

PRESIDENCY COLLEGE

1767-1858
Founders' Day

1935

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

21st January, 1935

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FOUNDERS' DAY, 1935.

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ONE hundred and eighteen years ago, a small College opened its doors with 20 students on its rolls for imparting instruction on Western Art, Science and Literature. It was named the Hindu College, and the Founders were a band of enthusiastic public men, the most prominent among whom were Maharaja Tej Chandra Bahadur, Gopee Mohun Tagore, Joy Kissen Singh, Raja Gopee Mohun Deb and Ganga Narain Das, who had the active help and sympathy of David Hare and Raja Rammohan Roy of immortal memory. It gradually grew in size and importance, and was taken over by the Department of Public Instruction in 1854 and re-named the Presidency College.

It would be difficult for us to-day to realise the significance of that small institution of more than one hundred years ago, unless we can visualise the darkness of those bygone days and the ignorance and superstition which pervaded the entire structure of society. We take legitimate pride in the fact that the College has played a prominent part in dispelling the darkness of ages, and helped largely in the diffusion of knowledge and culture. By training the best minds of Bengal, it has contributed materially to the making of modern India. Let us recall to-day in reverence and humility the pious memory of the Founders, who, having been gifted with prophetic vision, had the generosity and public spirit to give it a practical shape.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF

MR. A. K. CHANDA, Professor of English, has been transferred to the Secretariat as the Assistant Director of Public Instruction. He also officiated as the Director for

a few months. A successful teacher, his cheery personality is greatly missed in the College; but we congratulate him on his advancement even though it was temporary. MR. T. N. SEN from Dacca Intermediate College has taken his place.

PROF. K. KHASTAGIR has come back to the College after eleven years, in place of PROF. N. C. GHOSE, on leave.

NUMERICAL STRENGTH

The total number of students on the rolls of the College stands at 1146 against 1096 last year.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Thirteen candidates sat for the M. A. Examination, of whom 7 passed in the First Class, 4 in the Second and 2 in the Third. Of the 46 candidates who sat for the M. Sc. Examination, 4 passed in the First Class, 14 in the Second and 5 in the Third.

We sent up 102 students for the B. A. Examination, of whom 5 took First Class Honours, 38 Second Class, 1 passed with Distinction and 22 took the ordinary degree. Of the 101 students who appeared at the B. Sc. Examination, 9 took First Class Honours, 25 Second Class, 9 passed with Distinction and 29 took the pass degree.

In the I. A. Examination, 99 appeared, of whom 36 passed in the First Division, 43 in the Second and 6 in the Third. In the I. Sc., 165 appeared, of whom 73 passed in the First Division, 44 in the Second and 13 in the Third. In the I. Sc. list, the five top places were taken by the College—an achievement on which the College was congratulated by the Director of Public Instruction.

UNIVERSITY PRIZES AND MEDALS

I. A. & I. Sc.

RABI RAY—*Stephen Finney Silver Medal.*

ASOK MITRA—*Duff Scholarship, Saradaprasad Prize, Rai Radhikaprasanna Mukherjee Bahadur Prize and Nabakrista Kar Silver Medal.*

NIRADBARAN BAKSI—*Duff Scholarship and Sarada-prasad Prize.*

B. A. & B. Sc.

EAKUBALI KHAN—*Manmathanath Bhattacharyya Gold Medal and Herschel Gold Medal.*

ARDHENDU BAKSI—*Tawney Memorial Prize.*

DHIRENDRANATH SARKAR—*McCann Silver Medal.*

SUBHENDUSUNDAR GHOSH—*Shamacharan Ganguly Prize and N. N. Ghosh Gold Medal.*

PRASADKUMAR BASU—*Thakurdas Kerr Gold Medal, Adharchandra Mookerjee Commemoration Prize and Bipinbehari Memorial Prize.*

PHANINDRANATH BAGCHI—*Gangaprasad Gold Medal and Tripundeswar Mitra Gold Medal.*

M. A. & M. Sc.

JOGIRAJ BASU—*Hemchandra Gossain Prize and Gold Medal, Sonamani Prize, Siddheswar Silver Medal and University Gold Medal and Prize.*

BIRINCHIKUMAR BARUA—*University Gold Medal and Prize.*

SACHINDRAKUMAR MAJUMDAR—*University Gold Medal and Prize.*

BISWANATH BASU—*University Gold Medal and Prize.*

ARUNKUMAR RAY—*University Gold Medal and Prize.*

BARENDRAPRASAD RAY—*University Silver Medal and Prize.*

SUSILCHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI—*University Silver Medal and Prize.*

COLLEGE SOCIETIES

A number of popular lectures was arranged by the College Science Association, and all were well-attended. An excursion to a chemical factory was very instructive. A few popular lectures were also organised by the Economics Department. The Rabindra Parishad is continuing its studies of the works of the Poet. The College Magazine, with its three issues last year, maintained its usual high level of excellence.

On the initiative of the College Union, and under the enthusiastic guidance of Professors A. K. Chanda and C. C. Bhattacharyya, the staff and students contributed Rs. 1,725-8 to the Bihar Earthquake Relief Funds, Rs. 850/- being subscribed by the members of the staff and the remainder by the students. The Steamer Excursion organised by the College Union was also a great success.

STUDENTS' AID FUND

This fund has been in existence for many years for assisting poor meritorious students, and of late the demands on its slender resources have become particularly heavy. Its only source of income is voluntary subscription from members of the staff, which has proved inadequate. To augment its funds, a charity performance was given by some students as the usual Autumn Social, and thanks to their zeal and unselfish labours, the fund benefited to the extent of more than one thousand rupees, contributed by past and present students of the College and the guardians of the latter. I offer them my cordial thanks for their help and generosity.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Last year 525 volumes were purchased for the Library and 109 periodicals subscribed. The total number of volumes is over 50,000.

HOSTELS

There are 182 students resident in the Eden Hindu Hostel, and 48 Mahommedan students were accommodated in the Baker Hostel, which is under the control of the Principal, Islamia College. The general health and discipline were satisfactory.

ATHLETICS

Physical training is compulsory for First Year students, numbering about 300, for two hours a week. The Gymnasium is kept open morning and evening.

A medical examination of all First Year students was held in August last, but the results are not yet to hand.

Students are encouraged to take part in games, and matches are arranged between classes, and also between sections of the same class. The object is to coax as many students as possible to play games, rather than merely to reserve all opportunities for the select few. It is estimated that about 600 students either participate in games or attend the Gymnasium regularly.

The College Football team went up to the semi-final stage in the Elliot Shield Competition and up to the fourth round in the Hardinge Birthday Shield. In the Inter-Collegiate League, we tied with St. Xavier's for the first place, and lost after two days' fight. Three of our players were given places in the 'Varsity Eleven.

In Cricket, we have played till now 15 matches, winning 7, drawing 4 and losing 4. One of our players found a place in the 'Varsity Team.

In Tennis, we have won the Duke Cup after eight years.

In Hockey, our team was unbeaten in the Inter-Collegiate League, and four of our players were included in the 'Varsity Hockey Team.

The College won the Trophy in the Gymnastic Competition among the Calcutta Colleges held last year.

**ORIGINAL WORKS BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF
PUBLISHED IN 1934.**

- A. C. SARKAR (jointly with pupils)—Studies in Heterocyclic Compounds, Pt. III. (*J. Ind. Chem. Soc.*)
Studies in Xanthone. (*J. Ind. Chem. Soc.*).
- S. C. SEN GUPTA—Formation and Transformation of Carbon Ring Compounds. (*J. Ind. Chem. Soc.*).
- S. DATTA (and KEDAR NATH CHATTERJI)—On Some Characteristics of the Long and Short Spectral Lines. (*Ind. Phy. Soc.*).
- K. C. KAR—Wave Statistical Theory of Radio-active Disintegration. (*Phil. Mag.*).
- Wave Statistical Theory of Electron Spin.
(*Phil. Mag.*).

- A Note on the Disintegration of Alpha-particles.
(*Current Sc.*).
- Wave Statistical Theory of Artificial Disintegration.
(*Current Sc.*).
- Note on the Theory of Artificial Disintegration.
(*Current Sc.*).
- J. GHOSH—A Modification of Einstein's Gravitational Equations. (*Ind. Sc. Congr.*).
- J. C. SEN GUPTA—Osmotic Pressure Relations of Our Plants. (*Proc. Ind. Sc. Congr.*).
- Osmotic Pressure Relations of Our Plants, Pt. II.
(*Ind. Sc. Congr.*).
- G. P. MAJUMDAR—On the Occurrence of Sori on the Upper Surface of the Leaf of *Nephrolepis Lavalloides* Var *Furcans*. (*Current Sc.*).
- On the Origin of Leafy Sporophyte in Ferns.
(*J. Ind. Bot. Soc.*).
- Distribution of Mechanical Tissue in the State of an Aquatic Gramineous Species. (*Proc. Ind. Sc. Congress*).
- Upavana-Vinoda—a Treatise on Arbori-horticulture in Ancient India—edited and translated.
- S. M. BANERJI—A Modified Wie's Method for Micro-estimation of Hæmoglobin. (*J. Ind. Med. Ass.*).
- A Note on the Comparative Effects of Cardiozol and Adrenalin on Blood Pressure and Respiration of a Cat. (*J. Ind. Med. Ass.*).
- S. C. SEN and G. N. BERA—Observations on the Coagulation Time of Rabbit and Guinea-pig Blood. (*J. Ind. Med. Ass.*).
- N. M. BASU (jointly)—Effects of Humidity and High Temperature on the Amine Content of Rice. (*Ind. Sc. Congress*).
- On a Method of Determining Percentage Hæmolysis of Blood Caused by Various Hæmolytic Agents. (*Ind. Sc. Congress*).

- M. N. SIRCAR—Hindu Mysticism. (*Kegan, Paul & Co.*).
- U. C. BHATTACHARYYA—The Problem of Time in Indian Thought. (*Ind. Phil. Quarterly*).
The Fate of the Soul in Behaviourism. (*Ind. Phil. Congress*).
- M. SANAULLAH—Tazkirat-ul-Ulama.
- S. P. BHATTACHARYYA—Mahanataka Problem. (*Ind. Hist. Quarterly*).
Rasabhasa in Alankar Literature. (*Baroda Oriental Conf.*).
Kabyaprakasa Sanketa. (*Cal. Oriental J.*).
- A. N. BHATTACHARYYA—A Critique of Appayadikshita's Conception of Moksha. (*Indian Culture*).
- P. C. MAHALANOBIS—Studies in Educational Tests, No. 2. (*Sankhya*).
Revision of Risley's Anthropometric Data Relating to the Chittagong Hill Tribes. (*Sankhya*).
And 4 other papers jointly on Statistical subjects.
- P. C. MAHALANOBIS and K. N. CHAKRAVARTI—Analysis of Marks in the School-leaving Certificate Examination, U. P. (*Sankhya*).
- K. N. CHAKRAVARTI—Age Distribution in the Secondary Schools of U. P. (*Sankhya*).

OUR URGENT NEEDS

For some years, we have been trying to catch the sympathetic eye of those in authority for meeting our most urgent requirements, but with no tangible result. We are not blind to the difficulties of the present times, but we venture to say that some of the College projects have been on the waiting list long enough to merit prompt execution. The first is a College Assembly Hall, large enough to accommodate the entire College. We consider it an inexplicable anomaly that "the premier College of Bengal"

has to do without a Hall. It is really a great drawback that we cannot accommodate more than 350 people at any College function, and even these in a lecture theatre. The crowded state of the gallery, not to mention the numbers who had to be turned away, is an eloquent reminder of the urgency of our demand. A scheme for a Hall, Gymnasium and Principal's quarters is now before the Government, awaiting sanction and the provision of necessary funds. I trust they will be forthcoming at the earliest date.

A proposal for the creation of a number of full free-studentships has been pending before the Government for consideration for some time now. The enhancement of fee-rates just before the economic depression set in, has made it very difficult for some of the distinguished students of the University to join the College, much as they would like to. We consider the provision of full free-studentships essential for the continued academic success of the College and hope we shall not have to wait long for the fruition of the scheme.

Other urgent needs are:—

- (a) Provision of book-racks in the Science Library.
- (b) Servants' quarters.
- (c) Acquisition of buildings on Bhowani Dutt's Lane.
- (d) Compound wall in front of Baker Laboratory.

We sincerely hope that money will be found for some of these at any rate in the near future.

B. M. SEN.
