

# BANGABASI COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

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**Vol. II.**

**SEPTEMBER.**

**No. 7.**

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**1904**

### THE MONTH.

THE INDIAN UNIVERSITIES ACT came into force, as far as our University is concerned, on the 1st September. The local limits of the University have been defined. Of course the Bengal Presidency and Assam come legitimately under its jurisdiction. The only outlying province that belongs to it under the new Act is Burmah. This will go far to remedy the congested character of the University, which has hampered it seriously in the past. The *desideratum* now is the formation of a new Senate. In accordance with the provisions of the Transitory Clause, the elected Fellows of the old Senate (21 in number) were called upon to elect five members for the new Senate on the 3rd September. This resulted in the election of *two* Teachers (Babu Heramba Chandra Maitra and Babu Adhar Chandra Mukerji), *two* Attorneys (one of whom is the representative

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of the University on the Bengal Legislative Council—the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath Bose—and Babu Deva Prasad Sarbadhikari), and *one* medical man (Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarbadhikari.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Transitory Clause, graduates of a certain standing were called upon to elect *five* members for the new Senate. As the section dealing with the qualifications of the nominees is rather vague, one or two gentlemen were nominated who do not possess the qualifications insisted on in the case of the electorate. Nineteen persons were proposed, among whom we notice 7 lawyers, 3 medical men, 6(?) Teachers (understanding the word in a very wide sense) and 3 that come under none of these classes. The last day for election was the 26th September. The following gentlemen have secured the largest number of votes—Babu Surendranath Banerjee, Babu Ramendra Sundar Trivedi, Dr. Nilratan Sircar, Mr. Ashutosh Chowdhury, and Babu Mahendra Nath Roy. We may remark by the way that three of these gentlemen (Prof. Trivedi, Dr. Sircar and Mahendranath Roy) were members of the old Senate as elected Fellows. The formal sanction of the Chancellor has not yet been obtained. We anxiously look forward to the next stage of the proceedings, *viz.*, the nomination of Fellows by the Chancellor.

We have received the first number of the Dawn Society's new venture—'The Dawn and Dawn Society Magazine' September 1904.

The Puja vacation is drawing nigh and the students and the staff feel a sense of relief at the prospect of a brief respite after a rather long spell of work during the hottest

period of the year. The office has been receiving applications from numerous students who are desirous of availing themselves of concession tickets which are usually granted by the Railway authorities to the students at this season of the year.

The College and School close on the 12th October and re-open on the 18th November. There will be no issue of the Magazine for the vacation month (October), and the next issue will therefore appear in November.

**REVIEW**

*Practical Advice to Students*—By H. R. JAMES, M.A., Indian Educational Service. (Longmans, Green & Co., Price 4 annas.)

MR. JAMES possesses just those qualities which a student's adviser should possess. He has the requisite knowledge and experience; and he has the no less necessary sympathy, in the truest sense of the term, with those whom he advises. It follows that his little volume of 'Practical Advice' is both sound and practical. We should be glad to see it in the hands of every student in the University: Having said this, we have said all that we had at first intended to say, but we are tempted to add a word or two in view of the issue of a second edition of the booklet which we imagine cannot be very far off. With Mr. James's remarks on "The Right Method of Study" we agree in the main. But it is just possible that his drift may be misunderstood. The advice which he gives on the subject of a 'Preliminary Survey' may be misconstrued by the student as an exhortation to narrow the limits of his study as far as possible, to make it depend solely on the final examination, and to begin therefore by ascertaining how much he may safely omit and what he should mark as 'important.' We venture to think

that the student does too much of this already, and that he needs to be advised not how he may compress, but rather how he may expand his study of a given subject and attain thoroughness. We should have welcomed some advice on this head from Mr. James—advice as regards reading round a subject, which is after all the most effective way of grasping it. But on this point the little volume before us seems to be, if not silent, at least inadequate and unemphatic. It would in our opinion be a distinct gain if some advice in this direction were added in the second edition.

We venture to make another suggestion. Mr. James has advised the student to practice *writing* (he does not say when, where, or how) and recommends the formation of a habit of *thinking in English*. This last is perhaps a counsel of perfection, and the student needs to be told how it may be realised. The practice of *writing* is not sufficient. It is necessary that the student should steadily practice *talking* in English. As matters stand he seldom or never talks in any language but his vernacular, and this habit hampers him no little in his struggle to master the English tongue. He needs to form a habit of systematically talking English during some portion of every day. If the three conditions of much reading, much writing, and much speaking, were combined, considerable progress might be confidently anticipated.

With regard to Mr. James's advice "on the way to answer examination questions", we venture to suggest that Mr. James should circulate his advice to examiners as well as to examinees. We are more than doubtful whether his advice really meets the requirements of the University as it is. So much the worse for the University, it may be said. But in the meantime the University is conducting (perhaps Mr. James would say misconducting) examinations, and

if the examinee acts upon the advice of counsel, it is well that the Judge should appreciate the value of that advice. It is perhaps not altogether unreasonable to hope that the examiner no less than the examinee might profit by the advice contained in this admirable little volume which, once more, we recommend to the attention of all whom it may concern.

### ESSAYS AND ESSAY-WRITING.

The Essay, properly so-called, made its first appearance in England in 1597 with the publication of the tiny volume containing ten discourses by Lord Bacon. Bacon found his model in his French contemporary Montaigne and the word Essay or Assay is itself of French origin. The essay of a subject literally means its 'weighing' or 'trial'; it is an earliest endeavour on the writer's part to get at the truth of a subject. The word was used in its original sense by both Montaigne and Bacon, but it has undergone considerable modification in its meaning since then. The well-merited popularity of Bacon's Essays soon raised up a host of imitators and a considerable part of English literature now consists of this kind of composition. As some of the most famous Essay-writers since Bacon's time, we might mention Browne, Cowley, Temple, Dryden, Addison, Johnson, Hume, Lamb, De Quincey, Carlyle, Macaulay, Helps, M. Arnold and Hutton. Perhaps the most profitable way of understanding the nature and development of the English Essay would be to make a special study of three typical Essayists in three successive centuries.

**Bacon.**—His Essays are eminently practical and may serve as a guide-book to princes and people alike. They are of all his works, the most popular and afford the surest keynote to his character. They are not mere random jottings of his personal experience. The same spirit of analysis and