

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

cattle for slaughtering was the basis of his work and the large number of animals kept, necessarily increased the available manure, tending to high farming, so that England produces over 30 bushels per acre of wheat. The fields are all enclosed, so that the farmer can do his own work without interference, for instance, grow fodder crops. Secondly there was a difference in the way the operations are carried out. Wages are higher, a cooly earning Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 per mensem, that work is turned out largely by labour-saving machinery. There is an absence of a large gang of coolies employed in India in field work, but thinning a crop and some minor operations are always done by hand.

Mr. Wood next referred to two typical tracts of the country visited by him, the county of Norfolk which has a world wide reputation as the representative of arable farming, and the grazing county of Cheshire.

Norfolk consists of light gravelly soils and they are jammed and rendered compact by sheepfolding. The lands are heavily manured with cattle and sheep manure, and by the system of winter feeding by which animals are bought in September and fed on linseed cake and other rich food and the manure returned to the land heavily. Wheat straw trampled by cattle in winter is converted into a black amorphous substance.

Norfolk county is famous for the four-course rotation which is the first organised rotation in the world. First, barley is a money crop, being bought by brewers for making malt and beer, as Norfolk barley has a good reputation for malting quality. The straw is kept on the farm and this is insisted on in the lease between the landlord and tenant, in order that cattle may be kept on the farm and add to the permanent fertility of the soil. Barley is sown with clover, the former occupying the field 5 months and the latter 17 months. The clover mixed with grass is grazed on by sheep, and is followed in the third year of rotation by wheat, somewhat similar to the practice obtaining at Coimbatore, cholam after Bengal gram. The wheat is sown in March or April and harvested in August—spring wheat—or may be sown in October—winter wheat. The land is ploughed out, thoroughly worked and cleaned after wheat, and is cultivated with root crops, like turnips, swedes etc., the advantage of the root crop, which is

drilled wide, being that the land can be cleaned while the crop is on. Norfolk is an open attractive country with a prosperous look and extremely clean, and the root crops were at their best. Mr. Wood referred to an ancestor of his, one Mr. Thompson, who 150 years ago won a cup for growing turnips which is kept in the family.

With regard to Cheshire, the plough is practically unknown, every field being devoted to pasture and the grazing utilised for dairy purposes. Cheshire cheese is well-known. The land is under pasture for 2 reasons, either it is too good for anything else, fetching a rent of Rs. 75 an acre per annum, or it is not good enough to pay for arable farming. An acre-pasturage of superior quality will keep a cow in full milk—up to 5,000 lbs. milk—, although 3 acres for one cow is the general average. The pasture is a mixture of many species which grow and flower in different seasons and the flush of grass is even and steady. The animals are left by themselves, are docile and placid by nature and are quite pleasing to the eye, the prospect during the summer being quite beautiful.

Mr. Wood next gave an account of his visit to the Bristol Exhibition organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the premier Agricultural Society of the world, with a collection of animals and implements, not comparable to any show in India. [This portion of the address is published in full in the correspondence column elsewhere.]

Mr. MacRae, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Wood for his interesting address, said that, in the Highlands of Scotland where he spent his leave, small farms were being put together into large farms and that wheat growing was going out and more land was put down to pasture.

GAMES.

Cricket.

4 cricket matches were played during the first term of 1913—14 in all of which the College sustained defeat.

In the first match, the combined Newington team scored 121 runs, while the College scored 56 runs in the 1st innings and 91 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in the 2nd innings. T. Budhavidheya Rao 20 in the

1st innings and Dr. Barber 32 (not out) and Vittal Rao 26 in the 2nd innings were the prominent scores for the College.

In the second match, the Madras Forest College scored 123 runs, while the College replied with 44 runs. Bhandary 16 and Naganathan 15 were the chief scores for the College.

In the third match, the Podanur Railway team put up 204 and the College scored only 56 runs.

The fourth match against the Madras Forest College had an exciting finish. The Forest College had scored 108 runs and the College passed the century but were all out for 102 runs. Bhandary played a good game for 47 runs and Mal added a useful score of 17.

While batting requires much improvement, the College is particularly weak in bowling, Mal who took 17 wickets at a cost of 199 runs being about the best bowler.

We hope for better results next term.

In addition to the above matches played with outside teams, an interesting match was arranged for amongst the College players under the captainship of Messrs. Sivan and Tadulingam. The former team scored 67 and the latter 71 runs, Bhandary contributing 37 runs to the former and Veeraraghava Rao 27 to the latter.

Hockey.

The College was more fortunate, however, in the hockey matches which were played in the 2nd term.

The first match with the Stanes' European High School resulted in a win for the College by 4 goals to *nil*.

In the return match, the College defeated the Stanes' school by 5 goals to 3.

The match with the Police Recruit School resulted in the College securing 4 goals against *nil* for the Police.

The fourth match was against a combined team captained by Mr. Singara Aiyangar and the latter defeated the College by 2 goals to one.

The return of Mr. Wood from leave infused fresh spirit into the sporting instincts of the College. Mr. Parnell, Government Economic Botanist plays an excellent game and Mr. Rogers Thomas who has recently arrived is another useful addition to the College team. The

Students' club is specially indebted to Mr. Alan Guthrie, Government Leather Expert, who, during his temporary stay at the College, coached the students and showed in his masterly style how hockey is to be played with advantage, in the 2 or 3 games in which he took part.

Tennis.

In Tennis, the Students' Club accepted the challenge of the Officers' Club to play in a tournament arranged for by the latter. Each team chose 6 pairs and Doubles were played between the contending pairs up to a total of 10 games, sides being changed after the 5th games. Of the 60 games played, the students won 41 while the officers won 19 games.

Badminton.

The Students' Club defeated the Officers' Club in the latter's court by 2 sets to nil, 31—16 ; 31—27.

ESTATE.

Students, past and present, of Mr. R. V. Subramania Aiyar, Engineering Assistant of the College, gave a delightful entertainment in the College Botanic Garden on 12th September 1913, prior to his going on a long well-earned furlough of 2 years, after a continuous service of over 22 years. Games and amusements were provided. Mr. Subramania Aiyar, Artist, Government Entomologist's Office, entertained the audience with songs, mimicry, ventriloquism and shadowgraph. The guest of the evening was garlanded and a group photograph was taken. After refreshments, Mr. M. R. Ramaswami Sivan, as the oldest student of Mr. Subramania Aiyar, spoke, in a few words, about the clearness of his teaching, his sense of good humour and the attachment which his students had for him. Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rā referred to the unostentatious manner in which he had carried out social reform in his family. Mr. T. Paramanandam spoke of his kindness to the students in his capacity as Hostel Warden. Mr. H. C. Sampson, Acting Principal, sang "He is a jolly good fellow" and called for three cheers to Mr. Subramania Aiyar which were heartily responded to.