

# Jaffna College Miscellany

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## MY TRAVELS IN JAPAN

EDWARD G. NICHOLS

It was a rainy, chilly day, that first day of 1925, but my Shanghai rickshaw-puller did not seem to mind the weather. He trotted along barefoot through the icy streets. I spoke to an acquaintance about it, and he said, "It's only a matter of getting used to it." Yes, the human foot can be forced to endure much, from the scorching sands of Jaffna to the snows of China. It can put up with any sort of covering, too, from the loosest Indian sandals and Turkish slippers to the tightest French-heeled shoes, from the soft and flimsy grass-sandals of the Himalayan shepherds to the stilt-like wooden sandals that keep the Ja-

panese well above the mud. How unhappy we make ourselves sometimes when we do not have exactly what we are accustomed to wear! Travelling about, and seeing what people similar to ourselves in other countries have and lack in the way of comforts, should make us all more content with our lot.

My first few minutes aboard a Japanese ship were for me a lesson in courtesy. I know of no people who have such elaborate ways of showing respect. On all sides, I saw smiles of welcome. Low bows greeted me in my progress from one corridor to the next in search of my cabin. I felt for a minute

like a Roman general entering a city decked for his triumph. But very soon I saw that I was not being specially favoured in any way. In fact, I received only half the number of bows that the Japanese passengers were treated to. One little scene amused me. Five Japanese gentlemen came on board just before the ship sailed, to say good-bye to two of the passengers. The greetings commenced with ear-to-ear smiles on every face. Then, two of the men, the oldest of each party, stood facing each other and began to bow. They were not content with bobbing their heads only, but bent all the way forward from the waist. Once—now again; twice—still smiling; three times—this is great fun; four times—now both together for a big one; five times—and they stopped, flushed, but smiling more broadly than ever. Then another pair started bowing. About that time, I had to move away where I might enjoy a good laugh by myself. Those smiles were contagious!

Etiquette is a system of forms of courtesy to enable people who must live close together, to live comfortably without quarreling. Japan, on her arable land, has more people to the square mile than any other nation. One must infer, therefore, that the Japanese system of etiquette works well. With all her millions compressed into a few small islands, Japan keeps growing in prosperity and in population. One of her secrets is this: her people work together well. They look like dwarfs to their neighbours, the Chinese. But the

Chinese, in spite of all the social insight and patriotism of Confucius, are interested in self and in family first. The national religion of Japan, on the other hand, makes obedience to the Emperor one of the chief duties of a good Shintoist. The prosperity of the nation is the pious man's great desire. One of our Jaffna College scouts once explained the success of a neighbouring troop by the fact that "they treat each other well." Japan seems to be a big, happy family for the same reason.

I pass lightly over this journey of twenty-seven hours across to Nagasaki, for during it I was seasick for perhaps ten minutes. That annoyed me, for it spoiled an otherwise perfect record. I will say for the "Shanghai Maru" that I have never been on a better managed boat. The Japanese can maintain what we too proudly call Western standards of efficiency. All the morning, we passed small Japanese islands. They were nearly all steep, and often sharp-pointed, betraying their volcanic character. Wherever there was enough soil, there were terraces similar to those on the slopes of the Kandyan hills. Groves of bamboos in the valleys, and scrubby pines on the hill tops, furnished the only green in the landscape.

Nature made a deep cut so that the sea water might flow in between the hills to Nagasaki. In this large port, I had my first opportunity to study the Japanese in large numbers. They are great lovers of flowers. I was there in winter, when the cherry trees were bare and only a few small chrys-

anthemums held up their heads in the gardens. But the New Year's costumes made up for the lack. The women's kimonos and obis were of the richest silks and the most wonderful colours. The Japanese have a taste for color that one does not find in India. Though bright, the colours do not conflict with one another. It may be that they have studied the way bright colors are arranged by Nature. The children were celebrating in new clothes generally with flower designs printed on the cloth in sharp contrast to the background. The little ones were all provided with new toys for the holidays, and boys and girls bounce and spun about on the streets as merrily as their shuttlecocks, balls, and tops did. Red toy-balloons and cannon-crackers added to the jollity.

It was the third of January before I reached Kobe, and I thought that the holiday atmosphere might have passed by then. But it had rather increased over what I saw at Nagasaki. The Japanese have very few holidays, so when New Year's day comes they celebrate for six days. I could even find a cobbler's place open before January 7th. Throngs passed all day long through the streets, bound for the parks and temples. I drifted along with them. We passed under the stone gateway to a shrine, and found ourselves in all the tumult and dazzle of a fair. In one booth, on payment of a few sen, one can see a marvellous sword-swallowing feat. That stand there offers refreshment in the form of giant snails boiled up in

a sort of chowder and served in their own shells. A little farther, there is a tent with animals painted all over it. A "barker" outside keeps up a continual chatter through his megaphone, and seems to attract plenty of customers to see the zoo. One salesman demonstrates the inner workings of a cheap fountain-pen. The next explains the virtues of certain pieces of paper, which, I judge, bear some sort of charms to drive off diseases.

The clank and scrape of hundreds of wooden sandals led me on through the fair, under several more of the big, open gateways, and finally to the shrine. I do not know what they were praying about, but every good Shintoist walked up to the shrine and shook the brass rattle overhead by means of a hanging rope. Then he knelt, clapped his hands four times, said his prayer, and concluded with four more claps of his hands. A few steps away was a cherry tree with a peculiar growth (as it seemed) of pink paper on its branches and trunk. Each worshiper took a small piece of paper from the sacred tree, and on it he found his fortune printed. Mine said "Half good luck." The other half of my fortune must be "good friends," for I surely do not have much bad luck!

At Osaka, I found a big, modern city with factories and banks, imposing public buildings and broad streets. The European tendency of industrial Japan is here most plainly seen. While the Japanese women and children have kept their flowing robes, the men and boys in the cities have very largely

adopted German styles. The school-boys, many of them, wear clothes and caps cut along military lines. So, I suppose, they do not feel it such a change when they are sent off for their period of compulsory army-service. The men show Prussian influence clear down to their bristly hair and pugnacious moustaches. In their sports, I am glad to say the Japanese follow a better example. Though no taller than the Jaffna college sports-master, they make excellent baseball players. Some of their teams have been sent to the U. S. and met with fair success. Tennis, played with a rather soft ball, has many devotees. Among other American foibles, the Japanese have adopted ice-cream, chewing gum, horn-rimmed spectacles, and cosmetics. The women nearly all white-wash their faces as our Jaffna actors sometimes do, so that (to an outsider like myself) the colour is repulsive.

Long before Japan began to take over Western inventions, she accepted Buddhism from India. Although Shinto, the national religion, has had a revival within the last century, there are still many beautiful evidences of Buddhist influence. The largest temples are all Buddhist. Most of the statuary is of Buddha or of gods and goddesses which have been picked up during the centuries by his religion. At Nara, the next stop I made beyond Osaka, the rickshaw man had to ring his bell to drive the deer off the street. The deer have been encouraged in the sacred park there, until they are so tame that they are almost like cows in

an Indian city—and much more attractive!

From the deer-park and the five-storey pagoda of Nara, it is only an hour's ride on the train to the former capital, Kyoto. The coolly bowed and smiled vigorously when I said, "Kyoto Hotel", so I jumped into his rickshaw. We passed between neat, dark-brown, wooden buildings with tile roofs for ten minutes, twenty minutes, half an hour. Once or twice I inquired again about the Kyoto Hotel. The coolly only smiled back over his shoulder and kept on running. I watched carefully every time he turned a corner, to make sure that he was not taking me around in a circle. But he seemed to have a definite direction in mind, so I let him go on and on. By the time we reached the hotel, I saw that we were still in the centre of the town, and my respect for the size of Japanese cities became much greater. Kyoto is large and also full of historic places. Map in hand, I first "hiked" out to the Doshisha University, which was started, like Jaffna College, by people of the country in co-operation with the American Board. The Japanese government has done everything to encourage higher education, and as the result, the Doshisha is now far ahead of us. Nearly five hundred took the bachelor's degree from there last year. Throughout Japan I was impressed by the number of good book-stores and the throngs of people in them. Universities are more common there than colleges are in Ceylon.

showing reverence, I went through temples, shrines, palaces, and museums most of the day. But I must press on to the greatest sight of all.

To see Japan without Fuji would be as bad as seeing India without the Taj, or Ceylon without Adam's Peak. Still, many tourists are not favoured with a view of Japan's holy mountain, on account of the clouds. Late one afternoon, after riding all day through the manufacturing cities of central Japan, the train was winding along beside a large bay. I had pressing my nose against window all afternoon, and anxiously watching the red line of my route on the map. Finally, just as I was beginning to fear we had passed Fuji, the train came out on a plain rising straight from the sea to the snows. The same golden light we sometimes see in Jaffna reflected from the sunset clouds, was shining on the snow-cap of Fuji. A few minutes later clouds were wreathing about the forested slopes, and the top seemed to be lifted higher than before. As the sun set, the snow on the western side of the summit turned a glowing rose colour, while the east side gradually turned pale-blue. From photographs that you have seen, you get some idea of its pleasing symmetry. I despair of being able to give an idea of its stateliness. It seems as broad and as high as all of men's aspirations.

Ever since I admired a picture of some big trees in the Colombo Y. M. C. A. and was told they were in Nikko, I had been keen to go

there and see them. The trees were all that I had expected—proud columns of a temple that has never been roofed and never will be. Nikko is a little town on the edge of the mountainous district. Some of the hills are grassy, like those of eastern Travancore. Others are wooded, and have an undergrowth of dwarf bamboo. After an hour or so among the sumptuous shrines of the Shoguns (hereditary generals), I struck off in the woods, passing lone figures of the Buddha now and then along the path. I climbed the first hill I came to, just as an appetizer to the good Japanese dinner I was planning to get but never had because my train left too soon. But such are the joys of travelling!

The man in charge of the weather presented me with a small earthquake, a snow-storm, and infinite quantities of mud after the snow melted, all during my single day in Japan's capital. None of these affected me much, but the earthquake set me thinking. As long as Japan was content to be self-contained, Kyoto, outside the earthquake zone, was her capital. It has a much more attractive situation, but is not a port. Since Japan has become a world-power, her capital has been shifted into the section of the earth's surface which is most often shaken. Tokyo and its suburb, Yokohama, hold millions of people in a section where small tremors are of daily occurrence and disastrous shocks are liable to come every few years. That is part of the price Japan has to play for her international

## My Travels in Japan

On my first evening in Kyoto, I had to choose between a mission prayer-meeting and a Japanese puppet-show. The weight of novelty was on the side of the latter, so I found myself seated on the floor of a Japanese theatre. I did not have to strain my ears to hear the play. A gentleman with lungs made of leather or something equally tough, sang or recited all the parts of the play. He showed an astounding variety of tones. His villain's speeches had the raucous quality of a Kodaikanal jackass in full song. He made the frail heroine sing a delicate falsetto. He threw in occasional chattering and sucking sounds which, to the Japanese ear, probably indicated some emotions. Some of his songs were tuneful and pleasing. In short, this singer was a whole show in himself, but he occupied only a small corner of the stage. The acting was done by dolls about eighteen inches tall. These were carried about the stage by men who stood behind them and held their arms. At first, I could hardly tell which to watch, but soon the puppets proved to be more lively than the men behind them. They jumped about so that the men had difficulty, it seemed, to hold them back. The plot was highly complex and rather bloody. A brawny wrestler was assassinated by a dusky chap with a sword. The swordsman had to work his weapon around like a ~~exp~~-opener before blood would come. The blood was a long strip of red cloth. This soon flowed as far as it would, but the vanquished wrestler had not yet finished his part. He, poor

fellow! had to stand there, leaning heavily on the point of the sword, and singing lustily for ten minutes. There was another play to follow. I stirred up the charcoal in the little flower-pot that the attendant had given me. One has to sit on top of such a stove to get any heat from it! The pot of yellow tea which the servant brought around to me at this time was also useful; I kept my hands thawed out by holding it. But the wind was creeping through the cracks of the theatre and playing around the back of my neck. So I went out, and bought me <sup>the</sup> warmest woolen muffler I <sup>could</sup> find on my way back to the ~~hotel~~ <sup>house</sup>.

Everything in the big park was glistening white with frost as I started out early next morning to visit some of the many temples of Kyoto. A Buddhist temple in Japan is quite different from anything you will see in Ceylon. It is built of wood, usually stained a rich, dark brown. Within, a few hanging lamps and ornaments are of gold. The padded floor-mats are clean and yellow. Low, square windows all around allow a soft, silver light to filter through the paper of their panes. Images are small and inconspicuous in many temples, though there are notable exceptions to this in others. In Nara, there is one temple with an ugly bronze Buddha which must be fifty feet high. A Kyoto temple Kwannon has hundreds of images of that goddess, life-size, standing in twelve rows which practically fill the building. With shoes, hat and overcoat off, to conform to Japanese customs of

commerce." A few thousand people may die in earthquakes; the port is the thing that counts! It was depressing to walk through unpaved streets, past ruins a year and a half old. Both Tokyo and Yokohama have risen from their ashes, but not very far. Cheap wooden houses of one storey are all that one sees for miles.

On the twelfth of January, a month after I said good-bye to Colombo, I was off for Honolulu and San Francisco. My ten days in Japan had been extremely

pleasant. The people were friendly and courteous, though they have little enough reason to be kind to Americans in these days of Asiatic exclusion. The Japanese seemed to me to be busy, but without the worry of the West. They also cultivate the beautiful, with greater care and skill than one generally finds in the East. They are not mere imitators, as reading had led me to fear. We can all learn much from Japan.

Best wishes to the *Miscellany* and its readers in Ceylon.



## AN IMPRESSION OF SUMATRA

D. K. RAJAKARIAR

Not far from the Sunny Singapore lies the beautiful island of Sumatra. It is a land of immense resources and vast trade potentialities. But a great part of the country is still left undeveloped.

The climatic condition of Medan which is the capital town of the East Coast of Sumatra, and was the residence of the writer for three years, is superior to that of some of the Capital towns of the Federated Malay States, and Straits Settlements. The night is very cold and the day a bit warm. It is considered one of the healthiest places in the Netherlands East Indies.

The history of Sumatra is not known to such a distant time as is the history of China or India, whose records date back from 2000 to 4000 years. It is about one hundred and thirty years ago that the English exchanged Malacca for Sumatra.

The Island of Sumatra excels not so much as a manufacturing country but as an agricultural and mining area. Foremost amongst its cultivated products are rubber, tobacco and coffee. Next in importance to the rubber, tobacco and coffee industries is the mining of petrol. The Padang Highlands which form the natural barrier between East and West coasts is enriched with tin and gold.

There are many different nationalities. Among the foreign orientals the majority are Chinese, who are considered peaceful, law abiding people. The natives of the country are called Bataks and Malays but most of the latter have migrated into British Malaya.

Everything pertaining to retail trade and industrial projects is left by the natives to the Chinese and other foreign Orientals. Some of the educated Bataks and Malays





holding out the coin they seem disinterested. Strange but true, money is not a great consideration with them. Their trade is mostly barter.

The custom of filing the teeth is common among both sexes except in communities where they have been otherwise taught. The operation is a very painful one; it is begun at an early age and continued until both sets of teeth have been completely filed down to the jaw-bone. Once the writer questioned some one as to the origin of this abominable practice and was given two-fold answers. Firstly, "not to file the teeth is not to be a Batak". Secondly, "their ancestors never allowed the dead bodies to be buried, but were in the habit of eating the flesh of the same, hanging them on a certain pole." This practice is supposed to have been discontinued by the Chief or the King, and as a substitute, the filing of teeth has been adopted. The explanation appeared to me rather ridiculous.

Crossing over the lake one finds oneself in Belgie where one can never forget how the green tops of their hills rise to greet one over the rim of the horizon. Forty miles from Torotoeng are to be seen well-equipped schools, hospitals and churches for Batak Christians who number about forty thousand. At this place one would see the monuments of the two first missionaries to the Batak, two Americans, Munsen and Lyeman who were killed and eaten by the Bataks nearly 125 years ago.

To many in Malaya, Brastagi is a favourite place to spend a part

of their well-earned holidays. Four hours' journey by automobile from Medan will take one to that lovely health resort. All facilities from well-cooked dishes to golf-lawn are supplied by the Hotel-de-Boer, the leading and up-to-date establishment, which commands the most beautiful view on the hill. A few hours' walk from here along the bridal path, will take one to Gunu Sybak, with its active volcano, from whose crater voluminous gas and deposits of sulphur are being thrown out. The trip from Medan to Brastagi is of intense interest to the visitor from the start till he reaches his destination.

The Government is just beginning to encourage education. All the Dutch schools are maintained by the Government. Side by side with the Dutch schools are English schools, chiefly maintained by the American Methodist Mission, independent of the Government. The Dutch believe in co-education and consequently all the Dutch Schools are mixed. After graduating from the High School at Medan a few students are chosen and sent to Batavia for higher education.

A major part of the Government's revenue is from the exorbitant taxes on exports and imports. Not a less amount is collected from the taxes imposed upon the inhabitants who are not natives. The taxes are so heavy and exacting and the passport regulations are so strict and difficult to obtain that people do not care to immigrate into the country. Further the international law is "No one is guilty until one is

proved guilty", but the Dutch law is "every one is guilty until one has proved one's innocence." The Government does not believe in giving bail nor does it easily pardon the offenders, for the fines chiefly maintain the public roads. A repeated offender is often banished for good.

The official language is Dutch, but the medium of conversation is Malay. English is the commercial language and there is a great demand for English education specially among the Chinese.

A Governor with four Residents carries on the affairs of the Gov-

ernment. He is directly instructed by the Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies who resides at Batavia. The Sultan of Langkat, the son-in-law of the Sultan of Selangor, F. M. S. is the outstanding native ruler.

Bacon says "travelling is the younger sort is a part of education and in the older, a part of experience." To every reader of the "Miscellany", I would say if you can manage to pay a visit to this beautiful island you will be immensely rewarded in all respects.



## THE PROFESSION OF LAW

A. R. SUPERAMANIAM

At a time, when the question of unemployment looms large in the mind of the public a few suggestions on the above subject will not be out of place even in a student Magazine.

The profession of law has been regarded from time immemorial as one of the three learned professions, viz. Theology, Law and Medicine. The legal profession probably had its beginning in the West. It is certain that it never had its origin in the East for there was no necessity for it in Ancient India as the administration of justice was based on Dharma and the law then was simple. We find the earliest reference in Latin Literature to lawyers having defended accused persons. Cicero was a great lawyer and jurist and students of Latin literature know

what a developed mind he had in legal principles; what service he rendered to the oppressed people in Rome; what suffering he had to undergo during the triumvirate for the humanitarian services rendered by him. It often happens as it did with Cicero that sometimes lawyers who render service to the country are maligned by an ungrateful public.

The Romans developed the system of law and there arose among them several lawyers and jurists from time to time. It was the Emperor Justinian who codified the Roman law. With the gradual growth and development of trade and commerce and intercourse among the different nations in the world, the different systems of law also had to grow from simplicity to complexity and what civilization advanced.

And, *pari passu*, the legal profession also had to develop in all its complexity. The legal profession had its beginning in England probably in the 13th century. At the outset either in the Roman Empire or in England or in the continental countries persons who defended the cause of others acted without remuneration each for his friend. Such service was considered an honorarium. As time went on different nations throughout the world had to make different systems of law to meet the exigencies of time. These different systems of law are in a chaotic condition even at present as they have always been. It is impossible to expect a layman to study the hundreds of statutes, the thousands of reported decisions, numberless precedents and all sorts of unintelligible and unscientific systems of law. What Lord Tennyson said in 1865.

"Mastering the lawless service of our law

That codeless myriad of precedents  
That wilderness of single instances  
Through which a few by wit or fortune led

May beat a pathway out to wealth and fame,"

is true even at present. Hence the necessity arose for professional men in all civilized countries.

From the educational point of view the study of law is of great value and develops the mind. It is the lawyer who has contributed much from time to time to the modern development of the political systems and it was he who fought several battles for equality between man and man. It was

the lawyer who initiated the American war of Independence fought for liberty. The lawyer enjoys several privileges. He has the right of audience in any court of law and he is not liable for any words spoken by him in the conduct of a case however defamatory they may be. The Judges are recruited from the practicing body of lawyers in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Europe, America and several parts of the British Empire. If the lawyer becomes a great advocate with persuasive and noble qualities, he rises to eminence. He is a check on impatient and unsympathetic judges.

In every profession there are advantages as well as disadvantages. But there are a great many disadvantages at present in the legal profession everywhere. The supply of lawyers has been much more from year to year for the past two or three decades than the demand. In the majority of cases the student public take up law when they fail in other walks of life. They take shelter under the maxim that there is room always on the top. But, they forget the fact that everybody cannot expect to become a great lawyer. "It depends on the environment and circumstances. The person who takes law must be endowed with great common sense." As an eminent lawyer has rightly put it: "It requires an intellect of no mean order—to grasp the rules and fundamental notions of our Jurisprudence, to distinguish true from false analogies, to draw correct inferences from evidence

and to reason justly and readily on questions which are not concluded by authority or on which the reported decisions of our Judges clash".

The young practitioner must expect to face disappointments at the outset. He cannot expect clients to rush to him. The clients look to the success a man has had in the conduct of cases. They don't look to anything else. If the young practitioner does not get sufficient work at the beginning of his career, he gets disappointed. Lord Birkenhead says "The bar, indeed, is a very difficult career for those who lack a patrimony, which will support them for at least ten years." Most of our young men who take up law anticipate a large amount of dowry and expect to live on another man's wealth as parasites. But now that time has gone. In the West, if a lawyer is not successful in his career he takes to other pursuits in life. In the East, however, he is invariably in the profession. Consequently, he has to stoop to questionable methods and forgets the fact that lawyers are expected to tell their clients the true state of their case and that otherwise they will be found out in due course.

There is sometimes a wrong impression in the lay mind that a lawyer is independent and can do wrong. To know the true state of a lawyer one must be in it. He is a "Servus Servorum." He

must be tactful and persuasive. He must be on the most cordial relationship possible with the Bench and his clients. He must be honest and conscientious but at the same time he has to perform his duty which is a sacred trust. A lawyer has not sufficient leisure when he is a busy practitioner, but he has always to be at it, if he is to be successful. He may acquire wealth, fame and power but it is transient. A busy lawyer may have to pass away in the midst of work, having had no time for reflexion about the future and the life to come. There have been instances in the recent past in support of this statement.

It is said rightly or wrongly that the profession of law is open to many temptations. Though the proverb that "Law is a house full of openings through which any thief can escape" is humorous, yet there is some truth in it.

It is for the reader to judge for himself. For every action of ours there is retribution also.

We all know that King Solomon was blessed with wisdom, wealth, power and fame. "Better is a dry morsel and quietness therewith than a house full of feasting with strife". This experience of Solomon in his last days is true everywhere and at all times. When strife dies away in the world, there will be no more need of lawyers.



## THE TROPICAL HEAVENS

### CHAPTER III

#### THE STARS

To enter the universe of the stars, leaving the confines of the solar system, we have to cross a vast void. The nearest star is so far away that light which travels 186,000 miles a second, takes three and a half years to reach us from it. The stars are heavenly bodies similar to our own sun in physical conditions, shining by their own light as the sun does. Most of them are much larger and hotter than the sun. The spectroscope reveals that their chemical composition is similar to that of the sun.

When we look at the sky on a clear moonless night, the stars seem innumerable and we often use the sands of the seashore and the stars of the heavens as symbols for expressing a great number. But in reality the total number of stars visible to the naked eye is about 6000 only, and that shown by ordinary telescopes is about one hundred millions. Photography, however, reveals the existence of others which no telescope can reach.

Many stars which appear single to the naked eye, appear double and multiple in the telescope. Some of the doubles are optically so, while others are physically double, constituting binary systems in which one revolves around the other. Some stars appear in large telescopes as groups of thousands of stars. Therefore, it is literally true that the stars of the heavens are countless.

There is another class of objects in the sky which appear as irregular masses of soft cloudy appearance, and are therefore called nebulae. Many of these have been found by large telescopes to be really star clusters. But many others are composed not of stars but of immense masses of gaseous matter.

The distances of stars are as astonishing as their number. The nearest of them, Alpha Centauri, is twenty five billions of miles distant, and light takes three and a half years to reach us from that star. "If a train travelling a mile a minute should leave the earth, it must travel forty million years before it would reach it". It is said that light which left some of the stars when Adam and Eve were walking in the Garden of Eden has not yet reached us. Spectrum analysis has shown us that stars, though relatively fixed in appearance, have motions of their own, some approaching toward us, and some receding from us, and some having side motions.

Stars are also of different magnitude and brightness and of different colour. Some of the stars are known to be eighty times as large and several thousand times as bright as the sun. The faintest stars not separately visible to the naked eye are considered to be as bright as the sun,

Though most of the stars appear white in colour, some are reddish, some ruddy, some intensely red, some yellow, some green, some blue, some greenish-blue, and some violet. The stars in the sky are classified according to their colour, into white, yellow, red, and crimson stars. White stars are considered to be suns in an early stage of evolution, yellow ones in their prime, and red or crimson stars in the cooling or decaying stage. Some stars change in colour and brightness and are known as variable stars, the variations taking place at regular intervals. This is due mostly to the revolutions of dark companions. These regular variations in the brightness of some stars and the movements of some visible stars are evidences for the existence of countless dark bodies in the sky in addition to the luminous stars. It may be that some of these dark bodies are inhabited.

According to their apparent brightness the stars have been divided into sixteen classes, the brightest ones being of the first magnitude, the next brightest of the second magnitude, and so on to the sixteenth. The stars belonging to the first six classes are visible to the naked eye, but those of the remaining ten classes can be seen only by the aid of the telescope.

A glance at the heavens shows that the stars are not uniformly scattered over the sky but are collected into irregular groups called constellations. From prehistoric times, these constellations have been named after heroes, animals, and

other objects of ancient mythology with the idea of commemorating them throughout all time. Individual stars belonging to each constellation are named by the letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha, Beta, etc., according to their brightness. Some of them are also known by Arabic names.

#### CHAPTER IV

##### THE HEAVENS IN

##### JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH

An observer looking at the heavens on a clear moonless night at about twelve P. M. on the fifteenth of January, eleven P. M. on the first of February, ten P. M. on the fifteenth of February, nine P. M. on the first of March, eight P. M. on the fifteenth of March, and seven P. M. on the first of April, will notice the appearance of a white cloud like an arch spanning the heavens from northwest to southeast. This is called the Milky Way or Galaxy. Only half of the entire belt is seen above the horizon, the other half being below and directly opposite the visible half. The Telescope shows that this appearance arises from the light of a countless number of stars lying in that direction. The stars of the sky are most condensed in the region of the Milky Way and least numerous in the regions most distant from it, growing thicker as we approach it. From this it is evident that the sun is a member of the great star cluster forming the milky way, occupying a position near the middle of it. The observer will also see the zodiacal constellations, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, and Virgo

spanning the sky from west to east.

Taurus, the Bull, (தீடலி) is west of the Milky Way, and is recognizable by the most famous star cluster, Pleiades (அரித்திரை அடியின) which makes the shoulder of the bull. Another group Hyades, (உரூசு அணி) in the form of the letter V, represents the face of the bull, one extremity of the letter being Aldebaran (Alpha) a red star of the first magnitude situated in the eye. Epsilon is at the other extremity and Gamma at the angle of the letter V. Beta (Elnath, எசுநி) and Zeta lie on the northeast of Aldebaran and mark off points of the horns of the bull, and form the base of an isosceles triangle, of which Aldebaran is the apex (உரூசு அணி இவ்வகற்றும்பொன்றிரிசூழ்). The Pleiades as a whole is calculated to be at a distance of fifteen hundred billions of miles from the sun. Though six stars are visible to an average eye, a very keen eye can discern as many as twelve. In Tennyson's Locksley Hall, we read:

"The Pleiades rising through the mellow  
shade  
Glittering like a swarm of fire-flies, tangled  
in a silver braid."

Alcyon (Eta) of the third magnitude is the brightest star in the Pleiades and is supposed by some astronomers to be the center of the stellar universe, around which the sun and other stars revolve. In the book of Job, we read: "Canst thou bind the cluster of the Pleiades?"

Alcyon is calculated to be one thousand times as brilliant as the sun. Hesiod, the Greek poet, re-

ferring to the invisibility of the Pleiades when the sun passes through Taurus, says

"There is a time when forty days they  
lie,  
And forty nights concealed from human  
eye."

The small stars southwest of Hyades mark the fore legs of the bull.

Gemini, The Twins, (யிணைம்) lies east of the Milky Way, and northeast of Taurus, and is recognized by the two first-magnitude stars, Castor (Alpha) and Pollux (Beta, யுத்திரை) situated in the heads of the two brothers, forming the Twins. They are in a sitting posture with their feet resting on the Milky Way. The two parallel rows of stars southwest of Castor and Pollux mark their knees and feet. Pollux is a quadruple star. Castor is double, and varies in brightness owing to the small companions revolving around it.

Cancer, the Crab (அந்தசூழ்) lies east of Gemini and contains no bright star. In the crest of the Crab is a remarkable cluster of stars called, Proesepe, the Beehive (பூசூ) visible to the naked eye as a speck of cloud in the middle of a quadrangle formed by four small stars, Gamma, Delta, Zeta, and Mu (பூசூயிலும் பூசூயெலும்). The small stars to the southeast (Alpha, ஆயினியம்) and northeast (Epsilon) of Proesepe represent the claws, and Beta and others lying southwest, the legs of the crab (ஆயினிய கால்கும் ஆயினி உலாடும்).

Perseus is a brilliant constellation lying northwest of Taurus. It may be recognized by a stream of conspicuous stars extending

along the milky way. The figure of a man holding in his left hand the head of a frightful Gorgon named Medusa, and in his right hand a sword, is associated with this constellation. Mirfak (Alpha) a second magnitude star, situated in the Milky Way, and marking the right side of Perseus, is the brightest and most central star, and with Beta to the southwest, and Epsilon to the southeast, form a triangle almost equilateral. The stars forming the stream beginning with the northernmost are Eta, Gamma, Alpha, Psi, Delta, Mu, and Lambda. Zeta, a third magnitude star south of Epsilon, forms a right-angled triangle with Epsilon, and Beta. Zeta marks the left foot and Epsilon the left knee of Perseus. North of Eta and close to the northern borders of the constellation lies the faint star, Chi, near to which is a magnificent double cluster of stars which to the naked eye appears as a spot of misty light. The most remarkable star in the constellation is Algol (Beta) the Demon star, in the head of Medusa lying in a group southwest of Mirfak and northwest of the Pleiades. It is a variable star, shining as a second magnitude star for two and a half days and then dwindling to one of the fourth magnitude in three and a half hours, and then resuming its original brightness in another three and a half hours. It is now known to be revolving around a dark companion. "It is remarkable that it was an amateur who discovered its variations, determined its period, and put forward the true theory of its vari-

ations". When Queen Victoria died in 1901, a new star appeared in this constellation, shone for some time as a star of the first magnitude and then faded away. The August shower of meteors always radiates from this constellation.

Auriga, the Charioteer, lies east of Perseus and northeast of Taurus. It may be recognized by the first magnitude star, Capella (Alpha) the Goat (அரிசி திரைச்சூழி) which with others, Beta, Theta, Iota, and Epsilon, forms an irregular pentagon with one of its sides much shorter than the others. Auriga is represented to be in a reeling position resting his right foot on Elnath, the northern horn of Taurus, holding a horse's bridle in his right hand, and supporting a goat in his left hand. Capella is in the body of the goat. Beta (Mencalina) a second magnitude star, about ten degrees east of Capella is in the right shoulder of Auriga. Theta marks the right wrist, Iota the left foot, and Epsilon the left elbow of Auriga. The bright star (அரிசலாசு) northeast of Capella with some smaller ones close to it mark his head. Epsilon forms an isosceles triangle with Eta and Zeta lying south of it. Capella and Beta have been shown to be double stars by means of the spectroscope.

Orion, the Hunter, the most brilliant constellation of the heavens, lies southeast of Taurus and has associated with it the figure of a man raising one leg and holding in his right hand a large club and in his left hand the skin of a lion. The reddish first-magnitude star, Betelgeuse (Alpha அருகாசு) on the right shoulder and the



bluish white first magnitude star Regel (Beta) in the raised left foot, with the second magnitude star Belatrix (Gamma) on the left shoulder and Saiph (Kappa) on the right knee, form a quadrilateral, Betelgeuse and Rigel being on the opposite corners. The "three stars" Delta, Epsilon, and Zeta of the second magnitude in a straight line in the middle of the quadrilateral represent the belt called the "Bands of Orion". The three stars below these mark the sword hanging from the belt. The most conspicuous nebula in the heavens is in the sword of Orion surrounding the middle star which seems hazy to a good eye. Professor Michelson of Chicago has discovered that it would take twenty million suns like our own to make one Betelgeuse, which has a diameter of nearly three hundred million miles. This is the first achievement in which the diameter of a star has been measured. Rigel is a double star and moves away from us at the rate of thirty nine miles a second. Its light takes 360 years to reach us. The three small stars (மிருகசரிடம்) northwest of Betelgeuse mark the face of Orion (உரன்முகே முற்றம் சேம்பழகண்ணம்). The celestial equator passes just north of Orion's belt.

Canis Major, the Great Dog, lying east of Orion and Canis Minor, the Little Dog, lying east of Orion just across the Milky Way, represent the dogs of Orion. Canis Major is easily recognized by the first magnitude star, Sirius (Alpha), the Dog star (மிருகசரிடம்) the brightest fixed star in the heavens, situated in the nose of the dog. The

second and third magnitude stars, Delta, Epsilon, and Eta, forming a right angled triangle southeast of Sirius are in the back and the body of the dog. Sirius is twenty times as heavy and fifty times as bright and one million times as far away as the sun. Its light takes eight years to reach us. It is moving with a velocity of 1000 miles a minute. It has a companion revolving around it once in fifty years. The ancients called a certain period of the year commencing on the third of July and ending on the 11th of August the dog days, when Sirius seemed to blend its influence with that of the sun in increasing the heat of summer.

Canis Minor may be recognised by the first magnitude star Procyon (Alpha) situated in the body of the dog. It is a double star forming a binary system with a dark companion. It forms a right-angled triangle with Pollux and Betelgeuse and an equilateral triangle with Betelgeuse and Sirius. The small star Beta, northwest of Procyon is the collar of the little dog. An old rhyme runs:

"Let Procyon join to Betelgeuse and pass a line afar.

To reach the point where Sirius glows, the most conspicuous star,

Then will the eye delighted view a figure fine and vast,

Its span is equilateral, triangular its cast "

Argo Navis, the Ship Argo, lies in the Milky Way east of Canis Major and is recognized by the first magnitude star, Canopus, (Alpha, சாணிபயம்) the next brightest to Sirius. Argo Navis is so large that it has been divided into four groups, the Poop (or the

Stern), the Mast, the Sails, and the Keel, Canopus is in the rudder of the ship. It is 2500 times as bright as the sun, and is constantly receding from us. From the fact that Canopus rose just above the horizon at Rhodes but seven and a half degrees above the horizon at Alexandria, Poseidonius, a Greek astronomer, by measuring the distance over the sea between Rhodes and Alexandria calculated the circumference of the whole earth to be 23,500 miles, a figure surprisingly near the correct value. The second and third magnitude stars, Gamma, Zeta, and Pi, northeast of Canopus are in the poop of the ship, Pi being its top. The small stars to the northeast of them represent the mast. The four bright stars Epsilon and Iota, of the keel, Chi and Delta of the sails, east of Canopus, form a cross, and are called the False Cross, in contrast with the constellation called the Southern Cross lying east of it. Midway between the False Cross and the Southern Cross lies in the keel a cluster of several thousand stars appearing to the naked eye as a nebula, known as the

Keyhole Nebula. In it once shone a bright star known as Eta Argus, or the Astonishing Star. From a star of the fourth magnitude it rose in 1838 to a star of the first magnitude even brighter than Sirius and for five years remained one of the most brilliant stars in the sky and then faded away.

Lepus, the Hare, lies at the feet of Orion and is represented by the small stars west of Canis Major, of which Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta form the corners of a quadrilateral. Aratus, referring to the Hare chased by the dogs, says,

"And ceaselessly beneath Orion's feet,  
The Hare is ever chased."

Columba, Noah's Dove, is represented by the group of small stars lying south of Lepus and southwest of Canis Major.

Eridanus, the river Po, is represented by a stream of stars beginning from the left foot of Orion, and running first westward then southeastward and then southwest and ending in the first magnitude star Achernar west of Canopus which shines near the western horizon. Light takes seventy five years to come to us from Achernar.



## Students' Section

### A HOUSE ON FIRE

"Oh what a fine evening for a game of football! I think it is nearly time for the bell. Plague on the peon, plague on the teacher, and plague on everybody! Why doesn't the peon ring the bell, and why doesn't the teacher begin the prayers?" was what I said to myself in my classroom, at the Institution of St. John in Kuala Lumpur, on a beautiful and bright evening during the close of the last period. It was an uncommonly fine evening at the end of October in the year 1920, when the days were rarely bright, so that I wished to be out of the class room and longed for the bell to ring.

It was not long, however, before the loud peals of the College bell fell upon my ears to my great relief and unbounded joy. The boys rose up for prayer, and as soon as they had closed their eyes for it, I quietly slipped out of the room unnoticed by anyone, and was off at top speed over the gravel path that led out to the main road. I had not taken a dozen steps before I heard the double boom of a cannon. In the town of Kuala Lumpur the double shot of a cannon was the fire alarm. As soon as a fire breaks out, a cannon which is always kept loaded, with a double charge on the top of a hill is fired. When the firemen hear the signal from their station where a certain

number of them are ready for any emergency at all hours of the day and night, they immediately send out a fire brigade with some of their men to the scene of the fire.

So on this evening when I heard the double boom of the cannon, I knew only too well what it meant. I at once redoubled my efforts up a hill which was close by. The Police Court was on the top of this hill, and a long flight of steps led up to it. As I flew up these steps covering two or even three of them at a time, the thoughts of my anticipated game of football and of my playmates were nowhere in my head, but only the picture of a great fire instead. I hadn't gone half way up the hill before I heard the loud clanging of a bell, and turning around, I saw the crowd on the street below rushing off to the side as the fire brigade swept past them. The brass helmets which the firemen wore, the brass bell, and many parts of the engine which were made of brass shone brilliantly under the glare of the evening sun as the engine dashed along the street, and for a moment it almost dazzled my sight. The next moment I was again tearing up the steps like a madman. When at last I reached the top of the hill, panting and out of breath, a sight was unfolded to my view, every detail of which to this day I have not forgotten.

Great tongues of flame were shooting up from the top of a huge building and large sheets of flame were coming out also through some of the windows, and licking the already blackened walls. A huge pillar of dense black smoke was rolling upwards from the doomed building as if it were vomited by the furnace of a steamer through its funnel. It seemed as if an endless quantity of smoke was entombed in that building. Big sparks were flying about in the air, threatening to set the other buildings around on fire. The reddish glow of the ball of fire which was sinking on the horizon, was rivalled by that of the living fire on the roof of that building. The hissing and crackling of the great fire reached my ears. When I shifted my gaze from the glorious scene in other directions, I saw on the flat roofs of almost every building men, women, and children, some watching the scene with awe and others with joy, while the red light produced by the flames struck the faces of those nearby, making them glow with a rosy-red colour. I stood spell-bound, gazing for some time, never thinking of leaving the place. But soon there arose a craving in me to be at the very scene of the havoc. At this impulse, I started a frightful run down the steps after having taken a last look at the burning building. Just as I reached the foot of the steps and sprang upon the smooth broad road, the fire alarm was repeated by the cannon and a minute or two after, another fire brigade motored past me at terrific speed, heedless of the crowd which thronged the streets. I instantly dashed after the brigade, which had cleared the middle of the road of the crowd. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me in the direction taken by the fire engine, judging its course by the sound of its bell. After much difficulty and dodging among the crowd, I came upon the scene exhausted. The two fire engines were remaining at some distance from one another, and both of them were working. The policemen with the greatest difficulty kept the overwhelming crowd clear of the fire brigade. Some of the firemen were working the pumps, and some were connecting them with the waterpipes which were laid along the side of the road. Many of the firemen were on the ladders that were raised in the air, playing the water on the fire, while a few of the bravest plunged into the very heart of the building either to save the inmates or to fight the flames. Some moments later one of the firemen appeared on a window-sill bearing a crumpled form in his arms. A long bag of canvas open at both ends and fixed between two long poles was instantly stretched up to the fireman by his comrades below. The next moment the crumpled figure disappeared into the mouth of the bag, and was easily caught by those below at the lower opening. To the surprise of almost all, the crumpled mass was a small boy who, as we learned later on, had fainted out of sheer fright and was lying on the floor of a room on the

third story of the building when the firemen found him. The fireman himself next disappeared into the bag and appeared to our closer view covered all over with soot and scorched in several parts of his body. The third floor from which he issued forth was burned to ashes and this brave fireman had no other alternative but to jump into this bag to save himself.

The fight with the flames con-

tinued for several hours till at last the fire was subdued, and the triumphant firemen returned to their stations. The crowd remained for some time longer, watching the streams of water that were rushing down the drains, with which the firemen had been able to put out the flames. They then dispersed, admiring and praising the courage of the firemen.

E. SIVASINGHAM,  
SENIOR A.



## A NIGHT WITH NATURE

One February evening during the harvest season in Jaffna, I with another boy, who was a few years younger than I, happened to be out in the fields. We were to remain there that whole night watching the paddy crop which had already been reaped. This field was far away from my home. On one side of it was a grove of palmyra trees, and on the opposite side was a small pool. No people lived nearby because that place near the pool is said to be haunted by evil spirits.

There was a little shed by the palmyra grove in which we rested. During the afternoon between three and six, time passed on peacefully. The light of the sun grew more and more dim, and the people who had been working in the field far away, yet within the reach of our eyes, went back to their homes. At last the sun went down and was lost in the western horizon. It was all dark, and we were very much afraid, but as we were two,

we strengthened one another. The darkness did not last long, for very soon the moon began to pour forth her silvery light. "Night is a monotonous period under a roof, but in the open place it passes lightly with stars and dews." For more than two hours we sang songs and amused ourselves. At about nine we had our dinner. Very soon my friend fell fast asleep, and I was left alone.

The moon shone brightly, the stars twinkled. Everything seemed calm and peaceful except for the loud roar of the wind in the trees, the distant cry of some birds, and the sound of the hooting of some men who were out of sight, reaping their paddy crop in the moonlight. I also hooted in return, but very soon I grew tired and remained silent. Now I began to imagine some things which seemed to be real at that time. I thought that the moon and the stars were having a race, for all of them seemed to be in motion. While I

was thus meditating upon this scene, another curious thought struck my mind. I felt that I saw some image inside the moon. There seemed to be an old woman there, sitting and praying to God. Suddenly I remembered a story told to me a long time ago about the great poetess called Auvai, sitting and praying to God.

Now and then the clouds hid the moon and caused darkness. At such times I closed my eyes tightly, thinking that if I could not see the darkness, I would be quite safe.

"As I thus lay between content and longing," a faint noise stole toward me through the palmyra grove. I thought at first it was the barking of dogs at some distant farm behind the grove, but steadily and gradually it sounded nearer, and I seemed to see some curious-looking men with a few tall, slender and pretty women with flowing hair, dancing by the side

of the pool. Sometimes they danced singly, at other times in pairs. They ran round the pool, dancing and singing. While I was wondering what all this meant, sleep overpowered me and I knew not what happened later.

When I woke again many of the stars had disappeared. Only the stronger companions of the night were still in the sky and away toward the east I saw a faint haze of light upon the horizon. Day was approaching and I awoke my companion who had been enjoying his sleep all through the night.

The cool and silvery moon disappeared and Apollo set out on his journey in his golden chariot. Still the past experiences of the night haunted my mind. I looked around half thinking I might see something, but in fact I saw nothing. It was day.

S. V. S., VI A.



## HUMOUR

Humour is the youngest son of the family. It has many brothers in the persons of Messrs. Wit, Fun, Joke, Jest and the three Dulls, Buffoonery, Foolery, and Cynicism. The ages of the last three have not been recorded, as they were not of any worth in their times. Of the other four, Messrs. Joke and Jest are the eldest twins. Master Fun is the next, and Master Wit is a year younger than Master Fun. The youngest, Master Humour, is a refined product of his parents, and he is the most

intelligent of the lot. It is a well-known fact that in a family it is the youngest who is usually the brightest child. Thus young Mr. Humour from his infant days imbibed the best of each of his brothers' qualities, and grew up an energetic, enviable young man. Each of his brothers settled in different countries, and each of them had a son, and called him Laughter. Master Humour, too, had one, and called him also Laughter. According to the chivalrous custom of that time, any one

could challenge his namesake to mortal combat. When of age, Master Humour's hot blooded son travelled to the different parts of the world and challenged all his cousins (unknowing, of course, their relationship) and killed them all. Today, it is he and his father that hold the wearied civilized world.

Humour, according to Ben Jonson, the greatest contemporary of Shakespeare, meant temperament—a step from its original meaning (Humor—liquid), as the four temperaments in man are due to the amount of the respective liquids, phlegm, blood, yellow bile, and black bile, which compose his corporal structure. Today it has come to mean that mental quality which gives to ideas a ludicrous or fantastic turn, and tends to excite laughter. It is the knowledge that unlocks the grotesque side of the world, and thereby supplies mirth and laughter to men. A man endowed with humour looks at life differently from one who has none. The latter does not see the grotesque side of human existence. Shakespeare saw life widely and wisely. Some of his plays are humorous to the full. As a dramatist, he does not pledge himself to any one side of human life which he saw from all its sides. The genial laughter aimed at human absurdity is free even from amiable cynicism. It hurts no living creature, but on the other hand it illuminates and cheers. I do not remember exactly the first time I laughed, but I think it was when a pot-bellied neighbour of mine used to come to my place. It is no wonder that even today

the young laugh heartily at things out of proportion. To keep us constantly sensible of the grotesque is a safe and sure way to deliver us from grotesque habits to which we may easily become insensible. Humour is bred in man, is innate in his nature, and displays itself wherever he goes. The convict in his prison finds his costume funny, or sees something ridiculous in the precautions taken to prevent his escape. There is much that is very amusing, unless a person is thrown into a state of mind that prevents him from enjoying it. For example, suppose that some of us are assembled near the College gate, and we see a couple just getting out of the church after the wedding ceremony, and the bride slips in her attempt to get into the carriage. Who will laugh at this scene? Out of pity, neither the bridegroom nor the gathering will laugh; it is only the fool and the buffoon among us who will laugh out at such a sight.

There are certain aspects of human life which are in general serious, but are lightened with occasional gleams of humour, which, like an oasis in the desert, or like a parson's joke in the sermon are all the more refreshing because of dry surroundings.

There is a humour which characterizes intelligence. This sense of humour is set free when our minds are able to notice and appreciate an incongruity, an expected similarity, or a contrast when certain facts are presented to the mind. When a boy is teased, we see how he retorts if he is an intelligent fellow. In retorting, the

principle is to associate different things. Once a widower wrote on his wife's tombstone, "The light of my life is gone." Soon after, he married, and a crack got hold of him, and began to accuse him of faithlessness. The man, letting loose his sense of humour replied, "It is because the light is lost, that I have got another match." Thus the subconscious field of the mind should be filled with such impressions as can readily rush into the focus of attention and undergo an adjustment instantaneously producing a situation, or suggesting a reply totally unanticipated by us. The mind should associate the ideas, not only readily but rightly as well. Had Socrates not been intelligent, he would never have acted as he did. After his wife had failed to move him by her scolding, from prolonging conversation with visitors and had thrown a pail of water on him in anger, he told his guests, "It was thundering all this time, and I anticipated this shower." Newton was a very great mathematician and scientist. No one doubts that. One day while he was working a problem, his servant informed him of a newly-born kitten. He immediately gave an order to make a separate hole in the door for the kitten's passage. Perhaps it was a mathematical joke which the servant did not know enough to laugh at. Another day Newton boiled his watch for his breakfast,

while holding the egg meanwhile in his hand.

At times some teachers relate something humorous, and dare to judge the intelligence of their classes by the amount of laughter produced. Some cynics of the class deceive the teacher and everyone by laughing heartily, as if they have caught the point, even when they have not caught it at all. The boy, Nagapper, who failed to laugh with the rest of the class when the Latin master cried at the top of his voice, "Richard Second is said to have been murdered by some historians" caught the joke only at midnight, to the annoyance of his fellow boarders sleeping in the dormitory. He easily carries away the crown among the dunces. Not even the slightest tinge of humour is present in his compositions. He is the type of man to whom if you say "Nagappah, isn't your name Poother?" he will say with a thousand nods of his head, "Ye-s-s, I am Poother."

In conclusion, it can be safely said that just as Shakespeare said somewhere that a man who does not appreciate music is fit for treason, so also the one who can neither create nor appreciate humour, is fit for treason. For creation and appreciation of humour go hand in hand.

S. V. NATHAN,  
Inter Arts.





## GOSSIP

## 1. Tidah Apah.

Customer: Why is this watch late?

Shopman: Well, tuvan, you asked for the latest.

Customer: Tidiah apah—Better luck next time.

## 2. Kitty.

Student: A little cat is called kitten, is it?

Teacher: Yes, of course it is. Why do you ask?

Student: Then a little caterpillar is called a kittenpillar!

## 3. Mixed Knowledge

Teacher: What can you tell me about Esau?

Student: Esau was the man that wrote fables and sold the copyright for a bottle of potash.

## 4. My Friend.

One of my friends came late to school. When questioned as to the reason, he replied: "As I came I saw a board on which it was written 'School. Go slowly.' So I did."

(N. B. The student, to our credit, is an old Jaffna College student. Perhaps he may someday beat Mr. Phelps in his humour.)

## 4. The Stepfather.

Mama had married again. "And is that man my step-papa" asked little Willie. "Yes, Darling." "And am I still your little lad," he pursued thoughtfully. "Of course you are still mama's little lad." "Then, said Willie, "I must be step-papa's little step-ladder."

## 6. The Trap.

A police officer questioned the shopkeeper as to whether he kept a trap. Receiving an answer in the affirmative, he asked him whether he had a license. To this the shopkeeper replied "No." The officer made an entry in his notebook, and asked "How many does the trap hold?" "Five." There was another entry. "How many wheels has it?" "None." "What kind of a trap is it?" "A mouse trap." The police officer closed his book and left in a hurry.

AN OVERSEAS STUDENT.



## THE UNION

The Union which was in its infancy last term is growing steadily with the following as office-bearers.

Patron, Rev. John Bicknell, B. A., B. D., M. Ed.

President, Mr. A. W. Nadarajah.

Vice-President, Mr. S. Puranasatunam.

Secretary, Mr. R. C. Selvarasu Cooke.

Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Nadurajah.

The subjects discussed this term were as follows:

A lecture, "Women Authors in English Literature." Mrs. M. H. Harrison, B. A.

A discussion, University education is necessary for women. Speakers, Messrs. V. Eliyatamby, and V. Nagalingam.



## THE Y. M. C. A.

Reviewing the work of this term, I should say that it has been satisfactory. The harmony of the Executive was a stimulus to all our activities. This term has been marked by three events. The first was a visit by Rev. P. Rangaramanujam, the travelling secretary of the S. C. A. of India, Burma, and Ceylon, of which we form a part. Rev. Mr. Rangaramanujam spent a whole day with us during which he spoke to the boys twice. He had also to be at his wit's end to answer the numerous questions that were bombarded at him during the course of the day. He also met the Executive Committee to whom he gave words of encouragement and advice.

The second event was the annual camp of the North-Ceylon S. C. A. which was held at Point-Pedro from the 26th of February to the first of March. The camp was of immense use to many of us. To some it was an eye-opener, and to others a source of new spiritual experience.

The third, but not the least, was the memorable expedition to the Island of Eluvaitive. About fifty of us, teachers and students, set sail to the Island which we so much love on the evening of the 5th of March. When we beheld these poor representatives of our Master, we felt the urgent necessity of the coming of our Lord "to heal these hearts of pain." Prizes were distributed to the children, houses were visited, and food was served to all who came

to see us. In spite of the trivial barriers set up by Satan, our much-loved work proved to be a grand success. Our thanks are due to the persevering efforts of the Treasurer, Mr. J. C. Arulampalam, and to the Missionary Committee Chairman, Mr. P. W. Ariaratnam, and to all those who gave us their hearty co-operation.

A strong and urgent necessity for a better Christian life is being felt among the Christian students. We are really receiving a challenge from the world around us, and may the Lord Jesus help us to defy everything for His sake. As I close this report, it is my earnest prayer that our Master should help us to live a better life by drawing us nearer to his feet, so that others may see in our lives the meaning of our Lord's words, "Ye are the light of the world."

The following are the office-bearers of the Y. M. C. A. for 1926, elected at the general meeting held in November, 1925.

President, S. Handy Perinpanayagam, B. A. (London)

Vice-President, S. P. Vijayaratanam.

Recording Secretary, T. Curtis Kanagaratnam.

Corresponding Secretary, I. P. Thurairatnam, B. Sc. (London)

Treasurer, J. C. Arulampalam.

Auditors, K. Chelliah, B. Sc. (London) and Mrs. M. H. Harrison, B. A.

T. KANAGARATNAM CURTIS,

Recording Secretary.

## THE BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE IN MADRAS

"The Jamboree, The Jamboree,  
Oh yes, we love it well,  
Hark, Hark, I hear a yell;  
The Burman, and the Indian, and  
Ceylon Scout as well."

On Tuesday, the twenty ninth of December last, the "island" in Madras was the scene of an impressive array of turbans in khaki, green, blue, and pink, and amidst the khaki uniforms were a hundred and fifty blue shorts with hats. The officers of the various contingents marched to the reception tents of the Jamboree headquarters to receive orders and instructions for the whole procedure of the camp. After this, the various contingents occupied the tents that were allotted to them. There were about three thousand two hundred Scouts in all, and about three hundred and fifteen tents. Till four in the afternoon of the first day the time was spent in getting settled and preparing for the great event. By three P. M. banners and troop flags were flying amidst the sounds of various musical instruments, and the troops were getting ready to march into the arena, which was about six times the size of the Jaffna Esplanade. At the command of the Camp Commandant, Mr. F. Howard-Oakley, the bugle sounded and the march past commenced. The Mysore Boy Scouts' Band deserves special mention. Then the contingents were arranged in the shape of the spokes of a wheel, and the various bugles and kettle drums of the bands stopped. Then His Excellency, Viscount Goschen, the Provincial Chief Scout, arrived in

state array. The immediate silence of the whole assembly at the call of the bugle was very impressive. Viscount Goschen declared the Jamboree open and read greetings and messages from the Chief Scout of the World and various other great persons connected with this world wide movement, which may be the basis of a real League of Nations. Among the speakers on this occasion was Dr. Annie Besant, the Provincial Commissioner, a woman of short stature but of impressive and charming personality. Her words thrilled the veins of every young person present as she explained the responsibilities of young people today. "Wake, sons of Ind" was her call.

It is a deplorable fact that we here in Ceylon have not made Scouting our own. The time has come when we should bring about a reformation and adapt it to suit our country and its needs. Though Ceylon is undoubtedly ahead of India in the game of Scouting, nevertheless it has its own defects. The Ceylon Scouts exactly resemble the English Scouts except in the matter of the colour of their skins. But we find from our brothers across the Palk Strait that in India each province and each state has its own system of Scouting. One Troop had a uniform which was purely the production of its village. There were various alterations as regard badges, which had been adapted to suit the boys in each part of the country. One cannot help wandering from the description of the

Jamboree when he thinks of the practical way in which Scouting is carried on in the various parts of India. A suggestion to the troops of Jaffna is to re-organize the movement and make it suit our country and its needs, to take the things that are good and reject the things which are bad. It is a matter of regret that now there are some who altogether ape the West, and others who will have nothing to do with anything which is Western. Let us get rid of all bias. One word to the Nationalists of Jaffna. What is the use of luke-warm remarks like "What is the fun of saluting the flag?" If one believes in the making of real sound citizenship, he should realize that this can be accomplished through Scouting. Scouting is rather unpopular with certain extremists, simply because it is foreign. Well then, let us make the necessary improvements, and make it our own. The growth of a country depends upon the training of the young.

To continue with the Jamboree, after the speeches, the local Cubs made a fine display under Mr. J. D. W. Tytler, the District Cub Master of Madras. Next the University Training Corps had a parade. After dinner there was a Camp Fire Entertainment, and then the longed-for day was over. On the following day, the morning was spent in sight-seeing and in preparation for the afternoon's activities. Every day the Camp routine was followed, tidying up, kit and camp inspection, and chumming up. Ceylon's achievements were on the lips of all. In the Ambulance she had a clean walk-

over. In the other sports she fared tolerably well. The Kandyan dance was very much appreciated, and was asked for a second time on the following night. Almost all the dances were original. The horse dance by the Mysore S. M. was remarkable. At night all the contingents paraded around the Camp Fire in fancy costumes. The one hundred and fifty Scouts from Ceylon acted the Kandyan Peralara, which created a great impression upon the whole audience. The Provincial Scout was so pleased that he asked that it be repeated the following night. On Thursday morning the Scouters were in conference, where they discussed the various problems that Scouting has to face in India. One point was the question of untouchability. In the evening, the main feature was the Scout concert. This was one of the finest items of the Jamboree. Ceylon deserves special mention, for her chorus songs were sung by the whole one hundred and fifty, whom the stage was barely large enough to hold. The Sanskrit scene acted by the Puthukodai Troop, gave the audience a glimpse of the magnificence of our ancient literature. The fourth day was New Year's Day, and the whole three thousand two hundred were present at the proclamation parade. It was a fine sight to see a number of cannon firing volley after volley at different intervals. This was followed by selections played by the band of the Lancashire Fusilliers. In the afternoon there was the Grand Rally, the March Past, displays and camp fire en-

tertainments. The night was spent in sight-seeing, cinemas and theatres.

On the last day, the Commissioners were in conference in the morning. All Scouters were entertained at lunch at the Moor Pavilion, by the Hon. S. P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, the Provincial Commissioner. At this, representatives from Sweden, Hungary, Australia, Holland, Java and Japan were present. In the afternoon there was a boxing tournament. Ceylon carried off this shield also. One word about boxing. For the meek and mild Easterner, this brutal game which

is similar to cock-fighting, is not necessary. There are other games which will very well serve instead. It is necessary to speak about this here since there is a clamor for the introduction of boxing into schools in Jaffna. The boxing tournament was followed by a farewell rally.

This Jamboree will go into annals of India, if not for any other reason, at least for the spirit of brotherhood and internationalism it created among the Scouts of different nationalities that were assembled there.

"SPUDS"



## THE JAFFNA COLLEGE SCOUT CAMP

On Friday, the nineteenth of February, the Scouts were seen in their uniforms of azure and khaki assembled before Ottley Hall. The Scout Master was attired in khaki shorts and shirt and had a crimson coloured turban on his head. He walked from the verandah towards the Principal's Bungalow with majestic words of command to the Scouts, who then saluted the Deputation which was visiting there. The Troop Leader with his square-built body marched in front of the Troop that he might say a few words to the visitors on behalf of the Scouts. Being a boy of few words, he finished his talk abruptly, and then led the Troop to the premises of the Pandateruppu English School, where we had planned to camp for the two following days. When we arrived there, we found our fellow Scouts, with their Scout Master waiting for us. The events of the next few days may be briefly

chronicled. Very early the next morning both troops were occupied with morning drill. Then some were allowed to cook, while others were busy practising singalling. In the afternoon three of us tried to fell a tree, and succeeded after some time. Then came a volley ball game played between Jaffna College Scouts and Pandateruppu students. The latter were defeated by three to two. In the evening all the Scouts joined the Scout Master in singing songs about the camp fire. Early the next morning all of us went on a walking tour to Keerimalai and bathed in the tank. The walk and the extreme heat of the midday so wearied us that we did not wholly appreciate the beauty of nature around us. By the time we got back, we were called upon by our Scout Master to prepare for our departure from the camp. We reached the College at six o'clock the same evening.

J. A. DAVID



## THE SECOND JAFFNA WOLF CUB PACK

This year has brought with it many changes to the Pack. Mr. R. C. S. Cooke, the Akela, was promoted by the local Association to the post of District Cub Master. The Assistant Cub Master of our College pack has succeeded him. The Pack congratulates him on his promotion, and expects more promotions for him in the future. Another change in the Pack is its number. The Pack, ranked as the first in Jaffna, is now called the Second Jaffna Pack, so that the number of the Pack may correspond to the number of the College Scout Troop.

With the new Akela came a reorganization of the pack. By this reorganization several old cubs were recognized as Wolves and were welcomed by the Troop. There

are altogether twenty Cubs on the Register now, of whom seven are recruits. These form three sixes, namely, the Crimson, the Gold, and the Pink. The Cubs are having their daily Bites regularly. Sometimes they are taken out "to hunt grasshoppers, to leap and snap, and twist and pounce after them". The District Cub-Master has visited the Pack several times during the term. The Pack hopes to have a Camp before the end of the term. Though the Cubs enjoy themselves heartily, yet they are in want of a club-room. They hope that their howls will reach the ears of the authorities, and will hasten the time when they are given a sheltering cove. "We'll Do Our Best".

S. T. ASEERVATHAM, AKELA.



## THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

During the last two or three years, the College Library has undergone some changes. The whole library has been rearranged, and the books have been classified and indexed. The system adopted here for the classification of books is known as the "Dewey Decimal System", largely used in many American libraries. The number of books in the library has been considerably increased during these years, though it is still felt that the present library is by no means proportionate to the needs of the institution. What we require now is more fiction, and that, too, good modern fiction. Strictly speaking, the number of volumes which are suitable for the Form boys is still comparatively small. But unless the help of some of our rich Old Boys or well wishers is extended to us at this juncture, it will be too much of a task for the College authorities to undertake to equip the Library fully. An attempt is also being made to collect books written by our Old Boys or by those who have been connected with the College. Such books are carefully preserved in a separate almirah. We have already received some books and eagerly await others.

Tamil books to the Library. This will be a great incentive to the study of our Tamil language. But before the addition is made, it is necessary to be sure that full advantage will be taken by the boys of such books. At present, to judge by what use they make of the Tamil books which are already here, the prospect of the successful use of such books is by no means encouraging.

The reading room also forms a part of the Library, and is, in fact, the busiest part of the Library. Many magazines and periodicals are received for the Reading Room, most of them being American publications, though there are also Indian and British ones. Although the number of magazines has been decreased this year, yet the students are making a good use of what we have. Both the Reading Room and Library are open for all students, and on all days.

In conclusion, there is a request that we would like to make from all those who use the College Library. This is, that everyone should use the College books as they would their own books.

K. CHELLIAH, LIBRARIAN

## ALUMNI NOTES

*Mr. G. M. Kanagaratnam*, L. Th., who is in charge of the Araly church, has been ordained minister by the S. I. U. C. Council at the Vaddukkodai church on the 15th of February.

*Mr. K. Vijayaratham* has come out successful in the Procter's Final examination held in January.

*Rev. James S. Mather* has been appointed the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission work in the Mannar Station.

*Mr. A. Thamboe*, Secretary and Orphans' and Public Officers' Guarantee Funds, F. M. S., is on leave in Jaffna, and is staying at Carroll Villa, Changanai.

*Drs. A. W. Rasiak* and *J. S. Amerasingham* have returned after obtaining British Qualifications.

*Mr. R. A. Gnanamuttu*, Postmaster, Vaddukkodai, has been transferred to Batticaloa, and *Mr. W. Sinnadurai*, has taken his place.

*Mr. Snell Aseervatham Supramaniam* has been appointed Additional Registrar of Lands of the Jaffna District.

*Dr. S. K. Chinniah* of Kankesanturai is transferred to Vavuniya.

*Mr. S. Armstrong* has been appointed Acting District Engineer, Mannar.

*Mr. A. B. Chinnadurai* has come out successful in the final examinations of the L. R. C. P. & S. (Edinburgh) and L. R. F. E. and S. (Glasgow).

*Mr. S. Kulasingham* of Messrs. Walkers Sons & Co. Ltd., Colombo, has passed the Book Keeping and Accountancy examination conducted by the Indian School of Account-

ancy. He has also been granted a diploma entitling him to use the letters M. I. S. A. after his name.

*Mr. P. Srishkandarajah* has been elected Captain of the University College Football Team for the Year 1925-1926. He has also been elected General Secretary of the Union Society of the University College.

*Mr. S. Mathiaparanam* is in the Federal Treasury, Kuala Lumpur.

*Mr. S. Arumugam* is a teacher in the Anglo-Chinese School, Klang.

*Mr. T. Nadarajah* is a teacher at the Government English School, Pudu.

*Mr. S. Rasiak* is a teacher at the Victorian Institution.

*Mr. K. Ponnampalam* is in the Drawing Office, Seremban.

*Mr. T. Tillaianathan* is at Katong, Singapore.

*Mr. M. S. Thuvairajasingham* is a teacher at the Government English School, Bantong.

## Matrimonial.

The marriage of *Mr. S. S. Williams*, c. g. n., Jaffna to Miss Sarah Alagammah Arumugam took place at the Uduvil church on the 10th of February.

*Mr. K. Dharmaratnam* of the Audit Office, Colombo, was married to Miss Mary Nesaratnam Evarts on the 3rd of February at the Araly church.

*Mr. D. S. Sanders*, B. A. Lecturer, Jaffna College, led to the altar at St. James' Church, Nellore, Miss Harriet Handy on the 23rd of January.



## IN MEMORIAM

S. Krishnaswamy, a member of last year's Senior class, died of typhoid fever in the Jaffna Civil Hospital at the end of January. He was a good son and brother, a keen thachi player and a loyal son of the College. We extend our sympathy to his bereaved family in Vaddukkodai.



## THE PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

The story told by Dr. Potter at the Manipay Memorial Hospital Anniversary Celebration, of the girl who said that "deprecation" was the name given a group of people sent by the American Board to Jaffna, may be seen to have its point so far as the general work of the Mission is concerned but has no point with reference to Jaffna College. In this respect the Deputation differed markedly from the famous Deputation of the 1855. Those of 55 came with instructions to consider the future of the Seminary. The Seminary was the central interest of their visit here. Their coming was the occasion, if not the cause, of the unfortunate closing of the Seminary; a work of deprecation, we now quite generally agree. The college was, to the Deputation of 1926, something that called for little consideration "Blessed is the institution that escapes the attention of a Deputation", may be added to the beatitudes.

Perhaps just because it was not necessary for the Deputation to look at the College through the same spectacles as they did the other phases of the work, they were free to render a greater service of inspiration to it. This came through the talks and sermons they gave us. Both Dr. Strong and Dr. Potter spoke at Chapel and Dr. Potter preached at the evening service. Both brought messages that showed a sympathetic insight into the life of the students and teachers. It was a great treat to hear those who represent the best of our Congregational Church leaders. When we remember that we had Dr. Jefferson speaking to us only a few weeks ago we must count ourselves among those most favoured in this matter of listening to good preaching.

Our visitors for the term have included in addition to those noted above, Mrs. Strong and Mrs. Decatur, also members of the American Deputation, Rev. Augustine Jones; Mr. Charles Selden; Mr. Fairchilds and son with two friends; Mr. Turner and and sister. Mr. Jones came as one who is interested in Missions and had been visiting the Madura Mission in the interest of a project to induce the churches of the

Hawaiian Islands to contribute for the work of the Christian cause in South India. Mr. Selden was a journalist seeking materials for articles he is writing for an American Magazine. The Fairchilds group came from the Agricultural Department at Washington in the interests of that work. Mr. Turner is the American Consul in Colombo. They will all help to disseminate knowledge with regard to the service of the college.

One meeting of very special interest to the college and to a number of the Old Boys that was held during the Deputation week, was the ordination of Rev. G. M. Kanagaratnam. We rejoice that he is now fully entered into the ministry and wish for him the fullest fruits of his labours.

To promote a healthy spirit of cooperation between students and teachers in promoting the well being of the students we have organised a School Council. This Council, as its name implies, is not a Student Council; it is a School Council. It is composed of both students and teachers chosen by both students and teachers. The membership at present is as follows; the Vice Principal, one teacher, two boys chosen by the faculty, four boys chosen by the students; these four are from the Intermediate, and London Matriculation classes and Sixth and Fifth Forms. Matters of discipline will be dealt with by this Council and its advice will be sought in matters pertaining to student activity and school progress.

In place of Five Day Boarders and Seven Day Boarders we now have Six Day Boarders and Seven Day Boarders. Instead of being permitted to go home on Friday evening, the boys who go home each week are released on Saturday. This change has been made to enable all the boys to get the benefit of the Saturday activities. It is on that day that the student organizations, the Brotherhood, the Forum and the Lyceum are held in which there is much opportunity for training as well as expression. The day opens with Chapel and Roll Call as on other days and these are followed by one recitation period before the meetings of the various organizations.

## ATHLETICS DURING THE FIRST TERM

We are now in the midst of our spring inter-class athletic competition, which began on February 15th and will continue until about March 25th, a week before the term ends. The competition is arranged in the same way as that held last term, but the sports in which competition is now going on are cricket, volleyball, and the new game which has become so popular, paddle tennis. A new feature of the all-round competition this year is the crediting of points for the highest percentage of class attendance in athletics for the whole year. This has had a marked effect upon the attendance of the whole student body in the games on the playground this year. At present it looks as though this triangular spring competition, like that held in the fall, would grow into an annual affair. Points won in both competitions count toward the shields for all-round athletic supremacy in both the senior and junior divisions. It is a pleasure to report also that our trophies for the inter-class championships in the several sports included in the competition have been recently augmented by two. One is a new shield to be presented by Mr. David S. Sanders in memory of his brother, the late Mr. D. R. Sanders. This shield is to be awarded to the inter-class champions in cricket each year. The second trophy is made possible by the action of the College Brotherhood in offering their A. K. R. K. Memorial Shield, formerly awarded to the class winning the championship in an annual volleyball competition between the classes in the Brotherhood, as an inter-class championship trophy in volleyball.

The result of the present competitions are still in doubt, although the Sixth A

class is well in the lead in the senior division at present having lost none of the fourteen matches played thus far, and having drawn in only one. Most of the other classes in the same division are closely bunched together in their standing. The Third Form A class is leading just now in the junior division.

On Saturday afternoon, March 13th, as a part of the all-round competition in the junior division, an inter-class athletic meet was held between the five classes in that division. Only two were allowed to enter each event from any one class, and no boy was permitted to enter more than three events. The competition was particularly close between the 3 A, 3 C, and 2 A classes. The 3 A class won first place in the meet with 26 points, while the 3 C and 2 A classes were tied for second place with 20 points each. The events of the meet were the 100 yard dash; the high jump; the shot put; the running broad jump; the 120 yard hurdles; the cricket ball throw; the relay race; and the tug-of-war.

The next events of interest on the athletic calendar are the dual athletic meets with Manipay Hindu College on March 20th at Manipay; and with St. John's College here at Vaddukoddai on the 27th. These meets will be of considerable interest, as well as good training for the general intercollegiate meet in Jaffna on the King's birthday.

(Note: As we go to press, the announcement has been received of the victory won by the College Track Team in the very closely contested meet at Manipay. The meet ended 54-51 in our favor. C. W. P.)



ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN DECEMBER MISCELLANY

1. A Riddle—Answer : War, den, Warden. Author A. W. Nadarajah
2. Cross-word puzzle. No absolutely correct answer for the cross-word was handed in, though the solution handed in by E. A. Deva-sagayam, of the Senior A. class, was correct except for three letters. The correct solution is given below by the Author, S. Poornasatkunam.

⊙	M	E	T	Z	⊙	⊙	⊙	M	S	⊙	⊙	⊙	E	R	S	⊙	
⊙	C	A	R	O	L	⊙	⊙	L	E	E	⊙	B	⊙	C	O	O	⊙
⊙	⊙	T	O	O	L	⊙	⊙	U	R	N	⊙	⊙	O	Z	E	⊙	⊙
E	N	⊙	L	⊙	B	⊙	⊙	M	E	E	⊙	B	⊙	E	⊙	B	L
N	A	I	L	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	I	⊙	C	⊙	⊙	⊙	M	A	R	U
G	T	T	•	A	R	U	N	D	E	L	•	N	A	B	O	B	
A	I	⊙	F	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	I	⊙	⊙	⊙	R	⊙	⊙	⊙	T	R
G	O	⊙	O	⊙	I	⊙	⊙	F	A	G	⊙	A	⊙	M	I	H	I
E	N	⊙	R	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	E	T	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	⊙	E	C
M	A	⊙	U	P	S	⊙	⊙	R	⊙	S	H	E	B	A	⊙	R	A
E	L	⊙	M	I	E	⊙	⊙	O	⊙	⊙	⊙	E	⊙	⊙	⊙	H	T
N	I	P	•	A	M	O	U	N	T	S	•	M	A	F	O	I	
T	S	E	T	S	E	⊙	⊙	S	U	E	⊙	H	A	L	L	O	O
S	M	⊙	R	T	S	⊙	⊙	N	⊙	⊙	⊙	E	R	A	⊙	D	N
⊙	⊙	S	O	R	T	⊙	⊙	A	⊙	H	⊙	L	I	N	T	⊙	⊙
S	E	T	T	E	E	⊙	⊙	M	O	O	⊙	M	E	T	A	L	S
O	D	D	S	⊙	R	⊙	⊙	O	N	E	⊙	S	⊙	S	T	O	A

## THE EDITOR'S PAGE

We are sorry that we must record again in this Miscellany the death of one of our students. The usual scourge of Jaffna during the months of January and February, fever, was especially prevalent in the village of Vaddukoddai this year, and in its most dreaded form, enteric. We are thankful that the College itself escaped, but sad indeed to think that so many of our day boys suffered. The College as well as the Christian community has suffered a loss in the death of Henry Cheliah, to whom so much of the credit for the success of all College functions in the past ten years has been due. His ability in managing without fuss or confusion the details of the huge dinners on Old Boys' Days, Brotherhood Anniversaries, and at the time of the Jubilee, might well be the envy of experienced caterers and of all men of business. But most of all, his unselfish readiness to make the affairs of others his chief concern had endeared him to all our College community. By his life he has given to old words "He took upon himself the form of a servant" a new meaning, and verily must now be receiving his Master's "Well-Done."

If last term's Miscellany was a students' number, we might call this one the Old Boys' number. We continue in this number with Mr. Supramaniam's article a series started a year ago on the opportunities offered by different professions. Our other contributions are unsolicited, a matter which calls for special rejoicing. To all our Old Boys or others who have been

connected with the College, we send a hearty welcome to the pages of the Miscellany. Whenever you have interesting experiences, see new scenes, or are moved by visions of things as they ought to be, will you not share your thought with your old College? The College is one, and in its larger sense includes all who have ever been within her walls. A greater knowledge of what our Old Boys are feeling and thinking will be the best possible stimulus to all of us who are now here. We welcome especially any news items about any of our former students. And to our contributors among students we would also like to say a few words: if your first contribution to the Miscellany is not printed, don't be discouraged, but imitate the spider which inspired Robert Bruce, and try, try again. Even rejected contributions are wonderfully encouraging to the editors, for they show a real interest in the Miscellany. If your first article is not accepted, your second may be: or if not your second, your third. And another word. Don't write on fantastic and unusual subjects. Write on what you yourself know and feel. Again, keep on trying.

We welcome the "Torch" of Vembadi to the company of school Magazines in Jaffna, and congratulate it on its first issue. We thank also all our other exchanges in Jaffna, South Ceylon, South India, and the Straits, for the copies they continue to send. Each one has many readers at Jaffna College.



## WHAT THE BOYS SAY

"They say, let them say what do they say?"

That one wedding is over and two more are to come.

That "divers folk diversely they deemed" means "one way one man and the other way the other man."

That the deputation is a "depredation" in the parlance of the Uduvil population.

That teachers take turns in Saturday classes.

That the craze of the Dewey season is Paddles,

That cricket is in full swing, but the authorities are opposed to intercollegiate matches.

That there is a "scrap" on as to who will step into shoes No. 10.

That the motive of cycling to Point Pedro is search of adventure.

That the proper way to greet a friend after sunset before commencing a conversation is "Good-night."

That the roads, the cycle tyres, and amateur cyclists' knees wear off in inverse proportion.

That snuffing in the company of ladies is dangerous, as you may mistake a lady's skirt for a handkerchief.

That the elder brothers in the Inter-Hostel are busy with their books and paddles.

That the lights are never out in the Hostel, and even if the lights are out, there is never an "out" to the music of its canine friends.

That these friends are the cause of many a "scrap" between a rat and a cat.

That since girls are also students with equal privileges in the College, they also should be allowed to say what the girls say.

That the "Torch" of Vembadi is harping on one tune.

That girls who condemn the dowry system do not hesitate to seek a civil servant or a doctor or an engineer, no matter what his personal qualities are.

That Kandy is the "biggest natural harbour in Ceylon."

That owing to the absence of Mr. Hieb, they don't see much of the pole vault.

That other local experts in pole vaulting have suffered head-long flights.

That Mr. Harrison has seen the death of the choir before his furlough.

That Mr. Metz has not yet retired.

That the dew does not suit the College clock.

That the Scout Garden does not seem to produce many vegetables, especially pumpkins.

That Jeyaveerasinghe is "more all-rounder" than that dark contemporary of his.

That Sanskrit and Music should be included in the College curriculum.

That there is a young Sandow who is as brittle as sugar candy.

That the actors and "actresses" of the College are very busy in rehearsing the Manohara, and it will not be very long before they stand trial for disturbing the "peace, tranquillity, and good government of Vaddukoddai."

That they are anxiously awaiting the 20th of March to see what their masters can do.

That those who give "great big" lectures on staging must also give proof of their histrionic talents.

That the Tamil Apivirtthi Sangam is getting as old as its President.

That certain tennis players with the motto "It is never too late to mend" in mind, are faring remarkably well under the coaching of Tilden of world fame.

That to their regret some of the players have learned that one of the "don'ts" in tennis is "Don't lose your temper."



## ROLL OF HONOR

(The names of the three boys ranking highest in each class in their academic work for the closing term of 1925 are printed below)

• 1. Vethaparanam A.	Vth Form A.
2. Gunanayagam A.	" "
3. Kajianasundrampillai	" "
1. Murugasu V.	Vth Form B.
2. Sebanandam A.	" "
3. Kanagasabai S.	" "
1. Jeyaretnam E. S.	IVth Form A.
2. Gnanasegaram C. A.	" "
3. Visuvanathan M.	" "
1. Paramanathy S.	IV Form B.
2. Sundram M	" "
3. Arunasalam V.	" "
1. Selvadurai S.	IIIrd Form A.

2. Rajaratnam A.	" "
3. Rajasingam C. E.	" "
1. Thambiratnam P.	IIIrd Form B.
2. Chelliah N.	" "
3. Rajadurai M.	" "
1. Somasundaram M.	IIIrd Form C.
2. Sinnappah T.	" "
3. Gunaratnam M.	" "
1. Ponnudurai A.	IInd Form A.
2. Ratnam Woodhul	" "
3. Rajanayagam A.	" "
1. Chinniah Benjamin	IInd Form B.
2. Alexander S. N	" "
3. Navaratnam K.	" "
1. Kanagaratnam R.	IInd Form C.
2. Kanaganayagam N.	" "
3. Ponnampalam S.	" "

## RECORD OF EVENTS

- Dec. 5 The Athenaeum celebrates its second anniversary, by an entertainment and Oriental dinner.
- " 6 The College Choir conducts a carol service on Sunday evening.
- " 7 College promotion exams begin.
- " 12 College vacates for the Christmas holidays.
- " 20 Dr. Jefferson visits the College and speaks informally to the teachers and boys.
- Jan. 11 College re-opens.
- " 13 Rev. S. K. Ponniah speaks in the Y. M. C. A.
- " 17 Rev. M. H. Harrison takes charge of the Sunday evening service.
- " 24 Rev. J. Bicknell speaks on "Jesus, the Illuminator of Human Nature"
- " 26 Rev. Augustine Jones addresses the Y. M. C. A. on "Hawaii"
- " 27 Reception to Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Sanders.
- " 30 Mr. Philips from Bangalore speaks in the Y. M. C. A.
- " 31 Mr. J. V. Chelliah conducts the evening service.
- Feb. 6 The members of the Inter-Hostel entertain Mr. and Mrs. Sanders at dinner.
- " 7 Rev. G. D. Thomas takes charge of the evening service.
- " 13 Dr. Potter speaks in the Chapel
- " 14 Dr. Potter preaches the evening sermon on "Conditions for the Growth of Christianity"
- " 19 Dr. Strong speaks to the students in the Hall.
- " " Sextant Holiday begins.
- " 24 Mr. Paul Rangaramanujam addresses the Y. M. C. A.
- " 28 The preacher of the evening was Mr. Bicknell who spoke on "Salvation."
- Mar. 4 Rev. Dr. Isaac Tambiah spoke on Thayumanavar to the Union and its guests.
- " 5 The annual Eluvaitive expedition takes place.
- " 8 Mr. H. Perinpanayagam is the evening preacher on the subject "The Sufferings of Christ."
- " 10 Mr. J. V. Chelliah speaks on "Method in Teaching" at a meeting of the Round Table
- " 20 The College meets Manipay Hindu College in a Field Meet
- " 20 The Staff and Students of the College stage the Tamil play Manohara at Manipay Memorial School.
- " 27 Field Meet with St. John's College

