

BANGABASI COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

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THE MONTH.

The list of senior scholars appeared in the Calcutta Gazette early in July. We are glad to notice that two of our students—Babu Kumud Chandra Chakravarti and Babu Haripada De—have secured scholarships. The scholarships allotted to the Town of Calcutta are usually monopolised by students of Presidency College. It is therefore matter for congratulation that ours is the only unaided College of Calcutta that has obtained a share of the privilege. Both these students have of course left us—but this is inevitable so long as the premier Government College can hold out the attraction of a large number of foundation scholarships to be competed for by candidates for the B. A. Examination.

Jr/ba

The list of junior scholars was published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 19th instant. Considering that the Colleges — at least a good many of them, re-opened in the middle of June, it is rather undesirable that the list should come out so late. There are students, it should be remembered, whose decision with regard to the choice of a College depends on the publication of the scholarship list: the poor among them can join an expensive College like Presidency College only when they secure a scholarship. They have otherwise to rest content with Colleges that charge a lower rate of fees. The question affects, it should be remembered, a much larger number than those who actually get the scholarships, for there are many besides the fortunate few that are in hopes of obtaining them. The delay therefore causes serious inconvenience to a large number of students — and these the best, if not the very best students of the year. Besides it is to be deplored in the interests of sound education and discipline that these students are for obvious reasons invariably late in joining a College. The much maligned university is not to blame in the matter. The work devolves on the office of the Director of Public Instruction. May we respectfully invite his attention to this matter, causing as it does serious inconvenience to a large number of our lads. We fully understand that our present Director of Public Instruction has just now a rather hard time of it in his capacity as vice-chancellor of the university, presiding over the deliberations of various committees appointed to draft Regulations under the Universities Act. But considering that he has an able Assistant now-a-days to share his onerous duties as Director of Public Instruction, we believe that a little more punctuality in such an important matter is not impracticable.

Most of the Colleges in Calcutta have under the new rules started "messes" of their own ; these are known by the name of "College messes." Considerable misapprehension exists among our people as to the nature and constitution of these "messes." Most people identify them with boarding-houses or hostels, not knowing where to draw the line. College messes differ from messes of olden days in one essential point : in a College mess students of one College only can reside, whereas in the mess of olden days students of different Colleges could live together. Barring this difference, the old and new messes are similar excepting so far that a College mess is expected to be under a closer supervision of the College to which it belongs and which is naturally responsible for its welfare and discipline ; whereas old messes were practically left to themselves. There are of course other minor points of dissimilarity : thus for instance College-mess-houses now have not to be rented by the students as of old but rented for them. The students of course have to start them as before, finding servants, engaging cooks, and making arrangements for their board, but in all these details they expect to get help from the College authorities—help which they could never have had or expected under the old state of things. It will appear from above that the burden of renting houses has been taken off the shoulders of students but the arrangement for internal administration is still left in their hands. For each seat occupied they have to pay Rs. 3/8 or 2/8 per head, irrespective of the total rent of the house or of the number of seats occupied.

The students were in the the very beginning of the session rather suspicious of this new order of things but with a short experience of the system are settling down and even getting to like it. We venture to predict that next year the

new system will be very popular and many a student who has been scared away from Calcutta this year in view of the untried experiment, will flock in larger numbers to this city for the better educational facilities which it unquestionably affords.

A College mess however is not a boarding house or hostel, as a hostel or boarding house may be the private property of an individual who may have students from different Colleges and make his own arrangements with them. The only conditions that a hostel or boarding house has to fulfil is that it requires to be recognized by the Hostels Committee appointed by Government as a place fit for students to live in; that Colleges sending students there have the privilege of visiting and seeing that things are going on well, and that each such hostel or boarding house must have a resident superintendent distinct from the students who live there; in other words a student boarder can not be its superintendent, as he can be in a College mess. In order to make the College messes successful, each mess should have a resident superintendent, preferably a professor or senior tutor of the College to which the mess belongs. To make therefore the work of superintendence attractive, the Director of Public Instruction has offered a room rent-free to such a superintendent, and we have offered him in addition free boarding. But even with such liberal offers, we find great difficulty in securing the desirable kind of superintendent, as the peculiar circumstances of the life of our senior tutors or professors almost preclude them from undertaking such a task.
