

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

of the Saidapet Farm. He joined the teaching staff of the Agricultural College at Saidapet in 1888 and has been connected with the teaching of Veterinary Science and Live Stock from that year until the date of his retirement—a period of 27 years. In addition to teaching, he was the officer in charge of the Veterinary Hospital at Saidapet and latterly at Coimbatore. His fame as a Veterinary physician and surgeon was great, a large number of equine, bovine and canine patients having been sent to him for treatment from all parts of Madras, from the magnates of the city, European and Indian, to the poorest jatkawallah. The Veterinary College in Madras is only 12 or 13 years old, but Mr. D'Silva had made his reputation long ago, so much so that a deputation to the Bombay Veterinary College for training which was then being followed for Senior Veterinary upper subordinates was considered unnecessary for him. The praiseworthy mention made of him year after year in the administration reports during the last 25 years shows that the work which he did was of a high order and was well appreciated by the Heads of Departments.

When Mr. Keess retired from the Principalship of the Saidapet College in 1906, the burden of carrying on the administration of the institution for over 2 years fell on his shoulders as acting Vice Principal. Probably any other person with a lesser foresight might have been glad of this opportunity to be the Head of the Institution, but Mr. D'Silva foresaw that the period of his charge was not a happy one to get through and that, though the teaching staff was the same as before, the College was more or less under a cloud. The Saidapet college was, rightly or wrongly, condemned as having failed in its purposes, and only those who were in that college from 1906 to 1908 could realise the anxiety with which they were daily expecting the orders deciding the fate of that institution and of those who were teaching and who were being taught there. The thanks of these men are due to Mr. Keess who (in 1906) and Mr. Chadwick who (in 1915), in unmistakeable language, have stated that, whatever was the measure of success of that institution according to the verdict of a future administrator, the men who were engaged in teaching and several of their students had done their work honestly and satisfacto-

rily. The institution was eventually ordered to be closed in June 1908; and the services of the staff were transferred to the new Coimbatore College. Mr. D'Silva's health broke down considerably during this period and he had to take a long furlough before joining his duties at Coimbatore. Mr. D'Silva's work, both as a teacher and as a Veterinary practitioner, was highly appreciated by his students, by his superior officers and by the general public, but, owing to a curious run of a number of unfortunate coincidences, we must say that he did not get the good things of the world to the extent that he deserved. Again, having succeeded to the 1st Assistant's place of the Saidapet College in the Provincial Service in the Educational Department on the death of Mr. Krishna Prablm in 1904 and appointed to act as Vice-Principal of the Saidapet college in the Indian Educational Service for over 2 years, he should have retired now, (if only the college was not technically transferred from the Educational Department), under normal conditions, as a gazetted officer on a much higher pay than as a nongazetted officer on Rs. 250. No one could probably be blamed for it, for there was no post available in the new Agricultural Department, carrying a higher salary than Rs. 250 to which Mr. D'Silva could possibly have been appointed. It would have gladdened the hearts of many of his old students if the new Reorganisation Scheme had come a few years earlier and if Mr. D'Silva had been appointed to one of the higher posts. But no. As we said above, it was an unfortunate run of coincidences. All the same, Mr. D'Silva took everything in a philosophical mood. Out of the little he had, he gave freely and unostentatiously to the poor. His old students of 1900 will probably not recognise in the resigned philosopher of 1915 the vein of pleasant humour which they then used to associate with him. Being a good Latin scholar, he used to pour over old classic authors and devote all his leisure hours to the study of religious literature. He was a devout Christian and a pious soul.

Having been associated with Mr. D'Silva for over quarter of a century, first as student and latterly as colleague, we had occasional differences of opinion but we have always found pleasure in yielding to

his wiser counsel. His students have always cherished the highest regard for him and unanimously elected him the resident Vice-President of the students' Union for a number of years until he declined to hold office any longer on the plea that younger men should share the honour. He was one of the promoters of the Union and was largely responsible for its initial working.

Just before taking leave of us, he said that, unlike a large number of his old colleagues who entered service along with him but died in harness, he had been spared by Providence to retire on attaining his 55th year, fairly healthy and strong. If he only cares, he will soon find that owners of animals in Madras have not forgotten him and that his veterinary patients flock to him.

Mr. D'Silva has been fortunate in having as his partner in life, a lady who has been a good counsellor to him all these years. May they live long in their peaceful little retreat in Guindy which they have built on the bank of the river Adyar.

M. R. R. Sivan.

"The Munagala Prize" Essay.

[The economies of an Indian village with special reference to Agriculture, Cooperation and Accounts as at present exist, and how improvements could be brought about, with particular attention to the conditions of a typical village.]

The village of whose economic conditions, I am detailing in the following pages is fairly typical in its agriculture, in the class of its people, and in the general ways of their life of a good portion of Tanjore District. Lying on both sides of the Cauveri, the village of Sarukkai is bounded on the two sides by the rivers Coleroon and Arasalar, the branches of the Cauveri itself. There are thus within a breadth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of this village three important rivers, with a net work of irrigation channels. The village is only two miles, from the nearest town of Papanasam, the newly constituted Taluq head-quarters,