

actually collected is not quite so great as the paragraph indicates. The paragraph is misleading also by reason of an omission. No mention is made of the proportion between nominal rates charged and amounts actually collected in the cases of aided Colleges under missionary management. This would seem to imply that the two items correspond approximately in the case of these Colleges. We are however very doubtful if this is actually so. The missionary Colleges have the reputation of being no less anxious than ourselves to help deserving but distressed merit, and their kindness is gratefully acknowledged by numbers of struggling students. If therefore the Director's paragraph involves a condemnation it should not, we think, be applied only to ourselves, while if it implies a recognition of philanthropic principles we have no right to a singular distinction.

THE UNIVERSITIES BILL.

Remarks on the Universities Bill at the present stage may seem somewhat futile. It can hardly be expected that the seclusion of a Select Committee would permit itself to be broken in upon by criticism from the outer world. Still less is it to be expected that stereotyped convictions should at so late a stage submit to modification. A few remarks on the Bill may nevertheless not be out of place in a College Magazine which aims at no such exalted function as that of influencing legislation, but at the humbler though no less necessary work of educating a small Collegiate community. The first consideration that suggests itself on a reading of the Bill is that it may very possibly provide the University with a great opportunity. No one who has the educational interests of this province at heart can fail to have had it borne in upon him during the past 10 or 15 years that our great need has been a fresh start. We have had enough of the tailoring and tinkering that has reduced our University to a thing of shreds and patches. We need not merely an improvement but a remodelling of our system of examination and discipline. An opportunity for making a fresh start towards better things cannot be anything but welcome, and in so far as

the Bill tends to afford us such an opportunity, if it does so tend, it must meet with welcome.

But we are not quite sure whether a fresh start on right lines will be a necessary or even a probable outcome of the Bill. So far as the system of examination and the courses of study are concerned, the Bill leaves everything to be determined by regulations to be formed by a new Senate. Everything therefore depends on the character and constitution of this Senate. But on this most vital point the Bill is absolutely silent. It provides for a reconstitution of the Senate but enunciates no principles on which that reconstitution is to be based. It merely implies a principle which is yet no principle—the entire competence of the Government to choose rightly. It is of course quite possible that a right choice will be made. But it is equally possible that it may not. And the absence of any provision in the Bill to indicate the lines along which choice will move renders it impossible for us to regard the Bill as anything but fundamentally inadequate.

Even, however, if this inadequacy is supplied we shall not be able to regard the Bill as unobjectionable unless it is further modified. We may, I venture to think, reasonably take exception to the Bill not only on the negative ground of inadequacy but on the ground of features that are positively objectionable. One such feature seems to be of very special importance. The Bill as it stands may fairly be regarded as unduly repressive, and that in more directions than one. There is for instance too much provision for Government control, too little for the growth of a free academic spirit. And yet we may be permitted to feel, without any disrespect to the Government, that unless a very considerable measure of independence is accorded to the University, the University will lose whatever representative character it may nominally possess, and that if it loses this it loses all possibility of becoming a living and a growing force in the country. The necessity of preserving a representative character in the Senate is clearly implied by the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh in the statement of objects and reasons which prefaces the Bill. In dealing with *ex-officio*

appointments to the Senate he says: "At a time when it is proposed to reduce the Senates, it seems inexpedient to retain a power of making *ex-officio* appointments of which it might be said that it would admit of being used to deprive the Senate of its representative character." In framing the Bill, however, it seems to have been forgotten that there are more ways of depriving the University of a representative character, or of the fruits of that character, than the creation of *ex-officio* appointments. It will be a thousand pities if the fresh start which the Bill provides is hampered and clogged at every move by a weight of control acting from without, or operative within only by external mandate.

From the point of view of the so-called private college the Bill may also not unreasonably be regarded as unduly repressive. With most of its provisions relating to the discipline and efficiency of affiliated Colleges we are in entire agreement. We admit our need of improvement, we recognise the possibility of improvement, and we have—though to many the statement is incredible—a desire to improve or to be improved. But when thinking of improvement we do not regard it as a synonym for abolition, though again there are many to whose thinking the two terms are in this case virtually synonymous. We do not suppose that the framers of the Bill fall within this latter category, but it is nevertheless true that if their Bill be accepted in its entirety it will be all but impossible for the private College to continue to exist. "A consummation devoutly to be wished!" say some—but surely the framers of the Bill do not join in this pious ejaculation. It is however not too much to say that the provisions of the Bill could be adequately and literally carried into effect only by a purse fat with the revenues of the country, or by agencies financed from wealthier lands. The treasures of the Indian millionaire—a millionaire be it remembered only in rupees—will not be thought of in this connection by any one familiar with this province. It is at any rate not the fault, though it is undoubtedly the misfortune, of the private College that the stream of Indian munificence has not yet been turned towards Indian enterprise in the matter of education.

There is one detail in connection with University legislation which may, not inappropriately, find mention in a College Magazine. Hitherto the Colleges have been regarded merely as institutions to be controlled and regulated by the University at its mercy or by its negligence. The notion that the College should have a predominant share in the working of the University has been flouted and scoffed at so uniformly and so loudly that the teacher has seldom dared to voice his claims above a whisper in some secret and unnoticed corner. We notice with 'much' pleasure that the framers of the Bill do not regard the pretensions of the teacher to an active and controlling share in University management as any thing but just and reasonable. We could wish, however, that the Bill went further than it does in this direction. It would not be difficult to embody in the Bill a recognition of the College as the University unit, and a recognition of the right of the unit to a share as such in the management of the whole body. Is it too much to hope that the Bill may yet contain a provision whereby the Colleges will as Colleges be empowered to elect representatives to the Senate? Or is the bugbear of the private College so terrifying as to put this possibility entirely out of reach?

E. M. W.

PRIZE ESSAY.

Folk-tales of Bengal.

III.—THE STRANGE COUNTRY WITH STRANGE LAWS.

A merchant while on his death-bed called for his only son and told him, "My son, I have amassed this vast fortune by the honest sweat of my brow. As I shall soon expire I must give you a piece of advice. Never deviate from the path of honesty. Do everything in your power to increase your fortune. But never go to the strange island. There you will find strange people with strange laws and if you once go there you are given up for lost". With these dying words of parental admonition, the father expired.

At first the son was true to the command. He enlarged his fortune and was still honest. But at last he felt a desire to pay