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N. B.:—Contributors are requested to send in their contributions written legibly in ink on one side of the paper only.—Editor.

Editorial Notes.

On the 23rd of October 1916 the Agricultural College and Research Institute had the privilege of welcoming His Excellency Lord Pentland into the estate. The great interest which our Governor has been taking in the progress of agriculture in the Presidency is evident from his setting apart practically a whole day both morning and evening for the visit.

H. E. The
Governor's
visit.

His Excellency motored to the Farmyard at about 7-30 A. M. when he was received by the Director of Agriculture and the Principal. He inspected the various agricultural implements both indigenous and foreign and saw some of the students working at the winnowing and threshing machines. After being shown round the Veterinary Hospital by Mr. Wilson, the Veterinary Assistant, His

Excellency inspected the cattle stalls where besides the famous Kangayams he saw some Jersey cows reputed to be good milkers and a fine specimen of the Delhi buffalo. The stud bulls of the Farm—both of foreign and local origin—and a fine set of calves obtained by crossing the 2 breeds *inter-se* next attracted his attention. Here His Excellency took a few snapshots and thence proceeded to the Dairy which was shown round by Mr. Ananda Rao, the Assistant Principal of the College. Here His Excellency made enquiries regarding the sales of butter and the sort of training the students get in the Dairy.

Some of the fields of the Farm—including a field of Cambodia cotton where bullock-hoeing was in progress—were next visited. The officers' club had here put up a triumphal arch of welcome to His Excellency. After visiting the co-operative stores which were opened on the estate about 6 years ago for the convenience of the residents, he proceeded to the Botanic garden which was shown round by Mr. Parnell, the Government Economic Botanist. From there His Excellency drove to the residence of Mr. Cumming, the Collector of Coimbatore.

In the afternoon His Excellency arrived at the College a little after 3 P. M. and was received at the portico by the Director, the Principal and the gazetted officers of the College. After inspecting the College Musuem, he passed on to the research laboratory of the Government Agricultural Chemist where Dr. W. H. Harrison explained to him the various lines of work now in progress, such as, soil surveys of various districts, and analyses of well and irrigation waters and

manures. In the Teaching Chemical Laboratory he saw the students conducting some interesting experiments on the water holding capacity of the different kinds of soils, and the relative capillarity of different kinds of soils under the guidance of M. R. Ry., M. R. Ramaswami Sivan Avl., the Senior assistant to the Agricultural Chemist. He then proceeded to the section under the control of Dr. C. A. Barber, the Government Sugarcane Expert and was shown here actual specimens, paintings and photographs of North Indian and South Indian canes. Suitable exhibits were put up to demonstrate the various stages in the raising of sugarcane seedlings and some of the actual achievements of the Sugarcane Breeding Station. The next section to be visited was that of Mr. Parnell, the Government Economic Botanist, who is engaged in Mendelian work on two of the most important crops of the Presidency viz., paddy and cotton. The laboratory of Mr. Mac Rae, the Government Mycologist was next visited and here His Excellency saw various exhibits to demonstrate the life histories of some of the main fungus diseases of the Presidency, such as that of the areca-nut, the cocoanut, the palmyra and rubber. From thence he proceeded to the section of M. R. Ry. Rai Bahadur K. Rangachariar Avl., the Government Lecturing Botanist and the author of a standard Text-book on Botany, and the Governor expressed keen interest in the new work on Agricultural Botany which is now in the making. At the laboratory of the Government Entomologist under M. R. Ry. T. V. Ramakrishna Iyer Avl., His Excellency saw the various kinds of insects according to their general and economic importance. His Excellency then adjourned to the general lecture room to have Tea which had been

arranged by Mr. R. C. Wood, the Principal, helped by the European ladies on the Estate. Besides His Excellency and party there were present at this function all the gazetted officers of the college, Mr. Steel, Mr. Howley and Mr. Hart.

After inspecting some of the rooms in the students' hostel His Excellency proceeded to the maidan to lay the foundation stone of the Pavilion. En-route the M. A. S. Union had put up a triumphal arch welcoming His Excellency.

Mr. G. A. D. Stuart, the Director of Agriculture, in requesting His Excellency to lay the foundation stone of the pavilion said that it was to be a combined sporting pavilion, the students' reading room and the hostel manager's office. He further observed that the students, in a true sporting spirit had taken the contract of the building and by working with their own hands hoped to raise a much larger building than would be ordinarily possible for the sanctioned amount of Rs. 2500. He added that incidentally the students would gain much valuable experience in carpentry, masonry and house building. Amidst loud applause His Excellency declared *the stone well and truly laid* and said that he hoped that the building would give shelter and comfort to many generations of sporting Madras Agricultural College Students. His Excellency left the Estate about 6 P. M. amidst loud cheers.

We invite the attention of the members of the Union to the 2 prize essays, the details of which will be found in the first two pages of this issue. Such prizes are instituted

with the object of stimulating thought on questions of paramount importance to the agriculturist. Incidentally they also yield a certain amount of matter for the journal. We have heard it said that the offer is too inadequate for the valuable information the competitors are expected to part with. We strongly deprecate viewing this as a piece of commercial transaction. On the other hand the competitors are expected to enter the lists in the spirit of the good Knight Templars of old—loving the fight for the sake of fighting. Others have said that the fear of risking their reputation keeps many a member from the competition. We may here mention that the executive of the Union is bound to absolute secrecy and the essayists are known only by the *nom-de-plumes*. We are induced to make these remarks by the very small number of competitors in the previous years, a fact which has made many a donor doubt the usefulness of such prizes.

The working committee of the Union has resolved to present contributors of *original* articles with 12 copies of the journal or 12 copies of their articles. We are frequently running short of matter and we appeal to all the members of the Union to do their little bit for this little journal of ours.

We congratulate M. E. Couchman Esq., I. C. S. our former Director on his elevation to the Board of Revenue as 4th member Land Revenue Department. He is continuing to take a keen interest in our department and its activities, and we wish him all success in his new career.

The Prize
Essays.

Contributions
to the
Journal.

The Hon'ble
Mr. M. E.
Couchman.

We have received the first copy of 'The Peradeniyan' just started at the Tropical School of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Ceylon. It is to be a half-yearly journal to be published on 1st October and 1st March and is priced at ^{The} ^{Peradeniyan.} Rs. 3/- a year. 'The object of the journal is to chronicle the doings of the school of Tropical Agriculture and of the students of the school past and present.' The school itself is a unique one and its doings should certainly be interesting. We are told that it is not to be an agricultural journal and subjects of a purely technical nature will not be given undue prominence. Space will be provided for matters of general interest and of a lighter vein. This journal resembles our own in some respects and we give it a very hearty welcome.

We are very sorry to find that owing to an oversight, we forgot to make mention in the leading article of the conference number of our Journal, of the fact ^{An omission.} that during the College Day an announcement was made of a donation of Rs. 100/- by the Zemindar of Parlakimidi, for the institution of a cup to be presented to the best athlete of the College for 3 or 4 consecutive years. We owe the Zemindar an apology for this omission.

D'Silva Memorial Fund.

At a meeting of some of the old students of Mr. D'Silva resident on the College Estate held on 6th October 1916 and presided over by Mr. Ananda Rao it was resolved,