

## I. A.

## 3rd Division

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bala, Jitendranath             | 19. Dhar, Ganeschandra          |
| 2. Bandyopadhyay, Lakshmi Narayan | 20. Ghosh, Bhupendra            |
| 3. „ Pareschandra                 | 21. „ Kanailal                  |
| 4. „ Rajkumar                     | 22. „ Rashbehari                |
| 5. „ Santiranjan                  | 23. Gupta, Lalitnarayan         |
| 6. Bhar, Gajendranath             | 24. Khondkar Abu Akhter         |
| 7. Bhattacharyya, Bhupatikumar    | 25. Kundu, Lalitmohan           |
| 8. „ Promodranjan                 | 26. Laskar, Manindrachandra     |
| 9. Bodhak, Bimalchandra           | 27. Maitra, Krishnagopal        |
| 10. Chakrabartithakur, Nanilal    | 28. Misra, Akuli                |
| 11. Chanda, Parameschandra        | 29. Mitra, Birendrachandra      |
| 12. Chaudhuri, Balailal           | 30. Mukhopadhyay, Dalimkumar    |
| 13. „ Manindranath                | 31. „ Kalischandra              |
| 14. Das, Ramgobinda               | 32. „ Santoshkumar              |
| 15. Dasgupta, Amulyakumar         | 33. Narayan Jee Jha             |
| 16. Datta, Bhabatosh              | 34. Ray, Joytischandra          |
| 17. De, Amulyacharan              | 35. Sarkar, Nanigopal           |
| 18. „ Bibhutibhushan              | 36. „ Sadhanabihari             |
|                                   | 37. Chakravarti, Praphullakumar |
|                                   | 38. „ Rambhadra                 |

## Botanical Excursion to Shillong.

AMIYA KUMAR ROY.

4th Year B.Sc.

The senior students of Botany had a very pleasant and successful excursion to Shillong in April last. It was the untiring energy and efforts of Professor A. Das Gupta that awakened in our minds a passion for the study of Bengal plants. Though advanced in years he carries in his mind and body the vigour and vivacity of a youth, and he is both a great teacher and a loving friend of students. Our beloved Principal, who is perhaps the youngest of all Principals in the world, and is naturally in full sympathy with youthful aspirations and adventures,

declared with a charming smile that instructions were conveyed to the Head of the department of Botany to organise a botanical excursion to Shillong.

Our young botanists received the announcement with acclamation, and lost no time in making necessary preparations for the tour. We started for Shillong on the 12th April by the Assam Mail. Our party consisted of sixteen persons namely, Amiya Roy, Gudhansu Chatterjee, Anu Choudhury, Ram Pal, Nriya Ghosh, Prof. A. Das Gupta, Panchu Mukherjee, Saroj Pal, Nithar Mukherjee, M. Mody, Shibu Chatterjee, Ajit Bardhan, Mrinal Sinha, Paresh Syene, Jyotin Ghosh and Daitari Behara (bearer) as may be seen in the picture.



*Standing L to R—A. Roy, S. Chatterjee, R. Choudhury, R. Pal, N. Ghosh, Prof. A. Das Gupta, P. Mookerjee, S. Pal, M. Mukherjee, H. Mody, S. Chatterjee*  
*Sitting on the ground—Dadhi (bearer), J. Ghosh, P. Sen, M. Singha, A. Burdhan*

We had a merry time in the train and indulged in a sumptuous refreshment in the evening. Many people suspected that a marriage party was travelling. We reached Amingaon next morning and crossed the mighty Brahmaputra by a ferry steamer overcrowded with male and female passengers mostly proceeding to worship the goddess Kamakhya. At Pandu we were met by Pandas, who gave us their cards and earnestly invited us to visit the temple of Kamakhya. The Pandas of Kamakhya possess the distinction of surpassing all other Pandas in India in their hospitality to pilgrims. We promised them a visit during our return-journey. We had our tea at a station restaurant and hurriedly got our luggage booked. We were provided with a very comfortable motor bus; and Prof. Das Gupta was given a first class motor car under a European conductor. It ran so fast that a slight increase of speed might make it fly in the air. For many miles our road was pretty level and passed through dense forests of bamboos, trees, and lianes so thickly intermingled that even a bullet could not penetrate them. The stillness of the forests was now and then broken by the cooing of birds and chirpings of crickets; we, also, noticed jungle fowl in the bush, hornbills and other wading birds feeding upon aquatic snails and fish.

We reached Nungpo at 9 O'clock. It is the midway junction and all buses rested here for half an hour. We had some fruit from Khasia girls and hot tea at a restaurant but we were advised not to take Pan (Piper betle) as the areca nut was exceedingly intoxicating. It is from Nungpo that the road begins its serpentine way upwards. We got a view of Shillong from a distance of three miles and our road lay through Pine trees (Pinus Khasya) with young and old cones on their branches.

At last we reached Shillong at 1 P. M. Prof. Das Gupta had already wired to the Manager of Swasthya Nibas Hotel for sixteen meals and accommodation, and we were received at the station by the manager. Students were accommodated in two big and comfortable rooms and Prof. Das Gupta was put up in a separate room.

In the afternoon we went out for visiting important places and incidentally collected many plants. As we stopped to collect plants here and there, many people halted and wondered if our plants possessed

any medicinal properties. We collected vigorously for five days from various parts of Shillong and neighbouring places, climbing high peaks and venturing in to many deep caverns and water-falls. We have no space to give a full list of plants in this Pujah number of College Magazine but we mention only a few specimens to satisfy readers interested in Botany : *Deeringia Celosioides*, *Aristolochia platanifolia*, *Pipus longum*, *Piper hamiltoni*, *Myristica linifolia*, *Cryptocarya amygdalina*, *Myrica nagi*, *Pinus khasya*, *Podocarpus nerifolia*, *Podocarpus latifolia*, *Taxus baccata*, *Cephalotaxus manni*, *Cycas pectinata*, *Clerodendron natans*, *Clerodendron griffithianum*, *Vitex pubescence*, *Vitex peduncularis*, *Lantana camara*, *Philogacanthus thysiflorus*, etc. There is a leguminous plant named *sophling*, which produces large number of tubers of about the size of pigeon eggs at its roots.

We visited all places of interest including educational institutions, public gardens, various falls, namely, Bishop Falls, Beadon Falls, Crinoline Falls, Gumer's Falls, Elephant Falls, Elysium Falls, Cinema houses, Shillong Club, and many other places worth-seeing. We climbed to Shillong Peak, which is the highest peak in the district, 7000 feet above the sea-level, in order to see wonderful scenery and curious plants. Under a clear sky and breeze-tempered sunshine, the view of the plain from the peak is remarkable. The sights and scenes of Bishop Falls and Beadon Falls captivated us to such an extent that we could not but snap them up by our hand camera. We visited Cherapunjee which is known to be rainiest spot in the world. It broke all records in 1861 when about 903 inches of rain fell ; and another record seemed to be set up on that day when we visited Chera because the clouds only roared with flashes of lightning but alas, there was not a single drop of rain. We visited the Shillong Bazar to see vegetables that were grown on the hills. Oranges were very small but very sweet and cheap ; and each of us bought large quantity of kai phal (*Myrica nagi*) which had a very sharp acid taste but yet we took them with great relish. Many of our friends did not fail to take bottles of Shillong-honey, well-known for its quality and purity.

On our return-journey we visited Gauhati and the temples of Kamakhya Devi. It appeared from an inscription on the stone that the present temples were built by Raja Malladhwaaja and his younger brother Shukladhwaja in Sakabda 1487. For sight-seeing, if not for

anything else, a visit to Kamakhya is worth the trouble. We, also, made some collections of plants at Gauhati and Kamakhya. We returned to Calcutta after a week but Prof. Das Gupta and some of our young tourists proceeded to Darjeeling to study the Himalayan flora.

We desire to express our hearty thanks to Mr. S. Banerjee, Superintendent of the Botanical garden of Shillong, for his kind permission to visit the garden and collect specimens.