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By Reverence : By Questioning : By Service.

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Editorial Notes

By the death of Sir Brojendra Nath Seal India lost another bright luminary from the firmament of her educational world. Full of years, he died full of glories also. He was in the first rank of those Indians by whom the larger world has been enabled to feel respect for the abilities of the Indian people. Not without reason people called him a 'moving encyclopædia'. He mastered many languages ; and his memory was a rich mine of the treasured wisdom of the sages of the East and West. His contributions in the domains of literary criticism and ancient culture of India will remain a priceless legacy. But the man was greater than his books. He was so humble, so unassuming, so affectionate ! Though a man of international outlook and international understanding, he was a true patriot, a lover of India and the Indian ideal. All deeply mourn the loss of this veritable *Rishi* of India.

Our hearty felicitations to Sreejut Syamaprosad Mukherjee, M.A., B.L., M.L.C., Barrister-at-Law, on his being the recipient of a Doctorate from his Alma Mater *honoris causa*. 'Show honour where

it is due'—is an old proverb. And the University of Calcutta has given a practical demonstration of it conferring the title on Mr. Mukherjee which he so richly deserves. In the brief span of four years during which he held the reins of office as Vice-Chancellor, the University of Calcutta has traversed the track of a century in its onward march of progress. The various measures of improvement that he carried through in the interest of his country and University are too numerous to mention within the brief span at our disposal. In short, every department of the University felt more or less the impress of his mighty constructive genius and sound statesmanship. We congratulate the University on their right decision in the matter.

At long last the University of Calcutta has been able to secure a play-ground of its own in the Calcutta Maidan for its alumni. We say—better late than never. It was really a matter of shame and pity that the foremost university of India did not get so long a slice of ground in the vast maidan while every club and team—good, bad and indifferent—had its share in it, thanks to the mercy of the Commissioner of Police. But this does not touch even the fringe of the problem. The University Ground can cater to the needs of a handful of students only. The vast unnumbered hundreds Calcutta's student population belonging to both schools and colleges should have their own play-grounds if their physique and various sportsmanlike qualities are to be developed. A very few of them can boast of their own grounds which are really an apology for them. But many others have nothing of the kind in spite of their readiness to pay reasonably for their upkeep. This is a blot on the fair name of Calcutta which has to be removed. The Calcutta maidan needs to be 'nationalised' in the supreme interest of our young generations.

The Calcutta University Law College Union deserves all credit for inviting competitors from all Universities for an All-India Inter-University Debate this year. The 'Asutosh Trophy' was won by

the Punjab University, and gold and silver medals were awarded to the best individual speakers. Students of both sexes, representing colleges from all parts of India participated in the debate, the subject being, "That India should be no party to future wars". We hope it will be an annual function which will afford in Calcutta a common platform to students of various parts of India for an exchange of their ideas and the development of a spirit of comradeship. We cannot conclude this topic without making a request to the University of Calcutta to arrange for an Annual Inter-collegiate debate under its auspices. It will give an opportunity to the representative students of various colleges in Bengal and Assam to meet together once a year and encourage a spirit of *camarderie* among them. The annual celebration of the University Foundation Day which was inaugurated and successfully continued for three years by the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. S. P. Mukherjee, afforded such an occasion to the students of the province. But it had an inglorious end. It is up to the University to think out an occasion which will foster the growth of Inter-collegiate amity and friendship.

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It is understood that the University of Calcutta has appointed a Committee to consider the question of introducing school broadcasts and providing schools with broadcast sets. This is a step in the right direction which we heartily welcome. Educational films and educational broadcasting are two of the most vital forces to-day in the spread of education in all progressive countries of the world. But India has neither the one nor the other, though sporadic attempts have been made here and there for "Cinema Education". Modern educational thought greatly discountenances mere theoretical learning from books. An appeal through eyes and ears, they say, is very effective in inculcating knowledge. Russia is a pioneer in these methods with the result that illiteracy has now practically been wiped out there. The department of education in Japan produces numerous educational films. There is also a "School Circulating Cinema League" and other companies there for the purpose. One can have the films for use on payment of a

small fee. The charge made there by the Department of Education is 40 yen per meter for silent films and 50 yen per metre for sound films, with no charge for packing or transportation. The following are some of the subjects of these educational films:—Health and sanitation; Geography of Japan; Famous events; Japanese industries; Popular science; Stories; The Biology of the sea; The common fly and dangers; In memory of Admiral Togo, etc., etc. From this it will be seen that countries like Japan are fully conscious of the value of motion pictures as a means of education. Broadcasting has no less importance. In India neither the State leads in such matters nor the educational institutions have resources enough to start them. The attempt of the Calcutta University to do something in the matter is therefore really encouraging.

The annual meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education under the Government of India has at last blessed the "Wardha scheme of education". When it was first mooted under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi, it received much destructive criticism from many quarters. But opinions today seem to have veered round. A Training College has been in existence these few months at Wardha to train up batches of teachers who will put the scheme into actual operation. This training has been thought to be its very corner-stone. Almost all the Congress Governments have deputed their representatives to Wardha to get advantage of this new scheme and training. We have reasons to believe that before long the scheme will be in operation in selected areas in the Congress provinces under the guidance of trained teachers. There is the proposal for the re-orientation of our educational outlook and policy. It deserves a trial.
