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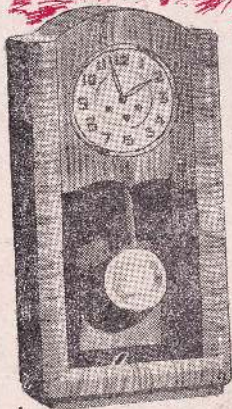
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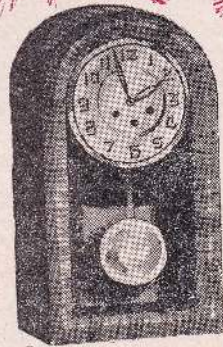
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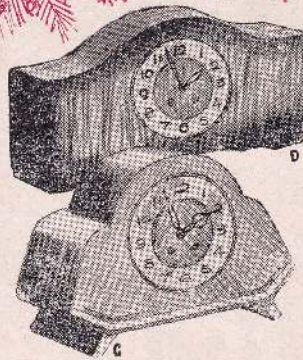
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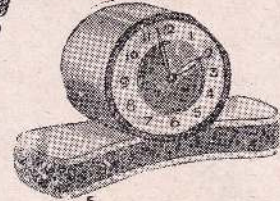
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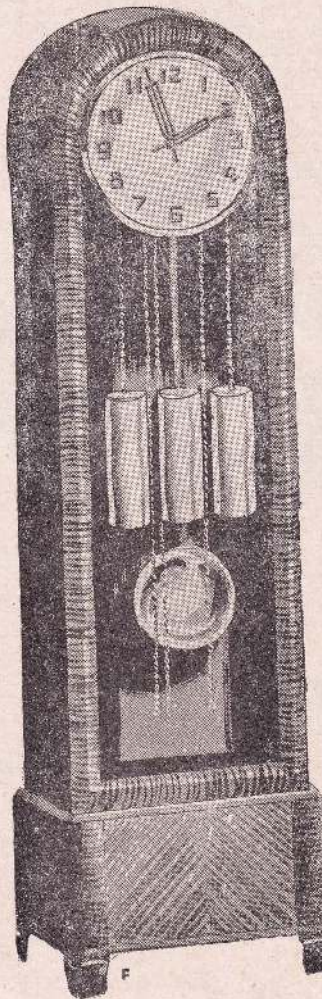
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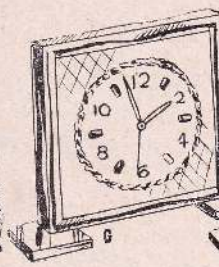
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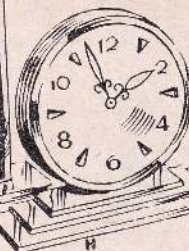
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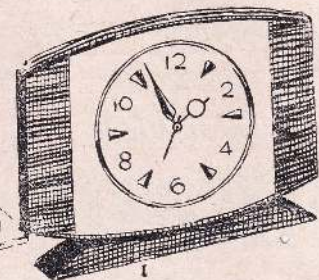
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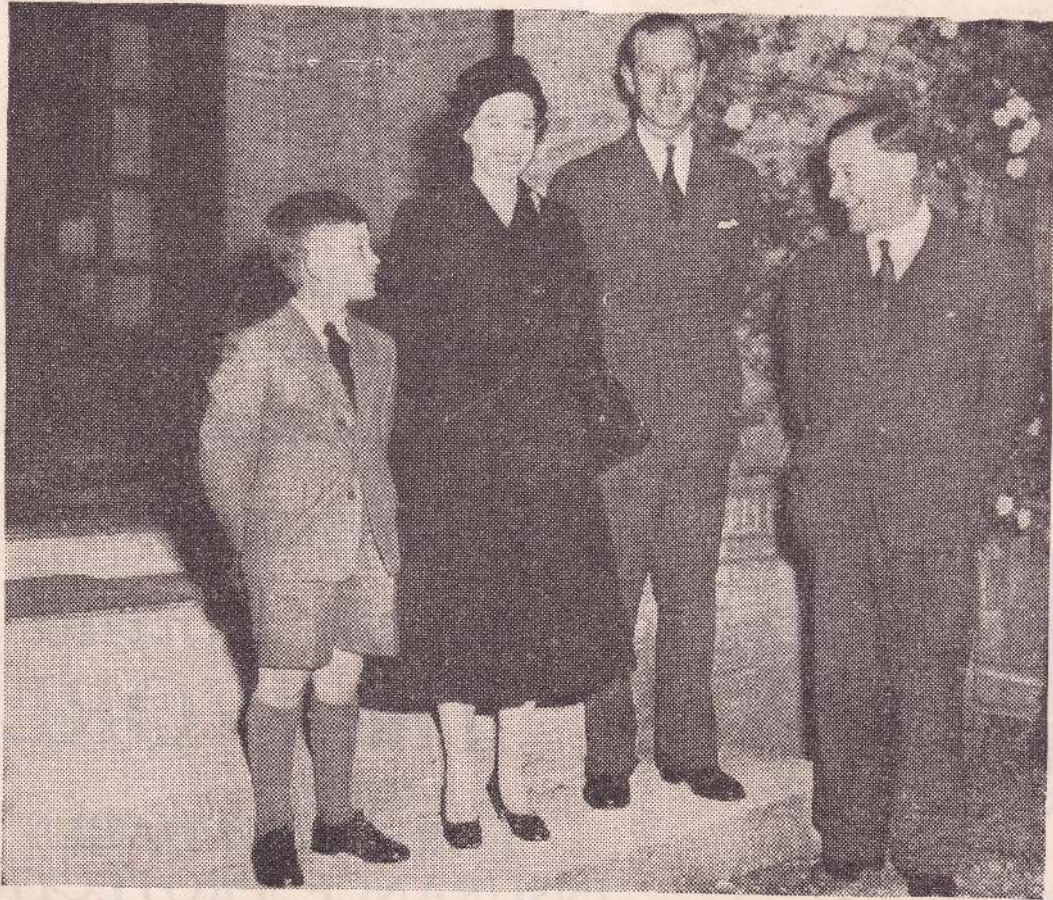
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PRINCE CHARLES AT SCHOOL



Prince Charles on his first day at his new school—Cheam School, in Berkshire—standing on the school steps, with his parents—the Queen and Prince Philip—and Mr. Peter Peck, one of the joint headmasters.

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AT CHRISTMASTIDE

WHAT makes the world go mad at Christmastide? The question was asked years ago, and there is some reason in the question. For at Christmastide we cannot fail to notice a startling change in most people. The old behave like children, the selfish become generous, the staid and prim are boisterous, the slaves to work fling work aside, the rich are drawn to the poor. The whole social world is topsy-turvy—just for Christmastide. The world seems to go mad. What makes it do so?

And to the question the answer returned was this—it is not that the world goes mad at Christmastide, but that the world is really mad, and once a year becomes sane, at Christmastide. That sounds Chestertonian, but it is not mere paradox. It is sober truth, and deserves thinking out.

* * * *

WE most of us are obsessed by something—by home or work, or self or money, or imaginary grievances, or suspicions, or rivalries, or what you will. Under the influence of these things we are never quite normal, we never live the lives God meant us to live. But once a year we are face to face with Reality—the Reality which the Incarnation brought to light—that God is Love, and that love to show itself Love came and tabernacled among us.

* * * *

THAT touch with Reality clears the air about us. We move out of the world of delusions in which we live. We escape from the obsessions which wrap us round. We act freely, responding to the real nature of things. And so acting we become—just so long as the spell is on us—natural, spontaneous, loving, generous, kind-hearted, happy human beings. Is this madness? Is it not rather sanity? Is it not the sober truth that the escape at Christmastide is not from a sane world to a mad, but from a mad world to a sane?

* * * *

AND if it is so, is it not passing strange that we should be content year after year to lapse after Christmastide into the mad world from which it has brought us so happy release?

Let us hold fast to the sanity we recover at Christmastide, let us prolong it—with all the happiness and good fellowship and unselfishness and generosity and loving kindness it creates—all through the year. It will mean for all a better and a happier world. From the Cradle of Bethlehem flows the power which—if we let our lives remain under the spell—may keep our lives sane. Not only once a year, but all through the year and every year, we may all be the free, kind, loving, happy children God means us to be.

B.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

DECEMBER has brought relief from the tensions of October and November and the discordance of strikers' slogans have given place to the harmony of familiar carols. The cost of living has been forgotten in concern for the sick and needy and gay parties for children have heralded the Christmas festivities. The shops and pavement stalls are stacked with attractive gifts and toys, and shoppers throng the streets.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, our greetings go to all our readers with this issue of the *Fortnightly Review*.

* * *

IF October was a critical month November was more so, for a wave of strikes swept the country the like of which had never been known before. Railway firemen and other workers struck first, bringing trains on the long distance runs to a standstill for two days. Simultaneously a strike of power plant workers at the Laxapana hydro-electric head-works and in Colombo imposed a black-out for several hours. Postmen and sorters went on strike next, interrupting delivery of mail for a couple of days. All these were settled by the concession of various demands.

But the most serious situation was caused by the strike of municipal services in Colombo. A danger of the sewerage system being damaged led to the Governor-General calling out the Army and Navy, personnel from which manned the pumping stations. The port was again the scene of a strike and the tea auctions to be held on December 2 were held later in the week and correspondingly later in the following week.

When on the sixth day there was no settlement of the municipal strike the Minister of Local Government dissolved the Municipal Council and soon afterwards the strike was suspended.

The dissolution of the Council took place when the Prime Minister was away in India attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and the port strike was also settled during his absence, thanks to the firmness of the acting Chairman of the Cabinet, Mr. C. P. de Silva, Minister of Lands and Land Development, and the co-operation of his colleagues.

THE dissolution of the Colombo Municipal Council on the third day of the strike of 7,800 municipal workers was described by the United National Party, which had a majority in the Council, as another step in the path to totalitarianism on the part of the party in power. It pointed out that even when a state of emergency was declared during the "hartal" of 1953 the U.N.P. government merely suspended the Council for the duration of the emergency and the Council resumed thereafter. The strike, it was argued, was in no way precipitated by any act of the Council but was one of a series of strikes caused by the rising cost of living.

The LSSP, the party with a majority in the Opposition in the Council, also condemned the dissolution as an undemocratic act. The Communists, however, approved of it.

* * *

IT being conceded that the root cause of the strikes is the high cost of living, the Minister of Food took steps to bring about an immediate reduction in the prices of essentials. The most effective has been the ban on the export of coconuts and the distribution of coconuts at regulated prices through co-operatives, prices dropping by half.

A long-range scheme which has created much interest is that put forward by the Health Minister, Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene. She has proposed the creation of a national food subsidy pool, the funds for which would consist of 1. a 20 per cent. reduction in the cost of living allowances paid to employees in the Government, municipal and mercantile services; 2.

profits from industrial and agricultural institutions; 3. voluntary contributions; 4. a percentage of profits from lands belonging to religious establishments.

The scheme has been discussed so far only in general terms and opinion on it is still to crystallise with the examination of details, but an objection that has already emerged is to the inclusion of profits from religious establishments on the grounds that the lands concerned are for the most part State grants or private benefactions.

* * *

THE new High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ceylon, Mr. A. F. Morley, and Mrs. Morley, arrived in Colombo on Sunday, December 1st. Mr. Morley succeeds Sir Cecil Syers, who resigned from the diplomatic service to become Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

Mr. Morley, who is 49, developed as a classical scholar at Rugby, from where he went on to Queen's College, Oxford. He joined the India Office in 1930, and from 1933 to 1936 he was private secretary to Mr. R. A. Butler when he was Parliamentary Under-Secretary for India.



—“Times”

a photograph taken on their arrival in Colombo.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

During the war he served in the Ministry of Aircraft Production and in the Burma Office. Joining the Commonwealth Relations office in 1949, he served as deputy-High Commissioner for the U.K. in New Zealand from 1950 to 1952. He was posted to Colombo from Calcutta, where he had been deputy-High Commissioner from February, 1956.

Mrs. Morley is the elder daughter of the late Professor Julius von Landesburger-Antburg of Vienna. They have a daughter aged thirteen.

* * *

KANDY was the scene of a great gathering of journalists last month when the International Press Institute held its *second Asian Conference* in a four-day session in the Queen's Hotel.

Most countries except the communist states were represented, some by distinguished members of the profession. Among those attending were Mr. H. A. Hetherington, Editor of the "Manchester Guardian"; Mr. T. K. Ghosh, Editor of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika of Calcutta"; Mr. Frank Moraes former Editor of the "Times of Ceylon," late Editor of the "Times of India" and Editor-designate of the "Indian Express group"; Mr. C. R. Srinivasan, Editor of the "Swadesamitran" of Madras; Mr. Eljas Erkkö of the "Helsingin Sanomat" (Finland); Mr. Roy Thomson of the "Scotsman" and Canadian T. V.; Robert H. Estabrook of the "Washington Post"; Mr. Walton A. Cole of "Reuters"; Mr. Bahram Sharokh of "Poste Theran"; Mr. Ichitar Takata of the "Mainichi Shimbun"; Mr. Norman Soong of the "Pan Asia Newspaper Alliance"; Mr. Leslie Hoffman, Editor of the "Straits Times"; T. C. Bray of the "Courier-Mail," Brisbane, and German and French Newspapermen. One who drew much interest was Lord Altrincham, Editor of the "National and English Review," critic of the Court of St. James.

* * *

THE conference was opened by Mr. Esmond Wickremesinghe, Managing Director of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., Chairman of the reception committee, and Mr. E. J. B. Rose, director of the I.P.I. The Prime Minister and Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the Opposition, who were luncheon guests on different dates during the session, ad-

ressed the delegates. Among the entertainments laid on for the visitors was a display of Kandyan dancing and a special perahera with forty elephants.

The subjects discussed at the conference concerned news of Asia in the West, news within Asia, news from China, and training in journalism in Asia. During the discussion of news from China, it transpired that Reuters alone had a resident representative in Peking.

* * *

A FURTHER step in promoting industry has been taken by the decision of the Government to set up four more industrial corporations—for the production of salt, sugar, and textiles, and the exploitation of mineral sands. The Salt Corporation will be concerned with the manufacture of salt for export (with gypsum as a by-product) at Hambantota. Sugar-cane is already being grown in Kantalai in the North-Central Province, where a factory is to be built to produce about 20,000 tons of sugar a year, about 15 per cent. of the country's consumption. An ilmenite refinery is to be established at Pulmoddai on the East coast to deal with 100,000 tons of raw sand a year for purposes

of export. The textile mill of 11,200 spindles will be at Veyangoda and will turn out cotton grown in Ceylon into yarn for the hand-loom industry. The capital costs of the projects are, respectively: salt, Rs. 14 million; sugar, Rs. 21½ million; mineral sands, Rs. 8 million; textile, Rs. 1.7 million.

There are seven industrial corporations already in working; oils and fats, with a factory at Seeduwa; paper factory at Valaichenai, Eastern Province; chemicals (sulphuric acid and chlorine), Paranthan, Northern Province; Cement

Kankasanturai, Northern Province; Ceramics, Negombo; leather products, Colombo; and plywood, Galle, Southern Province.

* * *

SIR Wilfred de Soysa and Lady de Soysa celebrated the golden anniversary of their marriage on November 27. Their son, the Ven. Harold de Soysa, Archdeacon of Colombo, conducted the thanksgiving service at the Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa, where they were married 50 years ago by the late Canon Jacob Mendis.

The Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. Archibald Rollo Graham-Campbell, who with a number of other priests assisted at the service, paid a tribute to the religious and public life of the jubilarians.

Sir Wilfred, who is 73, has all his life been keenly devoted to promoting agriculture and animal husbandry, for which he trained himself. He has been Chairman of the Low-country Products Association and a member of the Central Board of Agriculture and has wide interests. Lady de Soysa is well known for her social service activities. She was a vice-President of the Associated Countrywomen of the World last year.



—"Times"

Mr. M. G. Thornton, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Aitken, Spence & Co. Ltd., receiving guests at a party on board the "City of Chicago" in Colombo harbour. In the centre is Mrs. Thornton.

Captains of industry

Land alone can no longer provide Ceylon's livelihood. Industry is needed to balance its economy and help bring rising standards of living to its people.

Prosperity here, as in other progressive lands, will be created by our teams in Industry — men who will make and man the machines of the new age.

This rising tide of industrial progress is setting new problems for the nation's engineers. New industrial techniques are being developed.

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in the Progress of Ceylon



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MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE younger generation that is taking over leadership in commercial life is typified by the appointment of Mr. M. G. (Mike) Thornton as Chairman and Managing-Director of Aitken, Spence & Co. Ltd., Colombo. He succeeds the late Mr. R. P. Gaddum.

Mr. Thornton joined the firm as shipping assistant eleven years ago. He became a director only in 1954. He was Secretary of the Colombo Homeward Conference for three years and at present is a member of the Colombo Shipping Committee and of the Colombo Harbour Employers' Association.

In the field of sport he has a proud record. A keen golfer like his father, a former champion, he won the Ceylon Amateur Golf Championship in 1949, and he has also represented the Mercantile Services in the national hockey championships. In private life he is a genial host and counts many friends amongst all communities. He married Ruth Bostock, daughter of Mr. Norman Bostock of Keell & Waldock, in 1950.

* * *

INCLUSION in salaries of allowances hitherto paid and other allowances, such as risk and hardship allowances, is one of the terms of reference of a salaries commission that has been appointed by the Governor-General. The members of the Commission are Mr. C. Nagalingam, Q.C., former Puisne Judge (Chairman), Mr. N. S. Perera, retired Surveyor-General, Mr. R. L. Brohier, former Deputy-Surveyor-General, Mr. Wilmot A. Perera, late Ambassador to China, and (to be appointed) a representative of trade unions. The last commission on salaries, the Chairman of which was Mr. R. S. V. Poulter, reported in 1953.

The Commission is also required to have regard to the maintenance of a suitable standard of living, the cadre of Government departments, and the practicability of introducing an eight-hour day in various departments.

* * *

IN the meantime the Government has decided, in response to demands made by public servants' trade unions, to give an increase of

Rs. 12/50 to the special cost of living allowances of workers drawing less than Rs. 100 a month; to place on a monthly-pay basis all daily paid workers after six months (this will affect 65,000 persons) and to make an increase of Rs. 5/- in the cost of living allowance of those receiving less than Rs. 300 as salary. The increases came into effect from November 1st.

The full total of these temporary increases was estimated by the Prime Minister in a statement at Rs. 52 million. The effect of this increase and other expenditure voted since the budget, plus the cost of implementation of the recommendations of Mr. A. E. Christoffelsz for the removal of anomalies and hardships caused by the implementation of the last salaries commission's recommendations, would be, he said, a curtailment of the Government's development programme.

* * *

THE controversial Paddy Bill was presented to Parliament in the last week of November. Some of the principal features of the amendments made to the original draft in response to public criticism are: where a paddy land is acquired by the Government, the compensation paid will be ten years' rental value of it (no amount was specified in the draft) and the tenant cultivator will so continue, and where there is no tenant cultivator the local cultivation committee will select a suitable person (originally it was proposed that such land would be taken over by the Committee); and appeals against the decision of the Commissioner of Agrarian Services will be to a Board of Review appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (the earlier proposal was that appeals should go to the Minister.)

* * *

ANOTHER Bill presented to Parliament provides for the setting up of conciliation boards in rural areas for the settlement of civil disputes and the compounding of certain offences, such as voluntarily causing hurt, wrongful restraint and confinement, criminal and house trespass, intentional insult and criminal intimidation. Where no settlement is reached disputes will go to the courts and prosecution for any offence, that is not compounded will be instituted in a court of law after enquiry by a board.

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The intention of the Government in establishing conciliation boards is to reduce costs where litigation is unavoidable and eliminate delay in the disposal of prosecutions in court.

* * *

MR. C. C. Das Gupta, former Professor of Economics of the University, and head of the economic research division of the Central Bank, has been appointed full-time additional Deputy Chairman of the National Planning Council.

Making the announcement, the Prime Minister said this course had been adopted since neither he as Chairman nor the Finance Minister as Deputy Chairman of the Council had the time for the proper performance of his duties in his respective capacity. This appointment was an alternative to the creation of a ministry of planning. Dr. Das Gupta is a citizen of Ceylon. He was already a member of the Planning Council.

* * *

MR. J. J. Hurley, High Commissioner for Canada, left for Canada on Sunday, 15 December, by the "Arcadia" on completion of his tour of service in Ceylon. Mrs. Hurley returned to Canada in July.

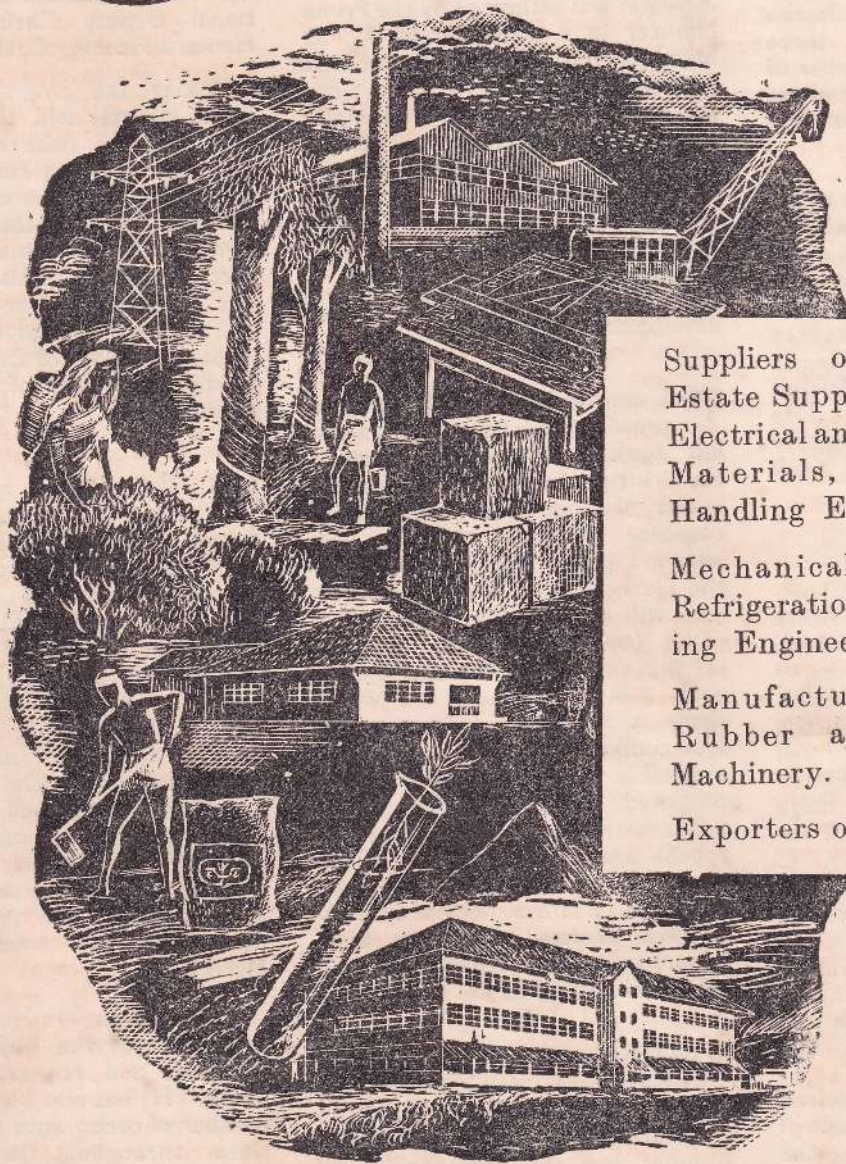
Mr. Hurley assumed his duties as Canada's first High Commissioner in Ceylon in August, 1953. While in Ceylon, he has been particularly active in Colombo Plan matters and has represented Canada on the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation in Colombo. The considerable aid Ceylon has received from Canada under the Plan is in great measure due to the kindly interest in this country by Mr. Hurley.

A keen golfer, Mr. Hurley has been a member of the Royal Colombo, Havelock and Nuwara Eliya Golf Clubs. He has also been active in a number of other clubs and organizations throughout the Island. A genial host, he made a large number of friends in Ceylon.

Mr. Nik Cavell, administrator of Canada's C. Plan programme, will succeed Mr. Hurley in Ceylon. He is due in Colombo in March next year.

Mr. Hurley's new assignment is as High Commissioner in South Africa.

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ENGLAND IN AUTUMN

By ERNEST C. THOMSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

HAVE you ever wondered why the year begins on January first? Probably not. But according to Chisholm Thomson, the London commentator, there are quite a number in Britain who put the question every year when they return from their summer vacations. They are the people for whom life really starts its new round as the nights lengthen, the lights sparkle in the streets, and the winter shows begin. And the first symptom of this winter reawakening is of course the kick-off for the football season.

Here, in a despatch from England, Thomson tells us something of these autumn enthusiasts—and the reasons for their enthusiasm.

ON a recent sunny Saturday afternoon the English football season officially opened. On that day close on a million fans flocked to club grounds all over the country to see their favourite teams resuming the perennial fight for higher places and greater honours in the football leagues.

Now, for the next six months or so, right through the autumn, through the winter and well into the spring, we shall see these devotees swarming like honeybees each week to support their local heroes. As the season wears on, tension will mount perceptibly as the great climax draws nearer—the battle of the giants for the Football Association Cup at London's famous Wembley Stadium. Twenty-two men, having survived all the frenzies of a knock-out championship, will struggle there for the greatest trophy in the English football calendar. Two rival armies of supporters—swathed in ribbons and plastered with rosettes—will converge on Wembley. We can't guess yet from what parts of the country they will come but they'll be there all right—to yell their teams to victory, and the Cup.

This sense of the ending of summer being, as it were, only a beginning, isn't exclusive to Londoners. Right through the country there's a welcome for the winter season—a season which in Britain is never too petri-fyingly cold or as rigorous as in more northerly latitudes. Many an autumn does in fact record as much sunshine as any season of the year, sometimes a great deal more. And it's a time when, more than ever, cities and towns and villages throb with a sort of galvanic activity of their own. Holidays by the sea or in the countryside are over. Now it is that a man looks for entertainment and recreation in his own home town.

IN London the leaves begin to fall sooner than in the countryside. And so, in the Mall—the famous avenue leading to Buckingham Palace—the trees will soon be nearly bare. But there's always colour with the mounted troops of the Household Brigade from nearby Wellington Barracks.

One morning next month the air in these parts will be rent with spluttering roars from the scores of venerable old petrol engines when the sixty-mile London to Brighton Veteran Car Run gets under way again. These stately old vehicles, gleaming in copper and brass, are brought out once a year for this famous reliability trial. Some of them were capering along the roads before World War One, and they still make their annual pilgrimage to the sea front at Brighton. Cherished by their owners, they are real thorough-breds.

ANY thoroughbreds will always cause a lifting of eyebrows in Britain. That's why ordinary folk, as well as farmers, flock to the many livestock and agricultural shows. Pedigree animals are to be seen in plenty at the London Dairy Show in October, and at the Championship Dog Show which follows it. You don't kill this love of thoroughbreds even with the growth of farm mechanisation. In fact the age of the tractor gave a special interest to the one hundred and first Ploughing Match and Horse Show which was held in October on the isle of Thanet, in southeast England.

AS an autumn fan myself I can assure you that there's no shortage of either indoor and out-

door entertainments, exhibitions, and all the customs and ceremonials traditional to Britain fill the months enjoyably enough.

Autumn is indeed the time for festivals and fairs. I could talk for hours about quaint happenings you would see nowhere else in the world—events like Animal Sunday in the cathedral city of Hereford; or the Mop Fair at Stratford-on-Avon; the Goose Fair at Robin Hood's city of Nottingham, and the Michaelmas Fair at Banbury—famed for its cakes—as well as other such ceremonies at scores of other towns and villages. At Inverness, in Scotland, there's a bagpipe contest which lasts for two whole days!

* * *

FOR lots of people, though, there's just as much excitement in the local darts tournaments which go on all the time in many parts of the country. In any club or public house you'd be surprised to see what a competitive fever can be worked up between two teams pitching hand darts at the cork target—all for a set of pewter mugs.

It's in the City of London, however, that famous Square Mile in the heart of Greater London, that you'll find some of the most picturesque events—events that have gone on for centuries. Take the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London, for seven hundred years this same ceremony has taken place there every night.

* * *

BUT what must surely be the highlight in the City is the Lord Mayor's Show. Every year on Lord Mayor's Day—November ninth—the long procession takes a set route through the City. Ancient gilded state carriages contrast with motor floats decked with living tableaux illustrating the processes of modern science and industry. Thousands of Londoners throng to watch—and if this means traffic blocks and work held up in this centre of the commercial world—well, it happens only once a year.

And still we are only on the fringe of the fun and games of winter. The culminating event—the Football Association Cup match has still to come, when men and girls will be thronging Londonwards by the hundred thousand—"Up for the Cup."

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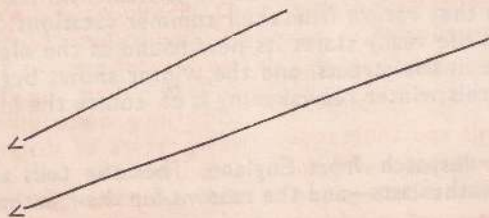
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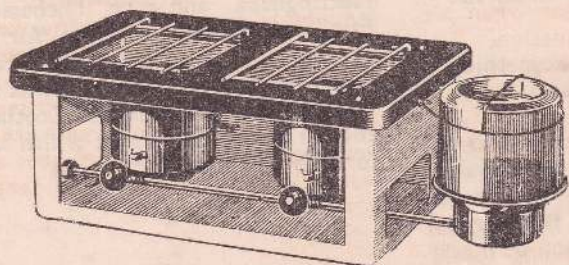
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LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

By PEGGY SHOLTO

(Fortnightly Review Special)

VERY early on Christmas morning, far earlier than most of us can possibly appreciate it, when the skies are still dark and the air outside frosty cold, hundreds and thousands of families all over Britain will be rudely awakened by the chatter and clatter of their youngsters to a fever of excitement at the realization that the Great Day has finally arrived.

This is the moment when stockings, but more often pillow cases, are roughly torn down from the foot of the bedstead, and young, excited fingers snatch and grapple with string and paper, as present after present is unwrapped amidst loud exclamations of anticipation and joy. Long before the first fingers of dawn come creeping across the sky on this 25th of December, the children's bedrooms in most households are strewn with coloured papers, balloons and fruits: toys are a jumble with sweetmeats; clockwork keys already mislaid among the bed-clothes.

* * *

FOR most children Christmas Day is the culmination of many weeks of happy anticipation—weeks in which the shops have seemed glitteringly full of trains and motor cars, dolls and Meccano sets, sugar pigs and spacemen. And then, suddenly, the expectations become a reality—and there, in their own homes, in their own bedrooms are the coveted toys, the cowboy kits, the model aeroplanes, the telephones that dial “just like real ones.” No wonder there's little sleep for anyone after five o'clock on Christmas morning.

And of course, to give the children real pleasure on Christmas Day is just as it should be—for the Christmas festivities are essentially for the children. We decorate the Christmas Tree primarily for them, we have balloons and crackers, paper hats and paper chains to help convey to them the happiness of the occasion, and we serve lavishly the best of foods, and fruits and sweets, to make certain it will be a day they will not easily forget.

BUT whilst this orgy of festivity and fun is one thing when we are children—a sweet delight in a cold, drab season—it becomes something quite different when we reach years of discrimination. The tinsel on the fairy's wand is then shown up for the rather tarnished strip of silver paper it in reality is, and suddenly our whole vision of Christmas changes. No longer is it a day for presents, sweet foods, surprises and excitements. Now it has become a time for planning meals, organizing the shopping and cooking, wrapping parcels and thinking up entertainments—doing, in fact, the hundred and one jobs that have to be done by someone, if the day is to be considered a success for family and friends.

And with every year that passes, those of us who do these jobs, who buy the food and decorations, who select the calendars and the cards, cannot help but remark on the unabashed commercialism which has infiltrated into our Christmas Festival, obliterating the spirit that the season at one time represented, and replacing it with a materialism of false values utterly alien to the standards and teachings of Christ.

* * *

IN the last few years, Christmas—at least Christmas in England—has become Big Business. The manufacturers, the shopkeepers, the hoteliers, make no bones about it. For them, December is a boom month, the remembrance of the birth of Jesus an incidental to the expanding graphs which show bigger and bigger sales figures and fatter and fatter profits.

Now, of course, in itself there is nothing wrong with a period of free spending at any time of the year; money is made to go round and all the time it circulates the nation's economy is healthy and people enjoy a sense of freedom and prosperity which is morally very beneficial. I would not in any way suggest a return to the days of Scrooge, of hoarding by one class to promote hard work in another of puritanical

delight in austerity for austerity's sake. Like most of us who have lived in freedom all our lives, I think parties, celebrations, dinners and dances are good and jolly occasions which compensate us for many of the duller and drearier times in our lives.

I also enjoy having new shoes and new clothes, things for the household and little personal gift. But, somehow, all these things which can be summed up by the words “having a good time” have nowadays got inexorably mixed up with the word, Christmas, so that Christmas without the material trappings is considered by many people to be no Christmas at all: and Christmas with them becomes one long round of beer and skittles almost obscuring the deeper significance of the Day.

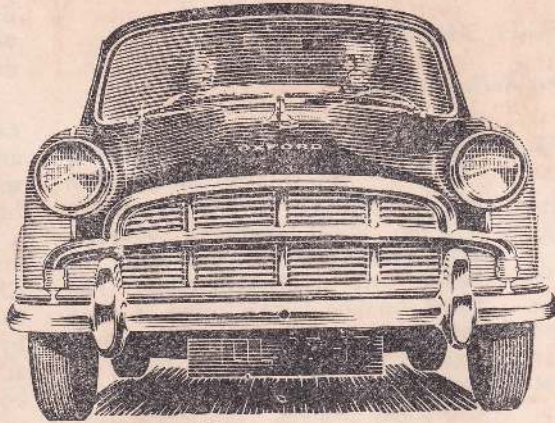
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I WILL not here and now enter into the argument, often put forward, that the 25th December in fact was not the birth date of Christ at all, but the date on which a pagan festival was held in ancient Britain, and that it was the early Church, intent on proselytising, which decided to link this festival with the biggest occasion for rejoicing in the Christian calendar—namely the birth of Jesus. Whether the 25th December was, in fact, Christ's birth date is really quite irrelevant. What matters is that it is recognised as such today, but recognised so irreverently that it would be far more honest for many of us to keep the pagan festival, rather than link our blatant materialism with the story of the Baby in the Manger.

* * *

OF course, there is a minority in England which puts the religious aspect of Christmas first and foremost—but it is only a minority. For although England is nominally a Christian country, the number of devout, sincere, practising Christians is so few that visitors from Asia are appalled at our religious indifference and find it hard to reconcile it with the Christian teachings that British missionaries have so enthusiastically carried to all four corners of the globe. Many people believe that the religious apathy of the majority—particularly of the young—in Britain, is due to the succumbing of events like Christmas to the materialistic era which judges a man wholly and solely on the level of his bank balance. Others blame science, Freud, edu-

(Continued on page 45)



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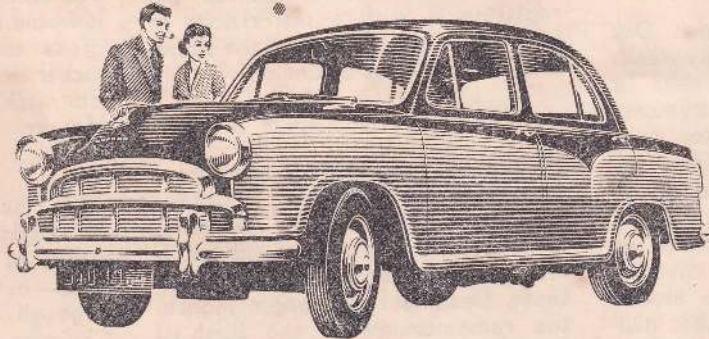
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GLIMPSES OF FOUR CITIES

By H. A. J. HULUGALLE

ONCE in Royal David's city the founder of Christianity was born, and it is convenient to start this journey through the Middle East with Bethlehem. Many Christians will listen to the Bells of Bethlehem on Christmas Eve as they sit by their radio sets.

Bethlehem is a picturesque Arab town. I went to Bethlehem from Jerusalem in a crowded bus and returned a good part of the way on foot. In the approaching dusk I stopped to admire a flowering tree and was told by an Arab that it was an almond in blossom. The Bethlehem Arabs are very fair of countenance and many have blue eyes. They are said to be descended from the Crusaders. The women wear a distinctive and attractive dress. Their coif-like head-dress and embroidered robes are a survival of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem. A thriving industry of Bethlehem is the manufacture of articles in mother-of-pearl; small crosses, trinket boxes, buttons, etc.

* * *

BETHLEHEM, like the much larger city of Jerusalem, is set on a hill. One approaches it along a good road past neat, flat-roofed houses. As in all Arab towns, there is a market place where Bedouin bring animals and garden produce for sale. The majority of the inhabitants are Christians.

The first place a visitor goes to is of course the Church of the Nativity. It is the oldest church in Christendom and was built by Queen Helena, mother of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor of Rome. One enters the church through a low doorway. Fifteen lamps shed their rays on the silver star which marks the spot reputed to be the birth-place of Christ. The lamps belong respectively to the Greek, Armenian and Latin (Roman Catholic) communities. The removal of the star led to a quarrel between France and Russia which became the Crimean War.

* * *

AT Jerusalem the site where Solomon's Temple stood is occupied by the Dome of the Rock, sometimes mis-called the Mosque of Omar, one of the most sacred shrines of the Muslims. The large courtyard also contains the famous El Aksa Mosque. At the edge of this courtyard is the Wailing

Wall of the Jews, a fragment of Herod's Temple. Every day sees a stream of pious Jews praying before the large blocks of granite which constitute the wall.

The famous Christian shrine, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, is also within the old city surrounded by its wall and entered by several gates, such as the Jaffa Gate, and Zion Gate, St. Stephen's Gate and the Damascus Gate. The Stations of the Cross are along the narrow streets of the walled city and, here and there, one comes across a thorn bush like the one from a branch of which the crown of thorns was made.

Outside the wall is the Kedron Valley from which one climbs to the Garden of Gethsemane, kept in a trim condition by Franciscan monks who will offer you a sprig of pressed olive leaves from the gnarled trees, which are perhaps a thousand years old.

* * *

BUT Jerusalem is a modern city outside the old wall. It was the seat of the Turkish Governor and the British High Commissioner. A large residential and official quarter has been built by the Jews. American influence is to be seen in the splendid Y.M.C.A. building and the Rockefeller Museum. On Mount Scopus the Jews have built a University, the Principal of which was Dr. J. L. Megnes. I met his son in Rehovath, one of the smaller towns, and had a little chat with him. He was washing a cow-house as he talked. A doctor of science,

he was engaged at the time on a piece of dairy research.

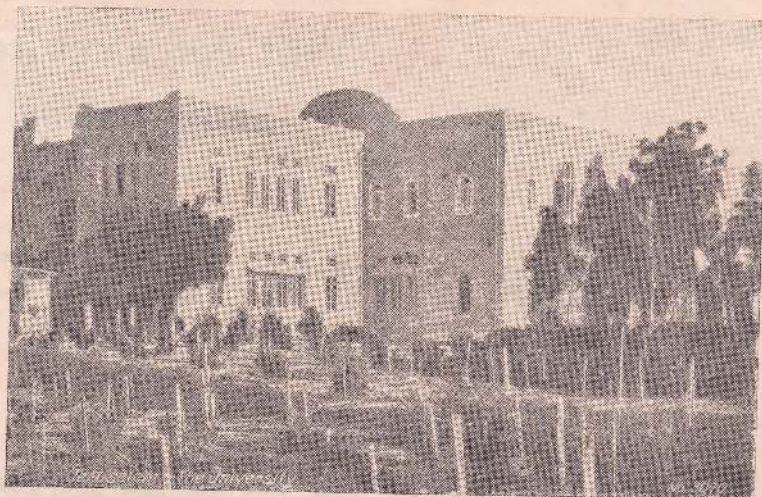
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ONE is always happy to be with Ceylon friends in a far country. Messrs. Macan Markar had a branch in King David's Hotel when I was in Jerusalem and I had many rice and curry meals with Sir Macan's employees. They had an Arab servant who insisted on kissing my hand whenever I entered the house. This is a custom which enables one to discover whether the visitor was an enemy carrying a dangerous weapon or a friend on an innocent errand. Many years must pass before Jerusalem can once again be a hospitable city to a foreigner as I found it.

* * *

TEL AVIV, the modern city which stands next door to the ancient Arab town of Jaffa or Joppa, is a creation of modern Jewry. When Jewish business men found they could not get accommodation in the crowded seaport of Jaffa, through which thousands of boxes of their oranges were exported, they bought land on the neighbouring sand-dunes and constructed modern buildings.

Tel Aviv is now a large built-up area with many-storeyed flats, grand cinemas, restaurants and cafes, departmental stores, banks and insurance companies. It is in fact like a part of any European city with many American features added. There is even a lido which is anathema to the Arab, whose women still live a conservative life. Allenby Street runs through Tel Aviv and there are boulevards named after Rothschild and other well known Jewish benefactors.



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GLIMPSSES OF FOUR CITIES

TEL Aviv is near to the agricultural colonies of the Jews—the collective co-operative farms and private holdings. The Jews did not introduce the citrus industry into Palestine. There are, and always have been first-class groves cultivated and owned by Arabs. In Jaffa one may see orange heaps ready for packing, as one sees coconut heaps in Ceylon. The orange groves come down almost to the sea coast and, during the winter months, the ripe fruit hang like golden globes from the trees. The Jews have of course greatly improved the scientific culture of oranges. Many scientists trained in California work at experimental stations and research laboratories.

I visited Dr. Chaim Weizman's laboratory at Rehovath and was shown around the experimental station by its head, Dr. Volkarni. Many of the labourers in the Jewish farms are well educated and one can often hear the snatch of an opera sung by a workman in the field. I saw the Rothschild estate at Richonle-Zion, with its wine-presses making Sacramental wine and other sweet wines for export.

* * *

THE population of Tel Aviv was about a hundred thousand. It must be much more now. Most of the big Jewish banks have their headquarters in Tel Aviv. It was there that I saw the film "The House

of Rothschild," starring George Arliss. At one moment in the film nearly the whole audience stood up and cheered.

At Tel Aviv I had many talks with Goldie Myerson, later the Israel Government Ambassador in Moscow. I visited her home and met her husband, who was a minor official. Goldie Myerson was well informed and gave me a full account of Jewish plans and ambitions in Palestine.

One of the collective farms in which I lived had an area of 1,400 dunams (about 350 acres); it had a population of 420 (90 families); 350 dunams were devoted to orange cultivation. There was a vineyard of 10 dunams. Vegetables were grown in 50 dunams and there was a nursery of 40 dunams; 500 dunams were devoted to cereals. The farm had 1,200 Leghorn hens and an incubator to deal with 7,000 eggs. There were 60 cows (30 Freisians and 30 of a Palestine or Syrian breed); 500 litres of milk were sent every day to the neighbouring township of Rehovath. The man who gave me all this information was an emigrant from Minsk in Russia.

* * *

DAMASCUS is a city "half as old as time." It is in fact the oldest city with a continuous tradition of urban life and culture. I approached Damascus from Jerusalem through the desert. The city

is on an oasis and is famous for its fruits. Crystallised fruit is exported from Damascus to Western Europe and America.

Looking for the wall over which St. Paul was lowered in a basket as he escaped from his persecutors, I saw stacks of liquorice wood. Damascus is also famous for its inlaid furniture. At one of the larger shops I saw a number of articles of furniture intended for the late Mr. C. E. A. Dias, who had been there a short time before me.

Damascus was a great centre of trade when goods were moved by camel caravan, and the great khans, or godowns, are a survival of those times. The street called Straight in which St. Paul had his vision runs through the city. It is roofed to keep out the heat of the sun and is lined with bazaars where many beautiful things, especially inlaid silver and brass, ivories, embroidery, fruit and perfumes are sold.

The Omayyad Mosque is one of the most famous in the Middle East. In the courtyard is the tomb of Saladin. In the middle of the mosque is a shrine reputed to contain the head of John the Baptist. I saw an Arab girl go round it seven times. The *minbar* and the *mirab* of the mosque are very delicately carved and inlaid. The Omayyad Mosque, like several other mosques in the Middle East, was formerly a cathedral church.

When Father Christmas Comes

By "D"

THE fiction of Father Christmas is, to my mind, the most delightful of mirth.

The idea of the dear, old, fairy godfather, journeying from a far country laden with gifts for good children, is a charming conception which is not without disciplinary value. It was this idea that gave the clue to the poet who wrote :

"When Father Christmas comes
Laden with gifts to gladden little
hearts,
To every child he whispers as he
parts—
Thus, thus must you, too, scatter,
as you go,
The gifts of mercy, charity and
love,

As you expect these gifts from
heaven above.

Then you may hope at Christmas-tide for more
When Father Christmas comes."

* * *

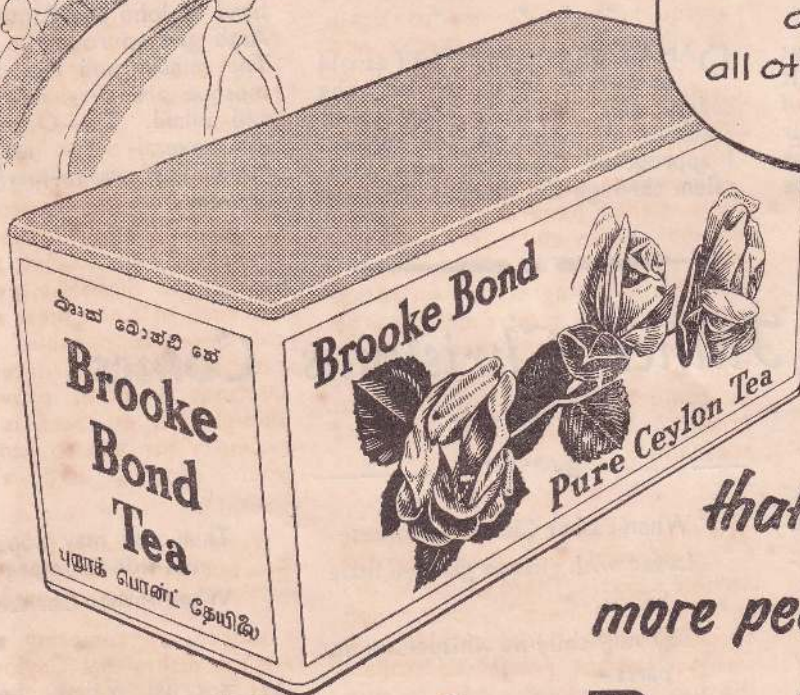
IT is cruel to deny the young the joys of childhood, which, once past, can never be recalled. It is up to us, therefore, to give them a good time while childhood lasts; for when they grow up, they are brought face to face with the realities of life, and the anxieties that come with them.

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A VERY MERRY EATING SEASON

CEYLON FOOD - PAST & PRESENT

By CHRISTINE WILSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

HAPPILY gone in Ceylon are the days when a single paddy husk or a discoloured grain of rice on the king's plate gave sufficient cause for some unfortunate to be torn to pieces by an elephant.

What a ritual surrounded the royal table in ancient times!

The officers and men who winnowed, husked and cleaned the paddy first had to undergo purification, and this to a lesser degree still exists.

They were compelled to wear spotless white, with white scarves across their mouths lest their breath should pollute the royal paddy.

Then, water used by the royal household could not be used by anyone else on pain of terrible punishment. The royal streams were sacred, no matter how the people thirsted.

* * *

ABOUT the palace kitchens there surely must have existed a perpetual aura of strain. The personnel who served in them came from respectable families, were good-looking, strong and in character above reproach. Cleanliness extended beyond the scrubbing-out of the kitchens and their utensils. A birth, a death, a confinement in the family precluded kitchen workers from polluting the royal kitchens with their presence. Only after a prescribed time had passed could they return, physically and spiritually cleansed.

About thirty of these cooks, with as many assistants under them, were under the supervision of a Madappu Nilame or lord-in-waiting. Judging by all they had to do, it is pretty certain they were kept on their toes.

For instance, it is related in the Mahavamsa that one old-time king, at the name-giving ceremony of his son, fed no less than 12,000 bhikkhus. What chaos must have filled the kitchens that day! Later, when his two sons were presented with their first meal of rice, only a mere 500 bhikkhus were fed.

YET another king who lived many centuries ago murmurs through a stanza or two of the old chronicles: "In 44 places have I commanded the perpetual giving of rice foods prepared with honey; and in many places lumps of rice with oil, and in even as many places, great jala cakes baked in butter, and also there was the ordinary rice . . . To each preacher of the doctrine did I order to give a nali of butter, molasses and sugar; moreover, I bestowed on them a handful of liquorice, four inches long."

This last was a particularly benign thought, for no doubt it acted both as digestive and expectorant. How excellent a thing, to rid the throat of phlegm!

Indeed in ancient times the art of cooking was so closely integrated with medicinal principles that the various herbs, perfumes that tickle the olfactory senses, spices, condiments and medicaments were most carefully weighed, and issued to the kitchens only with a written prescription by the court physician.

Meanwhile, as the cooks frenziedly scraped their hundreds of coconuts, ground chillies and curry stuffs on many stones that must have sounded like the pounding of surf on rocks, and stirred the great cauldrons, the court physician busily checked, every hour or less, the king's health, and, in conjunction with the Madappu Nilame, adjusted the menus accordingly.

* * *

AS many as sixty curries at a single meal would be prepared for the earliest rulers. There would be dry curries and "wet" ones; soft curries and sour; pickles and sothys; red-hot gravies to titillate the appetite; soothing ones to cure a lacerated digestion. Every imaginable kind of fish that was to be found in the Indian ocean and the 200 or so vegetable products that Lanka can offer towards curry-making converged on the palace of the ancient kings.

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The later kings of Kandy contented themselves with a mere 32 dishes at a meal, eating only a few of their choice, one curry with one kind of rice, then another with another variety of rice, and drinking Leha, a brew of herbs and syrups to aid the digestion.

But, before a particle of food was raised to the monarch's lips, an unhappy soul known as the Agubalanna had first to sample it for poison. (Was it not written for the king's benefit in The Laws of Manu: "Let him mix all his food with medicines that are antidotes against poison . . . and wear gems which destroy poison?")

If, after an hour's siesta, the man survived, he reported with many obeisances to the king that all was well. If not, it was the easiest thing in the world to install his successor, chosen from among suspected enemies of the king.

* * *

THOUGH rice is mentioned from earliest times in Ceylon's chronicles, curries are not written about until the 2nd Century in the Rajavalia, and in the 5th Century A.D. in the Mahavamsa.

The word curry is said to derive from the Tamil *kari*, and it is likely that the making of it originally came from India with the first invaders. It must be remembered that the earliest kings were Hindus before Buddhism was brought to the island, and many of their customs became intertwined with those of the Sinhalese. For instance, among both Tamils and Sinhalese, even up to the time of Knox meat eaters were considered abominable. "Is a beef eater accustomed to decent words?" demands a Tamil proverb. "Although you eat beef, is there any necessity for you to hang it round your neck?" asks a Sinhalese proverb.


Time has changed many things. Few but the most orthodox Buddhists will refuse to eat meat today.

Indeed, so tempting and varied are the dishes that Ceylon can offer (but not, alas, to the tourist) that to go on a diet would seem a crime.

* * *

A GRAND legacy of dishes has come down to us from a succession of foreign invaders.

(Continued on page 48)



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POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

THE series of strikes of public servants and of dock-workers last month was a severe test of the Government out of which it emerged victorious at great cost to the country. According to a statement made by Mr. C. P. de Silva, Minister of Lands and Land Development, who acted as Chairman of the Cabinet when the Prime Minister was away at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at New Delhi, the net result of the terms of settlement of the strikes is an additional charge of Rs. 100 million on the revenue. He pointed out that this sum would irrigate 50,000 acres of new paddy fields to produce a million bags of rice a year and settle 16,500 unemployed families on three acres of land each. The additional expenditure involved, he said, would mean curtailment of the national development programme.

Although there have been no more strikes of public servants since, it is not as if the service as a whole is contented now. Various other unions have been encouraged by the success of those that resorted to the strike weapon to put forward their claims. Apparently, however, the warning given by the Cabinet that demands for the rectifying of anomalies and redressing of grievances would not be entertained if accompanied by a threat to strike has had a salutary effect. The Prime Minister must be happy that the Government was able to withstand the trial to which it was subjected and maintain its stability during his absence.

* * *

THE position in the port of Colombo continues to cause concern, mainly on account of trade union rivalry. The disruption of work at the docks, contributed to some extent by a longer spell of wet weather than is usual at the time of the year, has been damaging to the trade of the Island, as vividly demonstrated by the long line of ships (as many as 26 one day) anchored outside the harbour in the past week awaiting berths. Exports and imports have been equally affected. As for exports, the re-arrangement of tea auctions in the past fortnight and the cancellation of this week's sale tell their own tale. The extent of the dislocation of

trade is indicated by the fact that some 32 million lb. of tea have accumulated at the warehouses. Rubber auctions have also been suspended from this week. Several shipping lines have been by-passing Colombo, which means that goods coming in are over-carried and produce for export is held up.

Last week the Prime Minister met port workers' trade union leaders and made a personal appeal to them to place their duty to the nation above their interests while assuring them that the difficulties they experienced would receive due consideration.

* * *

IN the meantime commercial interests are perturbed at recent trends affecting their activities. In a memorandum to the Prime Minister five chambers of commerce have sought information on whether it is the intention of the Government to permit the private sector to engage in trade without any restriction; if the Government proposes to restrict the private trade, clarification of the nature of the restrictions.

In seeking a definite statement on the respective roles of the public and private sectors in the sphere of trade and commerce, the memorandum points out that for the welfare and development of the country and the raising of the standard of living heavy private investment by both nationals and non-nationals is urgently required. Alluding to the recent amendment of the C.W.E. Act providing for it to engage in export and import and wholesale and retail trade in all commodities, the point is made that heavy taxation of the private sector is one of the chief sources of revenue of the Government, whereas the C.W.E. is exempt from taxes, and its transactions may entail losses which would be a burden on the Government.

The memorandum is signed by Mr. N. C. Alcock, Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Richard Pieris, Chairman of the Ceylon Merchants' Chamber; Mr. C. P. A. Nair, Chairman of the Indian Merchants' Chamber; Mr. Albert Perera, Chairman of the Sinhalese

Merchants' Chamber; and Mr. Fallil A. Caffoor, Chairman of the National Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

ADDRESSING the National Chamber of Commerce, Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, Minister of Justice, in the absence of the Prime Minister answered one question by dispelling fears that the Government contemplated bringing the importation of all food commodities under State control. It was necessary to bring essential foodstuffs under control, he said, to ensure fair distribution and prevent rises in price in times of emergency.

Mr. de Silva also announced that the Government did not contemplate nationalisation of insurance in the immediate future, although the Government was pledged to it. The Government had not investigated the feasibility of implementing the policy, he said, and gave the assurance that the commercial community would be consulted before any steps were taken in this direction.

* * *

A FEATURE of the debate on the Paddy Lands Bill in Parliament has been the way in which opposition to it virtually collapsed after the characteristically forthright speech of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Philip Gunewardene, setting out the implications of it. He declared that it was intended not to nationalise paddy lands but to provide security of tenure to peasants, and by giving them an assured share in the lands they cultivated to raise production towards conserving the Rs. 260 million now spent on rice imports. The legislation would prevent exorbitant interest being levied for seed paddy and manure and save the peasants from money-lenders and boutique keepers. The cultivator would be enabled, instead of the owner of the land, to name his successor, and 25 per cent of the proposed cultivation committees would be landowners.

The chief objection in criticism of the Bill was to the provision regarding collectivisation. The suggestion was made by a member of the Opposition (L.S.S.P.) that collectivisation might be tried out in the Government colonisation schemes in order to counter the resistance of the conservative peasant by demonstrating that large scale farming was more efficient.

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FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS

SIR WILFRED AND LADY DE SOYSA

By "TAMARA"

FABULOUS stories, adventure, and romance are closely bound up with the name de Soysa. Some generations back one man gave away more money than most men would have earned in several generations. This large-hearted, public-spirited man was Charles de Soysa, the father of Sir Wilfred de Soysa.

'L.W.A.,' as Sir Wilfred is affectionately known to all his friends, was the sixth son of a family of fourteen. Charming, simple, and with a great sense of humour, he is perhaps the best loved of the sons, who have each in his own way earned names for themselves in various spheres of activity.

Unlike some of his brothers, who finished their education at English Universities or qualified in Law, Sir Wilfred chose Agriculture and joined the Royal Agricultural College of Cirencester in Gloucester, where he was elected a member. This choice was a wise one, for besides being a big land owner himself, his knowledge and experience have helped to promote the agricultural development of the Island. Long years of experimenting and developing his own lands have made him one of the most competent and successful agriculturists of his generation.

Though not a politician by inclination, Sir Wilfred has acted as a Member of the Legislative Council and also the Executive Council.

He was knighted in 1938—a tribute to his services to his country as well as to his personal character.

* * *

FIFTY years ago he married Evelyn Fernando at Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa, a church gifted and maintained by his family. This marriage, in addition to being one of the highlights of that time, had all the romance and glamour connected with the 'de Soysa' name. Beautiful, young and a great heiress, Evelyn Fernando was much sought after as a bride. An orphan, she

was brought up by an uncle and received her education at Princess of Wales College, another munificent gift to the people of Moratuwa by her husband's father.

The success of the family is in no small measure due to this charming girl, who today has become one of the foremost of our women social workers.

Simple, unassuming, yet a very gracious woman, the years have sat very lightly on her. Lady de Soysa, as she is known today, was one of the



Sir Wilfred and Lady de Soysa

founder members of the Y.W.C.A. and is the present President of the Colombo Branch. Internationally, she has served on many women's committees and societies. Till recently she was a world Vice-President of the Associated Countrywomen of the World and received a medal of honour for her services, an award which is rarely made.

* * *

THERE are very few organizations charitable or otherwise that have not received her support in some form, or where she does not hold some office. The Victoria Home for Incurables, The National Council for Youth and Child Welfare, the Deaf and Blind Schools, the Sunday Schools of the

Anglican Church, in these and many more she has worked for over forty-five years.

In recognition of her valuable services she received the M.B.E. and later the O.B.E. She was also the first recipient of the Alice Kotelawala Gold Medal for outstanding services to the community.

One would think that having so much to do Sir Wilfred and Lady de Soysa would not have had much time for their own family, but the secret of their success is due to the fact that the guiding principle in their lives had been the sanctity of the home. Their six sons and two daughters have been given every possible advantage that money and good sense can give. Travel and education abroad have helped to broaden their outlook, but the parents have fostered in them a love for their land and love for their homes.

* * *

CHARLES de Soysa left a vast fortune acquired by adventure, enterprise and a large slice of luck. He entertained Royalty and lived like a prince himself, but fortune did not spoil him. In spite of the fabulous and almost 'fairy-tale' stories of his wealth, he remained a simple man. To his sixth son he has passed on some of his sterling qualities, and Wilfred de Soysa has carried on the family traditions, in a generation fraught with uncertainty and changes. He entertains Royalty as did his father before him, but there is also a place for the poor man in his house. All classes and conditions of people go to him for help and advice and not one is turned away empty-handed.

A good citizen, a good churchman and a good family man, Sir Wilfred has shunned lavish display and ostentation, and in Lady de Soysa he has found an ideal partner, who has helped him to uphold the best traditions of his family.

Fifty years is a long partnership in an Eastern country—a Golden Wedding is a rare occurrence. To Wilfred and Evelyn de Soysa they must have been very happy ones—Fifty Golden years in truth. All of us, who have known them, partaken of their hospitality or have been helped by them, wish this great gentleman and gracious lady many more happy years.

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COLLECTIONS

By K. H.

AMONGST all the maxims for getting the best out of life, which meets our eyes in almost every book or magazine which we pick up, we rarely find the precept: "Learn to take a delight in collecting something." Yet, of all the minor pleasures, of life, there are few that afford more interest and satisfaction to its possessor than a well-loved collection. It does not much matter of what that collection consists. If the collecting spirit develops when it should do, the collector's first trophies will probably be something entirely worthless and utterly delightful, such as snail shell with pretty markings, or the spoil from an Autumn hedgerow, acorns, fir-cones, or satin-skinned horse-chestnuts.

* * *

FOR the child, like the savage, knows the true secret of making a collection, in that he collects what he likes just because he likes it, without regard to the opinions of others or to monetary value. The pigs teeth and human bones worn by South Sea dandies may, of course, have something to do with the dictates of fashion and with local custom; but I think that, for the most part, the savage adorning himself with bright feathers and shells knows exactly the same delight as a child who adds a bit of glittering quartz or the shard of a beetle to his "c'lection."

* * *

BUT as the child grows older the collecting spirit becomes an important agent in education. I suppose most of the life-long Nature-lovers have had their interest in wonders first awakened when they started to collect birds' eggs or butterflies. "Cruelty," says the sentimentalist. And it is pitiful to see a nest destroyed by wanton hands, and there might have been but scant truth in the village child's old plea that the birds couldn't count so that, if you left one or two eggs in the nest, it wouldn't matter in the least to the parents if you took the others: that you were, in fact rather doing them a kindness than otherwise, as it left them fewer mouths to feed.

* * *

BUT all the same, the real criminals of birds' nesting are the loafers, who find that an easy way

to make money is to track down the rare bird, and sell the eggs to some collector in town who may never have seen the birds in their wild haunts. And I do not think that any unforgivable harm is done by the small boy who has the patience and skill to collect his own eggs. And what immense joy he gets from the box in which the delicately coloured little things lie on their cotton wool beds; and, if there be someone at hand who can direct him to look behind the beauties of the eggs or the glories of the butterfly wings to the secrets of bird life or the wonders of the changes through which the butterfly has passed, what a fountain of unending delight he will have found!

* * *

BUT birds nesting and butterfly hunting cannot everywhere be carried on all the year round, and for the winter months there are cigarette cards, and matchbox labels and stamps. Of the mysteries of stamp collection I am not fitted to speak. But I remember once meeting a particularly dull and depressed-looking little man. Whilst I was vainly endeavouring to make conversation with him, a parcel arrived for me; and he asked humbly if he might cut the stamps from the wrapper. "Do you collect?" I asked, merely for the sake of something to say. But the words acted as an Open Sesame. He began to talk, he forgot his nervousness and his dyspepsia; and, before he carried my stamps off to test them for peculiarities with microscope and acid, he had told me a really interesting tale of values and discoveries. "Talk stamps, and you'll get stamps. That's what I always say," he concluded. "But oh why didn't our grandparents have the sense to lay by for us a few whole sheets of any new issue of their day?"

"I suppose they never thought of it," I said weakly, for though I had heard our ancestors blamed for unpleasant hereditary traits or financial disability it was the first time that I had heard this particular crime urged against them.

Of course the old gentleman might have developed into a bore; but that is true of all who are only interested in one subject. And for the moment he had become an alert member of society, pleasantly conscious that though he might be dull

and shabby, on this one subject of stamp collecting he was the superior of most of us. For a collection, like everything in this world, gives you back pretty much what you put into it; and it is the man who really studies and knows the history of his possessions who gets most joy out of them.

* * *

BUT everything now-a-days is touched by the question of money; and many folks will say that a collection of any kind is too expensive a hobby for them to indulge in. This really is not so. Of course, if your taste runs towards fine gems, genuine Dutch furniture, or first copies of etchings, you had need to have a very long purse. There are tales of collectors who beggar themselves to add some coveted treasure to their store; and one story told about the father of Louisa Alcott, authoress of "Little Women," once beloved of all girls, suggests that it must be very difficult for the families of some enthusiasts to admire the collecting spirit. One wonders what Mrs. Alcott said when her husband, having been sent off to town with painfully-saved money with which to buy her a winter cloak, returned instead with two old books, and explained to her that, as they were genuine first editions he was sure that she sooner have them than any new clothes!

* * *

BUT the real meaning of the word "collect," is to "gather"—not to buy or to grab, and there are many collections that can be made with the expenditure of much patience and only a little money. Of course, it is better to gather things that have some intrinsic beauty of interest in themselves. How many old ladies used to collect the funeral cards of deceased relatives? More cheerful perhaps, but of hardly more value was a collection of the labels from whisky bottles.

* * *

PICTURE post cards it is also fashionable to sneer at, and boredom was very close at hand when the old albums were brought out. But the picture post card has this in its favour, that it does tell of places seen; which is what many of us ask of our collections. We all have a touch of the longing for "Souvenirs," which has been so ably exploited by the whole of the

(Continued on page 48)

PEOPLE

SIR Henry Moore, Ceylon's first Governor-General, who has made his home in Rondebosch, Cape-town, since his retirement eight years ago, has, with Lady Moore, been spending the summer as usual in England, where he meets many of his former Ceylon friends. Sir Henry, who has been a good friend of the *Fortnightly Review* from its inception and has occasionally contributed to its columns, sends us his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year in a letter we have just received from him.

* * *

SIR Claude Corea was received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace last Friday on relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Ceylon in London.

Sir Claude and Lady Corea will take a holiday in Ceylon before going on to New York, where Sir Claude will be Ceylon's permanent representative at the United Nations.

* * *

SIR Velupillai Coomaraswamy has been appointed Ceylon's first High Commissioner in Canada. Hitherto Ceylon's Ambassador to the United States has been simultaneously accredited to Canada.

Sir Velupillai has been deputy-High Commissioner in London and Ambassador to Burma.

* * *

SOON after the publication of news of Rev. A. G. Fraser, the former Principal of Trinity College,

Kandy, in the issue of the *Fortnightly Review* of 31st October, 1957, we learnt with regret that he was grievously ill in London. He underwent a serious operation from which he was not expected to recover. He is now reported to be better and to be full of his usual spirit in spite of his enfeebled physical condition.



—“Times”

Sir Henry Moore, G.C.M.G.

AN idyllic partnership came to an appropriate end when the death of Mr. John Wilson, the well known solicitor, on Thursday, November 28th, was followed by that of his wife, Helen (nee Barnett), two days later. Mr. Wilson had been at a meeting of the Senate, of which he was a member, the previous day. His wife had been ill for some time. Death came peacefully to both of them.

Mr. Wilson, who was 67, was in practice for 40 years and enjoyed the confidence of a wide circle of clients. He was a partner of the late Mr. S. J. C. Kadirgamar before he set up on his own. Latterly he practised with his only son, John. He was a member of the Council of Legal Education, a steward of the Turf Club, a member of the Board of Governors of St. Thomas' College, of which he was a loyal old boy, and which he represented at athletics and soccer, and a director of several companies. He was also a devoted Roman Catholic.

In a reference at the District Court, Mr. N. E. Weerasooria, Q.C., dwelt on the integrity and diligence he brought to his work and said that by Mr. Wilson's death the profession had lost one of its most respected members and the country an outstanding citizen. The Acting District Judge, Mr. Sivasubramaniam, observed how a large number of people turned to Mr. Wilson not only for professional advice but for guidance in their personal affairs.

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, was a pall-bearer at both funerals.

* * *

COL. Victor Thompson, M.B.E., former Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army in Ceylon who has numerous friends in the Island, writes from his home in Southern Rhodesia: "August to November are 'killer months' here, for I have the long week-end congress gatherings in as many of the divisional centres as I can attend, though this year the Asian 'Flu Epidemic' knocked out plans somewhat. However, we got through very well indeed."

* * *

COL. Thompson adds: "At the beginning of this month (November) we had Lady Murphy, who was accompanied by Sir William, your former Mayor of Colombo, to preside over the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our Home League Movement. Sir William, in a chat with me, referring to you said that he had that very morning sent off his article on the Bahamas for the *Fortnightly Review* Christmas Number. Lady Murphy spoke exceedingly well. In the course of her speech she referred to her contacts in Ceylon, when the Salvation Army did such wonderful work in the time of the Malaria Epidemic!"

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PEOPLE

After giving us the news that Mrs. Thompson has fully recovered from her accident, which caused a fracture of her right arm, Col. Thompson writes of the new Governor-General of Southern Rhodesia, Lord Dalhousie: "I was present at a Reception on the day of his arrival last month. Lord Dalhousie is keen and out to prove a worthy successor to the late Lord Llewellyn, whose passing was a great loss to the Federation. Lady Dalhousie told me of a very happy day spent in Colombo when returning from Japan, and how impressed she was with Kandy. She seemed enthralled when I spoke of the picturesque floral decorations in Ceylon—how at the evening reception at 'Temple Trees' each tree will be so artistically decorated!"



—"Times"
Mr. Norman S. Walter

MR. Norman Walter, who left Ceylon last April after being Principal of Trinity College for five years, is now on the tutorial staff of the well-known English Public School, Radley College, Abingdon, Berkshire. He and his family have gone into residence in a house about three-fourths of a mile from the school along the main Abingdon-Oxford Road. He is still very interested in Trinity, and in a recent communication has stated that one of their greatest pleasures is hearing from their friends in Ceylon.

* * *

NEW Year's Day will be the 88th birthday of Col. T. Y. Wright, redoubtable athlete and sportsman of his day, and one of the most versatile men to come to Ceylon from Britain. Planter, City man, legislator, he made his mark in all spheres. We wish him many happy returns of the day.

OUR congratulations go to Mr. O. L. de Kretser, C.M.G., former Puisne Judge, on the golden anniversary of his marriage, which fell on December 4th. A famous District Judge of Colombo before he was promoted to the Supreme Court Bench, his services were acknowledged by the Government by the conferment on him of the C.M.G.

Following in his footsteps is his son, who is Additional District Judge of Colombo.

* * *

THE Governor-General and the Prime Minister and other ministers attended the marriage of Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, Minister of Finance, to Sheila Grey, at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. Edward Grey, former Inspector of Police.

THE news of Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's e'ection as President of the Oxford Union, the first Asian to gain the distinction, came as no surprise to his old school-mates at Royal College, Colombo, where he had an outstanding record as a scholar, athlete and sportsman.

His father, Mr. D. D. Athulathmudali, a barrister, was for some time member of the State Council for Matugama.

* * *

THE head of the Salvation Army, General Wilfred Kitching, and Mrs. Kitching were on a six-day visit to Ceylon last month. They were accompanied by Commissioner Ernest Bigwood, International Secretary for Asia.

(Continued on page 35)

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A COLOMBO LANDMARK DISAPPEARS

By HUGH W. TATTERSALL

A BIT of local history, of particular interest to soldiers and Scouts but also familiar to the general public, was pulled down in Colombo a few months ago when the Old Guard Room on Galle Face, opposite Parliament, was demolished in the interests of our splendid, new Marine Drive. Nobody can regret the decision, for, though this small building agreed well architecturally with its imposing neighbour, it had ceased to serve any purpose. But its history was interesting, and, before it is forgotten, it should be told.

* * *

IN spite of an asbestos roof, of obviously recent origin, the date of the Old Guard Room is fortunately beyond dispute, as it was carved into a stone above the door—1838. In the years that followed, that classic portico, facing the State Council, no doubt sheltered many a sentry and policeman from the sun and rain. But the single room, or cell, behind it had a different purpose; it was a whipping post during the time of the early British Garrison of the Fort of Colombo. No doubt, drunks and defaulters of all kinds were there summarily dealt with, and, if military records can throw further light on the exact nature of those proceedings, it will fill out our picture. Meanwhile, imagination must supply.

* * *

NINETY years pass by, and we come to a new era in the history of these grim stones. The Boy Scouts' Association has, since introduced here in 1912 by Mr. F. G. Stevens, made steady progress but throughout has been handicapped by the absence of adequate and central Headquarters. Until 1929, through the courtesy of the Government, two rooms were allotted to the Association in the old Secretariat in Queen Street. Later, the Honorary Secretary, Captain E. J. Jayaweera, obtained a room in the Government Technical College, Maradana. But for one year only; then again notice to quit. And it was at this time, and in this predicament, that Captain Jayaweera saw in the Old Guard Room by the sea an

ideal building for his purpose, and successfully negotiated with the Chief Secretary for it in 1930.

* * *

I NOW quote from the Ceylon Boy Scouts' Association Christmas Annual of 1946:—"This one-roomed hut measuring 20 ft. by 10 ft. amazingly served as Headquarters from 1930 until 1939 during a period when the Movement was making rapid progress throughout the Island. In it were installed the Scout Shop and Office. Although the place lacked sufficient floor-space, the building attracted considerable public attention, due chiefly to its central situation. *Ipsa facto*, the place was used for important meetings where decisions of far-reaching importance were arrived at, visitors were entertained in large numbers within and without, and the staff dwelt therein. Water for drinking was obtained from the State Council building opposite, while there were no such luxuries as conveniences! Many a Jamboree, Rally and function was organized within the narrow precincts of this building."

* * *

WITH the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the Scouts were once again deprived of their Headquarters as the Old Guard Room passed into the hands of the Police Department as a temporary station on days when Parliament met. But, happily, by this time, the first of the Movement's own buildings was erected—1st Port of Colombo (Sea Scouts) nearby on the Beira Lake—and this building served the Association for its meetings during a period when Headquarters was tucked away in Bullers Road. Two years later the Colombo Local Association got its own building in the same area on Lake Road, and finally in 1945, as the War came to an end, the present, spacious Island Headquarters was opened beside it.

Thus a landmark has gone; one that has, for some especially, very precious memories, and for all has been a friendly figure of the landscape for most of the British Period and on into Independence. We salute its passing.

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COLOMBO Y. M. C. A.

75th ANNIVERSARY

THE Colombo Y.M.C.A. began its existence in 1882 in a very small way. Nine young men attended a meeting in the Wesley College Hall, Dam Street, on 24th June, 1882, which was summoned by Mr. William Chapman, an employee of the firm of Messrs. Cargill & Co. who was a member of the Glasgow United Y.M.C.A., and by Messrs. Justin Rode and J. C. Jansz of Colombo. At this meeting the Colombo Y.M.C.A. was inaugurated. Mr. J. C. Jansz, the well-known master of the Royal College, was elected its first President.

In spite of many vicissitudes the Y.M.C.A. has grown and today is recognized as an outstanding institution in the City which has as its aim the development of perfect manhood in young men.

The first event in the celebration of this important anniversary was a Thanksgiving Service which was held on Sunday, the 8th December, at St. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, at which the preacher was the Rt. Rev. Lakdasa de Mel, Bishop of Kurunegala. On the 17th December, a public meeting was held at the Central Y.M.C.A., Fort, under the Chairmanship of the President of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. S. J. C. Schokman. The large gathering included the Bishop of Colombo and the heads or representatives of several Diplomatic Missions in the Island.

The chief speakers were Mr. Horace Alexander, a distinguished member of the Society of Friends of the U.K. and the author of three books on India, who is on a visit to Ceylon, and Mr. J. H. Dunderdale, Director of the Y.M.C.A. Secretaries' Training College at Bangalore. The Dutch Reformed Church Music Guild Choir sang an anthem, and a violin solo was given by Mr. Douglas Ferdinand.

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NATURE STUDIES

THE TARANTULA

— By Rev. PERCY T. CASH, B.Sc. (Lond.) —

THE sinister aristocrat of the spider world is the so-called Tarantula. The name "tarantula" as used in Ceylon is a purely popular one, although the creatures that bear the name can scarcely be called popular.

The name, however, is derived from the town of Tarentum in Italy and was probably first applied in its spidery connotation to one of the larger kinds of spider represented in Ceylon by the lively fellows of the family Lycosidae, that come out of their ground burrows in sandy, sunny places and move swiftly in pursuit of their prey, but of these we have no intention of treating at present.

* * *

MOST of the readers of this article will be familiar with the following classic rhyme :—

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet
Eating her curds and whey ;
There came a Great Spider
And sat down beside her
And frightened Miss Muffet
away.

If a tarantula should come to "sit down beside" us, we might certainly be excused if we followed the example of this celebrated young lady, and precipitately fled; we might even desert a tempting plate of rice and curry under such circumstances. But Miss Muffet hailed from a country where no tarantulas are found except a few strays that have escaped from banana clumps imported from the West Indies; and probably the poem concerning Miss Muffet dates from a time earlier than the days of imported West Indian bananas; so we may conclude that this spider of history—as famous though not as virtuous as Bruce's industrious and indefatigable exemplar—could not have been a tarantula. However, higher critics may tell us that Miss Muffet never existed; she may perhaps be a sun-myth or a personification of some natural phenomenon. Who can tell?

BUT to return to Ceylon tarantulas. My Household Zoo has contained them on various occasions: one of these gentle creatures was perching on my topee one morning when I hurriedly seized the latter in haste to go out, another was dusted out of the music case, a third spread-cagled itself on the dining room wall, whilst still another invaded one of the bedrooms and looked enormous against the white background of the wall. None of these were responsible for any casualty except that of their own premature decease.

The tarantula differs from the spider of ordinary reputation in one fairly obvious feature. Its mandibles or jaws are in the same straight line as the rest of the body; this is not so in most spiders, the mandibles are more or less at right angles to the body.

It is in September, when the long drought has been broken by a few heavy showers, that they seem to be commonest. Their haunts in the palm trees or in the thatch of the roof have become damp and uncomfortable, or perhaps they find that there are victims to pursue that have come out of their dry season retreats.

* * *

INNOCENT spiders suffer only too often because they are mistaken for tarantulas. Heteropoda is a constant sufferer in this way. She is a long-legged and speedy wanderer who prowls around our houses searching for cockroaches and other smaller fry, and she sometimes carries a lens-shaped eggcase about with her and seems not at all incommoded by its somewhat bulky presence. Her long legs make her look immense. This may result in an undeserved execution.

The tarantula is far more bulky in body, has shorter legs in proportion to its size, and carries much more hair. The hairs of its body are often poisonous and have a very irritant action on the skin of the person who

POCCILOTHERIA—pardon the name—is one of the commoner tarantulas of Ceylon. It lives in trees or in the thatch of houses—many tarantulas live in burrows in the ground and rarely resort to houses. They are well protected from weather in their burrows and are less likely to be driven out by a heavy shower. Poccilotheria probably possesses a voice, for it usually has at least the apparatus for the protection of it. Certainly some of her cousins are able to make themselves heard. The sound produced is like that which may be made by drawing the back of the blade of a penknife over the teeth of a comb.

This stridulation is brought about by the chafing together of two of the parts connected with the "head" of the spider. There is a set of spines on the outer edge of the mandible which is rubbed against bristles on the maxilia (a small leg-like appendage close to the jaws). The sound is probably a mating call. It may also be of the nature of a warning, signifying :

"'twere best to let me alone, I am dangerous."

But may be it is sometimes produced out of pure "joie de vivre." I think that I have sometimes "in the stilly night" heard this sound. It came from the fastnesses of the roof, that resort of creatures visible, and invisible, but too many of them vastly audible.

* * *

THE poison of the tarantula proceeds from the tip of the jaws as in other and smaller kinds. There is a narrow tube which runs through the outer portion of the mandible from the poison gland, which is situated in its lower part. The effect of tarantula poison on the human subject has been variously estimated. If the spider feels inclined to inject a big dose of poison, the effect is likely to be exceedingly painful though perhaps scarcely dangerous.

Once upon a time there was an idea widely held in various countries that those bitten by a tarantula would be visited by a species of madness which would compel them to dance and that only by sufficiently vigorous dancing could their lives be saved. Music lovers are familiar with the "Tarentelle," a piece of music of such a nature that it is a fit accompaniment for the spider-dance of a person thus afflicted. This idea has probably little basis in truth.

(To be continued)



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CHRISTMAS MAGIC - - - -

- - - - By FELICITY

THE Christmas magic is at work again. You cannot escape it. Venture into a shop to buy a paper of pins or a packet of envelopes and in a moment you fall a victim. Such colour, such lighting, such an invitation only to LOOK, even if you cannot spend. After all there is no extra charge for looking! Alas, one has to be very poor or very strong-minded indeed to leave it at that.

Much of the attractive window-decking must have come too late last year and now serves very opportunely to fill in for what is still held up in the harbour as the result of this year's strikes. Certainly the overall effect is better and brighter than ever, and the shopping crowds appear to find plenty to please and intrigue them.

Street vendors too, in Fort and Pettah, have an astonishing variety of eye-catching novelties. Seeing these, I was suddenly reminded of long-ago days in England when the "City Pennorths" were offered along the London kerb-stones. We enjoyed these as much as any of the expensive toys brought us by Santa Claus. Father would spend two or three shillings on the amusing contraptions (most of them hailing from Germany) which in those days a penny would buy. They did not last long in childish hands but what fun we had while they lasted.

An old relative of mine made a very interesting collection of penny toys which were carefully housed in a glass cupboard and brought out only on special occasions. I wonder what happened to them when he passed on? Today they would constitute quite a valuable museum collection.

* * *

It is odd to think that in spite of modern "progress" and all the mechanical inventions of this jet-age, fifty cents will not buy anything so amusing and ingenious as many of those penny toys. One very dear to my heart (for a week or two) was a little doll whose tongue popped out and hair stood on end when you pulled a string. Another I remember was fashioned of two wooden clothes-pegs roughly carved into the appearance of boxers, which could be skilfully manipulated on a double string to stage quite a realistic boxing match. Acrobats performing on a bar went through rib-tickling

antics according to the manner in which you worked a little lever.

I think it was this element of variety, depending on the manipulator, which accounted for the popularity, too of many of the higher-priced toys in the Christmas displays of long ago. Do you recall the flying tops, sent spinning round the room from the pressure of a vertical rod with a spring in its handle? Ceilings and walls were chipped in all directions, the year these came in; and if you got in the way of one of these little sputniks they could leave a nasty cut or bruise, but they were breathlessly amusing. Then there were the diabolos that set a whole family competing. I cannot think of anything in later years that created such a terrific craze, except perhaps the yo-yo.

Under the forbidding name of "Remote Control" the shops this year are offering one toy at least that calls for some such dexterity. Then there are luxury toys to be had for a few hundred rupees, such as airplanes and battleships, which claim actually to be scientifically equipped for genuine "remote control" up to a distance of a hundred yards or so. Like the many constructional toys these will appeal to intelligent schoolboys and their papas. But the appeal too will perforce be one of "remote control" unless they happen to belong to the "capitalist" class.

* * *

I hope people still have plenty to spend, for there is no doubt the stores have made a very special effort this year to cater for juveniles. The dolls are lovelier than they have been for many a year. Such heavy stocks are carried however that the accent is more on mass display than on artistic or imaginative exhibition.

I still wait to see the realisation of my own long-cherished dream of a REAL Christmas exhibition for the children, large enough for them to roam without danger of knocking things over, fanciful enough to set them dreaming, inspiring enough to send them home starry-eyed with ideas of their own for Santa Claus.

I know one man in Colombo is planning something of this nature for the children, but at the time of writing all I could see was that his beginnings were on too small a scale

to fulfil the ideal. No doubt they can grow. The assistants in some of the stores hold the view that shoppers in the toy departments ought to be restricted to responsible adults, who could come alone and at leisure to choose the toys, for their children to break in the privacy of their own homes.

In fact one Fort store had this warning notice prominently displayed:

"Beautiful to look at,
Lovely to behold . . .
If you should break it
We mark it as sold."

* * *

When all is said and done, I think the book and record departments score the highest marks in interest contents. A gift voucher for purchases in either of these caters easily for young and old, and in satisfying variety. But housewives will tell me there never was a more exciting display of "presents for the home" in the way of useful, not to say colourful, appliances. Much of these were to be found in the European capitals, no doubt, for some years past. This year it is as if a genial genie had waved a magic wand and suddenly transported the things out here to complete our Christmas enchantment.

Who buys them? In England they lighten the labour and brighten the work-a-day surroundings of the busy women who cook, clean and housekeep almost unassisted. Is there, perchance, a new class of Ceylon housewife arising, determined to "do things" for herself and have the fun of doing them "American style"? If this is so, by all means, husbands, let the little woman be indulged!

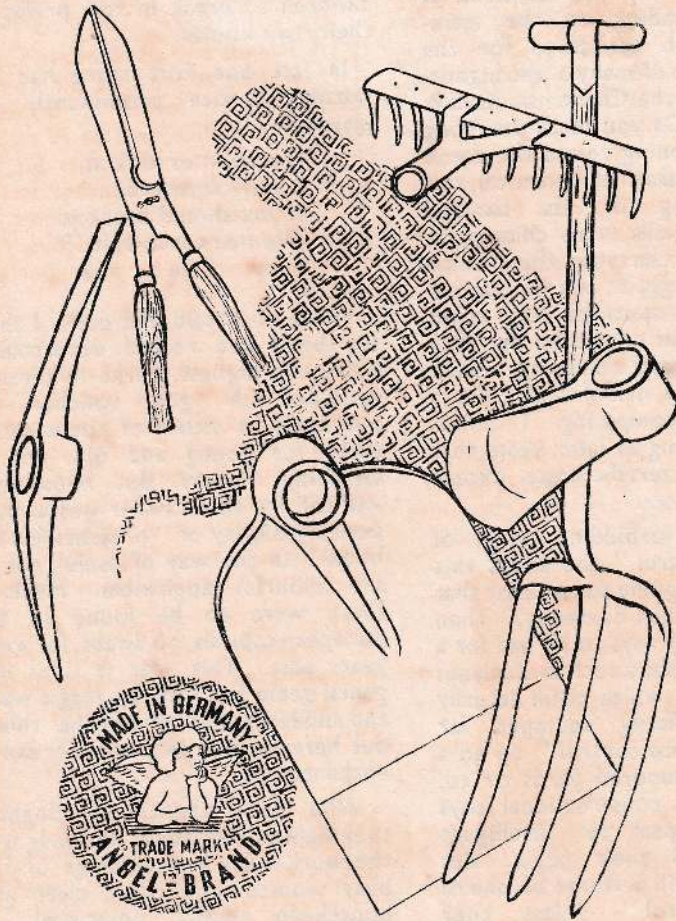
For Ceylon's sake, I trust the reason for so much interest in such gadgets may not in every case be that of the Burgher lass who confided in me the other day:

"I'm learning to cook, and launder, and house-clean: all in readiness for when we leave sometime next year. Canada, California, Australia, or dear old U.K.? I wouldn't know. We haven't yet decided anything, except that GO WE MUST, for the children's sake."

For whatever the reason, it is pleasant to think that in many Ceylon homes, dingy kitchens and drab living quarters will soon be things of the past, thanks to the flood of stocks arriving for the creation of Brighter Bungalows.

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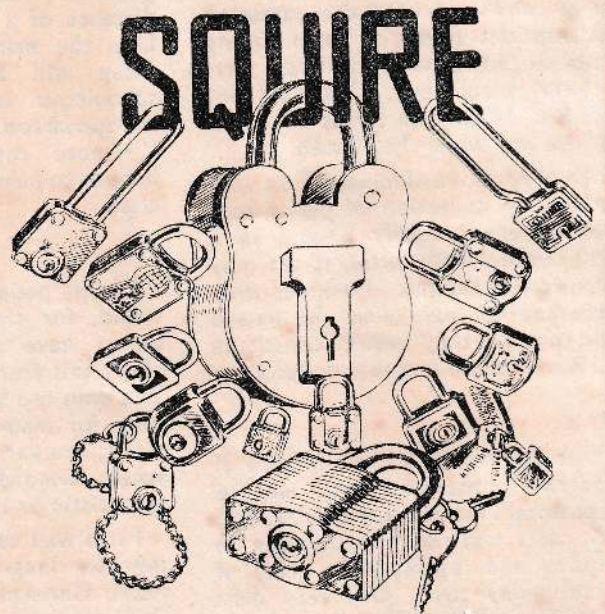
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PEOPLE

(Continued from page 27)

Landing in Jaffna, they visited Kandy, Rambukkana, Colombo and Moratuwa, the principal Army centres in Ceylon. At a meeting in Colombo General Kitching announced the promotion of the head of the Army in Ceylon, Col. Gwendoline Taylor, to the rank of Commissioner. Commissioner Taylor has been in the Island since 1954.

* * *

BACK in Ceylon after an absence of five years earlier in the month was Olga Koch, internationally famous exponent of Latin-American dancing, with her partner Felipe Mayhew.

They have an engagement in Colombo and go on to Singapore and India.

* * *

THE Rev. Father Thanninayagam has obtained the Ph.D. in Education of the University of London. A Doctor of Divinity of Rome and M.A. of Annamalai University, Father Thanninayagam has travelled extensively and is proficient in several languages. He is at present a Lecturer in the Ceylon University.

* * *

UNUSUAL visitors recently were 15 members of the World Association of Travel Agencies, headed by their President, Mr. D. Dedina. Elephants and Kandyan dancers greeted them at Ratmalana airport and they were received by Mr. D. C. L. Amarasinghe, Director of Tourism and Mr. P. A. Ediriweera, Managing Director, Ceylon Tours and Ceylon Hotels Co., Ltd. (who was their host.)

France, Switzerland, Italy and Egypt were represented among them.

* * *

A CAREER of distinction was cut short by the death recently of Mr. H. R. Gunawardana, who, joining the Government Service as Audit Examiner, became Assistant Accountant of the C.G.R. and rose to be Commercial Superintendent. He retired prematurely in 1952 and obtained the degree of LL.B., London, and took to law.

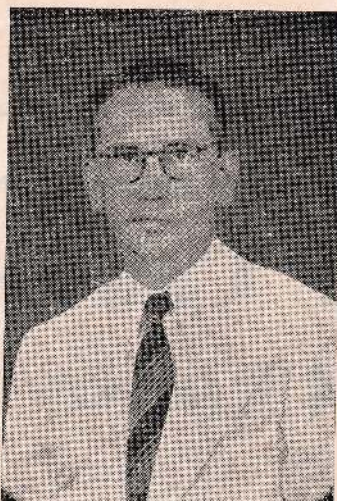
The Governor-General and Mr. Gunawardana's former colleagues from all parts of the Island attended the funeral. Much sympathy will be felt for his widow, Mrs Theja Gunawardhana, their young daughter and two small sons.

* * *

MR. Dudley de Jonk, Operating Superintendent of the C.G.R., who went on leave prior to retirement on October 4, was feted by the senior staff of the Railway at the Atlanta Club on October 5th. Mr. B. D. Rampala, General Manager of Railways, who presided, paid a tribute to Mr. de Jonk and dwelt on his meritorious record of 35 years' service culminating in the high position to which he attained.

* * *

MR. de Jonk joined the Railway as a first grade apprentice and devotion to his work brought him



Mr. Dudley de Jonk

rewards in quick promotions. In 1931 he went to England for further training and served for two years with the London and North-Eastern Railway. He reached executive rank with his appointment as Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent in 1940.

A son of the late Mr. T. B. de Jonk of Delmege Reid & Co., Mr. Jonk was educated at St. Joseph's College.

He will spend his retirement in Australia.

* * *

MR. de Jonk and family leave Colombo on January 18th. Accompanying them will be Mr. Reginald

E. Stork, retired Commercial Superintendent of the Railway, and his daughter, Edna, on a three-month holiday in Australia. Mrs. de Jonk is a daughter of Mr. Stork.

* * *

HIS friends and admirers in Ceylon will be aware that Sir Herbert Dowbiggin, former Inspector-General of Police, will be 77 on Boxing Day. Earlier this year Sir Herbert was involved in a motor accident and received serious injuries, but he made a remarkable recovery and is none the worse for his experience.

* * *

MRS. Carmen Foenander-Herft, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Foenander, and well-known concert pianist, who left Ceylon last week, will be greatly missed, not only in musical circles, but as a valuable music teacher and a sympathetic accompanist not only of local but of visiting artistes from overseas.

Mrs. Herft, whose husband is Mr. Annesley Herft, Acting Superintendent of Excise, is accompanied by their second son Gavin and daughter Romayne.

* * *

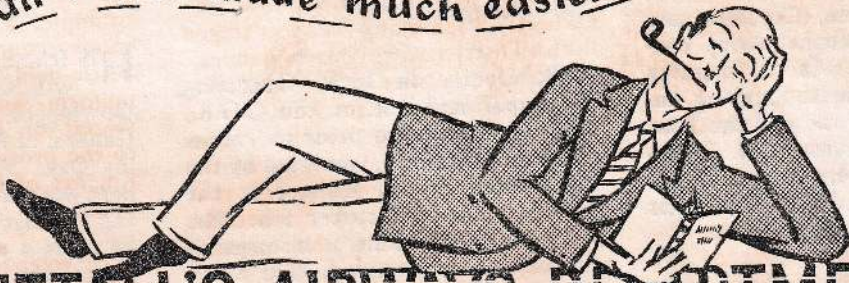
NEWS of the death of Sir Thomas Southorn, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., who was living in retirement in England, was received in Ceylon with very great regret.

Born in 1879, he was educated at Warwick School and graduated from Corpus Christi, Oxford. Joining the Ceylon Civil Service in 1903, he acted as Colonial Secretary in 1920, and in 1923 became Principal Collector of Customs, in which capacity he did perhaps his best service in Ceylon. After 22 years in the Island he was appointed Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong in 1926. He was Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gambia from 1936 to 1942.

He married Bella Sidney Woolf, the well known writer on Ceylon and author of several books, a sister of Leonard Woolf, who wrote "Village in the Jungle."

Sir Thomas and Lady Southorn took a keen and practical interest in social and welfare activities wherever they happened to be stationed. They made many friends in Ceylon with whom they always kept in touch.

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BATTICALOA'S RURAL DANCES

By S. V. O. SOMANADER

THE rural dance, to be seen in certain villages (like Santiveli, Akkaraipattu, Kaluthavalai, Vantharumulai, Pethalai and Kannangudah—to mention just six) of the Batticaloa District is an evolution of the war dance during the period when the Tamils were a martial race and held sway in South India. In its present form, it combines the vigorous bodily movements of the war dance with the artistic grace and rhythm associated with the dramas, such as the plays of Sophocles and Euripides.

A classical student watching a "naadu-koothu" (country dance) in any remote village in the Batticaloa District is forcibly reminded of the actors and chorus as described in Euripides's "Iphigenia." The village dance, in its purest Dravidian form, was known as "Then-mody" (the manner of the South—probably meaning South India). Later, with the Aryan infiltration into South India, this pure Dravidian form was modified presumably by the dramatic influence exerted by such Sanskrit plays as "Sakuntala," which is the most ancient Sanskrit drama extant.

* * *

THE "Then-mody" dance comprises violent physical jerks characteristic of the warrior, and the fine rhythmic movements of the South Indian dancing girls together with the melodies of the ancient Tamil music. As there was close cultural affinity between the Jaffna Peninsula and South India in ancient times, this art was introduced into the Batticaloa District probably through Jaffna. We are unable, however, to state the period when "Then-mody" was introduced into Ceylon, but tradition has it that "Vada-mody" (the manner of the North—presumably the dancing mode of North India) came into vogue in this District about 300 years ago. Prior to that period, only "Then-mody" was practised.

It may be stated that, at the beginning "Vada-mody Koothu" was not actually practised by the people, but the subject matter of this dance was enacted before the audience in the form of a puppet show. Later on, the manuscripts of the "Vada-mody Koothu" were obtained from Jaffna, and this art spread throughout the Batticaloa

District. As far as we know, the earliest "Vada-mody" dances staged in this District were "Harischandra" (popularly called "Arichandra-nadagam") and "Ramayana." And as the "Vada-mody Koothu" does not tax the physical energy of the dancers to the same extent that "Then-mody" does, it has become more popular with the present generation.

* * *

THE stage for this "koothu" is a raised circular platform, without a roof or curtain; and the actors taking part in it can be seen from any angle. The bareness of the rounded platform imposes on the actor the necessity of presenting himself, face to face, before the large encircling audience. And so, it is only a skilled and clever actor who can give a good account of himself to every section of the audience (critical women and children included) seated around him, usually on the bare ground.

A word can now be said about the costumes worn by the actors. They vary, of course, with the type of "koothu." In the case of "Vada-mody," which does not require vigorous movements of the body, the costume is elaborate and heavy. The head-gear of the King and Queen is often made of light wood set with crystals, beads, silver bells, multi-coloured tinsel and other gay adornments. In the "Then-mody Koothu," there is vigorous bodily movement, and so the costumes are so designed as to permit the actor

to move his limbs freely. In both these types of "koothu," the costume is also varied according to the rank of the actor and the particular role he has to play. For example, a king in state wears a gaudy court-dress, while, in the battle-field, he dons a military uniform known as "Mara-vury" (wood or bark-peelings) analogous to the protective garb worn by the Knights of the Crusades in bygone times.

* * *

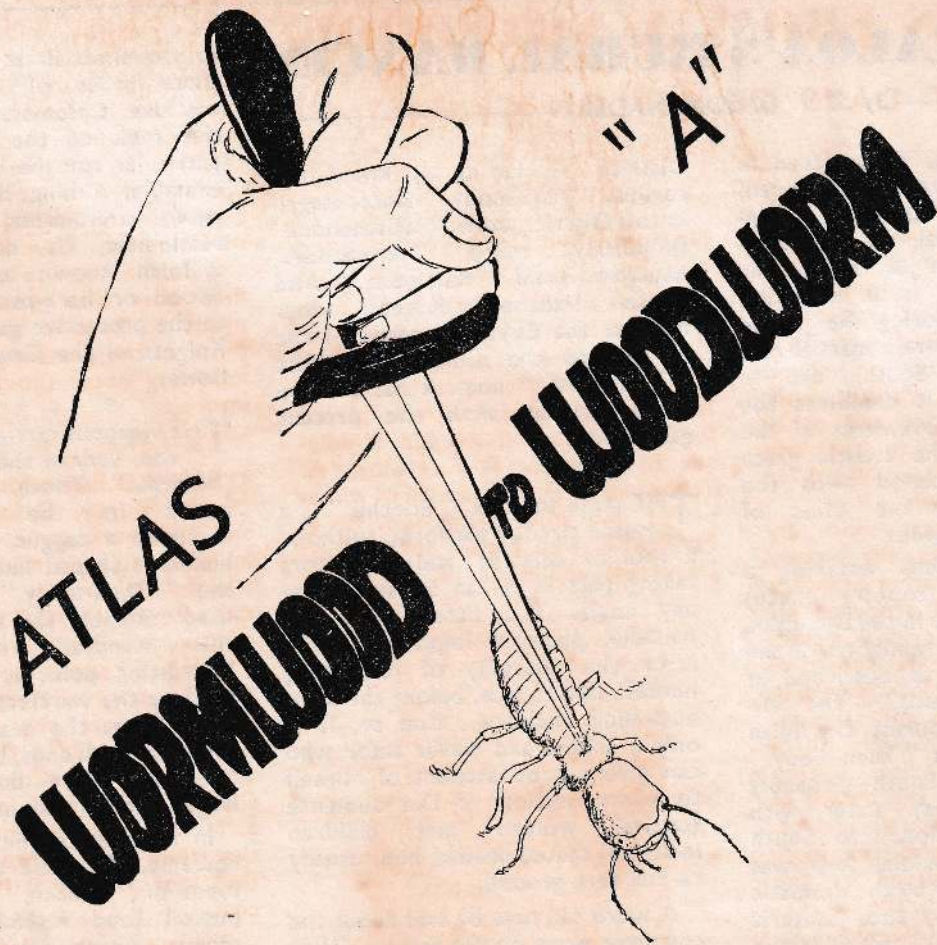
THE weapons carried by the actors, too, vary in these two types of "koothu." Those carried by the actors in the "Vada-mody" resemble a dagger, but the ornate handle is shaped like a unicorn. In the "Then-mody," the weapons used resemble the swords used by the Kandyan Kings. Another interesting point is that the bow used by the warriors in the "Vada-mody" has the head of a unicorn carved at both ends, but, in the other "koothu," the bows used are larger, though plainer.

In addition to these variations in costume, the male actors, in both types of "koothu," wear an ornamental band resembling a shawl, called "Ehawadam," at both ends of which is worked, in silver or gold thread, a design of the unicorn. In this connection, the "Oddyanam" (girdle or waist-belt) and the "Nagavadam" (the figure of a hooded cobra), both worked in silver or gold, are indispensable ornaments of the female dress. Further, all persons taking part in the "koothu" paint their faces in various colours, symbolising the personalities they represent. For

(Continued on page 48)



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NOTCHES FROM A NOTEBOOK

EARLIEST DAYS OF CEYLON CRICKET

By "OLD-HAND"

(Fortnightly Review Special)

IN the late nineties a young journalist on the staff of the "Times of Ceylon" came into prominence as a Sports writer and soon established himself as an outstanding commentator on sport, specializing in Racing, Cricket, Golf, Lawn Tennis, Athletics and other field sports. I refer to the late Mr. Percy Bartholomeusz—P.L.B. as he was popularly known.

He began his great work by rescuing from old files the history of racing, cricket and other branches of sport and in 1900 produced his first Handbook on Ceylon Cricket, which contained a faithful record of all the important matches played in the seventies, eighties and nineties. It was a remarkable compilation of past results of the principal matches played in Ceylon and the details of visits of England and Australian teams, and complete results of the most important matches played by the then famous Colts Club, the C.C.C.-Up-Country and D.M.C.C.-D.A.C.C. matches and a wealth of Ceylon Cricket records.

The Ceylon Sports Annual came out in 1901 in bulkier form and embraced the history of other branches of Ceylon Sport. The sporting public in the years that followed were provided with compilations running into more than a hundred pages and till 1914 it was published without a break.

* * *

MR. Bartholomeusz's death during World War I was universally mourned in the Island, his loss as the leading Sports writer in Ceylon being greatly deplored by all sportsmen. His labours in the interest of Ceylon Sports was acknowledged by all who knew how impartial he had always been in his criticisms and his unflinching accuracy and judgment in all he wrote. He was never known to be unfair as a sports critic and his knowledge of every department of Sport was encyclopaedic.

As one who understudied this Sports writer on the staff of the "Times of Ceylon" in the early years of this century the present scribe acknowledges his debt of gratitude to his unflinching readiness to be of assistance to him throughout the period he worked with him.

Distinguished Cricketers

IT will probably surprise a great many of the present generation to know that Ceylon boasted over half a dozen first class English County men in the eighties, including the late Bernard Pauncefote, who played for Oxford University and Middlesex, B. B. Cooper, P. F. Hadow, A. Tabor and C. H. A. Ross, all of whom played for Middlesex, and F. F. Mackenzie, who played for Oxford University and Kent. P. F. Hadow



—"Times"

Col. T. Y. Wright.
One of Ceylon's most famous cricketers, who will be 88 years old next month.

was, of course, the famous All-England Lawn Tennis player, who once won the Wimbledon Championship. In addition to the distinguished cricketers I have just referred to, there were also F. L. Shand, who played for Harrow and Scotland, G. H. Alston, who kept wickets at Marlborough to the great A. G. Steele, who later captained England in Test Cricket, the brothers W. P. and G. F. Halliley, both remarkably good bowlers, G. S. Saxton the Civil Servant and old Cliftonian, and other equally distinguished cricketers like Ashley Walker, who as a Master at Royal College did much for the development of Ceylonese cricket, C. G. Inglis, Dimbula's great all-rounder, J. G. Fort, who was also reputed to have played in good class cricket in England, Cave Brown,

A. J. Denison, and F. A. Fairlie. Denison planted in the Dimbula district for many years before he came to Colombo to join the Firm of Cumberbatch & Co. By this time he had given up cricket but was still able to more than hold his own with the leading Tennis players in Colombo. Cave Brown, Denison and Fairlie were a trio which any first class side would have been proud to have in their ranks. To those of the present generation the following notes should be of great interest.

* * *

BERNARD Pauncefote, who played for Rugby, Oxford University, and Middlesex, came out to Ceylon in 1876, and soon made his presence felt in local cricket. He invariably did well for the C.C.C. against Up-country and was a prolific scorer in Colombo Cricket. He is said to have made a score of over 150 for the C.C.C. against the Garrison on Galle Face in 1881; those were the days when the Colombo Cricket Club played all their matches there, as it was nearly twenty years later that they moved into the grounds they now occupy at Maitland Crescent.

Referring to Pauncefote and B. B. Cooper, "Leg Stump" in his reminiscences of old cricketing days in Ceylon (in 1899) wrote as follows:—"I cannot recall much about Cooper, but have a vivid recollection of Pauncefote hitting a ball on the leg-side, on the Galle Face ground which found its way into the lake. Vainly did the fielders scream 'lost ball!' The ball was in sight and the batsmen kept on running. Eventually in desperation somebody was pushed in to retrieve it, but Pauncefote had scored 13 runs"! B. B. Cooper was a magnificent bat. He played for Middlesex and Kent and afterwards for Victoria, and was really one of the most finished batsmen we ever had out here.

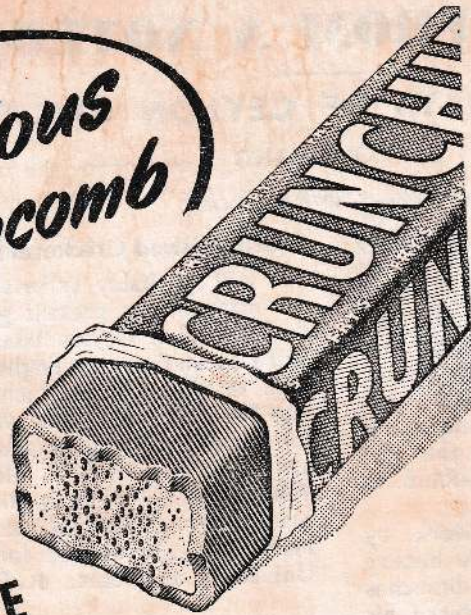
* * *

ASHLEY Walker, who did so much to improve the standard of cricket at the Royal College, was another fine batsman of that period. He was probably the most polished bat Ceylon ever had. In 1885 he was captain of the Ceylon team that visited Madras. He was very successful on that tour, his best effort being an innings of 90 against Bangalore. He and J. G. Fort established a partnership of over 200 runs in that game.

(To be continued)

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By ITINERANT

Racing

THE racing season in Colombo ended for 1957 with the November race meeting which was concluded with the Extra meet held on November 30th. The four-day meet proved disastrous for punters, for in the 28 races run only seven favourites obliged.

The failure of most of the fancied runners was due in a great measure to the heavy going which prevailed on the last three days, and those who followed the mud-larkers came out best, as several of them scored at nourishing odds.

Qaddah, Silver Balm, Attila and Vijelatan were the outstanding performers, winning two races each, although the last named was deprived of his success when an objection lodged against him was upheld.

Vijelatan, who is a son of a former Ceylon champion Kunj Lata, has now come to hand under the able care of trainer A. Selvaratnam and the upstanding bay pulls out a terrific burst of speed in the straight which leaves his rivals cold.

It was jockey Mohideen who first rode him to victory in October and followed suit on November 23rd, after which the gelding was promoted to Class III. In his first effort in the new class, Mohideen was unable to make the weight, so A. P. Perera was entrusted with the mount, but he was unable to manage the big bay, and though he won running away by six lengths, he was disqualified as he had cut in rather sharply on to the rails and had interfered with Silver Balm.

Qaddah was another animal which struck form after being a bit of a problem to his connections. The four-year old red roan arab had his field cold in the two sprint races he won and was duly sent up to Class II, where he should continue to win.

Attila, who has been racing on the local turf for some time, turned in his best performance to date when he beat a good field of Class I arabs to win the Dolosbage Plate (7 furs.) on November 30th. The aged roan had been promoted after his victory over the mile on November 16th, and surprised punters with the fluency of his success.

* * *

THE meeting was also noteworthy for the staggering upset created by Mr. Clement Walles' Brockdale on

the second day. Ridden by young Abeyegunewardene, the black son of Harroway beat a smart field of Class III runners in the Karawanella Stakes (7 furs.), to pay out Rs. 350 $\frac{1}{2}$ on each Rs. 5/- win ticket. He, however, failed on the following day over a more suitable journey, but the heavy going and topweight were against him on that occasion.

Franji, Desperado and Persian Image scored their first victories in the island, the latter pair being owned and trained by veteran 'Tich' Pike, who gained a long overdue success.

A staggering treble dividend was paid out to two lucky punters on the second day. They each received



Mr. A. Wijesuriya's Judar

who will make a bid for the Governor-General's Bowl, to be run at Boosa on January 11th.

Rs. 41,936 for having nominated Brockdate—Attila—Peter Pan for the treble event, while on the last day too, a dividend of Rs. 19,436 was paid out to each of five punters, who had nominated Persian Image—Attila—Juburiyah.

* * *

SELECT Allow, making his debut in Class II, had no trouble at all in beating a rather mediocre field in the Kalutara Plate (1 mile) on November 16th, and the son of Selector II should not be long in making his way up to the top class. Friendly Isle was another to score

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after three failures. The Ridgewood gelding made no mistake in the Have-lock Stakes (7 furs.), coming with a strong run inside the distance to beat Nomad Star and Cobscar.

Sudan, Sih-Sah, Al Moj, Ayman Sa'ad, Wi'am, Schwe and Juburiyah found conditions underfoot to their liking and scored comfortably, while Land Lubber put daylight between himself and the rest of the field in the Stayers' Handicap (1 mile 3 furs.) on November 23rd, the official verdict being 10 lengths.

Ceylonese jockeys rode with great success, winning 24 of the 28 races run, with Somapala as the best of the lot, having steered in five winners. Apprentice Isaacs too was in good form, being astride three winners, and now needs to ride only one more winner, before he becomes a full fledged jockey.

Training honours went to Clement Walles, who saddled eight winners, three of them in his own colours, while A. Selvaratnam sent out six winners and Renga Selvaratnam three.

* * *

THE racing scene now shifts to picturesque Boosa, where, commencing from tomorrow, the Galle Gymkhana Club will stage its four-day Christmas Race meeting.

The entries have been quite satisfactory and enjoyable sport should be witnessed by those who make the trip down South. With the management of the meet in the capable hands of Mr. W. Chandrasena, Secretary, Mr. Lyn Oorloff and their loyal band of workers, everything possible has been done to please punters, and barring the picking of winners there should be no cause for complaint.

* * *

Boxing

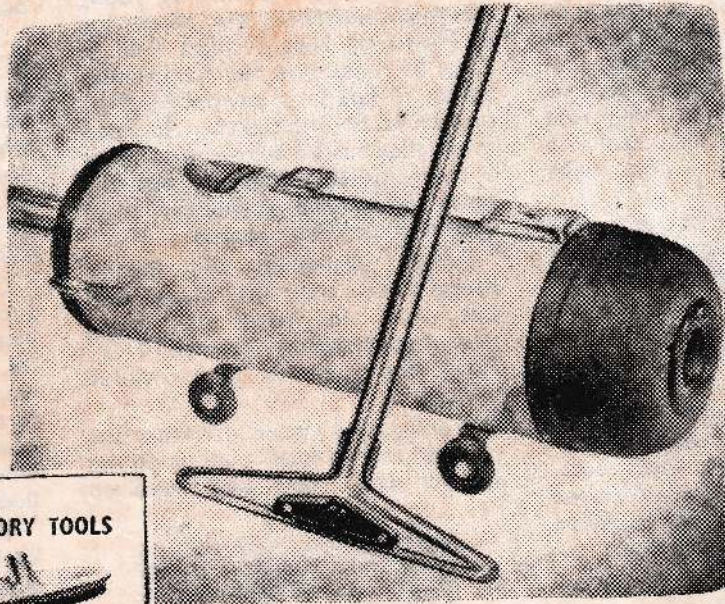
H. P. JAYASURIYA, Ceylon's Olympic representative, came up against stiff opposition from Ivor Beven in the Light Weight final at the National Boxing Championships, and it was only his fitness that carried him through.

Ex-pin weight champion Anton John, upset by a hostile crowd, lost to H. C. Zavahir. Policeman P. Wijesuriya, boxing scientifically, beat D. L. Y. Paktsun in probably the best fight of the meet and deservedly won the Manning Cup for the best boxer.

The Police won the team trophy.

After the meet, the A.B.A. selected the following 6-man team for Rangoon for the second

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South-East Asian Boxing Championships: P. Wijesuriya (Police), Percy Fernando (Prisons), C. P. Jayasuriya (Police), T. J. Martyn (S.A.B.C.), S. Liyanage (S.A.B.C.), and H. P. Jayasuriya (Police).

* * *

CEYLON WINS STANLEY GOLF CUP

THE Annual contest for the Stanley Golf Cup—the twenty-fifth of the series—took place on the Ridgeway Course on the 7th and 8th December. Ceylon, England and Scotland were all up to full strength and the fourth team representing The Rest included more than one golfer above the average class. One of them, the American T. R. Kruse, who gave such a fine account of himself in the recent National Championship, in partnership with T. M. Henderson scored a convincing win against two such players as M. C. Robins and R. C. Pyman (England) by 5 up and 4 in the semi-finals. England had no difficulty in defeating the Rest by 8 matches to 4.

England's success was due largely to good form shown by M. G. Thornton and M. J. Robinson, who defeated J. K. McCollum and G. B. Swain after an exciting game by the narrow margin of one up. Thornton also won as he liked against J. M. D. Strong, the Up-country player, by 5 and 4 in the singles. Moss was another who was playing up to his best to win his singles match against R. L. Walker by 7 and 5, and his foursomes match, with P. O. V. Green as his partner, over J. M. D. Strong and R. L. Walker by 3 and 2.

Ceylon scored a smashing victory over Scotland by 10 1/2 matches to 1 1/2 and for this they owed most to the reigning champion W. P. Fernando, who like C. U. Senanayake, Geo. Koch and S. Muttukumaraswami were in irresistible form.

* * *

IT was expected that the Final between Ceylon and England would produce a keen struggle and so it turned out, the holders just getting home by 6 1/2 wins to 5 1/2. Fernando maintained his reputation as Ceylon's outstanding golfer by defeating a formidable newcomer in P. O. V. Green, who put up a very fine show to take Fernando

to the last green before acknowledging defeat by 1 up. Both Fernando and Green played excellent golf and the latter should be heard of a good deal in the future. Fernando and F. J. de Saram scored a fine win against M. G. Thornton and M. J. Robinson by 3 up and 2, all four players displaying form of a high order.

Other notable successes for Ceylon were Geo. Koch, who beat J. Bazalgette in the singles by 2 and 1 and also halved his foursomes match partnered by A. C. Ephraums with G. G. Hayley and J. Bazalgette. J. O. Moss scored a great win over F. J. de Saram by 4 up and 2 to more than atone for his defeat by the Ceylonese player in the recent National Championship. Moss also won his foursomes match with P. O. V. Green over S. Muttukumaraswami and N. W. Weerasinghe. C. U. Senanayake gained a convincing victory over M. G. Thornton by 7 up and 6. While the Ceylonese player was in devastating form Thornton was scarcely at his best. S. Muttukumaraswami did his side a good turn by getting the better of M. C. Robins after a hard fight by 1 up.

This was Ceylon's fifth successive victory in the Stanley Cup.

* * *

CRICKET : N.C.C. TAKES THE LEAD

THE N.C.C. (219 for 3 declared) beating Kurunegala (36 and 40) before lunch on Sunday, December 8th, at Maitland Place, are best placed in the "P. Sara" Trophy tournament. The previous week-end they routed Moratuwa for 28 and took first innings points before rain intervened.

A feature of the N.C.C. success this season has been the consistent batting of schoolboy R. J. Reid.

Bracketed at the top of the table with the N.C.C. are the B.R.C. and the S.S.C., but the B.R.C. have played two more games and the S.S.C. one. Determined batting by a depleted Tamils side baulked the S.S.C. at the Oval. F. C. de Saram (156) and Ben Navaratne (99 run out) added 248 runs for the S.S.C. third wicket. The Tamils replied with 255 for 8 to the S.S.C. total of 301 for 4 declared. Sethupathy making 73 and N. Casie Chetty 52.

At Havelock Park, in another key-game, the Saracens bundled the B.R.C. out for 96, D. Buultjens taking 4 for 28. The Saracens opening pair, T. Ismail (74) and Nalanda schoolboy S. Silva (54), put on 99 runs and the Saracens eventually declared at 220 for 9. The B.R.C. replied with 144 for 3, C. E. Reid making 68 not out and B. R. Heyn 50.

The Moors are also well placed in the table after their first innings win over Kandy United at Kandy and their thrilling 2-wicket win against the B.R.C. at Havelock Park earlier. T. A. Buhar and A. Kuthdoos have turned in some good all-round performances for the Moors this season.

Bloomfield, who have not had a very good season, almost pulled off an outright win against the Colts at Havelock Park. The Colts, chasing 126 runs in 45 minutes, lost 9 wickets for 71 runs.

* * *

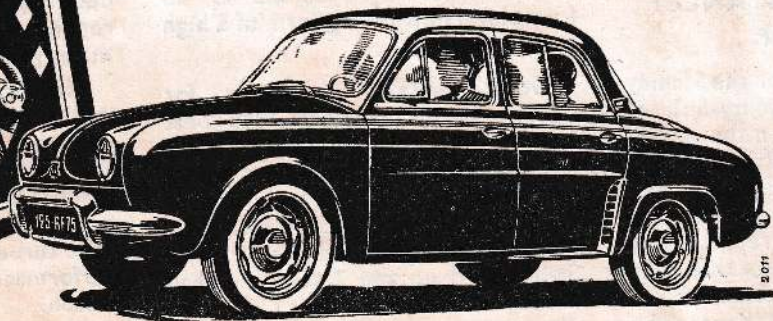
THE RUSSIANS DAZZLE

NEFTJANIK, the Soviet soccer team from Baku in Azerbaijan, giving positively dazzling displays of soccer, beat an Outstation Leagues XI, 16-3 on the Government Services ground on Sunday, December 1st, and a Colombo Leagues XI, 14-1 on the same ground on Friday, December 6th. A C.F.A. XI, however, gave them a tough fight before going under 3-2 on Sunday, December 8th.

In the first game the Russians with wonderful positional play and short, snappy passes made rings round the Outstation defence. This game was marred by the crowd encroaching on the field.

Against the Colombo Leagues Neftjanik slammed in 12 goals in the first-half with the same short-passing game. In the second-half they were content merely to display their virtuosity and added only two more goals.

The Russians concluded their brief tour with a thrilling 3-2 win over a C.F.A. XI. Neftjanik played by far the better football, but the C.F.A.'s three-back defence and brilliant goal-keeping by Hashim Deen foiled them time and again. Peter Ranasinghe, the C.F.A. skipper, played an inspired game at centre half. This game, too, was marred by an encroachment on the field and a fight outside it.



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LIGHTER INTERLUDES

By "TWEEDLEDUM"

A STRUGGLING author had called on a publisher to inquire about a manuscript he had submitted.

"This is quite well written," admitted the publisher, "but my firm only publishes work by writers with well-known names."

"Splendid," shouted the caller in great excitement, "my name's Smith!"

* * *

"WHAT made you lose your hair?" "Worry."

"What about?" "Losing my hair."

* * *

"MAN overboard!" shouted the young sailor on his first voyage.

Amid great confusion, the ship was stopped. The sailor stepped up to the captain, saluted, and said: "I'm sorry, sir. I made a mistake when I said 'Man overboard.'"

"Thank God!" said the captain, signalling for full steam ahead.

"Yes," explained the sailor. "It's a lady."

* * *

"WHY don't you buy a bouquet?" asked the lady selling flowers.

"I don't need one," Mr. Smith answered, moving on.

"Why not buy one for the woman you love?" she called after him.

"I can't. That wouldn't be right. You see I'm a married man," he paused long enough to answer.

* * *

"THE new member claims to be related to you, and says he can prove it."

"The man's an idiot."

"Yes, but you see that may be pure coincidence."

* * *

"THAT'S a fine tiger-skin rug you've got down there!"

"Yes, the beastly thing nearly crippled me in India."

"How thrilling! Do tell me all about it. Did you shoot it yourself? Was it in the jungle?"

"No, in the officers' mess. I tripped over it and sprained my ankle."

* * *

IT is said that the Earl of Shaftesbury once called a meeting in connection with some philanthropic work, and only two people turned up at the hall—his Lordship himself and a particularly fat reporter.

They waited some time, but nobody else turned up, so the Earl said that he would dictate his speech. The reporter opened his notebook, and the Earl began: "At a large and respectable meeting held recently . . ."

"But that's not quite right," objected the reporter.

"Why not?" demanded the Earl.

"Well—look," said the reporter, sweeping his hand round the empty hall.

"Come, come," said his Lordship.

"Are you not large, and am I not respectable?"

* * *

DINER: "Waiter, I have only a rupee. What would you recommend?"

Waiter: "Another restaurant sir."

* * *

"WERE you present when the quarrel between the couple began?" a judge asked a witness in a divorce court.

"Naturally, your Honour, I was the bestman at their wedding."

* * *

"I HAD the toughest time of my life." "How?"

"I'll tell you. First I got *angina pectoris*, and then *arteriosclerosis*. Just as I was recovering from these, I got double pneumonia and phthisis. Then they gave me hypodermics. Appendicitis was followed by tonsillectomy. These gave way to *aphasia* and *hypertrophic cirrhosis*. I completely lost my memory for a while . . ."

"Good gracious! And then?"

"Then I know I had diabetes and acute indigestion, besides gastritis, rheumatism, lumbago and neuritis. I don't know how I pulled through it. It was the hardest *spelling* test I've ever had."

* * *

"SHE told me her age was her own business," said Joan, speaking of an acquaintance.

"Well, she's certainly been in business a very long time," remarked her companion.

* * *

FIRST model: "I hear your sister has decorated her room with old daggers, flintlocks, pistols and such things."

Second model: "So what? She was always a girl for having plenty of arms around her."

THE ambitious woman reporter had managed to wangle an invitation to an important function.

She found herself seated between a celebrated bishop, and a distinguished rabbi, and she was determined to make the most out of this notable opportunity.

"I feel," she said, choosing her words very carefully, "as if I were a leaf between the Old and the New Testament."

"That page, madam," said the rabbi, "is usually blank."

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

(Continued from page 13)

ation or Communism, according to the particular *bete noire* currently in favour. Few will admit that possibly the interpretations of Christianity have become outdated—that the threat of Hell Fire in the future is neutralised by the threat of H-Bombs in the present; and that angels floating in the sky are no longer compatible with the reality of artificial satellites.

* * *

LET us by all means keep Christmas as a time of joy and fun for the children, but let the adults be more honest about it, and instead of taking refuge in strong drink and apathy, let us by determined action show that the horrors of materialism, and particularly of destructive materialism which mankind has himself devised, shall never be unleashed upon the humble and the innocent, whom Christianity has selected as true disciples of the way.

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WOMEN'S DIARY

THIS page may well be a "Y.W.C.A. Diary" this month, for the Third Tri-ennial Conference of the Y.W.C.A., which claims to be the oldest women's organisation in Ceylon, has brought us not only well known visitors from overseas, but representatives from all the out-stations who came into Colombo to discuss in a very full and comprehensive programme the work of the National Y.W.C.A. during the next three years, to elect new office-bearers, and to attend the Public Meeting held in connection with the 75th anniversary of the Colombo Y.W.C.A.

* * *

JUST over a century ago the first Y.W.C.A. was founded in London. Interest in such an association was aroused, and grew, till 39 years later, (in 1894) the World Y.W.C.A. was founded and today unites girls and women of 65 countries. Members of the World Y.W.C.A., its headquarters in Geneva, meet at international conferences and consultations; they gain information and experience, a knowledge of social problems and international affairs from personal contacts. The World Y.W.C.A. Council meets every four years, is representative of all affiliated Y.W.C.As, and directs programmes and policy. The more recent meetings of the World Council have been held in China in 1947, in Lebanon in 1951, and in Great Britain in 1955 to celebrate the Centenary of the founding of the first association in London in 1855 during the Crimean War.

In Ceylon the National Y.W.C.A. co-ordinates the work of seven associations, 14 fellowship groups, and 27 Junior Clubs throughout the island. Its purpose to promote Christian fellowship, witness and ideals, while uniting women and girls irrespective of class, creed, or race, in a world-wide fellowship that seeks fulness of life through body, mind and spirit; its keynote "Service for Others."

* * *

FOR some fifty years Ceylon's Y.W.C.A. combined with India and Burma, and the Association was known as the Y.W.C.A. of India, Burma and Ceylon, with an Area President. But during their Jubilee year Ceylon

decided to stand on its own feet, and in 1951 formed its own National Y.W.C.A. This decision was taken at a conference held in New Delhi. Amongst the representatives from Ceylon were Mrs. F. B. de Mel, Mrs. Gladys Loos, and Miss Etta Edwards. Mrs. de Mel had been Area President from 1948, and with the new move she was elected National President of the Y.W.C.A. of Ceylon. She has guided the Association successfully through six difficult and strenuous years, and retired this year, after nine years of acceptable leadership.

The first Ceylonese National Secretary to be appointed was Miss Marguerite Piachaud. She has worked with the Y.W.C.A. in Burma through very troublous and unsettled times, and brought with her all the keenness, initiative and untiring energy necessary to make the success she has made of her work.

* * *

Visitors from Overseas

THE Hon. Isabel Catto, who brought greetings to the Tri-ennial Conference from the World Y.W.C.A., of which she is President, is the daughter of Lord and Lady Catto of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Her father was once Governor of the Bank of England. Born in the United States and educated in England, the Hon. Isabel Catto has travelled extensively. During a period of serious unemployment in Britain she worked for the Personal Service League, an organisation concerned with the welfare of unemployed men and women and their families.

In the first years of the war Miss Catto worked with the W. V. S. and became head of their Welfare Department. She served at the same time on the Council of Voluntary War Work. In 1942, Miss Catto took up work with the British Y.W.C.A. and subsequently became Director of the British Y.W.C.A. Services work in Germany, Belgium, and in France. She was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the World Y.W.C.A. in 1951. Besides her social and welfare work Miss Catto ran an exclusive millinery shop in London—its model hats were brought from Paris.

* * *

THE Tri-ennial Conference opened on the 27th November; Miss Catto, Miss Piachaud, and several

hours, arrived at Katunayake only just in time to allow her to be present at the opening. Others who brought greetings from their respective Y.W.C.A. Associations were Miss Cora Deng from Shanghai, Mrs. Chen from Peking, Mrs. Kemp from Canada, and Miss Eileen Higgs from Australia. A beautiful painting on silk done by an 87-year old member of the Y.W.C.A. of China was presented by Miss Deng to the Y.W.C.A. of Ceylon. Peonies and chrysanthemums, for prosperity and happiness, were painted on the scroll—a happy augury for the future. The same evening a reception by the President, Mrs. F. B. de Mel, gave an opportunity for delegates and staff to meet the visitors from overseas informally, and to get to know each other.

The Conference closed after a very busy three days during which all aspects of the work were planned and discussed.

Mrs. Gladys Loos was elected as the new National President of the Y.W.C.A. of Ceylon.

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BATTICALOA'S RURAL DANCES

(Continued from page 37)

instance, Krishna invariably appears with a blue face.

The musical instruments used on the stage are drums and cymbals, but the rhythmic movements in both types of dance are somewhat complicated; for we must remember that the rhythm of the movement of the feet is divided into six types varying from one-step rhythm to eight-step rhythm. And the movements of the feet synchronise rhythmically with those of the hands, and also with the beat of the drum and the timing of the cymbals. The "chalangai" (bells) tied to the calves of the dancers serve a specific purpose, namely, to ensure that the dancer goes through the proper rhythmic movements.

* * *

THE melodies, too, vary with the character of the actors. There are ten distinct types of melody. They are "Tharupatu," "Virutham," "Thevaram," "Akaval," "Venpa," "Kochchakam," "Thalisai," "Sindu," "Kanthartham"

and "Thalatu" (lullaby). These various melodies, again, admit of several variations. The significance of this variety of melodies lies in the fact that they are used to distinguish the character of the persons performing on the stage.

The effect of all these rural dances on the people is to bring home to them vividly the cultural past of their forefathers, and to inculcate in them the principles of moral conduct, the penalties for unworthy acts or ugly behaviour—and the rewards of a virtuous life. In the Ramayana, for instance, the beautiful image of the faithful Sita lingers in the hearts and minds of the village damsels and the married women as a shining ideal of marital fidelity and love which all should seek to emulate. And, further, the high character of Tharmar is ever present before the minds of the villagers as an ideal of moral conduct to be followed by every man.

COLLECTIONS

(Continued from page 25)

manufacturing world; for it seems a universal instinct that, when we have been happy anywhere, we

want to take something away from that place around which our memories of it may crystallise.

* * *

THIS, of course, explains the halls hung with rather dreary shooting trophies. The horns and hoofs of a beast are not always things of beauty; but when the man who shot that beast looks at them he may see again the moonlight through the jungle leaves and hear again the sounds of a long past night. And the feel of a pot of brass or china between your hands may bring back, as nothing else can, the glow and colour of a city unseen for years.

A VERY MERRY EATING SEASON

(Continued from page 19)

There are the rich, oily puddings and sweets, faintly scented with spices and rosewater, of the Moorish people of Arab origin. From the Portuguese come many dishes, for instance Love Cake or *Bolo de Amor*, and *Bolofiado*, a delicious concoction of many layers of paper-thin pastry and conserves; *Boroo* or semolina biscuits, and *Foguettes*, rolls of pumpkin-preserve filled pastry fried in deep fat.

From the Dutch we have had a succession of rich yeast breads and cakes filled with plump raisins and fruit, and literally dozens of eggs. There are *poffertjes*, *waffels* and *broeders*, often made in heavy iron heirloom pans two or three hundred years old.

And finally we come down to the British contribution to Ceylon cooking.

"Yes, can do English cooking also," announces our cook proudly. "Lady like Bistek or cutliss. After, Bray-n' butter pudding or jam Umlit."

As for me—I'll take curry, any day.



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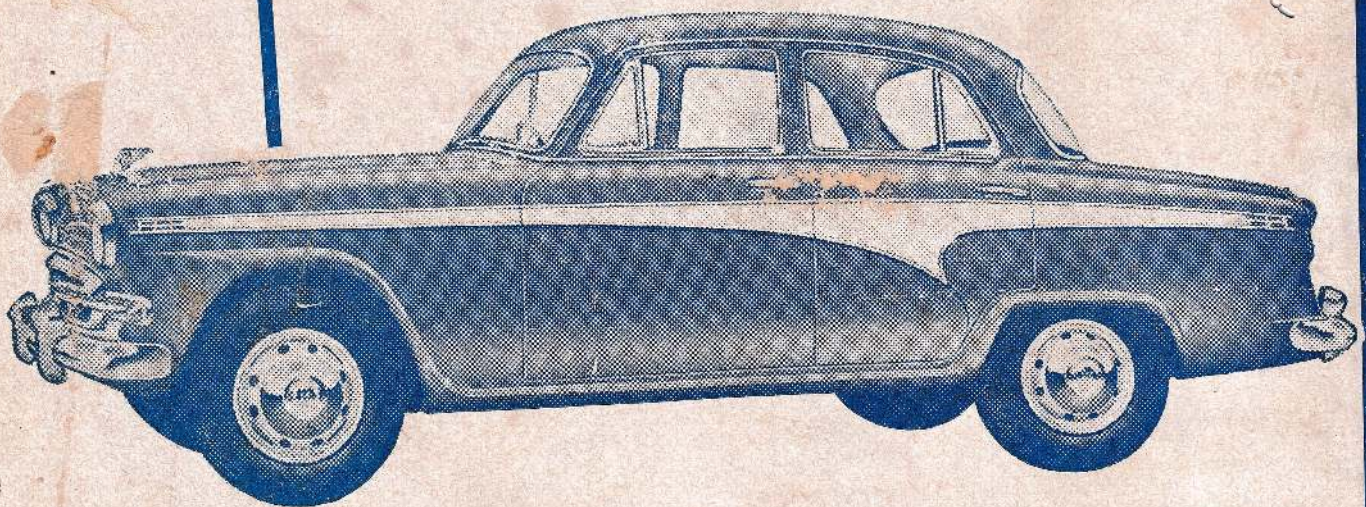
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