

There have been some changes in the rules of the College prizes to follow the change in curriculum, the most important is in the Clogstoun prize, which is no longer for the Diploma course but for the best man in the short course. This year as an exceptional case, there are two medals for the Clogstoun: one for the Diploma course and another for the certificate course.

Students in future will have to provide themselves with the uniform prescribed, a shirt for games and the College foster blaze with the pocket badges. The object of this is to foster in students a spirit of unity, so that the sight of the familiar blaze will arouse whenever seen old memories of student days. For convenience, a uniform set of field clothes of *Khakhi* is also recommended for practical work.

Before closing, gentlemen, I must apologise for the heat. We usually close earlier in the year, but owing to an outbreak of plague, which has thrown everything back, we are a month later than usual.

The Director's Speech.

MR. WOOD, STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,
COIMBATORE.

You one and all are doubtless experiencing a great sense of relief that this term has at last come to an end. It has been unduly protracted on account of plague last January which caused a serious, but I am glad to say only temporary, dislocation of work. By continuing throughout April, it has been possible to make up the course of lectures and bring the session to a satisfactory termination but any term so prolonged is a trial to all, both to staff and students and I am sure you all feel thankful that at last it is at an end. None will be feeling this sense of relief so keenly as those who have been successful in their course. Thus in the third year they completed successfully a full course of study upon which they embarked three years ago whilst others in the new 2 years' course have the satisfaction of attaining one stage at least in their progress. To all of those, we most heartily

and unreservedly give our congratulations. The Day on which a College publicly labels its students as successful is a proud day for each of those so marked and we all rejoice with you in this feeling of legitimate pride.

In one sense this Diploma Day is distinguished from all its predecessors and from all which will probably follow hereafter. It is the last time we take leave of those who have gone through the old uniform three years course. Henceforth all our students will be under the more recent regulations. You are well aware, I believe, of the reasons which led to this change. They were mainly two-fold: first, the desire to pass more students through the course in practical agriculture so that they may be better suited to manage their own lands when they return thereto; and the second reason was to ensure for the higher course a small but a picked body of students who would be able to respond more rapidly and thoroughly to the teaching in the more difficult course. Several of those who proceed to this higher course will doubtless be looking forward to gaining appointments in the Agricultural Department, and so I wish to take this opportunity to state clearly that we guarantee no appointment whatever. It is quite impossible to do so; and because students are entertained for the longer course we do not thereby make any promise to them of recruiting them ultimately into the department. Yet at the same time you know that we have vacancies and that for the present more men are needed; and that we shall look to the students who are successful in the longer course to fill several of such vacancies. To what extent men will be required to meet the growing needs of this Department depends solely on those of us who are now in the Department and on those who are now entering it and on those who shortly will join us. On previous occasions I have already said that your future in this Department is in your own hands and the fact is so true that it cannot be insisted upon too strongly. The scope of our future usefulness depends primarily

upon you and upon the traditions which we and you can build up and hand down to our successor; and I ask you as earnestly as I can to see, that the tradition which you hand down may be one of which your successor will be proud. To every body of men working as a whole on similar objects the world in course of time attaches some summary verdict. In some short and telling phrase they record their judgment. Such judgment is not infrequently unjust and incomplete. But it behoves all of us jointly and severally to do everything we can to earn a favourable verdict for our own Department. This is an obligation we owe to those who may follow after us in the dim and uncertain future. We have pleasure in welcoming today an officer who has just arrived to join us in furthering our work on cattle. We are about to take over the work connected with Pumping and Boring and Agricultural Engineering generally. Thus for the present our sphere of possible usefulness and with it, responsibility, is widening but whether this process will continue, depends solely on the tradition that you and we build up for our Department. In regard to the personal behaviour of each one of us there are, I think, at least 6 short rules which we must all endeavour to observe most strictly for the welfare and future of Agriculture. Those of you who join service are not required to administer any laws or to exercise any authority; but you go to advise, to help and to influence by your own knowledge, by skill and zeal you possess, and unless you gain the confidence of the agricultural population amongst which you have to work, your advice will not be heeded. In fact the degree of confidence that each one of you can inspire among the ryots is the exact measure of your influence and therefore of your usefulness to the Department. So in all your dealings with them, I would ask, in the first place to be courteous. Objections to new methods are often founded on ignorance, and prejudices have to be met by patient and prolonged discussion. The ryots are not compelled to come to you for anything, but if we are to be of any use to the country

we must see them coming voluntarily to our officers more and more. Therefore be "courteous." Also "be prompt." Agriculture knows no Government holidays. The times of sowing and of harvest are set by the seasons irrespective of the arrangements of man, and you all fully know that no farmer can afford to lose either his seed time or his harvest, and therefore if he comes to you for seed or for advice or help he wants it immediately; it is of no use giving it to him after the time at which he could utilise it to his advantage has passed. Therefore "be prompt." I will not expatiate upon the text of being "honest" because I trust all of you realise the absolute necessity for scrupulous honesty and uprightness. Next come two maxims closely allied: "BE WATCHFUL AND BE CONSTANTLY LEARNING." Many long years must elapse before we can lay claim to anything like a fairly complete knowledge of the rules and conditions which control tropical agriculture throughout the varied conditions in our Presidency. Some of you have now completed the course at this College,—but this does not in any sense mean that you know fully all the details of tropical agriculture; rather it means that you should now be fitted to learn more and observe more. If you are to be of full use to your country and for the work which you voluntarily undertake as the chief occupation of your life, it is essential that when you are in the districts, you are perpetually on the watch for new practices, new varieties of crops, new methods, new diseases, new hindrances to agricultural progress and above all for new methods or new means of increasing or improving the outturn from the soil. If the day ever comes when the bulk of the men in the Department consider that their work is complete, when they have done the actual act for which they were sent out to do, so that agricultural work becomes more and more in the nature of routine, that day will see the end of the usefulness of our Department. The last rule that I ask you to bear in mind may surprise you and that is, be business-like. I do not refer in these terms solely to those

obvious virtues of quick and prompt reply which are so frequently alluded as hall marks of the business-man. Those are very useful and laudable characteristics and can be acquired by those who will. What I mean is be constantly studying the business-side of agriculture in the villages. It is not our object to grow isolated and wonderful plants. It is our object to improve for the ryot the monetary return for the labour he has spent upon his holding, and be certain that an improvement is really of value to him and is not merely an improvement in name. It is essential to get to know the different conditions under which he works. Not infrequently it happens that things in themselves useful, advisable and commendable from a purely agricultural point of view ought not to be recommended to ryots in certain places because on account of certain business difficulties, as for instance, freight. It would not be profitable for them to adopt them. Again sometimes improvements may only become profitable when certain existing business difficulties have been surmounted. Your duties do not stop with the mere growing of crops and plants. They extend inevitably into the ryots' methods of trade and when in your tours and out in the district, I ask you to remember this constantly and study the methods of trade. For this purpose, lectures in co-operation are now a regular feature of our course and we are much indebted to Mr. C. N. Krishnaswami Ayyar M. A., a Co-operator of Coimbatore, for giving them.

If you will endeavour constantly to carry out these rules (and it is no easy matter to do so) you need not be afraid of the traditions which you will leave behind you. You need not fear but that the Agricultural Department will continue to grow and expand in usefulness and that the demand for men will continue. This day has brought to me a very special pleasure because although I have been present at Diploma Day of the last three years yet I have never addressed such a large body of students. As it is, you very nearly fill this hall, and I sincerely hope that

before the day arrives for me to leave India, this hall will not be sufficiently large to hold the students of the Agricultural College. Never forget the debt you and we owe to the old students of Saidapet who, through these recent years of expansion have been our main stay and to whom especially most of you and those who have recently left Coimbatore owe a great part of their education. They, I know, look upon Coimbatore and Coimbatore boys as their children and they watch over your future acts and behaviour with the anxiety and pride of a father. They too will be proud of the day when this hall is too small to contain you. But if that is ever to be attained it depends upon the general reputation which you can gain in the world for the students of the Agricultural College, Coimbatore. We have had stalwarts in the past but we need giants for the future. Finally I would ask the support of all of you, wherever fate may take you, for the Madras Agricultural Students' Union. The labours connected with it fall mostly on a few and I assure you they are onerous. Support the journal as well as ever you can, both by sending contributions and by subscribing to its issues. It is for the moment experiencing considerable difficulties on account of the scarcity of paper. Your support is all the more important.

As this is the best chance I have of speaking to you all, together, I wish to thank you very heartily for the kind invitation to your social gathering this evening which I accept with much pleasure. I wish you all good bye and good holiday.

Notes.

The Agency bean 'Chikkudu gingulu.' On approaching a village in the Godaveri Agency the first sight which strikes one is numbers of large, irregularly-planted pillars of green foliage, in December a mass of delicate purple flowers but, in January, covered with the pods of the ripening beans. Several beans are