

**Editor to the Hostel (Ms) Magazine**—Sj. Abalakanta Majumdar.

**Sub-editors** :— Sj. Brahmaprasad Mukherjee.

Sj. Upendranath Sarkar.

The Hostel Union met on Sunday the 23rd November to bid farewell to the retiring office-bearers. Prof. Jitendranath Chakravarti presided. The gathering was large. Profs. Rajkumar Chakravarti, Anutosh Das Gupta and some students and ex-students of the College graced the meeting with their presence. The President of the Union Prof. R. K. Chakravarti and some boarders spoke, highly eulogizing the brilliant services rendered to the Union by Mr. Durgadas Chatterjee, the former Secretary and other office-bearers. There were songs, recitations and a show of "Bhaber Abhibyakti" in their honour. The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

**Early Marriage** is the subject of debate for the next meeting of the Union.

BASANTAKUMAR DAS,  
*Secretary.*

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## THE ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION.

The 7th sitting of the Economics Association came off on the 29th November. The subject for discussion was "Woman suffrage in India."

Professor D. N. Mukerjee M. A., B. L. was voted to the chair. After the proceedings of the last meeting had been read by the Assistant Secretary and confirmed, the Treasurer submitted his accounts: which were found on examination to be correct, with a balance of Rs. 17 5 as. 9 pies. Then the next item was considered viz. what would be the cost of publishing the select papers along with the quinquennial Report of the Association. The Committee submitted its estimate of printing the select papers at a sum of Rs. 75. The thanks of the Association are due to the Principal for his kind promise to bear the cost of the publication minus Rs. 30/- which will be paid by the Association. As the present Fourth Year students will very soon be compelled to cut themselves off from all the active management of the Association, they hope, that the publication may be brought to light before the cessation of their active interest from the College affairs.

Then the English paper was read by Sj. Sisirkumar Har. With a preliminary survey as to the various influences and circumstances through which the question of female suffrage has passed and has at last succeeded in making a strong footing in America, England, Australia and Finland, he launched into the proper subject-matter with reference to India. The writer tried to refute the objections which the anti-suffragists like Bluntschli and other German political writers have adduced against the franchise of women; and then, after contending that women of parts and merit should deserve the same social and political advantages with men, came at last to the following conclusion—When India is already being led in the path of western politics and when the fate of India, the culture of India and the civilization—(though not ethically and morally, yet socially to some extent) of India is indissolubly mingled with those of England—woman suffrage may be granted to the best and worthiest women of our land.

The Bengali paper of Sj. Gourisankar Banerjee was written in a simple style, with slight touches of humorous, journalistic modes of expression. His points were much the same in essentials as those of the previous writer. He was very bitter against the conservative Hindoo Society, especially against the Brahmins, who, in his opinion are a standing block to India's national progress. He classified the Indian women into three or four groups according to their education and proposed to grant franchise to the first and the second class. The drift of his paper was, like the English one, that women of the higher type should be given the power of voting.

The papers being read, the subject was thrown open to free discussion and criticism. Sj. Durgadas Chatterjee of the 4th year class spoke something on the subject. He said that women are carried by their effeminate sentiments and they are not capable of doing any lasting political work. The speaker emphasised upon the regeneration of manhood in India which, he said, was far more important than female franchise. His last point was, however, very curious. His contention was that if franchise would be given to women, mob-rule would prevail in the land.

The next speaker, Mr. Rahaman, began with the remark—I should say, rather a hasty remark—that he could not make out from the two papers whether Indian women are eligible for franchise or not. He strongly asserted that India's civilization was essentially ours and that India should not go to Europe or any other country to learn manners. The Purdah system, continued the speaker which is followed both by the Mahomedans and the orthodox Hindus, is a bar to the franchise of women. In conclusion, he said that he strongly opposed the idea of female suffrage.

Mr. Kazi Abdul Khalique, who spoke next, was in favour of the movement and he refuted the argument of Mr. Rahaman, viz.—that the Purdah system

is a bar to female suffrage. He said, however, that both the papers were too optimistic, and that the deplorable lack of education among women should be considered before giving franchise to Indian women.

Next rose S. J. Nepalchandra Chatterjee who was careful enough to avoid all one-sidedness in the matter. He said that the essayists were too liberal in their views—that no definite conclusion could not be safely arrived at and that the present conditions did not favour female suffrage in our country.

The Presidential address came next. After thanking S. J. Durgadas Chatterjee and Mr. Rahaman, who, though not members of the Association, were kind enough to attend the meeting, he observed that the question meant whether we should give full political rights to our women. The Bengali paper, in his view, was too sentimental and the English one, though well-thought out and argued, also gave a somewhat one-sided view. The following is the gist of what he spoke—It is not a question whether men and women should be given equal political shares on grounds of their equal efficiency and merit, but it is a matter of social expediency. The western countries (which have adopted the system only the other day cannot say for certain whether they are drifting towards *loss or gain*). Moreover, the spirit of the West and that of the East are quite different. That of the former is material and that of the latter, spiritual. Again, men and women must divide among themselves the duties of Society. The fundamental natures of man and woman are quite different and the one cannot well perform the duties of the other. The women, can, again, have their just claims satisfied through their fathers, brothers and husbands without dragging themselves on to the dry and troublesome field of Politics. The German Politicians hold the view that the State should always be free from any effeminate emotion and should be characterised by masculine force and resoluteness. He concluded with the remark that those who were for granting the franchise to women were doing so only through sentiments.

The presidential speech having been over, a vote of thanks to the Chair was proposed by the Secretary on behalf of the Association and carried by acclamation; the meeting then dissolved.

SISIR KUMAR HAR,

Secretary.