

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

### TATA SCHOOL NEWS

*Convocation.*—The fourth Convocation will be held on the 10th April, 1944. We are happy to announce that Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor of the Benares Hindu University, has very kindly consented to deliver the Convocation Address.

*Miss G. Bannerjee*, a member of the Senior Class, did her D. Phil. work at the Allahabad University and submitted her doctoral dissertation before joining our School in 1942. A few months back, it was announced that her thesis had been accepted and at the last Convocation of the Allahabad University she received her D. Phil. degree. We offer her our heartiest congratulations.

*Dr. Kewal Motwani.*—We regret to announce that Dr. Motwani who was Lecturer in Sociology in the Tata School resigned in February last for various reasons. Since his return from America he has been working for the establishment of the Indian Academy of Social Sciences. He has already secured the goodwill and co-operation of some eminent Indian leaders. Dr. Motwani explained to us in his farewell address that the establishment of the Indian Academy of Social Sciences was his life-ambition and that he could better work towards that end as a free man than as a lecturer in an institution; for, his pursuit required him to be in constant correspondence with prominent educationists all over India, to be on lecture tours, be engaged in writing relevant literature and so forth. Dr. Motwani is also carrying on a campaign for the introduction of Sociology in all of our universities. Though we miss Dr. Motwani, we cannot but wish him *bon voyage* in his quest of the Holy Grail.

*Dr. M. V. Moorthy.*—On February 7th, Dr. Moorthy, our Research Assistant, lost his father-in-law, K. Rajasimha Rao, who was suffering from diabetic carbuncle for some time. The late Rajasimha Rao was known to his intimate circle of friends and admirers as a talented Veena player. Our sympathies are with Dr. and Mrs. Moorthy in their bereavement.

*Mrs. M. Lam*, M.Sc. (Lond.), Bar-at-Law, has been invited to give a series of lectures on "Elements of Law for the Social Worker", as an Honorary Lecturer. These lectures were formerly given by Mr. Saif F. B. Tyabji. Owing to certain difficulties in arranging extra classes for these lectures so as

not to interfere with court hours, it became necessary to find a suitable person who could come during the working periods of the School. We are happy indeed to have Mrs. Lam with us this term.

#### STUDENTS' UNION

**A**T the meeting of the General Body held on November 11th, 1943, the following students were elected to form the Executive Committee for the Second Term of the year 1943-44 :

##### *First Year Class*

Miss P. F. Ginwala  
Mr. R. A. Shaikh  
Mr. M. S. Gore

##### *Second Year Class*

Miss R. K. Sidhu  
Miss K. Motiwala  
Mr. M. M. Joshi

In a subsequent meeting of the Executive held in the week following, Messrs, Joshi and Gore were elected Joint-Secretaries for the term and Miss Ginwala as the Treasurer.

The work executed by the Committee during the course of the term consisted mainly of socials and lectures delivered by experienced social workers, a debate and an excursion. The first event was a talk given by Mr. E. J. S. Ram on "My Experiences as a Labour Welfare Officer" (6-12-43). He made a vigorous plea for the extension of welfare activities and also stressed the necessity of placing welfare departments in charge of trained workers. Dr. (Miss) Cama, Presidency Magistrate, Juvenile Court, Bombay, gave the students an idea of the "Problems of a Juvenile Court Magistrate". She emphasized with her characteristic persuasiveness the need for educating the public to a better understanding of the problem of juvenile delinquents (13-12-1943).

On 17th January 1944 Lt.-Colonel Tarapore and Mrs. Lam were entertained to tea by the students. On this occasion Lt.-Col. Tarapore, who was formerly the Inspector General of Prisons in Burma, tried to show the direction which 'Prison Reform' ought to take in the post-war period. Rev. Coyne, Principal, St. Xavier's College, Bombay, speaking on the "Righteousness of Character" brought home to the students the fundamental importance of Reason, Passion and Firmness. He happily located these three essentials as being respectively in a Head of Ice, a Heart of Fire and a Hand of Iron (18-1-1944).

Mr. N. M. Joshi, the veteran labour leader, discussed with the students in a *conversazione* the problems of labour. One could not but be impressed by his optimism, which is guarded and yet unshaken, inspite of all the odds that he has had to face in his fights for the rights of labour. Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas, Labour Officer, Sassoon Mills, Bombay, in his lecture, marked by

an essential frankness, assured the students that even in the delicate position of a labour officer a social worker could do a great deal, if only he could succeed in gaining the confidence of both the employers and the employees. Without personal integrity, he said, this end was unattainable (18-2-1944).

This was followed by a debate which took place on February 24th, 1944, with Mr. Khandekar in the Chair. Miss P. Vakharia moved the following resolution: "In the opinion of the House, under the present economic organization social work is an eye-wash." Mr. B. Chatterji defended social work and said there were many types of social work which could effectively be undertaken irrespective of the economic organization that prevailed in society. Messrs. Nanavatti, Rao and Gore supported Miss Vakharia while Mr. Chatterji was supported by Mr. M. M. Joshi, Dr. Masani and Mr. Abhyankar. The resolution was lost by eleven votes to ten, the Chair voting in favour of the opposition. "Some Books and Their Authors" was the subject of another talk given on 25-2-1944 by Mr. K. Abbas, the well-known journalist and author. A healthy feature that attended all these talks, arranged in the course of the term, was the keen interest which the students evinced in the subject-matter of each lecture which was invariably followed by a lively and interesting discussion.

The excursion to Elephanta Caves which was arranged in the middle of December 1943, and the at-home given by the students to the past students and the members of the Faculty served to give the necessary variety to a programme which otherwise was mainly of an academic character. Amongst those who had joined the trip to Elephanta were three members of the Faculty and Dr. Asirwatham, Reader in Political Science in the University of Madras.

The Union gave a "Send-off" to Dr. Motwani who is now on a lecture tour to advocate the introduction of sociology in Indian Universities. This is, perhaps, the first time that a lecturer is being sent by the Indian Science Congress to the various Universities to move them to introduce this much needed reform. Speaking on this occasion Mr. M. M. Joshi stressed the growing need for an Academy of Social Sciences. He wished Dr. Motwani every success in his efforts.

Now that the term is drawing to a close the activities of the Union will have to come to an end within a week or two. It is gratifying to note that the activities of the Union were conducted with the full co-operation of the students and the Faculty.

## OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTIVITIES

THE School entered into agreement last November with the authorities of the American Marathi Mission to take over some of the activities of the Nagpada Neighbourhood House in order to provide facilities for our students to have experience of social work and administration under the guidance of the Faculty. The scope of the activities undertaken has been extended and new activities have been introduced. In spite of the short time at our disposal, the progress, though not spectacular, has been steady and useful. The activities have been conducted through five committees comprising the students and the Faculty :—

I. *Child Welfare Committee.*—The committee started a Nursery School with 7 children, the number now on roll being 30. Children between the ages of 2½ to 6 years are admitted. The School hours are from 9 a.m. to 12-30 noon. Children are given a wash and change of clothes on their arrival. The School routine starts with physical exercises and the other activities include rhythmic exercise, hand work, music, story-telling, excursions and nature study. Before closing, children are given light refreshment which is cheap and nutritive. The children, on admission, are medically examined.

In order to understand the child better and to promote a healthy parent-child relationship, a case study of every child in his home environment has been introduced. Six such studies have already been undertaken.

II. *Youth Welfare Committee.*—The committee looks after the physical well-being and recreation of both boys and girls. *Girls Club*—All unmarried girls above the age of 12 years are admitted. The club started with six girls and the membership rose to 22. The activities consist of, English Class, sewing, cutting and embroidery, Garbas and action songs, classical singing, and games. Besides these, socials, excursions and visits to pictures are occasionally arranged.

*Playground Activities for Boys.*—Membership to the playground is voluntary but regular attendance is insisted on from all the members. Average daily attendance is about 60. The members are grouped under three age groups, Junior group, 8 to 14 years; Intermediate group, 14 to 18; Senior group, over the age of 18 years; Major games like Volley-ball and Basketball are popular with all members. Our intermediate group was runner up in the Basketball tournament conducted by the Y. M. C. A. Our Senior group has created a favourable impression on all the teams participating in Volley-ball and Basketball tournaments conducted at the Athletic Club and Indian Gymkhana, Matunga. The tournaments are still being carried on.

Other outdoor activities conducted are group games, relay races, story-plays etc., which are particularly popular with the younger groups. The

indoor activities are conducted from 5 p.m. to 9-30 p.m. every day; the time and games are arranged according to age groups.

III. *Women's Welfare Committee.*—The committee started a Women's club with 6 members which has now increased to 24. The committee conducts classes in Urdu, Home crafts, Fancy work, Sewing, Music and English in addition to indoor games. Socials and visits to pictures are also arranged. Attempts have been made to visit chawls to establish contacts with women and also to stimulate their interest in the committee's activities carried on for their welfare.

IV. *Education Committee.*—The Committee chalked out a tentative programme of activities as follows : (1) Public lectures. (2) "Weekly news-lectures. (3) Visual Instruction. (4) Adult English classes. The item of news lectures had to be dropped as the police authorities refused permission. The committee arranged a series of interesting lectures on the "Problem of Communal Disharmony". The first talk was given by Mr. M. R. A. Baig, ex-sheriff of Bombay. In the next two talks Prof. P. A. Wadia and Dr. K. R. Masani treated the subject from the economic and psychological points of view, respectively. Two other lectures were given by Dr. E. Ashirvatham, Reader in Political Science, Madras University, on "Youth and Post-War Reconstruction", and by Mr. G. B. Constantine, Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, on "Labour Welfare". All the lectures were well attended.

The other activities of this committee consist of showing educational films to children, women and men, and conducting adult English classes which are mostly attended by Telugu and Malayalam speaking labourers from Kamathipura.

V. *General Council.*—This council co-ordinates the activities of various committees and guides the work of the students. It meets from time to time, exchanges views with the committee members, discusses special problems and plans the general policy. With increasing experience of methodology and contact with the neighbourhood, we hope to widen the scope of these activities and introduce new ones as need arises.

#### ALUMNI CHRONICLE

*Mr. P. S. Anant Narayan* ('40), has been awarded the Vincent Massey Scholarship of the value of \$2,000, inclusive of all expenses, for post graduate studies at the University of Toronto by H. E. the Viceroy, for the year 1943-44. Since his graduation from our School, Mr. Anant Narayan has been serving as Labour Officer in the Tata Oil Mills' factories both in Cochin and Bombay. While in Canada, he will carry on advanced work in the lines of his study here with special reference to Industrial Psychology

and Personnel Administration. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

*Mr. G. N. Harshe* ('40), who is the Assistant Inspector of Certified Schools, was married on the 23rd January 1944 to Miss Yamu Agashe, G. A., the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. M. N. Agashe. We wish the newly wed couple a long life of happiness and service.

*Mr. G. A. Limaye* ('40), who was till recently the Probation Officer of the Bombay Presidency Released Prisoners' Aid Society, has accepted the post of Assistant Labour Welfare Officer of the Khatau Makanji Mills, Bombay.

*Mr. D.V. Kulkarni* ('38), who is the Superintendent of the Yeravada Industrial School, has passed through a period of severe trial. He was most unfortunate in losing his wife a few months ago. This was followed by the death of his aged father. We deeply sympathise with him in the irreparable losses he has suffered and extend to him and to the other members of the bereaved family our heartfelt condolence.

*Mr. P. R. Rao* ('40), the Assistant Labour Welfare Officer of the Government of Bombay, has been appointed Assistant Rationing Officer of the Government of Bombay.