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The College Day and Conference.

The functions which have by custom, the present year is the fifth year of the full celebrations, become associated with College Day cater for all classes and affect all the dwellers on the Estate so that each can find some point of interest, and every one can regard it from his own point of view. The athletic student will look forward to it as the opportunity to display his prowess and receive the rewards therefor; the cooks in the Hostel no doubt regard it as a bore since it implies a good deal more work than usual; the Principal worries about the terms of his opening speech and though proud of the College, no doubt heaves a sigh of relief when it is all over; the lazy student hails it as a welcome respite from the monotonous round of his studies.

The celebrations this year followed the usual routine, though to the chagrin of the Andhra students, Telugu found

no place in the Dramatic Performance. There were the usual sports in which the usual students competed, and won the usual prizes. The entries were in nearly every case meagre, and the winners of the prizes could be counted on the fingers of both hands. It is a pity that more do not enter, and specialize for the events in which they think they would have a chance, instead of allowing a few to sweep the board.

The Conference opened in the usual manner on the following morning. With the Hon. Mr. Barber who occupied the chair, were associated on the platform, the Union President Mr. R. Cecil Wood, the Vice Presidents, Mr. D. Ananda Rao and Mr. Vengail Krishnan Nayanar, and the Secretary M. R. Ry. K. Krishnamurthi Rao. The selection of the papers to be read was liberal; in more than one case, it would have been better to have had less paper and more discussion. The Conference was fortunate in having persuaded Mr. Hilson to give them the results of his work on sheep at Hagari, and Mr. Yegnanarayana Aiyar is to be congratulated on his excellent paper on Agricultural Implements. This was amplified later in the day by an all too short magic lantern lecture on the same subject. We are grateful to Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar for his kind criticism and well-considered advice to take more advantage of the co-operative movement in our District work. A full description of the papers will appear subsequently. Naturally all were not of the same merit, but some failed to attract the audience because, though their preparation had certainly entailed considerable labour, they were merely descriptive and contained no new ideas. They

could thus lead to no discussion, and full advantage was not taken of the gathering of so much agricultural intellect. The Conference will only fulfil a useful object, when it forms a means by which new ideas, new proposals or new work can be put forward and discussed with advantage as much to the reader of the paper as his audience. The informal meeting held on a later date of the District Staff is a most useful adjunct to the College Day functions, and is valuable, because definite proposals based on personal experience, for the removal of difficulties or the improvement of conditions, are brought up and discussed by those whom they concern. The Union officials are to be congratulated on the success they have achieved and the importance which they have managed to confer on the Union. The heading to the description of the Conference, in the *Madras Mail* was printed in type hitherto reserved for the meetings of the Legislative Council, and never granted to the ordinary District Conference—Bravo, the Union.

Mr. S. L. D'Silva:—An appreciation.

Mr. S. L. D'Silva, Veterinary Assistant of the College, retired on 1st July 1915 after a long and meritorious service of over 32 years. Coming from a well known and influential Catholic family of Mangalore, Mr. D'Silva joined the Madras College of Agriculture at Saidapet in 1880 and passed out, after a brilliant career, in 1883. He was not only the best man of his batch, but he obtained marks far above the first man in any batch, before or after him. Soon after passing, he was employed as a Cattle Disease Inspector and, within 2 years, was selected to act for Mr. C. Benson as Deputy Superintendent