

**THE ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION.**

The Second Meeting of the College Economics Association came off on the 8th March, at 3-15 P. M. under the Chairmanship of Prof. D. N. Mukherjee M. A.

As the Secretary could not attend the meeting on account of the lamentable death of one of his Hostel friends (a First Year Student of the College), the Assistant Secretary S. J. Gourisankar Banerjee read out the proceedings of the last meeting.

Then the rules framed for the Association by the Select Committee were submitted for approval of the Association which were accepted with necessary additions and alterations.

The Librarian then read out a list of books to be purchased and was directed to buy the following :— (i) Co-operation and (ii) Insurance.

The practicability of publishing the annual reports and the papers read at the Association meetings was next discussed. It was decided to take such steps in the future and the Librarian was directed to collect all the essays of the previous years.

In pursuance of a Resolution that was moved in the previous meeting for regulating the collection of subscriptions, it was decided that in future subscriptions should be collected in 3 instalments, the collecting months being March, August and December.

The next item was the perusal of the essay "*What we have and what we want for the Economic progress of India.*" S. J. Sanatkumar Dutt read the paper in English. He began with the efficacy of education in general and remarked that the first and foremost of India's wants was education, general, primary, technical and scientific. He pointed out how all the Education Commissions of the Government from 1854 up to this date had practically counted for very little towards the improvement of education in our country, and how all the plans of the Government as well as of the people to establish technical institutions had done no palpable good to the ignorant Indian mass. The writer then suggested that after receiving a rudiment of general education, the people should be given such poly-technic training as would enable them to improve their agriculture, and to develop the various industries. He dwelt at length upon the few technical institutions, in the country and suggested that these were not quite adequate to meet our present demand and that more improved and more up-to-date scientific knowledge should be imparted to the people. He also suggested several plans for the

improvement of Commercial education and said that the Sydenham College at Bombay was not quite up to the mark to turn out Commercial experts for our country. He concluded his well-thought-out paper with the deplorable Economic results of several customs of our society, viz., Early marriage, the Dowry system, the Joint-family system etc.

The Bengali paper was read by Sj. Gourisanker Banerjee. He began with lamenting the dead industries of the land and tried to show, in a lucid style, how we depended upon foreigners even for very small articles for our daily use. He then divided the entire population into two sections—(i) Those living in villages and (ii) those living in towns; and as most of the Indian villagers live directly or indirectly upon agriculture, he pointed out how the agricultural peasantry of our land were lamentably ignorant of all Scientific modes of agriculture and how it was quite impossible for them to improve their lands and implements of tilling on account of extreme poverty. The writer then suggested that agricultural education was necessary for these poor cultivators and in order to ameliorate their sufferings at the hands of the village Shylocks, Co-operative Credit Societies should be extensively taken recourse to. He also pointed out the evil of division of labour, viz., how it had narrowed the competition and thus the scope of Indian industries.

The essayist, after all these dark considerations, at last found a ray of hope—a hope, that is the outcome of the Twentieth Century Renaissance of India. He mentioned how we were gradually improving in some respects and he concluded with a pious hope praying that the day might not be very far to come when our industries would be carried on in accordance with the most up-to-date scientific method and thus India might attain her material salvation.

As it was already getting late, no more discussions were carried on; and after a few remarks of the President upon the papers the meeting was dissolved with the usual vote of thanks to the chair.

The essay for discussion at the next meeting was selected to be "*Villages—and the Economic improvement of the country.*" Mr. N. N. Wonni will write the paper in English and Sj. Sisirkumar Har in Bengali.

SISIRKUMAR HAR,  
*Honorary Secretary.*

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