

INDIA AND THE WEST

A STUDY IN CO-OPERATION

BY

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'This holy mystery I declare unto you:
There is nothing nobler than humanity.'

The Mahabharata.

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To
The only Beggetter
of my Journey
and
First Companion in it
KENNETH J. SAUNDERS
of
Berkeley, California.

PREFACE

A LONG winter journey in India, extending from the end of October, 1925, to the beginning of the following May, full as it was both of activities and fresh and unforgettable experience, can yet give no one the right to speak with any confidence on the multitude of problems touched on in this book. Any one of them may well demand, and often has demanded, the study and devotion of a life-time. But though without the right conferred by such deep study, I could not resist the desire to consider what I saw and heard, in connexion with the subjects on which I had before thought and written,—questions arising from the growing unification of the world, the intercourse of culture and the progress of mankind.

Opportunity was given of meeting men of various schools of thought by the lectures I was invited to deliver in most of the universities, and more popular audiences, mostly of the student and young lawyer type, were attracted by the exhibition of a film illustrating the history of the League of Nations with which I had been entrusted by the Union in England. This must have been shown to some fifty or sixty thousand

people, both in Ceylon and all over India. The mental attitude of these audiences, their keen intellectual curiosity, their readiness to speak and question, their personal courtesy and their invariable nationalist fervour, were perhaps the most striking social impressions of my tour.

Everything which I encountered in India itself confirmed the opinions I had formed from the study of the subject in books, that India is the critical testing-ground for the current ideas of the unity of peoples, the place of science in industry and education, the possibility of a general democratic government. These problems have become urgent to us in England because the date for the revision of the Reforms of 1919 is near at hand. From this point of view they appeal not only to every student of history and world-affairs, but specially to the British statesman and the British electorate: it is in this spirit that they are discussed in the following essays.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY,
August, 1927.

F. S. M.

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
PREFACE	vii
I. THE PROBLEM	I
II. ENGLAND	13
III. INDIA	34
IV. THE WEST AT THE JUNCTION	50
V. GOVERNMENT	68
VI. EDUCATION	81
VII. ECONOMIC LIFE	98
VIII. SOCIAL LIFE	114
IX. RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY	128
X. INDIA AS A NATION	148
XI. INDIA AND THE WORLD	161
INDEX	177
A NOTE ON BOOKS	181