature, Philosophies and Sciences. I do not blame the habit of looking back. It has its virtues and advantages. But I think we should also cultivate the habit of *looking round*, and still more of *looking forward*. These latter we shall do by putting modern European thought within easy reach of our people, by means of translations. The Sangam will see the needs of the situation, particularly in regard to our schools, will allocate work to different members according to their capacities and inclinations, will approach the Government for bounties to particular authors, will create a permanent fund to help needy authors with a monthly bonus and to meet expenses of publication, will act as a medium between the authors and the Government Education Department, and thus in many ways will fulfil a great and noble object.

I was requested to send short replies. I must therefore now close. But in so doing, I wish to urge upon our educationists the revo-

lutionary ideas that are fast spreading in India where they advocate the relegation of English as a means of education to a second place altogether. I shall certainly not go to that length. But I do say that our educationists in Jaffna must spare no pains to teach Tamil

well and efficiently in their schools and to keep its claims well in the forefront in their pleadings with the Government Education Department. There can be no modern Tamil literature if the beginnings are not found in our schools.



THE TRAINING OF CHILDREN

BY MISS L. K. CLARKE

"There was an old woman who lived in
a shoe.
She had so many children, she didn't know
what to do;
So she gave them some broth without any
bread,
And whipped them all soundly and sent
them to bed."

Doubtless many a teacher of young children while trying to maintain order in his class of restless wrigglers has felt a certain sympathy for this "old woman" and has wished, perhaps, that he could deal as summarily with them as she did. Such a course as hers, though it may have obtained the desirable end—peace, can hardly be called education. To teach day after day a class of from 30 to 40 active children is a great tax upon the resources of a teacher and calls for an infinite amount of patience and ingenuity.

How to deal with such an abundance of physical activity as young children possess is an important problem confronting the teacher, for unless he can provide an outlet for the overflowing energy, the class discipline is bound

to suffer. Moreover, constant suppression of physical movements will mean a loss of mental activity by the children. To meet this problem, then, a teacher of small children will find it necessary to prepare his work most carefully that he may carry it along lines which will appeal to the children's interests. As a child's power of attention is much weaker than an older person's, the problem of how to gain and hold the attention is always confronting the teacher. This may be solved by using devices which will appeal to the children's natural interests. As it is much easier to sail a boat with the aid of the wind rather than against it, so a wise teacher will try to work along the lines of a child's interests rather than contrary to them.

In games and drills, the physical activity and natural interests of the pupils are used to prevent their becoming mentally tired, dull and stupid. The educational value of games is becoming more and more recognized.

Children who are slow to see and hear, to think and act, become more observant and mentally active through the use of right kinds of games. Drills teach quick obedience, co-operation, orderliness and and rhythm, and when wisely chosen and well taught are a great benefit to both body and mind. But how irksome do they become if a variety in movements is seldom introduced!

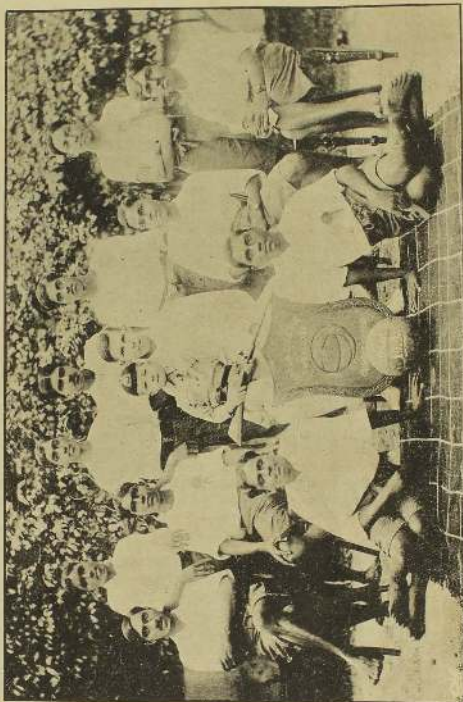
Another outlet for the physical activity of children is hand-work of various kinds,—such as clay-modelling, basketry, paper-folding, making of sand-tables, etc. Materials for such work can easily be obtained locally; in fact, Jaffna is full of excellent material which can be used,—for example, olas, shells, seeds, grasses, plantain fiber, and many other things. With a little ingenuity on the part of the teacher and pupils these materials may be made into objects to illustrate the lessons taught. Number-work may be taught by seeds and shells of various kinds; Geography lessons give excellent opportunities for hand-work, such as the construction of sand-tables showing how people of different nations live, the making of sun-dials, pulp-maps, weather-vanes, charts of weather

observations, etc. Clay may be easily obtained and costs almost nothing. As an introduction to drawing, making objects from clay is a valuable way to study form and develops a child's power of observation,—a power which many Tamil children seem to lack. Numerous objects can be made from the palmyra ola and used as a basis for conversation lessons. But all hand-work needs to be done by the children themselves, the teacher helping them only when a suggestion may be needed.

Not only do such lessons utilize a child's activity and hold his keen interest, but they make the lessons' ideas concrete. This is especially necessary for small children to whom a concrete object means much more than all sorts of indefinite descriptions given by the teacher.

It takes much time on the part of the teacher to prepare such lessons and to carry them out successfully. But surely a teacher who is worthy of the name will not care what it costs him in extra time and effort if only he can be rewarded by seeing his class develop in the best way possible.





Seated, from left to right:—E. T. IDSEPH, S. S. MUTTIAR Uppal, Master JOHN BICKELL, B. S., W. S. (Ponduval),
 J. C. ARUMANAYAGAL, S. THAKKARAJAH

Standing:—S. SIVATHAMBEY, K. RAJALINGAM, E. V. PONNUDURAI, S. KANAPATHIPILLAI, R. C. S. COOPER

Seated on stool.—S. RAJAKABIR, T. SAMBAGAPILLA

THE COLLEGE

EDITORIAL NOTES

The picture we publish in this number represents the Junior Football Eleven who won the Shield offered for competition among the various classes. Their victory was hard won, as the team of the Fourth Form was a formidable one. We thank the Juniors for giving us the picture at considerable expense.

We have to apologise to our readers for the lateness of the issue of this number.

When they know that the delay was due to the illness of the Editor, they will, we hope, pardon us.

We sent out a number of invitations to representative gentlemen to contribute to a symposium on Tamil Literature, and replies have not been received from some. If contributions are sent by them, we will publish them in the next number. We also invite others who are interested in the question to make contributions. Our thanks to those who have kindly responded to our request.



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

—The Lower School building is completed and will be used from the beginning of the new year. It has been seen and favourably commented upon by Mr. Denham, the Director of Education, Mr. Evans who acted as Director for some time, and by the Inspectors who have visited the school during the past year. We believe this addition to our buildings will greatly increase our efficiency, as it will relieve the congestion we have felt for the past four years, since uniting the Lower School with the College. The building is to the north of the Church and is in the shape of half a hollow square. It has seven class rooms and two rooms for teachers.

—Mr. and Mrs. Eddy paid a brief visit to our College on their flying visit to Jaffna. Mr. Eddy spoke to all the boys and then to the Christians and Hindus separately. We shall long remember his appeal. Our accessions to the church continue with new members being added nearly every communion Sunday, the first Sunday of each month. Just now there are twelve in the inquirer's class.

—There has been a considerable amount of sickness in the College since the coming of the rains, though not as much as last year, when the influenza had its run. Much remains to be done before we bring our boys up to any satisfactory standard of physical vigour that will enable them to withstand these fevers and changes in the weather which are after all very slight. The changes throughout the whole year in Jaffna are less than we often have in an hour in New England. Here the thermometer never registers below 67 above and seldom over 97 above.

—The Government Inspectors, Mr. Leetham, Mr. Tillainyakam, and Mr. Ponnaya, examined the school for some days in October. As usual, we are made conscious of our faults through their probing. They are seeking to bring us up to a higher standard in English. To this end we are organizing our work with more thoroughness for the coming year. Just at present the pendulum is swinging back from the position to which it has come through placing less emphasis than formerly upon formal grammar. One

is kept busy trying to keep pace with the changing emphasis in education. Marked improvement in our Lower School is a happy augury for the days to come.

—Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been working in the College and community for some days during the past term and their visit has been an inspiration as it was last year. We are rejoicing that they have not been drawn away from Jaffna, as it seemed for a time they might be, for work in Calicut, even for a year.

—The contest for the Class Shield in football has continued this year with the same interest and zeal as last. The Junior class won, and the Fourth Form, as last year, finished second. The shield was presented at a meeting of the students and teachers on Dec. 3. The class is to present to the College a portrait of the victorious team. We shall be glad if the custom in vogue in some institutions in America, of classes making the College presents of something by which they may be remembered, come to be an established thing in Jaffna College.

—Mr. Foster Lee, a teacher from the F. M. S., paid us a visit some weeks ago and gave the school a very illuminating talk on the Malay Peninsula. We all knew when he finished that Singapore is not the whole of that very important, enterprising community, and we may expect hereafter to hear boys discriminate between the F. M. S. and the Straits Settlements, between Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Taiping and Malacca. Mr. Lee is situated in Taiping where there are many Tamils.

—Our Inter-Arts Class, though small, is making good progress and we are looking forward to a number of recruits for the coming year's class.

—At the close of this school year we are to lose from our staff, Mr. S. M. Thevathasan, M. A. L. T. He is to join the Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore. Mr. Thevathasan has been connected with the College as a teacher for the past ten years and with the School as pupil and teacher for some sixteen years. It was with great disappointment we learned of his purpose to take this step and it is with a keen sense of our loss that we bid him farewell. His work in the College has been most faithful and of a very high grade, any class

he taught was well taught. Outside the class room he has entered heartily into every good work, and during the past year filled the very important place in our school of the President of the Y. M. C. A. His going is a big loss, not only to us but to the whole of our community. He has often been called upon to speak, and he did this most acceptably. We know that he will be a valuable addition to the Christian forces in Singapore, and we try to get some consolation from the thought that thus, again, Jaffna is extending her influence. We shall be pleased, however, to hope that his present purpose to return to Jaffna College, after five years in Singapore, may not vanish away as he comes to get into the life of that city which is the heart of the Malay Peninsula.

—Two members of our staff, Mr. L. V. Chinnatamby and Mr. J. S. Navaratnam, are to join the Government Training College in Colombo in January: the former for a two years course, and the latter, who is a B. A., for a one year course. Fortunately the leaving of these two and Mr. Thevathasan does not leave us in a crippled condition, for the work in Latin will be taken by Mr. Harrison, who is thoroughly qualified by taste and scholarship to give a new impulse to that study; the History will be taken by a new man, Mr. Matthai, from the Syrian Church, who specialized in this subject in his Madras B. A. course.

—Mr. Arianayagam, who was formerly a teacher in the College, has joined the staff for the coming year.

—One of the pleasantest functions connected with our College during the past term was the marriage of Mr. Albert K. Sundrampillai, B. A., of our staff, to Miss Victoria Moody, a sister of Mr. Arianayagam. The ceremony was conducted in the Vaddukodai Church by the Principal, and a reception was held at the home of the bride in Araly. The health of the couple was proposed by our former Principal.

—This year, at the October examination, three boys passed the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination, viz.: V. Rasiah, V. Sinnadurai, and P. Visuvanathan.

—Twelve boys are entering for the Senior and nineteen for the Junior Cambridge examination. Last year we passed four

Seniors and six Juniors, having sent in twelve of the former and eleven of the latter. The boys who passed were:— Seniors: K. Thiruchittampalam, P. Sabaratnam, M.

Rajaratnam and K. Chelliah. Juniors: P. Durairatnam, L. Kulatungham, S. Appadurai, T. Vethaparatnam, T. Seevaratnam, S. Ratnesan.



MR. CHELLIAH H. COOKE

Mr. Cooke's retirement from the College leads us to insert a brief record of his connection with the institution. He joined as a student in July 1875, three years after the founding, and completed his course in June four years later. The following month he was connected with the school as a teacher, which connection he has kept up until his retirement in July last. During his last three years he taught but little and served as a general assistant to the Principal. The subjects in which he specialised were, Logic, Geography, and History. On two occasions his students gained distinction in Logic and received book prizes from the Department. Mr. Cooke is not even now to be out of touch with his Alma Mater; for he has been chosen a member of its Board of Directors, who at their last meeting voted the following re-

solution: "The Directors of Jaffna College in view of the retirement of Mr. C. H. Cooke from his position as a teacher in Jaffna College, which he has held for the past 40 years, wish to express their deep appreciation of his services. Always a gentleman, he has taught his students to have that grace, and by his careful performance of duty in and out of the class room has piled up a vast amount of good service. Hundreds of Old Boys of the College hold his name in reverence and will rejoice in watching him, during his riper years, active in some way that will make for the betterment of the people in whose midst he lives." The particular task to which Mr. Cooke is now devoting his time is the care of the Vaddukoddai Church, of which he is the Assistant Pastor, but is virtually doing the work of a Pastor.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the College was held in the Principal's bungalow on Friday afternoon of Dec. 19. The meeting considered the matters brought up in the report of the Principal and transacted certain items of business.

Mr. James Hensman, B. A., who has been our Chairman, tendered his resignation from the Board, and this was accepted with very great regret. During his continuance in that position he has made himself a most valuable help, entering with sympathetic understanding into the problems of the school and giving highly valued advice. The Hon. K. Balasingham was chosen to fill the place and, we are glad to report, he has heartily

accepted the position. Other members elected were, Mr. C. H. Cooke and Mr. A. R. Supramaniam; Mr. S. C. Arnold and Mr. Lyman were re-elected. Rev. S. Somasundram resigned from the Board, because he now lives at such a distance that his work will not permit him to attend the meetings. In addition to the above, our Directors now include: Mr. A. S. Arulampalam, Rev. J. K. Chinnatamby (Sec.) Mr. A. A. Ward, Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, Rev. William Joseph, Rev. G. G. Brown. Resolutions were passed with regard to Rev. S. Veerahatty, of whom an obituary notice appeared in the last issue of this magazine, and Mr. C. H. Cooke, as reported above.

Y. M. C. A. NOTES

(EXTRACT FROM THE SECRETARY'S REPORT)

At the beginning of this year, we had to lose the services of our popular President, Mr. C. W. Miller, M. A., and we found a worthy person in Mr. Thevathasan to fill up this important post. As it is well known the work of our Y. M. C. A. is done through committees, and a review of the work of the Committees for this year will not be out of place.

Personal Piety Committee meetings were ably managed by Mr. J. P. Chelliah, who put his heart and soul into his work. By his own life and by his words of advice he was able to hold the attention of the boys.

Prayer meetings were held regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. The life of prayer has been much emphasized among the students, and the Bibles presented by the Principal have helped immensely in the observance of the Morning Watch.

Out door meetings were held in connection with the Gospel Campaign Work. As the Hindus are awaking now to the ideals of their own religion, Gospel work in the way of campaigns seems to be an uphill work.

The Missionary Committee is very much satisfied with the work of our teacher, Mr. Namasivayam, on the Island of Eluvaitivu. We are pretty sure that good work is done very earnestly by him there.

Mr. Vethaparanam, has very enthusiastically done his work in the reading room. Papers are supplied very regularly and many are interested with the world problems of today and thus the reading room is much visited. The Review of Reviews, The Punch and the Spectator are wants which we hope would be supplied by the Principal.

The Garden Committee has not done much work this year in the way of materially assisting the Y. M. C. A. Yet the Chairman, in spite of many discouragements, has tried to do the garden work, for which

our Association has received praise on many occasions.

The Athletics of the College is much improved now, and boys take exercise regularly. Games have been made compulsory and morning exercises have been found to be beneficial to the health of the boys. Sportsmanship and manly spirit have been much developed among the students.

The general health of the boys has been very good this year and the services of the F. N. S. were not much needed.

The Corresponding Secretary, Mr. V. K. Namasivayam, has done very good work in making our old boys keep in touch with our Association. He arranged for lectures throughout the year and made special arrangements for speakers in the Prayer week.

During this year, we had many distinguished visitors. Dr. Eddy has always been interested in our Y. M. C. A., and his stay in our midst has always been pleasant. This year he spent 2 days in the College having private interviews with students and delivering addresses. One of his addresses was entirely for students, when he dwelt on the subject of purity and impressed on our minds the sacredness of our bodies, and the capabilities of a pure life. According to his wish, by the kindness of the Principal, various tracts on the subject of Purity and Continence have been distributed among the students. Such tracts have been very helpful to us. Another visitor was Prof. Hutchins, whose address was eagerly listened to by the students.

Mr. Swamidas enlightened us about the life that many Indians sunk in ignorance and idolatory lead and impressed on us the need for a feeling for others.

Mr. John Eliatanby, delivered a stereoptican lecture, very effectively on the work of the Y. M. C. A. in the battlefields of Europe.

This year, the All Ceylon Christian Student Conference was held in the Prince of

Wales College, Moratuwa. Seven delegates attended the Conference, and were greatly benefitted by it. Our Principal and Mr. J. V. Chelliah were speakers in the Camp.

The long missed prize-giving for Sunday Schools was at last brought about by the untiring energies of the Chairman, Mr. S. P. Handy, for the success of which he is to be

highly commended. All the schools came in here one Friday evening. A social gathering was held for the boys and girls in which light refreshments were served. They were examined in Scripture lessons and afterwards field day sports were held. At the close of the evening the prizes were distributed to the winners.

V. Williams



THE ALUMNI

(By C. H. COOKE)

The Alumni Day

The sixth Alumni Day of Jaffna College was celebrated on August 9th. A large number of alumni were present. A reception was held at the Principal's home from 4 to 5 p. m. This was followed by the Alumni annual meeting. A portrait of the late P. Sathasivam, a brilliant student of the College, and a son of Proctor Perumalpilly of Colombo, was unveiled. Mr. J. V. Chelliah spoke a few words of appreciation of the moral and intellectual endowments of the young man. Rev. G. G. Brown delivered an earnest address to the alumni. This was followed by speeches from Rev. Max. Hunter Harrison, the new Professor, and Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, who served the College for 22 years as Professor and Principal. Mr. Hitchcock said that it would probably be the last meeting of the alumni he would attend, as he was going home early next year. Then the Principal spoke of the College and invited questions from the alumni present.

Our Alumni

Mr. G. M. Kanagaratnam, having secured a Divinity Scholarship, has entered the Serampore College.

Mr. A. V. Chelvanayagham, Agricultural Instructor at Sengalady, has been transferred to Trincomalee.

Mr. Robert K. Joseph, Relief Clerk Maradana, has been transferred to Mannar District,

After the business part of the programme was gone through, the following office-bearers were elected for the following year: President—The Principal; Vice-Presidents.—Mr. J. V. Chelliah and Mr. W. Duraiswamy; Secretary—Mr. C. H. Cooke; Treasurer—Rev. G. D. Thomas; Auditors—Messrs P. Vytilingam and A. R. Suppramaniam; Executive Committee—The above office-bearers and Proctor Arumainayagam, and Mr. S. C. Arnold. Advocate A. R. Supiramaniam was nominated to represent the alumni on the Board of Directors. The annual dinner began at 7 p. m. and at the close the following spoke on the toasts: The Principal, Rev. M. H. Harrison, Magistrate P. Vytialingam, and Mr. C. Amarasingham. Mr. A. R. Supramaniam spoke appreciatively of the services of Mr. W. E. Hitchcock in the College, and called upon the alumni present to subscribe in aid of the Hitchcock prize fund. A sum of nearly Rs. 125 was subscribed.

Mr. S. V. Sabaratnam of the Postal Department F. M. S, who came to Jaffna on seven months leave has returned.

Mr. E. A. Williams, B. D. Student Secretary of the Madras Y. M. C. A. has been appointed Secretary of the British Student Volunteer Movement for two years. He sailed for England in September.

Mr. S. Armstrong of the P. W. D. is in charge of the Survey Work in connection with the Drainage Scheme for the peninsula.

Dr. Ernest Thambinayagam Saravananmutu, who proceeded to England, has passed his London L. R. C. P. & S. and second M. R. C. S. examinations.

Mr. W. P. Amirtham Cooke, who was a lecturer in the School of Tropical Agriculture, Peradeniya, has been appointed officer in charge of the experimental Station, Northern Province.

Mr. R. R. Kumaretnam B. A., teacher Kilner College, Jaffna, has joined Hartley College, Point Pedro.

Mr. A. V. Kulasingham took his oaths as a Proctor on the 8th October and is practising his profession in Jaffna.

Mr. S. Alalasingham B. A. has passed the Advocates Final Examination held recently.

Dr. J. M. Somasundaram, M. O., Hambantota, has been promoted to Grade II.

The Hon. K. Balasingham has been re-nominated to represent the Tamils in the Legislative Council.

Messrs S. Nagalingam, V. Nagalingam, Tharmar Cooke, M. Rojarnatnam and K. Thiruchittambalam were enrolled as Proctor Students.

Mr. A. Ampatavanar, has passed the first Professional Examination of the Medical College.

Mr. P. Nagarajnam, has completed his course for Apothecary in the Ceylon Medical College.

Mr. K. Dharmaratnam has entered the Ceylon Medical College as a Student.

Messrs Sabaratnam and Payson T. Thamo therampillai, have entered as students into the Agricultural School Peradeniya.

Mr. A. C. Sundarampillai, B. Sc., was married on the 21st of November to Miss Victoria Alagamma Moody at the Vaddukoddai Church.

Dr. I. S. John has obtained the degree of F. R. F. & S. Glasgow University. He

has gone to Dublin for further honours.

Dr. S. H. Gnanamuttoo has been transferred from Pesalai to Tangalai.

Mr. J. V. Chinniah of the Methodist School, Malacca, has passed his Senior Normal in teaching.

Mr. J. M. Dharmaratnam, Master of Methods in the United Training Schools, Kopy, has been appointed acting Head Master of the United Training School, Kopy.

Mr. A. M. Nathaniel B. A. has been appointed Acting Principal, St. John's College, Jaffna.

Mr. A. C. Bissel B. A., who was in Government Service in the Central Provinces, India, and who went to Mesopotamia on a deputation during the War, has been gazetted as Treasury officer Bacquebath, Mesopotamia.

Matrimonial. The marriage of Mr. N. Comarasamy with Miss Grace Kirupamany Ammal Kadiravelpillay was celebrated at Tiruppur, India.

Mr. Richard C. P. Welch was married to Miss Margaret Sornam Nathaniel on the 24th October at the Uduvil Church.

The Marriage of Mr. Arianayagam Charles Ratneser with Miss Daisy Bartlett was solemnized at St. John's Church Chundikuly on the 21st August.

The wedding took place on the 11th September of Mr. S. P. Rajaratnam with Miss Lydia Rasammah Sinnappah at the Manippay Church.

On the 11th September Mr. W. Selvadurai was married to Miss JayyaNayaki Ponnampalam at Kanterodai.

Obituary. The death of Mr. J. W. N. Hensman B. A. happened at Sandilippay on November 12.

The death of Mr. Veerasingham Hunt B. A. of the Audit Department, Madras, took place in August in Madras.

On August 4th Mr. David Thambyah, retired Surveyor, passed away. He belonged to the class of 1879.

Mr. Alfred Ponniah of the Post Audit Madras expired in August.

THE BROTHERHOOD

Anniversary

The anniversary of the Jaffna College Brotherhood was celebrated on the 1st of August. The chief feature of the celebration was the dinner preceded by a public meeting and concert. At the concert several interesting items were gone through, contributed by the members and outsiders. The public meeting was presided over by the Principal—the patron of the Association. In the public meeting the Secretary read an interesting and cheering report of the valuable work done by the Association. Then the Editor of the English paper ‘the “Literary Star”, Mr. L. S. Kulatungam, read a most interesting paper. It contained in addition to the editorials on current subjects, a poem in appreciation of Mr. C. H. Cooke, who was connected with our College for a good number of years. This was followed by the Tamil Editor, Mr. V. Chellappah, of Kalaignanapothi, who kept the audience laughing with his humorous articles. The dinner was had in the open behind the Principal’s bungalow. Covers were laid for over seventy five people consisting of ladies, gentlemen, and members of the Brotherhood. It was of interest to note that two Tamil ladies, wives of our teachers, took part in the dinner. Mr. Bicknell acted as the Toast-master. After the Royal toast, Mr. T. H. Crosette, Principal, Manipay Hindu College, proposed the toast of the College. He went on narrating humorous stories

of the past. He spoke highly of the kind of instruction imparted in the old Seminary, how it equipped men with knowledge to ably fill different responsible positions in life. Mr. Harrison responded to this toast thanking the proposer for the kind words he spoke in behalf of the College. The toast of the Brotherhood was proposed by Miss Hastings. She made a stirring speech and made an appeal to the members to give their sisters a greater measure of freedom and social intercourse. This toast which was generously received by the guests, was responded to by K. Tharmalingam, a member of the Senior Class. The next toast in the agenda was the toast of the Sister Associations. The Secretary in proposing this toast, spoke of the cordial feelings that existed between the different literary Associations. Mr. Hoole of the Central College responded to this toast. The last toast in the list was that of the guests. Mr. Dharmaratnam made a humorous speech making appropriate reference to some of the distinguished guests present there. Mr. C. W. Miller, who replied, expressed his pleasure in having taken part in such a sumptuous dinner. He added that the Missionaries felt it a privilege to meet the students at such functions. It was very late in the night, when the dinner came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

Topics Discussed Last Term

(1) Germany should accept the peace terms offered by the Allies.

(Prop.) V. Chellappah (Opp.) J. Alagaratnam. Lost

(2) The English form of Government is better than that of the United States of America.

(Prop.) K. Parinpanayagam (Opp.) Velauthampillai. Carried.

(3) Shalunthala is as great a play as ‘the merchant of Venice’.

(Prop.) K. Tharmalingam (Opp.) S. P. Hanry. Lost

(4) Millionaires are a benefit to the country and not dangerous.

(Prop.) Arunasalam (Opp.) Nagalinam. S. Carried.

(5) Shakespeare is the best author for the Indian students.

(Prop.) S. P. Handy (Opp.) L. S. Kulatungam. Carried.

(6) Jaffna people should change their diet.

(Prop.) Alagaratnam (Opp.) Arunasalam. Lost.

(7) Hon. Mr. Balasingam should be re-nominated to serve as the Senior Tamil member in the Legislative Council.

(Prop.) S. P. Handy (Opp.) K. Dharmaratnam. Carried.

(8) Government should abolish toddy and arrack taverns in Jaffna.

(Prop.) Parinpanayagam (Opp.) R. S. Emerson. Carried.

(8) German missionaries should be allowed to resume duties in India.

(Prop.) J. Alagaratnam (Opp.) Chelliah. K. Carried.

(9) Home rule should be granted to Ireland.

(Prop.) Nagalingam S. (Opp.) Nagalingam. K. Carried.

L. S. Kulasingam
Secretary



DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

The students of the College acted the well known play of *Shakuntala* by Kalidasa, the Shakespeare of India, in the Gymnasium Hall on 12th of September. The translation used was that belonging to the Every man's Library, simple and yet highly poetical. The hall was crowded by an appreciative audience, and the fact that the plot is well-known in this country made the audience take a great interest in the play. The important part of Dushyanta Raja; was taken by Rajah Sanders, who did his part admirably well, and his acting elicited frequent and hearty applause from the audience. The part of Shakuntala was excellently rendered by A. Thilainather of the Senior A class. The maids of Shakuntala, Priamvada and Athasuya, were well represented by K. Vijaysratnam and K. Thurairatnam respectively, and whenever the trio appeared on the stage they were heartily cheered. K. Dharmaratnam acted the part of the clown almost to perfection and added a great deal to the mirth of the audience. The figures of the hermit Kanva and his wife Gautami were represented in a life-like manner by M. Chelliah and A.

Velauthampilly respectively. The shorter parts were well rendered by the following: Chariteer—Cooke; Chamberlain—Vethaparanam; Hermit Pupil—Kulathungam; Door-keeper—Ratnesan; General—Rajaratnam; Constables—Joseph and Thiruvilangam; Fisacerman—Sangarappillay; Shakuntala's son—Lee. We must not omit to mention here that Sangarapillay's acting was well enjoyed by the audience, and Lee, although a small boy, did his part excellently without stage fright. The scene which was pronounced to have been acted the best was the Rejection Scene in which Sanders showed considerable histrionic ability. The acting came to a close with the actors singing a beautiful *Mangalam* song and the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Advocate S. D. Tampoe, who took great interest in the acting of our boys and who was present at one of the rehearsals, called for three cheers to Dushyanta and Priyamvada, and also to Mr. J. V. Chelliah who trained the actors.

At the request of some gentlemen from the Town, the play was repeated on the 17th September in the Ridgeway Hall before a large and appreciative audience.



RECEIPTS FOR VARIOUS FUNDS

THE HUDSON MEMORIAL FUND

Jan. 21, 1918	Mr. Thambyrajah Hudson	20.00
Aug. 16, 1918	Mr. K. Arunasalam	20.00
Jan. 30, 1919	Mr. K. Kanagaratnam (collected)	65.00
June 10,	Mr. K. Kanagaratnam	15.00

THE HITCHCOCK FUND

Aug. 8, 1918	The Alumui	20.00
Oct. 7, 1918	The Alumui	15.00
Dec. 10, 1919.	Mr. R. N. Samuel	10.00

THE SATHASIVAM MEMORIAL FUND

1918, Dec. 9	Mr. C. Perimalpillai	40.00
1919 Feb. 11	" "	20.00
Mar. 10	Mr. C. Coomarasuriar	2.50
Mar. 10	Mr. C. Kanagasabai	10.00
May 31	Mr. C. Perimalpillai	25.00
May 2	Dr. C. Sivasithamparam	50.00
June 21	Mr. Murugasu	20.00
June 25	Dr. Kailasipillai	20.00
		<hr/> 217.00

MANEPAY MEMORIAL SCHOOL FUND

1919, Oct. 7 and 9 collected by Mr. T. G. Thomas in Colombo and Manepay 508. 92.



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