

saved from the clutches of noxious insects and added to the material wealth of the country.

[Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar then showed and explained a series of coloured slides which illustrated the life histories of several of the most harmful and most beneficial insects of India. These included the rice stem borer, the rhinoceros beetle, a weevil attacking stored grain, the mulberry and castor silkworms and the lac insect.]

The Students' Union.

Contributed.

When the excitement of the Annual gathering at Coimbatore has died away, and the newly elected committee of the Union get to work, it is time for the union members, and those who have the welfare of the union at heart to take stock of its position and see whether their union is really a power for good—whether it is indeed a power at all and whether when members have paid their subscriptions and read their monthly Journal, they do not consider that they have done their duty by the Union. If this is so, the case of the union is a deplorable one. It is true it has for the past six or seven years been successful, it has attracted considerable notice and to the casual observer of its finances, it might be considered in an extremely flourishing condition. We would not have it otherwise, but is this enough?

The objects of the Union and how they are to be attained are set down in paras 2 and 3 of the rules which are published from time to time in the union journal. The celebration of College Day; the holding of a Conference at that time; and the publishing of a journal are three important means whereby the objects of the union are to be obtained. The fourth duty of the union as therein set down, namely, to maintain a corrected list of addresses of old students, is at present so far as is known, in

complete abeyance. At first and in the beginning this programme was undoubtedly sufficient and the success which has followed the union so far in carrying this out, speaks well of its power and influence. But after six years it is time that this programme be extended, because it is certainly insufficient to attract the subscriptions and donations which the union has in the past been able to expect. The union cannot plead poverty and lack of numbers since both its funds and its members are increasing every year.

Criticisms to have any value must be constructive and certain lines along which work may develop may be indicated in the short space of this article. The union could surely undertake more educational work; it has already given assistance to a student taking the higher course at the College and this kind of help might be extended in other ways. It could take up the work of translation of useful books which are not copyright and which could be sold by the union and its members at cost price. We believe that the question of doing something to educate the farm labourers at the various agricultural stations has been suggested. Work of this kind must necessarily be contracted, at any rate at the start, and this is a difficulty which the union will have to face. If the work is started in too scattered a manner it will run the risk of failure. An annual medal might be offered by the union as a reward for the member who, apart from his official activities had done most for the union during the past year, and in order to stimulate suggestions, a prize, and a substantial one at that, might be offered for the best essay on the subject now under discussion, namely the means of increasing the utility of the union, though it might be objected that the competition for the essay prizes which have in the past been offered through the union had been woefully disappointing.

In the way of investigation, sub-committees of the union might do valuable work. To take a subject at random, the ques-

tion of leases could be taken up and alternative standard lease agreements worked out as a result of the experience of union members whether both public or private. Another suggestion is that the union might pay the expenses of members sent to other parts of India or even abroad, to study special problems. A student interested in sugarcane might for instance be sent to Java, and a part or whole of his expenses paid.

The welfare of the students in residence at the college might be increased by spending money on the tennis courts or on the coming library and reading rooms. The equipment of the library has yet to be taken up and will be a serious drain on the funds of the student's club. The above are a few vague hints which are not intended to be in any way final and which may for all that is known have already been discussed by the members of the union. The point is that the union must do something and do it soon. It cannot continue accumulating funds without showing that it knows what to do with them. It is no excuse to say that reserve fund is necessary because it is not. The reserve of the union lies in the good opinion of its members and friends and that will only be gained by a full programme of honest and useful work. It is better to spend too fast than too slow and if such expenditure is obviously devoted to good objects the union can if necessary appeal for extra subscriptions, on the ground that it has earned it by "something attempted, something done."

"HUSTLE."

Better preservation of cattle manure on the West Coast.

That urine of animals is of very considerable value is a fact not universally known. Urine contains large quantities of valuable plant food. It is unfortunate that liquid manure is so liable to run to waste either by evaporation, by drainage or by