

THE Servant of India

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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WE congratulate Prof. G.S. Mahajani, a life-member of the Deccan Education Society, Poona, which he joined in 1921, upon having secured the Smith Prize of the Cambridge University this year. Prof. Mahajani graduated from the Fergusson College in 1920, having stood first in the B. A. examination. He also won the second Sanskrit Scholarship in his Intermediate examination in 1918 and a number of laurels at College. What is remarkable about him is that his proficiency is not restricted only to one subject but extends nearly to all subjects. Besides being a distinguished scholar, he is also an able teacher. He went to England as a Government of India scholar and joined the St. John's College in Cambridge where his *guru*, Dr. Paranjpye, also learnt. In 1924 Prof. Mahajani became a B. Star Wrangler, after which he decided to try for the higher distinction, viz. the Smith's Prize. The intending prize-winners are expected to submit to the University a thesis relating to Mathematics or Natural Philosophy, Prof. Mahajani's subject being crystallagraphy. He is the first mathematician in this presidency and one out of less than five in the whole of India to win the distinction. We hope Prof. Mahajani will add to his fame in the years to come by further mathematical research.

IN obedience to the mandate from Delhi, Swarajist members of the Bombay Legislative Council came out last week. They have thus deprived themselves of what little power they possessed of doing practical good to their constituents and, to judge from newspaper reports, not a single non-official motion for reduction in the grants demanded by Government

could pass. Not that with the Swarajists inside, the position would have materially changed; but what little chance there was of an occasional defeat of Government was removed by their withdrawal from the Council. All the same the right of moving out was on the whole well utilised for giving expression to popular dissatisfaction at certain acts of Government. Among the questions thus raised on the floor of the House was that relating to the studied indifference of Government towards indigenous systems of medicine. In this matter Bombay has been left behind by Madras which now boasts of a full-fledged College teaching ayurvedic and unani medicine. This is already one year old; but the Minister in charge, Mr. Jadhav, preferred to wait—how long he was careful enough not to mention—and see. With the high fees charged by doctors practising western systems of medicine, medical help was daily getting beyond the reach of the poor and middle classes who were not slow to avail themselves of the less expensive aid of *vaidyas* and *hakims*. Whether this was desirable or not at the present stage of their development was another question; but it shows how necessary it is to make serious attempts to place these systems on a scientific basis.

The problem of rural health also occupied the Council's attention for a short while. Evidently there are five Directors of Public Health with whom the Government does not know what to do, pending consideration of the whole question at the hands of a committee which is now sitting, over it. If we may venture a suggestion, why do they not try in a few selected districts something on the lines of the U. P. District Health scheme? It seems to have worked well there and there is no reason why it should not yield equally satisfactory results in our presidency. Industries is another department whose working was discussed in connection with the voting of grants. The general complaint is that it is not doing much by way of fostering our industries; and nobody would be the worse for its abolition. Dr. Paranjpye's suggestion about advancing loans to small industries which is already tried in Madras deserves earnest consideration at the hands of Government. It is true that with its very meagre budget, amounting to about a lakh, scope for the expansion of the work of the Department on these lines must be very limited. The Minister in charge, Mr. Jadhav, regretted that he had to be content with such a small grant. What the public should like to know is whether he put up a fight for a larger one. The plea of a deficit budget which he put forward is far from convincing, in view of the fact that the balances with Government including the Famine Insurance Fund stand in the neighbourhood of four crores and are being used for financing other Government undertakings!

The debate on the Labour Office vote clearly showed that the non-officials had at the back of their minds the suspicion that Mr. Findlay Shirras was got rid of because of his pro-labour sym-

pathies. The duties of the Director of Labour have recently been split up, the Intelligence branch going to the Director of Information, the Statistical branch going to the Finance Department, and the Director of Labour, Mr. Shirras, going to the Education Department! The Bombay millowners have charged him with giving in a labour dispute some information which they believe was one-sided. This probably means that the information supplied by him was found inconvenient by Bombay millowners. If his information had fitted in with their pet theories, one doubts whether they would have brought this charge against him.

The grant for the water-diviner, Major Pogson, also gave rise to a somewhat heated debate, as on the last occasion. Mr. Dev pointed out that the results attained by him did not compare at all favourably with those obtained by ordinary water finders in every village. And yet there was in the Budget a provision of Rs. 5000 a month for his salary and establishment plus private practice for 5 days every month subject to a maximum of 30 days in a year! It is true that a half of his private fees is to go to Government; but with all that, as pointed out by Dr. Paranjpye, the provision for what after all was a quack was too much. "It was an insult to the intelligence of the villagers and of the members of Council to thrust on them such an officer. It could only be justified by the amount of water that Major Pogson drew not from the wells but from the eyes of the people," said he! To employ such a highly paid officer where one drawing a much smaller salary would do equally well is waste of public money.

THE rejuvenated *Bengalee* made its first bow to its readers last Friday. Its new Editor-in-chief is Mr. Byomkesh Chakravarti, the leader of the Bengal Nationalist Party, and the paper now calls itself the "Organ of Indian Nationalism." Mr. Chakravarti's courageous stand the other day against the Swarajists' attack on the authority of the chair is still fresh in the memory of all; and his future programme, as laid down in his first leader on assuming control of the *Bengalee*, is one which certainly should earn him the hearty approval of all sane patriots in the country. He clearly lays down as a premiss that "there are two and only two ways of attaining Swaraj"; the revolutionary and the constitutional, and as clearly he chooses the latter and refuses the former, under whatever disguise. He is convinced—as we all ought to be by this time—that "fitness for Swaraj cannot be reached by some sudden miracle, but must be built up gradually"; that, though "the time is ripe for substantial and even rapid advance," it must ever be borne in mind, as we have said ourselves, in season and out of season, that "Swaraj is not only a Right, but equally a Responsibility." Our esteemed new colleague would "guide the nation into a sense of reality and proportion," neither "catering for the applause of the bureaucracy nor for that of the unthinking public." This is well said indeed and, a policy with which we would gladly identify ourselves. We only trust that the new *Bengalee* will be entirely successful in recalling to the realities of the situation the many whom impatience and the will o' the wisp of a short-cut have reduced to stultification; and in that hope we extend to our venerable contemporary and its new editor our heartiest and sincerest wishes.

UNTIL the year 1922, her cheapest Postal service was a matter of pardonable pride with India; but in the early years of the Reformed régime the Central

Government had to face heavy deficits in their budgets which necessitated the doubling of the postal rates for post cards and letters. This was a purely financial measure and as such should have ended as soon as the Government of India was in a position to balance their budget. Deficits have now become a matter of history; but the postal rates are not yet restored to their pre-1922 level. The matter was raised in the present session of the Assembly on two occasions, once by means of a resolution whose consideration, in view of the then prospective budget debate, was postponed and on another occasion, by means of a proposed cut in the Postal vote. But the Government was obdurate and, thanks to the Swarajist walk-out, able to carry the day. The cut proposed by Mr. N. M. Joshi with a view to ventilate the grievances of postal employes deserves particular mention. He drew attention to the hard case of postmen, who, though required to cover several villages, were paid on the urban scale. Other hardships which smack of sweating to which Sir B. N. Mitra does not wish to be a party undoubtedly exist in the Department and need to be sympathetically considered. To give one instance, we had recently a case in Poona of a mail peon who had to be away from his home continuously for 18 hours (from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.) every day for months together! Heavy fines for minor offences seem also to be the order of the day. A packer in Poona drawing Rs. 18 p.m. was recently fined Rs. 2-4-0 for indistinct stamp impression on one out of the hundreds of letters he was required to stamp within a given time! Then, transfers, though practically interdicted under Departmental orders, of postmen and members of the lower grade staff, are not so rare as they might be. And the wonder is that by accident or by design, we cannot say which, they are enforced in the case of people actively interesting themselves in the organisation and conduct of postmen's unions. Sweating as in the case of the mail peon is daily taking place in the department over which Sir B. N. Mitra presides and whatever he may say, he is as much a party to it as those who make themselves more directly responsible for it.

THE subjects of His Highness the Gaikwad were in great hopes that the recent jubilee celebrations would be accompanied by the grant of some political rights to them. The expectation was not unnatural, in view of the fact that all such occasions generally bring with them some solid advantages for the subjects. It is conceivable that their disappointment was intense when they saw that the celebrations had come and gone without adding anything to their political status. His prolonged absences in Europe extending in some cases over 18 or 20 months at a stretch have evidently blinded His Highness to the keenness of his subjects for an effective voice in the government of the State; else we are sure a ruler so well versed in statesmanship and diplomacy as Sir Sayajirao would not have failed to meet, at least partially, the wishes of his subjects. We should not be understood to mean that all foreign travel should be banned in the case of Indian princes; nothing of the kind. Within limits it does good even to princes and to their subjects, as we gladly recognise it has done in the case of the Gaikwad. But these European tours, apart from the heavy demands they make on the State coffers, i.e. ultimately on the taxpayer, have the unfortunate result of keeping our princes out of touch with their subjects, which is what must be guarded against. To judge from the proceedings of the recently held conference of his subjects, they

seem to have unalterably fixed their gaze on the goal of full responsible government as the goal of their political aspirations; and have asked for the widening of the franchise and the abolition of the present practice of indirect elections. They want that the voice of the Legislative Council, which, they suggest, should be made really representative, should prevail in all matters and that all legislative measures should come up before it for approval and sanction. Unrestricted power of the purse is also claimed for the Legislative Council and a demand is made that the Executive Council should include at least one non-official. These are some of the more important demands put forward by the Conference, which are by no means extravagant, especially in view of the fact that under the scheme as put forward by his subjects it is not intended to deprive His Highness of his final veto. We hope His Highness Sir Sayajirao will utilise his holiday in Europe in giving his sympathetic attention to the resolutions passed by the Conference.

* * *

THE Governor of Fiji has recently appointed a Commission to inquire into the general educational condition of the Colony. It is a matter of common knowledge that the condition is far from satisfactory and an inquiry such as is proposed is urgently called for. Indians in that colony number 66,433 and are the second biggest community, Fijians alone being more numerous, viz. 87,587. The European population is only 4,008, but appears to be in enjoyment of educational facilities in inverse ratio to their number. According to the report of the Education Department for 1924, the approximate number of European and Indian children of school age which may be roughly taken as 5-16 for both, is 667 and 13,116 respectively. It is strange that corresponding information, for Fijian children is not to be found in the report. The Government maintains four schools for European children, the Catholic Mission and the C. S. R. Co. three each. These 10 schools make "ample provision" for all the European pupils in the colony. Though Indian pupils number very nearly 20 times, only one school is maintained for their benefit by the Fijian Government and 21 assisted schools, providing for about one-eighth of the total number or rather for 1,626 pupils. Some more Indian pupils also learn in a number of mission and private schools not yet in receipt of a grant-in-aid. Their number is over and above that referred to above; but cannot appreciably affect the proportion referred to above of the children at school to the school age population. The Fijian Government evidently feel the awkwardness of the situation, an effort being made by the writer of the Education report that the proportion of Indian children at school in Fiji did not compare unfavourably with the corresponding Indian average. Without wishing to exonerate the Indian Government from responsibility for the educational backwardness of the country, it appears wrong to compare Fiji with a small Indian population concentrated within a small area of a few hundreds of miles to India with its enormous population scattered over a vast territory. We are sorry the absence of the necessary information prevents a comparative study of the educational condition of the natives of Fiji; but if that had been possible, it would have shown up the educational failure of the Fijian authorities all the more forcibly. Thus it is clear that by allowing European education to be favoured at the cost of the education of the natives and Indians, the Colonial Office is proving false to its claim, set up in the Kenya dispute, to regard themselves as the trustees for the natives.

THE CENSURE MOTION.

IF the Swarajists' walk-out from the Legislative Assembly left the official benches jeering at this confession of helplessness, they have at least the consolation of having inflicted a humiliation on the Independents. The latter, though averse from the particular method, adopted by the Swarajists, of protesting against the Government of India's unresponsiveness to the popular demand for a further constitutional advance, were equally intent upon an effective demonstration of protest and therefore desired to initiate a censure motion in the Assembly, while the Swarajists were still in their places to help in this common object. If the Swarajists had cared more for the consolidation of all unofficial forces than for a party advantage, they would have voted for the censure motion being moved first and then would have joined with the Independents in carrying the motion through. But for the moment they were bent on teaching the Independents a lesson even more than on inflicting a defeat upon the bureaucracy and therefore they manoeuvred the Independents into a position of isolation where their censure motion was foredoomed to failure. The motion was eventually thrown out and the Swarajists are welcome to derive as much satisfaction as they can from the reverse to which they have exposed their rivals. The Independents can, however, retort that the motion, though formally rejected, affords irrefragable proof of the fact that all political forces in the country that count are ranged on the side of an immediate reform of the reforms and that even if the motion had been formally passed, it would have had no more effect than the present defeated motion.

The officials indeed tried, as they always do, to play off one party against the other. The idea of a Royal Commission might not perhaps appeal to the Congress and the Swarajists and therefore could not be favoured by Government. Does this mean, then, asked Mr. Jinnah, that Government is willing to adopt the course recommended by the Congress and the Swarajists? That is quite a different matter, says Government, but the fact remains that the people in general do not want a Royal Commission. To this specious argument Mr. Jinnah gave a devastating reply. A Royal Commission is perhaps not much in popular favour in the sense that the people would like something more swift, more direct and more forthright. They do not want so much an examination of the present reforms with a view to their expansion, as an immediate expansion of the reforms. It is only in that sense that a Royal Commission may be said not to have a popular sanction behind it. While therefore it is quite legitimate for those who wish to widen the reforms without a preliminary inquiry to use this argument of want of public support, it is not open to those who are opposed even to an inquiry to use it. Are there any persons in India who, not caring very much for an investigation into the existing constitution, are opposed or indifferent to an instantaneous enlarge-

ment of the constitution? We do not know of any such, and therefore we believe that the Government cannot in reason turn down a proposal on the ground that it does not meet with general approval. The other ground that the Government of India's representatives advanced, viz. that no sufficient evidences of co-operation are yet forthcoming, is equally devoid of substance, though the Swarajists' walk-out makes it plausible. The Swarajists have, all things considered, offered co-operation *sans* name, as Dewan Bahadurs Ramachandra Rao and Rangachariar urged. Our complaint against the Swarajists is that their conduct is illogical and inconsistent, but we have never doubted that on many occasions they have gone further in offering co-operation than the so-called co-operators. It appears, however, that it is not enough to the Government that the Swarajists should co-operate in working the reforms, but that they should also call themselves co-operators; that they should formally forswear the doctrine of non-co-operation. This indeed may be too much for the pride even of the Swarajists, humbled as they already are.

The Swarajists are trying to make out that in asking for a Royal Commission, the Independents have gone back from the position which they took up in September last when they supported the national demand. It is not difficult to show however that the divergence is more apparent than real. The September resolution merely indicated the *quantum* of reforms that should be immediately conceded in order to satisfy public opinion but was silent as to the *modus operandi*. This motion merely sought to indicate the particular mode of giving effect to the demand embodied in the September resolution. The British public is not likely to promote any legislation in Parliament unless they are fortified by a recommendation to that effect by a body like the Royal Commission and Mr. Jinnah's motion, therefore, proposed the appointment of such a Commission. This Commission would not, of course, be committed in advance to recommend the particular stage in the development of reforms which was represented by the September resolution, Commission, but, as Mr. Jinnah said, the Constitutionalists were confident that, given a Commission of a satisfactory personnel and a sufficiently wide scope, the Royal Commission would make the desired recommendations. There is thus no inconsistency between demanding any specific reforms and asking for an inquiry by a Commission as the most promising means of introducing those reforms. The Government of India too, with the evident desire of following the divide and rule policy, seemed to lend their support to the charge of inconsistency, but it was done with the real object of covering up the weakness of their own position. It is a thousand pities that the Swarajists should, with the object of spiting their rivals, be instrumental only in adding strength to the elbow of our common opponents.

FAMINE RELIEF IN SOUTH INDIA BY S.I.S.,

FROM October to January last the Madras Branch of the Servants of India Society was engaged in famine relief work in a portion of South India. The area affected was about a thousand square miles and formed part of Coimbatore and Trichinopoly Districts. There had been failure of rainfall in this area for three or four years and very distressing conditions were prevailing when relief was organised by the Servants of India Society. In September Messrs. V. Venkatasubbaiya and K. G. Sivaswamy Iyer (members of the Servants of India Society, Madras Branch) made a preliminary tour in the affected area and reported that, assuming a normal north-east monsoon, relief would be needed for a period of two and a half months, that it should be begun immediately and that it should be confined to labouring classes only. They found that the labouring classes were in great distress for want of food and the depressed classes in particular for want of drinking water. They recommended the starting of centres for distribution of gruel and the deepening of wells as the main items of relief. In regard to funds, they appealed for the diversion of flood relief balances. In his recently published report on the relief operations, Mr. Venkatasubbaiya says:—

"This we did for two reasons. Firstly there was a question of time. We estimated that relief would be needed for only a period of about two and a half months. If we started collecting a special fund, it would take up most of the precious time for the administration of relief, and when the money came it could not be so usefully spent. Secondly, we thought it desirable in the interests of public life that all remnants of a fund collected for the relief of distress on one occasion should be spent before the public were asked to subscribe for a similar purpose on the next occasion."

In all about Rs. 18,000 was made available for this work of relief, of which about Rs. 5,000 came from two Taluk Boards for the work done for them by the S. I. S. relief agency.

The main forms of relief were three:—

1. *Kanji-thottis*, in which gruel was served once a day at noon.

"These were intended for old and infirm people, for children and needy mothers, to whom tickets were issued, on the production of which food would be served. Able-bodied persons, unless suckling mothers, were refused. The number intended for each kanji-thotti was 200, but these restrictions had to be relaxed in places where and on days when work for the able-bodied was not provided. Those who availed themselves of these thottis were almost invariably members of the depressed classes, though the gruel was cooked by caste Hindus. The greediness with which they drank this poor stuff in the first few days was almost sickening. Children of five or six years would walk, pot in hand, two or three miles to the kanji-thotti. That this was due to the prevalence of famine and not to a settled habit of bagging was proved beyond all doubt at the Kangayam kanji-thotti, which was the last to close. After the 15th of December, when Kambu began to be harvested, the attendance there fell off in a week from about 200 to less than forty and we naturally closed it."

2. *Wells.*—66 existing wells which had gone dry were deepened and 7 new wells were dug. Almost all of them were for the benefit of the depressed classes, who were entirely at the mercy of the higher castes for the supply of drinking water, as they were denied access to public wells and their own were all dry.

3. *Work for the able-bodied.*—This was the most important item of relief and accounted for two-thirds of the entire expenditure. Work was provided for able-bodied men and women in about 20 different villages for periods varying from three to ten weeks. For the greater part of November employment was given for nearly 1500 persons a day. If more persons were not given employment, it was only for lack of funds. In every place numbers of those that sought employment had to be turned away. From numerous villages deputations and petitions came to ask for works being started in their neighbourhood, but for want of funds their requests had to be refused, the policy adopted by the relief agency rightly being that of giving continuous employment to the same set of people. The wage given was somewhat higher than the famine wage as laid down by the Famine Code, but was distributed chiefly in grain and only to a small extent in cash, the latter being intended for the purchase of salt and chillies, etc. This had the great advantage of saving the labourers from the temptation to drink; for it is a well-known fact that on Government famine relief works the labourers spend a good part of even their famine wage on drink and deny themselves necessary food. The main items of work were the clearance of village sites of prickly pear and the repairing of itteries or cart tracts.

"The former meant really increasing the sanitary accommodation of the village, particularly for the benefit of women and making the burial and cremation grounds more accessible. Itteris are everywhere in a lamentable condition owing to the deplorable deterioration of communal life in the villages. They are so overgrown with prickly pear that there is just room enough for a cart to go in them. If a man or woman should happen to be coming from the opposite direction, he or she has to walk back to a suitable place to let the cart pass. If a cart should happen to come from the opposite direction it has to be unyoked and pushed back to a spot where the other can pass it. What we did was

to remove prickly pear from 4 to 5 feet on either side and make the passage of two carts easy throughout. We also filled up ditches and made the itteris smooth. The total length of itteris repaired exceeded 20 miles at an average cost of Rs. 100 per mile.

"At the end of November, the relief agency found itself at the end of its resources and thus it was advised to take up contract work of road making under Erode and Karur Taluk Boards. This enabled the work of relief being carried on in the more important centres during the whole of December. Nearly of 25 miles of new road was thus made at very cheap rates for the Taluk Boards. In fact all the money spent by the Servants of India Society agency on wells and on providing work for the able-bodied went directly to enrich the Taluk Boards. In addition the latter were indirectly benefited to a very great extent by the cheapness and efficiency of the relief agency. At a cost of less than Rs. 2,500 we deepened and otherwise improved as many as 64 old wells and dug 6 new wells. If this work had been entrusted to private contractors, the cost would have been several times higher. In the estimates prepared by the staff of the Erode Taluk Board, the usual amount provided for deepening a well was about Rs. 200 and for digging a new well not less than Rs. 400. The Taluk Board would perhaps have done some more work for each well than we did. Nevertheless the difference in cost would be striking. Take again the case of roads. On 18 miles we spent about Rs. 6,600 and the Taluk Boards actually paid us less than Rs. 5,000. If this work had been entrusted to contractors, the cost would in all probability have been Rs. 700 per mile. Three years ago the Erode Taluk Board spent on a similar work Rs. 800 per mile. Our work was so cheap, partly because labour was cheap owing to famine, but mainly because so much of public spirit was enlisted on our side: we had no salaries, supervision charges, mamools or contractors' profits to pay."

The report gives several statements which contain detailed information regarding all items of work and account for all the monies received by the agency. The Collector of Coimbatore District, who visited the works more than once, was very much struck by the usefulness and efficiency of the agency, and finding that it was short of funds, recommended to Government that a donation of Rs. 20,000 should be made to the Servants of India Society to carry on and develop this relief work. But very unfortunately the Government did not accept the proposal and therefore a good deal of distress went unrelieved.

OPIUM AT GENEVA.*

By P. Kodanda Rao.

I

SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE.

IF small reforms are sometimes the enemy of large reforms, even so are pious phrases the enemy of solid achievement. The Opium Conferences at Geneva are an instance in point. The world is grateful to America for her peculiar contribution of idealism in world politics. But sometimes she overreaches the mark and thwarts and retards substantial progress "by an appeal from something that was called expediency to something that called

itself principle". With a misplaced obstinacy America insisted on a "limitation of production to strictly medicinal and scientific needs", while

*OPIUM AS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM: The Geneva Conferences. By W.W. WILLOUGHBY. (Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore.) 1925. 9½ x 6. pp. 589 \$4.50.

OPIUM. By J. P. GAVIT. (George Rutledge & Sons, Ltd., London.) 1925. 9 x 5½. pp. 308. 12s. 6d.

OPIUM POLICY IN JAPAN. By SAGATARO KAKU, Japanese Delegation, Geneva.) 1924. pp. 56. 8½ x 5½.

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM CONFERENCES AT (GENEVA, 1924-25. Report of the Indian Delegation. pp. 73.

expressly permitting opium-smoking and opium-eating in countries which consider them legitimate. She had no objections to reservations of a nullifying character if only the principle was accepted! The fight for this shadow occupied the best part of the time of the Conferences and, what is more regrettable, introduced an amount of disharmony, bitterness and confusion in the debates, perhaps unprecedented at International gatherings. But for this side-tracking and the consequent defection of America, the achievements of the Conferences would have been more substantial. To mention only one instance, the problem of manufactured drugs might have received a more radical solution. America contended that the opium used in the manufacture of drugs is but a fraction of the amount of raw opium produced and that the control of drug would not mean substantial reform. It may be that the amount used in drug manufacture is only between 10 to 25% of the total production. But then the high-power manufactured drugs are at least ten times as injurious as opium eating or smoking. Why, the International Anti-Opium Association asked in anguish, "If China cannot be protected against narcotic drugs, would it not be wiser for her to retain her opium?" China begged and beseeched for the limitation of high power drugs. This was an obligation which the Hague Convention itself as long ago as 1912 imposed on the contracting parties. These manufactured drugs are comparatively new inventions and have not yet had time to get involved in the national habits of any peoples or ancient systems of medicines, which would complicate and render more difficult the problem of control and limitation. All the legitimate use of these drugs is in the hands of modern allopathic medical men whose requirements can be more easily ascertained than the non-allopathic medical men's requirements of opium. The manufacture of drugs in factories, which cannot be easily concealed, can be more effectively controlled than the production of new opium. Even the Government of India, which by common consent has the most efficient control of opium production in its territories, has had to permit some uncontrolled production in some inaccessible areas. With such a strong case for the urgency and practicability of the limitation of the manufacture of high power drugs to strictly medicinal and scientific purposes, no strenuous efforts were made to bring about such limitation. The powers of the Board, originally meant to control production, were whittled down considerably. America could have helped to arrest it for Mr. Gavit, in his extraordinarily comprehensive, fair and brightly written book, says, "After the defection of the United States, Great Britain fought alone for the Board, and in the end had to yield materially to the disposition to make it weak rather than strong," and that "owing largely and I believe chiefly to the failure of the Americans to stay on and fight for the best Convention obtainable in the circumstances." But we must leave this topic here and recommend Prof. Willoughby's book

to those who have no time to go through the verbatim report of the proceedings, but wish to follow the successive scenes in the opium drama enacted in Geneva with all its interplay and conflict of interests and opinions and of manoeuvres and compromises. The compendious volume is primarily an abridged report of the proceedings of the Conferences and contains textual reproductions of the more important statements of the Delegations.

II

AMERICA AND INDIA.

One of the results of the Conferences is the strengthening of the popular impression that America was the hero and India the villain in the anti-Opium drama. We do not in the least grudge America full credit for her idealism, and if we draw attention to some of the points in her conduct which do not exactly bear it out, it is only to show the difficult nature of the problem, and not to belittle her good intentions. We have already drawn attention to the obligation, accepted by America along with others at the Hague, to *limit the manufacture* of high power drugs exclusively to medical and legitimate purposes. America has done nothing so far in the matter except levying license fees and import taxes, both sources of Governmental revenue, by the way. And here is what the Prohibition Commissioner, R. A. Haynes, in an official statement presented in October, 1923, says about revenue. "During the period since the Harrison (anti-narcotic) Law has been in operation, the actual cost of enforcement has totalled \$3,526,459.94, while the amount collected as fines, penalties, etc., has aggregated \$6,384,751.45, none of which is used to defray costs of enforcement, but is turned into the general funds of the United States Treasury". Compare this with the perfervid orations that no revenue should be made out of the opium and that all the proceeds should be spent in combating the opium habit. Mr. Gavit exclaims, "Six hundred thousand dollars a year of clear revenue for Uncle Sam out of the 'dope' business. From which, at least, he may well clear himself before he is in a position to point fingers of scorn at anybody else! He might at least devote all of it to the enforcement of the law." Further, Commissioner Haynes' investigations of the statutes of the various States on the subject of narcotics "disclosed a bewildering and on the whole discouraging hodge-podge, without any trace of common conviction or purpose or any coherence of policy." "The American legislation on the subject is a patchwork; some of it still in the vague and ineffectual condition belonging to the first stages of awakening. And in some States and localities the police authorities, regardless of the adequacy of the law, give slight co-operation to the Federal enforcement, if indeed they do not actively obstruct it." In the Philippines, America imposed absolute prohibition since 1908, both the Dutch and British Delegations doubted its reality and M. Laudon challenged the American Delegation to produce the latest statistics to show the contrary. The challenge

was not accepted. The British Delegation proposed that a special commission with an American chairman should be appointed to investigate the actual situation in the Far East, including the Philippines. America would have none of it. If these facts prove that American achievements are far below American idealism, we do not exult in it, in spite of the fact that America has greatly wronged India. We would welcome a more chastened and charitable temper in her when she again feels like denouncing others for not practising what she preaches. If America failed by her pledge under the Hague Convention to limit the manufacture of high power drugs, if she did not disdain to make revenue out of the "dope" business, if she failed to induce the different States in her own Federation to take equally stringent measures against opium, if her prohibition policy in the Philippines would not stand an enquiry by an International Commission, albeit with an American Chairman, and if she would yet be the hero in the anti-opium crusade, something better than the title of villain is due to India which, though not indulging in fancy flights of high-sounding phrases, has, in the words of Mr. Gavit, "more scrupulously, anyway more effectively, complied with the Hague Convention than any other country, not excepting the United States of America." As Mr. Gavit admits, "in point of fact, India is the only country producing opium on a large scale which has its production under real control"—and we would interpose, *limited to legitimate needs*—"knows on the whole where it goes, and gives dependable statistics. The Indian Government has been loyal to its pledge to permit none of its product to be exported to China or to any other country whose laws prohibit import of opium, not only insisting rigorously upon official import certificates from the country of ostensible destination,"—and we would add, selling direct to the Government of importing countries—"but even in suspected instances taking steps to investigate the conditions surrounding their issue. The declared domestic policy of India is gradually to reduce the production and increase the price, and their figures indicate considerable progress in that direction; but they take good care not to push the price to a point where smuggled goods will invade the market." The export policy of the Government of India has been applauded by such competent critics as the late Sir John Jordon and Mrs. Hamilton Wright. The Government has taken yet another step in advance in response, we take it, to contemporary public opinion in India. It proposes gradually to stop export of opium except for strictly medicinal and scientific purposes, which involves the limitation of production of opium for export to strictly medicinal and scientific purposes. It is time that America followed the lead of India in doing better than saying and limited the manufacture, if only for export, of high power drugs to strictly medicinal and scientific purposes.

SERFDOM IN THE KONKAN.

V—Testimony of Sanads. (*Contd.*)

MR. DESAI produced 88 inām sanads. There were 50 sanads among them whereby pure khoti villages were granted in inām wholly or in parts, 7 whereby pure dhārā villages were granted in inām, one which related to khichdi or mixed dhārā and khoti, 29 whereby lands situated in pure khoti villages were granted in inām to persons other than khots and one whereby a piece of land situated in a khichdi village was granted in inām. In the case of one village, the fut ināmdār (holder of a piece of land in the village as inām) had come in after the grant of khoti with a written notice to the khot that he (the ināmdār) had obtained from the Peshwās full proprietary rights in respect to a specified plot in his village. This happened in 1768 A. D., and had the khot then really believed, observes Mr. Desai, that such a grant was opposed to a right already vested in him, he would have protested against the grant. But no such protests were made in this or similar other cases. Also 107 kauls (कौल-leases for reclamation of land) were put in evidence by Mr. Desai. These documents provided an undeniable proof that in all villages there was *un-assessed land belonging to Government*, because both the former and the present Governments exercised their right of leasing such lands to persons other than khots, without even a reference to them. That the khots could not claim proprietary rights in the days of the Peshawās is evident from an order of the Peshwā showing that *fine was levied from the khot, because he had cut mangoe trees without permission*.

In 1887 Mr. Desai went to Poona and examined about 500 rumāls (bundles) in the Poona daftar. Though he had only 19 days at his disposal to make the necessary research, he succeeded in finding a sufficiently large number of fut ināms granted in villages which the khots themselves had admitted in 1819 to have been their watani khoti from before the time of the Moghuls, and which still continue to be pure Khoti. In some cases the order intimating the grant of the fut inām was addressed to the khot himself. In others, khoti sanads of a date prior to that of inām were found. In the course of his examination Mr. Desai came across other papers also. They were:—(1) Documents explanatory of the word 'khoti.' (2) Documents showing that the words 'mirāsi khoti' and 'watan khoti' are identical in sense. (3) Documents showing that, in the Konkan, Khots were treated by the Peshwās as *village servants*, just as the patels and kulkarnis in the Deccan. (4) Documents showing that, like patels and kulkarnis, *the khots had salary in money, land or both*, attached to their watans; and (5) Documents showing that in watani khoti villages lands have been given away to persons other than khots either in kauli or inām.

A document dated 1742 A.D. shows that the word 'khoti' was used even where no land was concerned. It gave the khoti of the land and sea customs.

including the tax on horned cattle as well as taxes pertaining to export and sale of merchandise, to a Mohamedan for one year who was to pay Government a certain amount (Rs. 75 more than the amount paid by his predecessor) by two instalments. It was a मक्का (farm) of the इजारा (monopoly) of collecting खोती (the customs) and paying them to Government. This shows clearly that 'khoti' meant nothing more than collecting Government revenue and its payment to Government, which exercised also the right of creating, in respect of independent items of revenue, independent watani khots in a village which already had a khot. In some villages in addition to Brāhman and other khots there were Bhandāri khots whose special duty it was to increase the plantation of cocoa-nut trees and to collect and pay Government assessment thereon.

In some sanads the words 'mirāsi khoti' and 'watani khoti' have been used synonymously. *Mirās* is derived from *wāris*, an heir. A sanad speaks of the office of kulkarni as *mirās*. A *mirāsi kulkarni* of a village means an hereditary kulkarni of that village, and not one having a proprietary right therein. Thus a *mirāsi* or *watandār khot* means simply a hereditary khot, no proprietary right being involved. Mr. Desai refers to some papers that show that under the Maratha Government the khots were treated as village servants exactly as patels and kulkarnis. The allowances and lands held by them were debited as service remuneration side by side with similar debits in favour of kulkarnis, sardesais, &c. Also, whenever for any cause the khoti was attached, the watani lands were also attached, which shows that the whole together formed a service watan. There are documents which bear evidence that khots, mukādams and patels were regarded as officers having the same duties to perform and the same responsibilities to bear. Mr. Desai produces a khoti sanad granted in respect to some villages in the Deccan, i. e. in places where the word 'khoti' has been absolutely forgotten in and supplanted by the term 'patelki'. It is an instance where the same watan is once spoken of as khotki and again as patelki, and a third time as mukādami, thus showing that the three terms were identical in sense.

Mr. Desai answers as follows the question why ryatwari system was not introduced in the Konkan :—

"On the introduction of their rule in 1818. the Government intended to bring about the ryatwari system below and above the ghāts. In the Konkan their *informants*, as well as the persons through whom they administered this district, were, as a rule, either khots or persons interested in khots, and the tone of the administration has throughout been favourable to them, in that they have always been regarded as *watandārs* and occasionally as proprietors also, *without the usual obligations of services*. In the Deccan, on the other hand, the patels had not the same facilities to impose upon the Government. They were themselves illiterate, so far that

in their sanads the first privilege mentioned is that of putting the mark of a plough in token of their signature. People so ignorant could hardly expect, even if they wished, to influence the administration of the district, in which again their rivals, the kulkarnis, had a substantial share."

In forwarding Mr. Desai's report to the Collector, Mr. A. Cumine, special Asstt. Collector and Settlement Officer, Ratnagiri, wrote : "*It is melancholy to think that if these papers had only been looked out seventy years ago, we should never have had a khoti question at all.*"

The original Marathi papers are given as appendices to his report by Mr. Desai. Some of the important words and sentences may be given here. 'खोत्या पुरातन वतन' (Appendix H. वतनपत्र granted in 1724 A. D. to Sideji Bin Nagoji Patel and other Pole Mukadams in respect of some villages in Tarf Hirdas Māwal—(तर्फ हिरडस मावल). 'सरमोकदम' व 'सरखातीचे वतन' (Appendix I.) 'मोकदम मौजे मजकूर यांस (Appendix J. —a रोजकीर्द extract from the Peshwa's daftar (1765 A.D.) in which a Khot of a village in Sangameshwar taluka was addressed as Mukādami). "यादी मुलकी पाटील यांस नक्त नेमणुका निपळण तालुक्यांत आहेत त्याजव-दुलची" (Appendix K.) "खोती पाटिलकी चालवीत असतां" "खोती पाटीलकीची तक्षीम" etc. (Appendix KI). "वतनी पाटिलक्या व मुकासी पुरातन आपले लोक इदलशाही कारकीर्दीपासून चालत असतां, etc.", "वतनी पाटिलकीचा कजा लागून" "बंदर मजकूरचे पाटिलकीचा देस्ता जमाबंदी असेल त्याची उगवणी etc." (Appendix K II, Sanad from the Subhedar of Prant Janjira Suvarndurg, dated 1816 A.D.). "मशारनिल्हे पुरातन वतनदार वतनसंबंधी सेवा करावा लागतो, कुटुंबाचा योगक्षेम चालवा लागतो त्याकरितां काहीं जमीन नूतन इनाम करून वंशपरंपरेने चालविली पाहिजे इणून विनंति केली त्यावरून स्वामी कृपाकू होऊन, etc." (Appendix L I, 1735 A.D.). Sanad dated "मौजे मजकूरचे खोतीच्या वतनाचे कामकाज याजपासून घेत जाणे" (Appendix L II, dated 1764-65). "खोत गांवगना यांचा मुशाहिरा आकार रुपये" (Appendix M I). "खोत मुशाहिरा," "खोत मुशाहिरा," "खोत मुशाहिरा," "खोत मुशाहिरा" (Appendix MII, dated 1775 A. D.). "प्रांत मजकूर (सुवर्णदुर्ग) येथील गांवगनाचे खोतांस गांवची खटपट करावी लागते सबब मुशाहिर्याची नेमणूक आहे" (Appendix N., dated 1779-80 A.D.). "शिवाजी महाराजांचे कारकीर्दीस खोतांस मुशाहिरा होता. डिगणकर घेत असे एकाचे वोलणे व आंगरे यांचे कारकीर्दीत खोतांस खटपट होत ते डिगणकरास यावे असे दोघांचे जवानीत आहे." (Appendix L IV, dated 1784 A.D.).

Mr. A. B. Desai again visited the Poona daftar in 1888 and submitted his supplementary report early in the following year. He succeeded in collecting such papers as showed that ग्याळी (lapsed) holdings even in watani khoti villages *reverted to Government, and not to the khoti*, and that they were regularly disposed of by Government, that the Peshwa was invariably treated the khoti watan as a *service watan*, and that "the promotion of cultivation" and "the payment of Government assessment" were as inseparable incidents of the patelki watan as they were of the khoti. The early British officers did not know that even in the khoti villages the khots had remuneration (*mushāhira*); otherwise, as observed by Mr. Desai, the khots would have surely taken their proper place under the Watan Act, side by side with their brother officers, the kulkarnis and mahājans. How the position of the patel materially differed from

that of the khot under British the Government is described as follows by Mr. Desai:—"Both the offices have been in existence side by side at least from the sixteenth century, though the patel's origin may be traced to more distant times. But until 1818 neither of them were allowed to encroach beyond their original limits. . . . But all this equality of treatment ceased directly the British Government took charge of the Konkan territories, because for the time the administration had to view things through eyes not their own. The discovery of truth became a matter of chance; conflicting opinions, sometimes running to extremes, prevailed. In such a confused state of things, it was thought by Government to be the safest policy to let things alone, so that they may find their level. *It was an unequal contest between the ryots and the Khots*; and eventually when Government intervened, the matter became worse, because they had *exaggerated notions of the khots' rights and privileges*. The result of all this is manifest in the Government Resolution No. 2474 of 1876 and the Khoti Act based thereon. Such is, in brief, the history of the khoti question in this district. It affords a most instructive illustration of how an error, which a timely contradiction would have entirely removed, develops by mere repetition—first pleads the sanction of usage, and backed eventually by a misinformed legislature, derides all fair attempts at its exposure."

P. G. KANEKAR.

A LETTER FROM LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, FEB. 26.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE reports of the Parliamentary discussions on the position and grievances of the South African Indians during the last thirty years would fill a respectable volume. They extend from before the Boer War until to-day, and it is difficult to say whether the position now is not somewhat worse than it was thirty years ago, when Her Majesty's Government actively took up the cause of the South African Indians against the Boer Republic and made it part of the *casus belli*. At any rate, the British Government now is carefully taciturn on the subject, and has handed its erstwhile proteges over to the tender mercies of the South African white population, without having reserved guarantees for their protection and the preservation of their rights and interests. It is not wonderful, therefore, that Lord Olivier, with his knowledge of events derived from a comparatively short tenure at the India Office, should have sought reassurances from his successor as to the presently threatened position of these victims of circumstances at the hands of their oppressors in the Union.

Lord Olivier had taken a great deal of trouble in the preparation of his case, and by way of preliminary, he had contributed an interesting and illuminating article to the *New Statesman*, Mr. H. W. Nevinson having written, with his usual warmth and vigour on the Colour Bar Bill to the *New Leader*, giving to Mr. Patrick Duncan much more credit than, as a member of the Smuts Government, he was entitled to. Lord Olivier spoke for more than three-quarters of an hour, reciting

the history of the question, quoting from the comments and denunciations of distinguished statesmen in the past, and pressing his own views, as well as those of the Government and people of India, and of General Smuts, on the new legislation upon the attention of a rather thinly attended House. Their Lordships take their Imperial duties rather easily, and it is to be feared that most of those who were present would not have been there but for the fact that Lord Parmoor was later to interpellate the Government upon its policy with regard to the admission of other members than Germany to the Council of the League of Nations. Among them I noticed no other ex-Secretary of State for India. Lord Lansdowne alone represented the office of Viceroy, whilst, so far as I could observe from the Gallery, Sir Atul Chatterjee, who was an interested onlooker, had a better view of the Chamber from the High Commissioner's Gallery—the solitary ex-Governor present was Lord Lamington. Neither Lord Hardinge nor Lord Chelmsford could manage to be in attendance, the former, I believe, being abroad and the latter being otherwise engaged. Lord Amptill would have been present but for serious illness, and Lords Peel, Meston, and Willingdon being abroad. Nor were Lords Gladstone, Buxton, or Selborne there.

One of the most difficult places to hear is the Gallery of the House of Lords, even the members of the Press Gallery being obliged to use headphones and the microphone. Lord Olivier, whilst a very fluent speaker, is not always a very distinct one at a distance, though Lord Birkenhead, doubtless from long practice in the Courts and the House of Commons, has a very clear enunciation. I need not summarise the speeches, as they will have already been transmitted at length by Reuter, in view of their importance and the state of feeling in India. Lord Birkenhead's reply was not unexpected, having regard to the delicacy of the situation in South Africa and the fact that the Union Government had agreed to allow the anti-Indian legislation to go to a Select Committee of the Assembly prior to the second reading. But he might, as the *Times* Parliamentary correspondent observed, have been a little less rough with his questioner.

LORD LAMINGTON AND KENYA.

Lord Lamington, who wholeheartedly supported Lord Olivier's presentation of the case for the South African Indians, strangely enough took exception to his bringing in a reference to the Indian disappointment at the frustration of Indian claims and hopes by the decisions of the British Government in respect of Kenya in 1923. Forgetful of the history of that matter, he thought, that Indian feeling had been fomented in order to bolster up the cause of extremism in India. Lord Lamington is usually so fair and sympathetic on these questions of Indians overseas that it was a bit surprising to find him taking this line, and Lord Olivier did well to remind him that even on his own showing, he (Lord Olivier) was right in emphasising the indignation felt in India at present at the treatment meted out to the South African Indians and the danger to the British connection that would ensue if India had again cause to resent the action or inaction of His Majesty's Government. I understand that the true facts of the Kenya case have since been brought to Lord Lamington's notice by Mr. Polak, on behalf of the Indians Overseas Association, and I shall be surprised if so friendly an observer as he will not take early steps to retrace his steps. Meanwhile, I learn from Mr. Polak that he has received more hopeful news from Mr. Andrews, who expects to return direct to India in April. It is sincerely to be hoped that Mr. Andrews' view of

the position will be confirmed by events. Undoubtedly, more attention is being given to this matter in thoughtful circles, capable of understanding its implications, than for a long time past. The Archbishop of Canterbury, who did not find it necessary to intervene in yesterday's discussion, was specially in attendance, and of the two Bishops present, one, if I am not mistaken, was Dr. Purse, formerly Bishop of Pretoria, and now Bishop of St. Alban's.

REVIEWS.

THE PRESENT ECONOMIC ORDER.

PROFITS. By WILLIAM TRUFANT FOSTER and WADDILL CATCHINGS. (Houghton Mifflin Co., for the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research, Mass.) 1925. 8 x 5½. pp. 465 \$ 4'00.

THE volume before us seeks to offer a stage towards the solution of a definite economic problem—the problem of periodic business depressions. "Why must industry", the authors ask, "as a whole slow down because of over-production, when millions are suffering from under-consumption?" The analysis which the authors offer us is as follows: Through no fault of any one class or agency in the present organisation of economic society, the present methods of financing increased production and accumulated savings prevent the progress which otherwise might be made towards higher standards of living. Progress towards greater total production is retarded, because consumer buying does not keep pace with production. Consumer buying lags behind for two reasons: first, because industry does not disburse to consumers enough money to buy the goods produced; second, because consumers, under the necessity of saving, cannot spend even as much money as they receive. There is not an even flow of money from producer to consumer, and from consumer back to producer. The expansion of the volume of money does not fully make up the deficit, for money is expanded mainly to facilitate the production of goods, and the goods must be sold to consumers for more money than the expansion has provided. Further, savings of corporations and individuals are not used to purchase the goods already in the market but to stimulate the further production of goods. Under the present economic order of society, inadequacy of consumer income is the main reason why we do not long continue to produce the wealth which natural resources, capital facilities, improvements in the arts and the self-interest of employers and employees would otherwise enable us to produce.

This is the analysis of the economic problem which our authors present to us; but they do not propose to offer a definite solution. They are satisfied with an understanding of the problem. This analysis is based upon the fundamental assumption that profits are the heart of industrial life, that for good or evil the mainspring of economic effort is the prospect of individual gain, that the profit incentive is not merely one motive force among many that keep men at work—creating wealth, but the one force without which the others can scarcely function at all. Now this assumption is not one that we are prepared to accept. Let us just consider what the authors themselves are forced to acknowledge,—the experience of the war time. In an individualistic society like that of Great Britain profits were limited, prices were standardised, all those incentives of self-regard and gain which, we have been assured, were essential to economic progress were shelved. Yet production reached an unprecedented point, both in quality and in amount. That was because another incentive was brought into ope-

ration—the sense of danger to which the nation was exposed during the war evoked a social solidarity which proved a more powerful incentive to industry than the profit motive and the self-regarding instincts ever provided. We do not see how our authors can escape from this challenge and still hold to the superstition that the only motives on which we can rely in dealing with human nature are the profit-seeking motives. The sense of direct participation in a great social task needs to be brought home to the mind of the average worker in times of peace as it was brought home to him in the war times; and the systematic education of a couple of generations may throw into confusion all the orthodox reasoning of the cynical defence of the present organisation of society. We feel all talk of a solution of the problem which our authors have in view is futile, in the absence of a challenge to the profit motive. There is no reason why we should not regard the business of feeding and clothing the people as much a department of the public service as that of educating them, or providing them with water or of carrying their correspondence. Mr. Hobson is inclined to put more reliance on "the merits of representative government" in industry than on the incentive of social service. The average workman tends to work better and to see that others work better, and so to evolve a public opinion in favour of good work, if there is thrown on him a direct right and responsibility to control the near conditions of good work. We do not doubt the possibility of this last as an incentive to good work; but it is as much away and remote from the profit motive as the motive to serve the society and work under a sense of social duty.

If we once accept with the authors the sanctity of the present economic order, there is no solution possible except tinkering with the symptoms of the economic disease. The authors seem to admit the possibility of a more radical remedy than they would be prepared to accept. They observe, "adequate income for consumers is the only adequate remedy", and "all other devices are at best mere palliatives". This does not seem far from a guarantee of a national minimum of subsistence for which even the British Labour Party seems to be reaching out.

The book is an honest, earnest attempt at analysing the phenomena connected with profits; and whilst the authors will not offer a radical solution, their industry and their scrupulous respect for truth have enabled them to gather invaluable material for the student of the problem. Even the socialist and syndicalist will turn with interest to the data collected in this volume, and will be the wiser for a study of the plea here put up in defence of the present order.

P. A. WADIA.

SHORT NOTICES.

CHILD LABOUR. By JULIA E. JOHNSON. (The H. W. Wilson Company, New York.) 1925. 7½ x 5. pp. 149. \$2-40.

MRS. JOHNSON as a factory inspectress had good opportunities to study the subject of child labour at first hand. She actually examined hundreds of boys and their guardians and from the information so collected drew her own conclusions, which she verified by similar testimony from the writings of other observers. She finds that pressure of economic conditions is the primary cause of the employment of child labour. (1) The income of the child goes to supplement the income of the parents or the guardian. (2) The child has to be prepared early to enable him to maintain himself in future. (3) Child labour is employed owing to its cheapness. Early employ-

ment of children has a very deleterious effect on the future life of the child. He suffers physically, mentally, and morally. He turns out a bad citizen, an inefficient worker, and an ineffective soldier. Children are the nation's chief asset, being the future citizens. Any expense and trouble undertaken to improve the efficiency of the child will therefore not be wasted. To prevent the deterioration of the future citizen, education including that in the continuation schools and preventive legislation are suggested. The minimum age should be raised. Local legislation alone has not been found effective. Inter-provincial and if possible international legislation is recommended. Localities adopting anti-child labour legislation find themselves under a disadvantage, when their neighbours do not adopt the same. The book is not the exclusive work of the author, but is a compilation of similar writings of other writers. I recommend the book to those who have their country's good at heart.

D. THENGDI

MISCELLANEOUS.

KAMALA LECTURES.

Mr. Sastri is repeating, as required by the terms of the Endowment, the Kamala lectures which he had delivered at Calcutta University in Madras. Of the first lecture which came off on the 18th inst., "Pavey Keito" gives the following impressions in the HINDU.

It was an eager and highly expectant audience that acclaimed with applause the arrival of the distinguished lecturer at five minutes to the appointed hour of six. The hour was fixed so late purposely to avoid the heat of the day. And as the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri slowly walked in and took his seat on the dais, one saw with regret and anxiety how it was increasingly imperative that every effort should be made to render the task of addressing vast audiences less labourous and exhausting to him. Necessarily, therefore, the lecturer was not to be allowed to stand while lecturing and the whole audience enthusiastically received the proposal of the Vice-Chancellor that the learned lecturer should be permitted to sit and deliver his discourse.

The very first few words of the opening showed that though the flesh was weak, the spirit was willing. The voice has not lost any of its charm; nor the tone its pitch and range. The silver tongue was more willing than ever and soon the hushed silence that pervaded the hall spoke eloquently to the magnetic charm induced by the lecture. Very soon it was borne in upon us that even the English language could be so musical; even its periods so rounded. And on an abstract subject as 'Rights and Duties of Citizens', as sentence followed sentence, and period upon period, we were overwhelmed in a flood of eloquence dazzled by the wealth of ideas, and bewildered by the rapidity of their sequence.

Years ago when I was very young and Mr. Sastri but just then a raw recruit under the banner of the flag so ably hoisted up by the late Mr. Gokhale, I had listened in my own little mofussil college to a lecture on "Friendship" by Mr. Sastri. Much, very much has happened since then. "Honours have come thick upon him" and the same old traits of presenting old facts in the newest garb, of putting forth absolutely original views on the oldest subjects, of making the audience feel the superiority of the lecturer—all these have increased with the march of time.

Gifted with a voice that is melodious, musical, and sweet, Mr. Sastri knows how to avoid the monotonous drawl which so many of our countrymen degenerate into. From start to finish the rise and fall of words, the just emphasis on the right place, the elegant diction, the clear enunciation and the unmistakable accent place Mr. Sastri far, very far, above any other Indian speaker. The audience is throughout kept in suspense for the next sentence, phrase, word. There could be

no greater exponent of the charm of periodical sentences than Mr. Sastri. Nor is the element of humour absent. His reference to yellow-robed Sanyasins (of the retrograde type of course), his allusion to advocates of military duty and of freedom of marriage among Indians, are all evidences of the kind of satire and sarcasm with which he could wither his opponents. And yesterday in particular, in the singularly moving and powerful appeal for the absolutely indispensable asset of a Declaration of Rights of the Indian citizen, who can forget the almost tragic manner in which he lamented the folly of the majority of the Assembly in Delhi, who allowed Regulation III of 1818 still to disfigure and disgrace the statute book? The passage came as a surprise on the audience. The cunning lips of the magician told the sorrowful tale in such a way that the audience wondered what it was, that the Indian majority in the Assembly was guilty of. Was it the Exodus? It could be scarcely anything else, thought they; and so great was their surprise at the lecturer's denunciation of that unrighteous statute that they forgot to applaud and cried 'shame' only *sotto voce*. The eloquent denunciation by Mr. Sastri of a statute which violated the fundamental sanctity of the homestead and clapped into jail a citizen without the semblance of a trial was so awe-inspiring and moving that at that time the silence in the hall was so great that you could have heard the proverbial pin drop; so carried away was the audience that where they would have clapped hands till they ached and cried "shame" till they grew hoarse if they had listened to the ordinary type of lecturer, they sat in hushed silence, awe, and humiliation. And when, very soon after, the promise for the morrow's lecture and its details were held forth, there came a thundrous clap of applause which must have moved even the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- PALGRAVE'S DICTIONARY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY. Vol. III. Edited by HENRY HIGGS. (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London.) 1926. 3x6. pp. 819. 36s.
- NORWAY. (The Modern World Series.) By GATHORNE HARDY. (Ernest Benn, Ltd., London.) 1925. 9x5½. pp. 324. 15s.
- LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE LA PROPRIETE PAYSANNE EN FRANCE, By ALBERT MARCHEGAY. (Gouve & Cie., Paris.) 1924. 9½x6. pp. 237.
- PROBLEMS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN INDIA: A STUDY. By S. C. BASU. With an Introduction by E. F. OATEN. (Sen Brothers & Co., Calcutta.) 1925. 7x½. pp. 121.
- HOW OIL KILLS ANOPHELINE LARVAE. By H. P. PARKER. (John Bale Sons & Danielsson, Ltd., London.) 1925. 9x7. pp. 62.
- SOME OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS ON MALAYAN ANOPHELES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE TRANSMISSION OF MALARIA. By MARSHALL A. BARBAR. (Bureau of Printing, Manila.) 1925. 9½x6. pp. 48.
- SOUTH AFRICA—INDIANS ABROAD. (Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, Bombay.) 1926. 9½x6½. pp. 46.
- THE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education for the year 1924-1925, 9½x6. pp. 186. 1s. 6d.
- HINDU-PAD-PADASHAHI OR A CRITICAL REVIEW OR THE HINDU EMPIRE OF MAHARASHTRA. By V. D. SAVARKAR. (B. G. Paul & Co., Madras.) 1925. 7½x5. pp. 296. Rs. 3.
- THE WAR AGAINST OPIUM. (The International Anti-opium Association, Peking.) 9½x6. pp. 250. \$2.00.
- OPIUM CULTIVATION AND TRAFFIC IN CHINA. An Investigation in 1924-25. (International Anti-opium Association, Peking.) 1925. 9½x6½. pp. 21.
- THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN SOVIET RUSSIA. (International Labour Office, Geneva.) 1925. 9½x6. pp. 362. 6s.

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