



Strive for truth, acknowledge it wherever you find it, pay homage to it from whatever quarters it might come and success is bound to be yours—and even if success does not crown your endeavours, the striving itself is its own reward. For to strive is to live. Remember, dear teachers, your vocation is a mission, God's mission, and not a mere profession. —G. C. Bose.

OUR CHRONICLE

ACTIVITIES OF THE COLLEGE

Magazine

Through a variety of extra-academic activities the College has tried in its own way to foster a sense of corporate existence in the minds of its boys. With this end in view a magazine named the "Bangabasi College Magazine" was started as early as January, 1903. It was run on the basis of subscriptions and was the first of its kind in the country. Professor Lalit Kumar Banerjee was the genius behind it, and his learned and witty contributions to the pages of the magazine, month by month, added to its prestige and popularity rare in the case of a college magazine. The first issue of the magazine explained the position and function of a college magazine. It has all along served as a chronicle for the important events of college life. The publication was monthly except during the holidays.

It immediately got recognition and received well-deserved praise from competent authorities. The first Quinquennial Review of the progress of education in Bengal (1902/3 to 1906) referred to this College as the first in Bengal to attempt a college magazine. The 1905 Report of the University Commission spoke very appreciatively of the magazine in the following way :

"This college magazine deserves more extended notice partly because it is the only college magazine in Calcutta (the no less excellent La Martiniere Chronicle is more strictly to be considered as a school paper) and partly because it is full of interesting matter furnishing side lights on student life. In this last aspect its matter is of lasting value and will repay study. One merit of the college magazine is that its publication is regular and punctual. It is an effort deserving of highest commendation."

The College magazine became an important and essential part of the College activities and the publication of the magazine as an organ of the College and its students used to be anxiously awaited. In 1916, there was some difficulty experienced with regard to its monthly appearance and for some months bi-monthly issues came out.

It thus continued for nineteen years, and by that time other colleges had started their magazines and a contact was established with these colleges by an exchange of issues. "The Bangabasi Collège Magazine" was modest in appearance, and there was a great desire expressed in 1921 by the students and teachers to improve its get-up.

But the non-co-operation movement, then suddenly started, threatened its very existence. The main object of the magazine was to develop and foster the spirit of cultural co-operation between students and teachers but the students were now bent on boycotting colleges. So it was thought wise to refrain from any attempt at issuing the magazine during these difficult days. When the situation improved, the magazine reappeared after six months of suspended animation.

The magazine now comes out thrice a year and there has been an all round improvement in its form and matter. Formerly it was a regular feature of the College magazine to publish the list of passes each year from the College in its July number, but as the list now has become too long for publication in one issue, this practice has since been discontinued.

The magazine was printed from its inception at *College Press* at 116 Bowbazar Street. On the retirement of its proprietor a new Press was found and the Magazine came to be printed at Minto Press at 12 Palmer Bazar Road till 1921. From 1924, the printing was done at Sulekha Press, 28 Baitakhana Road, and since 1937, Mukherjee Press at 5A Nur Mohammed Lane has been in charge of its printing.

Sports

The Bangabasi College Athletic Club is now a well organized body functioning in different sections e.g., Football, Hockey, Cricket, Volley Ball etc. A section also is in charge of the indoor games whose venue is the Students' Common Room in the Giris Memorial Hall. Interest in sports and games has to be created among our boys, and college education cannot be said to be complete if the spirit "to play the game" is not inculcated among the students. Towards this end in view the College authorities have always directed their serious attention, and the history of how these various sections of sports were organized and carried on is well worth recording.

Football

From the very beginning, arrangements were made to organize sports in the College. In 1903, Professor E. M. Wheeler took charge of these and a Games Club was formed. The College football team drew public notice when in 1907 a play with Mohanbagan ended in a draw.

In 1908, Prof. Jyotish Chandra Hazra (History, Economics and Politics) infused a new life into the sporting club of the College, and it was proposed for the first time to have a voluntary annual subscription to form a nucleus of a fund to meet the cost of sports and of the College magazine. The College teams entered for competitions in various games e.g., The Pickwick Cup and Pitty Challenge Cup and in 1910, participated in the Challenge shield and Swaraj Cup competitions.

With the inauguration of the Elliot Shield competition for Inter-collegiate sports, football became a very lively and popular game for college boys and a healthy sense of rivalry to win the trophy grew among the colleges. Similar enthusiasm has been evinced by the college students in the competition for the Hardinge Birthday Shield.

In 1911, the Calcutta University Inter-collegiate Sports were organized and the meeting was an annual function till 1916, when owing to the war, and departure from Calcutta of several enthusiastic supporters, specially of Prof. E. F. Oaten, its Organizing Secretary, it fell into abeyance. It was revived in 1920 under the auspices of the Calcutta University Institute, and on the 23rd of February there was a successful function to celebrate this.

These sports were managed by an executive council consisting of four representatives taken from the four colleges viz., Presidency, St. Xaviers, Sibpur Engineering and Bangabasi. Prof. Raj Kumar Chakravarty represented Bangabasi College and the Principal donated an amount of Rs. 100/- for the organization of the sports. The College carried off several prizes in the sports of the year.

For giving more scope for sports an Inter-class Football Competition was started in the College in 1920. Mr. G. K. H. Rahaman, a student of our College, the best 100 yds. sprinter in India¹, offered a beautiful cup for the purpose and the cup was named G. C. Bose Cup. The first inter-class final in the G. C. Bose Cup competition

¹ His timing beat the timing of the International Olympic Sports held in Antwerp in 1920. He finished 100 yds. in 10 seconds, beating all records.

was presided over by Prof. Lalit Kumar Banerjee. Every year the games in connection with this cup awaken a lively interest among the students of different sections and classes.

In 1924, the colleges entered for competition in the Inter-College Football League which was organized with the co-operation of some professors of different colleges. In 1926, the College organized six-a-side games for the Shibabaran Memorial Shield competition open to the students of Bangabasi College and School. The shield was offered by a student of the College to perpetuate the memory of his class-fellow Sriman Shibabaran Mukherjee who died while a second year student. The deceased was a great enthusiast in College sporting activities.

In 1931, the College football club annexed the Hardinge Birthday Shield and repeated the same success the following year. In 1934, the College won the Elliot Shield, the much coveted trophy for college students. In 1938, the College football team secured the Inter-Collegiate League Championship and the success of the year was rounded off by annexation of the Ashutosh Memorial Shield.

The reputation of the College football team was high, and two of our boys, Sriman Paritosh Chakravarty and Bhabatosh Bhattacharjee, were selected to represent the I.F.A. in their friendly matches that season.

In 1939, the College again got the Inter-Collegiate League Championship, and the Calcutta University team which met the Punjab University team in the Inter-University match that year, included no less than five of our boys.

They were as follows

Paritosh Chakravarty of Second Year Arts,

Rahaman of Fourth Year Science,

Somana of Third Year Arts,

Sunil Ghosh of Second Year Science,

Sisir Mustafi of Fourth Year Arts.

The College football team almost every year participates in the Wheeler Memorial Shield competition at Berhampore and the Heramba Chandra Moitra Shield competition. They have organized trips in various years to Burdwan, Chinsurah, Santiniketan, Delhi, Cuttack, and Deoghar where in 1945 the College annexed the Archer Shield.

The College Athletics are under the guidance of Prof. Mukundalal Chakravarty, Prof. Sudev Bhusan Ghosh and Prof. Major P. C. Majumder. The Physical Instructor of the College,

Sree Nilmoni Das, the popular "Iron Man", looks after the Gymnasium and is entrusted with the management of the Annual Sports of the College which are now held on the Founder's Day which falls on the 27th of November each year the day being observed by the College as the birth-day of the Founder, as October 29, falls within the Puja holidays.

Cricket

The session 1918-19 marked an epoch in the annals of the College sports. Hitherto the College had no cricket team. The question was mooted by Prof. Panchanan Mitra the then popular Vice-President of the College Sporting Club, and in a meeting convened for the purpose it was decided to start a cricket team. The Principal gave his warm support to the proposal and sanctioned a handsome amount for the purchase of cricket gear. The office-bearers with the Principal as President and Prof. Mitra as Vice-President were elected in a meeting and Prof. Dr. S. Chowdhury who even now has been an enthusiast in all round sportsmanship was elected the first captain to pilot the team. Cricket has not been so popular as Football but the enthusiasm of the present Principal has kept the spirit of cricket alive. A ground was secured at the Congress Exhibition Park for the College and every year during cricket season fillip is given to the cricket club by arranging games and organizing exhibition matches between the students and the members of the staff. For various difficulties the ground at the Exhibition Park was given up after a few years and for the last three years the College has been sharing the grounds of the Indian Territorial Force at Maidan along with some of the sister colleges.

Hockey and Volley Ball

In a meeting held in March 1924, the College Hockey Team was formed. The College was allowed the use of the grounds of Marcus Square one day a week for Hockey. During this period students of the College played various games in Volley Ball competitions with different clubs and showed their excellence. In 1934, Z. A. Ariff and Paritosh Chakravarty, two students of the College were selected to represent Bengal in Hockey and Volley Ball respectively. In March 1940, four of our players were chosen to represent the Calcutta University Volley Ball team in the Inter-University Volley Ball match at Allahabad.

In 1945, the College Hockey team went to Darjeeling under the guidance of Prof. Manibhusan Bhattacharya and played friendly games in Hockey with the Police Club there, and they received applause for their creditable performance. They also played football with St. Joseph's College and with the boys of Gethel Institution at Kurseong.

These College teams in Cricket, Hockey and Volley Ball have to function at a great disadvantage, and the students coming from village schools do not always possess the necessary training. These students generally study here for two sessions and this lack of continuity in a college is one of the main reasons why in spite of all possible facilities, such teams cannot be adequately formed. But it is expected that as college education in future will demand regular attendance at sports, boys will be inclined to prove their excellence in a variety of games.

Excursions

To supplement the usual lecture and Laboratory work educational excursions have been an annual feature of the College from its very early days. Students in Botany have enjoyed the facility of excursion, under the able guidance of their professors, almost every year to different parts of the country. In these excursions the students not only get enjoyment but also gain considerable experience in field work by collecting specimens. Encouragement is given to the students to go on tours, and last year, Commerce students of the College conducted a very successful tour in the Bombay side. In the College hostel a decent sum is kept every year earmarked for the excursion of the boarders. The boys evince a great enthusiasm in these educational excursions.

The College Platoon ; University Training Corps

Young men of Bengal were debarred from joining the Army or receiving any military training as the Bengalis were, for reasons best known to the alien Government, stigmatized as a non-martial race. But eventually Government of India thought of a new scheme in the year 1922 under which Calcutta University students might be allowed to voluntarily enlist themselves. The army, thus formed, would not be required to serve outside India and might not even have to go outside their own local limits.

An informal Committee was formed in Calcutta consisting

of prominent University men to work out the scheme, under which the University graduates and under-graduates might form a University Corps. This was how the Calcutta University Training Corps was formed. The students of the College volunteered in large numbers for enlistment. Since then there has been a steady recruitment to the corps from year to year.

The College forms two platoons of a company and the number of students receiving training each year is more than one hundred. Professor Promoda Charan Majumdar of the Physics department is in charge of these activities of the College. He now enjoys the rank of a Major and by his personalities he has infused a new martial spirit among the students. Every year the students under training go out on their camp duties, and the Principal and some of the professors take great interest in the trainees by visiting them in their camp.

The University in its desire to develop the sense of corporate life in the students of the University organized a novel plan in 1937 under the inspiration of Dr. Syamaprasad Mukerjee to celebrate the University Foundation Day on the 24th of January. Mass rally and procession by the students of different colleges formed the most colourful and panoramic feature of the day. The College wholeheartedly joined in these celebrations but the lack of a College crest and banner to be displayed on such occasions was sorely felt. The new Principal, after a careful deliberation, introduced a very impressive and significant College crest and banner. The lamp burning in the centre of the crest represents the flame of learning which the College has endeavoured to keep steady.

Students' Association

The Students' Association now forms an integral part of the life of the students everywhere. But this has taken a long time to develop into an efficient organization. Looking over the old records and the magazines of the College we can form a complete picture of how the Association of the College grew, developed and has now become a well-knit organization. The political situation, of course, of the country, contributed much to its growth.

Students in the early days did not have any organization of their own. They had some activities like the holding of socials, dramatic entertainments and debating societies. In

1909, a Debating Club was started under the guidance of Prof. Braja Sundar Roy and in November, 1909, the Dramatic Club of the College staged *Balidan*, the immortal drama of Girish Chandra Ghosh on board the Corinthian Theatre as part of their Puja Social function. Distinguished men like Sir Gooroodas Banerjee, Lt.-Col. Drury, Pramath Nath Tarkabhushan and others graced the occasion by attending as guests. The members of the club staged *Padmini* on board the Savoy Theatre¹ in November, 1912, and the performance was so successful that in the Annual Social Gathering organized by the College Entertainment Club on December 14, 1912, medals in the name of the President, Principal G. C. Bose, were awarded to the best players.

In February, 1913, the School and College combined to celebrate their Saraswati Puja in the College and this was the sixth Annual celebration which first started in 1908. Students were on this occasion entertained by a Cinema Show by the Elphinstone Bioscope Company.

In 1915, there was a Students' Fund organized by the students under the guidance of Prof. Bhababibhuti Bhattacharya as Secretary. The purpose was to render some help to poor students of the College. After 1916 there was a lull in its activity but in 1919 it was established on a sound footing out of the subscriptions and donations from the students themselves.

In 1919, all these students' activities were co-ordinated and the Students' Association was formed in a meeting on the 22nd March, 1919. The object of the Association was explained by a student of the 3rd Year B. A. class and the office bearers were elected. The Principal became the President, Prof. Lalit Kumar Banerjee and Prof. Kalidas Mullick, Vice-Presidents, with Prof. Jitendra Nath Chakravarty as Secretary and Sriman Durgadas Chatterjee, a third year student, as Asst. Secretary. In the next meeting, however, Prof. Chakravarty resigned the post of the Secretary as he thought it to be highly desirable that the Association Secretaryship should go to a student. Thus Sreeman Durgadas Chatterjee became the first Secretary of the Students' Association. The Association held its first social on the 17th April, 1919, on the eve of the long vacation.

This Association did not have a successful career and the non-co-operation movement (1921-22) drowned all its activities. But in 1927, the Association was revived and in a meeting held

¹ These theatres ceased to exist long ago.

on the 18th January, 1927, under the chairmanship of Prof. Nripendra Chandra Banerjee the Association had a new beginning. The Association was becoming active and strong and they invited Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh to address the students on the 8th March, 1927.

Prof. Nripendra Chandra Banerjee rendered very valuable service to the students of the College by his advice in framing the constitution of the Association; and thus the Students' Association now became a disciplined and well-organized body. In 1928, there was an unfortunate tendency to form a separate body by the 3rd year students, and their purpose was to take charge of the cultural activities of the students under the name of a Literary Association. The organizers were very active and their enthusiasm was very great. After a few sittings, however, this Association sought affiliation to the main Association, and it became a part of the Association under the name of Literary Board. The President and the Secretary of the Literary Board are elected separately, and they have been functioning ever since, and have rendered great service in the spread of culture among the students by organizing debates, recitations, and lectures by eminent men of letters. The Literary Board is in charge of the periodicals and magazines for the use of students, and the Board takes an important part in the publication of the College Magazine. The Committee for management of the College Magazine includes four members of the Literary Board.

In 1930, the Association recorded a further step in its progress and organization. The Principal officially recognized the Association and agreed, on a representation from the students, to realize at the time of admission an Association Membership fee from all students. In 1930, again, the Association came to be conducted solely by the students and for the first time it had a student President. All the posts of the office bearers are now confined to the students, and they have always behaved in an orderly and disciplined manner. The patience and tact of the present Principal are to a great extent helpful in establishing a cordial relation between the administration and the Students' Association and all possible efforts are taken to avoid any case of misunderstanding.

The two College socials in Autumn and in Summer are now managed by the students out of their own funds. All students evince great interest in the election of members of the Executive Committee, and when the time for election comes the whole college vibrates with life and animation.

Seminaries

The College has always tried to create interest in the different subjects of study and foster the desire for learning among its students by organizing small study circles and seminars in different subjects. On occasions attempts were made to interest the boys in studies outside the curriculum. A brief account of these activities of the College may be recorded here.

Economics

The Economics Association of the College was formed in August 1915, and it was mainly through the efforts of the Professor of Politics and Economics, Sri Debendra Nath Mukherjee that the students of Economics formed themselves into an association known as "Economics Association". A small library of books dealing with the subject was provided for their use, and the Association used to hold meetings and discussions on various topics. Their activities used to be reported in the pages of the College Magazine. This body functioned till 1932 and now there has been an attempt to revive this Association under the inspiring guidance of Prof. Hari Charan Ghosh, the present senior Professor of Politics and Economics.

English

Debates and study circles in English were organized in different sessions and the inspiration came from Prof. Lalit Kumar Banerjee whose earnest efforts were always directed towards creating a taste for literature not only in English but also in Sanskrit and Bengali among the boys and particularly among the Honours students of the College. The present Principal has infused a new spirit among these students by personal contact and by forming a seminary for English studies. A special almirah has been kept stocked with the latest books on English literature, and students are given all facilities for taking books from these.

History

Professor Mrinal Kanti Bose who has been associated with the College as Professor of History for over twenty-five years is responsible for organizing the Historical Society in 1941. Under the auspices of the Society lectures are arranged to enlighten boys on important political and historical events.

Fine Arts Society

The establishment of the Fine Arts Society was an interesting and novel feature of the College. In an inaugural meeting held on 31st August, 1939, the Principal formally opened the Society and Prof. Hari Charan Ghosh was its first President. All credit for the forming and functioning of this Society goes to Sriman Monmohan Bhattacharya, the then third year student of the College. Under a properly framed constitution all students interested in Art (Music, Painting, Photography etc.) could thus find themselves organized into a brotherhood of art lovers.

Dr. Abanindranath Tagore presided over a ceremony held under the auspices of the Society on 23rd September, 1939, at the Manson Institute. The Society functioned very satisfactorily and in the next year an exhibition was held before the Pujas in the Botanical Laboratory. Many student-artists took part in the exhibition by lending their own paintings and participating in the music competition held along with this.

It is only through such organizations that an interest in Art can be created among the boys but it requires enthusiastic student-artists to keep the Society alive and active. Such boys are not found in every session and thus though the Society remains, its activities are almost suspended. Many talents are discovered through these activities and future artists among the boys may have the opportunity to receive their first recognition within the college premises.

Hindi Literary Society

An important part of the student community consists of Hindi speaking boys. To encourage and organize them the Hindi Literary Society was formed on 22nd January, 1934, and the Society used to hold meetings and initiate debates and discussions on Hindi literary subjects.

The Society needs devoted workers to make it popular and active. The Hindi speaking students of the College have a great responsibility in the matter and it is the earnest desire of the Principal to see them engaged in furthering the activities of the Society.

Gita Classes, Language Classes in French and German and Classes in Shorthand

Principal G. C. Bose was a man of ideas and whenever he got

an opportunity he gave indications of the working of his mind in various ways. It was felt that some arrangements should be made for imparting religious education to our boys and the opening of the classes for teaching *Bhagabad Gita* in 1927 under the guidance of Pandit Abinash Chandra Bhattacharyya, an erudite Gita Scholar ushered in a new phase of the College activities. Copies of the Gita were freely distributed to the boys and classes for first and third year students were opened. Examinations in Gita were held and prizes were awarded for proficiency in the subject. The death of the Pandit led to the discontinuation of these classes.

In 1927, an attempt was made to open language classes in French and German, and in Shorthand courses. Sri Kailash Chandra Sarkar was in charge of these classes, and this evoked a warm response from the students. These classes had unfortunately to be abolished with the death of Prof. Sarkar.

Library

In its early stage the College could not make adequate arrangements for housing and equipping a library worth the name. But as the College prospered, the small library room was shifted, in 1918, from the portion of the Botanical laboratory to a spacious room in the first floor, and the number of books increased. In 1930, proper arrangements were made to provide reading room facilities to the students. The number of books, which was twelve hundred in 1911-12 nearly doubled in 1916-17 and now exceeds fifteen thousand. The Library is under the charge of two University trained librarians. A Library Committee has been formed with some professors and they help the management and find out means of improvement.

Two sectional Libraries have been formed, one the "Jatin Das Memorial Shelf" consisting of books dealing with nationalist activities, and the other, "Prof. Surendra Nath Memorial Shelf" consisting of the late Professor's rich collection of books on Philosophy and Political Science.

The Principal is anxious to find a big hall for the Library and to make such arrangements that all students can find opportunity to make more use of the Library. It is with this idea that additions are being made to the present College building to provide a big hall for purposes of a spacious Library fitted with modern furniture suitable for a study.

Laboratory

In 1910, the College did not possess any laboratory worthy of its position. For a long time there was an odium attached to the type of laboratory work provided in the College. But gradually the change for the better came and we record with pleasure the degree of its achievement.

One wonders how the institution which, in 1908, started with twenty-four students in Physics and about fifty in Chemistry and an equal number in Botany under the new Regulations and could only offer, for practical work in the Chemical Laboratory, only one single work table (without cup-boards) accommodating at a time with difficulty not more than twelve (six-a-side), could grow now to its present dimension ! Under the present arrangements the College provides accommodation for practical work, at a time, to one hundred and fifty boys in the Chemical Laboratory, about a hundred in Physics and about seventy-five in the Botanical Laboratories. And each of the laboratories is fitted with up-to-date equipments. Considerable addition has been made in course of years to the space area of the laboratories and recently there has been an extension of the laboratory for practical work in Anthropology, Biology and Zoology, the affiliation for the last having been granted to the College this year (1948).

Bangabasi College Co-operative Stores

Bangabasi College initiated a novel enterprise in the academic life of an institution by starting a Co-operative Store in 1918. The idea came from Sri Satyendranath De, M.Sc., an ex-student of the College, and in a meeting of some professors and senior students on the 11th of July, 1918, a resolution for starting and registering the stores was adopted. The draft rules framed by Sri Nripendra Nath Bose, an officer of the Department of Co-operative Society of Government were approved and a provisional Board of Directors was formed.

The object of the Society was to assist members in the purchasing, at a reasonable rate, commodities as were generally required by them. An advance of Rs. 1,000/- only was made by the College to give the store a start and, to begin with, eighty four shares were sold.

In 1919, the then Governor of Bengal visited the Stores and expressed satisfaction at its working. In his opening address to the

Co-operative Conference which met on the 15th February, 1919, he referred to the Bangabasi College Co-operative Stores in a very appreciative manner :

"Only this week," he said, "I came across another Co-operative enterprise quite unexpectedly when I was paying a visit to the Bangabasi College. Here I found a Society formed to assist the members in purchasing their commodities at a reasonable rate.....Incidentally I learned that the formation of this society had shown itself to be possessed of an educative value in a political sense, since its members had learned for the first time the meaning of the phrase 'election by ballot' when they were called upon to form a Board of Directors for the Society."

The enterprise became so popular in course of a year that enquiries were made from various schools and colleges of not only Bengal but of other provinces as well regarding the rules and method of work and organization of the Stores. Prof. Rohini Kumar Majumdar served as Secretary of the Stores, and it continued in a very flourishing condition for a number of years. But politics soon obsessed the mind of the students, and the Stores fell into neglect. The Stores were finally closed in 1929.

College Socials

Saraswati Puja celebrations formed an important social function of the College boys in the early days of the College. The students of the School and College made a combined effort to make the function successful. They raised voluntary subscriptions to meet the cost. For some years, round about 1918-19, these subscriptions were collected at the time of the deposit of University fees.

After the opening of the College Hostel (Canning Hostel) the Saraswati Puja of the College was neglected as the students residing in the Hostel and the Messes made grand arrangements for the Puja. Another factor for the neglect of the Puja in the College premises was the question whether Pujas like these could be celebrated justifiably in a college which claimed to be non-denominational.

In recent years the College students have again started celebrating the Saraswati Puja by raising subscriptions among them. In some years the organizers have opened an exhibition of posters describing the course of the national struggle for freedom.

Muslim students of the College for some years celebrated their Prophet's Day with due eclat, and the celebrations were very successful and popular and were joined by professors and students.

The principal social functions of the College students are now two, one being held before the Puja Holidays and the other before the Summer Vacation. The venue of these functions is generally the University Institute Hall. Distinguished artists are invited to entertain the students, and often the students stage dramatic performances.

Professors' Union

The members of the teaching staff have a Union of their own, which serves the purpose of a club where all the teachers can mix with each other freely in a healthy social atmosphere. The meetings of the Union are held generally once a month except during the holidays.

The proposal for a Union of Professors was first made in a meeting on 23.2.19 when the members of the staff were 'At Home' to Prof. Panchanan Mitra on his having obtained a P.R.S. The suggestion came from Prof. Ladli Mohan Mitra and some other teachers. It was decided to start the Union at once, the membership being open to the ministerial staff as well. Members used to pay a small monthly subscription to meet the cost of refreshments. The first Honorary Secretaries were Profs. Panchanan Mitra and Ladli Mohan Mitra, and the Principal gave his warm support to the idea and its execution.

The inaugural meeting of the Union came off on the 23rd March 1919. The programme consisted of the reading of articles and poems composed by the members and ended with refreshments. The literary repartees of the Union meetings were generally provided by Prof. Lalit Kumar Banerjee, and later he was joined by Profs. Shyamapada Chakravarty and Peary Mohan Sen Gupta. The Secretaries tried their level best to provide refreshments in varieties of rich dishes sometimes prepared by their wives.

The Union had sometimes organized Steamer trips and picnics at the Botanical Gardens. Grave-looking and sober teachers are found to forget their usual demeanour and the Union meetings serve a very useful purpose in cementing a bond of affection between the members. Prof. Sudev Bhusan Ghosh is the present Secretary.

The College Council grew out of it and has been functioning in a very useful manner. The College Council is a deliberative body, and important matters relating to the College are discussed in the meetings of the College Council. The Union meetings are now preceded by business meetings of the College Council or meetings of the Provident Fund. Prof. Jagadish Bhattacharya is now the Secretary of the College Union.

The College Provident Fund

The College Provident Fund came to be instituted in 1924. It is managed by a Committee formed under the rules of management of the fund. The Principal is the ex-officio President and is assisted by an Honorary Secretary elected annually from among the contributors to the fund. The fund started with an initial contribution by the College to the members according to the period of their service before the institution of the fund. The total amount of the fund now exceeds Rupees three lacs.

Prof. Sukhendra Kumar Roy was its first Secretary and on his resignation in 1925 Prof. Rohini Kumar Majumdar became the next incumbent. He served as Secretary for eight years till his death in 1933. Prof. Gobinlal Dhar succeeded him and he continued till 1934 when Prof. Mani Bhushan Bhattacharyya became the Secretary and remained so till 1940. Prof. Pramada Charan Majumdar has been in office as Secretary since then.

The Commerce Department

The College started Intermediate (Commerce) Department in 1940 and classes are held in the evening. Prof. Hari Charan Ghose was in charge of this department. From the beginning of the session in 1941 Prof. Ghose was appointed Vice-Principal in the Commerce Department, and the success of the Intermediate Course led to the opening of B. Com. classes in 1944. During the worst days of the riots in Calcutta the work of the department suffered much due to the curfew orders. But the Commerce Department has developed considerably and is prospering steadily. It has its own accounts, separate from the College though the ultimate authority is the College Governing Body.

Students of the Commerce Department enjoy all the facilities for study, and prominent business magnates are often

invited to address the boys on various subjects of interest to Commerce students.

The inclusion of Agricultural Economics and Land Revenue as a subject of study in B. Com. here, the affiliation for which has been secured in this year (1948) has proved a special attraction to the B. Com. students.

Hostels and Messes

The question of accommodation of students of Calcutta has always been a very difficult problem. Government and Missionary colleges had hostel arrangements for their students but the students belonging to private colleges had to shift for themselves in this respect. It was realized soon, that provision for suitable Hostel accommodation was a part of the responsibility of colleges and herein lies the origin of the Hostel system.

Principal G. C. Bose tried the experiment of a College Hostel for his students as early as the ninetentens. The Bangabasi College Hostel situated at Harrison Road was the result of this experiment. It was equipped with all necessary articles by the Principal and Sri Taran Chandra Bose was appointed to act as the Superintendent of this Hostel.

It did not prove to be a success and the College encouraged the starting of messes for its students. In 1904, Government came out with a proposal for enforcing the system of college messes. Houses were secured by Government for the purpose, and according to the directions of the University the College started a mess for its students under its direct supervision.

In 1906, the College had six attached messes for its students and they were three in Scott Lane, one at Harrison Road, another in Nilmoney Dutt Lane, and the sixth at Amherst Street. In 1907, the control of the Calcutta mess scheme went over to the University Syndicate on the latter's condition that Government would grant annually Rs. 9,000/- only for the purpose. By this time the College messes at Harrison Road and Nilmoney Dutt Lane were discontinued.

Since the commencement of the 1908 session the College messes which were at an inconvenient distance from the College were abandoned and several new houses in the immediate vicinity were secured for the purpose of accommodating the students. Bangabasi College had a distinct advantage over all other private

colleges of the city in this respect and made the nearest approach possible under the then conditions, to the ideals of a residential college.

In 1912, the College mess at Serpentine Lane accommodated about hundred boarders.

At the annual convocation of the University on the 15th March, 1913, the then Vice-Chancellor dwelt on the importance and value of College Hostels and insisted that vigorous and sustained efforts should be made to solve the question of students' accommodation. Arrangements were soon made for the purchase of a plot of land for Bangabasi College Hostel by Government, and when in August, 1916, Sir Sankaran Nair, the Education Member of Government visited the College he expressed satisfaction at the progress of the construction of a building for the College Hostel. This, when completed, came to be known as the Canning Hostel. During Christmas, the same year, the Viceroy visited the attached messes of the College. The University Commission could see that the Canning Hostel was already opened and accommodated nearly two hundred students.

This Hostel, like similar hostels of sister institutions in Calcutta, is under the control of the Students' Residence Committee, but the Principal is the sole authority for its internal administration. The building belongs to the University under terms of a deed of trust and the University has to keep the building under proper state of repair. The seat rent collected from the boarders goes to the University under Hostel Account and the Establishment Bill and the cost of maintenance are met by the University.

The Amherst Street Mess continued its popularity as a place for senior students with Prof. Raj Kumar Chakravarty as its Superintendent. The mess accommodated nearly eighty boarders.

The Canning Hostel under its first Superintendent, Prof. Dakshina Ranjan Banerjee and Assistant Superintendents like Prof. Sukhendra Kumar Roy and Rohini Kumar Majumdar established a tradition and grew into a popular institution. In 1930, after the abandonment of the Amherst Street Mess the Hostel became the sole residence of our College boys. For some years the number of resident-boarders dwindled but in 1942 there was so much rush of candidates for seats that under instructions from the Principal, the Superintendent, Prof. Mani Bhusan Bhattacharyya had to make arrangements for extra seats in the Hostel. This

caused inconvenience to the boarders and by that time the College secured a house at Akhil Mistry Lane and started a mess under the charge of Prof. Anutosh Das Gupta. In 1947, there was felt a necessity for further accommodation for our boys and a big spacious building was requisitioned through Government mainly through the efforts of Prof. S. K. Roy. This new Hostel under the name of Bangabasi College Hostel was started at 105/7 Surendra Nath Banerjee Road and Professor Mukunda Lal Chakravarty was given charge as its Superintendent. In the nineteen-thirties and for some years in the fourth decade, Canning Hostel became an eyesore to the police and there was scarcely a year when the guardians of law and order of the alien Government did not visit the Hostel in large numbers. Whole-night searches were a frequent occurrence and many boarders were snatched away either for examination or detention.

The Hostel has organized excursions into the different parts of the country in different sessions and the Hostel Socials have always been celebrated with proper solemnity and pomp. The Autumn Social and Anniversary of the Hostel have always been an event of importance, and distinguished personalities have been its presidents in different years. The list of past presidents include men like Desbandhu Chitta Ranjan Das, Acharyya Prafulla Chandra Roy, Sir Devaprosad Sarvadhikari, Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherjee, Dr. Urquhart, Sir C. V. Raman, Mr. H. S. Surawardy, Sri Sarat Chandra Chatterji, Sri Ramananda Chatterjee and such others.

The Hostel possesses a properly equipped library and gymnasium and enjoys all the facilities for a corporate life for its residents. During the days of the infamous riots in Calcutta the hostel boys organized relief and for many days during the worst period of the riots, provided shelter and food to the many families who fled from the danger zone of the city, and opened first aid centres. The boys' splendid service in those days received grateful appreciation from all.

The students of the Hostel have now formed a Union and the different sections of the Union are entrusted with all activities of the residents. The Union has its own constitution which has been approved by the authorities of the College.

In 1947, the Hostel was renamed Acharya Girish Chandra Chhatrabas to keep in line with the times, and the renaming ceremony, held in March 1948, was presided over by the present Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pramatha Nath Banerjee. A large number

of Bangabasi College students, past and present, look upon this Hostel as their national institution and cherish love and affection for it. The present administrative staff of the Hostel consists of the following:

Prof. Mani Bhushan Bhattacharya —*Superintendent.*

Prof. Jagadish Bhattacharya —*Asst. Supdt.*

Capt. S. K. Bose —*Medical Officer.*

The Hostel and messes form a vital part of the College organization, and the Principal's interest and care for the smooth working of these is never abated. The two hostels and the mess at Akhil Mistry Lane can now accommodate four hundred residents but still there is a persistent demand for seats from the students of the College.

College Endowments and Scholarships, Medals and Students' Fund

To keep alive the memory of distinguished Professors of the College, medals have been awarded in the different subjects of study. There is a provision for a gold medal in memory of Prof. Lalit Kumar Banerjee, to be awarded to a student winning a first class in English Honours. Prof. Mukunda Lal Chakravarty promised a silver medal, to commemorate the services to the Botany Department by Prof. D. R. Banerjee, to be awarded to the best Botany student of the College every year.

The College grants every year a scholarship of Rs. 10/- only to the best Honours student of the College for continuing his studies in the Post-graduate Department. The late Professor Prafulla Chandra Ghose, the eminent professor of English literature, handed over to the College authorities a handsome amount for awarding scholarships to deserving and meritorious students of the College in memory of his son Bimal Chandra Ghose who died in boyhood. These scholarships are named Bimal Chandra Ghose Scholarships.

The Students' Association created a Students' Aid Fund for rendering help to indigent students of the College. The late Sri Jyotish Chandra Gupta, Assistant Income Tax Officer at Rajshahi and an ex-student of the College, remembering with gratitude the help he received from the College, sent a cheque for Rs. 1000/- only in a letter dated 11th April 1934, to be spent for the best interests of the students of the College.

In 1945, Sri. B. K. Palit, to commemorate Mr. K. C. De, an ex-student of the College and the first Indian Controller of Stores in the E. I. Ry., sent a cheque to institute a silver medal in

Mr. De's name. The same year the College received a donation of Rs. 100/- only from Mrs. Dey, the wife of Mr. H. K. Dey for the purpose of offering help to the poor students of the College.

In 1947, Prof. Raj Kumar Chakravarty created a fund with an initial contribution of Rs. 500/- only and with promise of more money to help poor students of the College by gift of books.

The College grants stipends to meritorious students and offers concessions to the poor and deserving boys to the extent of twenty five thousand a year.

Postscript

In 1948, the College with its large number of students and the various departments of study has assumed the position of a University. The number of the teachers in all its departments exceeds one hundred and twenty five.

It is the only College in Bengal teaching Anthropology in the Intermediate course, and the recent affiliation in Zoology up to the B. Sc. course has added to the prestige and reputation of the Biological department.

We now remember with gratitude the services of Prof. Ladli Mohan Mitra, the eminent Professor of Chemistry, whose name was something to conjure with in the College. It was mainly through his untiring efforts and devotion that the College started in 1945, B. Sc. classes in the evening. The aim was to provide facilities for studying B. Sc. to those earnest students who could not prosecute their studies in the day. The scheme has proved a remarkable success.

Prof. Mitra also took the initiative in the starting of a separate I. Sc. section in the morning to meet the rush of students migrating from Pakistan, and in the opening of evening B. A. classes both of which have been functioning since 1947.

This is all that Bangabasi College has done and has been doing in the service of the country and for the cause of education. It had a humble beginning but the vision behind it was big. The vision of the Founder works even now behind all its activities. The Founder-Principal found in the spread of education, the *hidden source of England's greatness*, and his chief aim was to make college education cheap and easily accessible to all. The College has tried to fulfil this aim and it has now occupied a position unique in the history of private colleges in India.