plot on the Island. The owner, an actual cultivator, was giving his experience of this crop when several of the landlords of the Island came up after which we could get no information from the cultivators but only misleading and obviously inaccurate information from the landlords. It gave the students, however, a very good object lesson in analysing information given, to see how far it was correct. This is important as so many subordinate officers have a tendency to swallow evidence without attempting to verify its accuracy.

9*th Evening.* This was spent along the backwater of Coondapur where enquiries were made into the backwater paddy cultivation and methods and of reclaiming backwater for cultivation.

10*th Morning* to Kap.

10*th Evening.* A short excursion was made to the wet lands between Kap and the sea.

11th. To Mangalore. On this day it rained incessantly, over 7 inches being registered in Mangalore.

The students had a good opportunity of seeing what rain can be like on the West Coast and how excellent the natural drainage on this laterite country is.

12th. The rain continued all day and, since all the *soman* was wet through, a halt was made in Mangalore.

13th. To Taliparamba Agricultural Station. The rain showed little sign of abating. Although, from information available at Mangalore, the storm centre was moving in a north-westerly direction, rain continued off and on all night, and as it was still raining on the 14th morning and showed no signs of clearing, the rest of the tour in South Malabar was abandoned.

14*th Morning.* The students were taken round the Agricultural station and in the evening to see the dry cultivation in the neighbourhood which was developed through the agency of the agricultural station.

THE STUDENTS' CLUB.

Mysore Agriculture.

A public meeting was held on 7th September 1913, with Mr. H. C. Sampson, Acting Principal in the chair, when *Mr. Badami Siva Rao*, student of Class III, read an interesting paper on "*a glance*

at Mysore Agriculture." The paper was carefully prepared and showed a knowledge of details in several aspects of the subject. After describing the physical features of the province, he divided it into the malnad or hilly portion and the plains, and the soils in the latter were divided into 4 main classes, (1) the black soil, cotton being the chief crop, (2) the red soil in which ragi was largely grown, (3) an ashy coloured soil which was comparatively poor and (4) a stony soil where rainfall was scarce and where the Amrita Mahal breed had its home. The normal rainfall is about 21 inches from the S. W. monsoon and 15 inches from the N. E. monsoon. Apart from the numerous tanks, channels and wells used for irrigation, he referred with pride to the two great reservoirs formed by throwing stony dams across rivers, the Marikanave and Kannambadi reservoirs, the latter of which is nearing completion. Intensive farming is to be met with only near towns, in gardens where English vegetables are largely grown. The methods of cultivation adopted and the implements used were similar to those obtaining in the adjacent districts of the Madras Presidency. Pungam leaves, as green manure for paddy, are esteemed both by the ryots and the Agricultural Department, but green manuring is generally limited to the Cauvery valley. In parts of Bangalore district, boodimannu, a village site earth similar to the patimannu of the Kistna delta, is applied with benefit to ragi crop.

Crops are generally grown in mixtures. Ragi, cholam and castor are harvested before September, while Bengal gram and horsegram are sown in November. Ragi is the principal staple food of the country and is grown ordinarily as a rainfed dry crop; and it is possible to grow it as a dry crop, unlike most of the districts in the Madras Presidency, as the number of rainy days during the period of its growth is greater. Ragi is, however, transplanted and irrigated when grown as a summer crop. Mr. Siva Rao gave detailed information about the varieties of ragi and their peculiarities. The yield of ragi which, whether drilled or broadcasted, is sown mixed with pulses, like lablab or redgram, is, on the average, about 700 lbs. grain and 2500 lbs. straw. With regard to paddy, it is sown dry in the malnad, or the seeds are soaked and, after sprouting, sown broadcast in the puddle, or seedlings raised in nurseries are transplanted, the last being the most common Mr. Siva Rao next made a brief reference to the famous Amrita

Mahal breed of cattle, noted for its endurance and quick pace and usefulness in the Commissariat, which is kept pure by careful feeding and breeding under the control of a special department, called the Amrita Mahal Department. The country cattle, however, were characterised as in the Madras Presidency, for their puny growth and weak limbs. In the end he mentioned several agricultural improvements suggested to the ryots by the flourishing Agricultural Department of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

In the discussion which ensued, Messrs. J. Chelvaranga Raju, T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar and N. V. Visvanatha Aiyar made some observations on the origin of the Amrita Mahal breed, the popularity of the Mysore Agricultural Department and the *kol* cultivation of paddy in Cochin State which resembled in some respects the practice of growing paddy in the malnad.

The President, in his concluding remarks, said that the origin of the Amrita Mahal breed was to be looked for in the north of Mysore and complimented the student on the careful arrangement of facts in his paper and was of opinion that credit should be given, at least to some extent, to the training given at the College.

Recent Observations in England.

Mr. R. C. Wood, Principal and President of the Students' Club, delivered an interesting address on "*his recent observations in England*" on 17th November 1913, with Mr. W. MacRae, Government Mycologist in the chair. In his characteristic conversational style, Mr. Wood referred to the little troubles and inconveniences he experienced on his voyage home and the loss of some of his luggage by fire in the steamer, and to the fact of his having had to work as a cooly in a Norfolk Farm for a few days on account of shorthandedness of men at the time. He had opportunities, during the period of his stay, of seeing the East, South and West of England. A portion of the address referred to the subject treated of in the correspondence column of the last issue of the Journal in his letter, and the substance of the remaining portion of the address is the following :—

Mr. Wood said that there was a difference in farming between England and Madras in 2 important particulars. First, however conservative the farmer may be, there was a system in his farming. Feeding