

## Mr. F. H. BUTCHER

Mr. F. H. Butcher, Retired Curator of the Government Botanical Gardens, Ootacamund was born at Maresfield in Sussex on the 29th May 1881. He entered the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1905 after being trained at noted Gardens and Nurseries, including Longleat, the country seat of the Marquis of Bath. Whilst at Kew he obtained certificates for Systematic Botany, Geographical Botany and Physics and Chemistry and was also awarded a certificate for a collection of British plants.

In May 1907, Mr. Butcher was appointed by the Secretary of State for service in India and arrived at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Sibpur, Calcutta on 17th July of the same year, and after training was appointed Assistant Curator of the Garden. Subsequently he also acted as Curator for a short time. From Sibpur, he came over to Ootacamund as acting Curator of the Botanic Gardens and Parks in November 1908, and later was confirmed as Curator in 1910 and held the post until retirement.

During the period spent at Sibpur, he was deputed by the Botanic Survey of India with W. G. Craib, afterwards Professor of Botany at Aberdeen University to tour the Khasia Hills on a plant collecting expedition during which a large collection of herbarium specimens and living plants were made, one or two of which were I believe, new to science. At the Sibpur Botanic Garden he worked successively under Col. Gage, I. M. S., the then Superintendent and Sir William Wright Smith, the then Curator of the herbarium who for a time acted as Superintendent and is now Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh and world famed botanist. It was mainly Mr. Wright Smith's influence that Mr. Butcher was appointed to

### College Ootacamund.

**Students' corner.** *Literary.* The va many new trees and plants have of the Students' Club was delivered by Mr. Agricultural Research Station at 13th March. "My tour to Kashmir" was t. 1917 and until a few years ago lengthy discourse lasting for nearly 2 hours, of periods. The Pomological aspects of Kashmir and Kashmiri life and illu in 1920 and still remains in lantern slides.

*Sports.* There were a hockey g the Japanese Plum, the Grape-fruit, and the students. The former end eties of Apple. The Kallar and Burliar for the officers.

*Club Day.* The Annual Day of special attention and a large number celebrated with great enthusiasm on, en established and are coming into Savoor, M. A. (Cantab), D. Sc. (Le College, Palghat was the president of well arranged tea for guests and mem secretary of the Nilgiri Agri-Horti- hundred. While at tea the guests wers and was present at the Society's The tea was followed by the formal dth one exception.



He joined the Nilgiri Volunteer Rifles (now designated as the Nilgiri Malabar Battalion) in 1912, received his first Commission in 1915, rose to the Second in Command of the Battalion and retired with the rank of Major in 1934. He was the recipient of the General Service Medal for services rendered during the Great War, the Indian General Service Medal (Malabar) and the Volunteer long service Medal. Mr. Butcher is also a prominent Freemason and was for many years a keen *Shikari*. We wish him in his retirement, all health and happiness. (R. C. B.)

## Weather Review (FEBRUARY 1936).

### RAINFALL DATA

Division	Station	Actual for month	Departure from normal	Total since January 1st	Division	Station	Actual for month	Departure from normal	Total since January 1st
Circars	Gopalpore	3.2	+2.5	4.8	South	Negapatam	4.2	+3.6	4.2
	Berhampore*	3.4	+2.5	5.1		Aduthurai*	2.0	+1.8	2.0
	Calingapatam	2.8	+2.4	2.9		Madura	2.5	+2.4	2.7
	Vizagapatam	3.7	+2.9	4.7		Pamban	1.3	+0.7	1.7
	Anakapalli*	4.6	+1.8	0.0		Koilpatti*	1.2	+0.5	1.3
	Samalkota*	7.2	+6.2	7.5		Palamkottah	1.4	+0.6	1.60
	Maruteru*	4.1	+3.9	4.1	West Coast	Trivandrum	0.0	-0.7	0.4
	Cocanada	3.4	+3.1	4.6		Cochin	1.5	+0.7	1.4
Ceded Dists.	Masulipatam	4.4	+3.9	4.4		Calicut	3.3	+3.1	3.3
	Kurnool	1.7	+1.6	1.7		Pattambi*	0.7	+0.1	0.7
	Nandyal*	1.1	+0.9	1.1		Taliparamba*	0.2	-0.1	0.18
	Hagari*	0.90	+0.5	0.9		Kasargode*	0.3	+0.1	0.3
	Bellary	0.0	-0.2	0.0		Nileshwar*	0.8	+0.8	0.8
	Anantapur	0.5	+0.4	0.5		Mangalore			
Carnatic	Cuddapah				Mysore and Coorg	Chitaldrug	0.1	+0.1	0.1
	Nellore	1.9	+1.8	1.9		Bangalore	0.0	-0.1	0.0
	Madras	2.5	+2.2	2.6		Mysore	0.2	0.0	0.2
	Palur*	2.4	+2.2	2.4		Mercara	0.3	0.0	0.3
	Palakuppam*	1.5	+0.67	1.53	Hills.	Kodaikanal	0.6	-0.8	0.8
Central	Cuddalore	2.0	+1.1	2.0		Coonoor	2.7	—	4.2
	Vellore	0.7	+0.3	0.7		Ootacamund*	0.8	+0.1	5.9
	Hosur cattle farm*					Nanjanad*	0.8	+0.3	1.0
	Salem	3.5	+3.3	3.5					
	Coimbatore	1.4	+1.0	1.4					
	Coimbatore Res. Inst.*	1.2	+0.8	1.2					
	Trichinopoly	0.6	+0.1	0.9					

\* Meteorological Stations of the Madras Agricultural Department.

**Summary of Weather Conditions.** During the month a number of Western disturbances affected the North West Frontier. These disturbances caused thunderstorms and local rains in Kashmir, Baluchistan and North West Frontier. Thunderstorms gave nearly general rain in the West Central Provinces and local rain in the North Hyderabad, North Madras coast, Mysore and Malabar. Light