

Editorial Notes.

College Day and Conference, 1923.

The Thirteenth College Day was this year celebrated on the 14th July and the Agricultural Conference was held in continuation thereof on the 15th and the 16th July. This reversion of the time of holding the College Day from December—which had become the custom from 1919—to July 14, the date of the opening of the College, as was the practice in earlier years was due, as may be evident to such of our readers as have followed the history of the colony at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, to quite unavoidable circumstances. The out-break of the plague prevented the Union from holding the College Day as usual in December last and a fear of its recurrence in December this year induced them to go back to the original date—14th July.

Though July is without doubt a pleasant month, and compares quite favourably with December, it cannot be denied also that it is a little too early to allow of all the students to partake in the entertainments accompanying the celebration. Many of the new students can join only by the beginning of the month and will generally not have had time to become familiar with the atmosphere of the College. Moreover there is little of any crop for the visitors to see on the farm: and lastly the benefit of the Christmas vacation—wherein the heavily worked local committee of the Union could relax their limbs—is denied them in July. But in spite of all draw-backs, July was felt by all to be safer in view of the general liability of Coimbatore to plague about December.

The guests. The earliest visitors to arrive reached Coimbatore on the 12th July; but the great majority arrived on the 14th. They were received at the station by the volunteers headed by their Captain, Mr. H. Shiva Rao, and their wants were duly attended to. The thanks of the Union are due to the Warden—Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Ayyar—for kindly placing the new block

of Students' Quarters at their disposal for lodging the visitors. The boarding of the Indian guests was catered to by the Officers' Mess attached to the Indian Officers' Club—and our thanks are due to the Secretary of the Mess for the efficient way in which the wants of the guests were attended to.

The list of guests (which is published in full elsewhere) included several distinguished personages—among whom were to be numbered the Minister for Development, Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, Mr. Noyce, I. C. S., Secretary to Government Development Dept., several members of the Legislative Council and a few Honorary Visitors. The thanks of the Union are due to Mr. R. D. Anstead, Director of Agriculture, for his kindness in deputing all the Gazetted staff of the circles and a large number of the District and Farm Staff to attend and take part in the Conference. Several familiar faces were however missing, of whom those of Messrs. H. C. Sampson, R. C. Wood, Dr. Norris, etc., were not the least. In this connection one cannot but regret the premature death of the late Mr. Vengail Krishnan Nayanar, whose unfailing presence used to be identified with the celebration of many a College Day in the past.

Athletic Sports. Under the energetic directions of the Sports Secretary, Mr. K. T. Bhandary, the play ground rapidly assumed, on the morning of Saturday, the 14th July 1923, the usual gala appearance, with flags and buntings of all the colours of the rainbow fluttering in the monsoon winds, beckoning, as it were, the passers-by to witness the Sports. As usual three large tents were provided for the use of the guests—Europeans and Indian—and the Indian ladies; but it must however be remarked, in this connection, that these did not provide sufficient accommodation for all, especially in view of the vagaries of the weather—and it appears to us that more accommodation should be provided for on future occasions, though perhaps the new College Building, one side of which faces the ground, may possibly be of service in this direction by that time.

Crowds of sight-seers began to arrive long before 3 P. M., when the Sports were due to commence, and ensconced themselves on suitable vantage grounds for witnessing the *tamasha*. The new College Building under construction proved to be a coveted place for this purpose as evidenced by the large members that had gathered on the top floor, on the windows and the verandah. The visitors began to arrive by 3 P. M. and were duly received by the Vice-President and the Secretary and the Sports commenced exactly at 3 P. M.

However neither the Vice-President, Mr. Tadulingam, nor the Secretary, Mr. B. Viswanath, had been prepared for the reception of an entirely un-invited guest who also arrived in time. The clouds, which had been since the noon rather more than usually dark and heavy over the Hills on the west, gradually thickened and marched forward with the monsoon winds. What began as a slight and pleasant drizzle soon developed into a driving rain, and compelled many of the spectators to seek refuge wherever shelter could be found. Nothing daunted, a great many, however, braved the rain, protected either by raincoats and umbrellas, and stayed on for cheering the competitors. The judges had, of course, rather a hard time of it during this unusually inclement weather and it redounds greatly to their credit that they stood their ground in spite of such a severe handicap. Before long, however, it looked as if, the Rain-God had, out of compassion for the distress he had caused, begun to relent somewhat and towards 5 P. M. the drizzle stopped completely and the evening's events were gone through so smoothly and successfully that one forgave the rain altogether and, in the fullness of heart, agreed with Shakespeare that "All was well that ended well."

The thanks of the Union are due to Mrs. Parnell for kindly arranging for the European refreshments and Rao Sahib T. S. Venkataraman is to be thanked for the trouble taken by him in providing refreshments for the Indian guests. The "At Home"

was on the whole quite a success in spite of the fact that the rain prevented the guests being attended to as well as could otherwise have been possible.

The Various Events. The cross-country Race run along a track of about five miles was finished on Saturday, the 7th July, and was won by Ratnavelu who finished it in 37 min. and 55½ seconds. The preliminary heats were over on Thursday the 12th July. There was altogether a large number of entries and keen competition was observable in many of the events and records were broken in 3 of the events. The high jump was specially interesting as the winner—Jivaratnam—broke the record clearing 5 feet 1 inch, with ease in spite of the ground being slippery on account of rain. The "Old Boys' Race" of 100 yds. was, under the enthusiastic example set up by one of the "youngest" of the 'Old Boys'—Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan—competed for by several and was won by Mr. U. Vittal Rao. The Half-mile Race open to visitors was won by one of the Estate Boys—Srinivasalu—the Senior Patrol leader of the local "Ramakrishna" Scout troop. There were in addition races for scouts, cubs, estate girls and farm boys. The only two items conspicuous by their absence this year were the "greasy pole" and the "Sack" race.

When all the events had been gone through the distribution of Prizes was attended to in front of the main Shamiana in the midst of a large gathering of spectators. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, Development Minister, and Mr. Noyce, Development Secretary, graced the occasion with their presence. The Principal, Mr. Parnell, in requesting Mrs. Noyce to be so kind as to give away the prizes, said that, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, this year's events had been noteworthy in that in as many as three events previous records had been beaten. The champion of the year was M. Ratnavelu who thus won Vengal Nayanar's Championship Cup. He also won the "Saidapet Old Boys Cup" for 100 yards race and the "Dr. Norris Cup" for Cross country Race. "Mrs. Anstead Cup"

for one mile race was won by A. R. Krishnamurthi. The "Ramnad Shield" for inter-tutorial Tug-of-war was won by Mr. Sundaraman's Wards, while the "Chunampet Shield" for inter-tutorial Relay Race was won by Mr. T. V. Rajagopalacharya's Wards.

The occasion was also availed of for presenting the successful students of the Farm Night School amongst whom were some Adi-Dravida boys with various appropriate prizes.

The eventful day was brought to a close at 7 P. M. by a call for cheers to Mrs. Noyce and the Guests of the evening, which was lustily responded to by the students and the spectators.

The sincere thanks of the Union are due to the following gentlemen who helped to make the Sports a success and whose services were specially valuable as they were rendered under very difficult weather conditions:—The Judges: Messrs. W. G. Dyson, D. S. Reddi, R. D. Anstead, P. H. Rama Reddi and Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan; the Time-keepers: Messrs. F. T. T. Newland and K. Krishnamurthi Rao; and to the Starters: Messrs. G. R. Hilson and D. G. Munro. Our thanks are also due to Messrs F. R. Parnell and C. Tadulingam who undertook to meet the cost of prizes to the cubs and scouts respectively.

As owing to the heavy rain the pile of cotton stalks had become very wet, the bonfire which had been programmed to take place at 7-30 P. M. in the evening had to be postponed to Monday the 16th instant. This arrangement, however, proved to be not a very happy one, as most of the students and the denizens of the estate could not be present to witness the sight, as they were engaged in the dramatic entertainments on that evening.

The Agricultural Conference. The Conference met in the large hall on the ground floor of the College, at 12 noon, on Sunday the 15th July, when the President-elect Sir K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu Kt.,—Minister for Development, declared the Conference open and called upon the Principal to deliver his welcome address.

The President of the Union—Principal Parnell—then read his address of welcome (printed elsewhere in full) in which he heartily welcomed all the visitors especially the Minister, Mr. Noyce, Development Secretary, and Members of the Legislative Council and Honorary Visitors and congratulated Sir K. Venkata Reddi on the honour recently bestowed on him.

The General Secretary, Mr. B. Viswanath, then read his annual report, wherein a statement was made as to the progress made by the Union during 19 months that had elapsed since the last College Day. The President-elect then rising amidst deafening cheers delivered an extempore speech lasting for nearly an hour, in which he dealt with various points involved in the policy of the Government as regards the development of agriculture and advised the officers to beware of "eyewash" and the students to remember that by reason of their agricultural education they owed a duty to land which they were to fulfil in their future career. A precis of his speech is printed elsewhere in this issue.

He then presented Mr. V. Ramanathan, L. Ag., the "Ramasastrulu Munagala" Medal for the best account of research work done by the writer.

The President then called on Rao Bahadur J. Chelvaranga Raju to read his paper on "Flower Trade in Madras." Mr. Raju said in the present days of Financial stringency—when agricultural graduates were left without openings for making use of their knowledge, Flower Farming was a profitable line of work which he could recommend them to take up with advantage. He stated that there was a great demand for flowers in towns and if one could cultivate a variety of them and supply the sorts needed at periods when they were particularly in demand, one could make Flower Farming a very lucrative concern. He gave a list of the more important flowers and scented plants that were in demand in the Madras market and gave interesting notes about most of them. His paper was followed by a very interesting discussion in which several members took part.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao then read a paper prepared jointly by G. Ganapathi Ayyar and himself on "Jaggery Making—factors influencing quality." The writers were of opinion that so far as India was concerned Jaggery was not likely to be replaced by Sugar as a poor man's food for a very long time to come. They considered the various factors which governed the composition of the Jaggery, its colour and its keeping qualities and made definite recommendations as to the points to be attended to in preparing good jaggery. This was followed by a discussion in which several members took part.

Mr. K. Ramiah then read his paper on "Some factors which influence Rice Breeding in Tanjore" in which he dealt with the conditions in Tanjore that had to be taken into account in breeding paddy varieties suited to the Tanjore Delta. He showed that in addition to the intrinsic qualities of the new strains, as regards their acceptability as food for various classes of people and their capacities of giving heavy yields, two other points had also to be kept in mind in evolving such strains. Firstly, as when designed for export paddy has to be milled in bulk in Rice Mills, the milling qualities of the new strain should be considered; and secondly as Tanjore Rice has to meet the competition of Burma Rice the new strain should be designed to meet the special needs of the consumer outside the district regards both quality and cheapness. There was a very interesting discussion on this subject in which several took part.

At 8 P. M. the Conference adjourned for the day to meet again the next morning at 8 A. M. The usual Group Photograph was taken at 3-30 P. M.

At 5-30 P. M. there was a demonstration at the All-India Sugar-cane Breeding Station, Chettipalayam, which was attended by a very large number of visitors including Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, Development Minister and Mr. Noyce, Development Secretary. The demonstration aimed at making the visitors acquainted

with all the various items of work involved in raising new varieties of high quality canes from seed and in testing their comparative merits so that only the very best could be selected for propagation. There was also a very interesting series of exhibits arranged by Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Assistant Sugarcane Expert, showing the composition of Sugar and Jaggery and the effect of various factors responsible for the quality of the Jaggery produced, as also a practical demonstration of an improved furnace for Jaggery making.

There were in addition an exposition of various interesting experiments relating to the development of the root system of cane varieties which are expected to be of very great utility in making canes fit for various types of soil conditions. Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao had the great privilege of standing Tea for all the visitors of the evening.

At 9 P. M. the members of the Indian Gazetted Officers' Association Agricultural Department—had the high honour of entertaining Sir K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu and several members of the Legislative Council at dinner, in honour of the title recently bestowed on him.

At 8 A. M. on the 16th July, the Conference met again under the Presidency of Sir K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu who requested Mr. K. Unnikrishna Menon to read his paper on 'Some side-lines of Farming.' Mr. K. Unni Krishna Menon said that owing to the existence of competition and the non-availability of large blocks of land for cultivation, it was necessary to devote some attention to side-lines of Farming, so as to make regular Farming more remunerative. Dairying was one of the most promising lines in his opinion, the animals being stall-fed with green fodder obtained from plots of perennial crops like Guinea grass, Elephant grass and Lucerne. Rearing goats, keeping poultry, apiculture and sericulture were suggested as other possible side-lines. The paper was followed by a discussion in which various members took part.

Mr. S. Kasinathan, then, read his paper on the 'Ripening of the Sugarcane.' He said that the determination of the ripeness of sugarcane was a difficult problem. The ordinary method, which is known as the *co-efficient of purity method*, was not in his opinion very reliable, as the standard of purity varied from place to place and between one variety and another. Nor was a new method adopted by a Japanese Chemist in Formosa known as the *maturity co-efficient method* more practicable. Taking into account the proved fact that the sucrose content of the joints of a cane decreases from the bottom to the top and that at the time of ripening, their sucrose content gradually increases till the contents of the top and the bottom internodes equalise, the writer hit upon the method of cutting the canes of a portion of the field into top and bottom halves and analysing their juices separately. When the sucrose contents of the two equalised, the cane field had, in his opinion, become ripe: and in corroboration of his statement he produced figures of actual results obtained so far.

Mr. K. Krishna Menon, was next called upon to read a paper entitled—'Prevention is better than cure,' wherein he explained the origin of diseases of plants caused by Fungi and showed how diseases of this character could be avoided by certain precautionary measures. Clean cultivation, crop-rotation, seed selection—these were methods which any ryot could understand and practise and by the adoption of which many diseases could be prevented. In certain cases treatment with Copper Sulphate or spraying with Bordeaux Mixture acted as preventives and could be readily adopted.

Mr. G. Rajagopal Nayudu—one of the old Saidapet Boys and experienced Agricultural Inspector of the Madras Agricultural Department who had retired about 17 years ago, then followed with a paper entitled "A Brief Memorandum on Agricultural Reform in South India." After tracing the genesis of the Agricultural Department in Madras, he compared the

Madras Department with the United States Department of Agriculture and adduced certain reasons which, in his opinion, were responsible for the comparative lack of progress shown by the former. He suggested various remedies, chief of which were the following: viz: a greater publicity of its activities, a more intimate touch with the ryot, a continuity of policy and work, deputation of men for foreign training, improvement of irrigation, of water ways and road ways, and improvement of women's education.

Mr. F. H. Butcher—Curator of Botanic gardens, Ootacamund, then read a paper on "Potatoes and their cultivation in South India." The paper dealt with the salient points of Potato culture on the Nilgiris giving all important details of its cultivation, including the preparation of the ground, the seed rate, manuring after cultivation and storage. In summing up, the writer stated that no plant responded more readily than the potato to good treatment and added that although the crop required a temperate climate to be at its best, good and profitable crops could possibly be grown in many parts of South India where at present it was seldom seen."

The Conference adjourned for lunch at 11 A. M. and met again at 1 P. M.

Mr. Richards read a paper entitled "Serum Simultaneous method of Inoculation against Rinderpest" by Mr. K. Kylasamier, Deputy Supt. C. V. D., in the unavoidable absence of the writer on other work. The writer said that Rinderpest was one of the most deadly of cattle diseases accounting for more than 50% of cattle mortality in India. Till recently the only measure taken by the Department was to immunise the cattle during times of pestilence by the "Serum alone method." This conferred only temporary immunity. During the last 3 or 4 years another method—"the serum simultaneous method"—had come

into practice whereby the protective serum as well as contagious blood from an infected animal were simultaneously injected into the animal. This method, he said, conferred life-long immunity for the animal and was, therefore, one that every cattle-owner should adopt.

Mr. M. Mangesha Rao then read a paper on "A Review of Agricultural Improvements in South Kanara," in which he passed in review the progress achieved to date in spreading improved methods of Agriculture in South Kanara District, the chief items being the introduction of better varieties of Sugarcane and paddy, green manure crops, improved manures, improved ploughs and the mhote.

A paper on "The Methods of improving the Milch Cattle of India" by Mr. V. P. Subrahmanya Mudaliar was read in the absence of the writer by Mr. T. V. Rajagopalacharya, wherein Mr. Mudaliar condemned the system of importing foreign breeds to improve the milking qualities of native breeds. He was of opinion that, on the other hand, efforts should be made by selection and breeding among the indigenous races of cattle to evolve better kinds of milch cattle. The paper was followed by a discussion of the question among the members.

Mr. V. T. Subrahmanya Kandar—an "Old Boy" and at present a practising farmer in Salem District—was then called upon to read his paper on "The possibilities of Agricultural improvement in the Cauvery Valley." He gave an account of the existing conditions of agriculture and suggested several improvements which he considered possible in that tract. It was followed by a discussion in which some took part.

Dr. Kunhikannan of the Mysore Agricultural Department next presented a thoughtful paper on "Agricultural Education in India" which was read by Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan in the absence of the writer. He was of opinion that in Agricultural Education, as in education in general, Western

systems and ideals were of value only in so far as they fitted in with the conditions of the country. Agricultural Education in the West, he observed, had been developed under the influence of capitalistic farming induced by high prices and had been sustained by the high standard of industrial progress. In India, conditions were quite different; there was an enormous rural agricultural population that lived on land parcelled into innumerable small holdings and was further characterised by a low standard of living. He was of opinion that for the ryot who acquired a working knowledge of the main principles of Agriculture from his boyhood, education should not be on the lines of the present courses followed in Agricultural Colleges, but should be designed to supplement his knowledge rather than cram him with alien ideas. In his opinion, "the main effort and much the larger proportion of funds, should be directed to the establishment of one year courses designed to train up students down from among the class of small farmers," rather than to a further expansion of higher Agricultural Education.

The paper was followed by a discussion in which several took part.

The President, then, rose amidst cheers and made a short speech, in which he expressed his appreciation of the value of a conference of the sort over which he had the honour to preside and declared that he had gathered a great deal of information on agricultural matters. He, however, wished that a few papers at least had been contributed by the experts; and remarked that important crops like cotton and oil-seeds had not received the attention they warranted at the conference. After declaring that whatever he might happen to be in the next council he would always take interest in Agriculture and Agricultural subjects, he declared the conference closed.

Mr. Parnell as President of the Union then thanked Sir K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu for the very able manner in which he had guided the deliberations of the conference.

At 4-30 P. M. the Minister in company with Mr. Noyce and Mr. Anstead enquired into the grievances of a deputation of ryots of the Coimbatore District in regard to the date of enforcement of Pest Act for cotton, after which he left for Madras by the Mail.

At 8-30 P. M. the bonfire was lit in honour of the College Day celebrations and soon after at 9. P. M. the visitors and the staff were treated to a dramatic entertainment by the students at a theatre specially fitted up for the occasion in the conference hall.

Dramatic Entertainment. The unique feature of this year was that for the first time in the annals of the Union, its entertainments were presented under its own curtains. As promised at the last conference, the following curtains were presented by various donors for whom the grateful thanks of the Union are due. (1) A drop-curtain with the Goddess of Plenty—Lakshmi—presenting a ryot with a good harvest and with the Coimbatore Agricultural College in the back-ground—from Mr. K. Venkata Rao Badami of Bangalore. (2) A street scene with buildings, on either side, of eastern and western type presented by Mr. K. Ramiah (3) A garden scene—(Union's own) and (4) A grand Durbar scene—from Mr. J. Ranga Raju of Madras. The first was prepared to design given by Mr. Venkata Rao and the first three curtains, we are proud to record, were the splendid results of the united efforts of our College Artists—Messrs. C. Ranganadha Mudaliar, C. R. Doraiswami Mudaliar and M. Singara Royan. The Union is specially thankful to them for the promptitude with which they got them ready so as to make them available for use on the College Day. Mr. Ranga Raju's Durbar Scene was prepared in Madras and also bears evidence of high artistic effort. We are glad to announce in this connection the generous offer of another curtain depicting a forest scene by Mr. C. Narayana Ayyar, Dy. Director of Agriculture, VIII Circle, for which the Union is thankful. With this curtain added, the Union will be in possession of a fairly full equipment sufficient for almost any theatrical effort.

Before the curtain rose, Student Kannan Nambiar entertained the audience with several very clever card tricks and a few feats of magic. He is to be congratulated on the excellence and neatness of his performances, which are all the more remarkable as he is but an amateur.

The first piece presented was "Chiselling"—an adaptation from one of the French farces, in which Mr. M. U. Vellodi showed some very splendid acting as Trotter, the servant of a young sculptor, Larkspur—Ramaswami Naidu—who makes him pose as the marble statue of Alexander the Great in order to deceive an old but eccentric art connoisseur—from whom he expects a bequeathment. Piper—the Inn keeper was well represented by Suryanarayana. The numerous comic incidents in this farce kept the house in continuous laughter.

The second piece was in Tamil and was an adaptation of Moliere's "Mock Doctor." All the actors played their parts well especially the cunning wife of the Mock Doctor who cleverly took revenge on her husband for his ill-treatment of her. Rajaratnam, who took the clown's part, kept the audience in roars of laughter with his extempore Tamil songs touching on the humorous side of life at the Agricultural College. The third piece was enacted in Telugu by the Telugu students. It was a farce composed locally wherein the whole process whereby a student from the mofussil is attracted to and joins the Agricultural College was humorously depicted. Ranga Rao did his part very well as a Telugu Munshi managing his class of ill-assorted, impertinent and sleepy students. The actors are to be congratulated on their efforts, though it was easy to see that they were rather prone to an overdoing of their parts. The entertainments came to a close at about 1 A. M.

The Business Meeting. At 8 A. M. on the 17th, the members of the Union met in the small Lecture Hall with the President, Mr. F. R. Parnell, in the chair. After some preliminary speeches by various members regarding the aim and work of the Union, the

consideration of the various items of changes in the rules, of which notices had been given in the October 1922 issue of the Journal by Mr. T. V. Rajagopalacharya and others, was taken up. There was a great deal of animated discussion on some of the items of amendments and alterations. As the business of the meeting was not finished at 11 A. M., it was adjourned to 4 P. M. in the evening when the President again took the chair. It was about 6 P. M. before all the items could be gone through and at this stage the President left the chair on account of a prior engagement, when the Vice-President assumed the Chairmanship. In this connection, we feel impelled to express, on behalf of the Union, our warm appreciation of the excellent, able and extremely patient manner in which the President guided the discussions on the numerous knotty points that came up in the course of the consideration of the change of rules. The question of registering the Union under the Registration of Societies Act was next considered and it was decided that the registration might be made after making fuller enquiries as to the details, the Working Committee being empowered to attend to it. The election of office bearers was next taken up. We are glad to announce that our popular and genial Vice-President, Mr. C. Tadulinga Mudaliar, was re-elected unanimously once again. Mr. M. U. Vellodi was elected Honorary Secretary, Mr. D. Srinivasa Rao Treasurer, and Rao Sahib Y. Ramachandra Rao was re-elected Editor, as also were Messrs: T. V. Rajagopalacharya and V. Muthuswami Ayyar by overwhelming votes as members of the Working Committee. The full list of the members of the Council and the Working Committee is given overleaf on the cover as usual.

The meeting was a record one both as regards the time taken and the momentous changes involved therein and it was nearly 9 P. M. before the Vice-President could declare it closed.

The character of the changes in the constitution of the Union will be apparent by a study of the new rules passed (printed in full elsewhere) : but the main changes are, in brief, as below.

Hitherto the members paid Rs. 10 or Rs. 5, according as they were I or II class members, to get admission into the Union, and had no recurring subscriptions to pay, becoming in fact thereby life-members of the Union, but every member did not subscribe for the journal. Under the new rules, on the other hand, every fresh member has to pay an entrance fee of Rupee one and a yearly subscription of Rs. 2 if a student, Rs. 3 if a non-student but having an income of under Rs. 100 per month, Rs. 4 if one with a monthly income of over Rs. 100 and under Rs. 250 and Rs. 5 with an income of Rs. 250 and above, but with the difference that every one of the members would get the journal free. These new rules will however affect only the new members, the old members being given the option of coming under the new rules or merely subscribing for the Journal at the new rate of Rs. 4 as they please. The rest of the changes were incidental on these fundamental alterations, and merely related to an expansion of the Council and of the working committee.

It is believed that the new rules will lead to a larger sum becoming available for the Journal, which has so far not been self-supporting, but our exact financial position will probably be more evident when next year we find what response is forthcoming from the members.

A fair number of the guests left Coimbatore for home on the 17th and the majority departed on the 18th, leaving the colony to digest as best it could the surfeit of activities it had during the College Day functions, and to fall back into the uninteresting but inevitable humdrum round of daily routine.

In conclusion, we take this opportunity of thanking the Principal, Mr. Parnell, and all heads of sections for assistance readily rendered in various ways and Mr. Newland and the Engineering Staff specially, for help rendered in fitting up the stage and putting on the electric lights.

The Liverpool Meeting of the British Association .

A novel feature of the meeting of the British Association at Liverpool on September 12—19 this year will be a Scientific Exhibition at which there will be exhibits of apparatus in connection with each section of the association and certain others showing recent advances in applied science. It is anticipated that all the leading manufacturers of Scientific apparatus will be represented and that the latest inventions in instruments and apparatus will be exhibited.

The following Sections will be represented at the meeting :
A. Mathematics and Physics ; **B.** Chemistry ; **C.** Geology ; **D.** Zoology ; **E.** Geography ; **F.** Economic Science and Statics ; **G.** Engineering ; **H.** Anthropology ; **I.** Physiology ; **J.** Psychology ; **K.** Botany ; **L.** Educational Sciences ; and **M.** Agriculture.

On Wednesday, September 12th 8-30 P. M. the inaugural general meeting is to be held : the Presidential Address being given by Sir Ernest Rutherford, on the Electrical Structure of Matter.

Government Aid in Research Work.

It is rather refreshing to find, while usually it is the role of India to try and hobble after England in her march of progress, that for once at least England is exhorted to follow India in backing up research. In making comments on the progress made in agricultural research in India as set forth in "the Review of Agricultural Operations in India" Calcutta (1923), *Nature* (June 16th 23) writes as follows : "All these measures (the formation of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, the levying of the Cotton cess etc.,) are an example of energetic and purposeful action taken by Government under the inspiration of results achieved by research in the interests of Agriculture. The progress already made has, no doubt, been favoured by the great field which the Indian crops provide for plant improvement. But when favourable conditions are allowed for, there remains the fact that the Government appreciates, and has been quick to develop economically the results of Scientific Work. It was not content to let these results rest at

the laboratory stage. What could be accomplished by similar methods in Great Britain it is difficult to say; some remnants of enlightened despotism still linger in India, and can be used quickly and effectively in the interests of progress; but it might be worth considering whether in the present sorry plight of agriculture some measure of action similar to that followed in India, viz: of levying a cess on particular products for the creation of a research fund could not be taken. Bacon, cheese, butter, wool and flax are examples of products imported into Britain in large quantities, to the detriment of the home producer. Is organised research powerless to help? There can be no doubt as to the answer, but our politicians, while ready to give lip service to the value of education and research, and even grants of money in aid of Experimental Work, have failed to show an adequate appreciation of the need of following up the achievements of research by administrative action, such as that so effectively taken by the Government of India."

The South West Monsoon.

Since writing last, the monsoon has put on an entirely new aspect altogether. Resenting our admonishment, as it were, the monsoon turned a new leaf and showed extraordinary activity from the second week of July. Unprecedentedly heavy rains occasioned floods which, in point of violence and the degree of damage caused, have eclipsed all known previous records. The West Coast (especially the northern half), the Malnad of Mysore, the upland tract of Coorg, the far-off Tanjore Delta fed by the Cauvery, the banks of the Ganges, parts of Burma—all these have suffered though in somewhat varying degrees. At the same time, the monsoon has been more or less a failure in the Northern Circars, the Deccan Districts and the Carnatic Coast. While certain parts have been seriously affected by excessive rain, others are on the verge of a famine and the year 'Rudhirodgari' after all appears to bid fair to prove true to its name and to heap untold suffering on an already afflicted mass of humanity.