

# Jaffna College Miscellany

VOLUME XXX.

JUNE 1920.

NUMBER 1.

## GILES GORTON BROWN

The earthly life of Revd. G. G. Brown began April 9, 1869, in Bellwood, Ontario, Canada, and closed March 12, 1920, in Uduvil, Jaffna, Ceylon. It began, as it closed, in a missionary home: Robert, the father, having been a home missionary, and Giles, the son, a foreign missionary.

In his childhood and youth Mr. Brown experienced the hardships of life common to the lot of a home missionary and acquired in meeting them the over-coming spirit that characterised him in the struggles of mature life. He made his way, largely by his own efforts, through Owen Sound Institute, Ontario, the Normal Institute Tacoma, Washington, and Oberlin Preparatory School and College. In 1897 the College course was completed and he continued his studies in Andover Theological Seminary from which institution he took his B. D. degree in 1899.

In June of the year of his graduation he was ordained to the ministry and commissioned by the A. B. C. F. M. for work in Ceylon. Before sailing he was married in September, to Clara Pendleton of Oberlin, and they set sail for their appointed station on October 7, arriving in Jaffna on December 11, 1899.

Mr. Brown's work in Jaffna is divided by his furloughs into three periods: the first, of seven years, at Udupitty in charge of a station; the second, of seven years, at Vaddukoddai as Principal of Jaffna College; and the third, of the last two and a half years, as missionary at large.

No work that Mr. Brown undertook in these three periods kept him from a close personal touch with the people. At Udupitty he knew his flock; at Vaddukoddai he not only had heart to heart talks with his boys but came to know the villagers; and as a general missionary he made it a point to visit every Christian home of the various parishes. Through this personal work not only have many souls been awakened to newness of life, but to newness of vision that has resulted in the development of a number of strong Christian workers. Perhaps the work of the past two and one-half years has given the best opportunity for the manifestation and exercise of his pastoral instincts. It was a joy to him to enter into the lives of the people, and there is not a pastor who should not be grateful for the strengthening of his hands because of this shepherding work.

There has been a quickening in all lines of Church work, and this in such a way as to make us hope for its permanence. Through extensive correspondence with former students and the laborious making of a directory with much useful information, ties of loyalty have been greatly strengthened. Surely the expressions of appreciation that have been coming from all quarters during this period are an eloquent testimony to the worth of the work.

The Church Council has been an object of his constant interest and attention. He was enthusiastic about its organization as a means to greater efficiency in the Church work and to a larger sharing of the burden of work by the Tamil people. While doing much as a member of the Executive Committee in the way of suggestion and direction, he always had in mind the induction of the pastors and laymen of the Church into places of responsibility. Of late it has been on his heart to give over responsibility and grant freedom boldly and rapidly. The present self-reliant Council carrying on much of the work formerly done by the Mission is due, to no small extent, to the confidence and effort of Mr. Brown.

A glance through the file of letters in the Board rooms in Boston would show many appeals, signed G. G. Brown, for funds for the improvement of the village vernacular schools; and a ride about Jaffna, today, would show many fit buildings as a result of such important appeals. This improve-

ment is not limited to such schools, but is to be seen in English schools and in churches and parsonages. As a member of the Building Committee the vote of G. G. B. was nearly always cast for the larger, more venturesome plan. He was disposed to vote for two stories rather than one; for three rooms rather than two; for the expenditure of Rs. 5000 rather than Rs. 4000. Now we are thankful for many such votes.

Liberality in views and tolerance in spirit enabled Mr. Brown to approach easily and frankly those who differed from him. The Hindu community of Jaffna is more ready to listen to the Gospel and more appreciative of mission work because of this. In fact, there are many leaders in the thought of the people here who cordially welcome Christian work, even in these days, because of their personal relationship with this sympathetic, great-hearted missionary.

It has been many years since one of the American Missionaries has been laid to rest in Jaffna, and the passing of this one, in what seemed the fullness of his vigour of body and soul, has profoundly impressed the Christians of the American Ceylon Church. There are great names in our annals, Poor, Spaulding, Agnew, Howland, Hastings, about which there is a halo; now the people are adding another to the list, and those of us who knew and worked with this whole-souled, transparent, genial man, rejoice that thus, 'He being dead, yet speaketh.'

J. B.

## THE DEPARTED

O strong soul, by what shore  
Tarriest thou now? For that force,  
Surely, has not been left vain!  
Somewhere, surely, afar,  
In the sounding labour-house vast  
Of being, is practised that strength,  
Zealous, beneficent, firm!  
Yes, in some far-shining sphere,  
Conscious or not of the past,  
Still thou performest the word  
Of the Spirit in whom thou dost live—  
Prompt, unwearied, as here!  
Still thou upraisest with zeal  
The humble good from the ground,  
Sternly represses the bad!  
Still, like a trumpet, dost rouse  
Those who with half-open eyes  
Tread the border-land dim  
Twixt vice and virtue; reviv'st,  
Succourest!—this was thy work,  
This was thy life upon earth.

*M. Arnold in Rugby Chapel.*



## REMINISCENCES OF REV. G. G. BROWN

I have a vivid recollection of the occasion on which the teachers of the College were introduced to the new missionary, a tall, spare-looking, bearded man, with a far away, dreamy look in his eyes. Rev. R C. Hastings, the then Principal, who introduced us made the rather joking remark that he was introducing his successor at the College. Mr. Brown made his debut at the College by giving an inspiring address at the Y. M. C. A. annual meeting on the subject, "Young Men of 1900," in which he dwelt on the characteristics necessary for leadership. When I look over this address which is printed in the *Miscellany* of January 1900, I realise how he himself has



exemplified these characteristics in his own life. Mr. Brown was lost to our view for a while, as he was in charge of the Udupiddy Station and was busy with village work, especially in building up village schools, in which he took great interest. The earliest recollection I have of his interest in the larger work, is his enthusiastic activity in organising the Jaffna Council of the A. C. M. Churches. It was an uphill work, as every new scheme is, in this country. Now the Christians of our community began to realise that a young and vigorous leader had made his appearance. It was in 1904 that Mr. Brown began to take an interest in the subject of a Union College. The question of a Union College had been first mooted in 1899, and had been renewed in 1901, when the question of moving the site of the College to a more central location was discussed. The subject was dropped owing to practical difficulties. As the rules for affiliation to an Indian University had been made stringent after the Curzon Education Commission, the question was again discussed in 1904, and Mr. Brown took a prominent part in favour of union. When it was known that Rev. R. C. Hastings could not return to Jaffna, the question of a successor arose. On Mr. Hitchcock declining to take up the principalship permanently, Mr. Bicknell was invited to fill the position; but circumstances prevented his returning to Ceylon. Then the choice fell on Mr. Brown, who was then in America on furlough. He, however, was not enthusiastic about it at first, as his heart had always been in direct mission work. But when he realised the opportunity of working for a Union College, he accepted the position with the distinct understanding that he should be allowed to work for such a College. He arrived in August 1908. A few days after his arrival I left for Calcutta, and knew from the discussion started by Mr. Brown in the *Morning Star* on the subject of union that he lost no time in planning for his cherished ideal. When I returned, I found that the subject was being discussed hotly, and that a section of the Directors were opposed to the scheme, notably the venerable President, Sir William Twynam, who resigned his position soon after. My impression is that many people of the American Mission were at first opposed to the scheme, and it was the enthusiasm, energy and personal influence of the new Principal that persuaded them to consider ways and means for accomplishing the object. Committees were appointed to confer with the other Missions, all went on very well, an agreement was arrived at, and a site was almost selected. But the crash came suddenly, and one morning we were told that the Union College was not to be. May I humbly point out here that the reason why the splendid scheme fell through, was due to the sectional spirit shown by the contracting parties. I can say confidently that this spirit was far from the mind of Mr. Brown. He

was always for making concessions and would remind those who disagreed with him that the Kingdom of God was larger than any sectional interest. I well remember that after a very heated argument with him, I said with great bitterness: Rev. — is for the Wesleyan Mission, Rev. — is for the Church Mission, and Rev. G. G. Brown is for the Kingdom of God, and who then represents the American Mission? I realise now that, instead of scoring a point against him, I paid one of the best compliments that I could pay to the largeness of his vision. Yes, with Mr. Brown the Kingdom of God was first, and every thing else after it. No union can ever be formed without this large vision, and any union formed with sectional feelings is bound to be wrecked sooner or later.

In bitter disappointment Mr. Brown turned his mind to the development of the College. Whatever his hands found to do, he did it with all his might. When he took charge of the College the number on the rolls was low, and the finances were far from satisfactory. Much as he admired the almost ideal organization left by his illustrious predecessors, Mr. Brown saw at a glance that "the old order changeth yielding place to new," and felt compelled to make some important changes. The strict rule had been that every student should be a boarder, and for the first time non-boarders began to be admitted. The College was registered for Government grant, and the institution which went on for nearly 35

years without outside control came under the supervision of the Education Department. It was evident that Mr. Brown infused a fresh energy in the administration of the College, and infected the teachers and students with his enthusiasm. All of us felt that Mr. Brown brought to us a fresh view point in looking at many of our problems. In the administration of the College and in his dealings with the staff, he was far from being masterful. He would always discuss things with an open mind, and never wished to impose his will on others. Giving orders to teachers was most repugnant to him; he would only give hints and suggestions. He made us all feel that we were fellow-workers with him. Even the idea of being a paymaster was distasteful to him, and he managed to send the salaries to the teachers without their going to him. A striking feature of his administration of the College was the division of responsibility among the different members of the Faculty, whom he expected to look after their departments without interference from him. I believe that the system worked exceedingly well. He showed the same democratic spirit to the boys. His house was always open to them, and one could see boys in his verandah in the evening playing indoor games. He encouraged them to confide in him, and discussed with them their difficulties and plans. The literary association he established, the Brotherhood, which still exists in a flourishing condi-

tion, is an institution entirely managed by the older boys, in which they develop not only their powers of debate, but also powers of initiative and self-help. His cheerful and hearty way of dealing with teachers and students was highly appreciated. His humour and his strikingly expressive phrases—'Brownisms' they may be called—made him highly popular. Mr. Brown was a fine speaker. His commanding presence, fine features, clear voice, and enthusiastic utterance, made him in the public platform a representative of the College of whom we were all proud. His moral and religious influence especially on the Senior boys may be said to be one of his best achievements in the College. Some were led to the feet of the Master, and many went out with Christian ideals of life. It is unnecessary for me to say that in all this work he was helped by his talented wife.

I have said above that his heart was in direct mission work. When, therefore, he left for Home in 1915, he was resolved not to come back to the College. He would always tell me that the place of the missionary was in the midst of the people. When he came back, he had his heart's wish. He worked among the people, lived in their houses, ate at their homes, and contracted his final illness in ministering to the lowly and the depressed.

If there is one adjective more than another by which we may describe Mr. Brown, it is 'Broad.' First, he was *broad in his sympathies*. I believe it was John Morley

that said that, in order to administer India well, the English official should get into the skin of the Indian. My impression of Mr. Brown is that he accomplished this difficult feat. He was one of us, and understood our points of view. He had a genius for friendship. In my intercourse with him I found that the saying 'East is East and West is West' was not an absolute truth. One of his fellow missionaries once said to me, "Brown has a heart of gold," and even those who differed from him in their views admitted this. As years went by, one noticed that his heart was getting softer. In the last conversation I ever had with him, when I expressed impatience at certain things that were going wrong regarding some religious work, he showed me the other side of the question and pleaded for patience and sympathy. Secondly, he was *broad in his views*. He was tolerant of the views of people who were of a different persuasion and was ever ready to recognise truth wherever he found it. Once in a discussion with a Christian friend on a religious topic the latter objected to a statement as being Vedantic. Mr. Brown said, "I do not care that it is Vedantic, so long as it is the truth." He was not a narrow sectarian, and was willing to recognise as Christians all those who owned Christ's name and heard His call. He would always lay emphasis on essentials, and his articles in the *Morning Star* explaining the fundamental principles of Christianity were appreciated by educated Hindus. Thirdly, he



was broad in his outlook. He was indeed a missionary statesman. 'The Kingdom of God' was a favourite expression of his. How he leaped over sectional interests and worked for the extension of the Kingdom in planning for a Union College, I have indicated above. One of the most statesmanlike acts of his is the creation of the Jaffna Council of the American Mission Churches. Those who know anything of this organisation would realise that it is a splendid instrument of self-government, self-support, and self-propagation. Mr. Brown saw that a time would come, and ought to come, when foreign missionaries would be withdrawn, and in anticipation of this he wished the Church here to stand on its own legs. He wished that as years went by, the Mission should grow less, and the Church Council should grow more. I may say that at present the Mission as a distinct body has reached almost the vanishing point, and, except in a few things, has merged itself in the Council.

Dr. Smith, Secretary of the American Board, who was with us at our Centenary Celebrations, said in a speech that, when the present missionaries passed away, they

would hold the same high place in the hearts of the people that the missionaries of old held. The prediction had a remarkable fulfilment in the case of Mr. Brown. Mr. James Hensman, for instance, said at the memorial service held at the Vaddukoddai Church that Mr. Brown had attained the stage of *Jivan Mukta* (saint). Sir Ambalavanar Kanagasabai, as he looked at the remains of Mr. Brown, said to me, his eyes glistening with tears: "We have lost a great man." Yes, the loss has been felt by Hindus as well as by Christians. There was one thing which reconciled me to his going. As I stood by his bedside during the last minutes, when his soul was ready to depart from its earthly tenement, I recalled the words he had spoken to me only a few weeks before: "I have done my work." He meant that he was ready to move on to another sphere of work, and that the people of this land should continue his work. We have lost a great leader. Who will, in the poet's words,

"Fill up the gaps in our files,  
Strengthen the wavering line,  
Stablish, continue our march,  
On, to the bound of the waste,  
On, to the City of God."?

J. V. C.



# THE HOME LIFE OF BIRDS

BY C. W. MILLER, M. A.

"Hast thou named the birds without a gun?  
Loved the wood rose and left it on its stalk?  
Oh, be my friend, and teach me to be thine."

*Thoreau.*

There was a time when scientific interest in bird life meant mostly the collecting and classifying of specimens: the zest that goes with the pursuit and bringing down of prey, and the cold examination of minute differences in structure and coloration that belongs strictly to the museum. This kind of study has filled museums in all parts of the world with the specimens which thousands of hunters and adventurers have contributed, and the detailed information concerning differences, names and classification, which have filled volumes of undoubted scientific value. Our evaluation of such study, however, has seen considerable change in recent years. However important the scientific information gathered by collectors and the students of museum specimens, it is now generally recognized that the most valuable things to be learnt about bird life can never be obtained from the study of dead carcasses, but must be the result of the study of life itself. Moreover, the study of living birds demands a high degree of knowledge and skill and develops even to a greater extent those qualities of patience, care, and endurance which characterize the successful hunters and collectors. The scientific results are much more difficult to obtain, but for that reason have so much the greater value when procured.

All bird study does not presuppose a thorough scientific training. There are thousands of bird lovers in all parts of the world whose training has been only that of lovers of the wild life about them. Their laboratories and museums have been the meadows, brooks and wood-lands; their classification has been of the kind which enables a man to number his friends, and their interest sustained by the desire for the preservation, and not the destruction of the beautiful. That such an interest which does not call to its aid the gun does not preclude a genuine scientific interest also, is seen in the most valuable studies that have been made recently in America on the home life of birds. Such studies are usually made with the aid of binoculars, or the camera and observation tent which enables the observer to gradually come close up to the home of the birds without unduly frightening them. Hours are spent at a time in close watch on what goes on at the bird home and careful records are made on the spot of all that happens. Cameras with telephoto lenses are focused on the center of interest, usually the nest, and wonderful photographic records are taken of the life of the birds. Moving pictures have also been taken of the activities of the birds, and such records have of course great popular interest as well as scientific value. The most remarkable moving pictures of bird life ever taken were those made by Mr. Ponting



who accompanied the ill-fated Sir Robert Scott on his expedition into the antarctic regions in his heroic attempt to reach the South Pole. In these pictures penguins were shown at close range sitting on their eggs in the midst of, and sometimes actually covered by, the snows.

The most active as well as the most interesting part of life of birds centers in that period when they are mating, finding their nesting places, and rearing their family of young birds. The pairing of birds takes place at a certain season of the year, in this hemisphere usually from February to June. The exact time varies with the species and the country. During the rest of the year the birds have no real homes except as they may remain in and about a certain locality for the securing of food. Not much is known about the pairing of birds. Many species are gregarious except during the mating season when each pair separates to find its own home. It is known that among some birds the mating is probably for life. Some birds which live in holes in boxes or trees have been caught and banded around the legs with delicate aluminium bands. In this way certain birds have been found to return year after year to the same spot for nesting. Some large birds like kites and eagles with certain easily identified peculiarities have been known to remain paired for many years together. Probably the larger number of species enter the courting season with no recollection of previous

attachments, and a choice is made which lasts only for the rearing of young for the one season.

One of the most interesting sights is the courting of the birds. The ridiculous and clumsy antics of the rooster among our domestic fowl are well-known. Have you ever watched the soul-absorbing courtship of the male "karikuruvi," commonly known as the dyhal or magpie robin? This is courtship refined to the extreme of exquisite sentimentality! The loud songs of the birds which we hear in the early morning are rarely the songs of courtship. Some day if you hear a gentle whispering song in the bush, look carefully for a lover pouring forth his passion in notes so low as to hardly be distinguishable but expressing that tensivity of emotion that only beings with a wonderful nervous system can experience. Some birds are not gifted with song, and many species resort to a display of lovely feathers or attractive actions such as a sort of a dance, the head moving rythmically up and down and the wings trailing the ground. The female bird is, as a rule, coy and shy and has to be persuaded. Her acceptance is generally indicated by an immediate search for the beginning of the home.

The nesting site is a very important matter. It must be suited to the habits of the species, protected from sun and rain and well secluded from enemies. With some species it is a hole in a tree, with others it is a bunch of twigs pro-

perly placed in a bush, with still others it is a crevice in a rock or bank. There are as many different kinds of nesting sites almost as there are different kinds of birds, and many observers can tell at a glance at the site what kind of bird is probably nesting there. Each species has its own peculiar methods of building a nest handed down through, who can say how many, generations. Materials are of all kinds which may be built or woven according to the peculiar instinct of the artisans who construct the nests. Sticks, roots, hairs, feathers, grasses, leaves, moss, and plant-down are commonly used. Some species have a keen sense of decoration. The nest of a certain species is always known because it is invariably decorated with a cast off snake skin. Another species un-  
failingly adorns its nursery with silky spider cocoons. Some birds are weavers and skilfully construct a long stocking for a cosy cradle while others laboriously excavate a hole in a tree by actually picking out the wood piece by piece. One thing is common to all nests. They are made cup-shaped, a wise provision of instinct which enables the eggs to be kept close together and not easily thrown out of the nest. In this construction both the male and female often take part. Sometimes the major part of the work is left to the female who works unceasingly, while her mate sings his love songs and pursues his ornamental career.

When the nest is all ready, the eggs are laid varying in number, shape, and colour according to the

various species. The eggs usually are laid about a day apart, and incubation is not begun until the whole number is laid. Sometimes the male and female take turns in incubation, sometimes the female does the whole labour and the male feeds her while she remains on the nest. In the case of one species the male walls up the female in her hole in the tree, and feeds her through a small crevice. The time for incubation varies considerably with the various species and this is a subject upon which but little information has been gathered except among the more common species of Europe and America. One interesting thing about the colouration of the eggs might be noted. For the most part, eggs that are laid by species choosing dark holes in trees for their nesting sites are pure white in colour, while those which are laid in open nests are coloured or spotted. This colouration is supposed to exist for the purpose of making the eggs less easily visible when first laid and unprotected. During incubation the eggs are turned frequently by the mother bird so that the heating continues uniformly.

When the young are hatched, the mother helps the chick out of its cradle by removing the pieces of shell. These are always carried to a distance from the nest in order that they may be no evidence below of the presence of the nest. Birds that belong to certain families hatch their young in a condition to feed themselves. The care of these species consists in helping the chicks to find food and protecting them from cold and

from enemies. In the case of our common garden birds and many others, however, the young are in a pitifully weak and helpless condition when hatched, and the tenderest care and skill is necessary to rear them into healthy youngsters. Very tender insects must be fed at frequent intervals and sometimes juicy fruits. The parent birds are kept busy from morning till night gathering the food necessary for the hungry little creatures. Enormous quantities of food are consumed during this period and this is the reason that a nestful of birds in the vicinity of a garden is the means of the destruction of large quantities of injurious insects.

The birds are born with the instinct to open their mouths as widely as possible. The instant the mother alights on the nest, up will come several mouths, which never seem to get entirely filled. The tender insect or juicy morsel of food is placed deep down the fortunate bird's throat while the others continue to make demonstrations of hunger until they in their turns receive a morsel.

The growth in size is very rapid during the first two weeks. The young of several species mature sufficiently during that period to leave the nest and soon after to fly. The body at first covered merely with a bit of down, grows a lot of spines which finally break forth into beautiful feathers. The little birds from the first have an instinct to care for their own feathers. It is amusing to watch a naked, spiny-clad, little creature

reach around to its wing with its trembling beak and pick at the quill which is itching to burst. The young as they grow up in the nest will frequently rise up on their legs as far as possible and stretch their wings, thus allowing the muscles to grow which will do them such service in the work of flight. Little birds have the instinct to bathe born in them. One of the most touching sights is a family of little birds not long out of the nest taking their first baths in a pool of water.

Not much is known of the habits of the bird family after the young leave the nest. Most species stay together until the young are more than well able to shift for themselves. Sometimes a second or even third family is reared, in which case it is supposed that the male bird assumes the large care of the youngsters which have gone forth into the world.

It must be understood that this brief description of the home life of birds applies only in a general way to those species that have been studied carefully. Each species has its own habits, and our information to be complete must be worked out in detail with respect to each species. The importance of records written on the spot when observations are made cannot be over-emphasized. Even an amateur who has sufficient interest can make such notes. In this land but very little has been done in such study. Here is the opportunity for the nature lover of the East to pursue an interesting hobby and to quicken his



spirit in the appreciation of those "Whose habitations in the treetops even,  
wonderful messengers of the good Are half-way houses on the road to heaven,"  
God,



## FOOD PRODUCTION

By W. A. P. COOKE

*Agricultural Instructor*

The Colony imports 400,000 tons of rice from Burma, Bangkok and Siam a year and we are permitted to receive 280,000 tons this year from Burma. There is the prospect of this amount being cancelled at any moment when it pleases the Indian Government. We are now face to face with the question as to how best we should meet the situation.

The Ceylon Government has created a Food Production Department to deal with this subject in view of the crisis. The sphere of this department may be judged from the published report of the Food Production Committee. In order to grow 400,000 tons of rice we have to cultivate not less than two million acres of new land. The booklet on "Food Production" by the Hon. Mr. Balasingham and the above report treat comprehensively and in a practical manner of the broad principles to be adopted by Government on the subject. This article only supplements what has already been said in regard to the increase of food supply. Our attention should be directed in three directions to achieve results.

### I. Intensive cultivation. The

lands already under cultivation ought to be made to yield more return than at present. That this can be accomplished is a matter of no doubt. The cultivators ought to be induced to adopt thorough cultivation, judicious manuring, and to use selected seed. The land should not be allowed to be idle for any part of the year whenever possible. The cultivators of garden lands with irrigation facilities ought to be financially assisted for this purpose. I might here mention that the principle of prohibiting removal of paddy from certain districts does not appear to be conducive to intensive cultivation; for the cultivator feels that he cannot get his price in the Island's market, and also his crop, or rather his capital, is idle for a great part of the year waiting for buyers in his own locality. The inhabitants are assured of their food supply, and this throws cold water on new enterprise in food production.

### II. Opening up of new land.

Though the colony ordinarily imports 400,000 tons of rice, sufficient new land ought to be brought under cultivation to produce 300,000 tons and the balance could be left to

be produced in areas already under cultivation. This is being accomplished by special efforts of cultivators and by the poorer class of people taking to other forms of diet that are grown to a great extent all over the island. An acre of jungle land newly opened and left to the varying rainfall of the N. E. monsoon may be said to produce an average crop of 10 bushels of paddy or about 324 lbs. of rice per acre. This means that about two million acres ought to be brought under cultivation. This area could be considerably reduced if the lands are laid in beds and a portion of land is irrigable. The colony ought to aim to cultivate one million acres at least.

III. Labour. This is going to be the most serious part of the situation and endeavour should be made to economise human labour with mechanical assistance. The Food Production Committee recommends that Indians ought to be encouraged to settle in the new areas anticipating that sufficient local men could not be induced to colonise them, and also recognising the paucity of Ceylon labour. Two questions ought now to receive consideration. (a) How could a Ceylon labourer be induced to colonise? To put it differently, what will tempt him to colonise? Health and money is the answer, and no other.

(1) Facilities for communication. The labourer, rather the colonist, ought not only to have facilities to remove his crop on easy terms as already recommended, but he

should be allowed health pass to his home twice or at least once a month. He will not care to stay in the jungle for long periods and he is bound to get malaria if he did. His health is of the utmost importance to the Colony and therefore he should receive special treatment from the State, which, after all, comes to very little, considering the fact that he would make use of only the existing trains.

(2) Medical aid. I cannot, and do not, claim any authority on malaria, but common sense prompts me that plenty of drinkable water should be at his disposal. I may suggest that with the large quantity of fuel available a sufficient quantity of water could be distilled at little or practically no cost. Plans and materials ought to be supplied to construct mosquito proof huts. Medical aid ought to be obtainable at short notice.

(3) Financial aid. The most welcome aid to the colonists would be the supply of rice in the colonisation area at a considerably reduced price. This will induce able-bodied but poor people to migrate and considerably decrease the cost of production to the colonist. The question of bounties suggested by the Hon. Mr. Bala-singam might take this form. A certain amount of money ought to be advanced after, say, every ten acres is brought under cultivation. This will induce them to proceed with their undertaking unhampered. Seed ought to be available for distribution at reduced prices.

(4) Land Settlement. The Director of Food Production ought to have ample scope to grant lands to cultivators at short notice and the selection should be left to the cultivator.

(5) Implements. The method of cultivation and clearing jungle as practised at present is not economical. Labour-saving tools ought to be available and each colonisation area ought to have a demonstration ground. This will release a lot of human labour. Stump extractors, ploughs, cultivators, tractors, etc. ought to be introduced

in a large scale. Mammoth work ought to be discouraged.

(6) Draft-cattle. The Ceylon cattle are inferior and are not most of them suited for heavy work. The number is small. Immediate

attention should be directed to import draft cattle from India and to breed cattle locally. The conditions in most parts of the island are favourable for raising cattle.

I have lastly to add that the present position should be brought home to the people effectively and their co-operation should be obtained without causing any alarm.





# THE COLLEGE

## EDITORIAL NOTES

The issue of this number is somewhat late as we have been in hopes of securing a good picture of Mr. Brown. We are sorry to say that we have not succeeded, but we hope to get a good picture soon and print it for the readers of the *Miscellany*.

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We give in this number the picture of Proctor Thambiah S. Cooke, one

**The Late Mr. Thambiah S. Cooke** distinguished Alumnus of the College. The Cooke family has long and honourably been associated with the College, Mr. J. P. Cooke as a Director for more than four decades, and Mr. Chelliah Cooke as

a teacher for about the same period. Although Proctor Cooke was associated with the Wesleyan Mission owing to his residence in Town, his interest in the American Mission and the Jaffna College was very great. He was born in 1863. He practised his profession very successfully for forty years and was held in high esteem by all who were associated with him. He interested himself in matters of public interest and his advice was always sought after. Quiet and gentle in his ways, he was loved by all those who came in contact with him. He was a tower of strength to the Christian community in Jaffna. His death occurred on February 13th. Jaffna College may well be proud of such a distinguished son as Mr Cooke.



## REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL

PRIZE GIVING FEB. 20, 1920.

We held no prize-giving for Jaffna College for the years 1917 and 1918, and therefore it is with special pleasure we welcome you all here to this function. We were fortunate in the Prize-giving held in conjunction with the Centenary Celebration in October 1916 to have as our presiding officer the Director of Education; fortune continues to smile upon us in giving us for that position to-night the Chief Justice of our Island. We all wish to extend to you, Sir, and to Lady Bertram, a most cordial welcome to our precincts made sacred by the feet of teachers and seekers who have walked here for the past one hundred years. I cannot speak of welcoming here the other person who sits on the platform, for Mr. Balasingham comes here, not as a guest, rather as one of us, an old boy of the institution and

now the Chairman of the Board of Directors, to which office he was elected in December last, and in which position we expect him to render the same faithful service as that in the Legislative Council, which has been deservedly rewarded by a reappointment to that body. Glad as we are to have this position thus filled, we deeply regret the retirement from that chairmanship of the one who has held it for the past four years. Mr. James Hensman came to us with a fund of experience and insight that made him most helpful in shaping the course of the College, and his severance of that connection is keenly felt. Our Board has, during the past year, suffered two other losses, both by death. One, that of Mr. T. S. Cooke is fresh in your minds. Like so many other good organizations we have lost a staunch

supporter. It was here under our eaves he grew to manhood; here he was educated; here his loyalty found its expression in guiding our financial affairs. The other member of our Board to be called across the Great Divide was Rev. S. Veerahatty, the Pastor of our Church, whose *pahititi* and *puthiti* made him a wise counsellor as well as a pious minister to the souls of his congregation of which our boys formed a large part.

The report in October 1916 said, "The enrolment during the year has reached about 275"; and it was pointed out that this was a large increase, due chiefly to the amalgamation of the Vaddukoddai High School with the College; or perhaps better, a bringing of the High School into closer relationship with the College. The number on the roll to-day is about a hundred above that of three years ago, in spite of the very general exodus, amounting to about 125 boys from our gates in the latter part of 1917, on account of an unpopular action by the school. Of this number there are approximately 225 in the classes above Form II, and 150 in the Lower School are nearly all day scholars coming from the immediate vicinity: about two fifths of the Upper School also come from a radius of three miles and are largely day scholars, though we seek as far as possible to bring them into the boarding when they enter the Junior Class. The remaining three fifths come to us from our Mission Stations throughout the country districts of the peninsula, only six coming from other parts of the island. Of the boys we have as boarders, about half are from Christian homes and of these about a half from homes of workers in our churches and schools. It may be of interest to some, and perhaps of some value to students of the educational movement in Jaffna to compare these figures with those of the past. In 1833 when the Central English School, the name of the newly hatched chick that was to grow into the Batticotta Seminary, started, it had 28 students, which number had increased to 98 when the storm of the American Deputation raged it to the ground. Ten years after

the founding of the present College, viz. in 1882 there were 61 students, which number had grown to about 100 in the years at the close of the last and opening of this century. Whether these figures show that more boys are taking up as high a grade of work to-day, as then, is a question that could be settled only by more data, and then would be to a large extent a matter of opinion.

The boys who come to us from our outlying districts, come to enter, for the most part, our Second Form... where we begin Latin, Mathematics, and Science; subjects not generally studied in the Primary and Elementary Schools. We are glad to receive these boys into our Boarding Department thus early; but parents are not always willing they should leave home at such a tender age and do not wish to assume the burden of their boarding fees for so long a period as is called for when they come so soon. It was with a view to helping meet this situation that the policy of affiliating English Schools in our Mission with the College was started in 1916. Three schools: the Karadive English School, the Manepay Memorial School, and Pandaterruppo Elementary English School, have been brought under the College authorities. They have an enrolment of about 459 and are, we believe, making some progress in the desired direction of uniformity in course and excellence of work. Whether this movement will be extended is not yet certain: a conference for the consideration of our whole English School policy, a week from tomorrow, may help to settle that question.

Nearly all our boys are now taking the Secondary course leading up to the Cambridge examinations. We have in fact at present no boys in our Elementary sixth and seventh standards. This is the result of the choice of the boys, though in line with our own desire. With the admission into the Secondary Department, of Tamil as an optional subject for boys not fit for Latin and the exclusion of Science, a most desirable subject for boys of the Elementary type, from the Elementary Classes the reason and the desirability of

separate Elementary classes for our boys seems to have passed. We can welcome boys with more enthusiasm into a course that is not a blind alley from which escape to any other way is a Herculean task such as that performed by the hero of *Les Misérables*.

Perhaps the most marked improvement in our course has been the development of our Science work for which we now have thoroughly competent teachers and quite adequate equipment and laboratory, though we are not yet, owing to delay caused by the war, in what will be our permanent laboratories.

We are eager to add some industrial work for our classes and shall do so as soon as we secure a trained man for the work and have the necessary materials on hand. This work we look upon as a valuable addition to our Science Course in teaching the co-ordination of hand and head. It is not to make boys into carpenters any more than the study of chemistry is to make them into chemists; it is to help them to learn to observe, to teach them to think scientifically, to help them to relate their solution of problems in life.

We have added to our course both downward and upward by opening a Kindergarten, and starting an Intermediate Class. The former comes from our belief that childhood is the time to begin to acquire a language that is to be the medium of learning and the latter comes because of our conviction that for the work of a teacher, pastor, lawyer, doctor, to which lines of work many of our boys are looking forward, something more than a Senior Local or London Matriculation Course is essential. It is also in line with the ambitions held by many Old Boys of this institution that we should rise again to the high position in the days from 1893-1908 when we were a first grade institution affiliated with Calcutta and Madras Universities. We are well aware, however, that we do not, by starting such a class, regain any such position, and it is with, I trust, befitting modesty I speak of this venture. The beginnings of our class are

extremely modest for there are only three on the roll. We lay special stress on its quality, which stress we expect every member of the class to justify next July. The duty rests upon those who are convinced that a course, at least to the Intermediate should be taken by those who hope to be leaders in their respective lines of work to propagate such sentiments in the Jaffna youth and their parents.

The class room work is but a part of the activity of our boys within the school; they have their games, their literary societies, their Dramatics, and their religious organizations and services besides other unorganized and unclassable interests. The game life has been thoroughly awake and well directed and has been most in evidence, perhaps, in the inter-class contests in foot-ball and cricket. The interest here has run high and the benefits have been more generally shared than in the intercollegiate contests of which we have not had many. In this connection I am pleased to announce that we have received money from Mr. J. K. Woodhull, Perak, for a net that will be a help in improving the batting of our cricketers. As the boys have their games in the afternoon they have their physical drill from 8 to 8-30 A. M. We are now having the Canmuck system as taught to those trained in the Government Colleges in Colombo. This gymnasium is also in use daily and just at present there are a few budding gymnasts here. Volley ball has become an established part of our play and attracts some of those who had before its advent been remiss in exercise. There is also an occasional revival of the indigenous games, especially *thatchi*, for which a silver cup, called the Kanapathypilly memorial trophy has been presented by friends of Mr. Kanapathypilly; this cup is to be contested for each year. Scouting has had its ups and downs during the year, dependent to a large extent upon the instructor's regularity which has been much interfered with as his chief work was in town. We need only another Peace Celebration to make it blossom forth in flaming colours once more. Though it



vacillates, from it the scouts and others, learn some manly virtues. In the literary way we have weekly meetings of the Brotherhood for the Upper, and the Lyceum for the lower classes. The upper classes are left very largely to their own devices with the result that, though they sorely wrest some of Robert's rules of order, they learn a bit of proper procedure of a meeting and acquire something of facility in giving expression to their ideas before a company. The organized religious work of the college is in the hands of the Y. M. C. A. except for the regular church services. They have a diversified work, from the cultivation of the garden, to the rear of our auditorium, to the deepening of the spiritual channels of the boy's souls. The last year has seen the addition of a Social Service Committee to extend the social service work done for many years, though not always under that name. In this connection we should speak of the excellent work along social service lines done by our boys in the crusade against the toddy and arrack taverns. In Karadive, Manepay, Alaveddi, and elsewhere they rendered valuable service and have thus had a taste that will, we trust, give them a permanent hunger for this sort of food. The work done before has included the maintenance of the school on the island of Eluvaitivu; this is still flourishing and the annual expedition will soon take place. Fifteen of our boys have united with the church during the year and they have been helped to this step by their fellow members in the organization. A number of others will soon follow to take the same step. Just before the rainy season *Sakuntala* was successfully staged in this place and later in Ridgeway Hall. It was in charge of Mr. J. V. Chelliah and to him and Mr. Sanders who took the part of Dushyanta, we are all indebted for an enlightening presentation of that masterpiece. This is one thing we have done to instruct our boys in things Indian.

Our staff, has, in the last twelve months, suffered heavy losses and been blessed with great gains. The losses have included Mr. C. H. Cooke, who retired last July after forty years of most faithful service

that has won for him the gratitude and respectful regard of the hundreds of students who from him learned not only the science of formal logic, but the fine art of being a gentleman. Mr. Cooke leaves our staff to enter upon his duties as a Director and will therefore continue his connection with the school. Another severe loss was that of Mr. S. M. Thevathasan, M. A., L. T., who with his thorough training combined a diligent spirit that guaranteed work of a high grade of excellence in any class he took. His going was a loss too in other parts of the work; for he had been president of our Y. M. C. A., in charge of the Lyceum, and made himself generally helpful. He has gone forth from us as one of our products and, we trust, to serve the people in Singapore with the same zeal and ability he had in the College here. The others who have gone are Mr. Hensman and Mr. Marnicksingam after short terms of service.

Our gains have included Mr. M. H. Harrison, B. A., S. T. M. who arrived from America last January and at once got into the harness where he is pulling a good load in English and Latin proving most valuable in the class room and out. Mr. D. S. Sanders and Mr. A. C. Sandrampilly returned triumphantly from the north in May last with a B. A. and a B. Sc. won in the halls of Calcutta. They are for the college rich fruits of the foresight of the former Principal, Mr. Brown, (whose absence tonight on account of sickness we regret) and their own untiring efforts. We have also added to our corps of instructors two men from the Training College. Mr. Peter Chelliah, who after three years of teaching has been awarded a first class certificate, and Mr. J. C. Amerasingham, B. A. who really returns to us after a course at the college. Thus with a bound we jump into the ranks of those who satisfy the requirements of the code that an efficient school should have two trained teachers. They are bringing us things of worth from that training. Two others are now in that college whom we hope to welcome back here at the close of their study; one, Mr. Navaratnam, a teacher of long standing here, and the other Mr.

Christ was born - April 7, 1848  
Rome, Italy  
N. S. a republic  
Y. M. C. A. deferring

19

- An era of emancipation  
spiritual things  
darkness of ignorance  
scales fell off the  
eyes  
Slaves - Colored  
Poor, wretched, lame, blind  
& deformed - God's Son  
rejoiced with them

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ground floor, as at present, for a dormi-  
tory will be discontinued as soon as the  
upper floor is put in, which will be as  
soon as the price of steel makes it ad-  
visable to take the step. With this  
we shall be partially provided for in re-  
spect to dormitories, and finally in respect  
to class rooms, though the probable growth  
of the next year may call for more  
class rooms. We are still in need  
of better kitchens, more suitable  
teachers' quarters, a library building,  
and a remodelling of our Hall. Our pre-  
sent Library room is quite inadequate  
for housing our 4000 volumes, so they  
can be most efficiently used. Most of the  
money for the buildings already erected  
has come from America. We are looking  
forward to the time when there will be  
men in Jaffna, Colombo, Kandy, and  
Malay Peninsula who will not be content  
to see America do it all. We are grateful  
for the small gifts that have come in for  
the Hudson Memorial; The Hitchcock  
Fund; the Sathasivam Memorial Fund;  
and the present from Mr. Thambirajah  
Hudson of a portrait of his father, also a  
portrait of Rev. R. C. Hastings, M. A. given  
by Mr. T. S. Salviah of Badulla. We had  
hoped that that portrait and also a portrait  
of Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, M. A. would be  
here tonight; now we must wait, and  
shall expect to have the unveiling of Mr.  
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farewell. Could the old boys of this col-  
lege realize that here in Jaffna to-day we  
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some other parts of this island, they

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for instance, while the income from fees  
falls far below it.

There are two tests in addition to that  
of general and often irresponsible criticism,  
from the outside, of the quality of work  
we are in doing in our College; one, the  
Cambridge examinations and the other,  
the reports of the Government Inspectors.  
They enable us to see ourselves as others  
see us. We cannot say that we get a  
very flattering view of ourselves in either  
of these mirrors. We are quite dissatis-  
fied with our passes, though we do get a  
few crumbs of comfort from the fact that  
our averages for the Junior and Senior  
passes have for the past two years been a  
little above the average for all Ceylon. I  
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spectors passages that would lead you to  
think they are satisfied with our work;  
the most, however, that I believe I can  
say without distortion is that they do see  
some progress, some improvement here and  
there, and that they catch some gleams  
of a better day to dawn, though the com-  
ing is slower than they wish. A year ago  
one of our glaring defects, was hand-writing  
that is now in the convalescent stage un-  
der the careful nursing of our trained  
teacher. Another defect is the teaching of  
English Grammar, due in part to our valu-  
ation of that subject. We had thought, as  
reported by those who have been in charge  
of education in the Philippines that the study  
of Grammar does not necessarily have any  
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Sinnathamby with one year's experience. These men, together with Mr. Allen Abraham, B. A., P. R. A. S., Mr. J. V. Chelliah M. A., and Mr. L. S. Ponniah B. A., all of whom are fit for fruitful service after many years of rich experience, give us a staff capable of work of high grade.

In buildings and equipment we are doing something to provide what is requisite for first class work. The completion of class room row and the lower school building has given us 14 commodious light, and airy rooms, and the partial completion of the Hunt Building has increased our dormitory space. The use of the ground floor, as at present, for a dormitory will be discontinued as soon as the upper floor is put in, which will be as soon as the price of steel makes it advisable to take the step. With this we shall be partially provided for in respect to dormitories, and finally in respect to class rooms, though the probable growth of the next year may call for more class rooms. We are still in need of better kitchens, more suitable teachers' quarters, a library building, and a remodelling of our Hall. Our present library room is quite inadequate for housing our 4000 volumes, so they can be most efficiently used. Most of the money for the buildings already erected has come from America. We are looking forward to the time when there will be men in Jaffna, Colombo, Kandy, and Malay Peninsula who will not be content to see America do it all. We are grateful for the small gifts that have come in for the Hudson Memorial; The Hitchcock Fund; the Sathasivam Memorial Fund; and the present from Mr. Thambirajah Hudson of a portrait of his father, also a portrait of Rev. R. C. Hastings, M. A. given by Mr. T. S. Salviah of Badulla. We had hoped that that portrait and also a portrait of Mr. W. E. Hitchcock, M. A. would be here tonight: now we must wait, and shall expect to have the unveiling of Mr. Hitchcock's portrait on the day of his farewell. Could the old boys of this college realize that here in Jaffna to-day we are labouring under a burden much heavier than that borne by colleges in some other parts of the island, they

would more liberally give for this object not simply for buildings, but for endowments for the support of teachers and running expenses.

The cost of maintaining an efficient English School in Jaffna is increasing as the years go by, while the income increases at a much slower rate. In this respect we find ourselves at a decided disadvantage in comparison with school in Kandy and Colombo, where fees for tuition and boarding are double or triple ours and salaries not proportionately higher. The upkeep of a Jaffna School approaches near to that of a Kandy school, for instance, while the income from fees falls far below it.

There are two tests in addition to that of general and often irresponsible criticism, from the outside, of the quality of work we are in doing in our College; one, the Cambridge examinations and the other, the reports of the Government Inspectors. They enable us to see ourselves as others see us. We cannot say that we get a very flattering view of ourselves in either of these mirrors. We are quite dissatisfied with our passes, though we do get a few crumbs of comfort from the fact that our averages for the Junior and Senior passes have for the past two years been a little above the average for all Ceylon. I could cull from the reports of our Inspectors passages that would lead you to think they are satisfied with our work; the most, however, that I believe I can say without distortion is that they do see some progress, some improvement here and there, and that they catch some gleams of a better day to dawn, though the coming is slower than they wish. A year ago one of our glaring defects, was hand-writing that is now in the convalescent stage under the careful nursing of our trained teacher. Another defect is the teaching of English Grammar, due in part to our valuation of that subject. We had thought, as reported by those who have been in charge of education in the Philippines that the study of Grammar does not necessarily have any very definite result in improving the language used by pupils. However, we are now seeking to follow a course that will through laying emphasis upon the application of

principles and rules rather than simply committing them to memory, lead to improvement in language. Latin is another subject in which reports and results lead us to see we must improve; we believe we are started on that.

A test in addition to that of examinations and inspections is the way our boys are setting their faces while in school and the way they develop after leaving school. It is very gratifying to us that we have a number who have just gone out who are fitting themselves for the ministry or teaching or have entered the latter; also the number of these in the school who are looking to these callings. We have one in Serampore and one in Bangalore and half a dozen others headed in the same direction. We also believe that some of these who go from us into what may not seem so distinctively callings for service to their fellow-men, may carry from here the spirit that will enable them to use that occupation for the betterment of mankind, for service to their neighbours.

In looking over the College record I discovered in the hand-writing of Rev. R. C. Hastings under the date June 19, 1901 this item; "The Deputation consisting of Dr. Barton, Dr. Lobs, and Mr. Whitmore vi-

sited the Colleges in Jaffna and discussed the question of Union." The deputation here referred to was from America. Whether this was the beginning of any normal discussion of that subject, I do not know, but I know that it has been much discussed since. To some it is now a dead issue, to some even who had regarded it as a desirable thing. I wish tonight to encourage them by reminding them that nothing is really settled until it is settled right. And if they feel that though desirable in the past it is not desirable now, I should like to suggest to them that it is still more desirable. We have no time for a full discussion of the subject in this report, as it was not my purpose in raising it to attempt such a discussion. I wish simply to point out that every increase in the number of boys seeking English education makes it increasingly desirable we should unite, and also that if we are looking forward to something higher than now in the educational line for Jaffna we should co-operate to get it. I however, should be glad to see a co-operation in all our English work, and it is in that line I look for real, forward, progressive work. If nations can get together for a League, then Christian missions and schools should be able to get together for a Union College.



## COLLEGE NOTES

In January we had the pleasure of a visit from Rev. W. M. Zumbro M. A. B. D., President of the American College at Madura and Rev. Ross Wilson of Christian College Lahore. These men came in the interests of the Inter-church World Movement in America. Their purpose was to gather information as to the needs of the fields that may be most urgently put before the churches in U. S. A. The College students had the privilege of listening to both of these men and learned something of their respective Colleges.

—Another visitor from America was Miss Flora Strout of the International W. C. T. U. who came in the interests of temperance and stimulated still more the interest that has been awakened during the past few months by the anti-tavern campaign. The next battle in this campaign is staged at Vaddukoddai and we approach it with confidence that it will be successful as the others have been. In fact, when we think of the ease with which success has been gained, we wonder whether our figure of fighting is not overdrawn.

—Miss Calder, Secretary of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, spoke, at our chapel service one morning and spent some time looking over our school. She came after a tour throughout Japan and China and helped to lead us into a more sympathetic and intelligent interest in movements in those countries.

—A Memorial Service was held in the Vaddukoddai Church on the 28th of March. The Principal assisted by Rev. J. Mather conducted the service. A large number of

people attended the service. The choirs of Jaffna College and the Uduvil Girls' English School led in the singing. Mr. James Hensman B. A. spoke of the high plane in religious life attained by Mr. Brown and said that his place was with the great missionaries of old. Messrs A. Abraham, J. V. Chelliah, and D. S. Sanders spoke laying emphasis on the large-hearted, wide outlook, and enthusiastic service of the deceased.



## ALUMNI NOTES

Rev. J. S. Mather was ordained on the 27th of January as a Minister of the Wesleyan Church.

Dr. Isaac S. John, L. M. S., (Calcutta) F. R. F. P. and S. (Glasgow) has obtained the L. M. degree of Dublin.

Messrs W. P. Sinnadurai and A. Arudpragasam have passed the last Clerical Examination.

Mr. S. Vythilingam, B. A., of the Registrar General's Office, Colombo, has been appointed Registrar of Lands, Trincomalee.

Mr. S. N. Nelson, B. A. has joined the teaching Staff of the Kilner College, Vannarponne.

Mr. K. Thillainathan has been appointed Asst. Cashier, in the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo.

Messrs S. Velauthan and S. Sabapathy have joined the Victoria College, Chulipuram, as teachers.

Mr. E. V. Rasiah who completed his course in the Training College, has joined the staff of St. John's College Jaffna.

Mr. G. S. Arulambalam has been appointed the Foreman of Works at Kandy

in the Way and Works Dept. of C. G. R.

Dr. S. S. Rajanayagam, Assistant Surgeon Rewang, F. M. S., was married to Miss Lily Arulamma Breckenridge at Uduvil Church on the 30th of January.

Mr. C. Kanapathippilla of the Drieberg English School, Chavagachcheri, has joined the Training College.

Messrs S. Rajadurai and K. E. Tambirajah have joined the Anglo Chinese School, Kuala Lumpur as teachers.

Mr. K. Nagalingam has received an appointment as teacher in the Hindu English Institute, Vaddukoddai.

Mr. K. Parinpanayagam is teaching in the English School at Tellippalai.

Mr. H. L. Navaratnam of the Drieberg English School has joined the Theological College at Bangalore as a student.

**Obituary.** The death of Mr. Elisha Bates Hunt, Surveyor, occurred in Madras on January 25th.

Mr. J. M. Ponniah, Sanitary Inspector Nawalapitiya, passed away at Araly on 3rd of March.





## Y. M. C. A.

## THE ELUVATIVE EXPEDITION

Our annual expedition to the island of Eluvative came off on Friday, March, 5th. About 60 students and five teachers including Mr. Harrison and Mr. Sanders, our president and vice-presidents respectively, set out for Araly ferry at half past one and thence took boat for the island at about 2.30. It is ten years since an American Professor dared to undergo the hardships of this trip, which though pleasant has its own difficulties. Mr. Harrison, was one of us and shared with us every pleasure or hardship. When we set sail the wind was not favourable, and our progress was slow. At about half past five we reached Kayts, which is our only port of call. We were under no necessity of using it as a coaling station. There we regaled ourselves with light refreshments, which we very badly wanted after a sea-trip of about 3 hours. At six we again got into our boat and sailed steadily towards Eluvative. A little while after leaving the jetty we sighted and passed Fort Hammanhiel built by Sinna Ollandace, whose name has been immortalised by the familiar play, Prothetamby Vilasam. When we passed the fort we called out three lusty cheers to Sinna Ollandace. Now the sun had set and the wind was not fair. But the full moon appeared in all her majestic splendour and enlivened us on our voyage. The slow progress we made was very acceptable to us owing to the silvery rays of the moon. We spent the time in merry concerts. At last we sighted bonfires burning on the beach to guide us and we sailed directly to our destination. From a distance we were able to discern the tiny figures of the children of our school waiting to receive their benefactors. We reached the shore at eight, and when we stepped on the shore the children received us with a hearty clap of their hands and a beaming smile on their faces. When all of us were on land we offered a prayer of thanks-giving and sent the children to bring their parents to the meeting which we were going to conduct that night. When we reached the school most of the people of the island were already here and we had the meeting immediately. Messrs Sanders and Harrison spoke to them. Our dinner not being ready, we dispersed to the beach in several groups and spent the moonlight night in talking and building huge bonfires for which purpose we had plenty of unused fuel in the island. We dined at 10.30 and those of us who wanted to rest went to bed. Others thought the moonlight too good to be wasted in sleep and sat up till morning talking, roaming about the shore, lighting bonfires and disturbing the sleep of others. When it was morning we had our *cumee* and went in five groups to the island to pay house to house visits. The teachers of the groups were Messrs Harrison, Sanders, Kathiravelu, Chinniah and Ponniah. We were cordially received everywhere except at the Roman Catholic quarters, where we met with a little opposition. We did not preach Christianity this year as we did in former years. We spoke to the people on the evils of drink, and how they ought to remove the toddy tavern there. We were glad to find that our teacher in the island had already taken steps towards the abolition of the tavern there. We had a sympathetic and warm hearing from the people who seem resolved to abolish the tavern. When we returned from the house to house visits, some of us tested the ability of our students in reading, scripture, arithmetic, and field sports, while others went to the banian tree to carve their names. After sports we had our general meeting and prize-giving. We gave prizes to every student in the school, besides the prize for proficiency in the different class lessons and sports. After the prize-giving Messrs Harrison, Sanders, Ponniah and Chinniah addressed the gathering which consisted of almost every man in the island and most of the women. After this came the distribution of rice which was a welcome gift to the islanders who had suffered much during the present crisis. The only industry of the islanders is basket-making; the only

trees that thrive there are the palmyra and the coconut palm. There are no rice fields and the water supply is insufficient for raising other articles. This year even people who had scruples about getting rice from us in previous years were glad to receive what we could give them. Every man who came there was given rice. After this we had our breakfast and hurried to the boat and set sail homeward. We made a break in our journey near Kayts to see the fort there. We went into the fort and

spent nearly a quarter of an hour inside it. The boatman would not allow us to stay there longer, because he said that the wind which was favourable might change and we might have to trudge all the way from Kayts. The threat had the desired effect; we instantly got into the boat and reached Araly ferry at 6 p. m. on Saturday. We reached College at seven o'clock.

HANDY S. PARINPANAYAGAM,  
SECRETARY.



## BROTHERHOOD

### Topics discussed:—

- (1) Labcuring men have a right to strike.  
(Prop.) L. S. Kulathungam (Opp.) A. T. Ve. naparanam. Carried
- (2) The Government should control the sale of rice permanently in Ceylon.  
(Prop.) J. P. Hensman (Opp.) T. Thiru. vilakam. Lost
- (3) Education has done more to the world than money.

- (Prop.) J. P. Thuraiainam (Opp.) Seeva-  
ratnam, Lost.
- (4) The man of art is more useful to the world than the man of science.  
(Prop.) Handy P. S. (Opp.) Joshua Ala-  
baretnam. Carried.
- V. R. Rajaratnam,  
Secretary.



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