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By Reverence : By Questioning : By Service.

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THE MONTH.

The New Regulations have come into force and the old order is passing away, slowly yielding place to new. - The Faculties and the Boards of Studies have been reconstituted, several new Committees like the Transfer Committee, the Student's Residence Committee &c. have been formed according to the provisions of the New Regulations and the time for the appointment of a wholetime Registrar and an Inspector of Colleges is not far distant. The provision for the election of added members to the Arts and Science Faculties has resulted in an almost complete *fiasco*. Only one member has been elected and that to the Science Faculty, the privileged person being Mr. Chandra Bhushan Bhaduri, the veteran Demonstrator of Chemistry at Presidency College. Now that the *personnel* of the University has changed to a large extent, we anxiously watch the advent of a new academic spirit in the working of the new-model University.

5/2/23g

The constitution of the new Syndicate which is now in the formative stage calls for a word of comment. We had occasion to express our unfeigned pleasure at the time of the formation of the Provisional Syndicate last year for the fact that all the representatives of the Faculties of Arts and Science were Teachers. This year the results of the election are equally satisfactory, nay, more, for with the exception of the Hon'ble Bhupendra Nath Bose who however withdrew at the eleventh hour, not a single non-teacher offered himself for election. It is true that the interests of Teachers are safeguarded by the new Regulations, but this does not sufficiently account for the phenomenal fact of the conspicuous absence of laymen from the field. It must be entirely due to the moral effect of the movement in favour of Teachers set up ever since the scheme of University Reform has been discussed. But, we should not halloo before we are well out of the wood, for it still remains to be seen how the Senate acquit themselves at their election of representatives to the Syndicate.

Since the passing of the New Regulations in August last, the University has been busy in constructing the Faculties, the Syndicate, and the Boards of Studies after the new model. The Faculties and Boards of Studies have come into existence, and the Syndicate is in the formative stage. The Boards have been meeting to elect their respective Presidents. The elections have all passed off without raising any comment, but the election of Presidents in the Boards of Studies in Sanskrit and in Sanskritic languages has raised a curious controversy. Those who have been elected Presidents in these two Boards are said to have neither expert nor special knowledge of the subjects with which the Boards are concerned nor have they ever been examiners in them. The public also are not aware of their special fitness for posts to which they have been elected excepting so far that they are promi-

ment members of the Senate. If the choice had fallen on them in the absence from the Boards of expert exponents of those branches of studies which the Boards represent, the election would surely have gone unchallenged. But facts are otherwise. There is no want in either of the two Boards of men of acknowledged scholarship and ability in Sanskrit and Sanskritic Languages, and as the Boards are purely advisory bodies with no administrative function, we confess we do not see the wisdom of electing persons as Presidents who at the best may have only amateur knowledge of the subjects. The Boards might have gone out of their way in electing them, but the sense of propriety and fitness of things demands that the elected persons if they do not think themselves specialists in those branches of study, should at once resign. This would be more dignified and worthy of academicians. If the appointments were mere sines honorarii nothing need have been said on them, but they are not so, they carry with them onerous and responsible duties which involve expert knowledge of the subjects.

The Mess-scheme was introduced by Government from the June-session last year as an experiment in anticipation of the new University regulations. The scheme was based on the principle of one-college one-mess. Now that the new regulations have come into existence and are in force, a new complication has arisen. The regulations have given no recognition to the principle on which the mess-scheme was based, on the other hand they distinctly recognize "unattached" or promiscuous messes. Under these circumstances, two alternatives suggest themselves. Either the Government scheme must be abandoned or the regulations must have to be changed to meet the principle of the Government scheme. The two schemes cannot possibly work together. To change the regulations requires that the Government of India should be moved, and as the head of the Government of Bengal is the Rector of the University, the proposal of changing the regulations should properly emanate from the Rector. The regulations about

residence of College students have been really "timid" as the Times (of London) has pertinently remarked, and leave the matter practically where it was before. We quote here what the "Times" writes on this subject. "The Regulations also provide for the control of the residential quarters of the students. Reform in this direction is timid. For the future the University declares that every student preparing for a University examination must either live (1) with his parents or guardians, or (2) in a residence over which his college has some control. The value of these Regulations will depend entirely upon the spirit in which they are administered by the colleges. A student, for instance, who wishes to retain the liberty he has hitherto enjoyed of roaming uncontrolled about the bazaar will have on joining but to bring before the Principal a casual acquaintance and either declare that this person is his legal guardian or ask the Principal to approve him as such. Any person approved by the Principal becomes, for the purpose of the Regulations, the boy's guardian; he, and not the college, is responsible for the boy's moral and physical well-being; the University has no power to insist upon more systematic control. If the students find the Regulations concerning residence irksome, a Principal who wishes to increase the size of his college will be under a strong temptation to abstain from strict inquiries about the antecedents of the guardians proposed to him. The control under which the students of the second category (those who live in lodgings approved by their college) live is often of a very attenuated character. By regulation 3 of chapter xxiv. the following classes of lodgings may be approved by a college:—(a) noncollegiate hostels, that is, hostels under external management; (b) messes attached or unattached; (c) private lodgings. An unattached mess is a combination of students who desire to share expenses, and in the dignified phraseology of the Regulations "It has not necessarily any fixity of location for a period longer than one academical year." The "unattached mess" is in short a natural growth which owes nothing to the University. Eight or ten students who come from the same neighbourhood or who are related to each other by caste or family, club together to take a house or a few rooms in a house from one long

vacation to another and form what Europeans in Calcutta call a chummery. All that the new regulations provide is that these chummeries shall in future be registered and open to inspection by a duly appointed University inspector ; this is a step in advance but it is not a very long one, though possibly a large improvement is not possible in existing circumstances."

The writer in the "Times" regrets that although Lord Curzon laid great stress on the reduction in the number of examinations as an urgent matter of reform, this object was largely lost sight of in the controversy that ensued. While the University regulations were being discussed in the Senate, a proposal was brought forward regarding this reduction but it met with scant courtesy at its hands. It was subsequently sent to the Government of India while the Committee was sitting at Simla, but neither the Committee nor the Government of India thought fit to take any steps in the direction suggested. The proposal referred to above somehow found its way into the press and was published in this Magazine sometime ago.

The "Statesman" writes thus on the proposed Faculty of Agriculture. "A writer in the current number of *Indian Education* calls attention to the necessity of a Faculty of Agriculture in the University of Calcutta. The creation of such a Faculty was recommended by the Senate, but the Government of India did not see their way to accept the suggestion. However, as the writer points out, considering that agriculture is the main industry of India, that on it depend nearly 90 percent of the population for their living, that it is still in the same backward state in which it was centuries ago, and that its recognition by the University would help the application of modern science to it—the only way of making two blades of grass grow where one grew before—the decision of the Government of

India is much to be deplored, especially as there are now in the country a few agricultural schools and colleges ready to be affiliated to the University. Indeed, there can be little doubt that it is only by raising agriculture to the dignity of an academic subject that clever and ambitious men can be induced to devote their attention to it, and, until such men begin to study agricultural problems and take a genuine interest in them, it is idle to expect any adequate improvement in this most important of Indian industries. The efforts made by the Government in that direction deserve all praise; but official efforts, at the best, are only an admirable example and incentive to private enterprise."

Under the new regulations, a text-book on the Present Administration of India and on the Progress of India under British Rule shall be prepared by the University and be its property. Offers are already coming to the University from several quarters asking for the privilege of writing the book in question. We do not know what steps the University authorities will take to give effect to the regulation. We venture however to suggest that the public be invited to write the book and submit printed or typewritten copies of it to the University within a prescribed time and that a small committee of experts appointed by the Senate adjudicate between the merits of the books which will be submitted and decide to adopt those which fulfill or make the nearest approach to the ideal which the University may have before it. The books thus adopted may then be leased out to publishers on suitable terms for a given number of years. The method herein suggested if approved may also be adopted with necessary changes in the preparation and publication of other text-books which the University will have to undertake at no distant date under the new regulations. The new Syndicate which is now in the process of formation will have to proceed very warily in this matter.

From what we have written above with regard to the preparation of text-books, our views on the actual policy of the regulation may be misunderstood. We wholly disapprove of the principle of creating University monopoly in books and fully endorse the views entertained on the point by the writer in the current number of *Indian Education* in an article headed Calcutta University Regulations, which we reproduce elsewhere. But the regulations are there and until they are changed of which there is very little hope in the near future, the University must proceed to give effect to them and endeavour to make the best of what it has and not to pine for what it has not.

On the results of the last B. A. and B. Sc. Examinations, the Amrita Nath Prize was awarded to Rajani Kanta De of Presidency College, and the Woodrow Scholarship to Harendra Nath Mitra of T. N. Jubilee College, Bhagulpore.

Jogendra Nath Ghosh's Research Prizes on Comparative Indian Law of Rs. 500 each have been awarded to Pundit Rajendra Nath Vidyabhusan of Calcutta Sanskrit College and Durvasula Sriram Sastri B. A., B. L. of Mylapore, Madras.

We are glad to find that the *Student's Magazine*, a few earlier issues of which we had occasion to notice before, has entered into the second year of its existence. Considering that it is a periodical conducted by students and is intended to be an organ of the student community in general, it certainly deserves a long and useful career. It is highly desirable that our students should cultivate an *esprit*

de corps among themselves and express their views independently and intelligently on all such questions as concern them. The reading matter contained in the two issues before us—August and September—possesses an agreeable variety. Specially worthy of notice is the reprint of a paper by Professor Benoyendra Nath, Sen M. A., on 'In Memoriam.' We are also highly delighted with the Bengalee portion in which among other things Bengalee translations of several English poems appear. We have always thought that this kind of literary exercise should form the intellectual recreation of our educated young men as there is no more efficient way of enriching vernacular literature than the felicitous translation of masterpieces in English literature.

Periodicals received since our last acknowledgment:—*Central Hindu College Magazine* for September, October and November; *The Student's Own Magazine* for August, September and October; *The D. A. V. College Union Magazine* for September and October (a double number) and for November; *The Student's Magazine* for August and September; *The Indian Student* for August, September and October; the *Utbodhana* and the *Sanjibani*. We are also glad to inform our readers that *Macmillan's Magazine*, *Indian Education* and the *Educational Review* are regularly taken by the College Library.

WALPOLE AND PITT.

Among the great statesmen who guided the fortunes of England, under whom the material progress of the country was such as England had never witnessed before and under whom England began that career which was to make it the