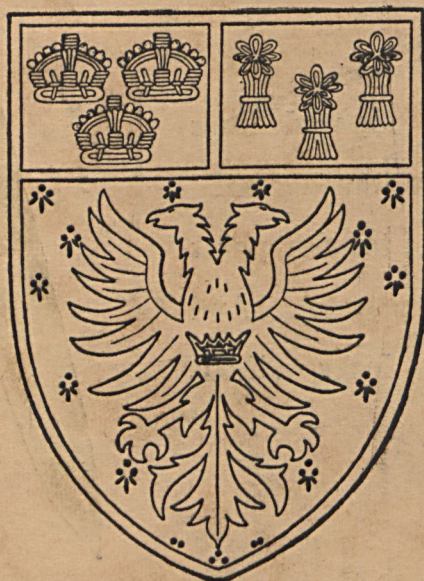


RAFFLES COLLEGE UNION

BULLETIN



VOLUME 1. NUMBER 3.

MICHÆLMAS TERM.

1948.

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE RAFFLES COLLEGE UNION.

Parker "51" ..

the world's most wanted pen

Here are the sleek tapered lines
and precision performance most-wanted
the world over. The unique tubular point
starts promptly — writes eagerly. And
the precision-fit cap slips on—locks without
twisting. See it today !



THE PARKER PEN COMPANY

LONDON	JANESVILLE	TORONTO
ENGLAND	WIS., U.S.A.	CANADA

Prices: Parker "51" Pens, \$31 and \$37

Factory Soles Representatives and Repair Service Station:

Montor Ltd. The Arcade, Raffles Place, Singapore.

Phones — 5891, 5892 Ex. 4

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	3
ORBITUARY ON THE DEATH OF SIR EDWARD GENT	4
H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY	5
THE PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY	7
COLLEGE NOTES	8
QUEEN'S FELLOW & SCHOLARS, 1948	9
I.S.S. CONFERENCE: SPEECH BY DR. A. A. SANDOSHAM	11
COMBINED COLLEGES DEBATE	15
R.C.U. "SPOTLIGHT ON MALAYA	
SINGAPORE'S HOUSING PROBLEM	19
TRADE UNIONS IN MALAYA	23
"THE INSECT"	28
GRADUATION CEREMONY PICTURES	34
"WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?"	36
THE FEMININE TOUCH	37
"MENTAL ENERGY CALCULATED"	38
THE Y.M.C.A. ART CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION	40
REPORTS	41
SPORTS REVIEW	45
VERSEMAKERS' CORNER	50



Official Organ of the Raffles College Union
Published by the Editorial Committee, R.C.U.

Editor: RICHARD ONG LIANG KEE.
Sub-Editors: H. K. H. CHAN.
MISS HAWA binte ABDULLAH.
Business Manager: ALBERT TAN.
Asst. Manager: TAN TIAN BOON.

Vol. 1 No. 3

Michaelmas Term 1948

EDITORIAL

IN the College some unrest exists amongst third year students over the fact that should they graduate next June, they will be awarded diplomas and not degrees. This unrest and anxiety is sharpened by the fact that so many of them have hoped, not unreasonably, to be the first B.A.'s and B.Sc.'s of the University of Malaya. But the rosy dream bears no hope of realisation because the slow and stately progress of elephantine administrative machinery does not heed the calls and desires of individuals. The progress of higher education in our country has been very lame and slow and although we are aware that the University is almost upon us, it is very disappointing that we have no definite assurance from those responsible that the University will be created in the twenty-first year of the life of our College.

The case of the third year students is exceptional. To be freshmen in the uncertain and difficult year of 1946 was a brave thing, particularly so because after the strain and suffering of the Japanese occupation, these youths still had the moral and intellectual stamina to venture into an academic training. There was every reason and temptation to go into some commercial and practical career which then offered many chances of success to anyone who would partake in the rehabilitation of the country. But the unwarped sense of values that these youths had held them back from the more immediate gains. School-life was very far back in the memory and they had tread some distance along the bitter road of life when they came to the college to seek guidance and certainty and hope.

Experience had taught them not to rely too much on anything in the world, not even on the Government. They were uncertain of the rewards that awaited them and often they were sceptical and disillusioned. But they had brave and sober hearts and their minds, although strained and hurt, slowly drew for their brilliance upon the light of learning they found amongst them. This was possible because they had great tutors. Yet, to be a freshman in 1946 was a brave thing.

Then, if the feelings and hopes of noble and aspiring youth can bear any weight in the councils of the State, let us plead on behalf of the third year students of 1948 this much — that out of true generosity, the authorities may find a way to grant them not diplomas but degrees, when they graduate in June, 1949. The nobility of youth is fostered by the generosity of its elders. Rewards that are needed should be given even when they transcend circumstance.



H.E. THE LATE SIR EDWARD GENT
—by courtesy of the *Straits Times*.

IN MEMORIAM.

WE, THE STUDENTS OF RAFFLES COLLEGE, WISH TO PLACE ON RECORD THE PROFOUND SORROW WITH WHICH WE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF OUR PATRON SIR EDWARD GENT. THE TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS DEATH ROBBED THE PEOPLE OF MALAYA TOO SUDDENLY OF A VERY DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR. HIS MEMORY WILL REMAIN BECAUSE OF THE GREAT PART HE PLAYED IN THE CREATION OF THE MALAYAN UNION AND LATER THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH AT RAFFLES COLLEGE GRADUATION CEREMONY.

The following speech was made by H.E. Sir Franklin Gimson, at the Presentation of Diplomas at the Raffles College on 16th October, 1948.

Mr. Principal, Graduates of Raffles College, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is many years since I had the pleasure of attending a function even slightly resembling this. In fact I think my memory will go back to the years after the World War Number One when I attended a school in Ceylon to donate the prizes. Even now my recollection is that I had been particularly impressed by the lack of discipline which was shown throughout many countries of the world, consequent on the feeling of political and economic unrest following the war.

I urged the boys to accept discipline, but rather the discipline of the Rugby Football 15 than that of the Barrack Square. The former was self-imposed as each member of the team realised that this discipline was necessary if the team was to achieve success. On the other hand the discipline of the Barrack Square was only to be enforced under the threat of punishment which produces an automaton rather than a man prepared to follow his own initiative.

In the years intervening I have too much modesty to claim that I have increased in wisdom and stature through possibly I might confess a certain tendency to an increase in girth.

If the Plan for the establishment of a University in Malaya develops according to plan, this may be the last occasion on which Diplomas will be issued to the students of this College but I am sure that everyone will hope that in some way or other the name of Raffles will be perpetuated in that University. There are many aspects of Raffles' character, all of which appeal to different types of people. I myself, am of course impressed with his wisdom and foresight in selecting Singapore as a centre for the spread of British culture in South East Asia. His name will always be associated with his plans for the development of higher education in our midst but the side which possible calls for more human appeal is the regard which everyone felt for the courtesy which he displayed towards all with whom he came in contact.

I always feel, in entering this building, that this tradition of courtesy is well maintained and that it stands out as one of the marked characteristics of this College. This feeling gives me considerable pleasure when I pay visits and I am confident that this same spirit of courtesy will be extended to the University when is established. It is this feature that makes it always, as I have said, a great pleasure to be associated with any public functions which take place in our midst.

However, in these years I have been able to gain wider experience of the course of education in that I was appointed for nearly three years to the Department of Education in Ceylon where I later became the first Secretary to the Minister of Education.

I am not aware of the reasons for my appointment to this Department and I can only assume that as a representative of the University of Oxford I was required to instil into that Department the culture that was otherwise lacking.

The Head of the Department was a curious product in that he had attended a number of Universities as a Student but the only place where he really gained any education was at Oxford.

In that Department I was placed in charge of Government schools and had a very pleasurable three years visiting the large majority of them. I took a special delight in finding out the schools in the remotest parts of Ceylon and conducting inspections which were often just as much a surprise to me as to them. On those visits I always provided myself with many five cent pieces which I gave away as prizes to those members of the classes who showed any tendency to appreciate the more difficult problems of mathematics in arithmetic. My visits, therefore, were something to be remembered by the pupils apart from any pleasure which they certainly gave me.

Since those years, however, I have had little personal contact with education problems until I came to Singapore. Here, you know, it is the ambition of Government that every child in

Singapore should be provided with education to enable him or her to read and to write. This problem is beset with many difficulties owing to the shortage in the world today not only of teachers but of materials to build the schools and equipment to provide for the teaching. A start, however, is being made and I hope that it will not be long before our objective is achieved.

The one project, however, with which I am particularly pleased to be associated is that of the life of the University and I hope that it will not be long before the University of Malaya becomes a reality.

I naturally feel a certain disappointment that this University is not to be founded in Singapore as I had hoped that its presence here would react to the benefit, not only of undergraduates and their professors, but also to the citizens of this Colony. I had hoped, by the contacts between these two sections of the community, that a University would be established with a culture well suited to the life of Singapore as one of the greatest centres of economic activity in the world. The inter-play of racial forces in this great entrepot produces a background on which a culture can be rightly placed and if it ever chances that Singapore is chosen as one of the regional centres of the United Nations Organisation, then a further trend will be given to the evolution of a culture which will represent the best aspirations of the people of South East Asia.

However, I accept, as we all accept, the recommendation of the Carr-Saunders Commission that the site should be in Johore and we are confident that the traditions which will be established with the creation of the University will have a most profound effect on the life of the peoples of Malaya.

Those of you who have read the Carr-Saunders Report will be impressed by the Chapter relating to Student Life and Welfare. This states:—

“One of the essential differences between a University and a mere teaching College is the intensity of its corporate life, which is itself an instrument, and as some think the most important instrument of education.”

I need scarcely say that that is one of the factors in the establishment of a University that appeals to one who is responsible for the administration of the country.

Incidentally, it would be interesting to speculate how far the absence of any marked facilities

for University education in Russia has influenced the trend of events in that country and is responsible for the concentration on the material aspects of life. On the other hand, the early establishment of residential universities where the arts were studied, possibly to the neglect of science, in the western democracies, cannot fail to have had a vital effect on the greater attention paid to the development of the personality of the individual that has enduring effects in the constitutional development.

In a society such as is to be found in Malaya a nucleus of educated men and women can do much to point the way to a life which recognises the spiritual as well as material values and which appreciates the necessity for free thinking as much as fine living. The tutorial staff, the University Graduate and again the Undergraduate will have one of the most important parts to play in developing a Malayan culture. This culture, I hope, will be such as to represent the true aspirations of the people and to point to a path of political development which will ensure to all that full freedom which is the primary objective of a democratic constitution.

Those to whom I have had the pleasure of awarding diplomas will be going out into the life of Malaya and the part they will be required to play is one of the most important in the life of the community.

The progress of Malaya towards self-Government is slow but it is equally sure. It is important that when this self-Government is finally achieved it should be inspired with those ideals which will render Malaya a worthy member of the British Commonwealth of Nations and it is to the members of this College as well as to the future graduates of the University of Malaya, who will be chiefly responsible to see that the growth of democratic institutions are such as to provide for the fullest possible exercise of liberty and freedom.

I am confident from the little I have seen of Raffles College that you have established a worthy tradition that will find an echo in the life of the University of Malaya to be.

I again repeat what pleasure has been given to me to come to present these Diplomas this afternoon and I am confident that in the years to come the lessons that you have learned here will be reflected to the full in the democratic life of this country.

THE PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.

IT is nineteen years since the Oei Tiong Ham Hall held an assembly comparable to the present one. On that occasion, on July 22nd, 1929, the College, which had then been functioning for a year was formally opened by Sir Hugh Clifford, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Straits Settlements, and amongst those present were our first principal, Dr., now Sir Richard Winstedt and Dr. Allen, now Principal-Designate of the University of Malaya. Of the members of the Staff in that year I alone remain, and since memories are short, I may perhaps be permitted to tell you very briefly what has happened to us since then.

Our early days were not devoid of difficulty and anxieties, and indeed at one time our survival was somewhat doubtful. We had been started on a far too narrow basis, with an original intake almost entirely consisting of Government-indentured students destined for the Education Department: and there were complaints — not without justification — that this was not the purpose for which the College had been intended. Then came the slump, and a consequent proliferation of axes; and when it came to deciding which of many redundant white elephants should be eliminated, it was held in many quarters that we were as candidly elephantine as any. However, in the end no one was found hard-hearted enough to slaughter the little innocent, even if they did consider it a little monster, and we survived. The slump passed; prosperity returned; our early errors were corrected; new departments were added; and our graduates began to go out into the world and give an ocular demonstration of what was being done here. At first inevitably the majority of them went into the Education Service, but each year their sphere of activities widened, until by 1941 they were to be found in a great variety of occupations, and the demand for our graduates was greater than the supply, a good and sufficient proof that we had firmly established our place in the life of the community. And, when Mr. McIntosh and I embarked in 1946 on the task of re-establishing the College after the Japanese occupation it was most gratifying to find how many of the men who could get things done for us were graduates; and equally gratifying to discover that, whether from love of the College or their own innate magnanimity, they were prepared to forget any differences of opinion that might have arisen between them and the Authorities in their student days, and give us their heartiest co-operation.

The Renaissance of the College was not achieved without difficulty, and is still not complete. During the occupation it had been used as a Japanese Military Headquarters, and while the Japanese had kindly put up additional buildings, in one of which you will have tea this afternoon, they had gutted the interior pretty thoroughly, and after their fashion tunnelled under the buildings, so that we have to preserve constant guard lest the Department of Geography, and indeed Physics, suffer a premature katabasis.

There was much to be done to put the College in working order again, but we were fortunate in having the whole-hearted backing of Your Excellency and the late Sir Edward Gent, and of the Governments of the Federation and Singapore, which placed the necessary funds at our disposal, and in those days when there was so much to be done, and men and material desperately short, gave us a high priority. We were also fortunate in that our Secretary, Mr. McIntosh, had survived the rigours of captivity, and though by no means fully recovered, came out to put his energies and resourcefulness into the work of reconstruction. It was largely through his multifarious activities that we were able to re-open on October, 1946; and we are all delighted that when the University is established he will be its first Bursar.

We have now, after twenty years, reached that period in the life of a College which corresponds to the Assumption of the Toga Virilis by the Roman Youth. In our twenty-first year appropriately enough, we shall reach academic maturity, and enter, with our elder sister the College of Medicine, into the University of Malaya. We shall, I venture to think, take with us a contribution of considerable value, the tradition which despite our youth we have built up and maintained. That tradition is, in one word, co-operation. For twenty years students of all the races, creeds and classes of Malaya have lived together, worked together, played together within these walls. Our clubs, our committees, our societies have been based on comprehension, not exclusiveness; our teams have been chosen on the ability of the individual, and for no other reason. It is that spirit, that tradition, of co-operation, of working together for a common end — no less strong in the College of Medicine, than with ourselves — that we shall take together into the New University, where, we may hope, it will continue to dominate and animate the life of the student community, as it has with us.

COLLEGE NOTES.

WE welcome back our Principal, Professor W. E. Dyer who has returned from leave. We are grateful that he was here to address us at the Graduation Ceremony, particularly because he alone remains of the earliest tutors of the College.

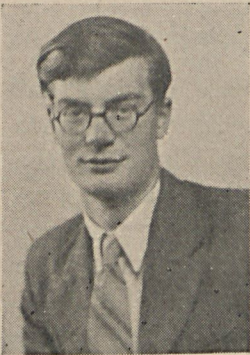
Professor A. Oppenheim, the Acting Principal for the last academic year, Mr. B. Harrison and Mr. C. G. Webb went on leave during the last vacation.

Professor T. H. Silcock is also on leave. He left on the 5th of December, and shall be away until the next academic year.

Mr. Kiang Ai Kim, our Lecturer in Chemistry, has been awarded the Queen's Fellowship to do research for his Ph.D. degree at Cambridge.

Mr. D. W. Fryer and Mr. Robert Ho joined the Geography Department at the beginning of this academic year.

INTRODUCTIONS.



MR. D. W. FRYER

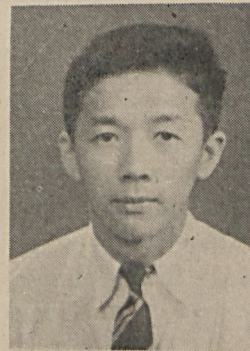
Mr. D. W. Fryer, M.Sc. (Lond.), our new Lecturer in Geography, was formerly Lecturer in Economic Geography at the University of Nottingham. At eighteen he was awarded a State scholarship to London University. He studied Economics and Geography at the London School of Economics, and evacuated to Cambridge during the war where he stayed for one year. After obtaining his M.Sc. degree he took part in the Land Utilisation Survey of Great Britain which was organised under the direction of Prof. Dudley Stamp, and he also served in the Research Administration of Town and Country Planning. He was for some time attached to the Geographical Branch of Naval Intelligence, and for 2½ years he was in the Army.

A keen soccer player, he represented Cambridge in 1942. Other favourite sports are swimming, cycling and table-tennis. He played chess for his school from the age of eleven till he left.

On his new environment, he said, "I always like warm climates, and I feel quite at home in this climate.....The students here compare favourably with the English students at home.....But the town is one of the worst I have seen."

Mr. Fryer was elected President of the People's Education Association as successor to Prof. T. H. Silcock, the founder. Considering the fact that he has been in Singapore for hardly more than three months, this shows that in him the colony has found a new friend.

We understand that Mr. Fryer has registered with London University for the Ph.D. degree, while Mrs. Fryer, who is at present a Science student at Raffles College, hopes to study medicine later on. We wish them every success, and a long and happy stay in Malaya.

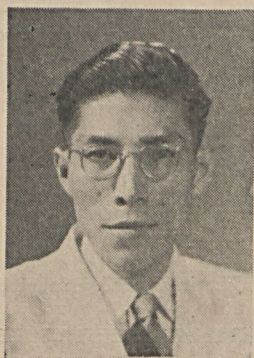


MR. ROBERT HO

Mr. Robert Ho Guan Hai, B.A. (Lond.). Another addition to the tutorial staff of the Geography Department is Mr. Robert Ho, the assistant Lecturer. Mr. Ho was the General Secretary of R.C.U. in 1939 up to the outbreak of the war, when he went to India in the service of the British Ministry of Information. He won a scholarship to London University where he studied geology, obtaining his B.A. (Hons.) degree a year ago. At King's College he was rated high as a Badminton player, and represented the London University side in this game. He also plays Tennis and Hockey.

QUEEN'S FELLOW & SCHOLARS, 1948.

Queen's Fellow: Mr. Kiang Ai Kim, B.Sc. (London). Mr. Kiang is a lecturer in Chemistry in Raffles College. He hopes to leave for Cambridge next year to study for his Ph.D. degree. Mr. Kiang holds the post of Secretary-Treasurer of the Pan-Malayan Council of the Stamford Club and he is on the managing committee of St. Hilda's School, Katong. In his student days he was a Vice-President of the Raffles College Union.



MR. KIANG AI KIM



MISS CHUA SUI ENG

Singapore Queen's Scholar: Miss Chua Sui Eng has been awarded this Scholarship. She studied Arts in Raffles College and obtained a Class I Diploma in the June, 1948, Finals Examination. She intends to take a degree in Mathematics at Cambridge University.

Federation of Malaya Queen's Scholar: Mr. Robert Cheah Bian Kung has been awarded this Scholarship. He studied Science in Raffles College and obtained a Class I Diploma in the June, 1948, Finals Examination. He sat for the London B.Sc. (External) degree in November, 1948.



A
G.E.C.
 PRODUCT
 MADE IN ENGLAND

Advt. of The General Electric Co., Ltd., of England, Singapore.

The Craftmanship

that is the hall-mark of all our goods is especially apparent in our Sterling silver cups — with the newest designs in all sizes, — and tankards in silver, E.P.N.S. and English pewter. Our standard of excellence is also maintained in our shooting spoons and medals, and other SPORTS TROPHIES.

B. P. de Silva Ltd.

(INCORPORATED IN CEYLON)

SINGAPORE — PENANG

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SERVICE CONFERENCE.

At the I.S.S. Summer Conference at Combleux (Hte Savoie) France, from 21st to 31st July, 1948, Dr. A. A. Sandosham, Acting Professor of Biology, King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, represented Malaya. The speech printed below was made by him at a Discussion Seminar on the subject of "The Function of the University." It is printed in full because of the interesting and valuable material it contains.

Editor.

FUNCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

By Dr. A. A. Sandosham, Chairman,
Co-operating Committee, I.S.S. (Malaya).

I WAS not aware until my arrival here a few days ago that I was expected to address you on this difficult and controversial subject. I have decided, therefore, to confine myself to a discussion of some of the benefits that I hope will accrue from the creation of a University in Malaya.

At the very outset, I wish to make it quite clear that I am speaking in a purely personal capacity. I am a member of the teaching staff of the College of Medicine in Singapore, a servant of the Malayan Government and also the Chairman of the Co-operating Committee of the Malayan International Students' Service but neither the College authorities, the Malayan Government nor the Malayan International Students' Service is in any way committed by what I have to say today.

To understand the functions that a Malayan University might be expected to perform, it is necessary to have, as a background, some idea of the conditions prevailing in Malaya. It is a small country of about 50,000 square miles with a very heterogeneous population of about six millions. A fairly large section of the population is composed of immigrants from China and India. The Chinese, being mostly commercially inclined, are concentrated in the towns while the indigenous population, the Malays, are scattered in the rural districts and the Indians are distributed about equally in the towns and estates. There is little social intercourse between these races, each community tending to retain its own traditional way of life. Nevertheless, there has been no friction between the communities in the past each being satisfied with its place in the economic organisation of the country. The British, who were solely responsible for governing the country, maintained law and order and gave equal opportunities to everyone to earn a livelihood and political problems never entered into the picture.

As a result of the war, however, the peoples of Malaya have become politically conscious and there is evidence of the beginnings of inter-racial discord. To meet this new demand for political rights, considerable political and constitutional changes have been recently introduced. The more advanced and commercially-minded city of Singapore, with a population of about 950,000 of whom nearly 80% are Chinese, has been separated from the rest of Malaya as a political entity. The Government of this Colony is in the hands of a Legislative Council some members of which are elected by the people. The right to vote, however, is limited to British subjects, thus excluding a large section of immigrant Chinese who entertain a sense of grievance over it. Many of them are long residents of Singapore and cannot understand why they should be denied the right to elect Councillors when the privilege is given to an

Indian, Australian, British etc., who may be a very recent arrival to Singapore. The rest of Malaya, including the Island of Penang, has been placed under the single administration of the Federation of Malaya with the Malays having a large say in the Federal and State Councils. This again is a subject of controversy and is likely to affect adversely the inter-racial harmony that has existed in the past.

In Malaya, at present, higher education of University type is given at two Colleges, the King Edward VII College of Medicine, established in 1905, and Raffles College, established later, both located in Singapore. In both Colleges, the student body includes representatives of all communities in Malaya and forms one of the most cosmopolitan groups in Asia. Since 1938 it has been planned to combine these separately constituted Colleges into a University of Malaya. That plan will be implemented in October this year as the result of the findings of a Commission on Higher Education. The entrance requirements and the length and scope of the courses in Medicine and Dentistry are similar to those in other medical schools of Great Britain and its graduates are permitted to practice in all parts of the British Commonwealth. At Raffles College there are the two 3-Year courses devised to parallel the London degree courses for Arts and Science. There are 14 Chairs in the Faculty of Medicine, 5 in the Faculty of Arts, and 5 in the Faculty of Science. The recent proposals for the creation of a University requires 2 additional Chairs in Medicine, 3 in Arts, and 2 in Science, raising the total number of Chairs from 24 to 31. There are about 600 students in the two Colleges and it is proposed within the next few years to increase considerably the body of students with opportunities for studying at degree level. Seventy percent of the pre-war students were fee-paying at the College of Medicine and 50% at Raffles College, but as a special postwar measure many more students are in receipt of generous aid from Government to continue their studies. The fees before the war in the Colleges amounted to about 12% of the income as compared with about 30% in Great Britain. The College of Medicine is an integral part of the Government Medical Services; its staff are Government officers, who receive a pension on retirement, and practically the whole of the capital and current cost of the College is met from Government funds. The general policy and finance of the College are controlled by a Council composed largely of Government officers. Raffles College differs constitutionally from the College of Medicine in that it is not a Government institution. The control of the general policy and finance is vested in the College Council on which, however, Government is strongly represented.

Self-Government.

In my opinion, one of the chief functions that the University of Malaya will be expected to perform is to prepare the peoples of Malaya for democratic self-government. Not only should the university provide higher education so as to enable increasing numbers of local men with professional qualification to fill nearly all the senior appointments in the public services but it should turn out educated men and women with a higher capacity for leadership imbued with a greater desire to do public service. There is already evidence of such disinterested public service, especially in the ranks of the graduates of the two Colleges and the establishment of the University should foster this trend.

The administration of the country has been in the past practically wholly in the hands of the British Civil Servants and local graduates have filled the more subordinate posts. The recent recognition of the quality of the Medical graduates of Singapore and the unification of the two medical services (European and local) has tended to remove the sense of inferiority complex which pervades the rank and file of the local man. The establishment of the University should place its graduates on a footing of equality with the world-wide community of intellect and remove once and for all that feeling of inferiority which has retarded the progress of the local people. With this will come a much needed sense of self-reliance and self-help. The people of Malaya have been so accustomed to have things done for them especially by Government that there is little initiative on their part to help themselves.

Malayan Community.

It is very important that everything must be done to foster inter-racial goodwill, understanding and fellowship which are essential for cultivating local non-racial civic mindedness and citizenship. Otherwise, Malaya will soon be torn by racial antagonism. I have already indicated that there are germs of dissatisfaction which may lead to frustration and bitterness among the various racial groups of Malaya. I hope that the Malayan University will foster the growth of citizenship and the students and graduates with their trained minds and wide human sympathies will be able to build up a unified national consciousness.

The University of Malaya, which will be wholly residential, should pay great emphasis to the social contacts of students outside the sphere of academic activities. It is in the hostels and playing fields that the student learns to live in fellowship and harmony with other people of widely differing tastes and opinions. The Malayan I.S.S. proposes to help in the formation and equipping of a student centre which will not only encourage social intercourse between students themselves but will also afford an opportunity for contact between students and graduates of all faculties and teachers of all subjects. Such a centre could be the venue for debate and discussion which could be conducted with the utmost freedom.

Finance and Control.

The Colleges in Singapore have been mainly endowed by Government and are largely under the control of Government officials. It is now widely recognised that a University should be autonomous, not subject to Government or legislative control but have possession of its own funds and spending them as it thinks fit for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge. Malaya is relatively prosperous but much of the profits goes outside the country to shareholders and principals living in England, China and India and who, naturally, are not deeply concerned with the social, political and intellectual advancement of the domiciled communities. Malaya is also a young country, so that few enlightened Malaysians can lay claim to have been in reasonably affluent circumstances for more than one or two generations. The result of this has been the lack of endowment for public good, educational advancements etc., such as can be claimed by older countries with a settled population. The construction of the University premises and the maintenance costs will, therefore, be derived from Government grants. Nevertheless, the teaching staff should not be Government servants and should be in a position to speak truth as they see it, whether it is palatable to Government or not.

Secondary Schools.

The establishment of a University with the creation of a department of education under a professor will lead to a larger number of well-qualified teachers, in the secondary schools. The recent advent of the Raffles College graduates into the teaching profession has already shown an improvement in the quality of students seeking entry into the Colleges and this improvement should steadily grow.

The teaching experience in the Medical College tells me that an inadequate knowledge of the English knowledge is one of the serious handicaps of students embarking upon higher education in Malaya. I am aware that the standards attained are higher than in some of the neighbouring countries, but, nevertheless, a student with a good grasp of the English language, one who can follow lectures readily, understand the written text and convey his ideas accurately and succinctly, has a tremendous advantage over his counterpart, who though equally intelligent, is equipped with but a superficial knowledge of the medium of instruction.

English will continue to remain the official language of the Colony for very many years and the medium of instruction in centres of higher education for still longer. The proposed Malayan policy of substituting the direct system of English education by teaching in the vernacular in the early years will, in my opinion, lower the standard attained in English language by the candidate seeking entry into the Colleges and thereby handicap him and generally lead to a lowering of the standard attained by the undergraduate. In my opinion, the Malay is as intelligent as any of the other races in Malaya, but among the reasons for his relative backwardness in the prosecution of higher education is the disadvantage he suffers in slower cerebration resulting from having continually to translate his ideas to and from English and Malay.

Research Centre.

It is to be hoped that with the establishment of the University, Malaya will become a live centre of research. In the past, the staffs of the Colleges have been greatly handicapped by lack of adequate facilities in the way of time, money, trained assistants, reference library and the absence of the stimulus of contact with colleagues working in the same field of enquiry. This has resulted in the anomalous situation of, for example, by having to go to the United Kingdom to undertake post-graduate research on parasites of Malaya, and of our having to turn to the School of Oriental Studies in the London University for scholarship and authoritative opinion on the Malay language.

That brings us to the question of the important function of a University of refining and maintaining all that is best in local traditions and culture. The University of Malaya should be a university for Malaya, emphasising as its special responsibility, the political, social and economic problems peculiar to Malaya.

Extra-Mural Activities.

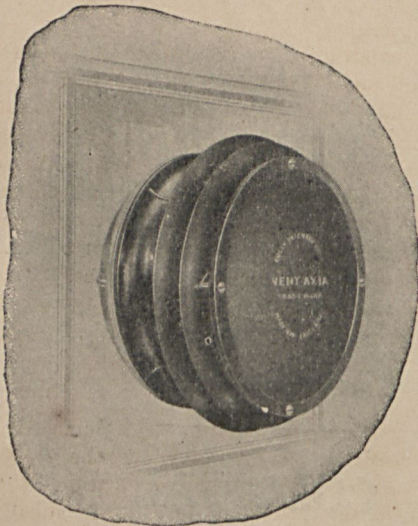
The organisation of lecture courses and classes for the benefit of persons who might have profited by University Education but who never received it is very desirable. I feel sure there will be a ready response from the adult public of Malaya and it is bound to lead to a general raising of the intellectual level of the Malayan community as a whole making the people more fitted to undertake the grave responsibility of self-government.

Art and Music.

The modern conception of university graduates is that of educated men and women proficient in professional subjects rather than of merely efficient technicians; in other words, university education should be liberal as well as vocational, general as well as special. It is a sad fact that there is little cultivation of the arts in the Malayan community at large. It is to be hoped that the University of Malaya will give the lead in forming a library, collecting works of art and promoting music and that all university students will be brought into touch with music, literature and the arts.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have briefly outlined to you conditions as they exist in Malaya today and pointed out the Malayan University should be an autonomous body concentrating on the problems peculiar to Malaya and helping to develop national consciousness and turning out graduates who may be considered well-educated in the widest sense of the word so that Malaya can soon become a self-governing country.

To anyone further interested in the University of Malaya question, I have no hesitation in recommending the Report of the Commission on University Education in Malaya under the chairmanship of Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders. In the words of Professor Silcock, one of the speakers at the I.S.S. Conference in Malaya, this report "is a noble conception, beautifully presented and defended with brilliant logic and fine sensibility."



Remember —
VENT-AXIA
 — for better
Air Conditions

THERE IS A MODEL
 FOR EVERY PURPOSE

A.C. OR D.C. UNITS ALWAYS IN STOCK.

THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH
 STALE AND OVERHEATED AIR.

ENQUIRIES TO:

W. G. THURSTON & CO.

60, THE ARCADE :: :: :: SINGAPORE.

**C
A
R
P
E
T
S

A
N
D

R
U
G
S**

For Widest Selection and Best
Quality Goods Always Visit us
Save Money! * Save Time!



CARVED TEAK-WOOD CHESTS,
FURNITURE, JADE, JEWELLERY,
AND FOOCHOW LACQUER WARE.

**C
U
R
I
O
S

A
N
D

A
R
T
S**



**EVERY-
THING
IN
SPORTS
AT**

WINSTON'S
4, THE ARCADE - PHONE: 82123

If it is

HOUSE
Removal
and **CARGO CLEARING**

Consult us and save much of your valuable
times.

SERVICE prompt and efficient.
CHARGES moderate.

—••—
**COLONIAL
BAGGAGE
SERVICE**

the Reliable
Cargo & Baggage Forwarding & Clearing
Agents.

—••—
54, The Arcade :: 'Phone 4856

THE COMBINED COLLEGES DEBATE.

THE Combined Colleges Debates held on Friday, 5th November, in the Central Hall of the Medical College was the first debate to be held jointly by the two Colleges. Its importance was stressed by Mr. Harry Chan Keng Howe, president of the L.D.D.S. of Raffles College who presided. He expressed the hope that the spirit of co-operation between the two Colleges on the occasion would help towards the establishment of fuller and closer relationship when the future University of Malaya came into being.

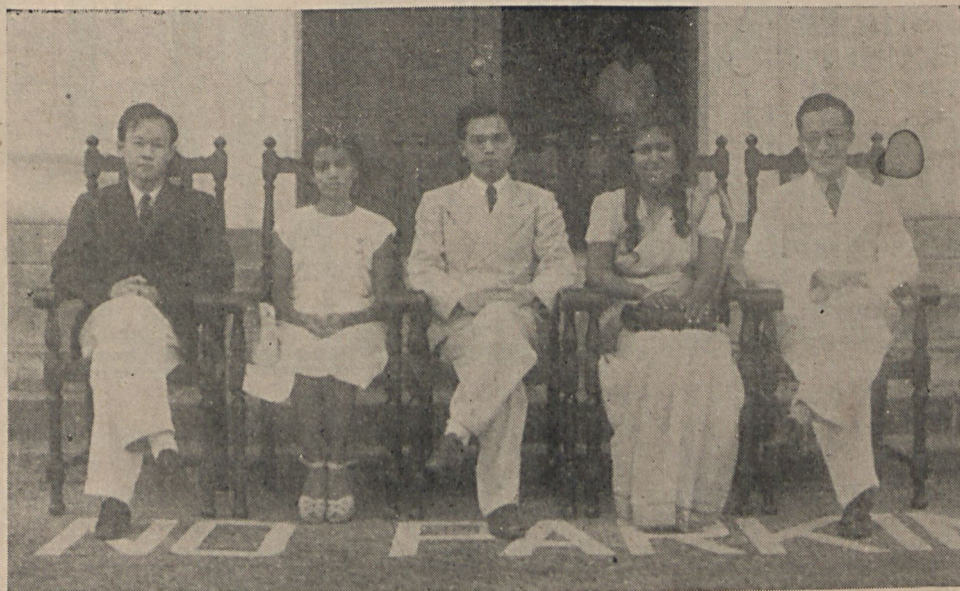
The Debate was attended by about 250 people who included students and staff members of the two Colleges. The motion was "That Heredity rather than Environment was the determining factor in the development of character." The Proposer was Mr. Richard Ong Liang Kee (R.C.U.) supported by Miss N. R. Naveretnam (M.C.U.), and the opposer Mr. Chan Swan Tong (M.C.U.) who was seconded by Miss Sarojini Devi (R.C.U.).

The first speaker, Mr. Richard Ong, developed a very careful and close argument in favour of heredity by pointing out that hereditary factors determined the possibilities of the development

of the mind as well as the body. He cited Muller's experiments with two sets of twins as proof that hereditary factors determined the response of the individual to environmental stimuli. In this response lay the actual development of character.

In his reply, Mr. Chan Swan Tong emphasized the importance of what he called "psychical qualities" — the qualities of man's mind and the results of his education, upbringing and social heritage. His examples of environmental influences included institutions which deliberately set out to mould the characters of children, e.g. Boys' Clubs, the Scout Movement, etc.

Miss N. Naveretnam, following up for the proposition, restated the fact that hereditary constitution determined what man was and what he would be. She backed her statement that Nature withstood Nurture to a great degree pointing out the existence of differences of character between members of the same family who were brought up in similar environments. These differences reflected deeper dissimilarities in the capacities of individuals and were noticeable because training and discipline were imposed on inherited and intrinsic qualities of the individual.



Left to Right:—Mr. Richard Ong (Proposer), Miss N. R. Naveretnam, Mr. Harry Chan (Chairman), Miss Sarojini Devi, Mr. Chan Swan Tong (Opposer).

Miss Sarojini Devi, the final speaker, declared that character was not determined by physical or mental abilities. The thought that the modern science of psychology, with its particular emphasis on the experiences of early childhood, was an overwhelming argument in favour of environment — as the greater influence on character.

The Debate was then thrown open to the house, and despite the difficulty of the subject, there was no lack of courageous speakers to represent the two Colleges. Abraham Lincoln, Helen Keller, and other great names were mentioned as examples of man's control and conquest over unfavourable circumstances, while geographers waxed eloquent over man's struggles to modify his environment. Again, many emphasized man's struggles to modify his environment. Again, many emphasized man's freedom of will and purpose in determining his way of life.

One of the best speakers was Dr. Monteiro who emphasized the interplay of genetic and environ-

mental factors. He said it was extremely difficult to come to any fair conclusions on the matter as recent research in environmental influences had proved that factors previously thought to be genetical were, in reality, environmental. After a great number of diverse opinions had been expressed the house decided the issue by vote. The motion was declared lost by 111 votes to 23, with 108 abstaining.

Mr. Richard Ong and Miss S. Devi who represented Raffles College in the Debate deserve the sincere thanks of the L.D.D.S. and of the College. It is hoped that the Debate is only the first of more successful joint functions of the Colleges in the future, and thus promote closer understanding and co-operation to their mutual benefit.

HEDWIG AROOZOO,

Hon. Secretary.



NEVER IN HISTORY has it been so necessary to take care of
to-morrow with the resources of to-day.

HONGKONG BANK CHAMBERS,
Singapore (Phone 3731).

F. E. W. LAMMERT,
Manager for S. E. Asia.

SPORTS TROPHIES

**SILVER
&
E.P.N.S.
CUPS

SILVER
MEDALS**

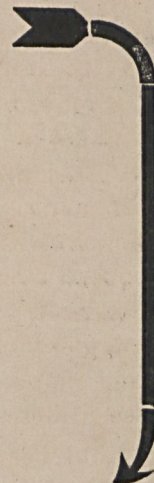


U.S. DE SILVA
MANUFACTURING JEWELLER
106, ORCHARD ROAD, Tel: 2466.

Suits.....

Made for the men who know by the men

who know.



OLD SCHOOL TIE CO.

23-6 Coleman St., Singapore.

Where Tailoring is at its Best.

NOTHING CAN TAKE THE
PLACE OF *Sight*



EYESIGHT.

Your most precious gift of God, once ruined is never recovered.

**EYESIGHT
CONSERVATION**

Is by means of having your eyes examined periodically by a qualified specialist.

C. S. CHONG, O.D.

Everbright
OPTICAL COMPANY
19 CHULIA STREET • TEL. 4435

Fully equipped with latest instruments.

Masters

BE WISE

USE OUR EXPERIENCE

CHEONG HOCK CHYE & COMPANY LIMITED

LICENSED AUCTIONEERS - VALUERS - ESTATE AGENTS &c.

14 & 16 ROBINSON RD. • PHONE 3478

SevenSeaS

**PURE COD
LIVER OIL**

For health at every stage of life

From babyhood through youth to maturity,
Nature's best "extra" food is SevenSeaS.
Doctors have recommended Cod Liver Oil
for a hundred years. It builds up strong
bones and teeth in babies and children.
It gives stamina and vital energy to
both children and adults.



Details and Prices on application to:—

JACKSON & CO., LTD.
SINGAPORE PENANG & KUALA-LUMPUR



For PRICE

For FIT

For VALUE

*TAI HENG
TOPS THEM ALL.*



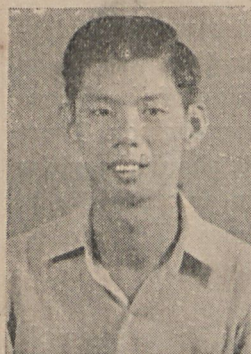
TAI HENG CO.

23-5, COLEMAN STREET
SINGAPORE :: PHONE 3390.



AN ECONOMIST REVIEWS SINGAPORE'S HOUSING PROBLEM.

REFLECTIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE SINGAPORE HOUSING COMMITTEE, 1947.



The greatest problem facing Singapore today is still insatiable housing specifically, and an acute housing shortage generally. Few people really appreciate the rate at which our population is increasing, and fewer still realise how, owing to the entirely disproportionate increase in the number of women, the total amount

of family has grown, throwing in its turn an undue strain on the available amount of domestic housing.

The total population for the Settlement of Singapore in 1931 as given by the Census Report for that year was 567,453 of whom 357,691 were males and 209,762 females. The figures for the 1947 Census show the population of the Colony as 940,756 with a sex ratio of 876 females to 1,000 males. With a sex ratio that is approaching to equality a great natural increase in population is to be expected and this is shown by the increasing number of births in the Colony. The population is increasing at a rate between 25,000 to 30,000 a year. This will mean a further quarter of a million in ten years. Prior to 1930 migration statistics showed that immigration was the predominant factor in the increase of the local population. But after 1930 natural increase tended to become more and more the dominant factor. This dramatic change in conditions is very largely due to the restricted immigration enforced since 1930 in which year "a quota system was applied to the immigration of adult male labourers from China, with the object of reduc-

ing unemployment, raising the standard of living and improving the sex ratio". In 1932, the Aliens Ordinance, which administered by the Immigration Department, extended this control (subject to certain temporary exceptions) to all adult males immigrants of other than British or British protected nationality.

One is not able to get a correct picture of the degree of overcrowding in Singapore if an attempt is made to look at the figures given by (1) the density of population for the whole island or (2) the density of population in the Municipal area. The former gives a small figure of only about 8 persons per acre over the whole island while the latter gives an overall density of about 35 persons to the acre. According to the Report of Singapore Housing Committee, an actual density of 35 as against a standard of 20 to the acre within the limits of a Municipality in England might be tolerable in the circumstances of Singapore today. "The vital fact is that about a third of the population of Singapore is living, not scattered over the 200 square miles of the island but herded into about 1,000 acres into the heart of the city with an average density of about 300 persons to the acre, and with numbers of large blocks of houses, often back-to-back with densities rising to 1,000 or more to the acre". The degree of overcrowding in a certain section of the city and the degree of undercrowding in an area a few miles from this place can be clearly seen by these figures. There are 22,347 men women and children living in the 32 acres of Town Sub-division No. 6 (North Bridge Road, Smith Street, South Bridge Road and Upper Pickering Street) giving an average overall density of 698 per acre. On the other hand there are 17,051 men, women and children living in the 1,453 acres of Mukim

2 (Tanglin). This gives an average overall density of only 5.2.

The Slums of Singapore are to be found in the 1,000 acres of the Town, with a population of approximately about 300,000. There has been in the past and there is still so much loose talk about Singapore Slums that it is interesting to read the views of Dr. N. A. Canton on this subject. Writing in the 1938 Singapore Municipality Report he said, "75 per cent of the 'slumminess' of our domestic buildings is caused by overcrowding. In other words if the houses in the congested areas could be emptied of 75% of the present occupants the remainder will be housed in if not ideal, at least a reasonably sanitary manner i.e. the actual buildings themselves have not as a rule the inherent qualities that go to produce a slum."

The bulk of the teeming population in Chinatown live in cubicles. Here again the word cubicle so far as Singapore is concerned has not got the dictionary meaning i.e. a bedroom or a place in which one sleeps. In Singapore in nine cases out of ten and certainly in the congested areas a cubicle is a house. It is all that a man, his wife, and his family occupy for all the ordinary purposes and activities of domestic life. They have literally no privacy and no rights on the crowded tenement. The Chinese are crowded together today in Chinatown for the simple reason that there is no nowhere else for them to go. The cubicle evil is one of economics and represents an attempt to get the last possible individual squeezed in the available housing.

The Singapore Municipal Area comprise approximately 20,000 acres. The present estimated population is 680,000 giving a density of 34 persons per acre. As mentioned before 300,000 people are crowded into an area of 1,000 acres, leaving the remaining 380,000 people to occupy 19,000 acres of the Municipal area. Within such a large area there is ample room for intensive development and the provision of adequate open spaces. The Housing Committee is of the opinion that decentralization must take place, and much of the undeveloped land in the Municipal area will have to be used as over spill areas for the surplus population now housed in the slums. These areas together with the Rural areas offer good prospects for both the local Authorities and private bodies as well as individuals to launch a programme of fresh housing.

But the main bulk of the housing programme which aims to give more houses to the people living in the slums will have to be undertaken by the Government. This is because such a scheme is not so lucrative a proposition as landlords would like. The Singapore Improvement Trust can be regarded as a pioneer in providing houses for the lower paid artisans as well as the working middle class. From the former type of people an economic rental cannot be expected for these houses, and at any rate from the class for whom they are intended — and to that extent they may be said to be subsidized. Those modern blocks of tenements erected in Tiong Bahru for the latter have proved extremely popular. The Improvement Trust has contented itself however with an economic return on its investment. It was hoped that public enterprise would undertake to erect buildings similar to that put up by the Trust but so far there is no sign of it. There is no doubt that the Singapore Improvement Trust is an economic proposition, and it should be given all the money it requires by loan or otherwise to build new housing at many times the rate at which it is now doing so.

In the outlying and rural areas there is ample space for individuals to build their own homes. In this connection there is a mistaken impression which exists in the minds of many, that the responsible Municipal Authority insists on permanent materials only in the construction of domestic dwellings. Time and again it has been stressed in the Reports of the Singapore Municipal Health Department that it is only too willing to approve plans for wood and atap buildings. Such houses have abundance of fresh air and sunlight and give far more accommodation to a family and better accommodation in the way of cooking and washing facilities than the small cubicle which is all that a poor family can afford to pay in the built-up property.

A close analysis of the housing problem in Singapore will show that it consists of two parts. The first and most important is, on it, to a great extent, depends the second, has to do with the amount of housing. It is quite inadequate and has been so, in fact, for many years. New building has nothing kept pace with the rapidly growing population and the position is now acute.

The second problem is that existing housing is of necessity crammed with insanitary cubicles

LEONG CHEONG & CO.

TAILORS AND OUTFITTERS
WOOLLEN AND LINEN SUITS FOR STUDENTS
WE WELCOME YOUR ENQUIRIES.

PHONE; 4529 :: 17, CHULIA STREET :: SINGAPORE.

聯 昌 洋 服 公 司

新 嘉 坡 朱 烈 街 七 十 號
(電 話 : 四 五 二 九)

本 號 貨 色 齊 備 時 款 稱 身 價 格 克 己 歡 迎 參 觀

☆

PLASTIC *Lampshades*

Central
ELECTRIC CO.
Lampshades
MANUFACTURERS
Electrical
CONTRACTORS

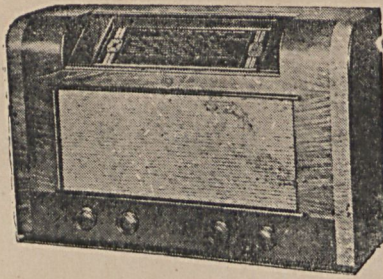
246 & 248
ORCHARD RD.,
SINGAPORE.

Phone
82304

☆

MULLARD


1948/9



WORLD

EXPLORERS ★

MODEL MAS 282

This is a 6-valve, 3-waveband super-heterodyne receiver for A.C. mains, giving excellent reception.

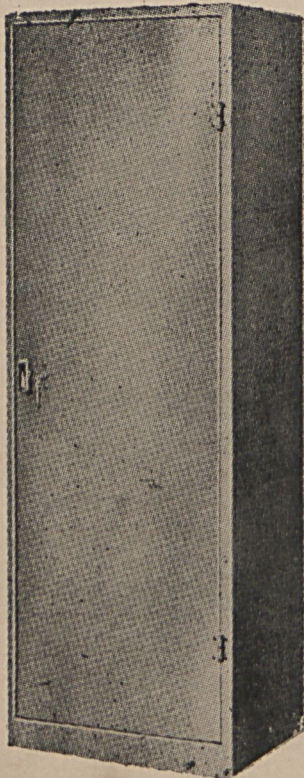
Model MAS 282 uses a specially designed circuit incorporating a radio-frequency amplifying stage a new system of tone control, delayed A.V.C., together with other technical refinements which ensure the best possible performance.

Station selection is simplified by division of the short-wave bands and correct tuning is ensured by the provision of a Cathode Ray Tuning Indicator with its useful "double sensitivity" features. This receiver embodies the general all-round quality of production and reliability for which the name Mullard is famous.

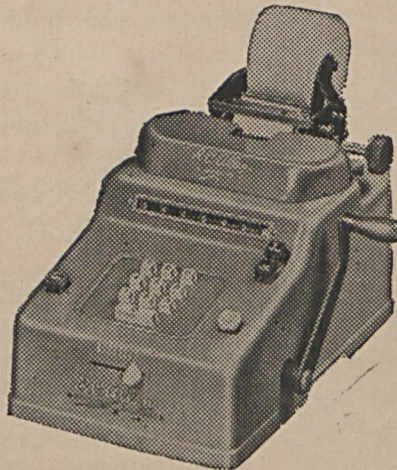
Sole Agents:—

司 公 利 長
CHEONG LEE & CO.

No. 9, UPPER HOKIEN STREET :: TEL. 80243 :: P.O. BOX 56
SINGAPORE



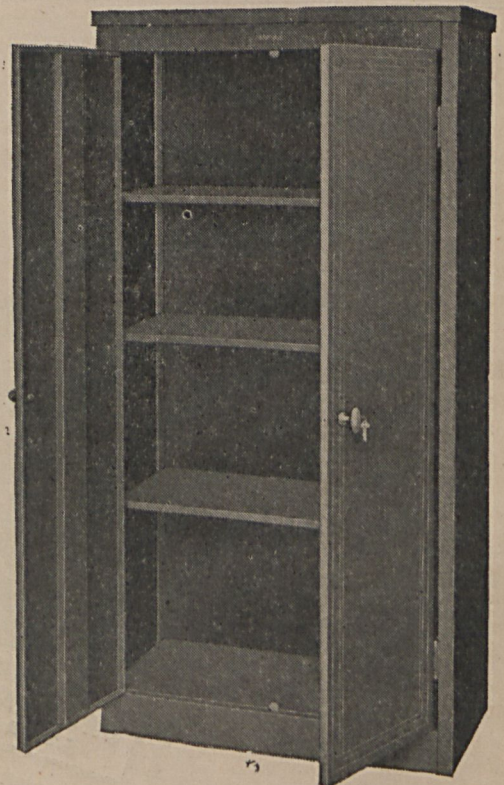
Single Door Steel Cupboard.



R. C. Allan.



Shannon Filing System.



2 Door Steel Cupboard.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO. Tel. 6970 — 1st Floor — 14, Chulia St. — Singapore.

TRADE UNIONS IN MALAYA

HERE were no trade unions in Singapore before the war and after the Trade Union Ordinance had been introduced there were only associations formed for the purpose of bettering the working conditions of labourers. These associations were registered under the Societies Ordinance and the Secretary for Chinese Affairs was responsible for their registration. All societies registered under this Ordinance were not necessarily workers' associations. The Labour Department Report of 1946 gives a list of 52 workers' associations. The oldest of them is the Malay Seamen's Union which was registered in 1916. The last to be registered before the war is the Singapore Rope and Hardware Employees' Mutual Help Society entered in February 1941. These associations cover a cross-section of almost all types of workers found in Singapore. Most of these unions (as we may call them) took an active part in improving the conditions of their members. They were essentially unions formed by the workmen themselves for mutual benefit. This is very important when we compare the beginnings of some of the post-war trade unions. Before the war, the Chinese Engineering Mechanics Association had almost a 100% membership of all the Chinese engineering mechanics in Singapore. Employers dealt with this union in times of dispute, used it as a recruiting agency and discussed mutual problems. Another well-known union was the Singapore Traction Company Employees' Association. It had probably the most cosmopolitan membership among societies in Singapore. There were also a number of clerical unions. The Clerical Union was formed in 1920. In 1939 it had a membership of only 2,000 out of a possible 10,000. It could not, however, take much stride because the leaders were dependent on the employer. The leaders knew that if they struck for a living wage and wanted better conditions of employment they would almost immediately be replaced by a large floating population of unemployed clerks. They, however, did whatever little they could to better their circumstances. This was the happy state of affairs in which labour organisations existed under the benevolent eye of the Registrar of Societies. Why did not this state of things continue and what was the reason for the introduction of the Trade Union Ordinance in 1941?

The labour unrest evident in the middle of 1930's differed from previous spasmodic outbursts. Earlier strikes had been the outcome of recognised abuses like the contractor system, differed payment of wages, insanitary housing conditions. The strike of 10,000 labourers employed by the Singapore Municipality in 1936 was the first conscious attempt on the part of illiterate Indians to take advantage of the country's dependance on foreign labour through the strike as a weapon. It seems hard to understand that immigrant Chinese and Indians who came from starved villages in China and India of their own free will should be discontented with their lot. Government saw more deeply. It knew that the time was ripe for introducing legislation for the organization of labour but it was hampered on the one hand by the outright refusal of employers to recognise this fact, and further, Government itself was the biggest employer of labour. Government either had to resort to wholesale deportation which was

impossible, or to set up permanent arbitration boards to deal with labour disputes.

Also, in 1936, the Singapore Traction Company's Chinese and Indian employees struck for higher wages and shorter hours. All these strikes showed a lack of organised leadership and confusion as to the issues at stake. More serious still was the strike in 1937 of Chinese estate labourers who wanted a share in the returning prosperity of rubber by asking for their wages to be raised after they had been cut down during the depression. Of course the Directors in London were loathe to sacrifice the first dividends they were enjoying after the depression. Politics was thrown into the issue and there was violence which Government suppressed by force. One important outcome of this strike was the establishment of an advisory committee on Chinese labour.

In 1938, the adversity which Malaya's major industries experienced provoked a further wave of strikes. Most of them were due to reductions in wages. The S.T.C. strike is memorable in that it was the longest and most serious strike in the history of Malaya. Once again, owing to lack of leadership and the strikers' refusal to arbitrate, the strike dragged on for weeks. The strikers learnt a valuable lesson—the need for proper leadership and that not all strikes could be won as easily as their two previous ones. Government learnt that a framework for organised labour should be set up without delay. Although the principle of arbitration in labour disputes had been set up in this strike, a new solidarity had been formed amongst the hitherto disunited labour in its fight for better working conditions. Chinese associations showed active sympathy for strikers who were predominantly Indians and vice versa.

Government realised that neither the workers nor itself was organised in a way efficient to cope with labour troubles. It had no authority to influence both capital and labour towards reasonable settlements. Labour was so devoid of leadership that often its demands were not even formulated before a strike was called, and frequently strikers refused to stand by the agreements arrived at by their representatives. The further avalanche of strikes in 1938 and 1939 amongst rickshaw pullers, sawmill and public works labourers won over public opinion to the Government's viewpoint.

The Industrial Courts Bill was an aid to the arbitration machinery. This bill enabled a tribunal to be composed of employers, labourers and Government to whom labour disputes could be referred. The Trade Unions Bill regulated the working of such organisations and protected the members in regard to the funds which they contributed. The Trades Dispute Bill dealt with illegitimate strike. Though all 3 Bills were drafted in 1938 they were not implemented till 1941. One reason attributed for this failure in implementation was that Government, as the largest employer of labour in Malaya, was identified with capitalist interest and had every reason to keep wages low and labour weak and disunited. It was not enough that Government alone should

recognize trade unions. Employers too should recognize them. In the past the mere suspicion of being a labour leader led to the labourer's dismissal. It seemed that employers and government were not really interested in the development of trade unionism but looked upon it as a means for regulating or grouping labour.

The outbreak of the European war brought fresh economic and political impetus to Malaya's chronic wave of strikes which increased in frequency and violence. War conditions brought rising cost of living. Shortage of labour was becoming increasingly acute as the tin and rubber industry girded themselves for full capacity production. Labourers were aware of the usefulness of the strike weapon. Government was the last employer to increase wages though it had earlier on urged other employers to do so. This delay caused further strikes in 1939. The strikes were generally of one pattern. A demand or many demands were made. The crises developed rapidly and a very short period was given to the employer to arrive at a decision before work actually stopped. A meeting of employers was called to review the strike situation and they learnt that they knew very little or were indifferent. Lacking sufficient knowledge of labour conditions, these employers had successfully stayed government's hand by continued opposition to the organization of labour even after the Bills of 1938 were introduced into the Legislative Councils in December, 1939. Some employers thought that these Bills merely instituted the machinery for labour organisation in a passive form. They expected it to be a glorified "kongsi" system. The employer and Government were mistaken if they thought that the development of the labour movement by legislation depended on them exclusively. It is true that the demand for these Bills did not come from the working man, but what the Government started was not left to Government to finish. Other things intervened.

It was the unexpected growth of political elements in Malaya's labour movement that took the situation out of government's hands. The Communist Party identified itself with overseas Chinese in the matter of the China Relief Fund. Through this fund, it expanded its political power with ramifications extending throughout Malaya's labour movement. The Communist Party was further sponsoring societies who registered themselves with the Registrar. The majority of the 60,000 members of those societies registered in 1940 were fostered by this Party which exercised indirect control over them. This was evident with the Russo-German pact. Whereas previously Communist leaders had averted strikes to permit a more effective collection of funds for China, it now changed its tactics to anti-British propaganda and cultivated strikes as a means of hindering the country's war effort. The strikes culminated in the most serious of all in 1940 when employees of Singapore Harbour Board went on strike from January to March. The Government in intervening did not aim so much at settling the strike as to destroy the General Labour Union that was behind it. This strike was purely political and from then on labour agitators were regarded as spreaders of sedition in wartime. But this had hardly any effect. One effect of this was that employers who had formerly resisted Government interference in disputes were up in arms demanding why the General Labour Union had been allowed to continue its

existence. Although Communism was stated to be dead it was rearing its ugly head here. Government strategically manouvered its labour Bills without opposition, but by now it was evident that the situation was well out of hand. Employers' demands that Government should take an effective stand were thrown back to them by Government who urged employers to improve working conditions as that was the best way of reducing labour unrest.

New laws were passed empowering unions to pay their members when they struck and these laws not only recognised the principle of collective bargaining but aimed to facilitate it—though it was 4 years late. Whether the employers like it or not Trade Unions had received the official blessing and were in the country to stay. In July 1941, the Trade Unions and Industrial Courts Bills were at last enforced. The interval between their drafting and execution had effected a change of heart on the part of Government and employers. Government as the more liberal of the two at first resisted pressure to outlaw strikes. It held the view that labour must be educated and it would go no further than to put down violence by force and deport the ringleaders. In August 1941 it capitulated and a general bill was introduced outlawing strikes in essential industries and in public transport services.

At the outbreak of the Japanese War, a Trade Union Federation was formed under the auspices of the Communist Party with a view to organising labour against the Japanese. This Federation claimed to have a membership of over 70 unions, and assisted in the formation of the Dalforce which fought the Japanese after they had landed in Singapore. It also organised the resistance movement in Singapore. The Stevedore's Union helped the late Col. Lim Bo Seng to collect labour for the daily use of the Services and it was the Quarry Union who were responsible for the excavations required by the Army for blowing up the Johore Causeway.

On the liberation of Singapore, most of the old unions which had gone underground during the period of the occupation, reappeared and reformed themselves. The lead was taken by the General Labour Union. The General Labour Union was not formed by the amalgamation of other unions but was first organised as a nucleus and then it stretched its tentacles round other weak unions to form a group. It dictated the policy of its affiliated unions and was linked to the Communist Party. This Union was so powerful that on 15th February 1946 it participated in a political demonstration banned by the Police and this led to the banishment of some of its leaders. The British Military Administration did not bring into force the Trade Union Ordinance. This was a great mistake because between that time and the resumption of the Civil Government the activities of the General Labour Union had gone ahead. Unions that stood against the G.L.U. tended to disappear and were replaced by Committees who were willing to co-operate. Where uncooperative unions held out, rival committees were set up and this was one of the factors responsible for numerous strikes in mid-1946. August 1946 was the target date fixed by the Civil Government for Unions to register. 89 unions had applied to register but only 11 unions were actually registered in 1946. Of those

It pays to Get
EXPERT ADVICE

Your eyesight is precious. Preserve and strengthen it through proper care and attention.

For any defect in vision, consult:—



NEW CHINA OPTICAL CO.,
71, High Street, Singapore.

Phone 2586

FOR UP-TO-DATE
D. & P. WORK
ALWAYS CALL AT
QUEEN'S
PHOTO STUDIO

99, North Bridge Road,
Opposite Adelphi Hotel,
Singapore.



5
Minutes
After
Using
Mentholatum

SOLD IN
JARS and
TINS



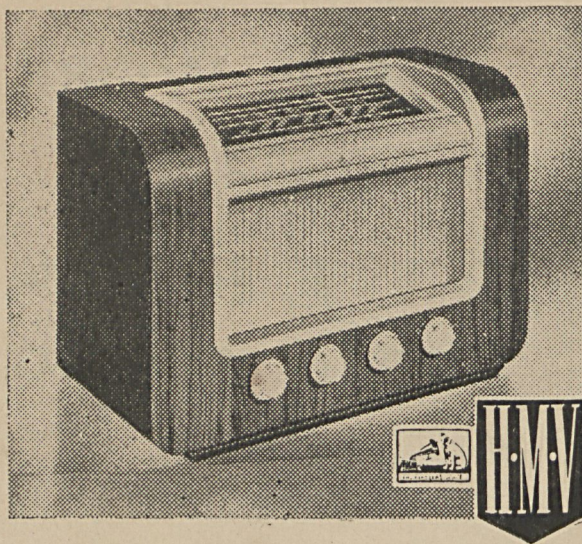
FOR **LIFELIKE SNAPS**
GET YOUR FILMS DEVELOPED,
PRINTED AND ENLARGED.
24 HOUR QUICK SERVICE

By
MANIAM'S
PHOTO SERVICE,
63, Bras Basah Road,
SINGAPORE.

EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHER
OUT-DOOR PHOTOS
UNDERTAKEN
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

Branch At:—30, Transit Road,
(Nee Soon Village)
R.A.F. SEMBAWANG.

THE FINEST THERE ARE . . .



Special Features:

- ★ Overall Bandsread On 4 Short Wavebands.
- ★ Superb Quality of Fine Reproduction.

Phone:
3358

KELLER PIANO CO.

RADIO & MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

NO. 2 ORCHARD ROAD, SINGAPORE.

MASTER'S

"HIS



VOICE"

FIVE-VALVE
B-A-N-D-S-P-R-E-A-D
RADIO S

Available in 2 Models:

Model 5103 for operation on A.C. Mains \$275.00

Model 5203 for operation on AC/DC Mains \$285.00

Prices Are Subject to a 10% Cash Discount.

Easy Payment Terms Arranged.

- ★ Super Sensitive P.M. Loudspeaker.
- ★ High Undistorted Output.
- ★ Tropical Climate-proofed Throughout

Branch: 203, Batu Road,

Kuala Lumpur, P.O. Box 123.

**DAVID
PHOTO STUDIO**

329, NORTH BRIDGE ROAD,
SINGAPORE.

Telephone 83637.

(Opposite Jubilee Theatre)



Specializing in Out-door Photography:-

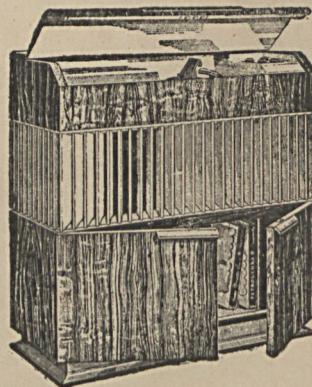
- WEDDING,
- BIRTHDAY PARTIES OR
- ANY SOCIAL FUNCTIONS,

AND

DEVELOPING PRINTING
ENLARGING ETC.

DECOLA RADIOGRAM

As used in the South African Royal Train during
Their Majesties' Tour.



Living Music — the very presence of Concert and Opera in your home — note perfect . . . the bite of strings, the clamour of brass, the roar of drums . . . music light as air and imperious as thunder

Incorporating—

An Automatic Record Changer, playing eight 10" or 12" mixed records.

Featherweight Decca Pick-up with saphire needle.

Three matched 12" Dynamic Speakers.

Price with Radio — \$2,150/-

Four stage push-pull Amplifier employing 8 valves and neetifier.

Radio 7 valve, 8-wave band (bandsread) press button and marval tuning, radio frequency reception.

BEAU DECCA RADIOGRAM,

also with 3 loud speakers — \$975/-

Made by the makers of the famous DECCA & BRUNSWICK records.

Sole Agents:

E. S. ISAAC & CO., 168A, Cecil Street, Singapore.



H. E. Sir Franklin Gimson addressing the Audience.

—by courtesy of Olympic Studio.



The Principal, Prof. W. E. Dyer, addressing the Audience.

—by courtesy of Olympic Studio.

that applied some were independent of the G.L.U.; others, like the S.T.C. Employees' Association, were independent though affiliated to the G.L.U. Others were mere tools of the G.L.U. There were cases of workers denying the existence of a trade union in their area or industry and yet the G.L.U. was applying for the registration of a union in that particular place. It was beginning to be evident that in a number of strikes the strikers did not decide for themselves but were dictated to by the G.L.U., as in the case of the strike at the S.H.B., which was out to destroy the S.H.B. Workers' Mutual Help Association which was not affiliated to the G.L.U.

The G.L.U. now began to call itself the Federation of Trade Unions. Through its activities, a number of strikes had been organised and most of them concluded with benefit to the labourers concerned. The G.L.U. had 80 to 100 officials and had at their disposal a fund which was derived from the contributions of its affiliated unions. The standard amount was 20% of each union's income. Its powerful position tended to overawe small employers and opposing unions. While that the G.L.U. had brought considerable benefits to the labourers, they had prevented individual unions from developing on their own lines. In some cases unions that were developing on democratic lines pre-war were now no more than puppets of the G.L.U.

During 1946 there were 47 strikes involving 50,000 men. The reason for this is attributed to the fact that Trade Unions had not got on to their feet yet. A more feasible reason is given in the Trade Union Report of Messrs. Awberry and Dalley. They say that "Having regard to the activities of the guerillas during the war as saboteurs and fifth columnists (activities that were officially encouraged and directed but not altogether controlled and disciplined) it was not surprising that since the war, Malaya should have a series of industrial and political strikes many of them illegal and accompanied by acts of violence; some of them spontaneous and unpremeditated acts by the ignorant, disillusioned and upset by the high cost living and the shortage of rice; some undoubtedly inspired by the Communist Party whose object was to overthrow the present Government."

In 1947, 162 trade unions were registered. Most of these unions were affiliated to political bodies. The satellites of the S.F.T.U. were linked to the Communist Party, others were sympathetic with the Kuomintang Party and some with the Indian Congress. Of 162 unions, about 80 were affiliated to S.F.T.U. showing thereby the control the S.F.T.U. had over trade unions. During the year there were 45 strikes involving 24,000 men. The chief cause for these strikes were for increased pay. Other reasons were that due to returning prosperity the men demanded bonuses; in some cases they struck because some of their fellow-workers had been dismissed. In the Federation of Malaya in 1947 there were 293 trade unions. Nearly half of these were under the control of the Communist-inspired Pan-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions. Of these 100 were inspired by the P.M.F.T.U. Only about 63 Trade Unions worked independently.

It is into this pretty picture that Mr. Stanley Awberry and Mr. Fred Dally stepped in February, 1948. They

came, they say, but they did not conquer, as many sceptics expected. Many expected that the report of these two men would cause a revolution in the ranks of trade unionists who, having had their mistakes pointed out would become good little boys.

Messrs. Awberry and Dally returned home in March. Industrial troubles suddenly became widespread in April; violence and arson developed in May and in June the terrorism started. To go back a little, the first indication that all was not well came when the Trade Union Department sent out a circular calling for an annual statement of accounts of the trade unions. Some complied but a majority of them did not. Among the latter were those unions affiliated to the S.F.T.U. Most unions did not have sufficient funds to rent a room to have as their headquarters or to employ a clerk to keep accounts. Occasionally five or six unions joined together and paid the rent for one room and set up their headquarters there, but the difficulty of keeping accounts still remained. But here the difficulty was solved by the S.F.T.U. It volunteered to keep the accounts of these small unions gratis. This was readily accepted. But when the circular came asking for a statement of accounts the S.F.T.U. leaders had disappeared and the S.F.T.U. itself had vanished into thin air. By this time, of course, there was no doubt as to what was happening across the causeway and legislation was passed freezing the funds of certain unions suspected of aiding the terrorists. No union account in Singapore has been frozen but many in the Federation have been. In the meantime the Emergency Regulations had been passed and that sent many more leaders to join their companions in the jungle. The Communist leaders were under the mistaken impression that if, and when, a showdown would arise between Government and them, having appeared as the champions of labour, they expected that the entire labour force in Malaya would back them to overthrow the Government. Some no doubt responded to the call. Others had to be forced to take to arms but the majority of labourers in Malaya did not think it feasible to get their ends by force of arms.

In Singapore, no trade union, except the S.F.T.U., disappeared after the Emergency Regulations. In very few cases have leaders of other trade unions absconded. But in the Federation, 95 trade unions had been struck off the register for not complying with the terms of the law. There are at present 166 unions carrying on normal activities.

It is to the credit of the Government that the strike has not been forbidden under the present Emergency Regulations. Such is the condition of almost all the trade unions in Malaya. This is not so of the educated unions — mostly clerical unions who have steadily improved their conditions of employment, salaries and demands for provident funds. There are still many clerks who have not secured permanent situations even after 15 years' service; pensions are not granted to employees of the Army, Admiralty and Air Force clerical services. These are things that their respective unions are fighting for and hope to achieve without resort to a bloody revolution.

The main recommendations of the Trade Union Report are that trade unionists must be educated and that the system of Whitely Councils should be introduced into Malaya at once.

There is no doubt that if trade unionists had been educated the present sorry plight would never have come about. There are at present no educational facilities provided by trade unions, employers or Government for the workers. The eagerness to learn exists as we can judge from the initial success of the People's Education Association. But the worker cannot afford to pay high fees and he wants a daily night school. Trade Unionists cannot entirely carry out this programme on their own and it is the duty of Government and employers to contribute some share towards this education. If Government could only reflect and wonder why it is spending millions today for the subjection of terrorists and did not spend an infinitely small proportion of this amount 15 or 20 years ago on bettering the plight of labour it would be saving quite a large sum of money today. The Trade Union Report recommends that a Lecturer in Labour Relations, preferably a non-European, should be appointed to the Department of Economics of the Malaya whose main duties should be extra-mural adult education. He would be independent of Government and should be in a position to criticise Government labour policy. The funds for carrying out this work should be met by Government, employers, trade unions and public subscriptions.

Whitely Councils are councils at which workers and employers in a single industry could meet to discuss their problems. But these Councils do not remain at the level. They can be developed into State Councils, Inter-State Councils and finally National Whitely Councils. Whitely Councils localise problems as they arise rather than deal with them as if they affect the whole labour market. They enable a better understanding between employer and employee which is not the

same as a trade union official making demands on behalf of all the members of his union.

What is the solution to the labour problem and trade unions in Malaya? Many hail the advent of the present crisis as a heaven sent opportunity of purging Malaya of the undesirable elements of labour, and feel a clean sheet must be started when the emergency is over. That is good as far as it goes. But this cannot happen unless Government and employers give up rosy dreams of the old days when labour was cheap and labourers jumped at the mere bark of mandores or docilely accepted dismissal without a word. Employers and Government, who is the largest employer of labour in Malaya, must realise that the days of exploiting of labour are gone. Labour is no longer without good leaders. It is true that temporarily they are handicapped by lack of education but that is all the more reason that the employers should show the way to better living and decent wages. The Japanese occupation has shown the Indian what the Indian National Army can do as a body and the Chinese saw what the Communist Party, aided by British arms and sometimes officers, were able to effect. They are no longer prepared to be the underdog. They too are prepared to unite and to show a strong front against all who are out to put them down. The Trade Union Report supports this statement when it says that "employers and some Government officials have lagged behind in not realising the new situation." If employers want trade unions to believe in collective bargaining and to resort to the strike only as a last resort, they must take every opportunity to make the workers see that results can be got through normal trade union methods. So long as employers refuse to grant concessions and then grant them when threatened with a strike, workers will naturally believe that the strike is the only weapon. Trade unionism in Malaya must go on, but on peaceful and legitimate lines.

By P. C. A. HANDY.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

Mr. Tan Ghee Tee of G. T. Advertising & Publicity Services has pleasure in taking this opportunity of thanking all Advertisers for their warm and generous support.



Always At Your Service,

G. T. ADVERTISING & PUBLICITY SERVICES.

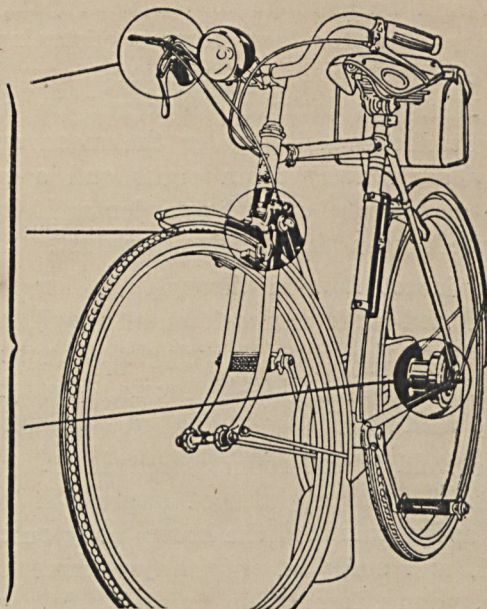
191, Cecil Street, Singapore.

Phone:—82458.

BETTER THAN EVER! As good as pre-war ?

Just look at the Raleigh Superbe as an example. It has the amazing DYNOLUXE EQUIPMENT giving car type lighting! With dry battery — gives a penetrating powerful beam even when stationary. Combined Dynamo and Sturmey-Archer 3-speed gear are neatly housed in rear hub — each acting independently! Anti-thief lock in fork crown, stainless steel spokes — all these enviable features justify your exclaiming—

It's worth buying a
RALEIGH
 THE ALL STEEL BICYCLE



Sole Agents: **ROBINSON & CO., LIMITED.** SINGAPORE.

COMFORT BREEDS CONFIDENCE!

When you sit down can you relax?
 Or does your waistline pinch you?
 When you dance do your lapels collapse?
 Or does your collar irk you?

When you wriggle, in suffering mute,
 Or voice your feelings no less acute,
 Think of the time you'll have a suit

Tailored by **BAJAJ TEXTILES!**



* Craftsmanship endorsed by many College graduates.



TEL: 4649 :: :: 31, RAFFLES PLACE :: :: SINGAPORE.

THE INSECT.

It all began when the insect flew in from the garden — out of the moist, perfumed garden where the early evening's rain had soaked the earth and bathed the leaves with pale, round globules of water that became glistening silver balls of light when the moon arose over the distant hills. As darkness thickened the mists of twilight shone white under the moon and then slowly sank away from sight and a powdery brightness settled over the garden as if the moon was shedding a shower of silver dust.

The insect flew in through the long window and settled with a smack on the wall, barely a span from the sill. It wriggled, composing its wings, and was still — a brown, burnished blot on the white wall.

The child in the room stared at the gleaming insect. The keen gleam of interest in the boy's eyes, as he examined the brown body on the wall, faded, and smile of impish joy came over his fresh, young face. The tousled hair came over his eyes as he dropped the top he carried in his hand, and skipped quickly away through the door, like a gnome on an urgent errand.

In the garden, six feet away from the window, was a flat garden bench, and above it writhed the tracery of a temple-flower tree, its branches waving like shadowy fingers against the moonlit sky. There was a pad-pad of feet and two figures stepped on to the grass and moved towards the bench under the tree. "Is it wet?" asked the girl. Her companion flicked alone white flower off the bench, sending it to join its myriad fellows on the grass-white patches in the moonlight, like pools of dried, incandescent sap that had splashed the grass in falling from the branches of the temple tree above. "It's all right," he said, and they sat down hand in hand. "I wonder what Johnny's doing," said the girl, casting an anxious look back at the open window, "He's always up to something." He looked at her turned head, the curve of her cheek, and the highlights that the moon cast up in her hair, and said, "I wouldn't worry about Johnny; — not with the moon in your hair as it is." She turned and looked at him. He bent forward quickly and kissed her. For a moment she resisted and then suddenly surrendered. His arms went around her, and they kissed again and again on the bench.

Johnny came slipping back into the room with a catapult in his hand. He stood some few feet

in front of the insect and, with bright eyes, fitted to the weapon a small, hard peashot sapped by a season's sun. He got his peas from the great, dry, old tree at the back of the house. The burnt brown of the berry slipped from his rosy fingers into the light leather saddle of the catapult. Screwing up his eyes he took aim at the brown body, so immovable on the wall. The catapult twanged, the pea whizzed away, missed the insect by a good ten inches, and sped on through the window.

The boy and girl were hugging on the bench. His lips were inches from her ear and he was whispering something low and tender. There was a stinging "phut" as the speeding pea, whizzing through the window, struck the girl on the ear, barely an inch from the boy's nose. The girl gave an agonised yell, pushed him off, and gave him a resounding slap on the face. "Oh, you bit me, you—you—cannibal!" she yelled. They were both on their feet, and he stared at her, stupefied. "You monster," she cried, tenderly nursing the sore lobe, "You bit me!" He turned her roughly round, squinted at the red spot, that showed even in the moonlight, and glanced down suspiciously at the bench. "Ah!" he said, picked up something minute and held it out to her on the palm of his hand. The hard, dry pea winked sullenly up at the moon. "Look!" she whispered, and turning he saw Johnny, through the open window, solemnly taking aim with a second pea at the insect on the wall. "This beats everything" he yelled at her, "Your brother's shooting at us through the window. I'm going to beat the pants off him once and for all." Flinging the pea away, he raced round to the door. But Johnny, who had heard the last infuriated "beat the pants off him" stopped not to ask the reason. Dropping the catapult, he scrambled over the sill, just as the other rushed in through the door. With a yell Johnny hot-footed it down the path. The other vaulted the sill and went after him shouting imprecations. The girl screamed at them to stop, one hand held to her smarting ear.

The voices died away as the two disappeared down the path. Sudden motion stirred the brown blotch on the wall. Whirring its wings the insect left the wall, flew round in a dizzy circle or two, and sailed out through the window into a soft breeze that seemed silvery under the moon.

GEOFFREY LEEMBRUGGEN.

KODAK

THE FIRST NAME IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Let Photography Help You Now And In The Future.

If You Are Interested In

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| ✕ RADIOGRAPHY | ✕ CLINICAL PHOTOGRAPHY |
| ✕ SPECTROGRAPHY | ✕ HIGHSPEED PHOTOGRAPHY |
| ✕ PHOTO-MICROGRAPHY | ✕ PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY |
| ✕ X-RAY MICROGRAPHY | ✕ CINE-PHOTOGRAPHY |
| ✕ X-RAY DIFFRACTION | ✕ VISUAL AID PHOTOGRAPHY |

OR MERE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THERE IS A "KODAK"
PRODUCT FOR YOUR NEEDS.



Enquiries should be addressed to:

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY

(Inc. in U.S.A. with limited liability)

130, ROBINSON ROAD,

P. O. Box 687,

SINGAPORE.

"KODAK" IS A TRADE MARK.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

“A SNAKE!”, rings out a frightened voice, and the thoughts that simultaneously arise in the minds of many are always associated with poison and death, whether the rigging reptile be but a poor rate-snake or the dreaded rattlesnake. There are few on such occasions who hold their presence of mind and thinking of nothing but the snake alone snatch up whatever rod lies within their reach and strike a true stroke.

If a snake is found in your hostel coiled snugly in your room which is not meant to be a snake-hole or a zoo, what impulses are set free in the minds of those who discover it? The more timid of the members might take a long run without ever glancing back to see how the sleeper fares. Another may find his vocal cords grow suddenly strong and may utter emotional shrieks. The inquisitive gentleman may aim a stone at it just to see it “take a photo” — as they say in an Eastern language. A fourth, bolder than the rest, might strike the reptile on the tail, for there he has heard, lies hidden the secret of the creature’s existence.

If “Mr. Wordsworth” the poet did ever chance to witness such a sight, what would he have done? Though quaking with fear, he would have given

the creature “a soul”. He would have addressed it in the human tongue and would have divined the thoughts of the unfortunate reptile; and finally, he would sit down to write a long and monotonous poem on it and finding himself in a quandary while trying to name his poem, would have called it “Lines — for want of a more suitable title.”

What would a student in Mathematics have done? “Let AB be the snake 12 inches long and CD a straight rod 12 feet long,” he would say. “Required to place CD on AB so as to bisect it.” And then, standing full 12 feet away would, with mathematical accuracy do the construction and finally would in satisfaction, perhaps, utter, “Yes, Very Good! Q.E.D.”

And the “Ideal Christian” finding the poor snake bisected would true to the Christian principle “be kind to the animal”, render it first aid and also kill the poor creature in the experiment.

This is how different people would look at the matter but what would you say, if one cold rainy night you should find a snake coiling itself round your warm leg, while you sit, gazing at your book with your thoughts far away with “Home Sweet Home” in Kuala Lumpur?

“LECHA.”

(Continued from page 20)

and to make matters worse in this respect, it is still possible under the Municipal Ordinance and bylaws to build new houses that fall far short of modern sanitary methods. The Housing Committee is of the opinion that the Municipal Ordinance devotes little space to any other type of building, except the bungalow or the compound house type and that it requires drastic revision.

While the demolition and replanning of the congested areas and their rebuilding according to modern standards is certainly desirable, it is emphatically not the most urgent part of our housing problem. It can and should wait until congestion can be relieved and that can be brought about only by the provision of fresh housing on a hitherto undreamt of scale.

The detailed programme outline by the Singapore Housing Committee calls for a close and careful study by the local Authorities. To put the scheme into operation would involve the expenditure of an enormous amount of money which the country could ill afford at the moment. The Report calls for an immediate and a long term

scheme. The immediate programme provides for the housing of about 36,000 people in 4,536 dwellings at a cost of about \$32,000,000 over a period of three years. The long term scheme calls for proper planning and the establishment of New or Satellite Towns. All these schemes cost money, but unless a start is made at once to relieve the present congestion, the increasing population with each passing year would aggravate matters. This would in course of time have serious political, social, and economic repercussions. Expenditure on other less important projects could be curtailed or even put off for the time being and divert such resources available into the housing programme. Homes are needed for men, women and children who contribute each in their degree, to the wealth and future of the city. No price is too great for carrying out a project which aims at giving good houses to the citizens of this colony so as to give them and their children a chance to live decently. “They deserve to be housed as worthy citizens of a great city.”

ALBERT TAN.

THE FEMININE TOUCH.

What the Ladies Say.

I.

Beauty in the College.

AN American paper once blazed the headline — “Beautiful Girls don’t go to College.” That is an overstatement. Judging from our College girls it is quite evident that beautiful girls do come to College, and do succeed in their academic pursuits in spite of all the attention they get. The idea of a College girl as being someone frightful academic, with horn-rimmed glasses and dowdy looking clothes, with no care for anything but A’s and A plusses for her essays, and who talks nothing but History, Geography or Poetry, has gone with the wind. College girls can be intellectual, very hardworking, but they can still be glamorous and up-to-date in fashion in their own way.

Though they do not know it, there exist quite a number of girls in the College, who can be film stars if they want to. For example, there is a “Maria Montez” and a “Jane Russel” among us, who are just as beautiful and just as popular as the originals. Then, there is a “Vivien Leigh” who, though she does not realise it, looks exactly like Scarlett O’Hara when she is in a temper, only there’s no Rhett Butler for her to vent her anger on. Then there are the other girls, who do marvellously well in their subjects, but who also manage to keep their beaux on tenter hooks, just as many film stars do, on the screen or in real life.

Above all, our College girls can transform themselves into veritable glamorous “film stars” anytime they like. This is evident when, after exercising their lungs at hockey and rigger matches, they appear an hour or two later, at any formal function, coy and demure, dressed in all their finery, and made up to look just as beautiful and ravishing as Rita Hayworth or Lana Turner, with hair well-combed and lips well-defined.

It would be wrong to think therefore, that only girls who are plain and unattractive, and who find no consolation in anything but in books and academic pursuits go to College, and to say that no beautiful girls go to College is just a gross mistatement.

ANITA FUNG.

II.

College Life.

“In coming to College students are launched on an independent venture. Anxious that loving parental care is no longer theirs, they do not have the guidance and the advice of their elders at home. In other words, they have to stand on their own two feet. And this is what I want to stress — they have to stand on their own two feet and decide for themselves what is the right thing to do.

“One is free to develop one’s personality. One is unrestrained, unrestricted. You don’t have the professors brandishing canes about to make a lecture more impressive and adhesive to the mind. One is not spoon-fed. In fact, at College one gets a good dose of thorough mental training.

“And when you emerge triumphant, you are all the better for the experience. All the credit is yours! All the glory! You get that delicious contented feeling of having achieved success through your own efforts. And don’t forget it is with the greatest pleasure and happiness that one does all these things.”

MONICA MORSINGH.

Quoted from a Speech at the Freshmen’s Forum on 25th October, 1948.

MENTAL ENERGY CALCULATED.

IN this world the greatest force available to man is not the Atomic Bomb. It is the human mind. It can utterly destroy or wonderfully create. It knows no limit and sees no end. It pervades through the whole universe, and is a gigantic source of energy for man.

Every one has a mind, a powerful source of energy; but the amount of this energy available is variable. In any person, it varies with time, physical conditions, environment and heredity. With different persons it varies too. So we can put down the amount of mental energy available for work as X_v , where 'v' means 'Variable'.

Now, no one can deny that at some time or other, he does worry or experience some mental conflicts, or some unpleasant inferior feelings, or some emotions such as doubt, chagrin, anger, hatred and jealousy. At the same time, he cannot say he has not wasted energy in such conflicts. For if he has not used up any energy it is certain he would not be able to feel anything at all. Hence we can put down small 'x' to stand for the energy thus spent. Like its bigger brother small 'x' is also extremely variable. It varies with different persons, and different times with the same person. So we can also attach a 'variable' to it — x_v .

We can come now to several interesting conclusions.

It is evident that if X_v be the amount of mental energy we have at any time, and x_v the amount of energy dissipated in some mental conflict, then $X_v - x_v$ will represent the amount of energy available for mental work. So that efficiency of

the mind simply means reducing small 'x' to as small as possible, i.e., we must stop worrying and avoid emotional conflicts.

Proceeding a bit further, we see that if we are able to make X as big as possible and small x as small as possible, we would then have an ideal or perfect mind. Of course, no human being can have such a mind. It is the mind of the Supreme Being.

So a Perfect Mind is $X^* - x^0$, where * means infinitely large and 0 of course zero.

What about the mind of a genius, a lunatic, or a child? And what is Life and what is Death?

A genius's mind will be $X_b - x_i$, where b means big.

(He is a genius because he has more mental energy than anybody at any time).

A lunatic's mind will be $X_v - x_b$.

(His energy is all dissipated in some mental illness).

A child's mind will be $X_s - x_s$, where s means small.

(His potential mental energy is small but at the same time he spends less energy in worries and emotional conflicts).

Finally, Life may be represented by X_v
and Death X_0 .

MOK TUCK YEE.

ELECTION

PRECISION WATCHES
(MADE IN SWITZERLAND)



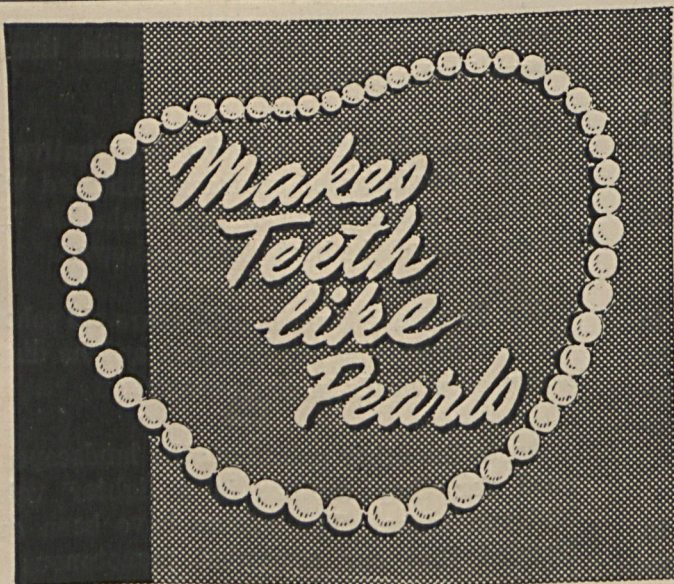
WELL KNOWN TO THE WORLD SINCE 1848
FOR THEIR ELEGANCE AND ACCURACY.

(Available at all leading watch dealers throughout Malaya)

Sole Agents: **CHUN CHONG**

(ESTABLISHED 1899)

53, SOUTH BRIDGE ROAD,
SINGAPORE :: PHONE 2868.



HYGIENIC CARE OF TEETH & GUMS

Odol

TOOTH PASTE
& MOUTHWASH



SOLE DISTRIBUTORS: SIME, DARBY

THE Y.M.C.A. ART CLUB ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

THE 2nd Annual Exhibition of the Y.M.C.A. was held from December 10 to 13, 1948, and about 3000 persons viewed the paintings displayed. On the whole, the standard was high for the majority of artists with whom painting is not a full-time occupation. One or two pictures should not have been accepted unless out of eccentricity. What caught the eye were the striking portraits in pastels which achieved a standard deserving status as decorations for popular magazine covers. Most of them were done by Mr. Martin Foo. It will give a better idea of the exhibits if mention of the artists is made individually.

Mr. Choy's water colour sketches were bold and brilliant with a lavish use of light tones and bright colours which saved the pictures from flatness and gave a soft richness to the Malayan scenes painted. They were all in a very light impressionist style.

Mr. Morrell is an artist of experience and he combines sensitivity with restraint, delicacy with boldness. He exhibited a very original blonde. His work is a fine example of a definite school of art. Every picture deserves purchase.

Mrs. Cotterrel is a very delicate and painstaking artist whose flowers are excellent. She shows a genuine love for Nature and a real talent of observation and faithful reproduction. Balance and poise of design in her paintings are chief qualities in her grace and loveliness.

Mr. Duckworth's reproductions of prints in oils are very attractive. An adept in green, he manages to convey repose and leisure particularly in the kampong scenes which are good decorations for drawing rooms.

Mr. Gregorio displayed a high standard in heads. Rich and vivid colours and a good knowledge of physiognomy make his portraits lifelike and lively.

Mr. Peter Yip's Chinese scrolls although not original show a departure from traditional colours and tone. His dragon is a very worthy effort and his dreamy temple sketch is rather original.

Professor Hough demands understanding for his pictures which give more after a first look. He has a firm knowledge of light and shade. With his outstanding quality of sincerity an improvement in craftsmanship should earn for him a high place in the world of art. "Bukit Timah" is a picture of depth and feeling. A suggestion of vision exists in all his paintings of scenery.

Mr. Toh Siang Yew displays a variety of styles which ranges from obvious surrealism of a very naive kind to landscapes in bold outlines and masses of colours. He would be excellent were he more patient.

Mrs. Gillespie is a very good scenic artist who paints flowers as they appear in gardens. She is fine and decorative.

Mr. Henry Chan's portraits in oils lack texture and are hazy. With more restraint he would succeed in his efforts in unrealism. His water colours are successful in this respect. There is no doubt that he is more of an artist than some others in the exhibition.

Mr. Lee Hon Min is a very imaginative artist. A fine knowledge of anatomy combined with an outstanding simplicity of tone make his "Figure Study" one of the best pictures shown.

Mr. Tan Beng Seng is a 16 years old schoolboy. He is a promising sketch artist and he displayed a few good heads in conte-crayon.

As to the other paintings, the landscapes were good for they capture in a lighter vein the Malayan scene. The colours have been so well blended that our somewhat monotonous green has become interesting and animated.

RICHARD ONG.

REPORTS

REPORT OF THE UNION'S ACTIVITIES.

Graduation Ceremony and Dance.

THE Graduation Ceremony was held on the afternoon of Saturday, 16th October, 1948. It was a memorable occasion. The stately academic atmosphere was strongly felt by all. Staff, students, guests and graduates assembled after the Ceremony for a buffet Tea in the "Gym" building.

Sometimes Union activities become anxieties. The Graduation Dance was one such. It was the first of its kind and was held in conjunction with the Stamford Club, Singapore. The occasion demanded a "super"—show and the Committee, together with all their helpers, are to be congratulated on a very fine effort.

Freshmen's Forum.

A Freshmen's Forum was held on October 25. For this occasion a debate was specially arranged for the "Freshies." To say that the speeches were well received would be a gross understatement — there was tremendous applause at times. Miss Tan Suat Hong and Mr. James Peter were adjudged the best speakers of the evening. Mr. Fong Chu Chai presided.

Talk.

A most informative paper was read by Dr. Wu Lien-teh before a gathering of staff and students of both the Raffles and Medical Colleges on the night of November 15. Among the guests were Mr. H. R. Cheeseman, C.M.G., Director of Education, Federation of Malaya, and Patron of the Union, and Mr. H. W. Frisby, Inspector of Schools, Singapore. Members of the public were also present.

Freshmen's Social.

The Freshmen's Social was a little late this year because of the Graduation Dance. The enthusiasm with which the Freshmen were received

into the College bosom could be judged from the applause that followed the President's speech of welcome. The Social itself was a mixture of dancing, concert items and James Henry. There can be no doubt that the Union possesses an asset in the person (-ality) of Mr. Henry, whose mastering of ceremonies leaves little to be desired. It was quite evident also that the Freshmen possess much talent in the way of music and sketch-acting. A little later it was found that a talent for 'tap-dancing' was also rife. Mr. P. Rajendra and his Committee must be thanked for some masterly organisation.

Amendments to The Constitution.

A series of Extra-ordinary General Meetings were called during the Term in order to amend the Constitution of the Union. The continued lack of a quorum necessitated the calling of three such Meetings, before the amendments were finally adopted. Copies of the Constitution will be available for distribution early in Hilary Term.

The "Undergrad."

The Union Managing Committee wishes to congratulate the Editorial Board of the "Undergrad" newspaper on the occasion of the first issue of the newspaper. The energy and enterprise displayed by the Board is a sure sign that the paper has come to stay. An organ for the expression of students' views and opinions is badly needed. We look forward to the time when the paper will extend its influence towards the Medical College as well. This would be a fitting move towards the unification of the two Colleges into the University of Malaya.

GEOFFREY LEEMBRUGGEN,

Hon. Secretary,

Raffles College Union.

THE LITERARY, DRAMATIC AND DEBATING SOCIETY

THE Literary, Dramatic and Debating Society has unfortunately not been able to hold all its proposed functions for the term. The great number of social functions held during the term made it a very crowded one so that the Society's activities had necessarily to be limited.

A talk by Mr. S. D. Kalelkar, Information Officer attached to the Government of India Office in Malaya, was given on Friday, 29th October. His subject was "Life at Oxford" and his talk proved both instructive and entertaining.

A Combined Colleges Debate was held on Friday, 5th Nov., 1948, in the Central Hall of the King Edward VII College of Medicine. The motion before the house was that "Heredity rather than Environment is the determining factor in the development of character." The main speakers were Mr. Richard Ong Liang Kee (R.C.U.) and Miss N. Naveretnam (M.C.U.) who were for the motion, and Mr. Chan Suan Tong (M.C.U.) and Miss Sarojini Devi (R.C.U.) who opposed it.

The President of the L.D.D.S. of Raffles College, Mr. Harry K. H. Chan, acted as Chairman. Pointing out that the debate was the first to be held jointly by the two Colleges, he expressed the hope that it was the beginning of greater co-operation in cultural activities. About 250 people attended the debate, and the motion was finally lost by 111 votes to 23, with 108 abstaining.

The Oriental Studies Group Representatives have fulfilled a long-felt need by supplying the Union Library Room with Chinese, Indonesian and Indian books, pictures, magazines and newspapers.

The Society has recently obtained a number of books of one-act plays, and hopes to begin regular play-readings from next term.

HEDWIG AROOZOO,

Hon. Secretary.

THE MUSIC SOCIETY

THE Music Society started the academic year extremely short of funds. An enthusiastic effort was therefore made to increase membership and encourage support for the Society. The gratifying response received and the most generous and unexpected donation of a gramophone pick-up by Mrs. Lee Choon Guan, M.B.E., enabled the Committee to look more hopefully to the Society's future activities.

On Thursday, 4th November, the Society held a Students' Sing-song by Candlelight. Being a novel occasion, it was well attended. Community singing was varied by a few solo items including a very much appreciated performance by Miss Evelyn Goh. Use was made of vocal records selected from those presented to the Music Society by the British Council. By holding evenings of a similar nature it is hoped that students will be encouraged to take an active and creative part in music. We hope that the formation of a College Choir and even a small group of chamber-music players may not for long be merely illusory ambitions of the Music Society.

A recital of Indonesian dances and songs sponsored by the Society was held on Wednesday, 17th November, in the Ooi Tiong Ham Hall. The show proved extremely successful. The audience who filled the hall were especially enthusiastic over a Menangkabau dance with candles. The occasion provided a rare opportunity for the display of classic Indonesian dancing to its proper accompaniment of the gamelan or orchestra, composed of Indonesian percussion instruments. A fascinated audience watched the expressive gestures of the dancers, their intricate footwork and elaborate movements underlined by strong rhythmic feeling. The gorgeous costumes gave a professional finish to the performance.

Thanks are due to Mr. McIntosh for his invaluable assistance on this occasion. We also wish to express our thanks to all those students who gave us their generous and voluntary support on the same occasion, which proved how much could be achieved by co-operative effort.

The Society wishes to thank its patron, Dr. Dobby, for his kind help and advice, and for his unflinching interest in its welfare.

MARIE AROOZOO,

Hon. Secretary.

THE RAFFLES COLLEGE ECONOMICS SOCIETY.

THE first general meeting of the Society for the academic year was held on October 15, 1948, when the President extended a warm welcome to all the First Year Students and exhorted all members to give the Society their full support. He next gave a brief preview of the tentative programme for the term. Although we hit upon a rather elaborate programme, we were rather unfortunate, however, in not being able to keep to schedule.

One out of five prospective speakers was available for night-talks. He was Mr. H. W. Nightingale, Asst. Principal Secretary for Economic Affairs. His subject was "The General Workings and Activities of the Secretariat for Economic Affairs" and over 70 members attended the talk at the Maths. Lecture Room on 22nd October, 1948. We should remember that through Mr. Nightingale's offices, the Commercial Reference Library under the control of the Registrar of Malayan Statistics is now open to our students.

Later in the term we were not able to secure the Comptroller of Income Tax to address us at a time when there was keen interest in the College over Income Tax. In one of our seminars, Major (Miss) C. Harrison of the W.V.S. gave a most illuminating talk on "Women in Industry", where-in she expounded the position of women in Trade Unionism in Britain and presented the case of women workers for equality of treatment and

remuneration. That her talk was most informative whilst at the same time thought-provoking for when the subject was thrown open for discussion she received a relentless barrage of questions.

Included in the programme of activities was our plan to have a picnic this term. This plan took the form of a joint picnic with the College Chemical and Physical Society who willingly accepted our invitation. The following were co-opted in the joint picnic sub-committee:—

Mr. Albert Tan
Mr. Tye Cho Yoke
Mr. Tan Seng Lock
Miss Betty Wu
Mr. Lew Sip Hon (ex officio).

The picnic was held at Mr. Lim Aik Sin's bungalow at Pasir Ris on Sunday 31st October, 120 members attended the picnic which was a success. We are deferring our excursion to the Cressonite Industries to next term.

At the renovated Gymnasium on Dec. 2nd, 1948, the Society held an informal Tea-party in honour of Professor T. H. Silcock and Mrs. Silcock. Prof. Silcock was going on leave and we bade him farewell and wished him and Mrs. Silcock a happy time.

LEW SIP HON.

Hon. Secretary.

RAFFLES COLLEGE CHESS SECTION.

THE Chess Section is a recent addition to the activities of the Raffles College Union. It was formed towards the end of Hilary Term, 1948, with Professor A. Oppenheim and Prof. T. H. Silcock as patrons.

It commenced its activities early in Trinity Term with tournaments in English Chess, Chinese Chess and Draughts. The results of the tournaments were as follows:—

English Chess:	Champion	Henry Oh
	Runner-Up	David Tambyah
Chinese Chess:	Champion	Kum Boo
	Runner-Up	Mok Tuck Yee
Draughts:	Champion	Saad Mazuki
	Runner-Up	K. Kulasingham

A match against a Singapore Chess Club Team, which we lost 5—0, was followed by a Student — Staff match which we lost 5—3.

An exhibition game given by Prof. Oppenheim, who played 18 boards simultaneously, created quite an interest among chess enthusiasts in the College. Prof. Oppenheim won 14 of the 18 games, 2 of the rest being drawn.

Two talks on "Chess" were held this term. One was by Professor Silcock and the other by Mr. Fryer. A student-staff match was this time drawn 4—4. The main event of this term was the Inter-College chess match, the trophy being contested for being the Silcock Cup presented by Prof. Silcock. The Medical College had little difficulty in getting a 7—1 victory. The following represented the Raffles College Union:—

Henry Oh, K. Rajendram, John Supramaniam, Mohamed Rasli, Oh Bak Kim, Lee Yoke San, Ho Peng Yoke, S. Sothi.

Reserves were: G. M. Thomasz and G. Bogaars.

(Continued on page 44)

THE CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY: ACTIVITIES SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE COLLEGE FOR THE LONG VACATION.

BEFORE the close of Trinity Term of the last academic year, we received a suggestion from Dr. Price who had, ever since he joined the College, shown a keen interest in all College activities especially that of the C.P.S. — that the Society should endeavour to organise as many talks, excursions and other activities as possible for the benefit of the students. We thought it a good suggestion and it was with this idea in mind that we began our activities for this academic year.

We started rather late in the term with a talk by Mr. B. W. Osborne, B.Sc., on October 27, 1948, on "The Ionosphere". Soon after this, the Society held a picnic on 31st in conjunction with the Economics Society. This was at Pasir Ris and in spite of unforeseen difficulties, the Picnic was a success — thanks to the co-operation of the Picnic Joint Sub-Committee.

We next had a talk by Ho Peng Yoke, one of our Final Year Students, on the "Relativistic Views of Length, Time and Mass" on November 9. This was very successful.

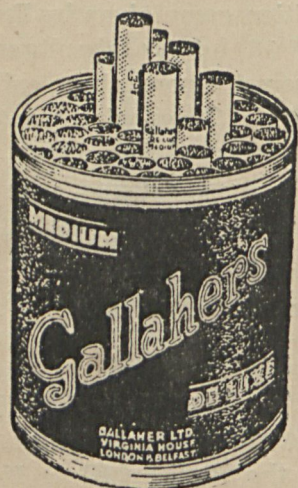
Last but not least was a visit to the plants of the Singapore Glass Manufacturers Co., Ltd. on Nov. 16, 1948. This was made possible through the courtesy of the Manager, H. J. Quinn Esq. There was a large attendance that day in spite of bad weather. This first excursion proved very interesting and informative and we hope that we may have many more excursions of such benefit in the future.

SIEW NIM WAH,
Hon. Secretary.

(Continued from page 43)

In conclusion, I would like to thank Prof. Oppenheim and Prof. Silcock for all the help they have given the Chess Section. Prof. Oppenheim was kind enough to present us with a number of books which we hope will be the nucleus of a Chess Library. Prof. Silcock in addition to presenting the Silcock Cup has always shown great interest in the activities of the Chess Section.

S. SOTHI,
Hon. Sec., R.C. Chess Section.



Gallaher's

DE LUXE
MEDIUM

CIGARETTES

IN 50's
AIRTIGHT TINS.



RCU *Spotlight* on SPORTS

BADMINTON.

THE College Team suffered two losses in Mr. Huang Tiaw Sooi, the Captain, and Mr. Rudolph Lam, our singles runner-up. Mr. Huang is now a lecturer in Physics of the College staff while Mr. Lam is a Normal school teacher in Kuala Lumpur. However, the Team was strengthened by newcomers such as Mohd. Salleh, Dorairaj, Henry Oh and Khoo Eng Choon.

On the 13th of November, Mrs. (Dr.) N. S. Alexander, gave away the prizes to the champions of 1947—48 who took part in the Inter-College Championships for the Alexander Shield. Two players had the honour of being triple champions. The results of the Tournament were as follows:—

- Men's Singles Champion: Siew Nim Chee
- Men's Singles Runner-up: Rudolph Lam
- Men's Doubles Champions: Siew Nim Chee & Tye Cho Yook
- Men's' Doubles Runners-up: Rudolph Lam & Mohd. Salleh
- Ladies' Singles Champion: Miss M. P. Pillay
- Ladies' Singles Runner-up: Miss V. Harriet
- Ladies' Doubles Champions: Misses M. P. Pillay & V. Harriet
- Ladies' Doubles Runners-up: Misses Amy Cheah & Lilian Ponnampalam
- Mixed Doubles Champions: Mr. Siew Nim Chee & Miss M. P. Pillay
- Mixed Doubles Runners-up: Tye Cho Yook & Miss Amy Cheah

In the exhibition games which preceded the prize-giving, two newcomers, Misses Wong Pat Mooi and Teo Ghim Hock, defeated Misses M. P. Pillay and Tan Joo Inn convincingly. These are the new 'finds' among the ladies, but, sad to say, the men's section brought forth no new talent.

Altogether we played three matches this term. We lost to Raffles Institution by the narrow mar-

gin of 3—4. Against the Chinese Y.M.C.A. we won 4—3. We were unfortunate, however, to lose our match of the year, the Inter-College match, by 5—2, and though our ladies won their games these were only exhibition games. The best match of the day was the third singles between Tye Cho Yook (R.C.U.) and S. D. Williams (M.C.U.). After a ding-dong struggle, it went to the rubber and deuce, and Cho Yook won by just a point! In the Doubles, Khor Kok Khee excelled all others, and was very unlucky to lose because his partner Cho Yook was too tired to give sufficient support in the rubber. The Captain, Siew Nim Chee, was off colour and did not do well against the Medicals' first Singles Heng Siah Kwang. He lost in two straight sets, and was lucky to be conceded a walk-over in the Doubles by the Medical pair Kam Chuan and Phui Hung. On the whole, the games were very evenly contested, though the result was rather disappointing. However, the better team won. The following represented the College:—Messrs. Siew Nim Chee, Tye Cho Yook, Khor Kok Khee, Khoo Eng Choon, James Henry, Mohd. Salleh, S. G. Dorairaj, Koh Eng Keat, Henry Oh, Lim Cheng Pah, N. Selvamany and Ganasalingam. Among the ladies were Misses M. P. Pillay, Tan Joo Inn, Teo Ghim Hock, Wong Pat Mooi, Tan Suat Hong and V. Harriet.

Little remains to be said except that we hope that better facilities will be provided in the near future. The College renovated gymnasium serves well as a stop-gap, but is definitely unsuitable for permanent use. It is this lack of proper courts which has greatly retarded our progress in this game, and we cannot hope to improve, in spite of keen enthusiasm shown, until open-air courts are provided. We hope that the College authorities will hear our plea and meet our requirements.

SIEW NIM CHEE,
Badminton Captain.

LALL SINGH & COMPANY

50, MARKET STREET :: :: TEL. 7692

FOR SERVICE & SATISFACTION

IMPORTERS OF

**THE FINEST CRICKET BATS, BALLS,
PADS, GLOVES Etc.**

QUANTITIES ARE RESTRICTED.

SO PLACE YOUR ORDERS EARLY.

GIFT

Sensation of the year

By POPULAR REQUEST

You buy goods to the value of \$20.00

OR

YOU pay \$8.00 for one gross PANDA HB pencils

YOU receive FREE \$4,000 Personal Accident

Transport Insurance Coupon for 1 year Issued to
you by special arrangement with the Ocean Accident

and Guarantee Corp. Ltd.

Age limit 16 to 65 years

Outstation order postage extra

CITY BOOK STORE LIMITED.

WINCHESTER HOUSE,

COLLYER QUAY :: SINGAPORE

TABLE-TENNIS.

WE return to the College for the new academic year to find our table removed to the Eu Tong Sen Hostel from the old gymnasium. The easiness of access to the table has made the game much more popular than ever before. Even the addition of a new table towards the end of the term has been unable to satisfy the long queue of enthusiasts.

We started off our programme with a series of matches. In the first game between the Seniors and the Freshmen, the Seniors won by a wide margin of 6—2. We played the next game against Raffles Institution on the 13th of October. The result was a draw. Then from the 19th up to the end of the month the Inter-Block matches were held, in which 'E' Block came out as the winner. In the Inter-Hostel match on November 3rd, the Eu Tong Sen Hostel won by 6 games to 3.

The annual Inter-College match was played on the 13th of November in our Union Common Room. We were proud to have among the spectators Dr. Wu Lien-Teh, M.A., M.D., the world-famous plague expert. Although we suffered a defeat, I must thank our players for their creditable performance against the heavy odds.

The following represented the Union against outside teams during Michaelmas Term:—Miss Alice Lee, Miss Anita Fung, Miss Chew Hui Pin, George Fung, G. M. Thomasz, Henry Oh, Ho Peng Yoke, Hong Hee Sung, Lee Yow Yin, M. C. Kailasapathy, Patrick Chan, Oh Bak Kim, Tan Boon Lin and Tye Cho Yook.

It is gratifying to know that we have been frequently joined by both women members of the Union and members of the College staff in the game. One table has been reserved once a week for the use of the ladies.

HO PENG YOKE,
Table-Tennis Captain.

HOCKEY REPORT.

IN spite of the heavy rain this season there was no dampening of the enthusiasm and there was never a game without the encouraging presence of supporters and their vocal exuberance.

The Annual Freshmen-Senior Fixture brought fresh laurels to the Seniors and it was no surprise. The season was very successful and most of the games were won or drawn and it was only to the S.R.C. and C.S.C. that the College had to bow their heads.

The Inter-College result was a surprise to a large number of students who were diffident of the issue. It is interesting to note that there were eight players playing for the first time an Inter-College match and six of them were Freshmen. Every player on the field was in superb form and not one of them is undeserving of a pat on the back. Outstanding on the field was Brian Marks, G. M. Thomasz, Mohd. Salleh, S. G. Dorai Raj, James Peter and J. de Silva and all of these players played like possessed beings. The wings, Jack de Silva and James Peter, were a constant menace to the opposing defenders and it was they who brought the winning goals. The Medicos' formidable right flank was bottled up by Brian Marks and Thomasz while Dorai Raj and Yusoff formed an impregnable barrier on the other side.

Four of the College players, B. Marks, Mohd. Salleh, G. M. Thomasz and J. Marks, participated in recent Singapore trials. Thomasz was selected for the Civilian's side while B. Marks has now filled the position of Left-Full Back in the Singapore State XI. All four players have shown consistent form throughout the season and they have acquitted themselves well in the trials and it is up to them to keep up the prestige of the College in first class Hockey.

JOHN MARKS,
Captain.

COMBINED COLLEGES ATHLETICS.

THE following represented the Combined-Colleges at the Singapore Amateur Athletic Meet on the 16th and 17th of July, 1948:

Mr. S. D. Williams
 „ Abdul Karim
 „ James Henry
 „ G. N. Oorloff
 „ John Marks
 „ Ng Kam Poh
 „ James Supramaniam
 „ Theodore Christie (Capt.).

If victories be the only criterion on which this venture is to be justified, we must accept that we were none too successful. We are able to register only one victory, S. D. Williams' winning the Long Jump doing 19' 10". In spite of the fact that the meet held during the long vacation when training facilities were hampered and that we were just after the strenuous diploma and professional examinations, our team gave a good account of themselves. In all events we gave a good fight to Singapore's best athletes. This was particularly emphatic in the One Mile Medley Relay where we were within an inch of victory when an unfortunate accident intervened.

The lack of victories, however, was more than offset by two great purposes which our team achieved in the fullest measure:

(a) The experience gained in competing in a Meet such as this, was invaluable.

(b) The spirit of co-operation with which the two Unions threw in their respective lots and competed as one Unit, is worthy of emulation in every field of activity.

Besides, as affiliated clubs of the Singapore Amateur Athletic Association, we were not found wanting in interest or support.

Athletics, unlike other games, has in the past been sadly confined to Intra and Inter-College Meets. Wider fields must be opened to our athletes and greater recognition sought for them, by way of encouragement. I am grateful to the two Unions for the readiness with which they supported this project and trust that in future years a Combined Colleges Athletics team will be a regular feature.

THEODORE CHRISTIE.



Standing (L. to R.):

N. G. Oorloff, Ng Kam Poh, John Marks, James Henry,
 S. D. William, Abdul Karim bin Salim.

Seated: Theodore Christie, James Supramaniam.

Compliments of

CONNELL BROS. CO. (MALAYA) LTD.

Importers - Exporters.

161, CECIL STREET,

SINGAPORE.

BRANCHES: KUALA LUMPUR & PENANG.

Please Patronise
Our Advertisers.

Their Wholehearted Support & Co-operation Has Made The Publication
Of This Bulletin Possible.

Thank-you.

The Editorial Committee
R.C.U. Bulletin.

VERSEMAKERS' CORNER

DRY LOVE AT MICHAELMAS.

Like one possessed, he sprawls,
Amassing all her faults
Into one hideous wave to drown

The despair of his heart.

"She cares; she cares not."

Scattered books; notes

Uncompleted — stared at from a void,

Adding to his agony.

Thoughts of an agonised brain,

Shatters the memory:

Hopes shrink, ambitions fail.

She — innocent and unwondering —

Is soon absorbed in her books.

R.

FRAGMENT.

By flowers ornamented, like a queen,

Elusive in a frock of jungle green,

The golden crown of silken strands surrounds

The sapphires blue with charm that knows no bounds —

Yet must I seek this fairy I have seen.

BEDA LIM.

PORTRAIT OF A GIRL.

A figure so slender and slanting in posture
Like the frame willow in an old Chinese picture:
Two lean arms following the slant of the body
Hang close along her sides in peaceful harmony.
The lambent legs arch a little forward with grace
Making perfect symmetry with body and face.
But 'tis in the face lies the light of beauty's day,
In the sad passionate look that holds one in sway.
Small eyes that look at one with such intent,
Resolute coral lips that will never relent,
Fine build of nose, soft complexion, soft shape so rare,
Complete the sketch of the face of this maiden fair.

“HEAVENLY SKY”.

A PHYSICAL MOMENT.

A very fat lady in her small lizard shoes
Tripp'd across the street at Raffles Place
Like cargo crane-haul'd across a deck.
Epstein might like her if he saw her weary toes.
Hip-ballasted and secure her pink linen skirt
Cylindrical hang'd around her thighs
And danc'd a wavy circle below.
You may not like fat females but it wouldn't hurt
If you saw her mount the steps of the charter'd bank
Like an eager charabanc, or knew
Her clothing rations and the colour
Of her rouge. She convinced me there is much to thank
For asceticism and a diet system.
Yet do not scoff, for I saw her glide
Into a chair by the boss's side
And I was sure she had a very quiet system.

RICHARD ONG.

RUBAIYAT E MAJLIS TALIM.

(With the apologies to Edward Fitzgerald and Khayyam, the old
Tent Maker).

Awake! for Cupid with unchartered right
Has shot a shaft that puts the sense to flight.
And lo! the Hunter of the Heart has caught
A pair whose hearts with love are now alight.

Now the Blind Boy reviving old desires
The thoughtless pair to dualitude retires
To the Botanic, Cupid's Own domain,
While a luckless one in his room suspires.

Romeo indeed is gone: with him his rose
And Laili's Majnum where no one knows
But Cupid still his ancient game pursues,
And here he plays with students' "Ayes" and "Noes".

Tho' Juliet's lips are lock't a voice divine
From a sweet throat, softly says, "Mine, mine, mine."
"O dearest Mine," he responds with a smile
And off they go to where the moonbeams shine.

"Come live with me in this eternal Spring,
All Yesterday's woes to the Four Winds fling:
The Bird of Love must fully have its way
And lo — the Bird is on the wing!"

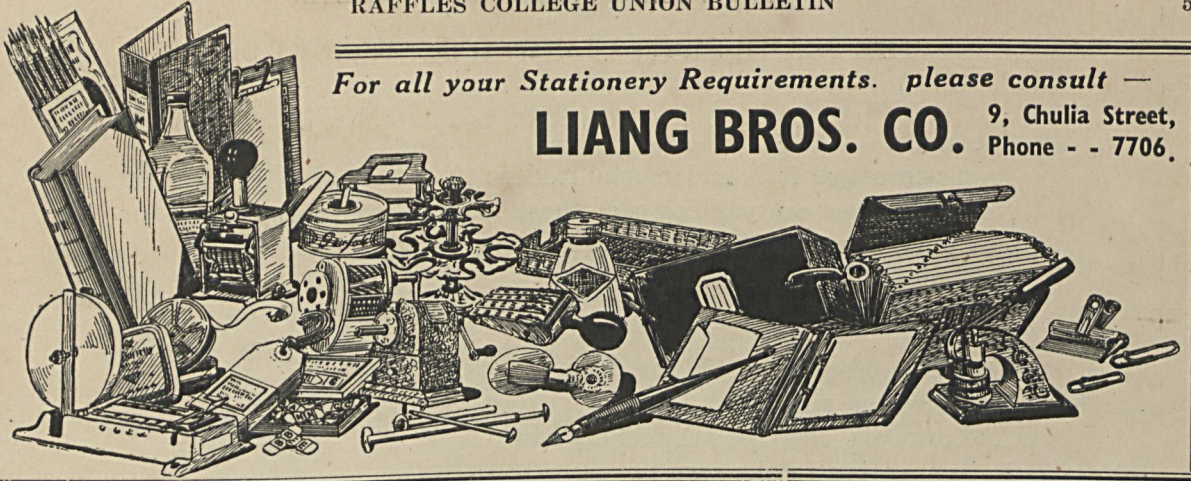
Dreaming when sweet aromas filled the sky,
I heard a voice within the Hostel cry,
"Awake my bookish ones and taste the joy
Of Love, for Life without this Spice is dry."

And as the voice cried, those who stood before
The Hostel cried, "Now or never more;
You know how little while youth comes to stay
And once departed will return no more."

The am'rous hope all set their hearts upon,
Comes once — aye — take it now or else anon,
Like lecture notes crammed on exam's eve,
Abides but little while and hen is gone!

"PUCH".

For all your Stationery Requirements. please consult —
LIANG BROS. CO. 9, Chulia Street,
 Phone - - 7706.



*Serpentine expandable
bracelet watch
in 18 k. gold*

165 FIRST PRIZES

MOVADO

the last word in watchmaking

 An advertisement for Movado watches. On the left, a woman in a light-colored dress is shown from the waist up, looking at her wrist where she is wearing a watch. The watch has a square face and a wide, textured, serpentine-style bracelet that curves around her arm. The background is a dark, stippled circle. To the right of the woman, the brand name 'MOVADO' is written in large, bold, white letters on a dark rectangular background. Above the brand name, it says '165 FIRST PRIZES' and below it, 'the last word in watchmaking'.

Obtainable from all High Class Watch Dealers throughout Malaya.
 Sole Agents:—

SHERBANE Khatena & Co.

18 Robinson Road: Tel. 7402 :: Singapore.

TUCK CHEONG WATCH DEALERS

441/443, North Bridge Road: Tel. 7449 :: Singapore.

The General Merchants — Wholesale and Retail.
 332, North Bridge Road :: SINGAPORE :: Phone 80974

YARL Store

 An advertisement for 'The YARL Store'. The word 'YARL' is written in a large, stylized, serif font, with a pair of scissors cutting through the letter 'A'. The word 'Store' is written in a smaller, cursive font to the right of 'YARL'. Above the logo, the text reads 'The General Merchants — Wholesale and Retail.' followed by the address '332, North Bridge Road' and 'SINGAPORE' with phone number '80974'.

Dealing Chiefly in the following:—

MORLEY JACKETS, SOCKS, NYLON STOCKINGS, KNICKERS,
 SPORT SHIRTS, WOOLLEN SLIP-OVERS.
 STELLA SPORT SHIRTS & YARDLY SHIRTS

THE SEAMY SIDE — LINES ON A MARKET SCENE.

The street —
Traffic-thronged it is and mortal-ridden:
Not with these can you compare those Augean oxen —
The jangled sounds, diabolical din,
This ululation never-ending.

The fetor of cabbages in the drains
Pervades the air:
And oranges, overripe yet reeking raw,
Rotten, rotten to the core,
Trampled flat, can ne'er be flattened more:
Such the sight, smell, filth and loathsome store!

And drains!
These sloppy, swollen, stinking drains!
Unswept — swept not save by raving rains —
Stagnant as the oases on the desert plains —
Unpurged as the souls of a thousand Cains!

The market —
Where these gabbling fishwives meet,
Higgle and haggle o'er each pound of meat,
Breathing imprecations, exuding human heat,
Wring their hands and stamp their feet:
And men with broiling breasts and hearts grown sore,
Like Corsicans, vendettas sworn,
Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, nor less nor more,
Bring stilleto arguments home to wound.

Their impassioned voices, disharmonious strains
That rend the air:
Babbling sounds baffling ears untuned,
Or forced breaths, inarticulate, of despair,
Or crude, staccato mutterings rashly pruned,
That bluster forth amidst the rancid air:
The rabble-Babel of bowwow babble,
The dissonanted chorus of Sino-Malay-Tamil.

HARRY CHAN.

AT THE RACES.

At the race track the cruel surprises
 Pack their punches for punter and watcher alike.
 This is no place for strolling minstrelsy
 Nor the fool idealist of the regimented conscience,
 Slugging away at the bolts: "To bet or not to bet."
 That be damned.
 Give us the deep-dyed gambler
 Versed in fanfaronade. He keeps his wits
 Upon their toes. His odds acrobat
 Marionetted by the totaliser's tumbling digits.
 Grand day for sport!

Men and women on parade.
 Mares and stallions on parade.
 Passion's debts must all be paid.
 Lose your soul but keep your head.

Place your debts, ladies;
 Sweet, sweet ladies, place your bets:
 For the pirate greed comes strolling along
 With temptation in his button-hole.
 Oh, skilled in losing, how well
 You take your little humiliations!
 How now? The budgets will be low again
 Or would you rather be patronised
 With a little sophistication and a little tact?
 That may not be damned by the whiskers of a mare!

How oft we find the lost child love straying
 From the crowd, or trip upon the sympathies
 Half-wake and sniffing in the cold of self-love!
 How oft have we, the luckless, in the empty hollows
 Of our wallets placed the dry compassions
 As they came mangled through the heart!

The race is on; the horses round the bend.
 Who — is keen enough to see the spectre chance
 Whistling a whimsey in a stallion's ear?
 Who will not his counsel hold
 While the horses pound into the straight
 Like some well-spun speech of wit
 Battering its irony upon the blank and baffled faces
 Of the horde?

Cheers galore. Gasps lost to the wind,
 Gaily now the illusions
 Skip and gambol home arm-in-arm
 With a dazed and witless winner!

RICHARD ONG.

Ensign

the symbol of Super Service

FOR LATEST EDITIONS OF BOOKS



ENSIGN BOOK STORE

47, High Street :: Singapore :: Phone. 3218.

J
I
T
T
S

FOR SATISFACTION
IN PRINTING - - -

&

C
O

,

L
T
D

96, ROBINSON ROAD

SINGAPORE - PHONE: 6829