

- (2) Allan Bertram Demmer, referred to in VI, joined the Ceylon Government Railway in 1913 as an apprentice. He was appointed Probationary Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent in 1929. He proceeded to England in 1931 for a course of study and training, and was attached to the Great Western Railway in the United Kingdom for two years. On his return, he was confirmed as Assistant Divisional Transportation Superintendent, and in 1940 he was promoted Divisional Transportation Superintendent. In 1951, he was appointed to act as General Manager of Railways.
- (3) Hugh Eardley Demmer, referred to in VIII, 2, won in 1950 the Gold Medal of the Trinity College of Music, London.

Pompeus Genealogy.

D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XLI. page 20.

(Correction.)

On page 24, Section X, item 2, for "Louis Julian" read "Louise Julia", and for "18th November" read "11th November".

D. V. A.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

[FROM A WOMAN'S STANDPOINT.]

By Athena.

(I) Flippancy and Frivolity.

It is quite the fashion amongst young people of the present generation to be both flippant and frivolous. They fancy it makes them look quite clever and up-to-date to be continually indulging in a sort of stupid witless jesting over the gravest and often even the most sacred subjects. They lose sight of the fact that such unreasonable levity argues a shallowmindedness and want of ballast that only awakens contempt, instead of admiration.

Healthy jesting and mirth are all very well at the proper time and place. It is life's sunshine and deserves all encouragement, but the flippancy which makes a jest of religion, turns into ridicule the graver issues of life, makes the tender relations of human hearts subjects for levity, cannot be too strongly condemned.

To talk lightly and frivolously on subjects that should be seriously discussed is only a pose which is adopted because it seems to be the fashion among certain callow youths and feather-brained girls. This is generally a phase of extreme youth, and as these boys and girls grow older they usually see the folly of it and put it aside with other childish things, but there are instances when flippancy and frivolity become habitual and are not out-grown even with the passage of years. It is painful to see men and woman of mature years indulging in foolish levity over any and every subject. Nothing seems worthy of serious thought to them. Subjects which are given respect and due reverence by all right-minded people are dismissed with stupid jokes which disgust one.

Flippancy in speech is as much to be deplored and discouraged as frivolity in dress and behaviour. Life is not all play, though there should be a due proportion of it, and even in our legitimate hours of play, we should not lose sight of reverence, respect and seamliness. Life is too real and earnest a thing to be turned into a sort of burlesque where men and women act like clowns and say, and do all sorts of silly things because they think it will amuse or because it is the fashion.

Only those who are thoughtless and selfish can afford to be flippant or frivolous. Those who think at all about life with all its problems, can never, in their happiest moments even, indulge in flippancy and careless unthinking levity.