

S. JOHN'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

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EDITORIALY

All old Boys and well-wishers of the college will welcome with appreciation the appointment of Mr. Crossette as the Acting Principal of the college during the absence of Mr. Peto. Mr. Crossette is the chief of the small band of men who have sacrificed their life-time in the service of the college. Jaffna has produced few teachers of such stand out merit as Mr. Crossette. His great patience, tact and administrative capacity combined with his rich experience as a highly successful teacher for a period of more than twenty-five years fit him admirably to fill such a responsible and difficult post. We are sure all interested in the welfare of the college will join whole-heartedly in our congratulations to the Grand-Old-Man of St. John's.

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The staff has just received a long and interesting letter from Mr. Peto describing the reception the old Boys of Singapore gave him, his stay in Japan and his voyage to his native country. We waft across the seas our greetings to the Petos and wish them a very happy time in England.

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We have pleasure in placing on record our thanks for the handsome Inter House Cricket Shield presented by our past captains of Manipay. Manipay which has given to Ceylon some of the most flourishing brokers and prosperous business men may be equally proud of the great sportsmen and cricket captains she has produced. During the past two decades, with a few exceptions, the skippers of our college cricket team have been Manipaians. Never was cricket more popular in Jaffna as in the days of Hallock and Sornalingam when every ball that came within the reach of the giants of those days blew over the ropes and when every wicket that fell—fell in pieces. Never did Johnnians show greater aptitude towards a sound appreciation of this game as in those years when

the brothers, Gunaratnam and Alagaratnam led the team. Hallock is no more, but to the last he remained true to the sporting spirit he acquired in the cricket fields of St. John's. There is no doubt that Sornalingam has been one of the best all round cricketers St. John's has had. As a leader of teams he has been hardly surpassed. His cool headedness and his fine sense of humour contributed much towards his success as a captain. His name will ever find a prominent place in the annals of St. John's College Cricket.

The Inter-House Cricket Shield these captains have presented shall be cherished with pride and delight by successive generations of young Johnnians.

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We have also to thank Mr. James Hensman for the very valuable collection of books he has been pleased to donate to the College Library. His gift consists of 249 books—some of them rare but all alike extremely useful.

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The football season has just come to a close. In spite of the heavy rains the matches were played with earnest regularity. The large crowds that gathered to witness these matches testified to the immense popularity of the game and the keen appreciation of the public of this manly exercise. The classic contest between Central and St. John's was as usual, the greatest event of the season. The fates have decided this year in favour of the latter, and we have, after a long interval won the football championship. The team deserves congratulation for the high standard of play it maintained throughout the season and the splendid sporting spirit it displayed.

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Our congratulations are also due to the College Cadet Corps for winning the Sports Cup. This is the first occasion when the North has plucked such a plum from the Cadet Battalion.

It augurs well for the future of St. John's that the dawn of the 2nd century should usher forth under such happy auspices. This year may be rightly called 'the year of victories' for St. John's, for we have the unique distinction of having won the sports, the cricket and the football championships all at the same breath. May we hope, as the principal has expressed in the cable message he sent congratulating the school on winning the football championship, to see the Cambridge results bringing in a fresh set of laurels.

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If the success of a conference may be judged by the number of papers read and the variety of the subjects discussed, the Teachers' Conference held at Kandy this year deserves to be considered an unqualified success. But if we were asked to state with a clean conscience what far reaching benefits have resulted or are capable of resulting from it we should think twice before we could give a reply ; for we understand that, so far, no attempt has been made even to place on record the full proceedings of the Conference.

The usefulness of publishing a detailed and an accurate account of the proceedings cannot be over-estimated. Such a record would enable the hundreds of teachers who were not among the fortunate few, privileged to enjoy free Railway Warrants to Kandy, to benefit by the papers read and the discussions that followed. In the course of the discussions teachers from the different parts of the Island aired their grievances and expressed some of the needs of their schools. The urgency of a Pension Scheme and the necessity for a definite and respectable scale of salaries were pressed. Solutions for difficulties peculiar to the teacher's task and suggestions *ad infinitum* for the betterment of Teaching methods were offered. All these would prove but cries in the wilderness if no steps have been taken to give them more permanent expression in print. How else is it possible for us to let the rest of the world know where we are

and what we need? How else is it possible for us to elicit the sympathies of the powers that be or open the eyes of those that keep guard over the surplus balances of the Island's Revenue? If our conferences are to end where they begin why hold them with such flourish of trumpets?

It is not always that we teachers get the opportunity of listening to such expert opinions of men like the Hon. Mr. Villiers and Mr. Codrington on subjects of vital interest to men of our profession. Nor is it always that we gain access to the views of such sound educationists as Miss Bookwalter and Mr. H. S. Perera. Nor, again, can we well afford to miss the contributions of such eminent teachers as those who read papers on matters relating to our craft. Most of the papers were well thought out and contained some very useful, practical and original suggestions. They need to be preserved not only in view of their worth and value to all interested in teaching, but as a tangible tribute to the efforts of the present Director to promote the cause of Education in the Island.

Looking at the conference in the point of view of a common meeting place of the teachers of the various parts of the Island its value has been great. The situation however, might have been still brightened had it struck the organisers to wind up the Conference with a dinner or a "Social" gathering, where the representatives could have met one another in a more homely manner and exchanged their views in a less formal fashion.

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It is with deep sorrow that we record the death of Mr. Edgar A. Niles, which took place on the 6th of October. Mr. Niles was educated throughout at St. John's till he passed the F. A. examination of the Calcutta University. Later he joined the College Staff and for 15 years was Junior Classical master. During his stay at St. John's he took great interest in the formation and in the growth of the O. B. A. and for a long period Edited the

School Magazine. On leaving St. John's he joined the staff of St. Patrick's College and worked there for 15 years, till he met his death. He passed away unexpectedly but peacefully. We tender our sincere sympathy to the members of his family on their sad bereavement.

"Omnes una manet nox,
Et calcanda semel via leti."



"A HYMN FOR ST. JOHN'S

Living God of the Dead and the remotest Past
Living father of those that believe;
In the school of thy Gospel, O may we receive
Blessings that from thy Sceptre are cast.

Day by day in Thy love, Dear Lord, teach us to grow,
Teach us mercy and self sacrifice:
That to follow thy footsteps were bliss beyond price
Shall be ever our motto below.

In the neediest of moments, Lord be thou o'er near
While our lessons we learn or at play:
May Thy stern loving voice our transgressions allay
Timely mandates from thee may we hear.

Daily inspire thy children to thy greatness to soar
To give ear to thy music sweet Lord.
And a charm let us find In Thy celestial Word
Wandering, straying to approach Thy door,

In Thy harvest O Lord, may we work for no wage;
Give us strength to receive every call.
For the future Thy love from the Past we recall
Lead us on great Power from age to age.

D. R. GUNASEGARAM.



COLLEGE NOTES

BY THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

—The departure to England on furlough of the Principal and Mrs Peto was, for special reasons, antedated by the C. M. S. Conference. On the eve of their leaving us, the Staff and students of the College, with Old Boys and friends, met Mr. and Mrs. Peto to say good-bye to them. It was a quiet function; —a silent expression of our love and affection. We wish them a pleasant time in England and a speedy return to the land of their adoption.

—The year 1924 will be known in local annals as a unique year for S. John's. The Centenary Celebrations of June last marked an Epoch in her history. Again, in the field of the physique, we have been more than successful. We came out champions in the Inter-Collegiate Sports that were held on the King's birthday. Our Cadets deserve our very hearty congratulations for winning the Hermann Loos Cup for sports that is annually competed for at Diyatalawa by all the leading schools in Ceylon. Our Cricket xi were once again champions;—for the fourth time in succession. And, finally, our boys did well indeed in crowning this long array of Championships securing a Championship that is new to S. John's—The Football Championship in the Inter-Collegiate League Competitions. Our heartiest congratulations to all concerned.

—We are glad to welcome Mr. J. Sitharam B. A. (London) as Lecturer in Classics. His ripe scholarship and great enthusiasm for work have already made him very popular with the Staff and the students.

—Our hearty congratulations to messrs J. C. Handy and S. J. Gunasegaram on their successes in the London Inter Science and Arts Examinations, respectively and to Mr. D. H. Chinniah on passing the Ceylon Teachers' Certificate Examination.

—We extend a cordial welcome to the Rev. R. H. Whelan who joins the Staff as Dean of the College and Lecturer in English. The Rev. and Mrs. Whelan arrived from England on December 30, and were met on board the steamer by the Acting Principal. We offer to both of them a hearty welcome and anticipate for them a useful and a pleasant time in Jaffna.



A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE INDIAN AND CLASSICAL EPICS

A comparative study of the two oldest epical and literary monuments is full of fascinating interest. The Indian Epics 'Mahabharatha' and the 'Ramayana' resemble the Greek Epics Homer's 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey' in that they deal with a great war and the adventures of a hero.

The Indian Epics—the greatest works of creative imagination and art that Asia or perhaps the world has produced—are a codification and crystallisation of all that is best and desirable to an Eastern mind and temperament. They are an authority, to a much greater extent than the European classical Epics, on social, moral, religious and political philosophy.

One indisputable fact emerges from a comparative study of these Epics. Though the hero of the Greek Epic is fond of adventures, risks and dangers, he is also capable of cunning wiles and schemes. The Indian Epic on the other hand represents its hero as one possessing consummate wisdom, ever striving for righteousness and peace, and never stooping to anything that is base. There is another point of similarity too in these epics. The warriors and heroes in these Epics seem to brag a little too much of their own valour and that of their ancestors. Homer's Ajax vaunts so much that Agamemnon says that he would prefer

to have ten men like good old Nestor rather than one like Ajax.

The warriors in the Indian Epics seem to suffer from this same defect. But if we dip into the ancient literature of any nation we find this failing a common feature in its national character. For instance, in the Anglo-Saxon Epic, 'The Battle of Maldon' before betaking themselves to battle, the warriors harangue and praise their valour and that of their grand-sires. Or again in Virgil's 'Aeneid' we come across passages that are inane and boastful coming, as they do, from heroes who are represented truly great figures. 'Dicta late volant vesanis' says the Epic poet.

Another striking similarity lies in their treatment of religion, and philosophy. The heroes in Virgil and Homer such as Aeneas, Achilles, etc. are Divine in descent and parentage. So also are the heroes of the Indian Epics. What appeals most to an inquisitive mind is the resemblance of Homeric deities and the Puranic. Aeolus is the 'classical' God of winds; Vayu is the Lord of the winds and storms. Stars, rivers and oceans are identified with some names of heroes or heroines. Both Epics tell us of the messengers of Gods, the strange strife and dissension that took place in the celestial abode. The belief in the transmigration of souls, —the Karma Doctrine—and in the existence of places for reward and punishment is found in both the Western and Eastern ancient Epic poetry. There are certain portions in the Western classical Epics, the significance of which seems to be less intelligible to European scholars, but to be perceptible and more clear to the Easterners who have knowledge of the ancient Eastern cult and lore some part of which closely resembles the Greek and the Roman.

The Indian Epics are more poetical in thought, expression and tone than the Western classical Epics. Yet we must not forget that there are passages both in Homer and in Virgil that are exquisite gems of fine poetry:—

"Olli dura quies oculos et ferreus urgent Somnus: in aeternam clauduntur lumina noctem! (Aen X) Stern rest and iron sleep presses his eyes: his (shining) eyes are shut in eternal night (of darkness and death.) What charms us most in the Greek Epic is the artless simplicity and the swift-flowing rapidity of its verse. Sometimes this very simplicity becomes sonorous, and we catch glimpses of lyric poetry when Homer compares in Book XI of the *Odyssey* the 'sails of ships to the wings of birds'.

Both the Eastern as well as the Western Epics abound in the use of similes of which Homer's are more artistic, Valmiki's more touching and appealing whilst Virgil's are a careful and close observation of nature. All these Epics fulfil one of the essentials of Epic poetry, the artistic use of the supernatural. The Indian Epics, it must be admitted are a fountain of human knowledge and life, nor can it be gainsaid that the Western Epics have something of this. For instance, in Book XII of Homer, the punishments in 'Orcus to wrong doers serve a moral purpose, and Virgil is careful to interweave a thread of philosophy in his epic and thus to relieve the monotony of his poem as in the following lines:

'Nescia mens hominum fati sortisque futurae, Et servare modum, rebus sublata secundis'!

The human mind (says the poet) is ignorant of fate and the future lot, nor does it know how to preserve its limit under prosperity'. When we have weighed all the arguments that contribute to the greatness of these Epics, the superiority of the Indian Epics must be admitted. The ideal of life to an average Greek in those ancient days was one of joy, symmetry and beauty: but to Indians it was one of piety, endurance and devotion. There is no work in Europe, not Homer in Greece, or Virgil in Italy, not Shakespeare or Milton, that is the national property to the same extent as the Epics of India are to the Indians owing to the grandeur and nobility of thought, sentiments and conception.

J. SITHAMAM.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

* Kind God, look down on (S. J. C.) and keep it
 green for ever.
 The long main street, with shade trees sweet, the
 Church and the beds of flower!
 Oh, lead us there when bowed with care to hear its
 childhood story,
 Its song and speech of love that teach the light of love
 and glory;
 Ah, lead us down to S. J. C., when we are weak and
 weary,
 To taste and know the golden glow of spirits fresh and
 cheery!
 Look down, we pray, on all that play in its merry
 playground;
 And give them grace and skill in games their oppo-
 nents to confound,
 Keep fair the place with pristine grace, that in our
 gray December,
 We may be led with blithesome tread to truth's un-
 dying ember.
 Kind God, look down on S. J. C., and keep its soft
 lights gleaming,
 In gardens fair that blossom there along loved paths
 of dreaming.
 Look down, look down on S. J. C., for we are fain to
 follow,
 Its Golden way some well a day when all the world
 grows hollow!
 Guard, Thou, and keep its yards that sleep along the
 old main highway,
 Its walls that wend from Chapel end to earth-to-hea-
 ven's-byway.
 With all its gleams, its joyful dreams, Dear God! for
 ever keep it.
 And let young and old throughout East and West
 shout "Lux in Tenebris Lucet."

ROBERTS E. RAJANAYAGAM

* With apologies to 'x'—

THE STUDY OF THE CLASSICS

The question whether Latin should continue to form part of the curriculum in our schools has once more cropped up. Since the time the subject was discussed in the Teachers' Conference at Kandy a fresh volume of literature on the subject has appeared in the local press. The controversy has been rather a wordy one. It must be admitted that the advocates of classical Education have so far employed more columns than their opponents. The schoolmasters who had supported the views on this subject, of a stand-out Educationist, have been referred to in a rather cynical manner. It must be said in fairness to those who took part in the discussion at the Kandy Conference that they never narrowed the significance of the term classical languages to Latin and Greek as their captious critics have evidently done. What they maintained was not the abolition of the classics but the substitution of those classical languages which would be of greater use to the Ceylon boy; not that the study of Latin and Greek was entirely useless but that these may more profitably give place to Sankrit and Tamil. Such has been the Training imparted to us by our schools that some how or other many of us cannot include in the connotation of the term 'classics' any other language than Latin and Greek. A more broad view perhaps cannot be expected from those who have been brought up at the feet of bigoted scholars who had never cared to enter into the merit of the Literatures of the East! There are many scholars, even from the more progressive side of the Bosphorus who hold notions on certain matters, especially of affairs relating to the East, very much akin to the proverbial frog in the well.

It is not our intention, however, to make comparisons. We leave that to more competent scholars. * But we humbly submit that however in-

* "It is not perhaps extravagant to say that in its poetic form Tamil is more polished and exact.

ferior the classics of the East may be they will better enable us to know ourselves and be of more lasting literary value to us than all the lore of Greece and Rome.

During the last few years a somewhat similar controversy has been carried on in England. The same question whether Latin should continue to take such a prominent place in English Universities has been discussed. The mere fact that this has been discussed furiously in a country like England where Latin has so long found such fond adoption shows that many Englishmen themselves have come to feel it a burden imposed on their children. Conservative England will not however easily give up the study of this tongue and thus destroy a tradition that has come down to her from the theologians of the Middle Ages. But why impose such a burden on us Gentiles too? Before some Council in London or Oxford or Cambridge meets to give us the decision we believe their Ceylonese converts too will continue to impose this burden on their children, as the proper hall mark of culture.

The advocates of the study of Latin eternally harp on two points. They say that it affords, firstly a valuable mental training and secondly that it enables you to enter into the spirit of the great masters of Latin literature. We daresay it does both. Obviously the same argument may be brought on behalf of the study of Sanskrit or Pali or Tamil—perhaps with greater force. To the average Ceylon boy destined to slave at the desk, to sell stamps or distribute tickets all his life after his school career, within the short space of a couple of years *Mensa* becomes a memory and *Amo* a forgotten dream. To such the mental training imparted by the study of the A. B. C. of Latin may be more profitably substituted by the study of even Carpentry or Swedish drill with better results. As to

than Greek . . . and more copious than Latin. In its fulness and power it more resembles English and German than any other living languages.—Dr. Winslow.

appreciating the Latin masters by reading their works in their originals very few even of our University scholars can do that. We fail to understand the cultural value of a language that is forgotten as soon as examinations cease or the worth of a study that does not proceed beyond the 'cramming up' of a few text books.

As long as our educators, by a process of false analogy, continue to thrust upon us a system of Education prevailing elsewhere without any modification to suit the needs and the temperament of our people they are bound to turn out 'what are fondly regarded and advertised as finished products but what are really misshapen masses of diverse degrees of uselessness'. Many of us fail to realise that the English boy when he enters school has a more intimate knowledge of English than the average Ceylon boy after a decade of drilling in English grammar and composition. No wonder then that the former is able to benefit by the study of Latin to which he is able to devote as much time as the latter does for his English. Besides he is helped by the fact of the close affinity that exists between the genius and temperament of his own race and that of the Romans and the debt his tongue owes to Latin.

Our youths are unable to take an intelligent interest in their own literature and history or to contribute anything towards their art for the simple reason that they are burdened with a useless load of subjects that lead to cleavages between their life and the realities of the spirit and bring about a distaste for their own art and literature. It is the study of the classics of the East that will really unfold to us a glimpse of our own soul. It is the knowledge of sanskrit and Pali and Tamil that will enable us to bring about a link between our past and our future and permit us to do historic research work so as to build up our social and political history without which no self-respecting people can claim to exist.

The late Primeminister of England once remarked that the Education of a people must be in accord with the nature and the spirit and the soul of the people. We leave it to our educators to judge how far the Education imparted to the youths of Ceylon satisfies the above requirements.

X. Y. Z.



MY REMINISCENCES

BY F. B. MAILVAGANAM ESQR. (ADVOCATE)

One-hundred years in the life of an Institution is sufficiently long for anyone who has identified himself with its growth, even for a very short time, to look back and call to memory certain events and impressions which more than others appear salient however trivial they may be. St. John's College, where I was educated and which was the *alma mater* of my brothers, father, Grandfather and a good number of my relatives must have during the one-hundred years of its existence and development, sent out into the world thousands of men whose memories, if we have the means to tap, what pleasant and interesting recollections would present before us! This is a fascinating speculation and I would, before I venture to look back into the fairly distant past, suggest to the old boys and masters of this college to contribute something at least to the College Magazine by way of Reminiscences, so that the light and humorous side of the picture may add to its serious and artistic side. It was somewhere in 1890 that I was ushered within the portals of St. John's College with great reluctance on my part; for during that period the masters believed in making indelible impressions on their youthful victims with brutal hands and painful canes when the art of teaching failed. The majority of them belonged to a passing generation of teachers whose

usefulness had outlived the changing times during that period. There were pedants among them, slackers, and only a sprinkling of the really efficient ones. Of the last class there stands out before my mind's eye the late Mr. Ariacutty who, later in life, entered Government Service and died some time ago as deputy fiscal of Jaffna. Whether in the lower or in the higher classes his brilliance and resourcefulness would draw and hold spell bound the veriest dunce in the class and it used to be only in the very last instance the cane came into play. His reputation for teaching Mathematics was so great that students from other schools and colleges used to flock in large numbers to St. John's College during the short but eventful period he remained as teacher. He was a born teacher and one of the best I ever came across in my life.

In the lower school at that time there was the terror of the young ones—a tall, thin, slightly stooping gentleman—who, with his decapitated middle finger, was in the habit of playing havoc with the long suffering pates of the tender souls as if this part of the body was to be effectively tapped if the life giving nectar of learning was to flow from their intellects. The education imparted during my time was defective in many respects. It was simply memory and not understanding that was developed at that time. This process could be better illustrated by the following incident. Just before the government examination we were allowed those days by the masters to commit to memory the lessons in various subjects. I remember very well once during the geography period a certain boy was repeating about thirty or forty times the following "London is the Capital of England London is the Capital of England, Lembruggen coming belly burning." Mr. Lembruggen was the Government Inspector of Schools. There were also at that time two masters who had portly appearances. One was noted for dosing away at very short intervals even in the midst of a lesson. He was so

much afflicted with this sleeping sickness that he used to keep a boy as a sentinel to warn him of the approach of the principal. How many were the false starts and sham surprises and how many were the knocks on the heads of designing boys who dared to make these practical jokes on this master! In those good old days we had the counting system in the class by which the boys who get ahead of the others gained more marks than the rest who were lower down. At that time I had very little knowledge of Latin, all that I knew being "mensa and mensum" and with this slender stock, repeating it very fast how often would I have disturbed the slumber of the master and passed ahead of the others who knew better than I and who would have received a knock with the handle of a fan if they protested. Once the dreaded day arrived when the Principal was by the master's side in the midst of his slumber. The fat was in the fire. He was asked to retire. There was another master who would clench his fists, gnash his teeth, grip your hair and would shake you from side to side just as a cat would torment a rat. With quaint expressions which were considered to be very effective he would frighten the wits out of the young ones who were in his charge. Some boys to avoid his merciless caresses would sprawl on the floor, for he could not bend down; while others to elude his grasp would come ready with a plentiful supply of oil on their heads with the result that the master would turn away from them in disgust. A smattering knowledge of Latin was supposed to be the hall mark of classical culture; and so we used to see two masters—one a local product and the other an outsider—moving about with supercilious smiles and only condescending to associate with the others who knew nothing of this dead language. One was called Ceasar and the other Cicero. Both were stylish in their own way. One was completely Swadeshi in his costume with a pair of slippers meant to relieve the dull monotony of his white habiliments, and the other was thoroughly wes-

tern, devoting more attention to the sharpening of a lead pencil than to the improving of the intellect.

When I made my first acquaintance with St. John's College the Principal was Rev. Fall who came from Trinity College Kandy—the usual recruiting ground for the Principals of St. John's. When Mr. Fall came down to us I remember some wag saying "Kandy Fall is rising at Chundicully Hall". He had a fine close cut beard of the French type when he came to us as a bachelor. When he returned from England with his bride he came to our surprise with a clean shaven face and a good number of us thought at that time that Mrs. Fall must have been instrumental for the removal of that offending piece of luxury. I always associate his coming to us with the introduction of the "Giants Stride" or the "Merry go round" which were sources of great amusement and exercise to all of us at that time. It is no longer found in the college compound now. Mr. Fall was a spirited man with great deal of fun and frolic. Once three of us had the same answer paper in reproduction and were asked to explain the cause of this unusual similarity. I was made the spokesman by my other two friends as I was in a position to rattle away in English. My ingenious explanation was that the rough copy of my answer must have fallen into the hands of one and that the other must have received inspiration while I was repeating what I was writing—a bad habit which I and the Principal equally deplored. I was left off and the others too, with a warning not to repeat the performance again—a wise and effective check instead of the rough and ready methods of some who create unnecessary fuss. Boys who were in charge of water bottles and were able to supply chewing tobacco were the prime favourites of some masters who needed them very badly. I hope the race of chewers of tobacco have died out in St John's. The Headmaster during my time was the late Mr. Handy. A strict disciplinarian who made a free use of the cane in the early part of his career, but later in life,

when mellowed by experience, was a believer in "Suaviter in modo." I must have had it more than once from him. He was kindhearted and so innocent of the ways of the world that he used to be led very much by others. I continued as a student under Mr. Carter, till I passed the Calcutta Entrance Examination. Let me reserve my reminiscences during his time and my later experience as a teacher during the regime of Mr. Thompson, one of the greatest benefactors of St. John's College, for a future occasion.
15th July 1924.



SONNET ON JAFFNA

Round far famed Lanka's sea-girt shores I've been,
Seen sunny Trinco's palm-clad sandy strand,
The wealth of Anrad hid in jungled land,
And Kandy's charmed scenes that make her Queen
Of all our Towns: and oft in star-lit sheen
I've dreamed on Batticaloa's golden sand
While singing-fishes played their elvish band,
Climbed Adam's Peak and scanned her hallowed mien
But thou O Jaffna loving nurse of mine
Whose cloudless skies beget oft cloudless minds,
Whose bright eyed moon the scorching suns outshine,
Whose palmy bowers are fanned by joyful winds—
To me art lovelier far than all I've known,
The seat of Silent beauty and its Throne.

S. J. G.



ARE GREAT MEN ALWAYS INFALLIBLE?

It is not without regret that I take my pen to write about a very wrong and suicidal belief that is prevalent today among the public, especially in

Ceylon. I refer to the mistaken idea that some men are recognised to be great while others are understood to be mediocre, and that what proceeds from these Great Men are always and invariably correct and that others can never do Great Things. Great Men are infallible. Others lead the way to destruction. Whatever a Sir P. Ramanathan may utter from a platform or whatever may proceed from him who occupies the Professor's Chair at a University the Public pass as Gospel Truth. Punchi Banda working in the estates at Hatton strikes on a very new and high idea which he gives to the world; but, alas, he is ridiculed. Mark the presumption of the estate cooly! He has gone mad or what else would have prompted him to come out with such nonsense! The public do not stop to think even for a moment whether he could be right. They accept what a so-called Great Man says blindly and they reject totally what a mediocre man may say. They do not want small men to come up; let them remain where they are.

On a par with this but producing worse effects is what I may term "The Majority Evil". Recently I had a quarrel with a friend of mine on this subject. I came out with a new idea which was not coincident with the opinion of the Majority and which I tried to prove to him logically. I was nearly succeeding in my attempt when my friend lost his temper. "You are a Lunatic", he ejaculated laying much emphasis on the last word, "A Mad Fool, An upstart crow. Consider what the opinion of the majority of the people is. If you cannot agree with their opinion then something is wrong with you." So preposterously did he dispose of my case. He did not stop even for a moment to think that I may be right and that the Majority may be wrong.

If there is one man in this world who holds an opinion, and if even the Whole World excepting this one man holds a different view, it is quite possible that this one man may be right and the others wrong. I should think they are narrow-

minded who condemn a man whose views are different from those of the majority of the people. Those who follow the so-called Great Man blindly, have sold their Independence; they have sold away themselves; and from them the world cannot expect any good.

T. S. S.



THE PALMYRA—A POEM

1. "The Righteous flourish like the Palm."
So sang the mighty shepherd King.
Self-sprung, Self-fed, benign and calm,
Its mellow fruits the tree doth bring.
2. Gift of the gods in desert air!
Thy springs of life and strength are hidd'n.
By hoe, or spade, or human care,
To Strive and bear, art thou not bidd'n
3. No scorching Sun can change thy green,
When all thy neighbours droop and die.
To drink the liquid life unseen
Thy million roots do wander aye.
4. What sinewy stem! Leaf-crested Tower
Defier of Heaven's fiercest breath
Give me thy wisdom, Love and Power
To live like thee and Conquer Death.

S. G. A.



OLD BOYS' COLUMN

Mr. R. R. Crossette has won the Intermediate Advocate Student's Scholarship.

Mr. V. B. Muthuvaloe, Incumbent of Luke's Church, Borella, received his ordination as Priest on the 21st December 1924.

Mr. S. G. Arulanandam has joined the Staff of our college.

Mr. J. C. Handy has passed his London Inter-Science Examination.

Messrs. S. Kulandran and S. J. Gunasegaram were successful at the recent Inter-Arts examination of the London University.

Mr. Thomas John Balachundra, already a full-fledged surveyor, is stationed at Diyatalawa.

Mr. R. W. Crossette is away in England to qualify himself in medicine.

Dr. Isaac Tambiah of Singapore is expected to be back in Jaffna within a short time.

The Revd. I. S. Ratnathicam has taken up work at the Urumpirai English School as Headmaster.

Mr. G. H. R. Hubert has received his appointment as clerk at the Colombo P. W. D.

Mr. D. A. N. Gnanapragasam has been appointed a clerk at the Chartered bank of Singapore.

Messrs. E. R. Rajanayagam, M. Arasaratnam, N. Sathupathy and N. Sadasivam have joined the 3rd class of the Government Clerical Service in the Labour Immigrant Department.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the Ladies mentioned below on their success in securing old Johnians for their partners in life, and wish the pairs a prosperous career.

Miss Arulammah Joseph—Mr. Thambiturai Luthur

“ Rose Asseervatham— “ T. R. Benjamin

“ Lucy Nasammah

Chinniah—

“ G. Ariyanayagam

“ Katheresu Sinnamah— “ S. E. Chinniah

“ Venayagam — “ G. A. Ratnawarather

N. B. We appeal to our Old Boys to sympathise with us in our efforts to make the news of Old Boys recorded in our columns as complete as possible. Owing to the fact that there are a very large number of old Johnians scattered all over Ceylon, F. M. S., and elsewhere we find it extremely difficult to follow up the history of each individual without sufficient help.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It was only yesterday that I had the pleasure of getting a copy of the History of my Alma Mater.

The printing and binding seem to have been done exceptionally well but the contents were totally disappointing to me, as I expected to read a lot about Sports at St. John's, because of the fact that not only did we distinguish ourselves in the field but we were held very high in the esteem of one and all as really great sportsmen. During my days Mr. Fred J. S. Turner—Asst. Conservator of Forests—a very good all-round sports man had special regard for S. J. C. Boys and frequently came to St. John's with other Europeans for an evening's game. I remember Mr. H. Thornhill remarking while witnessing a match "St. John's men are real sportsmen". They always play the game and it is a pleasure to watch them play." What about the Hindu College Football team refusing to accept several well-known men as referee in their cup match against us, and when they were told we would accept any man they brought, they nominated me. What more in the name of sport could you wish to acquire than such a faith from our own opponents! Then we created several records which are even to this day unbroken. Why is so much preference and prominence given to the various small literary and Boarders unions covering several pages, while such scanty details are mentioned about sports. Then the Year 1907 is altogether omitted. I think we did greater things in that year than in any other. I must say that was the year that brought S. J. C. to the forefront. The Senior class of that year was a very creditable one. There were 16 boys in that class. All were equally intelligent and the first team of both cricket and football contained no less than 7 men from this class and only two other boys played, as two members were masters. It was a

year in which we were unbeaten in any game and the first time we beat the Centralites in Football. The 16 boys of our class were all presented to the Senior Examination and 12 of them passed including Mr. A. S. William who obtained a Third Class with Distinction in Logic. I think this should have been mentioned in fairness to him. This I think is the first occasion in which Class honours were obtained or a big number passed. Long before we took the examination Mr. Thompson anticipating our success, and as a mark of his appreciation of our work in the class room and in the field got the class photographed and put it in the Magazine. This he said was the best class he had ever had both in India and Jaffna. Then the regime of the Rev. Pickford as Vice-Principal is altogether wiped out. Great were the incidents during his time. The strike of the Hindu boys was a great incident in the history of the College, though I hope it will never be repeated.

The Cricket Club was not formed in 1904 as there was already a club when I joined the College in September 1903. We played two Inter Collegiate matches also in 1903.—Vs. Jaffna College and the Chetty St. H. School. Both were won by us. In 1904 three Inter Collegiate Matches were played of which one was won and two were lost. The latter were both Innings defeats from the Central. Mr. P. S. Hallock a devotee of the game was the Captain until the end of 1904, and not Mr. G. M. Sebastian. He was Captain in 1905. Though he was, not only the best sportsman of the College but also the best exponent of any department in either game and the greatest athlete in all Jaffna, yet he had not had the honour of leading the College in any Inter Collegiate match. The first visit of the Trinity Team in 1909 is altogether lost sight of.

The prefect system was not introduced in 1909 but it was in 1908 (Jany) soon after the arrival of Mr. Walmsely. I do not think Mr. Rajartnam was the first Senior prefect. May I ask your His-

torian from where he got that information? I was Captaining our Cricket team from 1906 and was enjoying the reputation of being the Senior Boy from 1907, i. e., long before the introduction of prefects. No doubt when the prefect system was introduced there was a clamour against my appointment owing to my being a non-Christian and non-boarder but that was overlooked by Mr. Thompson. I remember very vividly that I was Senior prefect in 1908 and also in 1909 and was in charge of the College Hall during prayers. In 1908 I clearly remember an imposition of 50 lines given to Prof. Suntheralingam for cracking a joke at me during prayers. It was late in 1908 that Mr. Rajaratnam was made Football Captain and the Senior prefectship will not have been conferred on one who was no Captain. Besides when Governor Mac. Callum visited S. J. C. in May or June 1908 it was I who was introduced to him as Senior Prefect. However I do not see why your Historian has omitted to mention my name as even one of the Senior prefects. Is it intentional? I suppose it is not but only left out as my name is not well-known at St. John's. He says the new grounds were opened on 21st May 1909. I guarantee it was opened earlier. It was under my personal supervision that the grounds and the pitch were laid out and Mr. Thompson offered two goats for a treat to the Jaffna College team for finishing the whole work within 5 days and in time to have the Match on the new grounds. I believe it was on 21st February 1909. The first Run was scored off my bat.

Then he says that Mr. Crossette joined the School in May 1908. It was not so. Mr. Crossette joined the College at the beginning of the X'mas term, i. e., Aug. or September 1908. Mr. Walmsley was there till the end of June. The older photographs are misleading. The Cricket team of 1910 was photographed on 9th December, 1907. It is funny that Ponniah who died in February 1909 could be on the 1910 XI. As far as I can remember only one member in that photograph was in the 1910 XI. Then the Teachers appear

ing in the 1907 photograph were photographed in 1905. (end) If not Rev. S. K. Ponniah who left in March 1906 and Rev. Somasuntheram who left at the close of 1906 will not be there. Besides where are Messrs. A. M. Nathaniel and J. C. Chinnappah who taught us in 1907.

Perhaps you may say that these are minor details, and that I am merely hair splitting but it is not fair to certain individuals to have these mistakes. Besides what are the other more important details than these! I have only run through the book in a hurry and have not yet gone into a detailed study. These are the observations I have made. In fact the second paragraph of the preface gave me an impetus to write out my own reminiscences but I fear that it may not find a place in the College Magazine.

Yours faithfully,

K. SORNALINGAM.



THE GENERAL ELECTIONS 1924

It was a great night,
The night of poll,
When voters in a thousand voices dight,
Their favoured minion's fruitful deeds extol,
And din the truculent air.
The sun has set amidst the pulse of life,
And dimming darkness takes the rear,
While under canopy of halls is happy strife.
Great was that night,
And trebly great the day to dawn,
When under Manning's good regime,
—Perchance entirely not of blessing shorn—
First for a century or o'er fair fields we'd sight.
Now could fair liberty set her pinions high,
And stepping stones be made of blessings terse,
And contentment reign our sky.
But to our short-lived tale,
Of the waves that passed over Lanka's citadel,
Through a shortened night and day,

The busies' and the grandest for an age,
 Pageant and great pomp is not our sense,
 Nor the wonted manners of a Gala day,
 Its entire soul. But rights were known,
 Divinities of man,
 Expounded since the dawn of Man's intelligence,
 At Athens and the early republics of man,
 And kingdoms which on them have grown,
 And Britain of which monarchies now the greatest.

* * *

From precedent to precedent shall this land advance,
 Led in its whispering dance,
 While wisdom broadens down
 From Knight to Labourer,—
 From Law's giddy crown,
 To hands that keep the state astir,
 And education keep her people fittest.

'Tis then that shame shall not be shown to what is
 ours,

In dress, in language or those creeds time-worn
 Which give a stamp to us all quite our own,
 Nor shall we spurn with scorn the wealthy dowers,
 Of other nations and of other creeds,
 Though senseless imitation,
 Could but bring confusion,
 And rob us of the mead of all our deeds.

* * *

And now the night is well-nigh spent,
 And dinner time is over,
 And roof-pent vigils and debates are over:
 Challenges can be no more,
 Nor time be given for answering anymore.
 Awhile, and must suspense of months be rent,
 Awhile and dawn would be,
 On a well-earned day of widened liberty.
 And when the day is ended,
 With all its needs attended,
 Many a one would sorrow, more rejoice,
 The lost one's sorrow short: but general, joy'.

* * *

Already had dawned September 27,
 Of 1924—the year's most pregnant day.

By the clock it was seven:
 And Turner's able polling took its way,
 And brought in its propitious sway,
 The thronged thousands in clamorous bands
 Of cars placarded, hallowing their great intent:
 While camp and tent,
 And show of busyhands,
 The great occasion brand,
 And lent a glory to the city seldom seen.
 And so doth progress through the land,
 The same good tale, on rocky height and plain;
 But at even when it is six,
 All polling doth cease,
 And the book of fate closed 'gainst each candidate'.

* * *

"To-night, tomorrow or in two days,
 The end of events they would state"
 Thus the pilgrim, satiate, says,
 And hurries to his yonder gate:
 Here the wife and children stay,
 To hear the issue of the day,
 While lingering darkness speedeth on,
 And silence, slow regains the town,
 As doth through this blessed isle,
 Mid-night creep in epic style.

D. R. GUNASEGARAM.



S. J. C. MASTERS' GUILD

Though still in its infancy, St. John's College Masters' Guild has in various ways justified its existence. It has a unifying influence among the members, who have already begun to make use of this opportunity to meet together and discuss matters freely to improve themselves and also to make their united influence felt for good in the college. The concert held last year under the auspices of the Guild has enabled us to furnish the Masters' Room and to add several useful volumes to the Masters' Library.

An account of the work of the Guild to the end of 1923 has already appeared in a previous issue of

the Magazine. At a Business Meeting held on the 27th Nov. 1923, on Mr. C. H. Kathiravelu Pillai steadily declining to continue as the President of the Guild, Rev. I. S. Ratnathicam was elected President and Mr. T. M. Mathai, Secretary, for the year 1924. Later when it was decided that a subscription of Re 1. per term should be collected from the members to defray the expenses of the Guild, Mr. J. Sitharam was elected Treasurer.

Four ordinary and four special meetings of the Guild were held this year.

Mr. A. K. Benjamin's Paper on "Tamils Eighteen Hundred Years Ago" was listened to with rapt attention. The paper, as well as the discussion that followed has helped to create a revival of interest in the great and ancient Tamil Literature, and also in the History of the Tamils.

Mr. T. H. Crossette's Paper on "The 'Relation between Geography and History'" was an able exposition of the influence of Geographical conditions on the character and history of nations.

Mr. J. Sitharam's Paper on "Epic Poetry" was interesting and instructive, especially to students of Literature. He read at length about the various Epics the world has produced.

It has now been decided to hold fortnightly meetings of the Guild, instead of monthly meetings as hitherto. There will be Papers and discussion on various educational subjects, as well as model and criticism lessons by Members of the Guild. The first criticism lesson was taken by Mr. D. H. Chinniah who taught 'the Murder of Thomas a Becket' to the Second Form. Such classes are bound to be useful.

We are sorry that our President, Rev. I. S. Ratnathicam had to leave us towards the end of the term, as his services were required in one of the Branch Schools. He has gone to Urumperai as the headmaster of the Elementary English School there.

There was a farewell dinner held in his honour in St. John's College, on Thursday 4th December 1924, at which Messrs. T. M. Mathai, C. H. Kadi-

ravelupillai and V. C. Canagaratnam spoke highly of the valuable services rendered by him to the college and to the Masters' Guild. As a painstaking teacher, perfect gentleman, ever ready to help all who may need help by wise counsel as well as active service, ever anxious to look to the comfort and well-being of others rather than of himself, always looking at the bright side of things, he has, with his high ideals and unassuming, yet winning manners, endeared himself to the students and masters of St. John's College. We wish him all success in his new sphere of work.

T. M. MATHAI,
(Hon. Secretary)



VALETE

- | | |
|--|----|
| J. M. Singanayagam 1914-24.
Camb. Senior 1920.
Platoon Sergt C. C. B. 1920-24.
Captain Cricket xi 1920-24.
Secy S. J. C. L. A. 1921.
Senior athletic champion 1921.
Senior Prefect 1923.
Captain Football xi 1923.
Handy Goldmedal 1923. | H. |
| W. A. VandenDriesen 1918-24.
Camb Junior (2nd class honours) 1921.
Camb Senior (honours) 1923.
Prefect 1922-23.
Captain Handy House 1922-23.
Editor St. John's College Literary Association
'Eagle' | H. |
| S. Thangarajah. 1921-24.
Camb Junior. (1st class honours) 1922 (honours with
6 dist.) 1923. | H. |

C. T. R. Singham 1918-24.
 Camb Junior. 1921.
 Camb Senior. 1922.
 Prefect. 1924.

H.

E A. C. Wirekoon 1923-24
 Camb Senior. 1923.
 Monitor 1924.

C. A. Dissanayake 1919-24.
 Cricket xi 1920-24.
 Monitor. 1922-23.
 Sergt C. C. B. 1923.
 Football xi 1923.

S. S. Sinnathurai 1915-24.
 E. S. L. C. 1922.
 Camb Junior. 1923.
 Cricket xi 1924.

C. K. Albert 1917-24.
 Camb Junior. 1921.
 Camb Senior. 1922-23.
 Prefect 1923-24.
 Secy. S. J. C. L. A. 1923.
 Vice Pres X'ian Union 1923.

T.

S. T. Navaratnam 1916-24.
 Prefect 1921.
 Cpl. C. C. B. 1921.

J.

E. R. Rajanayagam 1916-24.
 Camb Junior. 1921.
 Football xi 1923.

J.

S. M. Kanagaratnam 1915-20 & 1923-24.
 Secy. X'ian union. 1924.
 London Matriculation 1924. (June).

J.

M. S. Thambithurai 1919-24.

J.

Camb Junior. 1921.

Camb Senior. 1923.

C. Ariarajah 1921-24.

J.

Camb Senior with exemption 1923.

Cricket xi 1924.

E. B. Anketel. 1921-24.

Camb Junior. 1922.

Camb Senior (hons) 1923.

Thambirajah. 1923-4.

Cambridge Senior. 1923.

R. Werkmeister 1921-24.

P.

Cricket xi 1921-24.

Camb Junior 1923.

Intermediate Athletic Champion 1922-23.

I. T. Solomons. 1910-1921.

King Scout. 1920.

Inter. collegiate sports champion. 1922-3.

Football xi 1920-3.

Cricket xi 1922-3.

Lance Corporal 1923.

Henry Richards. 1914-1924.

Cambridge Junior. 1922.

Gregory Richards. 1916-1924.

Cambridge Junior. 1923.

D. A. N. Gnanapragasam. Editor Boarder's Literary
Union, Cambridge Junior 1923

G. H. R. Hubert.

Cambridge Senior. 1921.

Inter collegiate Sports Champion. 1924.

Arulpragasam Gold Medal in Oratory. 1924.
 Hon Sec. S. J. C. Social Service Guild 1923-4
 Football xi 1922-4.
 Cricket xi, 1924.
 Editor Eagle S. J. C. L. A.



OUR LITERARY ASSOCIATION

We give below a brief account of the work done by the Senior literary association during the last term. The Senior literary association consists only of the Cambridge classes and E. S. L. C. class. Besides the Senior there are six others each of which is in the charge of a master.

30th January

Readings by C. W. Chellappah from Tennyson.
 " " D. A. N. Gnanapragasam from Shakespeare.
 Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram.
Chairman.

6th February

Reading of the "Eagle" by the Editor.
 Mr. T. M. Matthai.
Chairman.

20th February

DEBATE

"The end does not justify the means."

Proposition

C. T. R. Singham
 Mr. V. C. Kanagaratnam

Opposition

S. M. Kanagaratnam
 Mr. P. T. Mathai
 Mr. T. M. Mathai
Chairman.

Remarks were offered by Messrs E. R. John and
 C. W. Chellappah.

2nd March

Reading of the Tamil paper by the Editor.

Remarks were offered by Messrs. E. R. John and
S. S. B. Kumarakulasinghe.
Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram
Chairman.

N. B. Owing to the Cadet Camp we were unable to have our meetings in Michaelmas term.
6th August

Lecture by Mr. T. M. Mathai on "The advancement of modern science."

Remarks were offered by Messrs J. W. W. Jehorathnam and C. W. Chellappah.
Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram
Chairman.

10th September

Speeches by C. A. W. Edwards on "Oratory"
" J. W. W. Jehorathnam on "Milton's paradise lost".
" E. R. John on The "Tamil Language".
" A. Ramasathan on "Ceylon and Swaraj".
C. W. Chellappah
Chairman

17th September

DEBATE

"Ceylon is at present on the road to self-government."

Proposition

Opposition

G. H. R. Hubert

C. W. Chellappah

S. M. Kanagaratnam

J. W. W. Jehorathnam

Remarks were offered by Messrs E. R. John, Alagoda and S. J. C. Storer.

W. J. Jesudasan
Chairman

8th October

DEBATE

"Inter-racial marriages are beneficial for the welfare of Ceylon."

Proposition

Opposition

E. R. John

Frank D. M. Kanagasabai

Mr. P. T. Mathai

Mr. J. T. Arulanandam

Remarks were offered by Messrs Alagoda, C. A. W. Edwards, C. W. Chellappah and by Mr. V. C. Canagaratnam.

N. B. The subject was thoroughly thrashed. Much enthusiasm was shown on both sides.

Mr. S. J. Gunasegaram
Chairman

15th October

PAPEE AND DISCUSSION

Paper by J. W. W. Jehoratnam on the subject
"Are our girls educated on proper lines."
(Discussion followed)

Remarks were offered by Messrs Francis, E. R. John, C. A. W. Edwards, Alagoda, K. Jehoratnam, J. M. Daniel and C. W. Chellappah.

CHELVARAJAH W. CHELLAPPAH,
Hony. Secretary.



THE SKYLARK IN ENGLISH POETRY

The skylark has been the theme of many an English poet. It was its inspiration that made Shelly to strike a high note of melody, which ultimately made him a lyrist. The music of his ode pervades and animates all his readers by the exquisite charm of thought and expression. It is a spasmodic outburst of his tender heart. It is a spontaneous diffusion of emotion inspired by that sweet bird. The poet hails her and compares her to so many beautiful things in a very apt way.

"Like a glow-worm golden,
In a dell of dew,
Scattering unbeholden,
Its aerial hue

Among the flowers and grass which screen it from the
view

Like a rose embowered,
 In its own green leaves,
 By warm winds deflowered,
 Till the scent it gives,

Makes faint with too much sweet these heavy-winged thieves.

Shelley in the latter part of this poem contrasts beautifully the life of the skylark exempt from 'languor' and 'annoyance' with that of man whose life is a strange mixture of joys and regrets for,

We look before and after,
 And pine for what is not,
 Our sincerest laughter,
 With some pain is fraught,
 Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest
 thoughts."

Again Wordsworth's "Skylark" is a poem of no mean order. Though he has no regular division of his thoughts, he addresses the bird with real emotion. His inspiration is not of Shelley's standard. Shelley is progressive and philosophic. In his extreme passion he appeals to the bird to unfold the mystery of its music. On the other hand Wordsworth though not progressive is emotional. His address to the bird though less exquisite is not uninspiring.

"Leave to the nightingale her shady wood,
 A privacy of glorious light is thine,
 Whence thou dost pour upon the world a flood,
 Of harmony, with instinct more divine."

But all the same he draws a good moral from her.

"Type of the wise who soar but never roam—
 True to the kindred points of heaven and home!"

And this may rightly be applied to the Author himself.

James Hogg in his "skylark" strikes another sublime note of simplicity and harmony, sweetness and shortness. It is a rare gem of English Poetry! He hails her as,

"Bird of the Wilderness,
Blithesome and cumberless.
Sweet be thy matins over moorland and sea,
Emblem of happiness,
Blest is thy dwelling place,
Oh to abide in the desert with thee!"

The lofty note and pathos of this little piece gives the reader, an idea of the sweet bird. The poet here is highly imaginative.

He even attempts to climb the heavenly heights with the pilgrim of the sky.

"O'er fell and fountain sheen,
O'er Moor and mountain green,
O'er the red streamer that heralds the day,
O'er the cloudlets dim,
O'er the rainbow's rim,
Musical cherub soar singing away."

The skylark has thus played an important part in English poetry. She has stirred up many a mastermind to action. Three great admirers of the bird were considered and these were seers of vision. They unfold to us the mystic music of that "fairy bird."

"Sing on, sing on blithe bird! and fill,
My heart with summer gladness.
It has been aching many a day,
With measure full of sadness".

(STUDENT) C. W. CHELLARPAH.



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE SOCIAL SERVICE UNION

We have been carrying on our work as successfully as usual. The harvest is plenty but the

labourers are few. It is a matter for regret to note that many of us have not as yet fully appreciated the value of service.

We boys ought to learn the state of our country's slums. To be patriots of tomorrow we must know every detail of the backwardness of our country. We cannot help the whole mass of poor people. In fact the help we can give is very little, be we learn the agony of the striving, pestilence-stricken people. We get to know the country's evils; we are forced to sympathise with the down trodden; and we learn to put their sorrows and fears on our shoulders. Go to Karayoor and you will find the poor, the sick, the down trodden race of humanity struggling in insanitary slums; go and see their ignorance and utterly unhygienic modes of life. The great teacher of humanity went about doing good. He moved and lived among the poor, the sick, the maimed and the blind. Let us at least have the kindness to visit them once a week and make an effort to soothe their troubles. I appeal to all those who have not as yet joined our ranks.

Let us all join in the common upliftment of humanity.

I must not fail to record our thanks to the ex-secretary, Mr. G. H. R. Hubert. He has done much to the advancement of our union. He was energetic and his energy was remarkably infectious. I also thank the senior patrol leaders of the Union for their untiring work, and every individual member for his support.

C. W. CHELLAPPAH
(Hon. Secretary)



THE CADET CORPS 1924.

The Cadet Corps has had its existence at St. John's College since 1919. Year by year the platoon has increased in strength and improved in efficiency. Towards the end of last year a great change was effected in the organisation of the Corps when the sections were recast on the principle of the House System. We grew in numbers steadily and had almost full strength when we closed for X'mas holidays but the close of the year meant as usual a great fall in the numbers. Several of the veterans left us including the Sergeants and the Corporals and we felt their loss very much as we gathered together again in January. We should not forget at this juncture to place on record the hard work put in by our genial and ever smiling Sergeant Jenkins who has now given up the world, and has gone to join the ranks of the Lord. We also had to wish good-bye to Sergeant Dissanayake and Corporal Mac Intyre. We wish these and all others who have left us, all success in life.

Our outlook at the beginning of the year was rather bad as our numbers had fallen suddenly. But it was only for a while. The O. C. and the new N. C. O's. put in their best efforts and very soon we had the maximum strength in all the sections, and what at first seemed a rabble now earned the highest compliments from Capt. H. P. Mackey, M. C. who inspected us in June. His visit inspired us and he exhorted us to go forward. A great source of inspiration during the year was the offer of the Junior and Senior Cadet Shields and Junior and Senior section Commanders' cups for Inter Section Competitions. The O. C. himself offered both shields while the Principal offered the Senior section Commanders cup, and Mr. Ponnudurai the Junior cup. This year the Handy House Cadets have won both the cups and shields, and in so doing have created a record which it will be difficult to break. Our hearty congratulations to the Handys.

All that we had done up to this time was but the preparation for the annual camp. The contingent of the Johnnians that set out to camp was indeed a jolly set. The camp was a thoroughly enjoyable one, and we had a jolly time of it. We were a disciplined troop, and we enjoyed the discipline in camp by strictly adhering to every inch of duty. All the noblest qualities that we had learnt at school underwent a severe test at camp; but never was there a case of slackness or unsteadiness.

We went to camp with great hopes of winning the Herman Loos Challenge cup, but the failure to secure it has put in us the determination to try again. The Company Football Competition was a new event in the last Camp. Six of our men were selected to play in the E. Company team which was composed of Annanda, St. Patricks and ourselves and was Captained by our skipper. Presudi distinguished himself as a very efficient fullback. We won every match we played. From the beginning we had easy work till we entered the finals with the A Company (Colombo). This match required great fight and we won it by a narrow margin. The E Company were thus winners of the championship. In the Platoon football competitions of the E. Company; we had the misfortune of losing against St. Patricks. "Under estimation" of the opponents' strength is as disastrous as overconfidence in one's own strength. We learnt a great lesson— "Be sure. But never be too sure." The Inter Platoon sports competitions came off at the end of camp. Every cadet had to take part in every event and the average strength of the Platoon counted and not individual display; so that Sergt. Edwards cannot boast of his 100 yds in 10 and 1.5 second; neither could J. T. Hubert boast of leading the Platoon in the cross country race. Every cadet deserves credit for his performance in every event of the sports. We knew we did well, but it was not till the following morning that we had done so

very well. We had come out first and had been declared winners of the Inter Platoon Challenge cup for the sports. One great benefit we derived from camp was the promotion of the spirit of comradeship. All were alike there; we learnt to be friendly, to be helpful and polite to all, and to be loyal to the unit to which we belonged. The greatest lesson we learnt in the camp was that of devotion to duty. "Duty" in the words of the Poet Wordsworth is "the stern daughter of the voice of God," so we realise that England rules over such a great Empire today because of the stringent adherence of Englishmen to duty. Lord Nelson in that memorable battle of Trafalgar signalled "England expects everyman to do his duty". In camp we learnt this great lesson of duty. Everyone who did his duty enjoyed the camp. Indeed there was great pleasure in duty. The path of duty was the "way to glory."

A word as to what the cadet movement has done to us, boys of St. John's. It has made out of the ordinary shy boy a disciplined and dutiful citizen. To be a cadet I should with no hesitation say, is a great privilege. Non-cadets must soon realise this and avail themselves of the opportunity. We wish the movement every success.

G. H. R. H.



WOLF CUBS

Once more we look back on another year of useful work. The cubs are little by little entering into the spirit of the Game, and it is encouraging to report that they say, "we are a lively pack."

The pack has seven second stars and four first star cubs. The first Aider, Guide, House orderly, Collector, Team Player, Observation and Athlete badges have been won by the Second Star Cubs.

The greatest event this term was the annual camp held on the 12th September, in the spacious garden of Mr. Matthew, the Secretary of the local Boy's Scouts Association. We reached our camping grounds at dusk and soon set to work. The Greys and the Browns were detailed off to prepare our dinner while the other sixes put up our tents.

In the midst of our perspiring efforts to produce a taste-less dinner we were surprised by a bevy of charming ladies and inquisitive girls who offered us grandmotherly advice on how to peel a potato, and insisted on peeping into our pots and pans "just to see what a mess you have made of the brinjals." Look at their cheek!

Dinner over we sat round the camp fire and enjoyed Akela's worthless yarns, and sang songs and solos till far into the night, for we found it hard to sleep in that lively moonlight, so typical of Jaffna.

Next morning we were up with the crows and after a hot cup of lovely tea, we spent about fifteen minutes in physical-drill instructed by Akela. We had no flagstaff and Union Jack so at 7.15 the Grand Howl took the place of Saluting the Flag. After tea we were divided into Signalling and Tender-Pad classes. The Third Jaffna unexpectedly dropped in to see us, and we greeted each other with the Grand Howl. At ten we set to cook by sixes, and I must say an excellent breakfast was prepared. Many members of the College Staff visited us and tasted our curries and went away, we hope highly edified. Mr. Matthew, the Cubmaster and the Senior sixer of the Third Jaffna were our guests at breakfast. In the afternoon the Third Jaffna kindly shared our tea and participated in our games. Late in the evening we retraced our steps back to our lair having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We have received much encouragement from many members of the College Staff and also from

many outsiders. Our sincere thanks are due to a doctor friend of ours, who wishes to remain anonymous, for giving a donation with which we have bought a football. Maniagar Muttucumaru at his own expense took us from here to his extensive estate at Vettucadu, and treated us sumptuously during our two days' stay there. We had a ripping time and we cannot adequately express our thanks to our worthy host. He has always encouraged the Scout Movement and is always a good friend of the College. We recommend his intelligent interest to all parents and his kindly generosity to all 'Scout enthusiasts.' "A sermon is a poor sauce without something to eat with." Second Jaffna, hats off to Mudaliyar Muttucumaru!

Our thanks are also due to Mr. V. C. Canagaratnam for helping us to swell our funds. He has been a warm friend of our pack, and has a great wish to be one of the officials of the pack, but he is unable to find time owing to his other duties.

On the 30th September the pack fell in full uniform for the Investiture of the Second Star, when in the presence of a large number of spectators and the Fourth Jaffna (Girls' College) four cubs renewed their promises and were invested with the Second Stars.

The best Six for the year has been the Brown. The browns are a perfect lot and it gives me the greatest pleasure to say that Cubbing has done them immense good. In their leader, C. Sinnathurai they have a painstaking sixer. The Browns are ready for service at any time and at any place. And it is that kind of cubs that we want in a pack.

Finally we must thank Mr. Matthew, the Secretary of the Local Association for the manifold help and encouragements he has given for the pack.

(AKELA)



JAFFNA SANGEETHA SABHA

All lovers of music will be glad to hear of the attempt made by the St. John's College staff and a few others, to inaugurate a "Sabha" for the purpose of inculcating and spreading the knowledge and science of Indian music. It is hardly necessary to say that music has appealed to all races both savage and civilised and in all ages. But it was in the East, more specially in India that the scientific pursuit of music was carried to a very great extent, nay even to perfection. The present neglected state of this Soul-Stirring Art hushes to silence and shame all the pride it had enjoyed in those glorious days. The state of affairs in Ceylon is even still worse. Most of us take entirely to western music neglecting this Eastern Art. There are some who through their blind enthusiasm for Eastern music deride Western; we should avoid both these extremes by careful observation and study. All that is best and grand in western music could be adapted to suit the genius of the Eastern music.

It is therefore the pious aspiration of the newly organised Sangeetha Sabha to cultivate a true taste for Eastern music without depreciating Western music, and thus to meet a keen-felt need. It is also hoped to impart to music-loving students of schools and colleges some knowledge of music, and to develop the histrionic art. The Sabha will also afford encouragement to the production of original poetic and dramatic works in Tamil.

Though primarily intended for students and teachers, the Sabha makes provisions for the membership of those who are other than teachers. The inaugural meeting of the Sabha was held at St. John's College Hall in October, when a large gathering of Old Boys of St. John's College, members of the tutorial staff of various colleges and others interested in the movement were present.

It should be the earnest endeavour of everybody who has but a spark of love towards

Eastern culture and music not only to save this our National Art from ignominious extinction, but also to revive and develop it in all possible manner.

J. SITHARAM,
(Joint Hon. Secy.)



LIBRARY NOTES

St John's College once had a well-stocked library but in 1921 some educated thieves broke open the shelves and went off with many hundred volumes, and the theological books they—with good taste—left behind are only suitable for padres in embryo. The cry for Books more Books and better books from all forms is deafening. Thanks to the generosity of a few friends and Old boys we have a passably good collection of readable books—but Oliver Twist want more! We must specially thank Mr. James Hensman of Sandilipay for his generous gift of 250 volumes. We commend this to the notice of all old boys and well-wishers of the College.

V. C. C.
(Librarian.)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND COOPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETY, JAFFNA

As a result of a wide spread desire among the teachers both of the College and the branch schools a Co-operative Credit Society was formed during the term. Membership is restricted to persons employed under the Church of England in the Jaffna District. For the present the share Capital of the society is limited to Rs. 2000 made up of 2000 shares of one rupee each. A few hundred shares are yet available and applicants are requested to apply to the Honorary Secretary, St. John's College, Chundicully, Jaffna, for bye-laws and further particulars.

At a general meeting held on the 7th November 1924 the following office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected.

<i>President—</i>	Mr. T. H. Crossette
<i>Vice-President—</i>	Mr. C. H. Kathiravetpillai
<i>Hony Treasurer—</i>	Rev. I. S. Ratnathicam
<i>Hony. Secretary—</i>	Mr. J. T. Arulanantham
<i>Asst. Hony. Secy.—</i>	Mr. V. C. Canagaratnam
<i>Committee—</i>	Rev. C. H. Vandenburg
	Mr. P. T. Matthai
	“ S. G. Arulanantham
	“ T. M. Matthai
	J. T. Arulanantham
	Hony. Secy.



HOUSE MATCHES

(1) PARGITER HOUSE

‘Labor Omnia Vincit’

We do not choose words for nothing. This is but the expression of a fact, and I take this opportunity to thank heartily all members of Pargiter House, for the amount of esprit-de-corps displayed by them and for the spirit of ‘one-ness’ maintained in every branch of school-life, this year.

Though weak and hopeless at the start we stuck to our guns with ‘bull-dog’ tenacity, always trying ‘hard’ and we were amply rewarded.

This year, again, great events have happened that have given us the House Championships in athletics and cricket. Since this is the centenary year we are even more glad over our success. Our heartiest congratulations to G. H. R. Hubert and T. Sivakolunthu for having won the Senior and Inter-mediate championship cups respectively. This is the third year in succession that members of our House have won these cups. The Senior ath-

letic champion has also won the Arulpragasam Gold Medal for Oratory: our 'congrat's to him.

This year, we expected to run away easy victors of the cricket shield. But the 'glorious uncertainty' of cricket would have happened in our match against Handy House if not for the dogged batting of G. H. R. Hubert. He was the only batsman to face the bowling with any confidence. He played a splendid not out innings and pulled us out of dangerous waters.' We were able to come out victors by a very small margin. We give our heartiest thanks to Handy House for the sportsmanlike manner in which the match was played and we wish them better luck next time.

Since the competition was carried out on the knockout system, when Thompson House had 'gone down' to Johnstone House, we had to meet the Johnstonians in the finals. This match was rather a tame one and altogether one-sided. We won by a huge margin.

We have done very well so far, and we expect to do more by becoming 'cock-house' again. For the past three years in succession we have had the honour of being styled the 'cock-house' of the school, winning all the Inter-house championships. We have won the football championship for the 4th time in succession.

We would be entirely lacking in gratitude if we do not refer to the sterling work put in by our energetic House Master Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai. I should, with no hesitation whatever, attribute all the success that we have gained to his unbounded energy. The sincerest thanks of the House go to him.

K. VAITHIANATHAN
Capt. Pargiter House.

(2) JOHNSTONE HOUSE

The Inter-House Cricket Competition this year proved more interesting and elicited more enthusiasm from the different houses than in former years. In our match against Thompson we were

able to defeat them easily, and that by a large margin. We fared in our classic fight against Pargiter, worse than we ever expected. We were hot favourites until the unfortunate moment for everyone was keen to see Pargiter brought down a peg or two. Owing to unforeseen circumstances we had to concede Pargiter a victory in a closely contested game.

While heartily congratulating Pargiter we would cry *caveat* lest we shock them by carrying off "the ashes" next year while they blissfully lose themselves in an Elysium of lazy self-content.

C. A. W. EDWARDS
House Captain.

(3) THOMPSON HOUSE

Pargiter is again the Champion House this year. Our congratulations to Pargiter. In spite of brave efforts on our part we were not able to win many matches this year. We have the satisfaction however that we have tried our best.

(CAPT. D. C. R.)

(4) HANDY HOUSE

As a house we have acquitted ourselves tolerably well this year. This year shields were offered to the best sections of both the Senior and Junior cadet platoons. Cups too were awarded to the best Senior and best Junior section commanders. The shields as well as the cups were carried off by Handy House—quite an unique achievement. Sergts. H. K. Vanden Drisen and S. G. Vanden Drisen should be congratulated on having won the challenge cups.

We played but one cricket match this season. It was against Pargiter House. What a match it was! But in the end Pargiter won by two runs. Our team played splendidly, but cricket is a game of chance. Yet as Thomas Hughes says such a defeat is a victory. We offer our heartiest congratulations to Pargiter House on securing the inter House cricket championship.

This season too we played but one foot-ball match. It was against Thompson House. Like the cricket match this too was any side's game. But during the last few minutes three goals were scored against us in quick succession. Selvarajah Hudson of Thompson's making good use of the training he had received shot two goals against us. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Pargiter on securing the football championship.

Lastly the fact must be mentioned that the greatest number of prizewinners this time were Handys. We take a justifiable pride in mentioning this.

At the interhouse sports competition we took the last place with 17 points. But it is no discredit to be last in such a keen and well fought contest. We offer our heartiest congratulations to Pargiter on carrying off the sports championship and being cock-house for the year.

(CAPT. R. K S.)



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1924.

Football is fast becoming a hot favourite among all classes of people. It is encouraging to note that cigar-rollers have several clubs of their own where football is played scientifically and in true sportsman-like manner. They have tried their mettle with the Police and with certain other school teams, and have proved themselves no mean exponents of the game. There are several other teams, composed of the labour classes and fishermen, but these have not come into the lime-light of public recognition. The great wave of enthusiasm for football spreading through the land should be partly attributed to the healthy spirit of emulation displayed by schools contesting for championship in football and partly, of late, to the encouragement given by captain Brindly, the sporting Superintendent of Police, and the personal in-

terest he evinces in all clubs irrespective of caste or class.

The fact that football gives a vast amount of physical exercise at the expense of very little time and money, should recommend itself to the middle and especially to the lower classes of people. At a time when the national games are dying off owing to the lack of support and encouragement from the educated public, and the labour classes are steadily drifting towards the taverns for spending their evenings, it is highly desirable to note that some at least are being attracted towards football as a pleasant pastime. One of the greatest services that our City Fathers can do to their country at present, is to establish football fields and volley-ball courts at frequent intervals in the urban area. Such a step will not only put an end to the enormous amount of gossip and scandal mongering prevalent in the country and rear up sturdy healthy respectable citizens, but will also feed the cravings of a sensation-loving public which has not even a park in which to amuse itself during its hours of idleness. May we hope to see in the near future football becoming as much of a national pastime as smoking is at the present moment. This is perhaps one of the best methods by which temperance workers may successfully combat the drink-evil and patriots minimise the criminal tendencies of nothing-else-to-do type of loafers, and create happy and healthy homes.

Now to our subject. The Inter-collegiate football matches attracted far greater and more enthusiastic crowds this year than in any other previous year. St. Patricks which always acquitted itself well in the football contests made itself conspicuous by its non-co-operation with the league this year. Altogether seven colleges entered the lists. At the close of a very interesting and vigorous series of matches we emerged out as champions, with Jaffna Hindoo for a close second.

We played our first match with Manipay Hindoo on the police grounds. Manipay had a

strong defence, but neither side showed much of combination, perhaps due to the fact that it was the first match of the season. The match inevitably ended in a draw. The match with Jaffna Hindoo was an extremely exciting one. During the first half inspite of vigorous play on the part of our team the opponents scored two goals. The first half was over but our boys had not lost courage. They went in with a determination to do or die. The result was marvellous. Within five minutes Thirugnanam scored a goal for St. John's. But Hindoo retorted with another. The fight became intensely exciting. It was 3-1. Spirited as our forwards were their defence was superb. Attack after attack was repulsed with loud cheers and vociferous shouting from the masses huddled up along the lines. Five short minutes still remained. All were breathless with excitement, when in the centre was seen a small slim figure dash like a boomerang with the ball through an array of sturdy defenders. It was young Hubert. He sent the ball clean through the goal. Still another short period of hard struggle ensued. Now it was the right-in who took the ball. With lightning-like rapidity Theerthavelu blew in the direction of the opponents' goal and sent the ball whizzing by the ears of the goalie. The whistle went off and the second match too ended in a draw.

Our third match was against Central. This was played on their grounds. For years together the Central, St. John's match has been looked upon as the most important event of the football season. When we met this year, the fact that both the colleges had equal hopes of winning the Championship made the event doubly interesting. Crowds streamed in by thousands and both the schools were cheered impartially by the spectators. A dashing game ensued. There was beautiful combination on both sides but no goals were scored during the first half. The Central forwards made attacks after attacks, but they were of no avail. They were beaten back by our robust full-back Praisoody as easily as the mighty waves of Palk-Strait by the

rocky shores of Pt. Pedro. Now it was Central now it was St. John's that was in the offensive. Theerthavelu with his usual agility netted the ball sent to him by the left extreme. One goal was thus registered against Central. Soon after, the Central skipper took the ball and drove it neatly into our goal. Excitement ran high. A few minutes more and the game would stop. There was a sudden hush in the crowd and all eyes were turned in the direction of our left—in. J. T. Hubert came to our rescue once again. With snake-like agility he dodged three of his opponents and entered the goal with the ball. Deafening cheers rent the skies, but the Centralites lost not courage. They made a series of spirited efforts but without success. The Umpire whistled time.

It was on a very wet Saturday that we played against Parameshwara. The field was dotted with a mass of muddy pools, and the sky was threatening. Our boys hesitated to play but were compelled to do so owing to the persistent demands of the opposing team. There was continuous drizzling. It required five men at times to lift a ball from one of those wretched puddles, yet the boys went through the agony. The first half came to a close without either side scoring. The next half brought in a goal to St. John's and a heavy shower interrupted the match leaving us the victors.

The game with Hartley was the fastest game of the season and perhaps the best. A brilliant display of football was witnessed. Our forwards however proved too swift and accurate for the opponents. A. R. Abraham our left extreme sent the ball clean through the goal, and two other goals followed in quick succession. In the second half we scored one more goal off a foul kick. The splendid attacks of the Hartley forwards were repelled by our halves Kanagasabai and G. H. R. Hubert.

Our game with Jaffna College was to decide the championship. For many long years we had not won the Vaddukoddai team in football. The great enthusiasm on the side of our boys was

shown by the large number of cars, thirty-two in all, that arrived at Jaffna College premises that day, while the home team vied with ours in the splendid decorations they had made for the occasion. Every Johnian was there to cheer his team. Two Bus loads of tiny-tots from the baby-boarding and from the neighbourhood of St. John's descended on the fields of Vaddukoddai with exulting cheers and defiant eyes. The match commenced, and for full fifteen minutes neither side scored. And now a beautiful corner, kicked by A. R. Abraham, alighted on the expectant head of Thirugnanaṁ and found its brisk way into the goal. Another followed. Soon Jaffna College scored a goal off a penalty kick. The first half was over. The second half saw our forwards dash with renewed energy and five more goals followed. Seven to one was a record for the season. The horns of the thirty-two motor cars roared, supplemented by the yells of the delighted chauffeurs, and we sought our home eight miles away with pride of conquerors.

The captain wishes us to record our thanks to Captain Brindly for his kindness in giving permission to use the Police grounds, and for the ungrudging manner in which he offered his services as referee in all our matches.

The thanks of the team are also due particularly to Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai, an Ex-captain, for the time and energy he devoted to the training up of the players, and generally to the other members of the staff for the encouragement they gave.

We enjoyed a full holiday to celebrate the event while Miss Page was generous enough to show her appreciation of our success by granting a similar favour to our sisters. The college staff and prefects played a match against the champions and entertained the visitors at a 'social.' The celebrations were wound up by an extempore concert which proved an immense success.

The Team:—

- D. S. Abraham*:—1921—Skipper-Cool-headed and tactful. The sandow of the team. As a rolling stone in the field could'nt gather much moss. An extremely lucky captain.
- G. H. R. Hubert*:—1922—25 Plays centre half. Tall and muscular. Kicks with equal effect with both legs. Has done yoeman service to the team.
- F. D. M. Kanagasabai*:—1923—.A typical half. Impenetrable. Plays a cool game always and exercises both brain and muscle.
- J. T. Hubert*:—1923—Left-in. Nimble and lithe. A good dribbler. Has a clean control over the ball. A sure short.
- M. L. Theethavelu* 1923—Right-in. Plays a dashing game from start to finish. His shots are parallel, powerful and perilously perfect.
- K. C. Praisoody*:—1924—Late captain of Hartley. Plays full. Strong and sturdy. Perfect defence. The hero of the crowd.
- K. Thirugnanam*:—1924—25 Centre-forward. Believes in long shots and not in rushing at the goal-keeper. Combines well with the ins.
- M. Velauthapillai*:—1924—Played full. Made his mark in the first match itself. Has of late developed into a sure full. More is expected of him next year.
- A. R. Abraham*:—1924—Left extreme a new addition. Sometimes overcareful about himself. Was a suitable assistant to the left-in.
- M. Cumorasingam*:—1924—Is a fresh man in the team. Has played fairly well as right extreme.
- H. K. VandenDriesen*:—1924 A lucky goalie. Unexcitable. Has'nt allowed any ball to pass through his hands in any of the three matches he played except the one off a penalty-kick.

Also played:

- U. Mailvaganam*:—1923—Left extreme. Shoots too often into the crowds. Has much regard for his person. Says he will definitely prove a first rate centre forward next year.

OUR DIARY

- July 10; Mr. Egbert talks to the boys.
 12; Revd. Dewick addresses the boys during prayers.
 24; Mr. J. Sitharam (B. A. Lond.) joins the staff.
 28; College farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Peto.
 29; The Petos leave Jaffna.
 Aug. 1; Twynam Museum opened to the public.
 15; Cadets leave for Diyatalawa.
 Sept. 15; Sivagnanam of Form V. A. expired.
 Oct. 6; Mr. Edgar Niles expired,
 Nov. 11; Dr. Adams F. R. S. etc., of Canada visited College and
 talked to the boys.
 26; Revd. Ralaram of N. India spoke to the boys.
 27; Farewell to the Revd. Ratnathicam on his departure
 to Urumpirai as headmaster.
 28; Mr. S. G. Arulanandam joins the staff.



SOME GREAT SAYINGS

Where pain ends, gain ends too. (*R. Browning.*)

There is nothing so kingly as kindness,
 And nothing so royal as truth. (*Alice Cary.*)

Count that day lost whose low descending sun,
 Views from thy hand no worthy action done. (*Hobart.*)

Believe not each accusing tongue,
 As most weak people do;
 But still believe that story wrong,
 Which ought not to be true. (*Sheridan.*)
 So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
 So near is God to man.

When duty whispers love, "Thou must,"
 The youth replies, "I can." (*Emerson.*)



IN MEMORIAM

“கௌதே வந்து கிளைகளயிற்றேன்றி
வானாதே பேரவரான் மரத்தர்கான்”

Naladiyar

EDGAR A. NILES

Died Oct. 6, 1924.

E. A. BENJAMIN

Died Dec. 6, 1924

(DR.) KANAGASUNDRAM

Died Dec. 10, 1924

K. SIVAGNANAM

V Form

Died Sept. 15, 1924

JOSEPH GNANARATNAM

Christmas (part of
the name) II Form

Died No v. 29, 1924

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Ceylon Men.
The Dharmarajah Telescope.
The Training College Magazine.
St. Benedicts' Annual.
St. Thomas' College Magazine.
Trinity College Magazine.
The School Review, Anglo Chinese School, Klang.



SCHOOL OFFICERS 1924

PREFECTS

<i>C. A W. Edwards :</i>	Senior prefect, Capt. Johnstone House ; Sgt. Cadet Corps. Vice-president, Christian Union.
<i>D. C. Rajaratnam :</i>	Cricket Captain; Captain Thompson House ; Athletic Captain ; Cpl. Cadet Corps.
<i>J. W. W. Jehoratnam:</i>	Secretary (ex-officio) Vice president Christian Union; Editor St. J. C. L. A.
<i>K. Vaithianathan :</i>	Capt. Pargiter House ; Sgt. Cadet Corps.
<i>G. H. R. Hubert :</i>	Editor St. J. C. L. A.; Cpl. Cadet Corps.

MONITORS

<i>C. W. Chellappah :</i>	Sec. St. J. C. L. A. Sec. St. J. C. Social Service Union; Cpl. Cadet Corps.
<i>R. K. Asbury :</i>	Senior Patrol Leader : Capt. Handy House ; Sec. Boarders Union.
<i>F. D. M. Kanagasabay:</i>	L. C. Cpl. Cadet Corps; Editor Boarders Union.
<i>T. Chellathurai .</i>	
<i>D. S. Abraham :</i>	Football Captain

S. J. C. L. A.

Patron and President : The Principal.

Vice-presidents :

{ The Vice-principal
Mr. P. T. Mathai
" T. M. Mathai
" S. J. Gunasegaram

Hon. Secretary
Asst.

C. W. Chellappah.
E. R. John.

English Editors :

{ G. H. R. Hubert
J. W. W. Jehoratnam
Cecil Anketele

Tamil Editor :

M. Navaratnam

S. J. C. CHRISTIAN UNION

Patron and President :

The Principal.

Vice Presidents :

{ The Chaplain
" The Secretary
Mr. P. T. Mathai
" C. A. W. Edwards

Hony. Secretary :

J. W. W. Jehoratnam

S. J. C. SOCIAL SERVICE UNION.

Patron :

The Principal

President :

Mr. P. T. Mathai

Hony. Secretary :

C. W. Chellappah

Patrol Leaders :

F. D. M. Kanagasabai
J. W. W. Jehoratnam
J. M. Daniel

S. J. C. BOARDERS UNION

President

Mr. T. M. Mathai

Vice-presidents :

{ Mr. J. T. Arulanandam
T. B. Daniel
Rev. I. S. Ratnathicam

Hony. Secretary :

R. K. Asbury

" Asst. "

M. L. Thethaveloe

Treasurer :

J. W. W. Jehoratnam

Eng. Editor :

F. D. M. Kanagasabai

Tamil "

C. Ponnampalam

S. J. C. MASTERS GUILD

President :

Rev. I. S. Ratnathicam

Hon. Secretary :

M. T. M. Mathai

CADET CORPS

Officer Commanding:

Leut A. S. Abraham

Second in Command:

Mr. E. M. Ponnudurai

SCOUT TROOP

Scout Master:

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