

# CEYLON Fortnightly Review

Vol. X

PRICE 50 Cts.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper, 20th September, 1957.

No. 10

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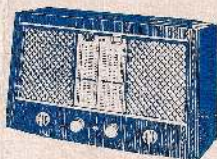
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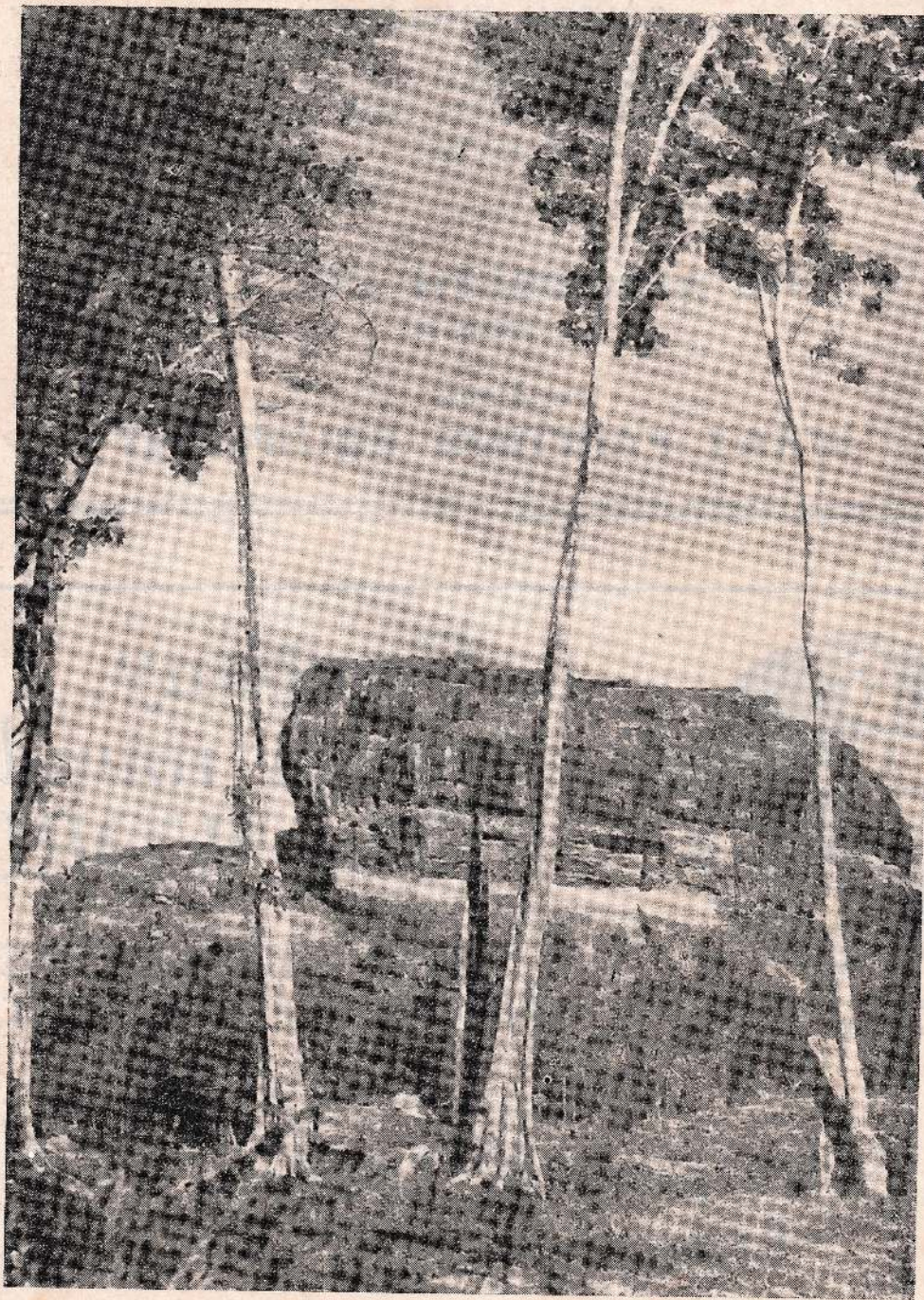
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## THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE

IT was a happy thought of the Inspector-General of Police and his Deputies to canvass the views of the Service on the violence that the Police have encountered of late. At least it afforded an outlet for the feelings of the men on a variety of matters.

As to the causes of resistance of the Police, their finding is in striking agreement with that of others who have given thought to the matter—that it stems from irresponsible criticism of the Service by persons in high places.

\* \* \* \*

THE suggestion that the death penalty should be imposed in cases where Police officers are killed whilst on duty has provoked a debate similar to the controversy over the suspension of the death penalty. There is a marked division of opinion on the point.

Likewise, the idea of arming the Police has produced contrary views, although there has been no precise definition of the circumstances in which arms should be carried. Here, however, a majority is against the present powers of the Police with regard to the use of arms being exceeded.

\* \* \* \*

A FACT that is apt to be overlooked in the emotional climate that has been created by recent events is that the Police Service is fundamentally a civil organisation. Police officers and men deal with citizens like themselves in upholding the law of the land. They have no rights that others are not entitled to, but they have greater obligations by reason of their training and discipline and the powers they exercise.

For such men to go about armed among unarmed people would mean that they have no faith in themselves and fear the people, or that the people have no confidence in their sense of fairness and justice.

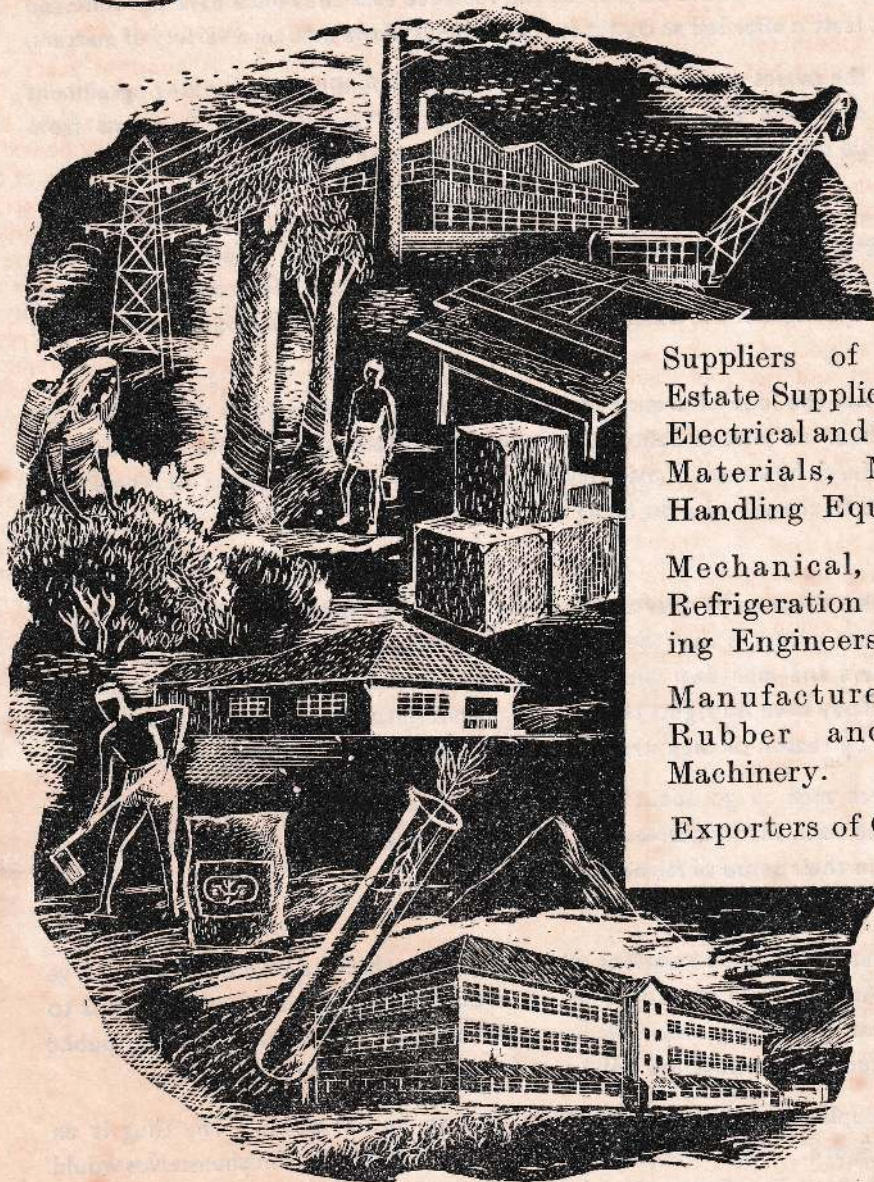
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IT is by establishing good relations with the people that the Police can best serve them. Although the country is going through a great social revolution, it is to be feared that by and large the Police are oblivious of it. On the part of the public the old attitude lingers that the Police are "agin" the people.

Most people are law-abiding and only wish to be left alone. The thug is an exceptional figure. To counter his activities, for the Police to arm themselves would be to dare him. The Police should put themselves in the place of the ordinary citizen and evolve a code of conduct which will bring about a new relationship between them and the people.

THE EDITOR.

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## MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

THE new American Ambassador to Ceylon, Mr. Maxwell Gluck, gave an impression of dignity and good humour when he arrived in Colombo on Sunday, September 15th, to take up his appointment.

The American colony in Ceylon mustered in strength to greet the representative of their Government and Mr. Gluck expressed appreciation of their presence in such numbers on a Sunday! In a brief speech to them he declared that it would be his object to strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Meeting newspapermen, Mr. Gluck referred to a matter which was perhaps uppermost in their minds but about which they politely remained silent—his failure to pronounce the Prime Minister's name before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was the subject of comment in both countries and in Britain. He showed that he has got it right now by giving it out in full. This provoked a reporter to ask how his own name was pronounced and he replied that it rhymed with pluck.

Mr. Gluck, who met Mr. Bandaranaike the following day, is the fourth Ambassador to be accredited by the United States to Ceylon. His predecessors, each of whom typified a different aspect of American life and all of whom earned esteem for their country, were Mr. Felix Cole, Mr. Joseph Satterthwaite, and Mr. Philip Crowe.

\* \* \*

DR. John Blaze, former first physician of the General Hospital and afterwards Professor of Medicine in the University, who retired to England a few months ago, was in Ceylon at the end of August and spent a week here before leaving for Afghanistan. Dr. Blaze has been given an assignment in that country by the World Health Organisation.

Those who knew Dr. Blaze as a classics scholar will be surprised to know that he is no less versatile in modern languages. One of his duties in Afghanistan will be to give lectures in French!

\* \* \*

IT is officially announced that Mr. W. D. Gunaratne, until lately Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, has been designated

Minister for Ceylon in Burma. He fills the vacancy caused by the resignation, within a few months of his appointment, of Mr. Raja Hewavitarne, head of H. Don Carolis & Co., and one time member of the State Council and Minister for Commerce.

Mr. Gunaratne was a senior member of the Civil Service. He is not new to diplomatic life, having been Counsellor of the Ceylon embassy in Washington for a time. An ardent Buddhist, he should find the Burma post a congenial assignment.

\* \* \*

MR. Neville Kanekaratne, Crown Counsel, has been appointed first secretary (legal affairs) in Ceylon's permanent mission to the United Nations. Educated at Royal College and a graduate of the University of Ceylon, Mr. Kanekaratne entered Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he passed the law tripos. He was called to the Bar from the Middle Temple. Last year Mr. Kanekaratne represented Ceylon at an International seminar at Harvard University, U.S.A.

Mr. Kanekaratne's chief interest outside the law is the theatre. He was a founder member of the Theatre Workshop formed by Jubal

and a committee member of the Lionel Wendt Theatre Club. He took part in Jubal's productions of "Lilion," "Lower Depths," and "Government Inspector."

\* \* \*

A MONUMENTAL gift was the description given by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, of the new assembly hall of St. Anthony's College, Katugastota, built by old boys and well-wishers of the College to mark its centenary, when he opened the building on September 6th.

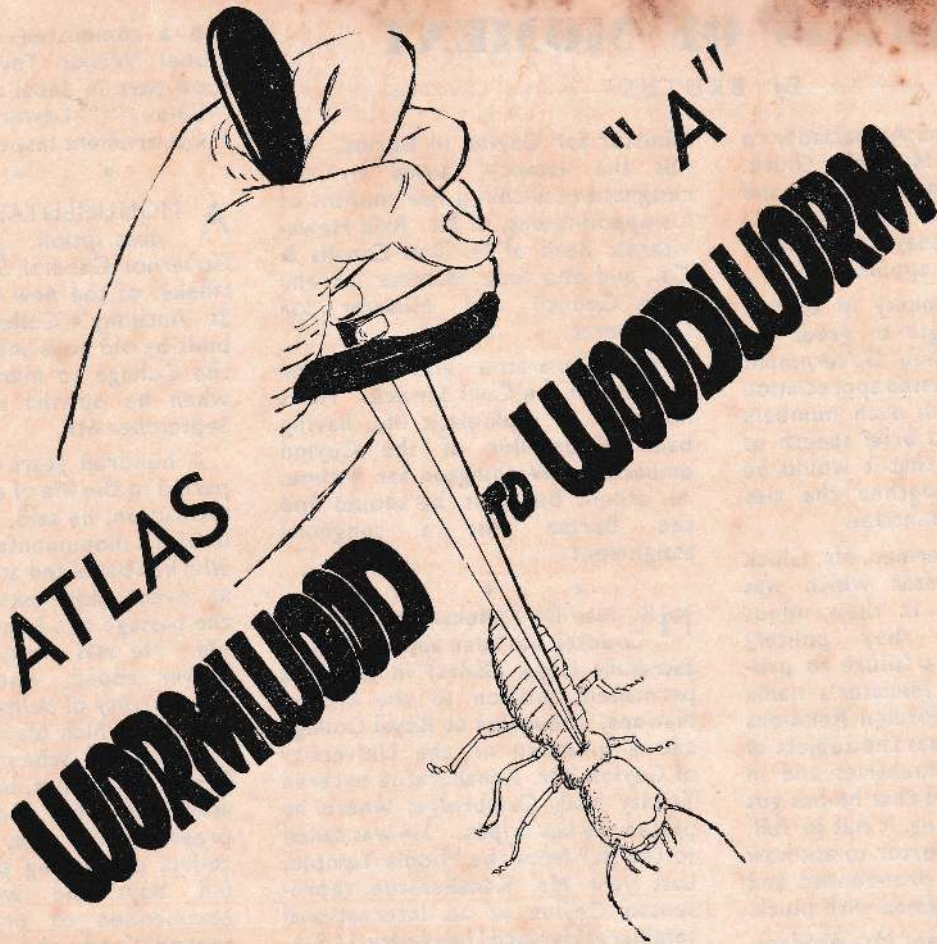
A hundred years was not a short period in the life of a great scholastic institution, he said, but to celebrate it with a monumental gift from those who had benefited at the College was an event more extraordinary than the passage of a hundred years in its life. He was always delighted, Sir Oliver added, when he had the opportunity of being associated with a school which played a full part in the national scheme of education, but St. Anthony's, besides taking the assistance the Government was prepared to give, proceeded to collect everything possible from its old boys and well-wishers. He commended to privileged groups around Kandy the claims of schools like St. Anthony's.

A great ovation was given to the honorary architect of the building, Mr. P. H. J. Billimoria.



—"Times"

Mr. MAXWELL H. GLUCK, American Ambassador-designate to Ceylon, during his call on the Prime Minister.



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## MATTERS OF MOMENT

**A**N appointment which confounded expectations but nevertheless is welcomed as striking a blow at "influence" was that by the Local Government Service Commission of Mr. B. A. Jayasinghe, Secretary of the Commission, as Municipal Commissioner, Colombo, in succession to Mr. W. Gopallawa, who is retiring.

Mr. Jayasinghe (36) was the youngest of 15 candidates, among whom was a former Civil Servant, two Municipal Commissioners and the acting Municipal Commissioner of Colombo, Mr. L. L. Attygalle, whose substantive post is Municipal Treasurer, Colombo. A graduate of the Ceylon University where he was President of the Union Society, Mr. Jayasinghe took a course in social science at the London School of Economics. He was previously an Assistant Commissioner of Local Government.

\* \* \*

**T**HE Rev. Father D. A. Rosati, O.S.B., Principal of St. Anthony's College, Kandy, who on September 6, received the Governor-General when he came to open the centenary hall of the school, died suddenly five days later of coronary thrombosis. He was 44.

Italian by birth, Father Rosati came to Ceylon as an ecclesiastical student and completed his studies at the Ampitiya seminary. He took his degree as an external student of the London University. Appointed Principal of St. Anthony's in 1944, under his guidance the school progressed rapidly on its new site in Katugastota. The hall built by old boys and well-wishers of the school to mark the centenary of the school now becomes equally a monument to his principalship.

\* \* \*

**S**IR John Kotelawala returned from his holiday on his farm in England on September 11th, and was greeted by political colleagues and friends and many of his admirers. He refused to be drawn by the Press to comment on contemporary events.

\* \* \*

**T**HE Minister of Transport has reiterated that the tentative date for the State to take over the omnibus services is January 1st, 1958.

When nationalisation comes into effect, however, the operators of the services will receive no "com-

penensation"; they will only receive payment for such of their vehicles and equipment and other property as are acquired by the Government.

The position emerges from the draft Bill which the Minister of Transport has circulated among his colleagues. It is provided that "no person shall be entitled to compensation for any loss incurred by him, whether directly or indirectly, by way of business or otherwise, by reason of his stage carrier permit ceasing to be in force."

On the other hand, operators are liable to imprisonment up to a year or a fine up to Rs. 1,000 or both if they fail to carry on the existing services as efficiently as at present until they are taken over by the Government. A similar penalty is provided for those who obstruct the Board in taking over any service.

The Bill also provides for the transport services operated by the Colombo Municipal Council to be taken over by the Board.

Provision is also made for fines up to Rs. 200 for violation of the regulations applying to travellers. In the main they follow the regulations in force on the Railway.

\* \* \*

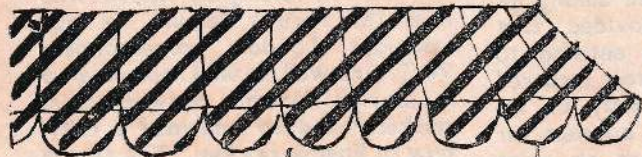
**W**E owe an explanation to readers of the *Fortnightly Review* who miss the regular feature by our assiduous London correspondent W. T. Greswell, so well remembered in Ceylon for his prowess as a cricketer and so informed a critic now of English cricket. The reason for Mr. Greswell's absence from these pages is that the English cricket season has come to an end with the end of summer. He will, however, occasionally write on other aspects of English life with which more Ceylonese than ever before are becoming familiar with the greater numbers visiting Europe nowadays. From his despatches on cricket readers may depend on it, that he will be as delightful a recorder of events other than cricket. So look out to Cricketcetera instead of Cricketana in subsequent issues of the *Fortnightly*.



—"Times"

CEYLON'S Minister of Finance, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, was guest-of-honour at a luncheon in Sydney on September 3rd. Here Mr. de Zoysa is chatting with Sir Richard Boyer, Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, before the lunch.

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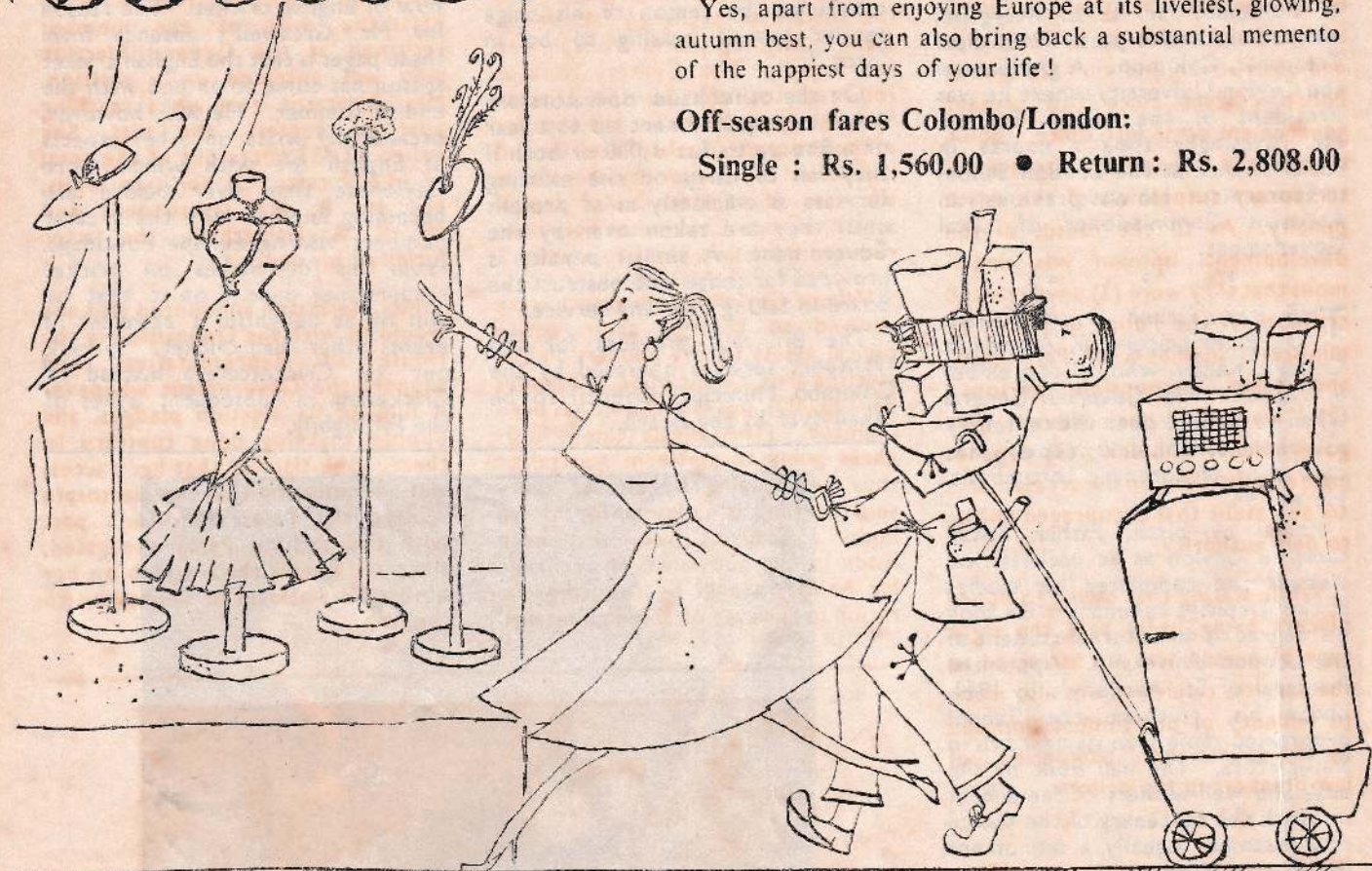
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## MATTERS OF MOMENT

A UNIQUE meeting was that held on September 9th of some five hundred men representative of all ranks of the Police, with the IGP Mr. Osmund de Silva, in the Chair, at which the increasing difficulties encountered by the service in carrying out their duties were discussed.

The meeting had before it an analysis of replies given to a questionnaire issued earlier. The consensus of opinion was that there has been an increased tendency to resistance and obstruction, and violence against Police officers since the present government came into office. Some traced the tendency from the temporary suspension of the death penalty. As to the causes of the development, opinion was unanimous that they were (1) unwarranted criticism of the Police in public by ministers, members of Parliament, and other responsible persons; (2) "warped" *ape anduwa* (our government) complex; (3) dependence of politicians on unruly elements to an extent that encouraged bullies to defy authority.

While stating that owing to Police officers being badly paid the right type of person was not attracted to the service, reference was also made to leniency of punishment imposed by the courts and "pampering" of law-breakers in the prisons.

\* \* \*

THE answer to the question how violence could be prevented was enhanced punishment, including whipping, for causing hurt with fire-arms, knives and lethal weapons to police officers on duty; reintroduction of the death penalty at least in cases of murder of police officers on duty; and the arming of police officers, included in which was the suggestion that the 450 revolvers at present issued be replaced by a .32 automatic pistol. "If military police can be armed, why not we" was a question raised.

The views of the meeting have received wide comment and evoked support for higher salaries for the

Police and compensation for men injured on duty.

\* \* \*

THE decision of the two Canadian insurance companies, Manufacturers and Sun, to cease writing new business in Ceylon has caused the Government to tighten exchange control measures.

The granting of credit facilities by banks for the purchase of estates of sterling companies is forbidden and the release of exchange for investment in sterling shares is suspended for a year. The Central Bank is required to refer to the Finance Minister applications for the transfer of the proceeds of sale of estates, and the period of anticipatory transfer in the case of repatriation of capital assets of non-Ceylonese has been reduced from two years to a year.

Where Ceylonese emigrants were allowed to transfer their entire capital assets to any country in the sterling area, a limit of £7,500 (about Rs. 100,000), per family unit has been imposed. (This affects chiefly Burghers going to settle in Australia; they are leaving by almost every ship touching at Colombo for "down under"). Changes have also been made in the allowance of exchange for holiday travel by reducing the ration in the case of some countries.

DR. C. C. de Silva, Professor of Paediatrics of the University of Ceylon, has left for Istamboul, where he will preside at a world conference under UNESCO auspices. The theme of the conference is abnormal haemoglobin, a subject on which Dr. de Silva has done considerable research.

\* \* \*

THE Welimada parliamentary by-election resulted in an overwhelming victory for Mrs. K. M. P. Rajaratne, wife of the member returned at the General Election who was unseated on a petition. Mrs. Rajaratne gave up a teaching post to contest the seat. She polled 11,453 votes out of the total of 14,609 cast. Of her two rivals, Mr. M. B. A. Jayasundera and Mr. K. A. Dalpathadu, the latter forfeited his deposit.

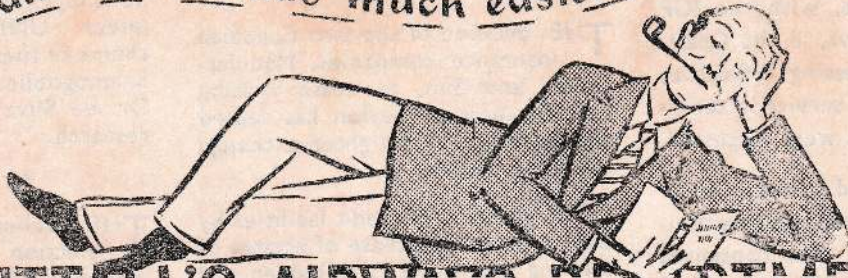
Mrs. Rajaratne announced that she would sit with the Opposition in the House of Representatives and support the Government whenever it fulfilled its election pledges, and oppose anything done contrary to them. She claimed that her success was an indication that the electorate wanted the Prime Minister's pact with the Federal Party abrogated, since she fought the election on her husband's platform of opposition to the pact.



"Times"

MR. A. J. EASTMAN, High Commissioner for Australia in Ceylon, and Mrs. Eastman are seen being welcomed aboard the "Oronsay" by Mr. H. M. Raymond, Director, Whittall and Co., Agents of the Orient Line—at a party given on board the ship to mark the resumption of normal shipping services following the Suez crisis. On the left are Captain R. W. Roberts and Mrs. Raymond.

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# FOR THE GAIETY OF NATIONS

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

"WE do not mind obliging stamp collectors," a girl clerk explained to me in a busy London Post Office this week. A young man was despatching to philatelic friends in New Zealand a dozen packages each plastered with about a hundred stamps of the special issue commemorating the International Boy Scouts' Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield in the English Midlands. She had franked each stamp by hand. I thought her arm must ache, and said so.

"Never mind," she said. "A special issue is a bit of fun."

Special issues are rare in the United Kingdom, a fact to which attention has been drawn in a new pamphlet issued by P.E.P. (Political and Economic Planning) Recommending that we should produce more, the writers say that, while Britain introduced the first adhesive postage stamp in the world, there have been only 237 issues in all—fewer than in any other major country.

\* \* \*

## Catering for Minority Interests

THERE is something to be said, I feel, for the rarity value of special issues. They would not be such "fun," to quote the Post Office girl, if they cropped up every time a flag was waved in the United Kingdom, or a ship was launched or a record broken. On the other hand, we might spare a thought for the world's philatelists. Anything that adds to the gaiety of nations without inflicting pain is worth considering in these days.

Philately, by the way, is to have its place with scores of other hobbies in the British Broadcasting Corporation's Network Three. This is part of a new policy for catering for minority interests. There is much pleasure to be found on the sidelines, so to speak, as well as in the centre of the field. Network Three will absorb two hours nightly of the five or six hours formerly devoted to academic and cultural broadcasts designated the Third Programme.

Young people are to have a large share. In fact, Network Three was being launched by a company of about 80 young folk at this year's National Radio and Television Exhibition at Earls Court, London (August

28 to September 7). Boys and girls who work on atomic energy or operate electronic computers, or train for careers in the Merchant Navy or in nursing, combined in a broadcast stage show, "The World of Young People," to help set the pattern for Network Three in the coming months. Overseas students were there to answer questions about life in their countries.

Sir John Hunt, leader of the triumphant Commonwealth Everest expedition of 1953, was among the guests. Another was Judy Grinham, Britain's teenage swimming star of last year's Olympics.

Talking of the gaiety of nations, the famous Edinburgh Festival is an outstanding example of recreation on the "sidelines" while a great city goes about its normal work. In the Scottish capital recently I watched preparations for this annual assemblage of musical and dramatic talent in the shadow of the gaunt, grey-etched Rock on which Edinburgh Castle stands.

For 49 weeks in the year the City busies itself mainly with scholastic pursuits (education is said to be Edinburgh's chief industry) as well as distilling whisky, milling flour and running its fishing port. During the other three weeks its stately thoroughfares resound with a chorus of foreign tongues.

\* \* \*

## Unruffled Scottish Capital

CELEBRATING its tenth anniversary, the Festival has this year brought orchestras from Germany and Holland, a string quartet from Hollywood, the Royal Ballet from Sweden, opera from Italy and drama from France—all this in addition to Scotland's own orchestras and the Philharmonia from England.

It would be wrong, when the Festival closes on September 7, to say that Edinburgh returns to normal. The Scottish capital takes the junketings and celebrations in its stride. It is one of the charms of the place for visitors from overseas every year that they see it as it really is, unruffled amid its beautiful hills. The citizens pursue their ways in and around the classic buildings, the historic courts and romantic gardens

much as they have done down the centuries.

Only on the night of the Grand Finale, in my recollection, do the sedate Edinburgh folk throw their caps in the air—the night when the Castle Rock is ablaze with floodlights for the Military Tattoo. This year the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are there, along with troops of the Turkish Army in medieval garb, the King's African Rifles in a tribal dancing display, and the Royal Danish Lifeguards combining with the massed bands of the Scottish regiments, the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Edinburgh City Police.

Only London—and I speak as a Londoner—seems to hold festival all through the year. "When a man is tired of London," said that 18th-century savant, Dr. Samuel Johnson, "then he is tired of life." Today, as in Dr. Johnson's time, the town is stacked at all times with entertainment and spectacle. Indeed, we shall soon improve even on the Johnsonian era with a theatre actually within the confines of the City proper.

This famous Square Mile, centre of world trade and finance, has always been dedicated to banking and big business, leaving the theatre and other entertainments to the West End. Now, however, the well-known English actor, Bernard Miles, sees a dream coming true in the shape of his Mermaid Theatre, steel-framed and panelled in aluminium, rising from a bombed site at Puddle Dock, in Old Thames Street.

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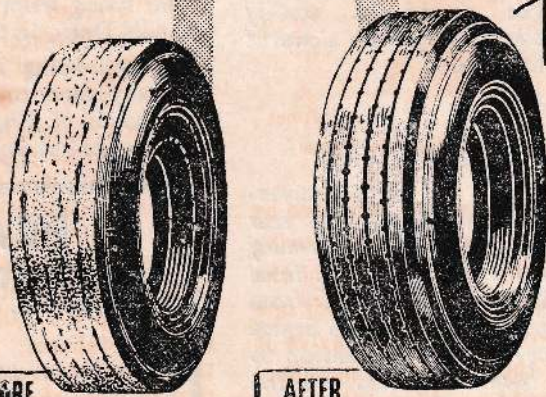
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## PROFILE

### Mr. P. H. WILLIAM de SILVA

MR. P. H. William de Silva holds a key portfolio in the People's Government—that dealing with industries (and fisheries). For, in the opinion of many competent observers, industrialisation is essential in any scheme of national planning for prosperity.

Soon after he was appointed Minister, he did make a policy statement which in all the circumstances had better have remained unmade; critics commented unfavourably on the tone and "extreme" nature of the statement, particularly as it did not appear to have been discussed with his colleagues in the Cabinet before it was revealed. But that minor lapse is probably the only indiscretion he has committed so far. It is possible he was carried away by his enthusiasm and had caught the infection from some of his colleagues who were anxious to tell the country of the good things they had in store. On the whole Mr. de Silva has been one of the less talkative Ministers; so much so that they've begun to call him William the Silent.

\* \* \*

HE has a long political history behind him, of the Marxist variety. It began with his association with the Youth Congress and the Suriya Mal Campaign, which was probably the first organised means of opposition to what is described as the "imperialism" in Ceylon of that time.

Going to London, as rich men's sons did and still do, he maintained his political interests and joined the India League, assisting Mr. Krishna Menon, now Minister of Defence in the Union Government of India.

He soon threw himself with vigour into the job of promoting the League against Imperialism, where he met some of the foremost Negro

theoreticians, George Padmore and C. L. R. James, and became friends with Jomo Kenyatta who was to become famous as the organiser of the Mau Mau movement in Kenya.

By that time the Lanka Sama Samajist Party was officially "established" in Ceylon, and he was one of the students who formed the LSSP cell in London. He was soon afterwards to move the expulsion of Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe for the latter's support of the official Communist Party line of collaboration with "imperialists" against Hitler. It is looked upon as the first Trotskyist assertion by the local Sama Samajists.



—"Times"

Mr. P. H. William de Silva

Ceylon students, too, benefited by his stay in London. For during three years (he was President of the Ceylon Students' Association for one year) he worked hard to revive it and during these years its membership increased from 40 to 130.

\* \* \*

CALLED to the Bar in London, he returned home, and instead of assiduously pushing his practice at Hulftsdorp he threw himself into the thick of LSSP work, taking "classes" and doing work for the trade unions.

Then came the Japanese air raid in Colombo, and a Governor's warrant was issued under the Defence

Regulations for the arrest of several prominent Sama Samajists, including Mr. de Silva. Some of them went to prison, but he went into hiding and continued his underground work.

His personal property, valued at a couple of lakhs, was confiscated after a proclamation. In vain his father urged him to make his peace with the Government. But after the war a technical flaw in the order of sequestration was discovered and the Courts restored to him his property.

Arrested ultimately in a house at Gampola, where he was living under an assumed name, Mr. de Silva was detained till the war ended. His father died while he was under detention. He had applied for permission to visit his dying father but when the formalities were over he was only in time to pay his last respects to his father.

\* \* \*

CAME the 1947 elections, which paved the way for independence the following year. He was returned first member for Balapitiya on the LSSP ticket and retained his seat in the next election too when the Left seats were depleted in Parliament. He was later to join Mr. Philip Gunawardene's wing of the LSSP, now known as the VLSSP.

With his return to Parliament at the last general election, Mr. de Silva had "arrived" in politics and his choice as Minister of Industries and Fisheries seemed an obvious for the Prime Minister to make.

His considerable experience as a "staff" man should stand him in good stead. And there should be no fear that in his Ministry at any rate there would be any squandermania. His personal record has a good story of how as a student in London he had bought up Rs. 2,000 worth of Bank of England shares. He had purchased them, out of his pocket money! A change from the usual habit of rich men's sons of squandering their father's wealth.

An old boy of Richmond College, Galle, at the time of Small and Sneath, he went to the University College and from there joined the London University (to read Economics) and Lincoln's Inn.

Now 47 years old, it is the opinion of many of those who know him that his career and his usefulness to the country have only just begun.

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# A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

CEYLON'S trade mission to Peking apparently had a difficult time of it persuading the Chinese Government to renew the rubber-rice pact of 1952, which expires at the end of this year. After all, with the world rubber market open to her now, there was no need for China to enter into another agreement with Ceylon, least of all to accede to Ceylon's request for a premium on world prices for rubber.

Ceylon's anxiety was that the rubber re-planting programme, which is financed by the premium, should not be arrested, but it was obviously a poor argument to put forward that consideration should be given to the fact that Ceylon came to China's assistance when she could not get rubber from any other country. With the heavy demands of her own development plans, China could not conceivably take such a sentiment into account seeing that the climate of international trade has changed.

China has, however, undertaken to subsidise Ceylon's replanting programme to the extent of Rs. 15 million for no other reason than "the esteem in which the Prime Minister of Ceylon is held by the Chinese people and China's Prime Minister," as a newspaper report has it. The subsidy will be paid in kind, not cash.

\* \* \*

THE new five-year pact will, it is said, provide for China buying 30,000 tons of sheet rubber from Ceylon and supplying in return 200,000 tons of rice. Under the existing agreement the quantities are 50,000 tons of rubber and 270,000 tons of rice. It has been indicated that China would buy rubber outside the contract also provided she could supply goods required by Ceylon.

This condition is significant because China's efforts to close the gap in the balance of payments in her trade with Ceylon have not been very successful. Thus chillies imported from China by the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment have not sold, the market being accustomed to product of a different type; and Chinese cement, also imported by the CWE, has not found buyers even when offered at below cost price. In the result China's debt

to Ceylon has been a drain on her exchange, but payments have been made by China, as agreed, annually.

An important clause in the new agreement is said to be a schedule of shipments because in the past Ceylon had been behindhand in arranging for freight for rice while China had been on time, which too disturbed the balance of payments.

The entry of Ceylon rubber into the world market has had the effect of depressing world prices. The renewal of the agreement with China should have a stabilising effect generally, apart from the advantage to Ceylon of an assured market for a considerable proportion of her production.

\* \* \*

THE withdrawal from Ceylon of the Canadian insurance companies Manufacturers and Sun has exposed the remissness of successive governments in enacting law governing insurance. Legislation was recommended by the Company Law Commission several years ago, and a draft Bill was also submitted by the Commission, but the whole question has been repeatedly put by. In the result the Government has had to resort to exchange control to ensure that the interests of policy-holders are secured.

It has to be said for the two companies, though, that they have assured their policy holders that the obligations to them would be fully honoured, and indeed offices would be maintained in Ceylon for that purpose.

\* \* \*

THE decision of the companies has turned attention on the entire question of the flight of capital from the country and the purposes for which foreign exchange is allowed by the Government. According to an assessment, in the years 1953 to 1956 Rs. 354 million have gone out of the Island, the amount in 1956, Rs. 128 million, being double that for the previous two years.

The advent of a socialist government with nationalisation of industry and land implicit in its programme, no doubt partially explains this development, but a deplorable aspect to it is that where foreign-owned estates changed hands they did not go to add to the national wealth. Production ceased or was greatly

reduced, because the buyers were chiefly speculators, who broke up the estates and sold them in un-economic units. Hence the campaign of the Minister of Agriculture and Food against the fragmentation of estates.

\* \* \*

EXCHANGE control has now been tightened in many ways and allowances have been reduced and other administrative action taken to conserve exchange. But no doubt many loopholes remain, while the great boom in travel, encouraged by the wander-lust of ministers and members of Parliament, also runs down sterling assets. In the case of non-nationals, however, repatriation of investments, accumulated savings, etc., cannot be stopped, but a pertinent question is how, if such capital is shy of investment, foreign capital, which is so consistently being invited, could be expected to come into the country.

With no serious curb placed on the import of luxury goods—commercial banks are apparently left with a great measure of discretion in the matter—and no expectation of increased demand for our agricultural products, there is concern about the future. A financial crisis might not supervene, but a display of caution on the part of the Government would be reassuring.

\* \* \*

WITH the return of Sir John Kotelawala to the Island, there is speculation about the future of the United National Party. From the fact that Mr. Dudley Senanayake, who has been acting as President of the Party, is *au fait* with the developments in the language dispute and has been stumping the country on the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam pact, it is expected that Sir John will let him hold the reins and retire to the background. Another significant development is that Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera, the General Secretary of the UNP, has been less in the picture nowadays, and that Mr. J. R. Jayawardene is for all practical purposes the officiating Secretary.

Mr. Senanayake and Mr. Jayawardene have been political colleagues from the days of the old National Congress and they have apparently teamed up again to rehabilitate the UNP, with Sir John and Sir Ukwatte working behind the scenes in the role of elder statesmen. The next few weeks, with changes in the Senate imminent, should reveal how things stand.

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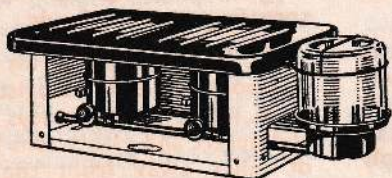


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# THE INVISIBLE SHIELD

## NEW TECHNIQUE IN CROP SPRAYING

By J. M. SPEY  
(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE planter rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "The theory sounds fine," he conceded grudgingly, "but my trees don't look as if they have been sprayed at all."

The operator demonstrating the latest type of British sprayer laughed. "I've heard that reaction often enough to expect it now. Come this way for a minute." He walked back a short distance, reached up into the branches of one of the trees and detached a small glass plate suspended there. He passed the fragment of glass and a hand lens to the planter. "Have a look at that," he invited.

"Well, I'll be blown. It's completely misted—but bone-dry," ejaculated the planter.

He was seeing for the first time an application of air-assisted low-volume spraying. It is a technique developed in recent years which had its origin in the chance observation of a man working for a firm of chemical manufacturers, and which has given birth to a flourishing firm exporting to all parts of the world.

\* \* \*

### Inspiration from Muddy Road

ABOUT eight years ago Mr. Edward Bals was on leave in England from the Far East, where, among other problems, he had been studying the worries of the tea planters of Ceylon whose crops were menaced by blister blight. Driving along the road on a winter day, he found his windshield so obscured by fine muddy spray thrown up by the wheels of other cars that he had to stop to wipe it clean. As he did so, he realised that the surface was more thoroughly and more economically covered than many surfaces he had seen exposed to spraying equipment.

His active mind went to work on the application of a rotary device to produce a mist of insecticide, fungicide or weedkiller as fine as that which had impeded his holiday progress. At the beginning of 1950 Mr. Bals formed his own company to produce a prototype machine, which was triumphantly successful in coverage and for economy of materials and labour. But there was one major drawback. Water-based sprays

were not suitable for hot climates, because of rapid evaporation. The rotary action converted fluid into such fine droplets widely spread by a blast of air from the nozzle of the new machine that the droplets evaporated before they reached the foliage.

Even after the technical difficulties had been surmounted by a new company. Mr. Bals and his colleagues had to overcome the resistance of farmers and planters who simply could not believe that equipment using such small quantities of material could possibly be giving protection to their plants. The shield was too invisible. That hurdle, too, was surmounted. A little fluorescent chemical added to the spraying fluid was the solution. After a demonstration the farmer would be invited to select any leaf from the area treated and place it under a fluorescent lamp with spectacular and convincing results.

\* \* \*

### Early Orders from Overseas

MANY of the earliest orders came from French territories. That was a source of great encouragement to the members of the infant firm,

because France is one of the oldest producers of crop spraying machinery. More and more overseas farmers began to take an interest. It was among them that high volume spraying caused the biggest headaches. They might have very little water available. They might have to deal with plantations so large that even when water was plentiful the sources of supply were miles away from the spraying areas. They were accordingly quickest to seize upon the advantage of using unlimited supplies of air as the medium for spreading spraying fluids

Mr. Bals and one of his principal collaborators, entomologist Graham Rose, made many journeys to jungle and desert and plantations hundreds of miles away from the nearest mechanic, and learned the vital importance of robustness and simplicity. The outcome of their experience has been the evolution of a range of spraying equipment from a one-man pack with a 34 c.c. motor, which can throw spray as high as the roof of a two-storey house, to powerful tractor-borne machines, and an adaptation of the principle for aircraft spraying.

An interesting aspect of this story of enterprise and ingenuity is that the makers were selling their entire output all over the world before they began to supply the United Kingdom market, and still export 95 per cent. of all the sprayers they build!



Mr. Edward Bals (left), founder of the firm of Micron Sprayers Ltd., Battersea, London, watches an experiment in Jamaica with the "Micronette" spray.

## PLANT LORE

By TRIMON

**F**RUITS, which at one time were unpopular, have subsequently come into great favour. The original consignment of plantains sent to England found no sale, and had to be given away. When David Fairchild, the U.S.A. Agricultural explorer, first ate a custard apple in Ceylon, he remarked: "You can't call this a fruit—it is a vegetable!" The Durian requires considerable "education."

For one thing its odour is against its general acceptance; and though some men rave over it, others detest it. It was one of the latter who described the flavour of the fruit as that of a "French custard passed through a gas-pipe"—Pah!

\* \* \*

**T**HE Wistaria when in blossom up-country makes a fine show.

The flowers have a strong resemblance to *Gliricidia*, being typically papilionaceous, but their delicate colouring is characteristic, and constitutes their chief claim to beauty. Macmillan says that they do best under the protection of a house and facing the morning sun; and that they do not flourish in a wet climate.

\* \* \*

**A** COLOMBO bride set the fashion of carrying a spray bouquet—not of white "Madonnas" but pink "Belladonna Lilies." The specific name *Belladonna*, meaning "beautiful woman" was given to the "Deadly nightshade" (*Atropa*) owing to its property of enlarging the pupils of the eyes and giving them brilliance—thereby adding beauty to the face. Why the lily (not a true lily) is so called I have not discovered; but certainly not for the same reason. It is a pretty flower and well worthy of the high

office it has been called upon to serve. Some years ago an up-country bride applied to me for sprays of the giant *Antigonon* which made a most effective floral chate-laine.

\* \* \*

**T**HE name "Lily" correctly belongs to the species of the genus *Lilium* (why do some people say gen-us? It may be all right in Latin, but sounds funny in English), or at the most to members of the order "*Liliaceae*." Many plants, such as the "Algerian Bride," "Monsoon," "Belladonna," "Jacobaca" and "Star" Lily are *Amaryllids*.

Lilies are easily distinguished by their superior ovary; the ovary in the case of the *Amaryllid* being inferior. Some Aroids, like the *Arum* lily, and certain members of the *Iris* family, such as the *Corn Lily*, are similarly mis-named. Among the true *Liliums* are the "Madonna," "Easter" or "Bermuda" and "Martagon" Lily, all characteristic of temperate climes; but there are some tropical plants which one would not suspect to belong to the Lily order, viz.—*Dracoena*, *Aloe*, *Adam's needle* (*Yucca gloriosa*), *Gloriosa Superba*, *Onion*, *Bowstring Hemp* (the Sinhalese "*Niyanda*," whose fibre is used for making *Kandyan* mats), and *Asparagus*. Instances of particular names being used in a general sense are not uncommon, such as *hemp* for fibre and *apple* for fruit.

*Hemp* is *Cannabis Sativa*: but we talk about *Mauritius Hemp* (*Agave*), *Manilla Hemp* (*Musa*) and *Sunn Hemp* (*Crotalaria*). Similarly the name *apple* is found in combination as *pine-apple*, *rose-apple*, *slime-apple*, and *custard-apple*, etc., while the name *pear* is occasionally found used in the same way, e.g. *Avocado* or *Alligator Pear*, which belongs not to the *Rose* order (like the true *Pear*) but to the *Laurel* family.

\* \* \*

**T**HOSE who have read John Still's "*The Jungle Tide*," must agree with the publishers in their verdict that "there is no other book like this one, nor is there even likely to be." In the course of delightful descriptions of his explorations of our jungles, he has much to say about their *Flora*. Here is a bit taken from his chapter on *Adam's Peak*—"The Holy Mountain"—which those who have climbed the great hill will appreciate: "Once I

(Continued on page 40)



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## ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

THE church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, London, which has become known as the "Parish Church of the Commonwealth," and indeed "of all the world."

It was from St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on January 6, 1924, that the BBC broadcast the first service ever to be broadcast from a church, when the then Vicar, the Rev. H. R. L. ("Dick") Shephard, conducted the service. The BBC has continued to broadcast services regularly from this famous church ever since those

early days, and successive Vicars from "Dick" Shephard and his successor, the Rev. Pat McCormick, until the present day have become well known to BBC listeners in Britain and overseas. The present Vicar, the Rev. Austen Williams, who succeeded the Rev. L. M. Charles-Edwards in 1956, worked as a chaplain for Toc H during the war and was taken prisoner just before the fall of Dunkirk. At the end of the war he became curate at St. Martin-in-the-Fields where he stayed until 1951, when he moved to Bristol as Vicar of St. Albans.

It was "Dick" Shephard who welcomed the homeless and destitute to the friendly crypt of St. Martin's at any hour of the day or night, and to the tradition of the door that is always open have been added many activities which have made the church a source of inspiration and comfort for all who love, and seek to serve, their fellow men.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields was built between 1721 and 1726 at a cost of £40,000, on the site of an older

church built in 1544, which had literally stood "in the fields" before the action at Trafalgar ever took place or Trafalgar Square had been laid out. It was under the chancel of that older church that Nell Gwyn was buried, at thirty-eight years of age, in November, 1687. "dying repentant" as the records say. There, too, King Charles II was baptised. The architect of the present church was James Gibbs, who left the inscription "Iacobo Gibbs Architecto" above the central columns of the portico.

St. Martin's is the Royal Parish Church, and Her Majesty the Queen is its chief parishioner, for the parish boundary actually cuts through Buckingham Palace, and before Buckingham Palace became the royal residence about a century ago, the palaces of St. James' and Whitehall were within the parish. The births of all royal children—including, of course, Prince Charles and Princess Anne—are entered in St. Martin's Registers, and the church has a Royal pew—the only one in any parish church in London.

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# FROM AN UVA HILLSIDE

By FELICITY

A DISCIPLE of the late Mme. Blavatsky long ago warned me of the dangers attendant upon lending one's bed to another. I had called to see her and, being received in her bedroom in which she occupied the only chair, I unthinkingly sat on the edge of her bed, only to rise hurriedly as she uttered a piercing scream.

"Never," said my friend agitatedly "never do that again my dear. I never permit it, and you should never allow anyone to sit or lie upon your bed . . . it destroys the influence : in some cases it actually sets up harmful ones."

All I can say is, I must be constantly in danger, whether from giving up my bed to others or sleeping in strange ones, for my Uva home could hardly be called mine at all this year, I come and go so frequently.

Even when under my own roof, I sometimes have to vacate my room because certain elderly or incapacitated guests find my old-fashioned bathroom, with its sloping floor and hot and cold shower, easier to use than the others in our house which are modernly equipped.

"So unusual," they tell me, "to find a shower which is not suspended over an English bath nowadays, especially when it is a nice hot shower." It never occurred to me, when we had that bathroom built, that we were doing anything unusual in having a separate section to shower in. What we really thought of was the saving on fuel (when we had no guest with us) by taking a bath at mid-day when the cold water tank is scalding hot from the sun's rays. And showers are water-saving, which is another consideration in our dry area. I have lost count of how many days have passed since last we had rain, but the garden bears mute suffering testimony.

\* \* \*

SO my bed is quite readily given up. But when it is a question of moving into one of the smaller spare rooms, there is one piece of furniture which always has to move with me—my Davenport!

Don't tell me you have never heard of one. I spent quite a lot of time, during my last Colombo visit, trying to track down the derivation of the word, and its correct definition. Modern dictionaries and

all the shorter encyclopaedias omitted it, but Webster did not disappoint. It even threw light on the subject.

To me, a davenport has always meant a small writing-desk with sloping lid, and a nest of drawers set in down one side. There was one in my bedroom in England as far back as I can remember, the repository of my girlhood's secrets. And when I found a similar piece in a Colombo auctioneer's showroom, I pounced on it and willingly paid the modest sum asked . . . Yes, it was just like my little one at home, even to the three small drawers hidden inside the flap, and a specially secret compartment hidden away under one of them!

But then, when I visited Hawerth in Yorkshire a few years back, to see the Bronte relics, I had been mystified by being shown a narrow horse-hair sofa, supposed to be "the Davenport on which Emily Bronte died."

Webster has now cleared up the mystery by informing me that a davenport can be either a small writing desk or a small sofa. It does not supply the origin of the name, but I feel certain I once heard of a Lord Davenport who gave his name to such handy bits of furniture. I should rather have thought it was Lady Davenport (or Devonport?) unless her husband devised the things for her comfort and delight. What I should do without my own little desk of that name I cannot think. My husband's office desk, roomy and unwieldy, would be a poor alternative.

\* \* \*

UNDER my davenport's sloping lid, in addition to the oddments that any desk will accumulate, I can tuck away three or four flat files separating business from social correspondence. The drawers down the side are ideal for filing receipts and letters which are done with. Even pens, pencils, rulers and so on have their own narrow compartment. Cards, stamps, keys, there's a little drawer for everything : and the small space it occupies and the nicely balanced lines of the design (which must never, never be modernised) make this an indispensable, at least for one busy lady.

I sometimes think we could afford to look back to Victorian times, or

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earlier, for other useful bits of furniture. Not so long ago Mayfair re-discovered something which has only lately disappeared from our Resthouses—the clothes-stand which was once christened the "dumb valet"—better than any wardrobe for people in a humid climate who dare not put a frock or a pair of shoes away until it has had time to air and dry : in fact another indispensable. When spending a night at Dambulla Resthouse, I found nothing at all to hang clothes on or in—a sorry state of affairs indeed.

\* \* \*

BUT to return to the subject of my first paragraph, it is certainly preferable to retain one small corner of one's own home intact, "be it ever so humble." Either I shall have to make a shift to another corner which no-one covets, or, happy thought, build an annexe! There is, for instance the old kitchen and go-down which no one now finds a use for, a new kitchen and pantry having been introduced hard by the diningroom. I tried keeping rabbits in the old kitchen last year, but it didn't pay. The little wretches ate most of the floor and part of the walls, and nobody wanted to eat them anyway: they just went on increasing and multiplying alarmingly.

When we went to Trincomalee for two months, I wrote from there to our appu instructing him to dispose of the creatures in any way he liked, and to have the room repaired and disinfected before our return. I prepared to offer my excuses to "Master" on our return, after the deed had been done. To my amusement, upon our return James was able to pass me the word in time, that "Master" had given him precisely the same instructions before going away! "Rabbits" were never mentioned again between us. Now, what about that annexe? . . . It could be done.

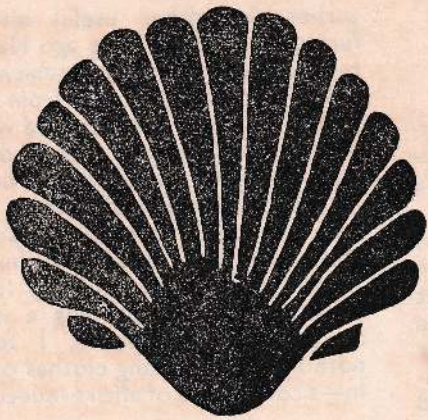
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# THE INTERNATIONAL GEO-PHYSICAL YEAR

## BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION

By J. R. DAVIDSON

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE International Geophysical Year (I.G.Y.) which began on July 1, 1957, and will continue until the end of 1958 is the culmination of several years' intensive planning in which British scientists have played their full part.

The central committee (known from the initials of its French title as C.S.A.G.I.) in Belgium has as its President Professor Sydney Chapman, formerly Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Oxford University, England. The Co-ordinator of Operations is Vice-Admiral Sir Archibald Day, a former Hydrographer of Britain's Royal Navy, and the General Editor of C.S.A.G.I. publications is Sir Harold Spencer Jones, formerly Britain's Astronomer Royal.

\* \* \*

### Glaciologist is Chairman

THE Royal Society, London, as the national adhering body of the International Council of Scientific Unions, established the British National Committee for the I.G.Y. in 1952. Its Chairman is now Sir James Wordie, Master of St. John's College at Cambridge University, England, an eminent glaciologist with personal experience of Arctic and Antarctic exploration. This committee is responsible for the I.G.Y. programme in the United Kingdom and the non-self-governing territories of the Commonwealth.

Financial support has been provided by the United Kingdom Government in the form of annual Parliamentary grants-in-aid for new I.G.Y. activities totalling more than £500,000, but much of the cost of the programme has been borne under existing budgets. Rocket exploration of the upper atmosphere at Woomera Rocket Range in Australia, planned in close co-operation with Britain's Royal Aircraft Establishment and five universities in Britain, is separately supported by Government grant. Other I.G.Y. research in the universities is also indirectly financed from public funds.

About half the additional expenditure has been devoted to establishing a scientific base beside the Weddell Sea, in the British sector of Antarc-

tica. The Royal Society sent out an advance party to construct the base during 1956, which found a bay with a gentle slope leading up on to the continental ice shelf and established the base about two miles inland. The bay was named Halley Bay in honour of Edmund Halley, born in 1656, who studied the earth's magnetic field, aurora, and the trade winds.

The scientific programme at the base, the responsibility of a larger party which took over in January, 1957, includes observations of aurora and other I.G.Y. investigations.

United Kingdom Antarctic bases are already maintained by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in some of the islands off the Antarctic coast, and in the Grahamland peninsula. Observations there and by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition will also increase our understanding of this little-known ice-covered continent, which is nevertheless important for its influence on the world's weather.

\* \* \*

### Measuring Glaciers

DURING the I.G.Y. an expedition by members of Sheffield University, England, to the glaciers near the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika will measure any change in these since a previous survey a few years ago. Other I.G.Y. projects in British East Africa have been planned by a local committee under the chairmanship of Professor J. P. Andrews of Makerere College, who is a corresponding member of the British National Committee.

On the other side of Africa, Nigeria is also active in the I.G.Y. and almost the whole research effort of the Physics Department of University College, Ibadan, will be devoted to I.G.Y. work, which may include observations of the United States' artificial earth satellites.

The first American satellite will not pass over Britain, but when at its nearest point in southern Europe it should be detectable by the giant radio-telescope nearing completion at Jodrell Bank, Cheshire. Other I.G.Y. activities of the University of Manchester there include continuous

recording of radio noise from the sun and studies of meteors and the ionosphere, the region of the high atmosphere which reflects radio waves and thus assists broadcasting, but whose properties are adversely affected by solar disturbances. Ionospheric studies will also be made at other universities and by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

\* \* \*

THE I.G.Y. has been timed to coincide with a period of sunspot maximum, when conditions on the sun are at their most disturbed. Astrophysicists all round the world are keeping watch on the sun: among them are the staffs of the Royal Observatories at Herstmonceux, Sussex, England, at Edinburgh, Scotland, and on South African territory near Capetown. The first and last of these will also be engaged in more exact determinations of longitudes and latitudes.

When a solar flare occurs, particles are ejected from the sun and reach the earth from one to thirty hours later. Some of these are identical with cosmic-ray particles, and will be registered on stacks of special photographic plates carried aloft by balloons released by scientists of Bristol University, England, at times of solar flares.

The dancing lights in the sky, known as aurora, and seen on nearly every clear night in regions near the poles, are also influenced by the sun, and brilliant displays may occur elsewhere at times of flares. A comprehensive network of auroral observers, including officers of ships and aircraft, has been built up in Britain and their observations will be collected and analysed in Edinburgh University, which is also one of the World Data Centres for specific I.G.Y. projects, three of which are located in Britain.

The United Kingdom is also making important contributions to the I.G.Y. in the fields of meteorology, geomagnetism, oceanography, seismology, earth tides, and atmospheric radio-activity. Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth are thus contributing to every one of the I.G.Y. activities from about 200 stations. The keynote of international co-operation is emphasized by the facts that 22 stations on British territory are wholly or partly staffed or equipped by other nations and that in 13 other countries British scientists are being granted I.G.Y. facilities.

## PEOPLE

**D**R. P. J. Chissell, who spent more than 30 years in Ceylon before World War II and is now living in retirement in England, writes to inform us that he will be paying another visit to the Island next month, and will remain here very likely for a few months.

Dr. Chissell has still quite a large number of his old friends in the Island and will receive a hearty welcome. When he was in Ceylon Dr. Chissell took a keen interest in racing and had a small string of race horses. He was a Steward of the Ceylon Turf Club.

**M**R. Douglas E. Kelly, the veteran Bogawantalawa planter and sportsman, must be the most senior resident in the district at the present time. He is still as keenly interested as ever in his favourite pastime—Lawn Tennis. It was 60 years ago that he first appeared in Up-country Lawn Tennis and soon distinguished himself in tournaments held in the Dickoya district and at the big Annual Meet at Nuwara Eliya. His first success there in the Men's Championship was in 1898 when he defeated Edgar Vanderspar, the then champion of the Colombo Garden Club. Kelly won the Men's title six times between 1898 and 1912.

**M**R. M. Chandrasoma, formerly of the Civil Service and lately Port Commissioner, Colombo, who has joined the Shell Company of Ceylon, has left for London for advanced

training in the headquarter establishments of the company.

\* \* \*

**M**ISS M. Therese Bertus, B.A. (Cey.), Dip.Ed. (Cey.), of the tutorial staff of St. Anthony's College, Kandy, left by T.W.A. for the U.S.A. on 13th September. She was awarded a scholarship for Social Studies by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Ohio through the Institute of International Education. She will enter the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, and after a course of studies there she will be invited to travel through the State to



Miss Therese Bertus

observe public schools in operation, to speak to teachers' "groups," to address teachers and school children concerning the culture of Ceylon and to visit members of the Society. The members are teachers in public schools in Ohio, who award this

scholarship through the Institute of International Education to one foreign woman teacher every other year. Miss Bertus will be away for about a year.

Miss Bertus is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Bertus of Kandy. Her father, Mr. L. S. Bertus, who is now in retirement after 41 years of service, was the Assistant Plant Pathologist of the Department of Agriculture and has numerous scientific publications to his credit in the field of Plant Pathology and Mycology.

\* \* \*

**M**R. John Arenhold of the Shell Co. of Ceylon, Ltd., who has been such an outstanding figure in Cricket and Rugby Football since he arrived in the Island a year ago, has been transferred Up-country with his Headquarters at Nuwara Eliya.

This South African Rhodes Scholar and Oxford "Blue," has more than maintained the reputation that preceded him here and during the past few weeks has proved to be one of the most brilliant full-backs seen in Ceylon during the past half-century. His long and accurate touch-finding against our recent visitors, the Australian Colts, will be talked about for many years.

It is hoped that John Arenhold will not be kept very long Up-country as that would be a serious loss to both the C.C.C. and the C.H. and F.C.

\* \* \*

**M**R. Edward Kelaart, the former well-known All-Ceylon cricketer and Hockey back, accompanied by his family, left for Australia by the P. & O. "Himalaya" on 8th September, to settle down in Melbourne where his two sons and daughter are residing. Edward Kelaart in his day was one of the greatest all-round cricketer in the Island and for many years represented Ceylon against English and Australia Test sides passing through Colombo. He is a son of the famous old Colts Captain, Mr. Colvin Kelaart.

\* \* \*

**C**APT. F. Fenwick, who is probably one of the oldest colonists in Colombo—he arrived here in the early years of this century—returned to the Island with Mrs. Fenwick by air on Sunday, the 8th instant, after a short holiday in the U.K. Capt. Fenwick, as most of our readers know, was a leading racehorse owner and gentleman-rider in his day and is still keen as ever on the Turf.

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## P E O P L E

**P**LAYING in a competition match for the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, Ltd., against Cuadrada, at Beckenham, on the last Saturday in August, Mervyn Kelaart, the well known former All-Ceylon cricketer, captured all ten wickets in the first innings for only 22 runs to enable his side to gain an easy victory.

\* \* \*

**M**RS. Justin Vandersmagt, wife of Col. J. G. Vandersmagt, who was on a short visit to her daughter, Mrs. Lovis, wife of Mr. F. D. Lovis, Lecturer at Leeds University, returned to Ceylon on the 6th instant, by B.O.A.C. plane.

\* \* \*

**T**HE Rev. Clarence Van Ens, pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church, Colombo, and Mrs. Van Ens, who have been away on leave in America, are due back next month. They have been away for a year and have enjoyed their stay there.

\* \* \*

**M**R. E. Black, Chief Engineer of the Way and Works Department, is acting as General Manager of the Railway during the absence abroad of Mr. D. Rampala.

Mr. Black was for some time Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Works.

\* \* \*

**M**R. Denis Williamsz of the Colombo Gas & Water Co., Ltd., who left Ceylon early in January last year, to do a course of Gas Engineering in London, returns to the Island early next month with Mrs. Williamsz on the Bibby Liner "Warwickshire."

Mr. Williamsz is a younger brother of Dr. Trevor Williamsz of Jaffna.

\* \* \*

**T**HE death occurred at the General Hospital of Mr. William Conderlag of the Colombo Apothecaries' Co., Ltd. The deceased was with Messrs. Millers Ltd., for over 30 years and after his retirement a few years ago took up work with the C.A.C., Ltd. He was a Deacon of the Dutch Reformed Church for a number of years. The funeral, which took place at the General Cemetery, Kanatte, on Wednesday evening, 4th

September, was largely attended. The service was conducted by Rev. John Van Ens assisted by the Revd. A. Foenander and the Rev. de Ridder.

\* \* \*

**M**R. S. Thayanithy, of the Central Bank of Ceylon, left for the United Kingdom on the "Oronsay" on the 6th September to join the London School of Economics for a two to three-year course in International Monetary Corporation under the Colombo Plan. He hopes to obtain an M.Sc. or a Ph.D.

Mr. Thayanithy was educated at St. John's College, Jaffna, and the University of Colombo, where he obtained a B.A. (Econ.). He joined the Central Bank as a Staff Officer in 1952.

Mr. J. M. K. Hensman also left Ceylon for the United Kingdom on 6th September, on the "Oronsay," to take up a course of training under the Colombo Plan.

Along with eleven other students from member countries of the Colombo Plan, he will join a special six months' course on tropical architecture at the London School of Architecture.

Mr. C. E. Polihawadane, a technical assistant in the Research Laboratory of the University of Ceylon, left for the United Kingdom by B.O.A.C. on the 5th September for a two-year course under the Colombo Plan. He will follow a Science Laboratory Technicians' course at the Paddington Technical College.



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# THE GIANT WATER-LILY

By S. V. O. SOMANADER

A REMARKABLY handsome and ornamental water-plant is the Giant Water-Lily (*Victoria regia*), which can indeed be called "The Queen of the water-lilies." It is the largest water-lily in the world, and was first discovered, we are told, in Bolivia (South America) in 1801 by Alexandre Bopland, the famous French botanist and explorer.

A native of British Guiana and other parts of Tropical South America, it covers—in its wild and natural habitat where it is regarded as a troublesome water-weed—miles and miles of the Amazon waters. In India, it was introduced a number of years ago at the Eden Garden in Calcutta and, later, at the Indian Botanical Gardens in the same city. But it was only in 1896 that it was introduced at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya. I have subsequently seen it cultivated also, years ago, at the Victoria Park in Colombo—and also at the Gordon Gardens off Queen's House.

This giant water-lily, which is acclaimed as one of the wonders of the plant world, drawing large numbers of interested visitors to Peradeniya to view it especially when it is in bloom, was named (as its Latin name indicates) after Queen Victoria. The story goes that, so far back as 1837—that is about 120 years ago—Dr. Lindley of England asked the Queen if this "most noble of all aquatic plants" (which was discovered in British Guiana during her reign) could be named after her. Her Majesty consenting, the first seeds were brought to England, and some years later (1857), after this lily had been grown privately, it blossomed and flourished in the Tropical Aquatic House at Kew Gardens in London.

\* \* \*

It is also said that, in the same year (1837), Sir Robert Schomburgh, who was travelling in British Guiana, found this plant in the currentless expanse of the River Berbice, and was so struck by the gigantic size of its leaves that he described the plant in his despatch to the Royal Geographical Society in London as "a vegetable wonder."

This giant lily, which cannot be grown everywhere because it requires a tropical climate (or specially-improvised "hot-houses"

as in temperate countries), has large, floating, circular leaves, each ranging from five to eight feet in diameter, and so occupying much space on the water-surface. Quite independent of the blooms—except at the white, fleshy source-roots—these leaves have green centres, with outer-lip spines about 5 inches in height. And, in addition to their being covered with a net-work of spiny ribs and veins several inches deep, and spiny leaf-stalks difficult to handle, the leaves have an under-surface, purplish red in colour and adding beauty to the whole plant.

Another remarkable feature of the leaf is that—apart from its extraordinary size and strength—it has upturned edges, making the whole structure look like a large metal plate, or a large, flat tea-tray, which can easily support, on the water-surface, a child weighing about thirty pounds. In fact, I have seen pictures taken in India, where these leaves, floating gracefully with their raised margins in nursery ponds about 3 feet or more in depth, offer soft, safe and "cushy" seats for children—if they feel disposed to sit on them; or provide, as it were, unique aquatic "cradles" for infants—with the ripples of the water supplying a soothing and unusual lullaby. It is all most fascinating!

When the flowers first open, they are milk-white or creamish, with pink centres. In due course, when

they are fully matured, they assume a pink or rose colour, looking very beautiful, besides being strongly-scented. They are large—each flower being about twelve to fourteen inches across, and resembling a very large lotus bloom. And a remarkable thing about the flower is that it blooms for the first time only in the evening, remains open throughout the night (to secure pollination by nocturnal insects), and closes at about 10 o'clock the following morning. It behaves in this way for three or four days, despite changes in colour and finally drops under the water to form seeds—to enable the plant to multiply and maintain its kind, as Nature meant it.

\* \* \*

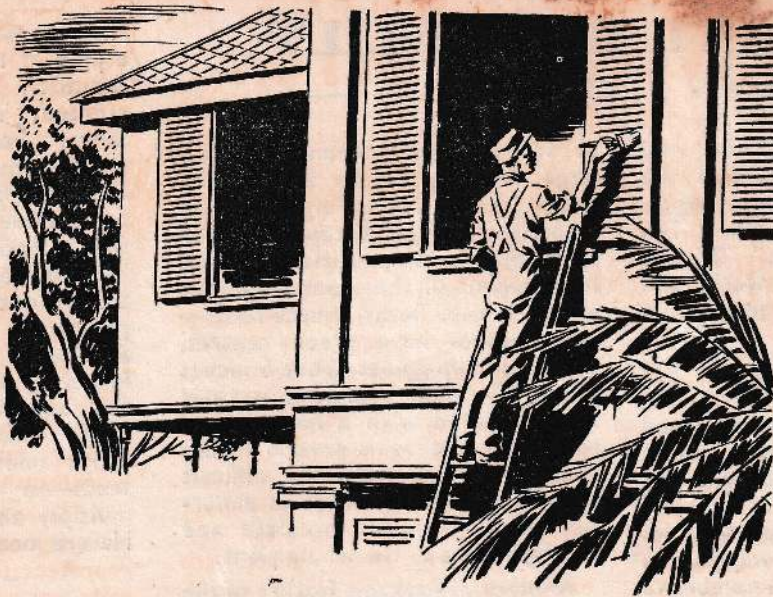
EACH seed, which is about the size of a pea and which alone, small as it is, can give rise to a plant which can grow to tremendous dimensions, takes, it is said, about 30 months to germinate, and, owing to its somewhat erratic behaviour in germination, and the sensitiveness of the plant as a whole to the depth of water, its success has not always been uniform.

But all these difficulties involved in the growth of this marvellous lily do not make it any the less a popular and spectacular plant. On the other hand, the cultivation of this handsome "wonder-plant" is well worth the while. And "dull would he be of soul who would pass by a sight" of this charming "lily-queen," so entrancingly majestic in its structure and ways.



The Giant Water-Lily at the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens. Note the flowers opening out, and the tray-like, floating leaves with their upturned edges.

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# MAT WEAVING IN CEYLON

By Mrs. D. M. De SILVA

**M**AT weaving is one of the most widely practised crafts in Ceylon. The last exhibition of mats in the Colombo Art Gallery showed the visitor how many different kinds of reeds and palms are used in this industry.

From the north of Ceylon, through the kind co-operation of the Government Agent, Mannar, a colourful collection of mats, baskets and trays was sent from three weaving societies. This contribution was made of the leaves of the palmyrah palm and seen by many Colombo residents and foreign visitors for the first time. Although the texture of the mats was somewhat rough to the touch, they were a revelation to many in their colouring and neat geometrical patterns. The baskets and *vattis* had an excellent finish and a very good sale was made of these articles within the first two days of the exhibition.

The Arts Council Handicrafts Panel, as a result of this exhibition, has been able to make contact with the three weaving societies which sent contributions from Mannar, and will in future keep stocks of palmyrah articles in their showroom at the Art Gallery, Colombo.

The *Gal-eh* mats are familiar to all residents of the low-country, as mats chiefly used for sleeping. Some of the visitors had not seen the intricate and elaborate patterns woven in the *Ratta* mats. Amongst the exhibits most admired in this section were mats woven with designs of animals, the deer and the peacock. It is a pity that the magenta dye is the chief colour used in the *Gal-eh* mat. The exhibit woven in brown and the natural *Gal-eh* straw in this section was more artistic in colouring. Many contributions in this section were received through the kind co-operation of the Lanka Mahila Samiti.

\* \* \*

## Source of Pride

**T**HE *Hana* mats from the Dumbara Valley, so greatly admired abroad, are a source of pride to all Ceylon citizens. The mats are made by men and women who are mat weavers by tradition. The *Hana* bush has long fleshy leaves which are scraped for the fibre used in the weaving. The mats are made on a

loom. The beautiful patterns in these mats have been handed down from one generation to another; there are no illustrated books of designs except a chapter in Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy's *Mediaeval Sinhalese Art*. Some of the patterns have musical names such as *Ratvatte Alankaraya*, *Tani vel iruwa*, *del geta lanuwa* and so on. The beauty of these designs cannot be equalled anywhere. They are so intricate that a craftsman can weave only about eight inches to a foot for a full day, and therefore these mats are expensive.

An attempt was made by the writer to improve the colouring and the composition of these mats, with the co-operation of one of the less conservative weavers. The natural *hana* was brought to Colombo and dyed in colours more suitable for modern homes. It was noticed that hitherto harsh reds, yellows, blue greens, and blacks were the sole colours used by the weavers. These colours like the wall paintings in ancient rock temples look well in places of subdued light, but in an airy room their colours are harsh.

Care was taken to use colours used by peasants in other lands rather than pastel shades, to keep the character of this cottage craft, and the results gained the appreciation of many leading artists visiting the exhibition.

It is greatly to be desired that artists should design for cottage crafts as is the practice in many countries. Although our craftsmen are highly skilled, they are seldom skilled artists. The blending of their colours and the composition of their designs leaves much to be desired. There is a tendency to ornament too highly and to be over-elaborate.

The new Ministry of Cultural Affairs can be of invaluable assistance to the craftsmen in this direction by conducting research into suitable dyes for *hana* hemp and by improving the looms on which the craftsmen now work.

\* \* \*

## Coloured Leaf

**T**HERE were some very beautiful *Indi kola* mats also on view. The coloured leaf is dyed through

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the plain mat to make the design, as in embroidery, and called *Banawa* in Sinhalese.

Two of these mats were specially lovely, one the prized show-piece of the Lanka Mahila Samiti and the other sent by Mrs. Weeratunge of Matara, now in her seventies, made in her youth and rather like a sample with many elaborate patterns done in squares. Age had mellowed and beautified the colours of this mat.

The Kalutara Basket Society sent in beach mats, hats and bags of high workmanship.

As learning through comparison is always good for any industry, a very representative number of foreign mats was collected from the embassies in Colombo and during the writer's recent visit to the Far East.

\* \* \*

**H.E.** the Burmese Ambassador, who was present at the opening, sent a number of Burmese mats and hats. The texture of these mats was not second to that of any other mats in the exhibition—they were cool to the touch and smooth as silk. No coloured patterns were woven into them.

The mats sent by H.E. the Japanese Ambassador were excellent in both finish and colouring, two qualities which Ceylon weavers would do well to emulate.

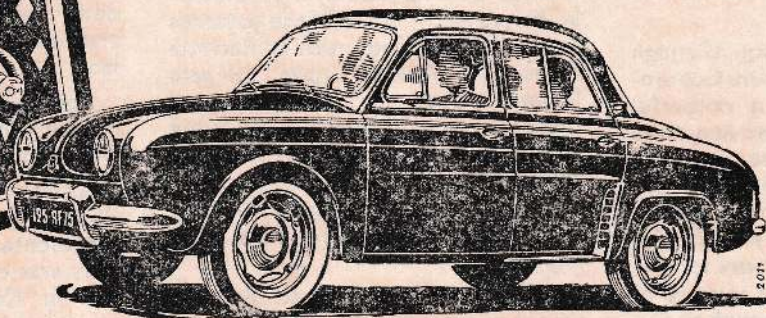
Through the kindness of the Indian Embassy and friends who loaned exhibits, there were five Indian mats on view. Like Ceylon's Dumbara mats, these were made on a loom. The texture was superior to the local weave; that was possible as the warp was of cotton yarn and the weft of straw. In the Dumbara mat the warp and weft are both of *Hana* fibre. The Indian designs were simple and of vari-coloured lines, unlike the elaborate Dumbara patterns.

\* \* \*

## Similar Technique

**I**T is interesting to note that a Ceylon weaver who has had some training in India is now making mats in Ceylon of a similar technique. Many orders for mats similar to the one exhibited by him were received from those who prefer a mat to a bed-sheet. The texture was like stiff cloth.

(Continued on page 40)



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# FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF CEYLON GOLF

## FAMOUS CHAMPIONS OF THE PAST

By "OLD HAND"

IN view of the approaching Amateur Golf Championship of Ceylon, to be competed for at Nuwara Eliya towards the end of October, followers of Ye Royal and Ancient Game in Ceylon will doubtless be interested in the following reminiscences of Golf during the last fifty-five years, by one who has watched most of the Championships played in Colombo and Nuwara Eliya, and has also taken part in more than one Championship. He writes as follows :—

"Cricket and golf have been my favourite pastimes and though I first played golf two years after I had finished with school cricket, my keenness for golf increased when my duties as a journalist prevented me from taking part in club cricket. With the opportunities I had for playing golf on three mornings each week and with regular coaching I received from William, a first-class professional at the time, I made a good start as a member of the Havelock Golf Club by reaching the finals in the first three events I competed for. That was over fifty years ago.

\* \* \*

"MY first acquaintance with the Ridgeways was in the early years of the present century when the Championship of Ceylon was competed for twice a year at Nuwara Eliya and Colombo. I have a faint recollection of my first experience of watching a Championship final on the Ridgeway links in 1900, when that fine golfer C. Brooke-Elliott, whom I had previously seen on the cricket field, when he played in a Test match on Galle Face, for Capt. C. Ward Jackson's team against the then redoubtable Colts. This was in 1898, Elliott having arrived in the island the previous year with the reputation of having played in the Malvern eleven with the celebrated All-England Test batsman, R. E. Foster. In his first appearance in a golf championship on the Ridgeways in 1900, Elliott defeated a reputed player in D. W. Watson in the final by 4 up and 3.

Brooke-Elliott was a pretty golfer who revelled in making the most extraordinary recoveries after finding trouble. In this final with Watson, few expected him to win so convincingly as the Colombo merchant had been a warm favourite on the form he had shown just prior to the Championship. But Elliott's doggedness and uncanny knack of winning holes that seemed lost pulled him through to victory. I



—"Times"

C. Brooke-Elliott

shall always remember Elliott's deadly short game and superb putting. Those who saw him defeat R. Meaden earlier in the year, at Nuwara Eliya, by 2 up, considered the Colombo Advocate the essence of steadiness, a quality indispensable for winning matches. By annexing the Championship twice in a single year, Elliott emulated a feat only once previously performed by H. C. Rose, in 1896.

\* \* \*

D. W. Watson, one of the most brilliant Rugby Football wing three-quarters ever seen in Ceylon, hadn't to wait long to win his first Ceylon Golf Championship for in the following year on the Ridgeways,

he defeated W. E. M. Paterson after a gruelling 36-hole match by 2 up. Paterson at that time was the "Admirable Crichton" of Ceylon sport, being a first-class cricketer, rugby football three-quarter, a dashing soccer centre-forward and an equally fine hockey centre forward. He had two equally outstanding rivals Up-country in T. Y. Wright and B. C. N. Knight. In the contest which took place during Easter at Nuwara Eliya, A. E. Ogilvy had beaten R. Meaden by 4 up and 2.

\* \* \*

GLENALMOND has been famous for the scores of great rugby footballers and outstanding golfers she has produced and the brothers A. E. and W. T. Ogilvy did credit to the old school in Ceylon. A. E. beat a redoubtable old champion in the final of the 1902 contest at Nuwara Eliya, in Col. Quill, by the overwhelming margin of 9 up and 8. The following year at Nuwara Eliya, W. T. Ogilvy had no difficulty in beating Neil Campbell in the final and thus establishing a record of two brothers winning the Ceylon Championship, which is not likely to be beaten in our generation. One of the best championship finals was the one between A. E. Ogilvy, making his first appearance on the Ridgeways, and D. W. Watson, which the latter won after as fine a contest as one could desire, the golf seen being unsurpassed in a final up to that time. Both were brilliant exponents of the game and revelled in the use of irons, though they were equally proficient with wood. Then followed the period when more first-class golfers entered the lists and among them I well remember J. G. Melrose, who had come out with a fine reputation at Home. Reaching the final in 1903 on the Ridgeways, Melrose had to meet C. B. Elliott, who once more secured the honour after a neck to neck struggle.

\* \* \*

I SAW Melrose at his best the following year, at Nuwara Eliya, when he cake-walked into the final and made history by defeating R. W. Nunn by 10 up and 8. He impressed everybody with his delightful care-free style, excelling in every department of the game. He was equally deadly when the championship was played later in the year in Colombo and this time he defeated a very steady golfer in D. Suttie by 10 up

(Continued on page 40)

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## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By ITINERANT

### THE AUSTRALIAN COLTS

PLAYING well within themselves the Australian Colts beat the Ceylon Barbarians at the Colombo Racecourse on Wednesday, September 4th.

Obviously treating the match as a limb-loosener for the Second Test, the Colts nevertheless treated the crowd to some sparkling passing moves and the Barbarians' line was always in danger. Only some resolute tackling kept the score down to respectable proportions.

With Bergin hooking well the Colts had the ball most of the time and Gray and Wells had plenty of opportunities to shine; and how they shone! Wells in particular was brilliant; inside-three Hughes and full-back Smee hardly less so. Wing-forward Phipps was always behind the ball and helped himself to two tries.

The Barbarians, a scratch side chosen from players who had not made the representative teams, lacked cohesion, which was not surprising. But they didn't lack fight. Matthysz, Fonseka, Wishart and St. John Davies were always in the thick of it and little Wynne-Evans tackled fearlessly. Paiva and Almeida did a couple of clever runs but that was about all.

The Barbarians pressed in the opening minutes but Wells with a raking 50-yard run took play into the Ceylon twenty-five. In the eighth minute Smee made no mistake with a penalty. A few minutes later Matthysz failed with a difficult kick.

Hughes touched down in the 20th minute, Smee converting. Phipps then scored two tries in quick succession, Smee converting the first of them, and the Colts crossed over leading 16-0.

The second half produced dull and scrappy ruggar until the Colts bestirred themselves and scored two more tries through Hughes and Smee. Smee failed with both conversions.

Mr. H. E. V. Metzeling refereed.

### Ceylon Swamped

THE Australian Colts treated a huge crowd to a positively dazzling display of rugby football when they swamped Ceylon by 37 points (5 goals and 4 tries) to 3 (1 penalty) in the Second Test at the Colombo Racecourse on Saturday, September 6th.

Turning in their best performance in the last game of the tour, the tourists proved much fitter and faster than the local team and literally ran Ceylon off their feet in the second half. Ceylon were beaten all ends up but they would not have been beaten by such a large margin if they could have lasted the pace.



—"Times"

Colin Smee

*One of the most popular players in the Australian Colts team, Colin Smee made an excellent skipper and added greatly to his reputation as a clean exponent of the game.*

An even first half might even have gone Ceylon's way if two fairly easy penalties had not been missed, also a possible try. The Colts scored first when Edwards touched down. Smee failed to convert. Soon after MacRae failed with a penalty for Ceylon, but Pay put one over from almost the identical spot to make it 3-3.

The Colts then attacked and Simpson went over taking the corner flag with him, but Arenhold had just pushed him out of play. Ceylon retaliated and Spark on the wing, collecting a punt ahead by Paiva, touched down but he, too, had been pushed out of play. Pay then missed another penalty for Ceylon and

Smee failed with a difficult one for the Colts. Just before half-time Smee scored off a five-yard scrum but failed to convert.

After the first 10 minutes of the second half there was only one team in the game. There seemed to be green jerseys all over the field as the Colts scored try after try in bewildering succession. Short, snappy passing in which the forwards often joined split Ceylon's defences wide open. They did not know whom to tackle, whom to mark.

One try in particular will linger long in memory. Hughes, intercepting a pass near his five-yard line, raced away, side-stepped Arenhold beautifully, zig-zagged his way in front of a defender and finally touched down between the posts. He made it look so easy!

But it wasn't only Hughes who played well. The Colts had the ball time and again from the scrums and the line-outs. Bergin out-hooked Dorai nine times out of ten. Gray and Wells combining spectacularly sent their threes away at terrific speed. Lockett and Simpson, on the wings and Edwards and Hughes, insides, ran hard and straight, and, brushing off some half-hearted tackling, scored almost at will. Full-back Smee seemed to be everywhere, often joining the threes in attack. He also put over some difficult conversions.

For Ceylon Arenhold once again relieved pressure with his now-famous touch finding, but even he lost his customary accuracy under pressure. Cader, Trewin, Pilapitiya and Bean worked hard in the pack and Williams tackled low and hard, but being on the defensive most of the time, few players had a chance to shine.

Mr. Stanley Livera kept a firm hand on the game.

The Colts were unbeaten on the tour, scoring 137 points to 12, and having their line crossed only twice in the first match of the tour.

\* \* \*

ON the eve of his departure from Ceylon Frank Magee, Manager of the Australian Colts Rugby Union team, gave the following message to all rugby football fans in the Island:—

"On the eve of our departure from Ceylon, I should like to thank all the players and supporters of Rugby Union in Ceylon who have helped to make this a most memorable visit for us. We have enjoyed the ruggar and we have

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COLOMBO

## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

been overwhelmed by the welcome and hospitality we have received wherever we have been.

"I have been pleasantly surprised with the noticeable improvement in the standard of rucker in Ceylon since my visit in 1953. Ceylon's forward play especially has improved and scrummaging is better. Line-out play and kicking are more purposeful.

"Your backs, generally speaking, tackle more resolutely and if they could overcome their hesitancy to run with the ball and attack, they have the speed and potential to be first class."

\* \* \*

WITH THE PRESIDENT'S  
TEAM IN MALAYA

THE Ceylon Cricketers rose to the occasion when they met Malaya in the long looked for Test match on the beautiful Kuala Lumpur cricket ground, as well tended a ground as the one at Singapore, where the President's team played their first match. Supporters of the home team were very hopeful that in this match their representatives would prove too strong for the youthful Ceylon Eleven, but it did not take very long for the vast crowd present to find that the visitors were more than equal to the occasion.

\* \* \*

THOUGH having the advantage of batting first on a feather-bed wicket the Malayan side never seemed happy when facing the varied Ceylon attack, well handled by H. I. K. Fernando. Their opening pair Grindrod and MacCave, though scoring double figures each, did not give the impression at any time that they were on top of the bowling. The partnership ended at 31, and thereafter Woodhouse 20, and Shephardson 21 tried vainly to improve matters but P. I. Peiris, Buhar and J. G. C. Peiris brought about the dismissal of the whole side for 129. The last four wickets adding only 14 runs. One could imagine how dreary the Malayan batting was as they took four hours to compile their total of 129, it was a most unenterprising show. The visiting bowlers were well supported by the best fielding the Ceylon team had displayed on this tour.

CEYLON batted with great enterprise when they took their innings and made light of the moderate Malayan attack. In an hour and a half they totalled 139 for the loss of only 2 wickets, for this excellent result they were chiefly indebted to Buhar and Reid who were both at their very best, and provided exhilarating cricket of a type rarely seen at Kuala Lumpur. Buhar compiled a sparkling 61 including many boundaries, while Reid remained unbeaten at the close with a superbly compiled 53.

\* \* \*

CEYLON was expected to put up a big score when they resumed their innings on the second morning,



—"Times"

Clive Inman

and she did not belie expectations, though unfortunately Reid was run out when well set, his innings of 68 was full of aggression, his driving all round the wicket being up to his very best. Inman was playing beautiful cricket when he had a touch of the sun and had to retire with his score at 67. He was medically advised not to continue his innings but determined not to let his side down he continued to bat after resting for two hours. The crowd gave him a great ovation but little did they anticipate that he would bat as finely as he did to obtain the first century for the touring side. His innings of 113 was considered by good judges as one of the best seen on the Selangor ground for a long time. In the end Ceylon

put up a total of 341 the highest of the tour.

All-Malaya in their second innings had scored 52 for 2 wickets at the close of play. Grindrod showing fine form, to be unbeaten with 32.

\* \* \*

IT was generally agreed that Malaya's task of averting an innings defeat appeared to be a very uphill one against good bowling and the greatly improved fielding of the Ceylon side. The Home side had an early reverse when Grindrod who had been batting so well the previous evening was out L.B.W. to Buhar after adding only nine runs to his overnight score, but the position for Malaya was brightened by a very useful display by Mike Shephardson. The middle batting, however, broke down badly and it was left to Kirkham and Gurucharan Singh to create the flutter towards the end of the innings. The latter giving a spirited display to score 54, while the former remained undefeated with a steadily compiled 29. The final stages were most interesting with Ceylon straining every nerve to pull off an innings victory. This they succeeded in doing the Home side losing their last wicket with 9 runs needed to wipe off the deficit. It was a famous victory for this young side against a more experienced combination; Jefferey Pieris and Buhar who bowled best in this innings received all the assistance they needed from an energetic set of fieldsmen.

At a farewell dinner given by the sporting residents of Selangor on the eve of the President's team's departure for Ceylon one of the speakers stated that Malaya were prepared to finance this schoolboy side to visit England in recognition of their splendid show on their recent tour. Another proposal was that arrangements be made to stage a tournament in Malaya between Ceylon, Malaya and Hongkong.

\* \* \*

RETURNING to Singapore the President's team were opposed to a team of Singapore Civilians and fared so badly that defeat seemed likely at drawing of stumps on the first day for after being dismissed for 94 the home team topped this total by 36 runs and Ceylon batting a second time had lost 2 wickets, including

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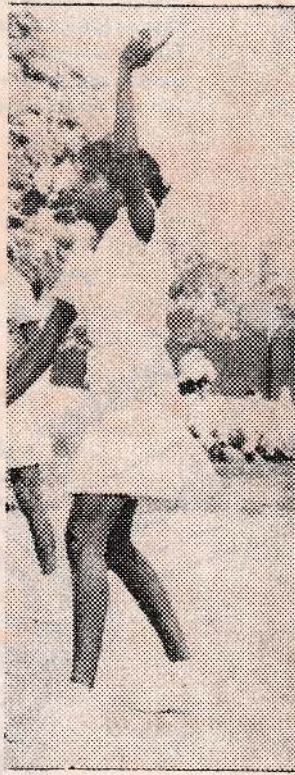
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## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

## NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Ceylon National Tennis Championships played in Colombo were shorn of much of the usual glamour with the absence of any foreign stars. Rupert Ferdinands, Ceylon's No. 1, took his chance to win the triple crown.

In the well-contested men's singles final, he outmanoeuvred Bernard Pinto to win 2-6, 6-0, 8-6, 2-6, 6-2. Partnered by Pinto he beat L. P.



Miss Ranjani Jayasuriya

Ernst and C. I. Gunasekera 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 7-5 in the men's doubles in another close match, and with Malayan champ, Ranjini Jayasuriya, partnering him he won the mixed doubles, too, beating D. L. Fonseka and Miss C. Fonseka 7-5, 6-4.

MISS Jayasuriya, too, won the triple crown, beating Miss C. Fonseka 7-5, 6-4 in the women's singles and winning the women's doubles partnered by Mrs. D. E. Wijewardene. This pair got the better of the Fonseka sisters 7-5, 0-6, 10-8.

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Reid for only 14 runs. On the following day, however, they staged a brilliant recovery, thanks to a superb innings of 76 by Casie Chitty and useful scores of 28 by Ian Pieris and 37 (unfinished) by J. B. Francis the visitors were able to declare with their score at 200 for 8. Left with 165 runs to get for victory in 2 hours and 20 minutes the Singapore team collapsed for 81 runs, this being brought about by very effective bowling by Buhar, J. Peiris and Weerasinghe who were backed up by really excellent fielding and clever captaincy by H. I. K. Fernando.

IN the final match of their tour against the Ceylon Sports Club, last Saturday, at Singapore, the President's team scored an easy victory by 82 runs. The highlight of the match was the deadly bowling of Sonny Yatawara, who captured six wickets for only 20 runs.

Thus the Ceylon tourists retained their unbeaten record.

## NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

THE Mercantile Hockey Association team won the National Hockey Championship when they beat the fancied Matale team by one goal to nil at Edward Park, Matale. The first half produced play of a tough standard, but there was no scoring.

The visitors scored in the second half from a penalty.

The speedy Matale forward line then got going and made several attempts to equalise but the Mercantile defence held fast.

The earlier rounds were equally well contested, Mercantile beating Government Services 3-2 and Uva 1-0 on their way to the final. Matale beat Kandy 7-1 and Combined Services 4-0 in a replay of the semi-final after sharing 2 goals in the first match.

FINIS was written to the story of Ceylon's recent hockey tour of South India when the Council of the Ceylon Hockey Association early this week exonerated Hugh Aldons of all blame after inquiring into the allegations made against him by the Manager of the team, Mr. Walter Jayasinghe.

A pleasing future of the championships has been the success of the younger players. Ferdinands himself is only 20 years old, while R. Praesood, just out of school, got the better of "Koo" de Saram, giant of a few years ago, 6-0, 6-2, and D. D. N. Selvadurai beat L. P. Ernst 3-6, 6-4, 10-8. Other young players to shine were P. S. Kumara, Malayan and national junior singles champion, Dorothy de Saram and Shanthi Kodagoda.

\* \* \*

## ATHLETICS

## Johnson Amazes

U.S. decathlon star, Rafer Johnson, dwarfed all opposition at the A.A.A. meet held at the Colombo Oval on Saturday and Sunday, September 14th-15th. Towering above the local athletes he set four Ceylon open records in the four events he took part in, becoming the first athlete to break 11 secs. in the 100 metres in Ceylon, the first to throw over 200 feet in the javelin, (2) the first to heave the weight over 50 feet.

He also hurled the discus over 150 feet beating the Rev. Bob Richards' open record by over 20 feet. Stupendous, tremendous, etc., etc.—one can run short of adjectives. Like all great athletes, he made, everything look so easy.

And the local athletes received a much-needed filip, quite a few national records going by the board. The Ace A.C. women's relay team beat the 4 x 100 metres record in the heats but were disqualified in the final. Denzil Fernando broke J. R. de Silva's 800 metres record by a tenth of a second, B. Rupasinghe improved on his own 5,000 metres record by 13 seconds and Nobel Kiel cleared 4 feet 11 inches to break Monica Martin's record. W. M. N. de Silva bettered his Hop, Step and Jump mark while T. D. S. A. Dissanayake broke the Putt shot record, but he has a better mark awaiting ratification.

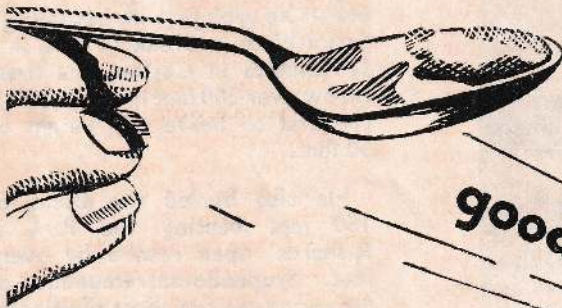
There were many near-misses, too, and the standard was much higher generally than it has been for years, which augurs well for the Asian Games in Tokyo next year.

(Continued on page 40)



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## A WOMAN'S PAGE

### Afro-Asian Conference

IDEAS for a Conference which were simmering in the minds of distinguished Eastern women since 1955 came to a head at a Committee meeting held in Karachi in May this year. It was decided at this meeting that a Conference should be held in the principles and spirit of Bandung, and that there should be five sponsoring countries—India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia. Ceylon, represented by the All-Ceylon Women's Conference, was invited to be "hostess" to the Conference; the date to be early next year.

The aim of this Conference will be to meet and to discuss on a common platform some of the basic problems affecting women and children in the countries of the Asia-Africa regions, in the spirit of the resolutions of the Conference held in Bandung in 1955.

\* \* \*

### Trefoil Guild

THE newly formed Trefoil Guild of the Girl Guide Association will hold its first Camp-fire on the 19th September at Girl Guide Headquarters, Colombo. This will be the 24th birthday of Guide Headquarters, and by a happy co-incidence they will be the first to welcome Mrs. J. G. Morley at their celebrations. Mrs. Morley arrives in Ceylon on the 18th September, and past, as well as present guides and guiders, are looking forward to meeting her during the holiday she will spend in Ceylon.

The Trefoil Guild which held its inaugural meeting, presided over by Miss Edna Alvis, Chief Commissioner, on the 30th August, aims to link together all past guides and guiders, and to help them to keep in touch with the movement and its activities, and so keep alive the spirit and ideals of guiding. They also hope to maintain, and to improve, when necessary, the standard of Guiding in Ceylon.

The camp-fire will be followed by a Concert given by the Philharmonic Choir on the 20th September at Ladies' College. The programme will include folk songs, madrigals, modern part songs, and mystical songs. The concert will be under the patronage of Mrs. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, herself an old Guide, and will be in aid of the Association.

### Specialised Education for Girls

JUST over two months ago the All-Ceylon Society for the Advancement of Specialised Education for girls was inaugurated at a meeting held at Ladies' College. This was presided over by the Director of Education, Mr. S. F. de Silva; there were a large number of principals and mistresses representative of the island's leading girls' schools present. Their object to "Undertake a scientific study of educational problems which are of special significance to the girls and women of Ceylon."

The possibilities of specialised training for girls in vocations such as dress designers, nursery teachers, house decorators, canteen supervisors, and other posts were stressed by Miss R. Navaratnam, Inspectress of Schools for the Western Province, who emphasised in her speech that "There was a vital need for specialised institutes for women which shall prevent a shocking waste of educational efforts at the senior levels . . ."

It has been suggested by long-suffering employers of junior typists and typist-clerks, or merely clerks, that a knowledge of spelling in basic English, and of elementary grammar should surely be expected from candidates for such posts who usually claim education at "senior levels" when applying for work of this type—where there are always openings for qualified people. Other institutions where a working knowledge of English is essential are the hospitals—always in need of nurses, and more nurses, a vocation in which women are definitely expected to specialise! Now with the threat of the services of the Roman Catholic nuns in our hospitals being dispensed with (a suggestion which has caused a great deal of doubt and despondency amongst people of every community and creed in the island—especially those who have been patients in the hospitals) nursing should prove a more necessary vocational calling than ever.

\* \* \*

### Society of Women Consumers

IT is interesting to note, since the formation of a Housewives' Association has often been advocated in these columns, that the A.C.W.C. wishes to draw the attention of its affiliated societies to a project based on a suggestion of Malini of the "Ceylon Observer." The suggestion is that a Society of Women

Consumers be formed to secure the control, and steady supervision of prices, quality of goods, and connected problems, in order to prevent women, the heaviest purchasers of food, clothing and household requisites, being victimised by unscrupulous suppliers of these goods . . ." Women's Consumer Societies are extremely powerful in Western countries, so much so that manufacturers submit their plans and designs to them for approval even before new products are placed on the markets. It is also hoped, that should this association be formed, housewives will be able to procure the type of goods they require in addition to paying reasonable prices for them. Reasonably priced labour-saving gadgets, household equipment and nursery requirements, are amongst the things which the average housewife finds much above her means.

Proving some of these points was the story published recently in the local press of the housewife, who refused to take "No" for an answer at one of the Co-operative stores, of being told that the goods she required were out of stock. Her insistence won her the day, for the sales department found that the goods she wanted were in stock after all, and she walked out triumphant!

### Tourist Trade

THERE has been a great deal in the local press recently on the subject of our tourist trade, . . . or the lack of it. We have often heard stories too of passengers who prefer to remain on their ships in harbour rather than come ashore for the few hours at their disposal. This is the class of passenger who does not come to Ceylon sponsored by Government, or for Conferences, and without the aid of tourist bureaus, or friends to entertain them. We see them often in the city streets, in taxis doing the "sights" of Colombo, . . . the Victoria Park, the "native quarter" (as the Pettah is called by the taxi drivers who interpret these sights for them) sampling bananas, oranges and pineapples at exorbitant rates. However sympathetic one may feel there seems nothing one can do except on an organised basis. And these are the people who will, eventually, give the country a good or a bad advertisement. Noting all this, and what our own tourists tell us of their experiences in other countries, comparisons seem definitely . . . un-favourable!

EVELYN.

## ART, MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

—By LYRICUS—

### UNIQUE EXHIBITION OF ART

A UNIQUE exhibition in the field of art—the first of its kind in Ceylon—was on display at the Art Gallery, Greenpath, from September 16 and will continue till the 28th.

The collection Asian Artists in Crystal is a felicitous combination of the art of the East and the craftsmanship of the West. Here is yet another proof that art knows no boundaries and that culture is one of the strongest links between civilized men. Artists in the Far and Near East prepared the drawings, American designers created the shapes of the glass, and American artisans skilfully interpreted the drawings on the crystal.

\* \* \*

INCLUDED in the 36 pieces from 16 Asian countries were the work of two artists from Ceylon, George Keyt's "The Bodhisattva Vishvantara gives away his wife" and L. T. Manjusri's "The Goddess Tara." Also represented are among many others the works of India's Jamini Roy and Gopal Ghose, Pakistan's Sheik Ahmed and Japan's Shiko Munakata.

Steuben Glass is the ideal background for the designs as it is the purest material yet developed, and the Steuben Glass Centre in Corning, New York, has unselfishly co-operated with the U.S. Government to bring about this exhibition.

\* \* \*

### SIXTY YEARS OF "GAY DECEIVER"

AN interested audience crowded into the Royal College Hall recently to enjoy a Festival of Magic provided by the Sri Lanka Magic Circle and Ring 139. The performance was in aid of the Ceylon National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and under the patronage of H.E. the Governor-

General, who joined whole-heartedly in the rounds of applause, and participated happily in some of the items with the Gay Deceiver himself. We could not help wondering if the grown-ups in the audience, several members of the foreign Embassies amongst them, were not even more intrigued than the children present, noting the critical interest with which they followed every movement, and the surprised delight with which they greeted the results.

The responsibility of most of the programme lay with the Gay Deceiver himself, and he completely charmed a delighted audience with his magic, and with his ventriloquist Somapala, who captivated the Juniors. An excellent standard of entertainment and surprise was maintained by the other members of the Magic Circle each making his own special contribution to a very successful programme, which was compered by Mr. Livy R. Wijemanne.

The presentation of a gold medal to Gate Mudaliyar Amarasekera by H.E. the Governor-General on behalf of the members of the Sri Lanka Magic Circle I.B.M. Ring 139 to commemorate sixty years as a magician and entertainer was accepted as a well merited recognition by an audience which greeted the presentation with whole-hearted enthusiasm and spontaneous applause . . . applause which was gladly renewed at the call of the Governor-General.

### FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OF CEYLON GOLF

(Continued from page 31)

and 9. During his short stay in the Island Melrose proved convincingly his undoubted ability as a golfer and won everything worth winning both in Colombo and Nuwara Eliya.

Another boom era in golf in Ceylon came in the years that followed till the outbreak of war in 1914. Of the outstanding players in the island at this time were several who had done quite well in the best company at Home like A. R. Aitken, W. H. Smallwood, A. H. S. Clarke, J. H. Harving, R. B. Taylor, M. K. Foster, J. L. S. Vidler, and C. G. Thornton to name only a few.

(To be continued)

### MAT WEAVING IN CEYLON

(Continued from page 29)

The royal blue and straw-coloured mat from Saigon, Vietnam, was one of the best exhibits, as was the greatly-admired mat sent by the Maldivian Government Representative in Ceylon.

The Indonesian exhibits were specially obtained by air for the exhibition by the Indonesian Legation. It should profit Ceylon craftsmen greatly to learn more about the dyes used in that country in mat weaving. The neatness of finish and evenness of weaving in the Indonesian mats left little to be desired.

It was also observed that some of the foreign mats had cloth or leather bindings round the edges, giving the mats a pleasing appearance.

A mat, of special interest to tourists, was purchased from Manila and exhibited here. It showed the islands of the Philippine group and the seas, labelled in English. It was made like the local *Indikola* mat, and the pattern darned in on a plain mat. The table mats, also from Manila and made of pineapple fibre, had the design applied by machine and were well made.

The mat exhibition in Colombo which was mainly for the benefit of the weavers was also visited by Colombo residents who gained new ideas to simplify the decoration of their homes effectively with a cottage craft indigenous to our country.

(By courtesy of "Ceylon Today")

### PLANT LORE

(Continued from page 18)

climbed up when no pilgrims had travelled the roads for several months of very wet weather, and had to crush my way through masses of Begonia and Balsam, and to tread upon pink Orchids as I climbed, while the roofs of the shelter below the cliffs were clouded over with a mist of yellow *Calceolaria*." What a paradise for the plant hunter!

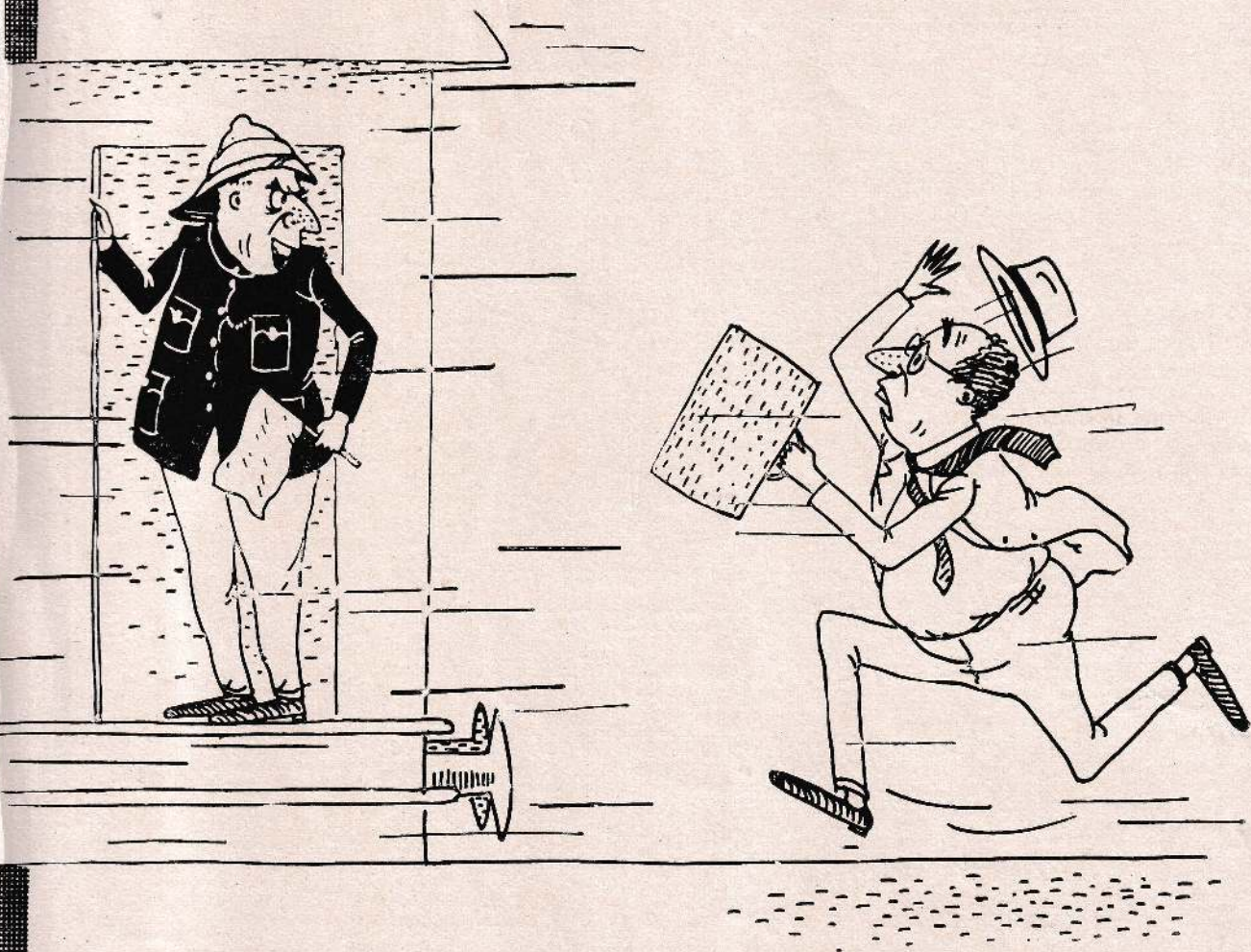
### A SPORTS CAUSERIE

(Continued from page 37)

#### Ceylon Cricket Record

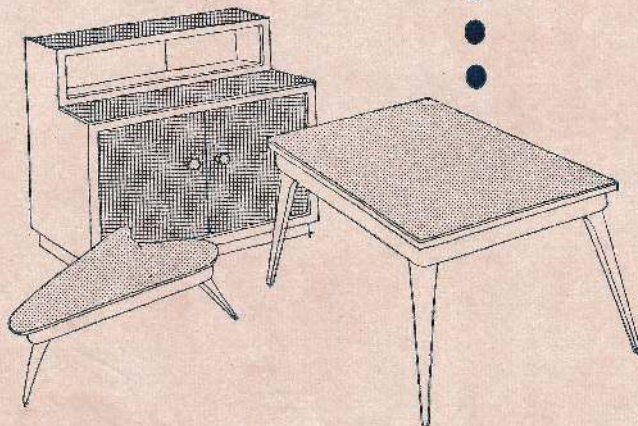
FREDERICK Perera, who has played for Ceylon at Soccer and Hockey and established four Ceylon records in his remarkable sports career, created another record when he scored an unfinished 352 for Port Commission against the Excise Department, in a Government Service tournament match last week.

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