

Estate Notes.

War Fund Entertainment:—A dramatic performance in aid of the War Fund, was, on the 6th December 1915, given by the students of the College. Our thanks are due to our many friends, in Coimbatore and elsewhere, who so generously assisted to make the show a financial success. The students presented two dramas, one in English, Goldsmith's "The Good Natured man," and the second in Tamil, "Vasanthika." It would be invidious to attempt to draw comparisons, both were excellent and showed evidence of considerable care and industry in their presentation. A new departure was the fitting up of the stage across the southern end of the main hall down stairs. This was a great success, the stage being when lifted up, a perfect picture, but the Hall was inclined to be draughty and became very cold at night.

The acting was much appreciated, and M. R. Ry. Vittal Rao, S. Kuppuswami, Sitharama Ayyar, Srinivasachari and Dharmalinga Mudaliar especially merited the applause they received for their clever impersonations, while Avadinayakam Pillai as the clown kept the house in roars of laughter whenever he appeared.

Our heartfelt thanks are due to Messrs. Wood and Rajagopala Ayyar for the great pains they took in coaching up the students in English and Tamil plays respectively and to Mrs. Harrison for the trouble she took in personally supervising the making of the costumes for the English play.

The accounts have been kindly audited by M. R. Ry. U. V. Venkatasubbayyah, the account clerk in the Principal's Office. They show total receipts Rs 424-3-11 made up of the sale of tickets and subscriptions from friends. As the expenses only amounted to Rs. 124-3-11, a sum of Rs. 300/- has been obtained, which has been remitted to the Coimbatore Ladies War Fund.

An unwelcome visitor:—We were congratulating ourselves not long ago that plague which used to be our annual visitor to Coimbatore had not made its appearance the last two years, but as luck would have it, Coimbatore showed symptoms of recrudescence some months ago, but we in the estate had the good fortune of being free from it till the College closed for Christmas vacation. The College opened again on the 6th of January but unfortunately a few rat falls were reported on the farm, and it falls to our lot to record that plague claimed two victims from the estate—a cooly woman and the farm clerk, a christian young man who was recently married. Such a thing had never before occurred in the history of the College. We were possibly too sanguine of our immunity but Providence has willed it otherwise. We extend our heartiest sympathy to the poor young widow and relations that Sundarsanam has left behind him. Thanks to the stringent and speedy measures taken by the Principal as Honorary Assistant Plague Officer, we are thankful to say that no further cases have occurred and let us hope that we have seen the end of it. The whole estate was speedily evacuated, the Farm office, Stores and Veterinary Hospital were provided with accommodation in tents and officers whose presence was essential in the immediate vicinity of the Farm were located in tents and huts erected near by.

Health camps were at once erected in the northern end of the Farm, and it was most fortunate that the Principal was able to obtain the vacant student quarters at the Forest College next to us where all the married men with their families were accommodated. We might call this a God-send as otherwise the women and children would have had to put up with a deal of privation and suffering during the cold nights of early January. Owing to this dislocation of work it was decided by the College Board that the College should be closed and students were sent away immediately as several of them expressed anxiety of being

here. The third and first year students were sent away and the 2nd year batch which was on tour with the Assistant Principal was broken up at the end of the tour.

The European officers with their families and some Indian officers set a good example by inoculating themselves for whom a special Assistant Surgeon was sent. A second time we were fortunate to obtain the services of another officer to do inoculation whose presence was fully taken advantage of by everybody in the estate. It was a gratifying sight to see illiterate coolies thronging and offering themselves voluntarily to be inoculated whereas it is customary in towns to bribe the people for this purpose.

Disinfection of the evacuated locality was taken on hand on the 20th January under the immediate supervision of the Sanitary Inspector whose energies have been taxed to the full. The work is nearly complete and the Special Plague Officer in charge has permitted the occupation of quarters by those who have been inoculated. The Principal had to go away into camp on the 22nd and in his absence the work has devolved upon the Assistant Principal. We have now a patrol of policemen both day and night watching the evacuated buildings.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the way in which this most arduous and responsible task was grappled by Mr. Wood. He spared no pains in seeing to the comfort and convenience of the residents in the estate, and although the plague regulations had to be rigorously enforced, they were always done with a consideration that is due of a father to his children. We hope that by the time he returns he would be freed from all anxiety on this score.

We take this opportunity of offering our apologies to our readers. The January issue of the Journal is very much belated but we hope they will take that this dislocation of our work owing

to the presence of this most unwelcome visitor in our midst as a sufficient excuse for the delay.

A Narbudha reaping machine was for the first time given a trial on the Central Farm this harvest season. It was worked by two pairs of fast-going animals. The machine has to be drawn fast to get the best work done as a slow movement of the knife causes the standing crop to bend and thus escape being cut. It can cover $\frac{3}{4}$ to one acre an hour according to the crop cut and size of the field to admit of its free movements. Fodder crop of cholam was cut at an acre an hour. Thenai crop was the next it could tackle best. The difficulty in this case was that some of the ear heads of the crop were very roughly handled so that it made the subsequent gathering difficult. Fodder Cumbu grown thick could not be cut more than $\frac{3}{4}$ an acre an hour in as much as the crop clogged the knife and stopped the working of the machine at times. A grain crop of cholam can be well dealt with if the plants are not too thick to be accommodated within the angles of the cutting blade.

From the 6th to 10th January Class II students were taken on a tour by the Assistant Principal and the Special Assistant. They visited Bezwada, Guntur, Nandyal and Bangalore. Class III was taken on a tour to the Telugu districts of Bellary, Kurnool, Godaveri and Vizagapatam by the Principal. The students joined the Principal at Hagari on the 24th January and on closing the tour at Anakapalle, they returned to their homes as the College is yet closed on account of plague.

Departmental Notes.

Mr. V. S. Narayanaswami Ayyar has been permanently posted to the Central Farm as Director finds that Coimbatore should be kept in full strength.

We are glad to understand that Mr. K. T. Alwa L. Ag., the first Agricultural Medalist of the Coimbatore College has been promoted to be a 2nd grade manager from 1st January. Here we may also state that Mr. Alwa is the first of the Coimbatore graduates to get a promotion.