

BANGABASI COLLEGE MAGAZINE.

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Vol. II.

MARCH

No. 3.

1904.

THE MONTH.

The Universities Bill has at last passed into law, and a new era will soon be inaugurated. If even a moiety of the great hopes so eloquently expounded by our Chancellor attain fruition, the 22nd of March will hereafter be known as a day to be marked in our calendar "with a white stone." We shall at any rate try to hope that it will be so, in spite of the many apprehensions entertained by men not entirely thoughtless or prejudiced. One thing seems to us, however, to be clear. The passing of the Bill lifts the Universities question into an entirely new atmosphere and lays upon us a new duty. Hitherto we have lived in an atmosphere of debate and our duty has been that of honest criticism. We now leave debate behind and are face to face with the duty of co-operation. The constitutional questions which have been so hotly debated are finally settled by the Universities Act, and it would be worse than profitless to continue the discussion. We trust that all individuals and bodies who have any stake in the University, will lay aside the bitternesses engendered in the controversy, and loyally work together for the good of a cause which all have at heart.

Jr/5c

While however we abstain from further criticisms, we may express our satisfaction that the view set forth in the official note of dissent appended to the Report of the Select Committee was not in the end adopted by Government. The Act embodies a clause to the effect that at least two-fifths of the Fellows nominated are to be gentlemen engaged in the profession of teaching in the province. To what agency the modification of the official position was due we do not know, but we should like to be able to think that it was Mr. Raleigh's final contribution to the welfare of a University for which he has worked with such unremitting energy. We could wish that the contribution had been made complete by a further enunciation of definite principles to regulate the selection of the remaining three-fifths of the number of nominated Fellows.

The Act imposes no restrictions whatever on the election of Fellows by the graduates. We trust that the graduates will not treat lightly the grave trust and responsibility laid on them by the privilege granted by the Act. Is it too much to hope that the graduates will justify the privilege by the use they make of it, and prove by the nature of their elections that the privilege has not been misplaced?

We understand that the Government of India does not intend to take immediate action in the matter of constituting a new senate and giving effect to the Universities Bill, and that the *status quo* will remain unaltered for about six months. This is perhaps to be regretted. The task of remodelling the University will be anything but speedily accomplished, and it seems a pity to delay its initiation for so long a period as six months. There must however be very cogent reasons for the delay, or it would hardly have been submitted to by a Government so eager for reform.

The Hon'ble Mr. Alexander Pedler, C.I.E., F.R.S., has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University,

Government is acquiring land in different districts of Bengal for the purpose of opening play grounds and building premises for schools and colleges and residential quarters for students and professors. This seems to be an earnest of real educational reform.

The University Examinations are over, bringing to a termination the labours of the candidates and, in a certain sense, of the teachers too. It must be a relief to the young students to be able to rest after the severe strain they have sustained for long months. Tranquil ease is not however their lot even now, for they will remain in a state of feverish suspense for about two months in anxious expectation of the results of their examinations. The results will, it is hoped, be published in the third week of May.

We had occasion to advert to the character of the questions set in English at the Entrance Examination last year and we are sorry to find that matters have not much improved in the present year. An unusually high proportion of marks has been, as before, assigned to the technicalities of grammar and to such elementary processes of composition as word-building. Such papers have the inevitable tendency of fostering a mechanical system of teaching. It is one thing to give the student a complete ready-made list of idiomatic phrases and expressions to be learnt by heart, and another thing to train him to pick up such knowledge from his independent readings in literature. It is, we think, utterly impossible for our lads to secure a better knowledge of English and better powers of English composition, unless and until the papers are framed in such a way as to encourage the student to widen the range of his reading. It is idle to complain of the extremely defective English of our boys so long as no attempt is made by the University to improve its standard of Examination. As we earnestly hope that this will be one of the earliest questions

taken up by the new Senate, we refrain from making any further observations for the present.

The Bengalee passage set for translation into English was an astounding piece of work. One may perceive that a law of reciprocity exists in the relation of the candidates to their University, for if the University gets from its candidates specimens of vicious English, the candidates too in their turn obtain from the University specimens of the most execrable Bengalee. This has been the case not once or twice in the history of our University but with almost unbroken constancy ever since the system of Translation was introduced. A radical change of the *modus operandi* in this matter is imperatively needed. The existing system, it may be added, defeats the very purpose for which the paper was devised, the purpose, namely, of testing the candidate's knowledge of the differences between English idiom and the idiom of his own vernacular; for so long as the candidate does not get a piece of genuine Bengalee, he is placed at a considerable disadvantage whatever may be the degree of his real knowledge.

We are glad to be able to announce that Babu Suryya Kumar Karforma, M.A., has been appointed professor of Mathematics in the place of Babu Syamadas Mookerji who left us some little time ago to take up a Government appointment. He joins College at the commencement of next term. Babu Suryya Kumar was far and away the best student of his year in Mathematics and obtained the highest place in the subject in all the examinations of the University. He joined the Government education service after obtaining his M. A. degree. He has been for the last ten years serving as Professor of Mathematics in Agra College. We are sure that he will prove a valuable acquisition to our College.

The community of teachers has lost an able and devoted educationist by the retirement of Dr. Morrison, Late Principal of

the General Assembly's Institution. Dr. Morrison has undoubtedly earned his rest, and we cannot but be glad that he has obtained it. But his gain is our loss, and a loss by no means small. Dr. Morrison's genuine sympathy and cordiality, and his entire unselfishness, endeared him to all whose privilege it was to know him. We shall miss him much in the anxious days to come.

The following items of University intelligence are likely to be of interest to our readers :—

Rev. C. E. Wilson, B.A., (Lond.) has been appointed to act as an Examiner in English at the F. A. Examination just concluded in the place of Babu Jadupath Saikar, M.A., who declined. Pandit Jogeschandra Sastri has been appointed to look over the F. A. answer-papers in Sanskrit in the place of Babu Bireswar Chatterjee, resigned. Rev. Dr. G. H. Rouse has been appointed to look over the answer-papers in Hebrew at the B. A. Examination just over. As Messrs. Tate and Roy are about to proceed to England on leave, a portion of the B. A., Chemistry pass papers has been we are informed made over to another gentleman for examination. A letter from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Edinburgh University to the Registrar, Calcutta University, encloses a copy of a notice exempting from the Medical Preliminary Examination those candidates who after passing the F. A. Examination of the Calcutta University intend to proceed to the Degrees of M. B. and Ch. B. of the University of Edinburgh.

As we close for the summer recess on the 25th April and do not reopen till the 23rd June, the next number of the Magazine will be the June number which will be ready for distribution amongst our subscribers on the 30th June.
