

BANGABASI COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

प्रणिपातेन परिप्रश्नेन सेवया

By Reverence : By Questioning : By Service.

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1906.

THE MONTH.

The College closes for the Puja holidays about the third week of September. This issue therefore is a double number for the months of August and September. There will be no issue for October which is the vacation month.

The event of the month, nay the event of the current academical year, is the publication of the long-expected Regulations in the Gazette of India of the 11th August as sanctioned by the Government of India. The Regulations have the precise form in which they left the hands of the Simla Committee, but not the precise form, be it remembered, in which the Draft Regulations left the hands of the Senate in April last. Indeed the impression left on the mind of a person conversant with the Draft Regulations

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is that an altogether novel body of Regulations have been evolved by this small body of experts out of their inner consciousness. A patient study of the two brings it home to one's mind that while the ample materials furnished by the Senate have been utilised to the full as a basis for the completion of the work, the final Regulations have almost completely upset the schemes of Examination from the Matriculation upwards and the rules for setting papers adopted by the Senate after careful and prolonged deliberation both in the Committee and Faculty stage. Similarly the creation of a new Faculty of Agriculture and Commerce has been quietly left out without any reasons assigned for it. The small Committee of Simla experts have evidently been rated by the Government of India at a higher value than the whole body of the new Senate which by the way consists mostly of educational experts selected by the same Government.

A somewhat lengthy Resolution prefacing the Regulations dwells on their main features and explains their intention and effect. The Regulations form a bulky mass divided into 54 chapters (of which 24 concern the various Examinations), dealing in ample detail with all matters relating to the University. Some idea of the minuteness gone into by the Supreme Government may be guessed from the facts that a complete list of apparatuses and appliances necessary for affiliation in various branches of science for the several Examinations, an estimate of their cost, detailed syllabuses in almost all subjects, the *maximum* number of students for each class in school or college, and the *minimum* number and duration of lectures for the various branches of study in Colleges are to be found there. We shall dwell elsewhere on the general features of the Regulations: Suffice it to say for the present that *they come into force at once* with the exception of the Regulations for Examinations and a few others of a formal character.

The first Matriculation Examination under the new system will be held in 1910 and the other Examinations in Arts and Science in 1909. This at first appears anomalous as it means that the existing

materials must be utilised for the purposes of the higher Examinations with a raised standard. But on second thoughts we take it as a compliment to the colleges concerned, the Government of India being evidently of opinion that the existing Colleges will be able 'to adapt their staff and equipment to the new condition of things and to train their students in accordance with the principles enunciated in the Regulations' much sooner than the Schools. Work under the new system commences then, as far as the colleges are concerned, with the new classes at the next session, and this we doubt not will be good news to all earnest teachers and students. Personally we would have preferred a clean sweep made of the existing system of secondary education at once. But we bow down to the superior wisdom of the highest educational authority in the land and console ourselves with the reflection that this process of adaptation is after all a question of time.

Whilst admitting that great stress should be laid on sound methods of education in all branches of studies and whilst fully alive to the importance of the heuristic method in the case of the Sciences, we must at the same time say that the stringent rules made with regard to the equipment of colleges for science-teaching will inevitably lead to the abolition of almost all Science Colleges under private management. This would be a disastrous thing. The importance of science in modern Indian life is so great that encouragement to the uttermost should be given to the establishment and maintenance of Science Colleges and schools.

In connection with the last Convocation we adverted to the desirability of the appointment on that occasion of a few more Fellows from among teachers and we mentioned the names of two eminent teachers, Dr P. C. Ray and Mr Pandit Satis Chandra Acharyya Vidyabhusan. We are glad to find that simultaneously with the sanction accorded to the new Regulations, the Chancellor has been pleased to appoint 21 new Fellows, 12 of whom, including the two we had named before, are teachers. We congratulate the gentlemen as well as the University on these appointments. We have always thought that the teaching element should by all means