

BANGABASI COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

प्रणिपातेन परिप्रश्नेन सेवया
By Reverence : By Questioning : By Service.

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THE MONTH.

We quote with the greatest pleasure the following remarks on our Magazine made in the Report of the Inspectors appointed by the Senate :—

“The College Magazine is a unique and very successful feature. The paper has been in existence nearly three years and has attained a very creditable standard. This College Magazine deserves more extended notice, partly because it is the only College Magazine in Calcutta (the no less excellent La Martiniere Chronicle is more strictly to be considered as a school paper), partly because it is full of interesting matter, furnishing illuminative side-lights on student life. In this last aspect its matter is of lasting value and will repay study. The literary quality is high both in English and Bengali. Incidentally there are many articles in Bengali and Sanskrit poems—one Sanskrit poem, a translation

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of "Come away, Come away Death" from Twelfth Night, is found in the last issue, September ; for one merit of the College Magazine is that its publication is regular and punctual. The Bangabasi College Magazine is an effort deserving of the highest commendation."

The College re-opens to-day (the 18th June) after the long Summer Vacation, and agreeably to our promise in the March issue, the June number makes its punctual appearance and accords a hearty welcome to such of our old students as return to their old fold as well as to the large number of new-comers whom we have been expecting to join our College. We trust many among them will wield a facile pen and we shall have no more to complain of dearth of matter as far as contributions from our young friends are concerned.

After a long and tedious wait for over two months, the public came at last to hear of the results of the Arts Examinations towards the end of May. At the F. A. Examination, 1093 have passed, 82 in the First Division, 306 in the Second, and 705 in the Third. We have passed 2 in the 1st Division, 8 in the 2nd and 29 in the 3rd, 39 in all. Of the two in the First Division, Satis Chandra Kar, who stands 26th, occupies the highest place among the candidates who appeared from the unaided colleges of the town. At the B. A. Examination, 417 have passed in the pass course and 80 have obtained Honours. We have got 25 in the pass course and 2 in the Honours course, 1 in English and 1 in Latin, the last being the only student of the University who has obtained Honours in that subject. It is also curious to note that no other unaided college of the town has secured a place in the Hon. list in English. The list of successful F. A. and B. A. candidates from this college as well as a complete list of college graduates in Arts since its foundation are printed in the concluding pages of the Magazine in accordance with our usual practice.

We find that there has been a veritable massacre of the innocents at the Entrance Examination. Only 164 have passed in the First

Division, 562 in the Second and 1157 in the Third, 1883 in all. Under these circumstances the college school has not done altogether badly in passing 6, 3 of whom have been placed in the First Division. Many other town schools have, we understand, fared much worse.

We are glad to find that Babu Suresranjan Pal who passed the F. A. Examination of 1904 from Bangabasi College in the First Division, has stood first in Mathematics (class II) at the B. Sc. Examination of 1906. We congratulate our young friend on his success.

The following dates have been fixed for the ensuing Examinations of session 1906-7 :—The Entrance Examination will commence from the 4th March 1907, the F. A., B. A., and B. Sc. Examinations from the 18th March 1907 and the B. L., H. L., M. A., and P. R. S. Examinations from the 19th November 1906.

We congratulate the Calcutta University Senate on the completion of the Draft Regulations by the middle of April. The Regulations tend in the main to the better securing of thoroughness in teaching and examination, although everything depends in reality on the *personale* of the teacher and the examiner. We do not feel inclined to treat our readers to a detailed criticism of this vast body of Regulations. We are completely in sympathy with their drift, although here and there something does not meet with our approval. We do not however claim infallibility and we are willing to concede that the Senate have judged rightly in matters wherein we do not see eye to eye with them.

A small committee of experts selected from among the members of the Senate with the Vice-Chancellor as their Chairman has been sitting at Simla since the 9th May for the final discussion of the Regulations. The members have been

so selected as to safeguard the interests of all classes of colleges, Government, aided and unaided, in the town as well as in the mofussil. They expect to finish their work by the end of June. We earnestly hope and trust that they will find no cause for making any material alterations in the Regulations passed by such a competent body as the Senate after full and fair discussion protracted over a very very long period. We anxiously await the Government of India's sanction to the new Regulations and trust they will come into operation at least partially without any further loss of time.

We have great pleasure to reprint below an extract from the speech delivered at the Convocation of the Madras University, containing what we consider to be valuable advice addressed to the graduates of an Indian University:—

“There is only one another duty to which I will draw your special attention to-day, a duty which has always been regarded as being peculiarly binding on the recipients of a liberal education, provided by an enlightened Government; it is the duty of spreading knowledge among the masses of our countrymen whom the benefits of an English education cannot reach. It will be the duty and privilege of men like you to help in the dissemination of knowledge, as, for instance, through the publication of books and pamphlets in the vernaculars.”

Periodicals received since our last acknowledgment—the *Utbodhana* for the last three months, the *Dawn & Dawn Society's Magazine* for March and May, *The Central Hindu College Magazine* for April, May and June, *The Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College Union Magazine* for March, April and May, *The Indian Student* for March and April, and the *Student's own Magazine* for May. The *Sanjibani* which is also regularly sent to us has not been through our regrettable oversight acknowledged heretofore.

We have received *the Student's Magazine* for January, published in Calcutta. It is like ourselves bilingual in character. The most interesting feature of the present issue of the Magazine is the full account of the ceremony of bidding farewell to Dr. P. K. Roy, the eminent teacher, on his retirement from Government service. Another college Magazine entitled *the Ex-student & Bishop's College Magazine*, a paper for past members of Bishop's College, has reached us. The periodical is issued thrice in the year.

We welcome yet another College Magazine, *the Xaverian*, the literary organ of St. Xavier's College, the first number (vol. I) of which has been sent to us. We hardly know what to congratulate the conductors of the periodical upon, the excellent get-up of the paper or the varied interest of the contents of the little volume, dealing as it does with the manifold activities of college and school life not only in literary and educational matters but also in athletics, theatricals, and other sports and pastimes. We confess to a feeling of admiration mingled with a little of envy in thus getting a glimpse of the many-sided activities of school and college life in well-conducted institutions of the European type. What a refreshing contrast it affords to the mechanical work of the college office and equally mechanical work of the lecture room unrelieved by aught that is beautiful or pleasant which characterise our typical Indian schools and colleges.

The appointment of a civilian Director of Public Instruction in Bengal and the contemplated appointment of a European Professor of Sanskrit at Presidency College, Calcutta, have elicited much adverse comment from the Indian Press. Surely the times are sadly out of joint when the Head of the Education Department is to be recruited from the civil service and a Professor of an Oriental language is to be imported from beyond the seas.

At the same time we cannot deny that there is something in the plea set up by Government in connection with the latter question *viz.*—“under the inspiration of European scholars more modern and scientific methods of study and research have been adopted in Bombay and the United Provinces with correspondingly better results which may be contrasted with the backward state of Sanskrit learning in this Province where the traditional or Eastern method of teaching Sanskrit has hitherto been followed.” Quite recently Professor Macdonell in a paper read before the Royal Asiatic Society referred to the hap-hazard system of teaching the language in India, where the students relied on memory rather than on reason and the native teachers had no grasp of the scientific method while they had lost the traditional learning of the Pandits. Lord Reay who occupied the chair urged the necessity of appointing European Professors to teach Sanskrit in India. As the importation of European Professors does not involve the deportation of indigenous scholars already in the field, we find nothing objectionable in the arrangement. It is certainly not undesirable to have another Cowell or another Thibaut in prospect.

In view of the re-organisation of Primary and Secondary education, the appointment of a civilian in preference to a Professor is not altogether indefensible, however much we may regret the loss of a prize appointment to the veterans in Educational Service. We may point out that fifty years ago when a complete scheme of English education was organised in this country and when the post was first created, a civilian, Mr. Gordon Young, was entrusted with the work. Sir Alexander's Vernacular scheme of education which has no doubt produced wide-spread dissatisfaction has not yet had a fair trial and having once adopted it, it would be a great mistake to discard it in haste. We hope the civilian Director will be

able to grapple with the question with tact and judgment as he brings an unbiassed mind to bear upon the subject.

The Government of India have recently issued a resolution to the effect that the Principal and one of the Professors of a Government Arts College are to be provided with free quarters when it is found that a substantial proportion of the students are residents in hostels adjoining or near to the College, on condition that definite duties will be assigned to the officers thus privileged in connection with the supervision and physical welfare of the students. This is certainly a move in the right direction as it is calculated to draw the teachers and their pupils closer together. Considering however the peculiar social restrictions of Indian society, it is open to doubt as to how many of our Indian Professors will be ready to avail themselves of the privilege entailing upon them residence in the close neighbourhood of the college and the hostel attached thereto. Englishmen will be ready enough to accept the privilege but close contact with the English Principal or Professor is not likely to have as salutary an influence on the students as that with one of their own nationality.

The following note on the unnecessary multiplication of examinations has been sent by Mr G. C. Bose in his capacity as a member of the University Senate to the Secretary to the Government of India :—

It is admitted by competent authorities that higher and secondary education in England groans under tyranny of examinations. "The examination system," says the Mosey Commission "has no doubt done good service * * * but we are beginning to find that, like old and valued servants, it has become an intolerable tyrant."

If this is so in England, it is I am afraid much worse here in India, which is probably the most examination-ridden country in the world. "The extravagant dimensions" to which examinations have in recent years grown and its consequent disastrous influence on education and methods of instruction, have been clearly set

forth and condemned in the Resolution of the Government of India dated Calcutta the 11th March 1904. The draft rules framed by the Senate of the Calcutta University for regulating examinations not only do not take cognizance of this evil, but positively accentuate it by recommending still further multiplication of examinations over those existing under the present regulations. With a view therefore to remedy it, I would respectfully submit the following skeleton scheme of examinations for consideration by the Government of India along with the draft regulations framed by the Senate.

First, that the examination for the Degree of B. A. or B. Sc. be held after three or four years of passing the Matriculation Examination with a view to ascertain whether or not the student has profited by the course of higher education, just as the Matriculation is held with a view to ascertain whether or not the student is sufficiently equipped to profit by a course of University instruction.

Secondly, that the highest degrees be considered not so much as tests of mere wide reading but also as rewards for actual work done in connection with some branch of study, affording a proof of real capacity for work and genuine assimilation of knowledge on the part of the candidate. The Master's and the Doctor's Degree therefore should be awarded, according to varying degrees of merit, for research or original work of a certain level of excellence tested by any searching method which the University might prescribe.

It may be argued against the scheme outlined here that it means virtual discarding of most of the regulations regarding examinations, which the Senate have been at so much pains to elaborate and frame. The scheme however does not mean anything of the kind. The syllabuses and courses of study prepared by the Senate will in the proposed scheme remain practically the same, only the number of examinations is sought to be reduced to a practicable minimum. The examinations

which are sought to be dispensed with in this scheme as external examinations, may if necessary be retained as internal examinations; and the Colleges now that they will form 'the body of the University and not as heretofore mere outlying limbs of it and will have to work under newer, better and healthier conditions, may be safely entrusted with this kind of work which more properly and legitimately belongs to them.

The scheme which is set forth in skeleton here was originally sent to the Registrar of the Calcutta University with a request that it may be submitted to the Government of India for consideration; but under orders of the Vice-Chancellor it was put up before the annual meeting of the Senate held on the 17th April and ruled out of order. This is my only apology for venturing to approach the Government of India direct with this humble scheme.

SOME HINTS ON THE CHOICE OF BOOKS.

(CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 44.)

Fiction forms a most widely popular branch of literature to-day. Provided that the fiction read is of the best, there is little reason to cavil at this state of affairs. Fiction-reading wisely conducted may contribute very largely to culture. The best novels educate, elevate and ennoble. Almost all history has been laid under contribution for their subjects, and the reader who enters intelligently into the fortunes of the various characters is sure to have his knowledge of history greatly increased.

Take the Waverley novels, for instance. The man who has read these carefully will be found to possess a knowledge of history greater and more enduring perhaps than that of many who have sought it from the more conventional source of the orthodox historical manual. While this is true, the reader should by no means rest satisfied with the knowledge of history which he gathers from Sir Walter Scott. He should study the periods with which the various novels deal and endeavour to estimate for himself how