

THE JOURNAL
OF
The Madras Agricultural Students'
Union.

Vol. V.

April 1917.

No. 4.

Editorial Notes.

On the 31st of March 1917 a meeting was held in the big lecture room of the College for the purpose of presenting 'Certificates of Proficiency' to the successful students of the 2 years' course. The function was shorn of some of its usual importance by the fact that there was to be no presentation of 'Diplomas' and the visitors missed the usual academic-robed '*Senatus*' on the dais.

The Principal opened the proceedings by briefly reviewing the principal activities during the past collegiate year and said that with the coming year the college was entering on a considerably altered course of studies. The Students' Club, he remarked, had shown a rather marked activity during the year under review. The outgoing students had had the rather unique privilege of taking part in the construction of the 'Games Pavilion' of the college and in this they had shown great enthusiasm. By their

Presentation
of Certificate
of Proficiency

own personal exertions they had made possible the construction of a more spacious building than that covered by the government grant and are thus leaving behind a rather substantial legacy to the future students of the college. We can easily imagine some of these students hanging about this structure of brick and mortar at future 'College Day' celebrations and feeling a sort of filial love towards it. He greatly commended the spirit in which the outgoing students made a joint contribution of Rs. 100 for the purpose of providing book-shelves in this pavilion.

After presenting the certificates the Director of Agriculture gave a stirring and instructive address to the outgoing students. He dwelt on the paramount importance of Agriculture for a country like ours and pointed out the value and possibilities of Agricultural research in this country. He asked the students to remember that the free education they have been receiving at the college had really cost the government a good deal. Every pie of this sum was ultimately derived from the ryot—the patient, toilsome, hard-worked and sun burnt figure which one can see anywhere and everywhere. To him they owed all the comforts while at the college, the superb buildings, the well-equipped laboratories and the training they had received. Their duty then was plain and that is 'to try and return to the ryot what little they can in return for the bounties they had themselves enjoyed.' We hope that this earnest and direct appeal has sunk deep into the hearts of all the students past and present.

We understand that small stocks of Natal Java Indigo seeds on hand at the experimental station at Peradeniya, Ceylon, would be made available for those who wish to experiment with that plant, at 25 cents (4 annas) per ounce to cover cost of packing and postage. Supplies of up to 4 oz. will be allowed to each applicant and it is estimated that this should be sufficient to plant 1/16 of an acre, but as the stocks of seed are extremely limited, applications should be sent in early. It is thought May-June would be the best time to sow the seed and full instructions will be sent with each packet of seed.

We are extremely sorry to announce that B. Satyanarayana Sastri, a promising student of the present first year class died on the 23rd ultimo at Chodavaram, Vizagapatam. He has been ailing from dyspepsia for over a month and went home for treatment. We offer to his father-in-law Mr. M. Subba Rao, B. A., B. L., First Grade Pleader, Chodavaram—and his other relatives and friends our sincere condolence.

***A brief recollection of the life of a South Canara Ryot.**

Ryots of any locality are the simple and humble children of their surroundings, trying to take advantage of Nature's blessing and to avoid as far as possible Nature's curses in growing crops and thereby earning a livelihood. To understand the surroundings of a Canara ryot, one should know the physical features of the district.

*Brief note of a paper read under the auspices of the Students' Club.