

The Ceylon Frostnightly Review

Vol. X

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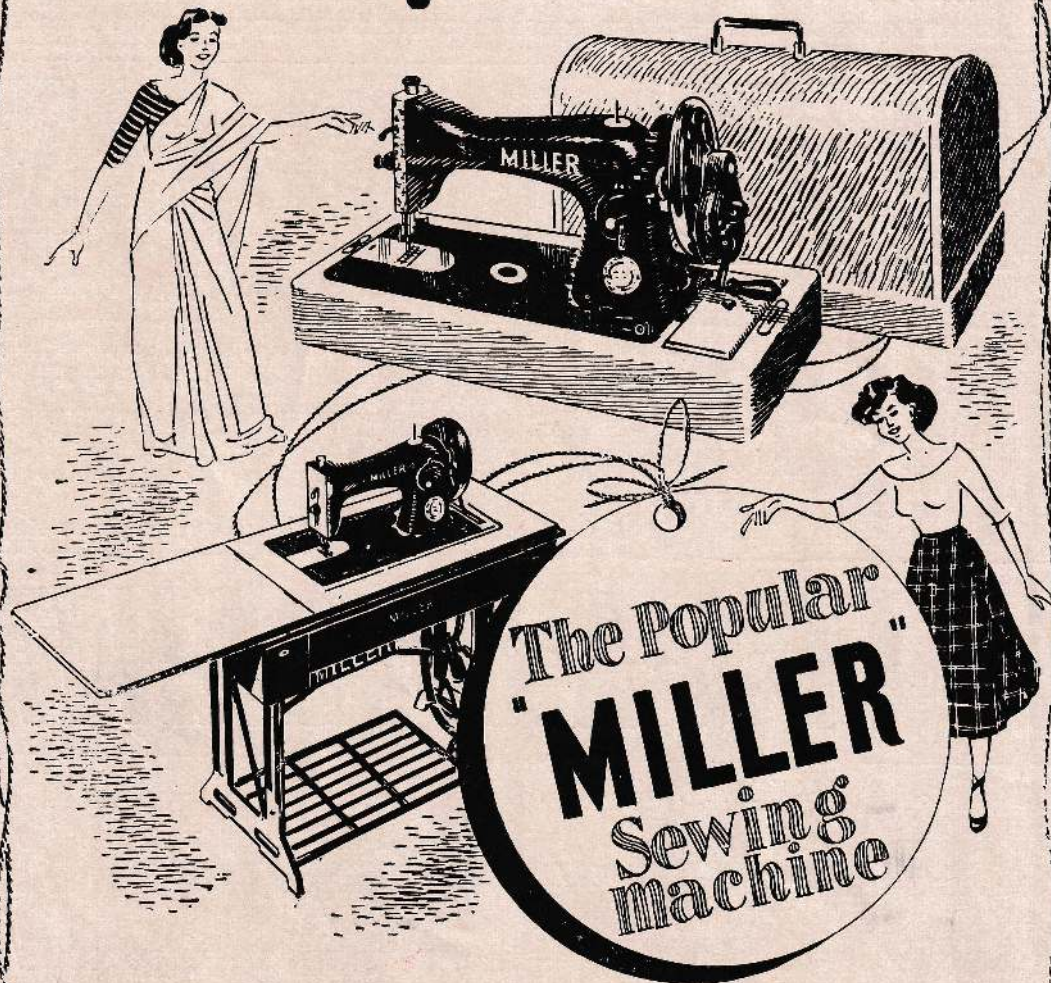
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SERVICE TO THE NATION

THE Ceylon National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has, like ourselves, passed the ninth year of a very useful existence. The "flaming milestone" was marked with the opening by the Prime Minister of its headquarters at Edinburgh Crescent, when Mr. Bandaranaike paid the Association a well-deserved tribute. This is not the place for a detailed account of the varied and beneficent activities of the C.N.A.P.T., and we content ourselves with the broadest outlines of its service to the nation.

* * * *

STARTED in the year of Ceylon's independence, at a public meeting presided over by the first Governor-General of Ceylon, Sir Henry Moore, the C.N.A.P.T. focussed attention on this grave national problem with its Memorandum on the Control of Tuberculosis, presented to the first Prime Minister, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, in 1952. Among the tangible gifts the Association has given the nation are the Welisara Children's Ward, the Hawke Memorial Hospital and the Thassim Chest Clinic at Galle.

It was the pioneer in the field of giving financial assistance to tubercular patients and their families, which has now been taken over by the government.

* * * *

THAT some provision (by no means enough) has been now made for sanatoria, special T.B. wards in hospitals, after-care and rehabilitation of patients, can without exaggeration be credited to the C.N.A.P.T. But probably its most valuable contribution to the total war on T.B., which the government has since launched, is the propaganda work carried out by the Association and its branches in many parts of the Island.

Thanks to it, there is much less ignorance of the facts concerning the disease, much less of the attitude which regarded T.B. victims as outcasts of society, and—perhaps, the most useful of them all—a greater willingness on the part of those afflicted with the disease to seek early treatment from qualified doctors.

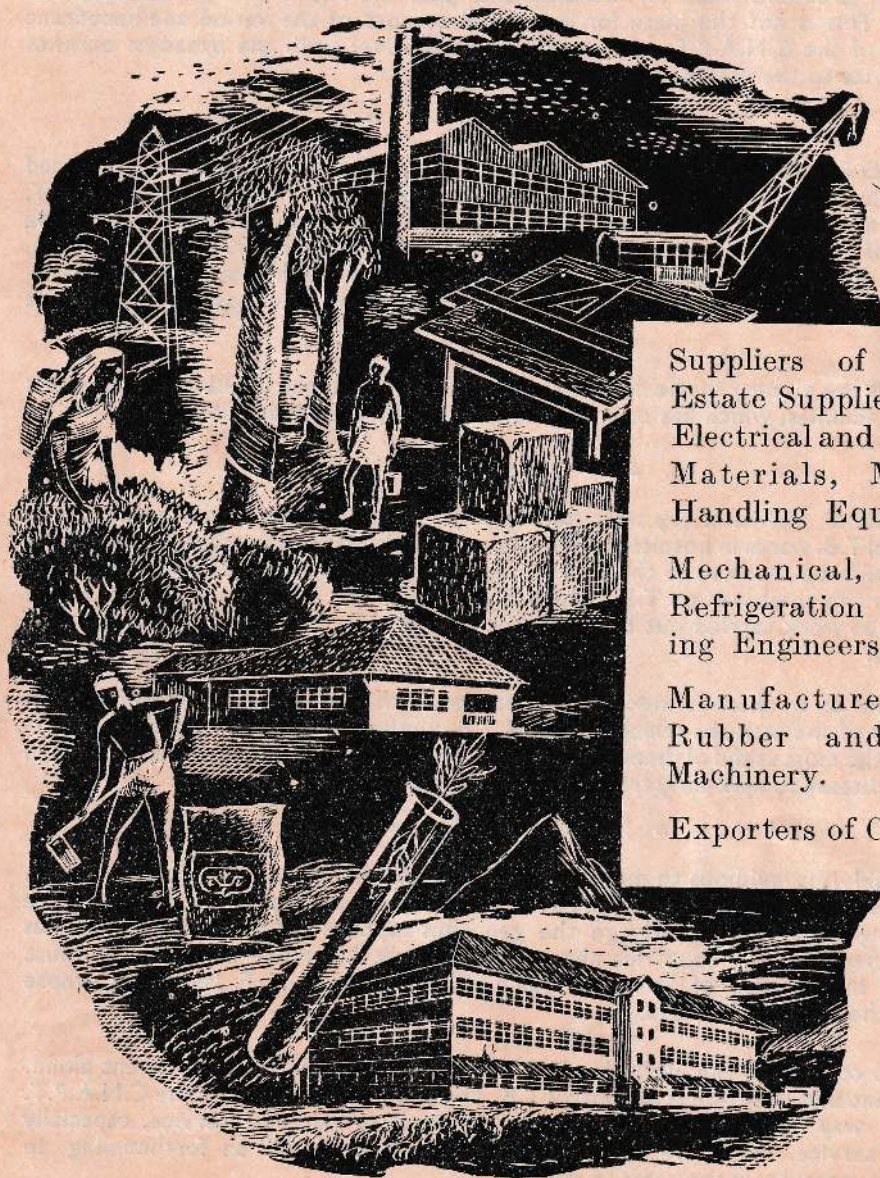
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THOUGH it is invidious to mention names in connexion with an organisation the success of which is largely due to the unstinted support of all classes of people—not forgetting to acknowledge the generous support and assistance Ceylon has received from friendly countries abroad, particularly Australia—an exception must be made in the case of its indefatigable President, Dr. J. H. F. Jayasuriya, whose impress the C.N.A.P.T. bears.

In no country in the world has T.B. been controlled by the government alone. It is evident that if Ceylon is to control T.B., the people must support the C.N.A.P.T. in every way they can—donations, big or small, or personal service, especially personal service. We have no doubt that such support will be forthcoming in increasing measure in the years to come.

THE EDITOR

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

A NEW tradition was created when at the State Opening of Parliament last Thursday, the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, delivered his address to the joint meeting of the two Houses first in Sinhalese (the official language) and afterwards in English. The event was not without incident, however, for as soon as Sir Oliver began to speak in Sinhalese the members of the Federalist Party, which is agitating for a federal Tamil state and official status for Tamil as well, left the hall.

It transpired that the Party had earlier requested the Governor-General to deliver his address in Tamil too and suggested that if he was unable to do so himself he deputise a person for the purpose. The Governor-General replied regretting that he could not speak in Tamil and explaining that it would not be proper for the address to be delivered by a deputy. However, he indicated that a Tamil translation of the address would be available.

On behalf of the Federal Party Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam said in a statement that the walk-out of its members was an expression of the "depth of feeling of grievance and frustration which the Tamil-speaking people are suffering from."

* * *

THE campaign of the Federalists figured in the address of the Governor-General, where it was said that early steps would be taken to work out the details and give concrete shape to the proposals contained in the Prime Minister's recent statement to accord "a reasonable place for the use of the Tamil language."

"The Government is much concerned," it continued, "at the threat to peace, law and order and communal amity in the country by the activities of the Federal Party and its proposed satyagraha movement in August." After declaring that the problems involved could be dealt with only by friendly discussion, the address stated that while being prepared to take all necessary steps to satisfy the reasonable grievances of the minorities, the Government was determined to take all measures for the preservation of law and order and the safeguarding of the State.

THE firmness of the Government in dealing with movements liable to cause disaffection was demonstrated when on June 1 two Sinhalese who started a fast in the premises of Parliament House—Mr. Felix Jayasuriya, economics lecturer in the University, and Mr. K. M. P. Rajaratna, recently unseated member for Welimada in Parliament—were removed from the place and the Galle Face Green, where Mr. Rajaratna was to have held a meeting to protest against any concession being made to Tamil, was closed to the public.

The fast, which was continued in the premises of the Town Hall, was abandoned on its being made known that the "concessions" to Tamil were not incorporated in the Governor-General's Address to Parliament.

* * *

FINANCIAL assistance has been given to four projects, the share issue of a public company has been successfully underwritten, and six further projects are in process of

finalisation as to legal and technical aspects, it was reported at the first annual general meeting of the Development Finance Corporation last week.

In the course of his statement to the meeting, the President, Mr. J. A. Martensz, laid emphasis on the need for training skilled workers and the establishment of standards for local products. With regard to the first, he said: "Paradoxical as it may seem, with so much talk of unemployment, one of the greatest drawbacks to development is the shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour. New industries and the expansion of those already existing require a large reservoir of efficient labour, and it is to be hoped that the greatest effort would be made to step up the training of youth in technology: it has been said that the human material is at hand and ready to learn if only the opportunity is provided.

On standards Mr. Martensz said that there were various forms of protection for new industries and these were often most valuable, but unless the products adhered to an accepted standard, consumer resistance would eventually win the day and the industries suffer accordingly.



The Governor-General taking the salute outside the House of Representatives at the State Opening of Parliament. The Guard-of-Honour was mounted by the Royal Ceylon Navy, whose band also made its debut on the occasion.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

A HISTORIC chapter in British imperial history was closed on June 7, with the signing of the agreement between Ceylon and the United Kingdom for the withdrawal of the British naval and air force establishments in Trincomalee and Katunayake respectively. The agreement, which was signed by the Prime Minister for Ceylon and Sir Cecil Syers, the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, was in pursuance of the policy of the M.E.P. Government to take over the naval base and air force station, which Britain will formally transfer on October 15 and November 1st respectively. The withdrawal of the establishments is to be completed within a period of three years, though some facilities will remain for up to five years.

Ceylon will pay Rs. 22 million, spread over five years, for fixed assets of the services to be taken over and in final settlement of claims arising out of the occupation or disposal of the bases.

* * *

THE worldwide agitation for the cessation of nuclear tests and the outlawing of atomic warfare received support from a special session of the World Peace Council, held for the purpose, last week, at the G.O.H. in Colombo, the first to be held in Asia. Five hundred delegates from 74 countries—from South America and Mongolia to Africa—attended, besides observers from several countries. The session was opened by Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Ceylon Peace Committee, after the delegates had been welcomed to the City by Mr. V. A. Sugathadasa, Mayor of Colombo.

Messages were received from, among others, the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike; Prof. Joliot Curie, the renowned nuclear physicist, President of the World Peace Council; Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous humanitarian, who underlined the importance of the conference to all humanity; and Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, the distinguished Indian statesman, who said: "... it is far better for Britain to retire from this cold war and take a noble part in saving mankind from being poisoned and civilisation from being destroyed, than to be a satellite drifting helplessly."

THE first ambassador to Ceylon from China, Mr. Chan Tsan Ming, arrived in Colombo on June 7. On the same day, Sir Richard Aluwihare, former Inspector-General of Police and one-time member of the Civil Service, left for Delhi to assume duties as High Commissioner, in succession to Sir Edwin Wijeratne.

On the following day, Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene, ambassador to the United States of America, arrived in Colombo with his wife and daughter, on his first holiday after more than five years abroad, since his appointment as Minister to Italy. A great crowd, among whom were many persons from the Gampola district, which he represented in the State Council, greeted him at the airport.

It is announced that Mr. Akira Matsui will succeed Mr. Shiroji Yuki, as Ambassador of Japan in Ceylon.

Mr. Matsui is 49 and entered the diplomatic service in 1931. Until 1942 he served in Paris and London and Ottawa. Since then he has had a long spell in the Foreign Ministry. He was Secretary to the Prime Minister in 1950 and in 1953 he was deputy vice-minister for Foreign Affairs. Since 1955, he has been Minister in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Yuki left Colombo on Saturday.

* * *

A SUDDEN announcement was made on June 4th, reconstituting the Galoya Development Board. The two unofficial members, Mr. N. E. Weerasooria, Q.C., and Mr. J. A.

Amaratunga, were replaced by Mr. W. Wijesinghe, planter and businessman, and Mr. W. T. I. Alagaratnam, former Director of Irrigation. The Chairman, Mr. K. Kanagasunderam, formerly of the Civil Service, had his appointment terminated and was given six months' leave, Mr. I. M. de Silva, Resident Manager, also an ex-civil servant, being appointed to act in his place.

Mr. Amaratunga had been a member of the Board since its inception in 1949, and Mr. Weerasooria was appointed in 1954. Mr. de Silva was appointed to his substantive post this year.

In answer to questions, the Prime Minister said at a press conference, that it had always been the intention of the Government to reconstitute the Board, in view of certain happenings after the Official Language Act was passed (the reference was taken to be to the communal riots in the Galoya Valley in June last year.)

* * *

ON June 14, the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, opened at the Colombo art gallery the ninth annual poster exhibition sponsored by the Shell Company of Ceylon. The theme this year was Ceylon's cottage craft and industries.

The first exhibition was held in 1949 and was designed to give publicity to the cause of wild life preservation. The series has been the means of bringing to light much talent as it includes a section for students from 10 to 18.



—“Times”

Some of the delegates to the World Peace Conference. At extreme right is Metropolitan Nikolai of the Greek Orthodox Church of Russia.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

IT is with regret that we record the death of Dr. Henry Speldewinde de Boer, which occurred at Hamel Hampstead, Herts, on June 7th. He was a brother of Mr. Cecil Speldewinde, the Income Tax Commissioner. He took on the name of De Boer, his mother's maiden name, as there was no male De Boer left. He was educated at Royal College and later joined the Ceylon Medical College. He proceeded to London in 1911 and there entered the London University Hospital about the end of that year. Passing out in 1914 soon after the outbreak of World War I, he joined the Army and was attached as Doctor (Commissioned Officer) to the Dublin Fusiliers. He was in the Gallipoli landings and was wounded. His pocket book saved his life as it deflected a bullet. After he recovered he served in the Middle East and won the M.C. at the battle of Gaza.

* * *

ON his release from the Army, Dr. De Boer joined the Colonial Medical Services and was stationed in Kenya, Northern Rhodesia and Uganda, where he rose to be Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in Uganda. He was awarded the C.M.G. for his services. He retired and settled down in Hamel Hampstead, where his aunt, Miss (Dr.) Alice De Boer died a few years ago. It should be mentioned that after he retired he was for some time Medical Officer at London Airport and gave up work a short time ago owing to failing health.

Dr. De Boer was married to a sister of Mr. R. L. Bartholomeusz, the Kandy Magistrate. He has two sons, one of them a Doctor who has specialised in Gynaecology and is a Lecturer at Liverpool University Medical College. The other is an Engineer in England.

* * *

AS far back as 1912, the writer met Dr. De Boer at Highbury and spent many pleasant days in his company. That was during a time when nearly a score of Ceylonese were Dr. De Boer's contemporaries at London University Hospital. They included Drs. E. L. Christoffelsz, Lorenz Wambeek, Arthur Schokman, Ancel Leembruggen, and Carl Anthonisz, who were all on active service during World War I.

THE Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs has appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of the Departments of Archaeology, National Museums and Government Archives. It is understood that the Committee will examine the organisation and the scope of the functions of the three departments and the research done by them and make recommendations with regard to changes in administration that may be necessary for the co-ordination of the activities of the three departments.

The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. R. L. Brohier, former Deputy Surveyor-General, who was one of the original members of the Gal-oya Development Board. His official career and his cultural interests make him singularly qualified for the assignment. The other members of the Committee are Mr. L. H. Mettandanda, former Principal of Ananda College, and Mr. Julius de Lanarolle, one-time Editor of the Sinhalese Dictionary.

* * *

THE fight against tuberculosis advanced a further stage with the opening on June 7th, by the Prime Minister, of the headquarters of the Ceylon National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Edinburgh Crescent, adjoining the

Colombo Museum. The Association had its offices for the nine years since its inception in the residence of Dr. J. H. F. Jayasuriya, Chairman of the Committee.

The Prime Minister promised C.N.A.P.T. every assistance in its work. So did the Mayor of Colombo, who appealed for State assistance in eliminating the slums in the city, which he described as a prolific breeding ground of T.B.

Dr. Jayasuriya said that it was the aim of the Association to have a branch of C.N.A.P.T. at every town and major centre of population in the Island. There were already 20 branches.

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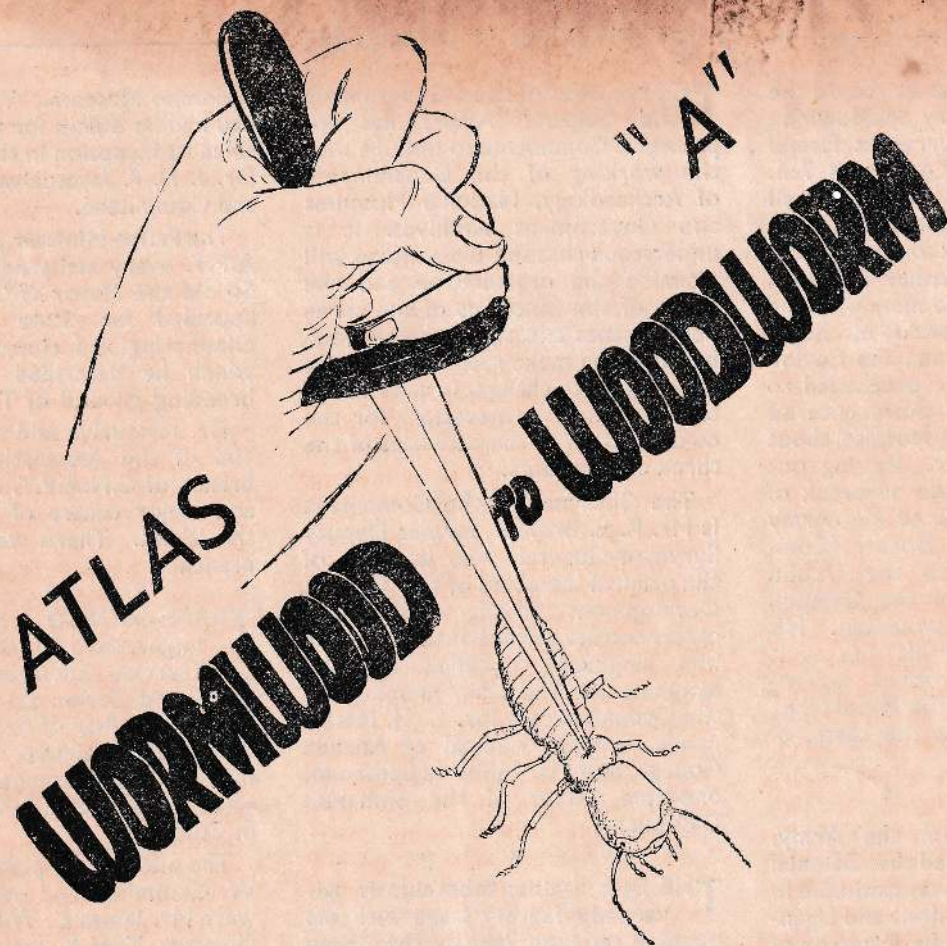
TRANS-WORLD Airlines inaugurated a Super G. Constellation service between the United States and Ceylon on June 4th when the aircraft Star of Crassone arrived at Ratmalana airport from Bombay. Many of the passengers were delegates to the World Peace Conference in Colombo.

The pilot of the plane was Captain W. Cummings and others on board were Mr. James C. Wilson, Assistant Director, T.W.A. passenger service, Mr. Jack Hearne, regional sales promotion manager, and Mr. G. Punjabi, of the Bombay T.W.A. office, Bombay.

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—“Times”



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FRIENDS IN TRANSIT

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

A TANKFUL of goldfish now occupies a prominent place in one of the traffic control points at London Airport, and the psychologist who advised its introduction, has been publicly commended by Britain's Ministry of Civil Aviation's Controller of Ground Services, Sir Alfred Le Maitre. The benign influence of the goldfish, says Sir Alfred, has worked like a charm, soothing the occasionally harassed staff, when catering for the comfort of passengers in one of the busiest airports in the world.

Travellers themselves, the citizens of the United Kingdom have always had a warm feeling for people in transit, and this has expressed itself anew, with the formation in London of an International Society of Air Travellers and Air Transport Users.

The moving spirit is the septuagenarian Lord Brabazon of Tara, holder of British air pilot's licence No. 1, who says the Society has been formed in Britain in the hope that it will become truly international. Aero clubs in 48 other countries have already been approached.

Among the Society's objects, apart from popularising air travel, is the abolition of tiresome restrictions and delays, the promotion of international understanding through air travel, and—a pleasing, human touch—the deepening and extension of camaraderie among air travellers. This sort of friendship I have always noted, particularly, at London Airport. If the goldfish can augment it by turning their charm on passengers as well as staff, they will play a humble but useful part in Lord Brabazon's campaign.

* * *

Artificial Night in a Zoo

THERE are risks, of course, in placing too much reliance on the animal kingdom, as has been discovered at the Zoo in Edinburgh, the Scottish capital. Nocturnal creatures like slow loris and flying squirrels have been failing to rise to the occasion during the day, normally being asleep when visitors are present. So if ever they are introduced to liven things up at London Airport, the authorities will have to try the same experiment as the Zoo experts. To reverse the creatures'

normal sleeping habits, a brilliant fluorescent light is now switched on when darkness falls; this sends them to sleep until morning, when the lights are dimmed and they prance around in artificial night, while daytime visitors watch them through dark blue screens.

Such a scheme could furnish the ideal antidote to too much goldfish contemplation at London Airport, and would certainly be in keeping with this modern, rushful, split-second age.

"Split-second," by the way, is becoming too cumbersome a term for the meticulous time-keeping now being achieved. At the Physical Society's exhibition in London, visitors have just been shown a new atomic clock, which keeps time to an accuracy of one part in 1,000,000,000. After only two years' development at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, this amazing instrument is now available in portable form, for instant use in any country in the world.

* * *

Mayflower II

THE Pilgrim Fathers would have given much for such a navigational aid when they sailed from Plymouth, England, to the New World across the Atlantic, 337 years ago. Excitement is mounting in Britain over the voyage of the scale-replica of their ship, the Mayflower. Mayflower II, like her predecessor, is 90 feet (27.432 metres) long and carries a large spread of sail. But, unlike the Pilgrim Fathers' ship, she is equipped with radio and life-saving equipment and fitted with electric light.

But we remember, too, the three small ships that sailed the grey waters of the Atlantic in 1607, 13 years before the Mayflower. After a voyage that lasted nearly four months, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed and the Discovery dropped anchor at Jamestown Island, Virginia, to found the first British settlement in the New World, later to become part of the United States of America.

The recent 350th anniversary celebrations at Jamestown, attended by the British Ambassador to the United States and Viscount Hailsham, have been watched from Britain, not

without pride. As one national newspaper put it: "The British were not the leaders in exploration . . . But they, alone, founded in North America a new State, European in stock and subsequently sovereign, independent and mighty."

When we survey the power and predominance of the Parliamentary nations, all sprung from these British islands, and all still allied, we can look with respectful awe upon those pioneers of Jamestown, Virginia."

* * *

Britain's Brand of "Colonialism"

THOUGH few of us can travel to Jamestown today, there has been keen interest, in the United Kingdom, in the Jamestown Festival, and special satisfaction that so much of the British Pavilion there, should be devoted to the story of the Commonwealth. It is felt to be extremely appropriate and timely, too, that generous space is given to the progress of colonial areas to self-government.

"Colonialism," as the newspaper points out, has had some sour things said about it of late. But without the form of colonialism developed by the British, it is safe to say that much of the world would still be raw and uncivilised, if not actually caught up in medieval slavery.

Countries that have tried to throw off the shackles of other forms of colonialism, have felt the iron heel of oppression and been plunged into bloodshed. Britain's "colonialism" has led the way to enlightened independence—the way taken by Ghana, Central Africa, Malaya and the West Indies.

This is the way Britain has willed it. When the children of the Mother Country grow up, they may choose to leave the parental roof, but they may still stay members of the family, bound by all the bonds that this implies. That Britain lets them go is, for us in the United Kingdom, a source of nothing but pride.

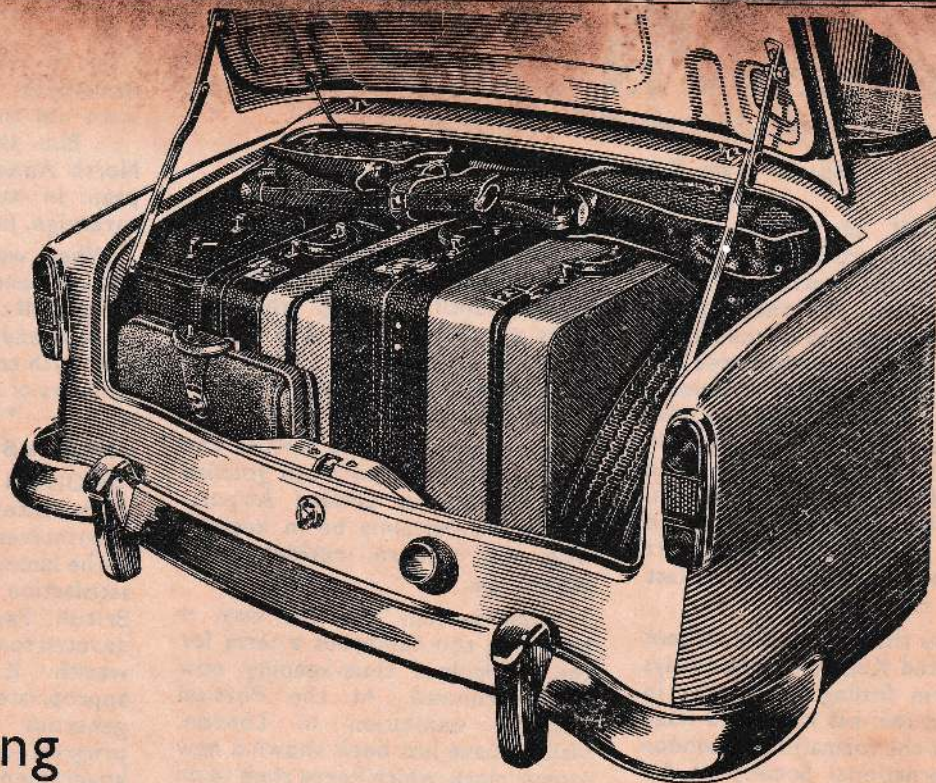
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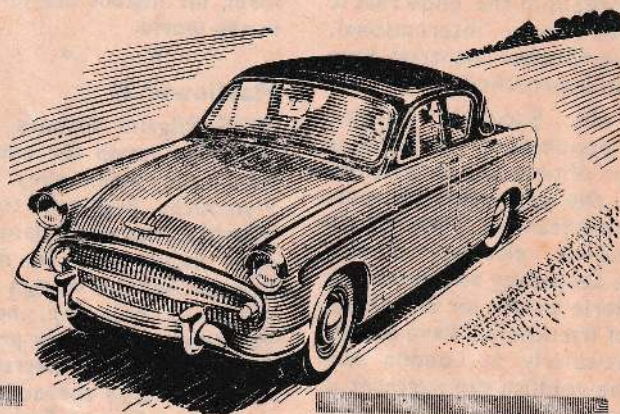
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— Times —

WARDEN DE SARAM

AN APPRECIATION

“NO event at S. Thomas' College in the whole course of her history has given such universal satisfaction as the appointment of the Rev. Reginald Stewart de Saram as Warden, the first person born and bred in this country to hold the post.” So wrote one, at the time. It was, said C. V. Perera, a source of special pride to him “that his old pupil, a Thomian out and out, should fill the great post, as though he were to the manner born.”

At the Warden's Installation on June 24, 1932, Bishop Mark Carpenter-Garnier spoke of the quiet way in which he bore his burdens, and his imperturbable smile.

The new Warden said to his boys, “My only wish this morning is that this school, which we all love so much, which is our very precious possession, will go on from strength to strength.”

* * * *

TWENTY-FIVE years, now, he has watched over the school. They have been troubled years—of depression and debt, war and educational changes politically-inspired. All he faced with calm confidence, tenax propositi, “a leader—and saviour—of Lost Causes” (as one said of him in 1917, after the Big Match). “When the sons of Old Boys, their grandsons and their great-grandsons shall have studied here, still will S. Thomas' be going on,” he pledged in 1932.

The Anglican Church made him a Canon. The State awarded him the O.B.E. He remained, to borrow a tribute early applied to him, “brilliant without pretension, strong without noise, and unflinching in human kindness.”

* * * *

SHORTLY, Old Boys will offer him tribute worthy of the occasion. No Warden before him served so long. None knew the College so intimately.

That S. Thomas' has served our land well in her products few will deny. Foremost among them must be the Warden, for “there is no position in which any man can so splendidly and extensively, serve his generation as the head of a great school.” He might well have been an Englishman—he has chosen to be a good Ceylonese.



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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

DEVELOPMENTS in the language dispute led to a period of tension last week, the anniversary of the communal riots of a year ago, when the Basha Peramuna launched its campaign against concessions being given to Tamil. Coming in the wake of incidents in Mannar and Jaffna, where Federalist demonstrations during the visit of some Ministers to the former town and of a Parliamentary Secretary to the latter, culminated in stone throwing, anxiety was intensified at the prospect of disturbances when the Federalists embark on their civil disobedience movement in August.

It came as a relief, therefore, when the Government resorted to firm action against the possibility of a mob outbreak. Thus when, as he did a year ago, Mr. Felix Jayasuriya, economics lecturer in the University, began a fast in the premises of Parliament House, this time accompanied by Mr. K. M. P. Rajaratne, ex-M.P. for Welimada, a leader of the Basha Peramuna, they were bodily removed from the scene by the Police. They continued their fast in the compound of the Town Hall and gave it up after 36 hours. Another salutary act was the prohibition of the use of the Galle Face Green for a meeting to be addressed by Mr. Rajaratne, who thereupon held meetings in various parts of the City.

THAT the Government will not be intimidated by the extremists in either camp was borne out in the Governor-General's address to the joint meeting of the two Houses in opening the new session of Parliament last week. It was reaffirmed that the policy of the Government is to accord a reasonable place for the use of the Tamil language, and the Federalist Party was warned that its activities constitute a threat to peace, law and order and communal amity. Generally it was stated that the Government is determined to take all measures to preserve law and order and safeguard the State.

While, however, the Federalist Party, though declaring its willingness to negotiate on its demands, is not disposed to relax its

programme of protest against the Official Language Act, a movement is gathering strength for the summoning of a round-table conference of all parties to resolve the language dispute. There are signs that with the growing anxiety to avoid a catastrophe a course of action would be evolved which might, for the time being at least, mitigate the intensity of the passions roused by the language dispute. A timely statement by Mr. Dudley Senanayake, the former Prime Minister and now acting leader of the U.N.P., suggests that the Party regards the issue as above party politics. He has made it plain, however, that the demands of the Federalist Party for a federal State as well as equality of status for Tamil is untenable.

THE Governor-General's Address to Parliament disclosed that the Government has a formidable programme for the coming financial year. While it was stated that in the allocation of financial resources the development of power, irrigation, agriculture and large-scale and small-scale industries would receive particular attention, there was little to suggest that practical action would be of any significant character. The fact confirms the unofficial view that the financial resources that would be available would not make it possible for the Government to undertake projects of an ambitious description. However, the preliminary report of the Planning Council, which, it was announced, would be presented when the budget is discussed, is awaited with interest, since, according to the address, proposals of industrial development in the public sector include the manufacture of salt and its by-products, sugar, cotton yarn, textiles, cement, fertilisers, and the refining of ilmenite.

In the commercial sphere future trends are indicated by the announcement that "while developing the volume of trade with our traditional buyers, action will be taken to obtain new markets and to establish increasing trade relations with those countries with whom we do not yet have a significant volume of trade."

With regard to the private sector, the general statement that the government welcomes the investment of foreign capital on suitable conditions was followed by the equally general statement that the encouragement of industrial activities by means of tariff adjustments, import control, capital-assistance, loans, taxation concessions, and technical advice has received and will continue to receive careful attention.

THE encouraging news has been brought back by Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, who led a Sama Samaja Party delegation to China, that there is no danger of Ceylon losing her market in China in rubber to Malaya. China, he said, needed more and more rubber. He reported that during his tour of the country he visited a tyre factory in Shanghai which uses Ceylon rubber and he found that the management is quite satisfied with the quality of the sheet received from this country.

In the meantime, it is reported, following the setting up of the Russian Embassy in Colombo, that Russia is interested in making regular purchases of tea. Considering the fact that Russia was a large buyer of Ceylon tea before the first World War, it is regarded as a matter of course that she should re-enter the market with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

BUDDHIST MISSION TO GERMANY

THE first Buddhist mission to Germany set out on June 11th, Poson Day, the anniversary of the advent of Buddhism to Ceylon, from Mihintale, the scene of the manifestation of the Arahat Mahinda, the first Buddhist missionary to Ceylon.

The members of the Mission are all from the Vajiraramaya monastery in Colombo. They are Soma Thero (leader), Kheminda Thero and Vinitha Thero. Laymen accompanying them are Mr. Asoka Weeraratne, founder and secretary of the German Dharmadhuta Society, and Mr. W. J. Soysa.

The mission left by the Orontes on June 15 and was seen off by a large gathering of monks and laymen.

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I REMEMBER - - - -

HOW AND WHY I BECAME A DOCTOR

By Dr. LUCIAN De ZILWA

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

I HAVE often been asked why I studied medicine, and how I managed to get the London M.D., which takes not less than seven years, when the University scholarship I won in 1892, at the age of 17, gave me only £150 a year for 3 years, with Rs. 500 thrown in as passage money. (An additional outfit allowance of £50 was given to scholars of a later date). My father was at that time employed under Mr. Francis Beven, on his coconut estate at Veyangoda, for Rs. 30 a month with a free bungalow. There was no hope of help from that quarter. In fact I have not had a cent from my family after my fifteenth year, when I won the Government Exhibition of Rs. 20 a month for three years. On the contrary, I was often able to subsidize the family.

MY own wish, fostered by Warden Read, was to enter his old College, Balliol, and to pursue the study of the Classics, of which I was very fond. An interview with Mr. Beven dispelled that dream. He had generously written an editorial about me in his paper, *The Ceylon Examiner*, and now gave me the benefit of his advice. The pills he administered were bitter, but they purged me of all quixotic illusions. He wanted me to invest my windfall of £450 to the best advantage.

Oxford was impossible. He knew personally, as his son, the future Archdeacon, was then at one of the old Universities. Twice the amount of the scholarship would not be enough. There were the costly wine parties, for instance. Moreover, what was the use of a first-class classical degree to a poor student, who could not aspire to be the Prime Minister of England? He might become a clergyman, or enter the Civil Service, or become a schoolmaster. Not very alluring prospects! Good-bye Oxford!

WHAT about the law? I should have liked to be called to the Bar, and be another Dornhorst. But, said Mr. Beven, a Barrister returning to Ceylon does not start earning money at once. It might be years before he could pay his way. Meanwhile he must present an im-

pressive facade, run a house in the Cinnamon Gardens, and keep a horse and carriage. Good-bye to visions of wigs and silk gowns!

There remained only medicine, which paid a dividend from the day one qualified. The snag was the length of the course, a minimum of five years, which might extend to six or seven if one did not clear all the hurdles at the first attempt. Aberdeen was cheap, noted for plain living and high thinking, and I might exist there on £12.10 a month or



Dr. Lucian de Zilwa

less. He would get some information from old Aberdonians.

BUT I was determined that if I studied medicine, it must be in London. I could not think of burying myself in a remote provincial town!

Nearly all my relations and friends advised me to refuse the scholarship, and to get a safe job in Colombo, with good prospects. When the scholarship expired in three years, I should be less than half way through my course. When I first suggested that I might win a scholarship there, the idea was greeted with such derisive laughter that I never mentioned it again. They said I should look a fool when I came home, checked in mid-career. But I was

I confess I never felt a vocation for medicine, unlike many of my colleagues, who were inspired by the desire to dedicate their lives to the service of suffering humanity. I was fascinated by the opportunity of entering the realm of science, of which I knew nothing. I had not done even botany and I had never seen a test tube. A few years later I was tempted to abandon medicine for pure science, when I was offered a travelling scholarship for research in physiology.

ON receiving the Rs. 500 for my passage, I booked a berth for Rs. 280 in the *Clan Grant*, a cargo steamer, which carried about a dozen passengers. With some of the balance I got a tweed suit, the minimum of underwear, which would be cheaper in London, and an atrocious heliotrope bowler hat. My relations contributed small sums, the only outside gift being a cheque for Rs. 100 from my friend and teacher, Mr. J. G. C. Mendis. I had about £25 in my purse when I embarked.

THE ship reached Tilbury on September 23, 1894, and the passengers travelled by train to St. Pancras. On arriving at the station it was a relief to find that my trunk was not in the van; for I was free to walk out without impedimenta . . . I strolled along Euston Road, and as the shades of night were falling fast I consulted a policeman near the arch of Euston Station, who advised me to stay the night at Edward's Family Hotel in Euston Square, and to look for digs in the morning.

Almost every house in Euston Square displayed a window card—"Board and lodging" or "Rooms to let" . . . A kindly, middle-aged spinster, Miss Briggs, who was a native of Hull, offered me a spacious bed-room on the third floor, the use of a sitting-room with a fire on the second floor, with breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner for 18s. 6d. a week.

HAVING fetched my trunk from the Railway Station I next visited Charles Baker's Stores in Tottenham-court Road, and bought two ready-made dark suits, an overcoat, a black bowler hat, socks, and various other articles, which cost me just under ten pounds. . . . With the £15 left one could pay the landlady till Christmas, spare a shilling for the

HOW AND WHY I BECAME A DOCTOR

gallery of a theatre or a music hall, or even drink a glass of bitter at a pub.

From the University College prospectus one learned that when the Winter Session began in a few days, a Composition Fee of 25 guineas must be paid for the two terms. And there were various subscriptions to Societies. I went to the Crown Agents for my first quarter's money, and discovered that it was payable only at the end of the quarter. I told the clerk that a scholarship should surely enable its holder to live and attend classes during the first quarter. How could a student without private means do either? I asked for an immediate advance of £30, to be deducted in instalments of £10 from the later quarterly payments. It was a quite unprecedented request, and the clerk wanted a written application to be sent.

ON the day for paying fees the reply had not yet come. The cards could not be issued without being paid for, and without the cards one could not attend classes. I told the clerk the money would be coming in a day or two. But, of course, he could do nothing. Just then the Secretary, Mr. Horsburgh a gouty old gentleman, limped in, leaning heavily on a stick, and entered the inner sanctum. When the clerk had explained the situation, Mr. Horsburgh said: "Give him his cards, and time to pay. The boy cannot dig the money out of mother earth." A few days later the cheque for £30 was received.

* * *

IN January, 1895, I moved into one of the boarding houses off Russell Square as they were far better and cost very little more. For 25 shillings a week I got a room on the third floor of 24, Montague Place. Solomon Dias Bandaranaike had left

just before I came, and he was still remembered for his sartorial elegance and his diamond rings.

The company was cosmopolitan. French, German, Italian and Spanish were spoken, but the general conversation at table was in English. After dinner every night, some of the boarders played Nap in the dining room. In the drawing room, people read novels from Mudie's, or sat in front of the fire and talked, while the young ladies played the piano or sang. Could a student be expected to leave these pleasant groups, and go up to his frosty bedroom to study chemical formulae? It was the coldest winter for many years. One could walk across the Thames on ice; and soldiers drilled on the Serpentine, and we went to Hampstead for tobogganing or skating. After the hard winter came a delightful spring and summer, when it was good to be alive. Who could endure stuffy libraries or smelly laboratories on a fine day? At the July Examinations I passed in Physics and Biology, but was ploughed in chemistry, and referred six months.

I fled into the wilds of Camden Town, and lived like a hermit. For a couple of pounds the Cram Establishment in Red Lion Square, of which Mr. H. G. Wells was then one of the teachers, supplied me with a box containing chemical reagents, test tubes, a spirit lamp, etc., for rigging up a miniature laboratory in my bed-room.

* * *

THE following year proved that my misadventure was a blessing in disguise, and might have been described as *receuil pour mieux sauter*. In January I passed the Preliminary Scientific, and in July the Intermediate B.Sc. with Honours in Zoology. In September I won the Bucknill Scholarship, which gave me free tuition for the rest of my course. In about thirty competitors, there were students from Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Reading and Bristol.

When the Ceylon University Scholarship expired, the following year, there was about £200 to my credit in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Napoleon said that the word "impossible" is found only in the dictionary of fools. And when Marie Antoinette asked Calonne to do something which "she feared would be difficult," he answered: "If it is but difficult, madame, it is done: if it is impossible it shall be done."



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A MOTOR ACCESSORIES INDUSTRY

PROSPECTS IN CEYLON

By EUSTACE GUNAWARDENA

THE motor boom in Ceylon has apparently passed its peak and indications are that it will keep to some decline in the future. The post-war market for motor vehicles in Ceylon has been stupendous, for in the 10 years after the war, more vehicles have been imported to Ceylon than during the 30 years prior to the war. The motor boom was due to several reasons. Demand was held over during the war, as there was only a meagre supply of cars for private motoring then. Ceylonese accumulated large capital during the war, from high prices fetched for rubber, coconut and tea exports. The post-war prices of Ceylonese raw material soared still more after the war and it was only quite recently, that some recession in the market began to appear. Government departments and business houses advanced loans to

employees to purchase cars to conduct their business and some Ceylonese banks also advanced loans to prospective car purchasers. A family car is also an indispensable factor in Ceylonese middle class life, as most of the provincial buses do not provide enough comfort for middle class travel.

* * *

CEYLON has over 100,000 cars on the road today and keeps to a proportion of about one car to every 80 persons, which is quite high by oriental standards. The country has been well saturated with cars and in the future, the market will turn out to be a competitive buyer's market. The boom in tea, rubber and coconut has also disappeared and loans to prospective car buyers become stringent. However, all this does not mean that the prospects of motor business in Ceylon are very bleak. Actually, what will happen is that a new phase in the motor industry will develop. The 100,000 vehicles will have to be constantly maintained and kept in good repair and that calls for a good motor accessories industry in Ceylon.

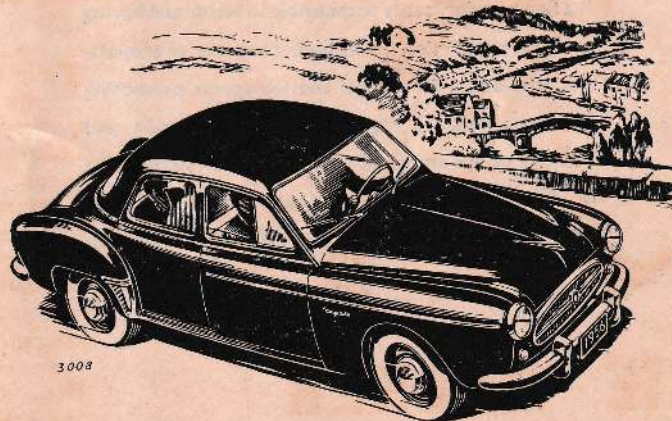
Is the field for the manufacture of motor accessories good? It appears to be very good, now. As Ceylonese realise the need for conserving capital for development and general industry, they will reduce the imports of expensive cars and turn to the old vehicles. Maintenance and repair of 100,000 vehicles is a good industry in itself. Parts that get worn rapidly will have to be replaced constantly and many such parts could be produced in Ceylon.

The greatest impetus to Ceylonese industry was given during the war, when imports of goods and motor parts were restricted only to essentials. It was during that time, some effort was made to turn out articles and accessories in the motor trade, without depending on the imported materials. As such, tyre retreading, battery rebuilding and the manufacture of elementary steel parts were founded. However, the industries never got a firm hold, except in the tyre retreading business. Retreaded tyres cost only 50% of the new imported tyre and

(Continued on page 36)

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EAST COAST INTERLUDE

- - - *By Felicity*

THE end of this East Coast interlude is in sight, brought nearer by the sudden decision of the Ceylon authorities to take over from the British Navy, the charming Fleet Amenities centre, familiarly known to its habitués as "Nicci Lodge."

Nicholson Lodge, to give it its full name, was built by the World Y.W.C.A. in war-time, for the benefit of the many women who came to Ceylon on war service. What happy times it has seen, and what changes! For after the war, the Royal Navy decided it should remain open, run on Club lines, for the benefit of Navy and Air Force personnel and their families. One needed to be here during the last "jet" operations to see something of what it has meant to those coming to Trincomalee to have such a truly lovely place to relax in, whether in the comfortably furnished beach cabins, or in the spacious lounge, on shady verandahs or sun-bathed terrace. Its restaurant service and excellent bathing facilities, with dressing-rooms and showers, not to mention the firm sandy beach and limpid waters of the bay, have all contributed to its singular attraction.

Now, news of its impending end has sown great despondency and not a little bewilderment, for it is only just over a year since large sums were spent on repairs and improvements, and the recently published assurance that the process of "handing over" the base would spread over from three to five years, had not prepared anyone for the sudden closing down of their favourite resort. But since we came here, last month, the residential wing has all been closed. The cabins, of which I wrote two weeks ago, already stand dismal and silent, and at the moment, a solitary couple, with a much-reduced staff, are the sole occupants of the main building, although a few young people continue to drop in daily for a swim, while they have the opportunity.

* * *

NATURALLY, everyone in Trincomalee, including the trades people, wonders what is to happen next to Nicci Lodge, and many are the rumours that fly around, the most persistent being that the police have their eye on it for a training barracks! To me, this sudden dénouement is just a pointer to

what may be expected for Trincomalee as a whole, when a place of such magnitude loses its position and importance as a famous harbour, in order to become just another little bit of "Lanka regained."

Yet need it be so? . . . Sailing over and around the harbour—and it means a good long sail even to begin to take in its size and the beauty of its natural resources—or exploring the ins and outs of its varied waterfront, one cannot fail to wonder what the outer world would think of Trincomalee, if any real idea of its potentialities could be gained. Nothing like it is to be found elsewhere in Ceylon, and I venture to say nothing to surpass it could be found in all South East Asia.

The strategic importance of this port, to the British, has tended to keep the world at large in ignorance, for obvious reasons. But if Ceylon's pledge to neutrality has any meaning at all, those reasons will soon cease to exist, and in their place we shall find potent arguments for bringing in all the co-operation that wealth, vision and business acumen can possibly combine to devise, to make the most of this priceless asset.

* * *

THERE needs to be, first and foremost, a Development Board with the widest possible powers, made up of something more than the best of Ceylon potential. Millions of rupees

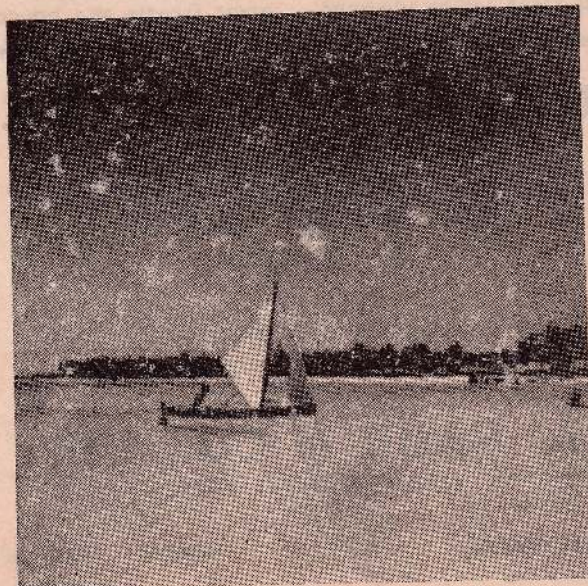
will be needed and great wisdom in the planning, if all the possibilities are to be properly exploited for the good of the greatest number.

Should the present government decide to play "dog-in-the-manger" and cling obstinately to a programme limited by its present resources, refusing the help of outside capital, there is a danger that the opportunity to benefit by all that has been spent on Trincomalee in the past, may quickly be lost.

What is needed is for a competent body to be set up, capable of taking over each portion of the base as it is released, and turning it over to those who are equipped to make the best use of it. Some may dislike the idea of calling in foreign capital and "know-how", but the task ahead is a gigantic one, demanding resources far beyond any that Ceylon possesses at the moment.

The very best thing to do, for a start, would be to commission the Ceylon Film Unit to make a telling documentary in technicolour, with which to startle the world at large, into the realisation of the potentialities of this port with the musical name. After that, wait and see . . .

Trincomalee! What a word to send round the world in the lilt of a song! And the romantic ring of it, I dare to prophesy, will not be belied, when the world comes to see and admire—that is to say, if adequate arrangements can be made for the world's entertainment. If this could be done, then the present spectre of unemployment would vanish from these shores.



VIEW OF THE EAST COAST.
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PEOPLE

MR. J. A. Martensz, who has served his community for a period of many years, in as many different ways, perhaps more significantly as Ceylon's first High Commissioner in Australia, has at long last been paid the very deserving compliment of being elected President of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon in its Golden Jubilee year.

Fifty years ago, on June 18, the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon was established for the promotion of the moral, social and intellectual well-being of the Dutch Burgher community.

* * *

THE founders and early Presidents of the Dutch Burgher Union, whose portraits grace the walls of its home in Reid Avenue, will, no doubt, look down with benevolent pride, in this anniversary year, on the new President and agree wholeheartedly with the general verdict that there is a man eminently qualified to maintain the customs and traditions which they helped to perpetuate. We have no doubt that Mr. Martensz will spend a quiet evening communing with these great men, silently studying their portraits on the walls and gaining strength and inspiration from their distinguished history for these are troublous times!

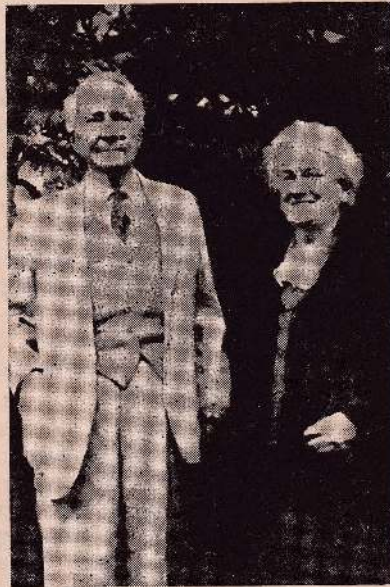
* * *

THE Rev. A. G. Fraser, writing to a friend in Ceylon from Achimota, Ghana, the first African Dominion, says:

"We have been a week up in Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti. Our stay there was organised by a former

member of the Trinity College staff, Mr. A. H. R. Joseph. About thirty years ago he came out to join the staff at Achimota, and he is now senior warden in the College of Technology, Kumasi.

"In Kumasi we met hundreds of old Achimotans and they gave us a



The Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Fraser.

magnificent 'At Home.' The King of Ashanti, King Prempeh, also gave us a very warm welcome. I lectured to two colleges and took prayers in a third.

"The country is unbelievably changed. Villages have become towns, towns have become cities. Twenty-seven thousand motor-cars enter Accra daily, in my day the great streets and houses were few.

Now there are beautiful houses for miles, and almost all are occupied by Africans.

* * *

CONTINUING, Mr. Fraser says: "We stay with friends, our chief centre being with Dr. Susan Ofori Atta. She is the daughter of one of the ablest men in the Gold Coast of my day. He was the great Chief of Akim Abuakwa.

"Susan Ofori Atta was at Achimota in its earlier days and became our ablest prefect amongst the girls. Later she became a doctor, taking her degree in Edinburgh. She paid special attention to midwifery, as her reason for becoming a doctor was that she had been greatly grieved by knowing the conditions expectant mothers had to face, and also the number of children who died in the villages during their first two years. At present she is head of the Marie Louise Hospital for children in Accra. Her work attracted the attention of the United Nations, and she was asked to write a paper on it, which later they published. She is our chief hostess here, and we are also spending time at Achimota and the new University College."

* * *

MR. Fraser continues: "The Government has given us a car, plus a skilled chauffeur and all the petrol we need for the duration of our stay. During the crowded days of the 1st to the 11th March they gave us a bigger car. It has a flag on it 'P.M.G.' i.e., Prime Minister's Guests, and has certain priorities.

"One wonderful sight is to see the result of our having trained boys and girls together. There are now many beautiful homes where the parents got to know each other in the school, and their children are getting an excellent start in their training and in their education. We are received with joy, and all these old pupils welcome us as relations. We have been enriched through the great joy of seeing the fruits of the work in which (Governor) Guggisberg (at one time in Ceylon, with the Royal Engineers) Aggrey, and ourselves were privileged to begin . . ."

* * *

MAJOR Aubrey Weinman, Director of the Colombo Zoo, who had been attending the world conference of zoo directors in Rotterdam, Holland, has returned to the Island.

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PEOPLE

SIR Arthur Ranasinha, Governor of the Central Bank of Ceylon, who returned recently from Australia, after a flying visit to attend a conference of Governors of Commonwealth State Banks, spent only a week "Down Under." He saw very little of a country that has made amazing progress in the last twenty-five years. Sir Arthur visited Sydney and Canberra and what impressed him most was the kindness and hospitality of those he met. He saw quite a number of Ceylonese there.

MR. A. D. McLeod has been re-elected President of the Royal Colombo Golf Club, and the new Club Captain is none other than that enthusiastic golfer, Mr. N. W. G. Brown, who as recently as 1954, won the R.C.G.C. Championship, defeating, in the final, Mr. C.U. Senanayake, 3 up and 2. While on a holiday in the U.K. last year, Neville Brown met A. E. Williams, in Aberdeen, and found him in fine fettle, still enjoying his round of golf.

The writer remembers the occasion nearly thirty years ago when Williams won his first Ceylon Championship, beating F. H. Creasy after a keen contest on the Nuwara Eliya course.

DR. John Blaze left for the U.K. on the 11th instant, by the "Oranje", to join his family, who are living in London. There was a good gathering of his relations and friends to bid him *Au Revoir* and all happiness in his retirement.

One who was his contemporary at the Royal and Medical Colleges, writes as follows: "John Blaze's career illustrated the strong domestic ties which existed among the old Burgher families in Ceylon. His father, the late Crown Proctor of Badulla, left a family of nine, of whom John was the eldest. He was in his final year at the Medical College when his father died. John took on his shoulders the responsibilities of his position. It was after he reached the age of 47 and his mother's death, that John Blaze thought of making a home for himself. Meanwhile the brothers and sisters had all settled down on their own."

Our correspondent goes on to say:—"With such a background of home life and culture, John Blaze was able to avoid the pitfalls which await the brilliant specialist.

"Dr. John Blaze, quiet, friendly and philosophical, whose conversation had the bouquet of good wine, whose wit was mellow and his humour genial, will be much missed."

WRITING to us from the Belgian Embassy in Pakistan, Mr. L. Andre-Misso says:

"Though late, I hasten to congratulate you and your able co-workers in maintaining such a well-balanced and excellent standard of journalism, covering so wide a field of topics of interest to all Ceylon folk, both at home and abroad.

"As the title of your Journal suggests, it is truly a fascinating Review, not only of present-day happenings but a helpful *aide-memoire* of the days of our youth;

of past records and achievements of our brilliant forebears and other illustrious Ceylonese; in truth a review of the "lives of great men", whose recollection must serve to inspire present generations of patterns of men and women, who had that happy knack of fostering harmony between all communities, a condition so necessary for the welfare of all peoples and nations in the distracted world of today.

"I wish your Journal continued success and prosperity in the difficult years ahead."

MR. and Mrs. A. R. Aitken of Nuwara Eliya left for the U.K. recently and will not be back till October.

(Continued on page 36)

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ANCIENT NUWARA ELIYA

THE RAMAYANA LEGEND

—By JAMES T. RUTNAM—

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

NUWARA Eliya is not mentioned in the Mahavansa, nor do we find it referred to in any of the other ancient chronicles of Ceylon. The earliest record of the name Nuwara Eliya is found in Robert Knox's "An Historical Relation of the Island of Ceylon," published in 1681. Knox does not refer to Nuwara Eliya in the text of his work; but on the map of Ceylon which is attached to it, Nuwara Eliya is marked. Knox's map is supposed to have been taken over from the map which appeared in Philip Baldaeus's "A True And Exact Description of the Isle of Ceylon" published in 1672. Strange to say, Nuwara Eliya is not marked on Baldaeus's map. The absence of any mention of Nuwara Eliya in our ancient chronicles, is of course no proof that this place was unknown to the early inhabitants of this country.

PLACE names such as Sita-Eliya (Sita Plains) and Sita-Koondu (Sita Pond) in the Nuwara Eliya district, point through the centuries to events recorded in the Ramayana, the Sanskrit epic poem of Valmiki. The Ramayana period is said to have occurred about 1800 B.C. that is, almost four thousand years ago. Unsupported by any other written record, these names remain to lend weight to local tradition and confront the criticism of sceptics. The historical authenticity of the events recorded in the Ramayana has been the subject of controversy. For the present purpose, we could content ourselves by quoting the opening sentences of Paul Pieris, in his "Ceylon—The Portuguese Era." He says, "However involved in legend and myth, there is no reason to doubt but that the great Indian Epic of the Ramayana has preserved for us the period of events, which actually did take place in the early dawn of the history of Lanka."

THE legend runs that Ravana, king of the isle of Lanka (Lankadwipa), having by a clever ruse abducted Sita, the beautiful wife of King Rama of Ayodyha in the mainland of India, brought her to his "resplendent" city, Lanka(pura). Finding her unyielding to his suit, he removed her

to the place now known as Sita-Eliya and kept her there in concealment in the company of his niece Tresida. However, Hanuman the trusted servant of Rama, succeeded in "eluding the vigilance of the guards" and "contrived to enter the bower" where the lovelorn Sita was held in captivity.

IN an interesting article entitled "Ravana Kotte," in the Ceylon Literary Register (Third Series, Vol. I, pp. 125-131), H. E. Amarasekera quotes from the metrical English translation of the "Ramayana of Valmiki" by R. T. H. Griffith, published at Benares in 1870/4. This is how, it is described, the palace occupied by Sita appeared to Hanuman :

"Fair as Kailasa white with snow
He saw a palace flash and glow
A crystal pavement gem-laid,
And coral steps and colonnade,
And glittering towers that kiss the
skies,

Whose dazzling splendour charmed
his eyes."

Book IV Canto XX.

And the hiding place of Sita (Asoka-Araynaya) is described in the Ramayana as follows :—

"Then roaming through the enchanted
ground
A pleasant hill the Vanar found
And grottos in the living stone
With grass and trees overgrown
Through rocks and boughs a brawling
rill

Leapt from bosom of the hill,
Like a proud beauty when she flies
From a lover's arms with angry eyes
He climbed a tree that near him grew,
And leafy shade around him threw."
Book IV Canto XIV.

HANUMAN, having now come to Sita's presence, delivered to her the ring of Rama with the assurance that she would be speedily liberated. Thus said Hanuman :—

"Receive," he cried, "this precious ring,
Sure token from thy lord, the King.
The golden ring he wont to wear,
See, Rama's name engraven there."

"Believe my words, sweet dame, I swear
By roots and fruits, my woodland fare
zzzzSoon shalt thou see thy lord."

Book V Canto XXXVI.

Hanuman then proceeded to set fire to the neighbouring forests, and it is claimed that the Nuwara Eliya patnas were cleared by this conflagration. The desolation that followed is described in the Ramayana in this wise :—

"Then every lovely tree that bore
Fair blossoms, from the soil he tore,
Till the green bough that lent its shade
To singing birds on earth was laid
The wilderness he left a waste, —
The fountains shattered and defaced.
O'erthrew and levelled with the
ground

Each shady seat and pleasure mound.
Each arbour clad with climbing bloom :
Each grotto, cell and picture room,
Each lawn by beast and bird enjoyed,
Each walk and terrace was destroyed,
And all the place that was so fair
Was left a ruin wild and bare,
As if the fury of the blast
Or raging fire had o'er it passed."

Book V Canto XLI.

(Continued on page 27)





I say

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ANCIENT NUWARA ELIYA

IN this connection, it is interesting to note that Humboldt has ascribed the origin of the Pampas of South America to the "destructive custom of setting fire to the woods when the natives want to convert the soil into pasture" (Humboldt's Narrative Ch. VI quoted by Emerson Tennent in "Ceylon," Vol. I, p. 25).

Major Forbes visited in 1833, most of the places in the Nuwara Eliya district, which claimed connection with the Ramayana incidents. He speaks of Sita-Koondu, a few miles east of Nuwara Eliya, as a "basin where the Sita Ella bursts from the rocks after an underground course of fifty years." "Here" he says, "round holes formed by the eddy stream are pointed out as the marks of the feet of the elephant ridden by Ravana, when Sita vanished and reappeared, where the stream now does, in her exertions to escape from the persecution of the demon king" (Forbes' Eleven Years in Ceylon, Vol. I, p. 131).

SOME "hard, dark brown, irregular lumps of vegetable substance consisting internally of more or less translucent masses separated by white viens" were collected in 1895 in Pidurutalagala (Ceylon's highest mountain, which takes its rise in Nuwara Eliya) by an Italian botanist named O. Beccari. It is a fungus. It was again collected in Pidurutalagala in 1903. It was also found in Dolosbage. T. Petch gives an account of this in the Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register (Vol. 17, part 4, p. 223). This fungus has a botanical name *mylitta ligulata*. Another Italian botanist had named it *sclerotium ligulatum*. But the name by which it is locally known is *Sita-aggala*, which is Sinhalese for "Sita's cakes" or *Ravanon Kolai Koddai* which is Tamil for the "fatal gift of Ravana." Petch describes the local tradition associated with these names, as follows:—"When Sita, Rama's queen, was abducted by Ravana and carried off to the jungles of Ceylon, she fasted for forty days. During that period, wishing to make certain offerings, she asked for fruits, etc., to be supplied her. But Ravana sent her cooked rice, whereupon, considering that an attempt to induce her to break her fast, she made the rice into balls and threw it away, at the same time invoking disaster upon Ravana and his rela-

tions. And there the evidence remains to this day, in the form of *Sita-aggala*, Sita's cakes, or *Ravanon kolai koddai*, the fatal gift of Ravana."

J. P. LEWIS has recorded in the Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register (Vol. III, pt. 2, p. 112) under the title "Some Sinhalese Folklore", the following notes on the Ramayana legend, which he stated were supplied to him by Mudaliyar George Weerakoon of Matara:

"The Talagala Oya divides the Pattu of Kotmale (Uda and Palle Kotmale and Palle Bulatgama) from that of Walapane. But while the former Pattu is one of the healthiest in the island, the latter had such a bad reputation on account of its arid climate that, under the ancient sovereigns, it was a sort of Siberia to which obnoxious persons and offenders of all sorts were banished to die.

"Sita Eliya is named after the beautiful consort of Rama, who was hidden here by her ravisher Ravana, King of Ceylon. Ravana Kotte (Great Basses) at Kirinda, in the Hambantota District, was Ravana's stronghold. After Rama had besieged Ravana for twelve years, finally killing him in battle, he carried Sita back to his dominions from a place called Uda Reketipe. The explanation of this name is that some great personage, probably a king, kept watch here for a game for a peya, thus reka-hitiya-peya."

JOHN M. Senaveratna has also referred to the Ramayana legend. In a letter to the press (The Ceylon Independent?) in June 1910, in reply to some comments by G. F. Plant, Senaveratna wrote as follows:—

"There is the mountain Hakgalla, which is up to this day believed by a great many people to be the metamorphosed body of one of the ancient giants of Ceylon who fought Rama, and the many clefts and watercourses of its rocks to be the furrows made by Rama's arrows. Again, those mountain ranges extending from Adam's Peak to Hakgalla on one side, and on the other from Pidurutalagala to Gallegama Kanda, said to be the walls of Ravana's garden, enclose certain stretches of land which, people still say, were the pleasure grounds of Ravana. The Hindu name for this region Nandanodiyana, meaning 'pleasure grounds,' bears out the

local tradition. Then, there is the Sita-Talawa (Sita's plain) at the North Eastern end of Hakgalla which, tradition says, was the place where Sita, together with her companion Tresida, Ravana's niece, were hidden when, under Ravana's orders, she was being removed from his fort of Sri Lankapura, to elude Hanuman and other emissaries sent in search of her by her husband, Rama. Along the route taken by her on this captive journey, there is, among other places a little streamlet, which still today bears the suggestive name of Rawenidala-ella."

THERE are many places reminiscent of the Ramayana story situated near Hakgalla, the eastern extremity of the Nuwara Eliya district. One of these spots, as stated above by Senaveratna, glories in the picturesque title of Nandanodiyana—the pleasure ground (of Ravana). In this area rich in historical lore, one does also find Maligawa-tenne, the site of the palace (of Ravana), which however gleams no more. Near Maligawa-tenne was a pupul tree by the name of "Dee-wurun-gaha (tree of the oath), which Forbes says "marks the spot of some sylvan memorial that existed in olden time." By this tree lies Dee-wurun-gaha pansala (temple of the tree of the oath) built in modern times. The story is told that it was on this spot that Sita took the oath that satisfied Rama that "during her captivity she had preserved inviolate her fidelity to Rama."

NANU-OYA, now a small railway town, bordering Nuwara Eliya, derived from Nana (bathing) and Oya (stream) is also associated with the Ramayana legend, as having been once the bathing place of Sita. Some, however, derive Nanu-Oya from Nanu (a "viscid preparation of fruits and herbs to wash the head with"), (cf George P. Samarasekara in "Ceylon Antiquary and Literary Register," Vol. 2, part 2, page 118n). Ravanagoda, in Kotmale, is a tiny hamlet linked up with the name of Ravana, who is said to have lived there for a time.

We cannot accept all the Ramayana incidents, which are supposed to have occurred about 1800 B.C., as

(Continued on page 36)

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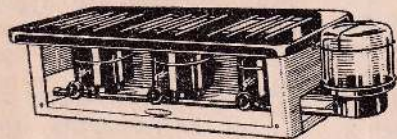


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CRICKETANA

By W. T. GRESWELL

(Fortnightly Review Special)

WHEN batsmen of recognized ability and repute leave the pavilion to join battle with the bowling of the opposition, it should be with cautious respect reinforced by a measure of determination, born of confidence in themselves. To approach their task in a spirit of light-hearted self-assurance, invites early disaster, whereas undue apprehension and a timid approach make for an even more perilous state of mind and one which may well be infectious throughout the side.

Cricket provides many examples of a bowler dominating the scene, when his past record of achievement has placed him high in his art and his reputation is obviously a useful addition to his armoury. We recall Verity, Larwood and Laker; the latter last Summer's bogey man of Australia. There are memories of Grimmett and Mailey and, more recently, of South Africa's Tayfield.

Ceylon will never forget the wholesome respect, which was part of the panoply of Tommy Kelaart and C. Horan as they took the field. In this class stood (does he still stand?) West Indian Sonny Ramadhin, maybe *facile princeps* in the eyes and memory of England's Test batsmen. And let us not underestimate the wizardry and tireless endurance of this phenomenal bowler, or too readily blame batsmen for not dealing with him with braver hearts and greater aggression.

RAMADHIN first froze England's batting elite to immobility, when at Lord's on his first Test visit to England and with Valentine supporting him at the other end, he showed an amazed cricketing world what a pair of slow bowlers, with the effrontery of two "silly points", could do on a wicket which was a batsman's dream. At that time Ramadhin was a recent "find" and was not wearing a previously earned halo of excellence, but he won it on that day and he was wearing it when he went to Birmingham last week. As far as England's batsmen are concerned, this halo was wont to be a dazzling adornment which all but blinded them. But without doubt Ramadhin was and still is, good.

The world has never produced any bowler quite like him and this for one reason. He is a master of

deception and of the art of disguise. He keeps the batsman guessing until the ball pitches and then the guess may well be wrong. His flight and break are carefully varied and his length beyond reproach. In other words, batsmen of the highest class are made to look foolish and Selectors scratch their heads and lie awake at nights seeking a solution.

TO say that batsmen are out before they leave the pavilion to face such a bowler, is the oft-heard taunt of cynical know-alls, but this is not only unfair judgment of a batsman's temperament but scant tribute to the bowler himself, implying that his reputation and not his skill takes wickets for him. Reputation is based on skill and goes hand-in-hand with it. It is so easy to play cricket when seated in the pavilion!

I have said all this by way of prelude to this letter, because I believe one man holds the key to the success or failure of the West Indians' tour of England this Summer, and that man is Ramadhin. The first Test has just been fought out to a draw at Edgbaston, where new accommodation and added comforts make it one of the finest Test arenas in England.

It is many years since the last Test was played in this great Midland city. The story of this wonderful match is now known and will be forgotten before this letter is in print. The essence of the matter was that England won the toss and batted first. On a dream of a batting wicket Ramadhin ran through our side. The havoc which the little wizard wrought, was to the tune of 7 wickets for 49 runs, six of these wickets falling to him in the first half hour after lunch on that first day. The greatness of this feat may be gauged by the West Indians' reply to England's score of 186. This was 474, in spite of the best that could be done by Laker and Lock, England's greatest pair of spin bowlers. This score was invited by the wicket, a further tribute in fact to the superb bowling of Ramadhin on the day before.

THEN came one of those dramatic changes which are the charm of cricket. It was perhaps one of the

known in the run of play of any Test in history. There was nothing to cause it. Weather and pitch remained perfect. England's second innings started 288 runs behind the West Indians' first innings score, a vast deficit to be wiped off. Ramadhin started again with 2 quick wickets. English hopes for this match and even for the series, were at a very low ebb. Was there any way of dealing with the magic of the little terror?

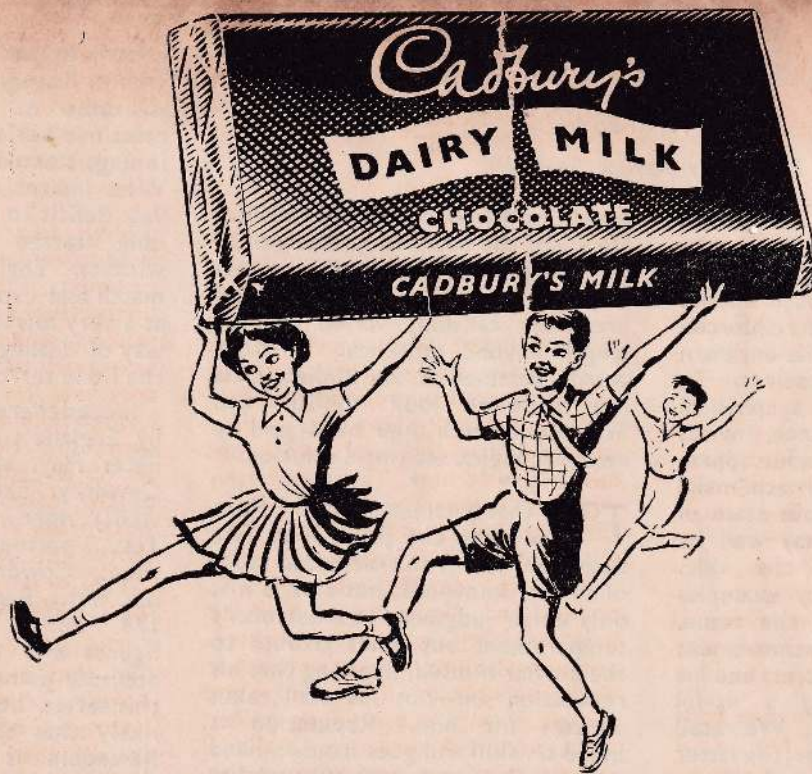
Indeed there was and it was proved by England's incomparable captain, Peter May, ably assisted by Colin Cowdrey. These two amateurs (note well!) were in company for a record Test partnership yielding 411 runs: Cowdrey 154, May 285 not out. Ramadhin 2 wickets for 178 runs! Prodigious! These figures may well prove to be an accurate pointer to the outcome of this series, because it is more than likely that the mesmeric spell of Ramadhin is at last and finally broken. May's Test failures in South Africa were atoned for at Sonny's expense!

IT is generally agreed that the rest of the West Indian bowlers are of mediocre quality and no match even for England's rather uncertain batting. It is fair enough that the first Test should end in a draw, the West Indies just avoiding defeat, after England earlier in the match was faced with disaster or the promise of it. The partnership of May and Cowdrey will go down in history as one of the finest fighting recoveries ever witnessed. May's innings, the best of his career, was that of a master, as great as any ever seen.

For the visitors C. G. Smith's innings of 161 was as delightful as it was rather unexpected. In my last letter I referred to this promising all-rounder as a jovial and unorthodox "basher" with the bat. Apologies! He can suit his batting to the occasion. At Edgbaston he sobered down to the careful concentration and timeless deliberation required to wear down and finally punish Test bowling. This youngster has a great future ahead of him. He is only 24.

THE West Indians had the misfortune to have two of the great "W" scrippled early in the game: Worrell and Walcott. Using runners, an uncomfortable and risky

(Continued on page 33)



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A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By ITINERANT

Racing

THE main event of the Ceylon Turf Club meet in Colombo on June 9th was a disappointment in more senses than one. To begin with, only three faced the starter—Fourth Degree, Owen Grange and Bell of Enterprise—and they finished in that order, B. Silva giving his mount sufficient thrust to finish half a length ahead of the old champion. Then, I thought Owen Grange once had the sort of time which, as Shakespeare tells us, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Unfortunately his rider failed to recognise it. Disappointment No. 3 was for the majority of punters who plumped for Bell of Enterprise.

Still, three thrilling finishes compensated for the main "flat" race, and Jack Raffaele figured in them all. In the first race, on Advocate, he won a gruelling last-lap duel with Sophocles. In the first leg of the Treble, he took Qaddah to the front and stayed there till Somapala on Wi'am pipped him on the post. But in the very next race Raffaele remembered that short head—and won by it on Sir Chittampalam and Lady Gardiner's Adhid al Qassif, though pressed by Tyrrell on Mansur Qaasim.

For your notebook: If Ayman Sa'ad can repeat that electrifying finish in the Minneriya Plate, you just back him in August.

* * *

MOST notable feature of the C.T.C. Meet on June 15th was that every winner was booted in by a Ceylonese rider—the first time this has happened in the history of the local Turf. This indicates that given the choice of mounts, the average local jockey can steer as true a course as his foreign counterpart. So it might not be long before yet another profession here is Ceylonised. This would depend, however, on how long the local lads maintain their form, and also on the interpretation of "good form."

The two most stylish winners belonged to one owner, Mr. Vernon Rajapakse, and Gunadasa booted both home. They were Royal Impression, and Gibby who won the most thrilling finish of the day. Then Abeygunawardene, with a win astride Gli'ad in his cap, gave Schwe

the gun in the main event to snatch victory from Summer Gold. Mathurin gave trainer Sathasivam his first success in Ceylon.

* * *

IT is a great encouragement, as one bows out of the scene to see on the stage a new group of players—a young group of players—by whose hand the play shall not perish but have renewed life. This is precisely what is happening at the Royal Colombo Golf Club today: the Club is "catching 'em young."

Just a few days ago the R.C.G.C. professional, Greenway, held his first lesson for a group of youngsters armed with clubs and determination. With the addition of knowledge and applied science these young golfers are a potential threat to Ceylon's current champions, and a shot-in-the-arm to this game of grace and pastoral pleasure.

Now, who will be the first to follow this Club's example?

* * *

AT the same venue two important finals were played and won on the same afternoon. George Koch (3) defeated N. D. G. Green (7), 6 and 4 to win the Captain's Prize, presented this year by N. W. G. Brown. W. P. Fernando (Scr.) teamed with R. Arunachalam (16) to beat J. R. Purdy (22) and Jefferies (18) 6 and 5 in the final of the MacBride Foursomes.

Koch's lay-off from serious golf seems to have sharpened his game, and throughout his battle with Green he seemed to have ice in his arteries. Calmly, inexorably, he combatted the heavy going, hoarding strokes like the perfect Scrooge. Green, on the other hand, did not play as well as he had done in recent rounds, and seemed to be too aware of it.

In the Foursomes clash "Pin" Fernando was at his irreproachable best, and partner Arunachalam responded valiantly, and as economically as one might expect in this testing competition. Purdy and Jefferies, who have been round giving less away, were never a serious threat in this final encounter.

* * *

Rugger

THE only accurate prediction about the winners of this year's Clifford Cup can come from the noolaham.org | avanaham.org

weather gods. In rain and heavy going I'd say the C.H. & F.C. can win. On a hard, dry ground no club can beat the C.R. & F.C. And these are the only two sides in the hunt. The others haven't an earthly.

Well, they met, at the Colombo Racecourse, and the rain having done its worst, I thought "C.R." distinctly lucky to have drawn the match. And distinctly plucky to have given the heavier "C.H." pack only one try. The latter literally pushed their way up to their opponents' line, then scrum-tumbled on top of the ball to score the only try of the match. Anghie's equaliser was a freak kick; the ball was falling short, just grazed the bar, then thanks to its covering of mud it slid over. Wheww!

The following week-end it kept fine—but not for the Havelocks. Against them the tear-away "threes" of the C.R. & F.C. scored six scintillating tries, including one by former "three" Almeida, deputising for Anghie at full-back. A penalty was the only kick converted. Williams corkscrewed his way through the defence twice, then flew down the entire length of the field to score his third try. If I might use an overworked word, this was brilliant rugger.

Meanwhile Uva lost to Dimbula-Dickoya, then triumphed over Kandy. K.V. were trounced by C.H. & F.C., which was not surprising, and Havelocks lost to Kandy, which was.

* * *

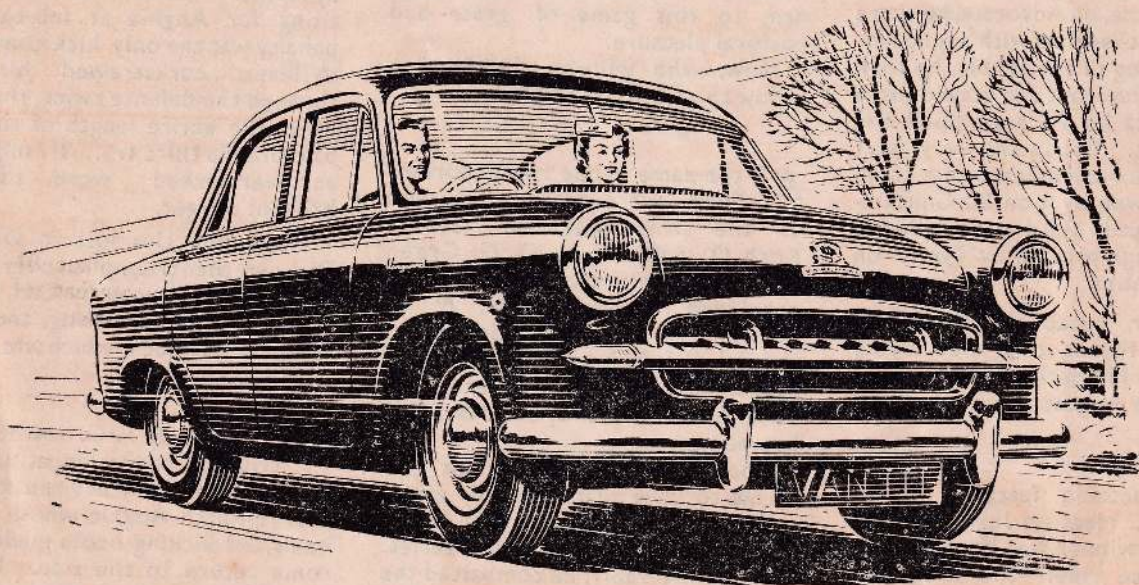
THE C.R. & F.C. owed their triumph over Uva, at Longden Place, to their fiery half and back line, plus full-back Anghie whose winged heels and kicking boots made a welcome return to the side. Rodrigo and Paiva were as good as ever, Rambukwella was the most penetrative, and young Almeida is gaining stature with every outing. But the champion's pack lacks thrust and stamina, and were no match for the "Merrie Men."

At Taldia, Dimbula-Dickoya had more punch and pace than K.V. could cope with and triumphed easily over a tired side. Meanwhile that snappy-looking R.A.F. team held the mighty C.H. & F.C. to a thrilling 3-3 draw, and Kandy's Trinity College swooped down from the hills to trounce Wesley College 29-nil. It was a polished performance.

(Continued on page 33)

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FOR THE MOTORIST

By COXON

HILLMAN Service Week will not soon be forgotten. Certainly owners of 1952-57 Hillman car models who accepted the invitation for free inspection and road tests, will appreciate the gesture. Certainly the record number of sales over the six days, was a just reward for Globe Motors Ltd., Ceylon distributors for Rootes Group products. Certainly this Service Week must look attractive to others in the trade.

Globe Motors' novel service attracted a bigger response than could be coped with. Each inspection took 45 minutes, and the owner was then presented with the original copy of the road test, showing in detail the components requiring attention. And several owners won Rs. 100 Lucky Number prize vouchers to be spent in service or mechanical work or on accessories. And hand in hand with all this went an exhibition of new Hillman and Humber cars and Commer trucks.

* * *

I HEAR car manufacturers are showing interest in the possible use of radar-controlled brakes. The brake consists of a radar antenna mounted between front bumper and grille. Electric circuits connect antenna with car brakes. The antenna picks up approaching cars and automatically applies the brakes with a force

in proportion to the distance of the car ahead.

* * *

THE Monsoon Reliability Trial—toughest of the series—will have been completed by the time this copy goes to press, but I'd like to wish the 81 competitors the best of luck and lots of fun. They'll need the first, and are sure of the second.

Meanwhile in Kuala Lumpur, 17 of the 74 competing drivers were disqualified at the end of the first day of the Mobilgas Economy Run. Mechanical and natural hazards caused a number of casualties—but human error took the heaviest toll. Singapore racing driver Lim Peng Han was, ironically, one of the "slow-coaches" to be disqualified.

* * *

Athletics

ARTHUR Wint and Herb McKinley are only two of the many famous athletes trained by Joe Yancey. There is now a possibility that this coach will spend about four months in Ceylon, working on our athletes.

Promising young Ceylonese must realise, however, that it is necessary to do more than just promise. They have not lacked expert coaching in the past. But what the coaches themselves lacked was sufficient co-operation. Very few athletes made their part-time training a full-time job, and found to their dismay that there are no short-cuts to the top.

SPORTS CAUSERIE

(Continued from page 31)

Swimming

QUITE the most impressive competitor at the Juvenile Swimming Champions was teenager Tara de Saram, one of whose achievements was a new national record. Daughter of F. C. de Saram, whose golf, tennis and cricketing ability is unique, to say the very least, Tara is practically certain to represent Ceylon at the Asian Games to be held in Tokyo next year.

CRICKETANA

(Continued from page 29)

arrangement, they made 81 and 90 runs respectively, a great and plucky achievement. Gilchrist, their fast bowler pulled a muscle while fielding and there was for a while, the rare sight of three substitutes in the field.

England's bowlers are still held to be of better quality than her batsmen. In this match they laboured well and truly through that long first innings of 474 during which the West Indian batsmen, comfortably placed by Ramadhin's great bowling, settled down at ease to build up their advantage. In their second innings that feeling of security had gone and spirits must have been low after the tremendous impact of that batting partnership of May and Cowdrey. The pitch afforded only a little more assistance to spin but seven wickets fell for 68 runs before Father Time intervened and stayed the inevitable.

The Second Test starts at Lord's on June 20th. The great question to be answered then is of tremendous interest and vital bearing. Is Ramadhin finally subdued or will he reassert his magic domination?



—'Times'

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A WOMAN'S DIARY

RECORDS OF SERVICE

HONGKONG was ceded by China to Great Britain in 1841 and remains a Crown Colony in spite of changing conditions and a population composed mostly of Chinese people. One entrance to People's China is across the border, the strip of "no-man's" land which lies between Hongkong and China. The other entrance may be through the hills of Kowloon, important as a port for ships and for its air services maintained for passengers to nearly every part of the world. Many of Ceylon's former Colonial Secretaries have gone on promotion to Hongkong and their records still survive (as they do in Ceylon) in documents and on buildings which have survived through the years and weathered the storms of war, of Japanese occupation, and of changing conditions—Sir Thomas and Lady Southorn, Sir Reginald and Lady Stubbs. The stone tablet which commemorates the laying of the foundation stone of the Y.M.C.A. by H.E. Sir Reginald Stubbs when Governor of the Colony, now faces one of the busiest streets in Kowloon, where the Y.M.C.A. continues to be as popular as ever; Sir Mark Young, Sir Andrew Caldecott who came from Hongkong to Ceylon, and many others are amongst the names still recalled with affection and gratitude.

This tradition of service continues today with the present Governor of Hongkong, Sir Alexander Grantham, whose popularity with the people is so great that three delegates from the Hongkong Communities Federation left by B.O.A.C. for England recently with a petition to the Queen signed by 1,500,000 people asking for a retention as Governor of the Colony though his terms of service had expired.

The signatures collected by 750 civic groups total into pages 8 inches in thickness. This book was placed inside a plastic box and packed into a red wooden casket. Over 200 people from various organisations, each carrying banners inscribed with slogans, gathered at the airport to see the party off.

* * *

Babies' Homes

ANOTHER record of service which reminds us of our own House of Joy begun by Miss Karney in Talawe,

and of the Evelyn Nurseries in Kandy celebrated its 21st birthday last month. The Shatin Babies' Home was started in 1936 as a venture of faith by Miss Mildred Dibden, who has devoted her life to this home for unwanted babies abandoned in Hongkong. Miss Dibden came to teach in a missionary school in the Colony, but when she heard about the babies left to die by the wayside unless they were rescued by the Catholic nuns she handed in her resignation to the school and started rescue work on her own in a flat with one baby, one ammah and a capital of less than 500 dollars. Because of her conviction that the greatest need of any child was love, and with a firm faith in the power of prayer Miss Dibden devoted all her time to the foundlings which were subsequently brought to her house. There were no flag days, no public appeals for funds, no committees, but she found friends at the outset: the Fanling's Babies' Homes was opened in 1936, sponsored by the Hongkong Evangelical Fraternity and placed under her care.

When the Japanese captured and occupied Hongkong in 1941 there were 98 children under four years of age with Miss Dibden. She was not disturbed because the invaders did not want the extra responsibilities of a babies' home, but she found very great difficulties in procuring food and essentials for the infants in her care. It meant walking once a fortnight from Fanling to Hongkong pushing in a pram on the return journey whatever rice or other necessities she could collect for her babies. After the war the Christian Children's Fund Organisation bought the house and the grounds and allowed the premises to be used rent free from 1946.

During the last twenty years over 300 babies have passed through the hands of the founder of these homes, and now the Shatin Babies' Home is housed in one of Hongkong's beauty spots, its background the mountains, and its foreground the sea. There are at present 56 little children who have found a name, a home, and a family here. All have been brought in as babies less than a year old, usually by the police who have found them abandoned by the wayside, or on doorsteps, many of them very ill, many suffering from starvation, some not more than a few days old. They will grow up in happy healthy surroundings, and, like the children of previous years, find when they

have completed their education and are ready to go out into the world a home to come back to should necessity arise.

* * *

Dr. Mary Rutnam

DR. Mary Rutnam holds a unique record of service to Ceylon. Her name is known and loved throughout the island, and her birthday which she celebrated on the 2nd of June must have been remembered in many homes, humble and rich alike. Dr. Rutnam is connected with nearly every well-known social service and welfare organisation in Ceylon; her associations with the W.C.T.U., the Y.W.C.A., the L.M.S., and the first Women's Political Union in 1927, most of all her untiring selfless service as a doctor will be recalled with gratitude for many years to come.

Amongst the birthday celebrations was the Founder's Day party of the Lanka Mahila Samiti held annually in her honour. Members gathered again this year at the Headquarters of the L.M.S. to wish their founder many happy returns of her birthday, and to share in the presentation of tills for Mahila Samiti work which contained small sums of money collected throughout the year. At the end of the party Dr. Rutnam, members and friends listened with keenest interest to Miss Cissy Cooray, who spoke to them on her recent visit to China, where she had gone as a delegate of the L.M.S. on a cultural mission, sponsored by the Ceylon-China Friendship Association.

* * *

The A.C.W.W.

CEYLON will again be hostess to a World Conference in July this year when the Associated Country-women of the World will hold their Eighth Triennial Conference in Colombo from the 3rd to the 13th July. This conference was to have been held at the University in Peradeniya in December, 1956, but transport difficulties arising from the Suez crisis made this impossible, so the dates were altered till such time as the situation eased. About 250 delegates from all parts of the world are expected to attend this conference, and though many of those who were to have attended last year have now been prevented from coming, delegates and observers are looking forward to a busy and inter-

(Continued on page 36)

A MOTOR ACCESSORIES INDUSTRY

(Continued from page 19)

can easily compete with new tyres. The tyre retreading industry was also well organised with sufficient capital sunk in the industry.

* * *

BATTERY rebuilding, on the other hand, was not organised so well nor was enough capital and skill sunk in the project. However, it is an industry that holds great prospects in Ceylon. Batteries could be rebuilt with complete new cells to serve a good three or four years. Batteries are rebuilt in this manner at present, but not on a sufficiently large scale to compete with the imported batteries. The industry could be well developed, with more capital and skill and a Ceylonese battery could always be priced at about 33% less than an imported battery. Ceylon offers a good field for battery manufacture, as in about 2 or 3 years time, the demand for battery replacements should rise considerably.

Like battery rebuilding, the manufacture of car parts in Ceylon never progressed sufficiently. Without a good basic steel rolling industry, it has not been possible to turn out even elementary parts like spring blades, spring coils, nuts, bolts or chassis parts. However, such parts and some engine parts, are reconditioned and readjusted to suit specific orders. The Sinhalese people have a natural penchant for mechanical and electric work and with the tools and resources available in Ceylon, they execute jobs equal to the best in the world. Throughout the length of Panchikawatte Road, about two miles, are found the Ceylonese garages and workshops which Sinhalese mechanics have built up from scratch. Here, vehicles on the verge of being dumped on the scrap heap are revived and put on the road again. Sinhalese lads get their initial training as mechanics in these workshops and each is invariably enthusiastic about his work.

* * *

A PART from the Ceylonese garages and workshops, there are a few well situated European garages in Colombo, equipped with good repair shops. Nevertheless these firms do greater business in car sales and the servicing of vehicles. The prospects

for car sales in the future are not very good, unless of course a new financial boom appears or prices of cars fall appreciably. Under existing circumstances, a fall in car prices is unlikely unless, there be a recession in all markets in the world; but prices of cars in Ceylon could be reduced if cars are assembled here. Cars could be assembled in Ceylon without any difficulty. If a few test assemblages are done here it would be found that the ultimate price could be reduced, with lower costs of production and escape from the tariff barrier placed on imported cars.

A new phase in the motor industry is developing now. The car market is becoming a buyer's market, with some keen competition. Continental cars are beginning to offer serious competition in the British overseas market. One of the ways this serious competition can be offset, is by assembling cars of the cheaper grade in Ceylon. The early bird will catch the worm and the first in the field will be able to establish the car production industry in Ceylon, firmly. The latecomers will have no place, as the capacity for assemblage is limited to some extent. Assemblage of cars and a car parts industry in Ceylon, will be a further step in developing the motor industry by extending production for the Eastern market.

PEOPLE

(Continued from page 23)

THE death is reported at Salisbury, at the age of 76, of the Rt. Rev. Guy Vernon Smith, Archdeacon of Colombo, from 1925 to 1929, during the bishopric of Dr. Mark Carpenter-Garnier.

After leaving Ceylon the Archdeacon was Suffragan Bishop of Willesden and in 1940 became Bishop of Leicester. On his retirement he lived in the Cathedral Close at Salisbury.

* * *

THE death occurred in the United Kingdom on June 6th of Mr. Stanley C. Bissel, former Accountant of the Planters' Association of Ceylon.

* * *

MR. Layard Jayasundera, formerly of the Civil Service, has been appointed a member of the Public Service Commission. He replaces Mr. George R. de Silva who filled the vacancy caused by the retirement of Sir A. M. de Silva.

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MR. J. O. Moss, the Fort Broker and well known Colombo golfer, has returned to the Island after a holiday in the U.K. He has come back in good time for the Royal Colombo Championship arranged for next month. Another prominent golfer who returned last week after a brief holiday in the U.K. is Mr. M. C. Robins, Hon. Secretary of the Ceylon Golf Union.

ANCIENT NUWARA ELIYA

(Continued from page 27)

historically true. Professor Williams, a noted Indologist, had stated that the Ramayana was not reduced to writing earlier than the fifth century A.D. Until then, for more than twenty centuries, it would appear, this story had been told and re-told, sung and re-sung by succeeding generations of story-tellers and wandering minstrels. It is impossible to expect oral tradition to preserve the story uncorrupted and faithful to every detail. But confronted with the rich folk-lore and significant place-names referred to above, it would be very difficult entirely to reject the legend as poetic and fanciful.

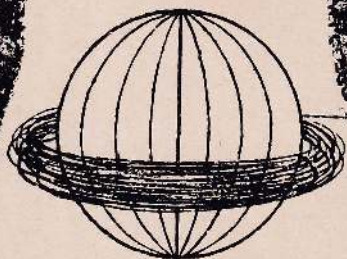
A WOMAN'S DIARY

(Continued from page 35)

esting two weeks. It is the first time the A.C.W.W. is holding its Conference in an Asian country; they do so on the invitation of the L.M.S., our local "Women's Institutes" which is affiliated to the A.C.W.W.

Mrs. Berry, President of the A.C.W.W., has already arrived in Ceylon, a Secretariat has been set up in Colombo and programmes are being planned. There will be several receptions and entertainments in honour of the delegates, and tours have been arranged before and after the Conference to enable them to visit places of interest throughout the island, and to see something of the work done in some of the Mahila Samiti centres in our rural areas.

EVELYN.



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Misfiring and pre-ignition—commonest causes of power loss in motor engines—have long been a problem for research engineers.

At last, Shell chemists and technicians have evolved a substance which can be blended with gasoline so as to abolish misfiring and pre-ignition, thus prolonging sparking plug life and ensuring better performance. The name given to this compound is Ignition Control Additive and every motorist knows it now as I.C.A.

That is not the whole story . . . Before the new product was made generally available to the public, it was subjected to no less than 72,000,000 miles of road testing—the equivalent of 3,000 journeys around the world—under every possible condition of use and misuse, to prove that it is entirely beneficial and has no 'sting in its tail'. Shell research, testing, trying, discovering, improving and perfecting, inevitably places

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