

ESTATE NEWS.

Nov.—Dec. 1923.

Officers' club. There was a conversazione at the Club in November in which Mr. P. Susainathan gave an interesting account of his experiences in connection with a visit he paid to Indo-China and Malaya in November—December 1922. He gave vivid descriptions of the cities he visited and of the customs and manners of the people he met with, illustrating his account with magic lantern pictures.

Gana Sabha. Under the auspices of the Agricultural College Gana Sabha, a musical performance on the "Veena" was given by Brahmasri Ramaswami Ayyangar and brother at the Officers' Club on Sunday the 25th November 1923. There was a large audience on the occasion and the performance was much appreciated.

Provincial Quarters. The third of the Provincial Quarters was handed over to the Principal on the 12th December and Mr. T. V. Ramakrishnayyar occupied the house on the 13th. The fourth will, we hear, be ready to be handed over early in February.

Dhanur-Masam. As usual there were Bhajana processions very early in the morning throughout the month of "Dhanus"—a rather trying test of devotion to many, involving as it did an early bath and an exposure to the chill of December mornings.

The "Club Day" at the Officers' Club. The members of the Agricultural College Officers' Club celebrated the "Club Day" with great *eclat* on Saturday, the 17th November 1923. On account of various reasons the "Club Day" had not been celebrated during the past two years or so and it was feared that circumstances might prevent its being held this year too, but fortunately everything went off well so that the "Day" proved a complete success in every way. The club building and the premises were gaily decorated with flags, festoons and garlands, and at night, thanks to the kindness of Rao Sahib T. S. Venkataraman who spontaneously undertook to light it at his own expense, the whole building was brilliantly lit with hundreds of lamps.

The day began with a great procession of cycles and motorcycles, with the President's car at the rear, trailing at a snail's pace behind a decorated trolley, lodging a vociferous band of Amateur musicians, and driven by a "provokingly swift" team of buffaloes. The procession marched to Chettipalayam where the members were treated to a rather severe cycling test, tackling an ascent with a sudden hair-pin bend.

The winners were given suitable prizes and the whole party served with light refreshments by the staff of the station. After a photograph, the party moved on to Vedapatti Paddy Breeding Station from whence the whole procession marched back to the club.

At 2 p. m. the finals of the Ping-pong Tournament were played, wherein Mr. M. C. Cherian, B. A., B. Sc., D. I. C.,—a new acquisition to the club—defeated Mr. H. Siva Rao—the Champion of previous years. He displayed a wonderful skill at the game of which the spectators showed their admiration by repeated cheers. At 4 p. m. the finals of the volley ball tournament were played and after a very keenly contested fight, the party captained by Mr. K. T. Bhandari won. The prizes were then distributed to the winners and the runners-up in the tournaments by the President.

At 7-30 p. m. the members assembled in the club hall to witness the performance of the entertainment committee under the leadership of Mr. B. Viswanath. The entertainment took the form of one or two recitations and the enactment of two parodies of which the audience showed its appreciation by loud cheers and side-splitting laughter. One of them represented a typical general body meeting of the club in which the mannerisms and idiosyncracies of some of the prominent participants were beautifully brought out, the President, especially, being cleverly represented by Mr. K. Gopalakrishna Raju; and the other show was a caricature of one of the usual Bhajana parties on the Estate. The delightful day was brought to a fitting close by a sumptuous dinner served in the club hall at which most of the members were present. The "Club Day" proved to be, on the whole, such a happy occasion that, we are sure, the members will not easily forget it.

January 1923.

Services Commission. The advent of the Lee Royal Services Commission was a cause of some stir on the Estate. There were meetings of the Agricultural Branch of the Indian Officers' Association at the College in which the Questionnaires of the Commission were discussed. Mr. T. V. Ramakrishnayyar was called upon to give evidence on behalf of the Indian Officers' Association at Madras in the first week of January. Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan also gave evidence before the Commission on behalf of a group of Indian Officers of the Indian Agricultural Service.

Radhakalyanam. This annual function of the Estate was celebrated on Sunday the 27th January. The Day began with the

celebration of the symbolical marriage of "Radha" and "Krishna" and the usual procession which was joined by many visitors from Coimbatore. In the afternoon there was a "Harikatha" on "Vatsala Parinayam" in Kanarese by a Lady Bhagavathar, Sanjeevi Bai of South Kanara. The performance was excellent in many ways—the music, the delivery and the diction being appreciated by a large audience. A "Bhajana" at night in the orthodox style of the devotional cult of Hinduism brought the function to a successful close.

Election of Office-bearers—Officers' Club. At a meeting held on the 28th January '24, the following elections were made. Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar B.A., F.Z.S. was elected President of the Club for the current year by a large majority, Mr. T. V. Rajagopalacharya—Vice President, Mr. T. V. Subramaniam,—Secretary, Mr. Sekharan Nair,—Assistant Secretary and Treasurer and Messrs. M. U. Vellodi, C. Tadulinga Mudaliar and M. Anandan, members of the Managing Committee. Messrs. A. C. Rajagopala Aiyangar and D. Srinivasa Rao were appointed Auditors and Rao Sahib T. S. Venkataraman and V. Muthusami Aiyar, members of the Mess Committee.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS.

Millets Farm. Land lying to the north of the Cotton Specialist's Farm was acquired by the Government and handed over during September to the Millets Specialist. Work is being pushed on energetically to plot the fields and bring the land into working condition before the advent of the next season. Foundations for the Laboratory and Farm buildings have been laid and building work is progressing rapidly.

The Indian Science Congress—Bangalore:—The following officers were deputed to attend the Indian Science Congress which met for a second time at Bangalore during the week Jan. 14th to 19th:—Rao Sahib M. R. Ramaswami Sivan, Rao Sahib T. S. Venkataraman, Mr. B. Viswanath, Mr. G. N. Rangaswami Ayyangar, Mr. T. V. Ramakrishnayyar, Mr. P. S. Jeevanna Rao, Rao Sahib Y. Ramachandra Rao and Mr. Govinda Kidavu. Messrs: Kasinatha Ayyar, C. V. Ramaswami Ayyar, M. Suryanarayana, Cherian Jacob, Chandrasekharaiyar, M. Rajagopala Ayyar and K. L. Ramakrishna Rao (III Circle) also attended but at their own expense. Dewan Bahadur K. Rangachariar was also present, as also was Mr. P. V. Isaac, Dipterist, from the Pusa Agr. Research Institute.