

Correspondence.

To

THE EDITOR,

JOURNAL OF THE

MADRAS AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS' UNION,

COIMBATORE.

SIR,

In the August issue of the Journal while drawing the attention of your readers to a contribution on the Students' Union by 'Hustle,' you kindly promised to devote some space for correspondence on the subject of directing the funds and activities of the Union.

'Hustle' is perfectly justified in raising the question at issue and the thanks of the Union are due to him. I have read with much interest his article, but although at the outset he proposes ways and means to extend the programme of the Union, the key note of his article seems to be "How best can we spend the accumulated funds"? In his extreme anxiety to spend the money, he suggests means to fritter it away. For instance, investing funds on medals, prizes, tennis courts etc., are some of his suggestions. To say that it is better to spend too fast than too slow is purely a western idea and it is not likely to generally commend itself to Indians. It ought also to be borne in mind that the present funds are really the life subscriptions of many of the present members and it is not likely that the funds will continue to accumulate in future in the same proportion as in the past. When we come to think of it, there is not so very much money likely to lie idle.

'Hustle' also suggests translation work and the formation of sub-committees to investigate into economic questions such as leases. The suggestion though excellent in itself is impracticable as it is not known who have the time to do such work. A

majority of the members of the Union are either students or Government officers who can ill-spare the time. It would indeed be a good thing if all the members strive to make the journal a first class concern. I hope many will agree with me that there is much room for improvement in the quality of matter and in the size of the journal. The whole work at present devolves on the committee and many of the mofussil members are simply lookers-on. If every member, mofussil or resident takes upon himself the responsibility of contributing his mite, a great deal might be done towards the improvement of the journal. The journal is not intended to be run at a profit and every anna obtained over and above the cost of running it might be utilized, in making it more attractive. A certain amount of money from the capital funds may be utilised, if necessary, to include original photographs and blocks for insertion in the journal.

One of the students of the college is being benefited by a loan from the Union. It remains to be seen how far the present incumbent is going to take full advantage of the privilege, and it may safely be assumed that upon this experiment depends the future policy of the Union in the utilisation of its funds in this direction. It is also suggested that the Union might arrange to send promising young men to foreign countries. I do not think that this is necessary as the Government themselves have undertaken to do this at the termination of the War.

Now that the Union has been successful in obtaining over Rs. 2000, it is time that it provides itself with a habitation. The officers have a club, the students have a pavilion, but the Union is only permitted to stay in a room kindly lent by the Principal. This is not what it ought to be. The present funds ought to be able to provide a sufficiently commodious office with provision for extension.

When this becomes an accomplished fact and more funds are forthcoming, the Union might concern itself with providing a

lending and circulating library. Although the library at the college is excellent, red-tapism does not permit its being as useful as it might be. Besides, the library would be of immense value to many of the mofussil non-officer members who never can have access to the college library. These are only a few suggestions out of many that strike one. But they may be too ambitious for our present purposes. Money is sure to come provided we have a definite and useful programme. With the Government and the landed aristocracy on either side of us, who can deter us from marching onward on the path of progress unless it be our own pessimism?

Yours &c.,
A member.

Notes.

Nutrition of Proteids:—The view almost universally held until now, with regard to the nutrition of proteids is that food-proteids like the gluten of wheat are acted upon by the digestive juices in the alimentary canal and converted into soluble peptones which are then absorbed by the blood vessels and converted into body proteids like the myosin of the muscle. In a lecture delivered before the Chemical society a few months ago, Professor F. G. Hopkins, Biochemist, states that food-proteids are completely broken up in the intestines into about 18 simple amino-acids of definitely known composition, that these amides are absorbed in circulation and carried to the tissues which have the power of synthesising suitable body-proteids. That peptones are not found in blood vessels, that peptones injected into the system cause poisonous symptoms in some cases and total excretion is as such in the urine in all cases and that a number of amide bodies have been found to be present in the blood, these form strong presumptive evidence in favour of Professor Hopkins's views. His conclusions, however, have been derived from carefully conducted experiments on live rats, these animals having been found to be