

## OUR FOOTBALL SEASON

1926

At a general meeting of the students of the College, held under the presidency of Principal G. C. Bose in July last, the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers of the College Football Club:—

*President*:—Principal G. C. Bose.

*Vice-Presidents*:—Dr. S. Chowdhury.

Prof. N. C. Bannerji.

“ „ J. N. Chakraborty.

“ „ E. M. Mitter.

“ „ R. K. Chakraborty.

“ „ P. C. Ghosh.

*Captain*:—Mr. Panchugopal Roy (2nd Year E).

*Vice-Captain*:—Dwijen Mitter (2nd Year F).

*Jt. Hony. Secretaries*:—Mr. Promotho Mullick (2nd Year A).

„ Monoranjan Dev (2nd Year).

Two representatives from every section of a class were also duly elected in a subsequent meeting. The first meeting was not properly attended. This clearly foreshadowed the coming events of the season. May we hope that from next year the attendance at such meetings would be larger?

Of course sports and study seldom go side by side in our country, but there should be an even balance between the two. “Work and play, work and play”; otherwise, you will not be doing justice to your body and mind. From the list of office-bearers given above, it appears that we have got as many as six Vice-Presidents for our Football Club. Only two out of these six have had to bear all the brunt of the eventful season. Should not the responsibility be more equitably shared? I make this suggestion with some hesitation but with a full sense of responsibility. We should thank Professor N. C. Bannerji, who though a new-comer here, has begun to take a keen interest in the athletic section of the College. The boys,

while at play, naturally feel much encouraged when they find any of their teachers present and why should we deny them this inspiration? It was only on the day when our boys played the final of the Elliot Shield, that a substantial representation from the staff was made. Even Principal Bose, Professor Lalit Kumar Bannerji and Prof. J. Bhattacharji, in spite of their advanced age were present on that day. But they were sadly disappointed on the first day, when the game could not be played—the whole turf being under water. They attended this game, most probably to see their boys playing the final of the same competition after a lapse of a quarter of a century. The students also mustered strong on the 2nd day having had a half-holiday. But alas! many of them were disappointed when Scottish Churches College lifted up the trophy by a solitary goal; but all took the defeat in a sporting spirit. Our Principal gave away the shield and medals to the winners and the runners-up-cup to the finalists, and made a fine speech punctuated with applause.

The Elliot Shield and the Inter-Collegiate League—these are the competitions we play every year. This year, too, these have been the trophies for which we entered. Repeatedly requested by the boys, the authorities have at last permitted them to compete in the Wheeler Memorial Shield (Berhampore, Bengal). We have also got an Inter-class competition known as the G. C. Bose Cup, run after the name of our venerable Principal. This year the competition has been started rather early with a purpose to pick up a representative eleven but to-day is the middle of September and we have not been able to finish the competition, as yet! All this mismanagement is due to the want of a field. This is the greatest disadvantage of our college. We have not got a ground of our own. To have a "date" somewhere, we are to beg from door to door. I think we may get a field provided we try for it earnestly. Every one will welcome the day when Bangabasi College will be possessing a field of its own.

Another thing stands in the way of our getting a representative eleven. "We totally neglect" the students of the First and Third Year Classes, when we select our team. This year, the Annual General Meeting was held at a time when these classes were not formed. Of course we selected representatives from these classes later on. But I think some of the responsible offices should be kept reserved for the students of these classes. What's the harm if we select or elect the Vice-Captain and the Assistant Secretary from these classes? In that case they will receive some "sort of training and would be able to hold higher offices next season, when they will automatically be elected Captain and Secretary in their Second and Fourth Year Classes. Our regular eleven consists of ten players from the Second Year and only one from the Third Year Class. It is just possible there might be "some students playing better football than any of our XI—but how are we to know them? The class representatives should be responsible for finding out these men and as soon as they come across any new player they should at once inform the authorities. Expecting better administration next year and telling in precis-form the results of the important matches I close this time. The remaining portion of the report would be published in the next issue of our magazine and in that an account of the Wheeler Shield Competition and of the rest of the matches of the Inter-Collegiate League would appear.

### INTER-COLLEGIATE LEAGUE.

In all we have got to play eleven games for this league. Up till now we have played only four matches. We played a draw of one goal all with St. Paul's. Against St. Xavier's we won by 2-1 and at Serampore we beat the home-team by 2-0. We lost only one match by a solitary goal and that was against City College. It is mid-September and we don't know whether we would be able to keep all the remaining league engagements. Now we will say something about the

## ELLIOT SHIELD.

The first game was with our neighbours, the Ripon College. We met on the Dalhousie Ground and after a close-fought fight we won the day by the odd goal in three.

In the next round we beat Serampore College by three goals to nil and this was the biggest win of the season.

In the Semi-final our opponents were the Ashutosh College and we defeated them by a solitary goal.

Then arrived the final and the fatal day. We were at last beaten by the narrow margin of a goal to nil. We not only lost the match but lost a new McGregor ball worth twenty-three rupees on this day. The result of this game was anticipated long before for it was not an easy task to beat the victors of Law and Medical Colleges, two very strong teams in the competition. Particularly, this was an impossible task for a team, the forwards of which seldom shoot at the goal. Strictly speaking our forwards mean one man and he is Dwijen Mitter. He is a man who has always been criticised as a "selfish player" and once I too used to pay him this compliment. But in the long run I find that this criticism is fully unfounded. Mitter is fully justified to play a game of that sort. There is not a second man in our forward line who can keep pace with him,—he is too tricky and too fast for them! He is a fine dribbler; his shots are invariably accurate and he is at his best when he makes an individual attempt. Of course this individuality is a crime in a good team but it is quite all right in a team like ours. Luckily we have a splendid set of defence this year and it would not be an exaggerated picture if anybody says that we ran up to the final only for this defence. Robin Roy, a third Year man, though of a short and lean stature, is quite cool and has saved a host of sure goals. The backs too are quite sound and I think among the pair Moni Sarcar is better. Now about the halves, I suppose they may get place in any representative eleven. Of the trio, Niren Chowdhury and Radhanath Bannerji did the bulk of the work. Nirode Bose is quite hardworking but his feeding



erect here a bellbuoy to ring its warnings night and day upon this wild and wintry shore.

“But there is an island with safe harbours, friendly to navigators of the educational sea, and that is the Island of Sane-and-Wholesome-Outdoor-Sports. The lighthouse on its shore flashes ‘Work! and Play! and Rest! and Sleep!’, as a daily rhythm worked out by nature, interference with which is accompanied by a lessening of our physical fitness.

“Labour unrelieved by recreation produces fatigue, and fatigue produces hate, lawlessness, and despair. Recreation undirected, unregulated, furtive, produces vice, degeneration, and helplessness. Play is the natural expression of all the inborn instincts. When a man is natural and at his best, it is his spirit that plays. Therefore I would have athletics not for the sake of any championship, or gate-receipts. “

#### THE RIGHT KIND OF ATHLETICS.

“I would have athletics of the students, by the students, for the students, athletics that would at once stimulate loyalty and enthusiasm for the University through contests, and at the same time would develop muscular strength, endurance, energy, will-power, courage, and self-control, not in a few students only but in all of them.”

#### THE SHIBABARAN MEMORIAL SHIELD.

To perpetuate the memory of the late Sriman Shibabaran Mookherjee who took a keen interest in the College sports, his fellow-students of Section F (2nd year class) have handed over to the College Sports Committee a handsome Shield (raised by their own subscriptions) to be called the Shibabaran Memorial Shield. The trophy, we understand, will be a six-a-side competition and will be open to the students of the College and the Collegiate School. Attempts are being made to run the competition this year as well as to raise funds to award seven silver medals. We thank the students of Sec. F for their noble endeavour to commemorate the memory of one of their fellow-students.