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Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper only and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the Journal.

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— THE —
DUTCH IN CEYLON

VOL. I.

BY
R. G. ANTHONISZ, I. S. O.

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Journal of the
Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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**DUTCH WORDS IN THE SINHALESE
LANGUAGE.**

BY E. H. VAN DER WALL.

One of the most interesting survivals of the Dutch occupation of Ceylon is the large number of Dutch words which have been incorporated in the Sinhalese language.

Since Western civilisation was introduced to Ceylon by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English respectively, it is inevitable that a large number of words connected with that civilisation should find a place in the Sinhalese language. At the same time it must not be hastily assumed that the existence of a European word in the Sinhalese language is proof that such a word describes something previously unknown to the Sinhalese people.

For instance, the large European window introduced by the Portuguese is a *janella*, but there has always been a Sinhalese word *kaubua* which means an opening or a hole for ventilation. Similarly, though shoes were known to the Sinhalese and to other Asiatic races before they came into contact with Western people, it is the European type of shoe, worn by the Portuguese, which is known as *sapatto*.

Many Portuguese, Dutch and English words spring from common roots, so that it is not always easy to refer the derived Sinhalese word to its correct source.

But investigation into these cases is assisted not only by the form and sound of the Sinhalese derivative, but by historical and other considerations.

For instance, the Sinhalese word *bankuva* (bench) may be derived phonetically either from the Portuguese *banco* or the Dutch *bank*, but here the priority claim lies clearly with the Portuguese.

Does the Sinhalese word *rapportua* (report) come from the Dutch *rapport* or the English *report*? Clearly from the former, to judge both by form and sound.

Proceeding on such lines, the work of investigation becomes simplified, though a small margin should be left for a possible difference in individual opinion.

On the application of the phonetic test, it is obvious that the Sinhalese names for months is borrowed from the Dutch.

The Sinhalese word *rā* for toddy furnishes an instance of a strange double derivative. It may be derived either from the Pali or Sanscrit *surā*, or from the Dutch *zuur* (sour), which gives *sur* or *sūra*.

In phrases such as *sūr vela* or *sūra bonova*, the source is clearly Dutch.

Some Dutch words lie buried in the Sinhalese language and much care is needed to steer clear of misleading derivations. A well known instance is furnished by *lei-lei* *achecharu* (mixed pickles) which is derived from the Dutch word *allerlei* (of all sorts). A popular error is to confuse this with *lovi-lovi* *achecharu*, a pickle made of the *lovi-lovi* fruit.

It should be borne in the mind that the letter *f* is not found in the Sinhalese alphabet and that in derivatives it is usually transmuted to *p*. e. g. the Sinhalese derivative from the Dutch word *vrouw* is *porova*.

The initial *s* preceding a consonant usually forms an additional syllable *is*, e. g. the Sinhalese derivative from the Dutch word *school* is *iskola*.

I do not pretend that the following list is exhaustive. There must be many other Dutch words incorporated in the Sinhalese language, which can rise to the surface only as the result of further research and I shall be grateful to any of my readers who can send me any supplementary words. The present list must be regarded as a first instalment.

My acknowledgments are due to the writings of Mr. Louis Nell and Mr. A. E. Buultjens and to Mr. E. W. Perera, Member of the State Council, who carefully read through my manuscript and helped me with many valuable suggestions.

		A.—CLOTHING.	
<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>	
Baadje	Baachia	Jacket	
Boord	Boorde	Edge or Border	
Borstrok	Borstrokke	Undervest	
Das	Dāsiya	Necktie	
Gesp	Gespera	Buckle	
Haak	Haake	Hook (in hooks and eyes)	
		Hairpin	
Haarnaald	Haarnaala	Glove	
Handschoen	Hanskun	Button-hole	
Knoopsgat	Konopskattia	Cloth (applied to broad cloth)	
Laken	Lakka	Patch	
		Swaddling clothes	
Lapje	Lappia	Ear-ring	
Luier	Lueru	Tuck in needle work	
Ooring	Arungōla	One piece garment worn by boys—trousers with vest attached	
Opnaaisel	Openella		
Opperbroek	Appaburukkua		
		Lace in dress border	
Passement	Passmentu	Back stitch	
Pispont	Pispōntu	Pleat	
Plooi	Plooi	Bow of Ribbon	
Strik	Istrekke	Lining of a garment	
Voering	Pūrua	Pocket	
Zak	Sākkua		
		B.—FOOD.	
		<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>Dutch</i>		Lei-Lei (<i>achecharu</i>)	Mixed (pickles)
Alterlei		Brüder	Cake
Broeder		Chocolāt	Chocolate
Chocolade		Cordiaal	Lozenge-shaped sweet
Cordiaal			
		Dendeng	Strips of meat dried in the sun and fried in oil.
Dendeng			
		Pirikidel	Fried ball of minced meat.
Frikkadel			
		Katukun	Turkey
Kalkoen			

B.—FOOD—(Contd.)

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Koekje	Kokis	Cake
Fransche Koekje	Pransa Kokis	French Cake
Iyzer Koekje	Eyzer Kokis	Iron Cake (made in iron mould)
Rose Koekje	Rōdē Kokis	Cake shaped like the heraldic rose
Karbonade	Karamanachchi	Preparation of meat
Pannekoek	Pannekuk	Pancake
Poffertje	Popperchi	Fritter
Roereieren	Rūrum	Buttered eggs
Rosijn	Rosine	Raisin
Sehenkel	Senkela	Shin of beef
Smore	Ismore	Preparation of meat.
Suiker	Sūkiri	Sugar Candy
Suikerbrod	Soikerbrod	Sugar bread
Vla	Pla	Custard
Wafel	Bāpel	Wafer-cake

C.—DRINK.

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Bier	Biera	Beer
Koffie	Kōpie	Coffee
Leger	Lēgerā	Leaguer of arrack
Pons	Ponsa	Punch
Melk-pons	Melek-ponsa	Milk-punch
Thee	Thay	Tea
Wijn	Vayin	Wine
Zoopje	Sōppia	Small draught of liquor
Zuur	Sūūr, Sūra	Toddy

D.—VEGETABLES AND SPICES.

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Aardappel	Arthapel	Potato
Boontje	Bōnchi	Beans
Foelie	Pūli	Mace
Muntje	Minchi (Kola)	Mint
Peterselie	Peterselie	Parsley
Salade	Salāde	Salad
Selderij	Selderi	Celery
Snyboontje	Isnibōnchi	French beans
Wittekool	Vetakolu	White cabbage

E.—LAW.

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Advokaat	Advokaat	Advocate
Appel	Appel	Appeal
Bankroet	Bankerōt, Bankelōt	Bankrupt
Biljet	Beliath	Placard, Notice of Sale
Boedel	Būdela	Estate in law
Citatie	Citāsi	Summons
Commissaris	Commissāris	Commissioner
Commissie	Commis	Commission, Fee
Datum	Dātum	Date, Term
Executie	Eskēsi	Writ of Execution
Fiskaal	Piskal	Fiscal
Notaris	Notaris	Notary
Notitie	Notisi	Notice
Plakaat	Palakattu	Poster
Procuratie	Peraculasi	Proxy
Quitantie	Quitansi	Receipt
Secretaris	Secretāris	Secretary
Taxeeren	Taxēru	Appraise
Translaat	Translaat	Translate
Volmacht	Polmah-karā	Executor

F.—HOUSEHOLD.

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Bakje	Bakkia	Trough
Balans	Balansa	Balance
Balie	Bālia	Tub
Balk	Balke	Beam
Boender	Būndera, Būndela	Brush
Boer	Būrū-ande	Rough bed
Bondel	Bōndela	Boer = a rough fellow
Boom	Bomba-liya	Bundle
Bottel	Bōttele	Shaft of a carriage
Bultzak	Bulsakkuva	Bottle
Bureau	Biro	Mattress
Dambord	or Biro-Almaria	Almirah on pedestal
Gordijn	Dambat	Draught-board
Hengsel	Gurdinha	Curtain, bed-hangings
	Hengsela	Hinge of gate

F.—HOUSEHOLD—(Contd.)

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Horologie	Orolōsua	Clock
Jaloezie	Jalōsia	Venetian sun-blind
Kakhuis	Kakkussia	Closet
Kapstok	Kabistōkkua	Hat-stand, clothes-horse
Ketel	Kētele	Kettle
Kelder	Keldere	Cellar, cellaret
Knaap	Kanappe	Tea-poy, small side-table
Koffer	Kopera-pettiya	Box
Kok	Kōkiya	Cook
Kolom	Kulunna	Column
Kroontje	Koronchi	Coronet used in wedding ceremony
Kruk	Kuruk-Kuduya	Perch for birds, hen coop
Kurketrekker	Korketrekku	Corkscrew
Kijker	Keikere	Telescope
Ladje	Lāchchua	Drawer (in table)
Lamp	Lāmpua	Lamp
Lantaarn	Lantāruma	Lantern
Pakje, Pak-kist	Pakis-pettiya	Packing-case
Paneel	Panēla	Panel (of a wainscot)
Pap	Pāppa	Poultice
Pennemes	Pennemes-pihiya	Penknife
Pijp	Payipre	Pipe
Pilaar	Pilaru-kanuva	Pillar
Pistool	Pistōle	Pistol
Pleister	Pleistere	Plaster
Potje	Pōchia	Pot
Prop	Poroppe	Cork
Raam	Rāmua	Frame
Rak	Rakke, Rakkia	Rack
Scarnier	Saranēru	Hinge
Scherm	Iskirema	Screen
Schroef	Iskurupputa	Screw
Setje	Sechchia	(Cruet) Set
Stoep	Istōppua	Outer-verendah
Strikyser	Istirikke	Smoothing iron
Tafellaken	Tapellākkua	Table cloth
Tent	Tēnda	Tent of bed
Trap	Tarappia	Step-ladder
Trommel	Trommel or Trommel pettiya	(tin) Box
Zadel	Sādele	Saddle
Zolder	Soldere	Loft, Upstairs

G.—PLAYING CARDS.

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Harten	Harta	Hearts
Kalaveren	Kalābara	Clubs
Ruiten	Roita	Diamonds
Schoppen	Iskōppa	Spades
Aas	Asiya	Ace
Heer	Hēra	King
Vrouw (woman)	Porova	Queen
Boer	Būruva	Jack
Troef	Turuppu	Trump

H.—MONTHS.

Januari	Januāri	January
Februari	Pebruāri	February
Maart	Maartu	March
April	Aprēl	April
Mei	Mei	May
Juni	Jūni	June
Juli	Jūli	July
August	Augustu	August
September	Septembara	September
October	Octombera	October
November	Novembara	November
December	Decembara	December

I.—GENERAL.

Acte	Acte	Legislative or notarial deed--Act of appointment.
Agaat	Agatti	Agate
Amandel	Amanda	Almond
Anker	Ankera	Anchor
Anker-boei	Ankera-boyya	Anchor-buoy
Arm bus	Arumbōla	Poor box
Avegaar	Avēgāre	Borer
Baas	Baas	Overseer
Bakker	Bakkera	Baker
Batterij	Battereia	Rampart
Bijbel	Beibela	Bible
Blaasje	Balāsia	Bladder

I.—GENERAL—(Contd.)

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Blik	Belek	Tin
Boog	Bōkkua	Arch, Culvert
Bom	Bōmbe	Bung of a barrel, Funnel of a Steamer.
Boor	Buruma	Gimlet
Bos	Bos-gedia	Bush, Oil-box in which Axle moves.
Bos	Būsia	Wadding of a gun
Briljant	Briliantu	Brilliant
Cipier	Sipiria, Sipiri-ge	Gaoler, Gaol
Compagnie	Compannia	Company
Contract	Contrak	Contract
Constapel	Costapel	Gunner, adapted to mean constable.
Diamant	Diamanti	Diamond
Dozijn	Dusima	Dozen
Duit	Doituwa	Small coin, $\frac{1}{4}$ cent
Fluiten	Ploit-keranava	To whistle
Hollandsche	Landēsi, Lansi	Dutch
Hospitaal	Ispitetale, Ispiri- tale.	Hospital
Kaap	Kāppe	Cape
Kaffer	Kāpiri, Kābiri	Kaffir
Kerkhof	Kerakōppua	Church-yard, Cemetery
Klomp	Kalampe	Clamp
Kommies	Komistēru	Customs-house officer, Assessment officer.
Krul	Kerel	Curl
Lak	Lākade	Sealing Wax, The Sinhalese word Lakiri is derived from the Portuguese Lacre.
Loods	Lōs, Lōs Mahat- meya.	Pilot
Lotterij	Lottoreiya	Lottery
Lijm	Layin	Glue
Lijst	Leistua	List
Manchet	Manchu	Wrist-band, hand-cuff

I.—GENERAL—(Contd.)

<i>Dutch</i>	<i>Sinhalese</i>	<i>English</i>
Meester	Mēstera	Master
Min	Minnapu-amma	Nurse, Wet-nurse
Molen	Mōlē	Mill
Nummer	Nommerā	Number
Ons	Onse	Ounce
Pannebakkerij	Pannebakkeria	Tile works
Patroon	Paturōn	Pattern
Patroon	Paturōn	Cartridge
Pensioen	Pensiōn	Pension
Poespas	Puspas	Confusion
Rapport	Rappōrtua	Report
Regulatie	Regulāsi	Regulation
Repereeru	Reperēru	Repair
School	Iskōla	School
Sergeant	Sareyan	Sergeant
Sjambok	Sambukkua	Whip
Soort	Sōōrtie	Sort
Stokerij	Iskākara	Distillery
Taptoe	Tāppu	Tattoo of Drums
Tarra	Tāra	Tare (in weight)
Teer	Tēra	Tar. The Sinhalese word Tara comes from the English Tar
Tik-tak	Tik-tak-tuk in a game of noughts and crosses played by children	Backgammon
Triekel	Trikkela	Light three-wheeled push cart—adap- ted to light two- wheeled bull cart.
Vendutie	Vendēsi	Auction
Wapen	Vāpena	Badge, Coat of Arms
Winkel	Venkela	Workshop
Zeilduk	Selduk	Canvas
Zeilgaren	Selgare	Sail-twine

XXV ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

The Union Hall and grounds have from time to time been the venue of many interesting functions, but it is doubtful whether they ever presented such a scene of gaiety and brilliance as they did during the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Union, which took the form of a Children's Party on the 18th January and a Dinner on the 20th. The arrangements for celebrating the unique occasion on a fitting scale had been entrusted to various Sub-Committees, and to the thoroughness with which they attended to every single detail was due the smooth working of the celebrations as a whole.

THE CHILDREN'S PARTY

To take the events in the order in which they occurred, the Children's Party, which took the place of the annual St. Nicolaas Fete celebrations, was a striking success. Never during the twenty five years of its existence had the Union Hall been so beautifully illuminated. The whole building, and even the trees and shrubs outside, were outlined with vari-coloured jets, and Chinese lanterns, flags, etc., combined to give the place a very festive appearance, while the garden too looked its best. The lawn in front of the building had been arranged for sitting out, with inviting groups of chairs and tea-pots, and at the end of the lawn at the back of the building a stage had been erected on which an Indian conjuror displayed his tricks for the amusement of the children, for whom seats had been provided. Another attraction was a monkey man, who delighted the little ones by putting his monkey through comical antics. At the close of these diversions came the judging of the Fancy Dress competition on the front lawn, which was followed by sports arranged for the children.

A very large proportion of the children present had come in fancy dress, many of which were so original and ingenious as to make the task of the judges a difficult one. A large number of the costumes were very cleverly conceived, among the best being the Cigar-seller, the Burmese Girl, the Monkey man, the Diver, a pair of Golliwogs, the Tea-plucker, the Cardinal, the Chef, the Nautch Girl, and a Dutch Girl.

Indoors the decorations were on an elaborate scale, and were much admired. Refreshments were served liberally, an abundance of good things, including the delicious Dutch sweets for which

D. B. U. gatherings are noted, having been provided. The refreshment tent, with its tables groaning under the plates of cakes and sweets of every variety, with which they were loaded, looked very attractive and was a popular resort.

Later on there were indoor games, and balloons and Christmas crackers were distributed among the children. It was close on 8-30 p.m. when the tired and happy little ones left after having spent a very enjoyable evening. The hall was then cleared for dancing, which was indulged in by the young people present till about 11-30 p.m.

The music throughout the evening was provided by Oscar Dender's Orchestra, and contributed in no small measure to the success of the entertainment.

THE DINNER.

As already stated, the Dinner took place on the 20th, and was as great a success as the Children's Party. The grounds were once again brilliantly illuminated, while the decorations inside the hall gave the necessary festive touch to the occasion. The Bristol Hotel was responsible for the catering, and provided a *recherche* dinner, while the music was once again supplied by Dender's Orchestra.

The President, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, presided, and had on his right the Hon. Mr. T. B. Panabokke (guest), Mrs. H. U. Leembruggen, and Dr. S. O. Paul (guest), and on his left Mr. E. W. Perera (guest), Mrs. R. L. Spittel, and Col A. C. B. Jonklaas. The others who sat down were:—Mr. M. M. Anthonisz, Dr. V. H. L. Anthonisz and guest, Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Arndt and guest, Mr. Carl Arndt, Mr. W. W. Beling, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Miss Mary Karunaratne (guest), Mr. Stanley Amerosekere (guest), Miss R. Blazé, Dr. and Mrs. E. S. Brohier, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Brohier, Miss Brohier, Mrs. C. P. Brohier, Mr. H. C. de Vos, Miss A. de Kretser, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. de Kretser, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. de Kretser, Mr. A. E. Direkze, Dr. and Mrs. H. A. Direkze (guests), Lt. Col. W. E. V. de Rooy and Mrs. de Rooy, Dr. and Mrs. F. Foenander, Mr. F. L. Goonewardene (guest), Dr. and Mrs. F. J. T. Foenander (guests), Misses Foenander, Mr. A. L. Fretz, Misses Jonklaas, Dr. and Mrs. S. P. Joseph, Mr. and Mrs. Rosslyn Koch, Misses Kriekenbeek, Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. F. C. Loos, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Loos, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Leembruggen, Mr. Leembruggen, Miss Leembruggen,

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Leembruggen, Misses Leembruggen, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Meier and guest, Mr. L. A. Muller, Dr. John Rockwood (guest), Mr. B. E. R. Coorey, (guest), Mr. A. J. Martin, Miss C. H. A. Paulusz, Miss M. Paulusz, Mr. J. H. O. Paulusz, Mr. J. G. Paulusz, Mr. L. W. A. de Soysa (guest), Mr. and Mrs. R. S. V. Poulter, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Miss Spittel, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Schokman, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Toussaint, Col. V. Vanlangenberg, Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, Mr. E. A. Vanderstraaten, Miss Vanderstraaten, Mr. Alex Vanderstraaten, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. W. Vangeyzel, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Weinman, Mr. S. W. Dassenaike (guest), Miss Z. Weinman, Dr. and Mrs. L. O. Weinman, Miss B. Wille and guest.

THE LOYAL TOASTS.

THE CHAIRMAN proposed the loyal toasts, which were drunk with musical honours.

THE UNION.

MR. S. W. DASSENAIKE, M. S. C., rose to propose the toast of "*The Union*." He said:—Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, when I was asked by my kind host to attend this dinner, I received the invitation with much joy, because I regarded this as the finest thing that could have happened to me in the New Year. When however, two days later, my friend on my left told me that I had to speak, I began to feel very bad, and the longer I have been here and the more I have thought about it, the worse I have continued to become, more especially as I have been running this show on soda (laughter). I am particularly happy at having been asked to this dinner, because I have been associated with the Dutch Burgher Community from my birth up, and I do not think there has ever been a time when I have not had points of contact with it. I remember the time when the Union was started. There was much shaking of heads, and I remember also that I took a hand in giving an opinion in regard to the matter. Singularly enough, this event took place shortly after I had been invited to join a racial club, and had to refuse because I considered that such would only accentuate racial differences and prejudices. But when the news of the establishment of the Dutch Burgher Union got abroad, I at once felt that the matter was on quite a different footing, because such an institution was necessary for that Community and was in fact, long overdue. That Community had had very great historical traditions, but was in danger of losing its identity, because these

traditions were being forgotten by others, and it was being dumped into a heterogeneous job lot with other communities of quite other origins. I think I was amongst the few outsiders who said that I very heartily agreed with the necessity for such an institution, but at the same time I must confess I was not without some qualms, because in this country I held, and I still hold, that racial clubs or associations are fraught with a good deal of danger. Happily I have lived long enough to see that many other racial associations also, though not all, have been run on such lines that they have not produced the results which I feared. In regard to the Dutch Burgher Union, I must say that the expectations I formed twenty-five years ago have been more than justified (hear hear). The Community is unique in the East, and it has shewn that its calibre is such that it can carry on even a racial institution without giving offence to anybody, and always in that spirit of helpfulness and good fellowship which I expected of it. I feel to-day that I have been a true prophet. I have known the Community as I said for very many years—I might almost say for 58 years—and when one knows friends for such a length of time one does not stop to analyse them. I have never stopped to analyse the Dutch Burgher Union or its actions, because I felt sure it was only doing what I expected of it, and what everybody expects of it, until it suddenly dawned on me this afternoon that if I were going to make a speech on this occasion—the 25th anniversary of the Union—it was necessary that I should know something more of the details of what the Union had been doing. When one has known a friend and valued him for years, one does not stop to analyse him or his doings, but when one is called on to propose his Silver Wedding toast, one awakes to the necessity of finding out in detail what he and his wife have been doing during the 25 years! I therefore asked my host for some details and he sent me copies of the journal of the Union, which I have been at some pains to study. My first feeling on reading through the journal was that I had been losing a treat all these years by not purchasing the journal. I found in it all sorts of very interesting things. I found that the journal deals with every subject that one can imagine would be of interest to the Community in particular and to Ceylon in general—in fact, I might say that it treats—

"Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—
Of cabbages—and Kings."

and that, in a most interesting and delightfully Dutch Burgher way. Just before coming here I was skimming over a very interesting article by your President on the rising tide of colour, and the way he dealt with his subject and marshalled his facts was very interesting indeed. I have rarely found a subject so well discussed, so fairly judged, and so very informative. I would only like to add that there is a book which perhaps might give your President another chapter on the subject from a new angle of vision, viz., Sir Flinders Petrie's work on "The Revolutions of Civilisation." It is a very helpful kind of book. But I am afraid I am digressing. I am rather at a disadvantage in speaking this evening because I have got used to public speaking only in the State Council and on public platforms. On the latter you can say what you like, for nobody contradicts you. In the former we have established a *modus vivendi* by which we extend to each other a large tolerance. When I look around me here, to-day, I see shrewd and critical faces every where, but friendly withal—I feel sure they could criticise, but I am heartened by the thought that their kindness of heart and natural courtesy would prevent their being too severe!

I would like to say a lot of nice things, but one is reluctant to say nice things to people's faces. I should be lacking, however, in my duty if I did not say that the Dutch Burgher Community—the Burgher Community in general also—have always occupied a very important place in our life in Ceylon. They have occupied that place for something like two or three centuries, and they have always been known for creating good feeling and for interpreting the ways of the West to us others. It is true that many of us have independently made contact with the West, but there is nothing like a community which is Western in its outlook and yet looks to no other place than this country as its home, to make a living interpretation of the West to us. The understanding that has been created by the Burgher Community in this country has been of no little help in producing that absence of communal feeling about which we hear so much from outside, in connection with Ceylon. Great names have always been associated with the Burgher Community—names like those of Lorenz, (to take one who lived before I can remember) and Dr. W. G. Vandort, whom I had the privilege of knowing and revering—but these names are not the property of the Burgher Community alone. They

belong to the whole island. When one looks down the decades, one finds that the picture has been very largely filled by the Burgher Community—very largely I mean in proportion to the smallness of that Community—and its contribution to the public life of this country has been overwhelmingly great. I do not wish to labour the point because I dislike praising people to their faces, but I do wish to say that there is something in the Burgher Community that contributes brightness to the social life of this country. One cannot attend a Burgher function without feeling entirely at home. This brightness is more pronounced at a Burgher function than at a function of any other Community in the Island. I am told that brightness is not a characteristic of the Dutch people—that they are very phlegmatic. I must deny this, as I have not found this trait among their descendants in this country. I have never gone to a Dutch Burgher function and felt that I was a stranger there, and I know that this is the experience of all my countrymen present here who are not Burghers. They have always felt that there was no awkwardness and that everybody welcomed them as friends and made them feel quite at home.

If I may detain you a little longer, I notice that some emphasis has been laid upon the non-political character of this Union. I do hope however that the members in their individual capacity will not stand aloof from politics, but will give their help and assistance to the people of this country, because I feel that the help that you can give is of quite a different kind from the contribution of any one else. If you hold aloof as individuals from the political life of this country, it will be an irreparable loss. I met a friend from Europe the other day who when I talked of politics, said he never dabbled in or thought of politics. He never touched politics. I asked him why. He said:—"Did you ever know a politician who ever did anything useful?" That was rather hard on me (laughter). I said:—"If you consider politics a dirty thing or one that it was not desirable to touch, then you leave it to the people who are least qualified to manage what are the most important affairs of the State." I do plead that this Union do keep itself strictly non-political. Racial associations should not take part, as such, in politics, for that is dangerous to the body politic. But I do earnestly ask, that as individuals—in which term I include the ladies—you should take vigorous part in the political life of this country and pull your weight, because your

weight is much more than your numbers, however slim you may be (loud laughter). We, Sinhalese and Tamils, are at one in saying we have missed you. You have somehow kept away. I do assure you that politics need not be dirty, and I would not be there if I found they must necessarily be dirty (applause). If you come in, you will cleanse them to a very marked extent, and contribute some ideas and view points in which we are lacking. We want your advice and your co-operation. I have been told by some of my Dutch Burgher friends that they feel that they are being swamped. I deny it. They cannot be swamped if they will not give way to—I will not say an inferiority complex—but to a feeling of defeatism. They need not have any inferiority complex, because they have some of the best brains in the Island. But there is a feeling that they cannot appeal to an electorate with which they are not in touch. Well, get in touch with the poor man and woman. They are very nice people. Get in touch with them, and they will not only value your assistance but will also have a very high regard for you in the political field.

I am afraid I have kept you very long, but my excuse is that this is the best opportunity I have ever had of referring to this subject, and of assuring you that this feeling of defeatism is quite unjustified. We want you to come in. Of course nobody gets a walk over—not even ourselves. I was once told by an English Govt. Agent that there is a feeling among the Burghers that they are being swamped by the other communities. Well, that is because we look at the matter racially. If I were to complain that I and mine are being swamped, everybody will say:—"Well, the people that swamp you, are they not your own people?" What I do wish you to do is to remember that this is a very large question but not really a racial question. I was glad to see an article in your journal in which the writer said that the present situation was due to the uplift of the classes who had not received a Western education before and was really economic, not communal. I shall conclude my remarks by quoting some verses contributed by your Dr. Spittel to the last issue of the journal. I shall give you only the first and the last verses. I have never read anything that pleased me so much.

"Let others belaud the ways of the West,

Or homeland or township, wherever it be,

However mighty, however blest—

Lanka, my island, you are all to me!

But oh, for the trails that the wild men tread,

The hills that are home to the hiving bee,

For the tuneful bill and the branching head—

Oh, Island, wild Island, you are home to me!"

I now give you the toast of the Dutch Burgher Union.
(Loud and prolonged applause).

THE CHAIRMAN replied to the toast of the Union. He said:—
Mr. Stephen Dassenaike, Ladies and Gentlemen, I haven't the foggiest notion of what I am going to say. When Mr. Dassenaike came into this hall an hour or so ago I offered him a drink, and he said he would just have a soda. I told him it was a very lowering treatment. He has just given us a very eloquent and feeling speech. I have had a very long day and I haven't been drinking soda most of the evening, still I want to say just a few things, and as this is a gathering of friends and relations, I do not think we need choose our words very carefully. My first recollection of Mr. Dassenaike carries me back to the Royal College when I had just got into the Sixth Form and Mr. Dassenaike was about to proceed to Europe. He was the University Scholar of the year, and as you know, he went to England for a course of Engineering and returned as the first and only Ceylonese Fellow of Cooper's Hill (Applause). Now, as one of the oldest friends of our Community, we asked him to propose the toast of the Union, and we can be sure that whatever he has said has come from his heart. I want to speak to you in just the same way. Mr. Dassenaike has said that he has always looked upon the Dutch Burghers as friends and colleagues united in a common bond of service to our beautiful Island home for the past 300 years. We can accept that as a true testimony and one that only does us justice. That has really been their principle right from the time when they first came to this island. There may have been exceptions like the governor who was hung, drawn and quartered by the Batavian authorities for his cruelty and misrule, but generally speaking, the Dutch came to Ceylon primarily for purposes of trade but when they had settled down they did a considerable amount of good to the people among whom their lot was cast, and we, their successors, are trying to follow in their footsteps. If I may digress for a moment at the risk of seeming egotistical, I may say that my own original ancestor came to Ceylon as Private Secretary to Governor van Gollnesse, and after serving in the various grades of the Dutch service he rose to be Dissawe of Matara. He then went on promotion to the Coromandel Coast and came back to Ceylon. I wish to emphasise that he was Dissawe of Matara and lived for many years among the Sinhalese who held him in high regard. He was married four times (laughter.) I am not recommending this latter practice for the younger generation to follow. The point I wish to make is that the Dutch in Ceylon adapted what they found

to be good in the system of Government in the island. In their use of the village Councils, of the headman system, and in investing their provincial authorities with the dignity and title of Adigar, they sought to make their government acceptable to the people and to avoid doing violence to local tradition and custom.

Coming now to the British occupation, the history of the Burghers for the past 130 years has been one of public service to the whole island. We have been Ceylonese out and out. Mr. Dassenaïke has just quoted to you a few stanzas written by our Surgeon-poet which I intended to quote myself. Those lines give you an idea as to how we have regarded this beautiful island in which our lot has been cast for nearly 300 years. Our roots have gone deep down and have stayed there. We have no other home. We have not forgotten the traditions of our forefathers, our ancient and proud history. I stand here and say that we have a history of which any nation may be proud. We come from a nation that fought for freedom against overwhelming odds and conquered, and we sympathise with all Ceylonese communities who stand for the same principle of liberty to manage their own affairs. As Mr. Dassenaïke has remarked, we are not politicians. The majority of us are Government servants. We are debarred from taking any active part in politics. Sometimes we are sorry that this should be so. We would wish that some of our young men had gone out as *goiyas* and planted the soil and been independent gentlemen, able to range themselves by your side in your struggle to obtain the rights of manhood as a nation. For better, for worse, the majority of us have taken the King's shilling and we have tried honestly to earn it, and in earning it we have not come in conflict with any other community in the island. On the contrary I can say with truth and pride that we have at all times held out the hand of amity and friendship to our large circle of friends, the Sinhalese, the Tamils, the Muslims and other minority communities in the land. That is why it is such a great joy to see around us the faces of our guests. All the guests that we have here are valued and old friends with whom we have been in association for many years, and for whom we have the greatest possible esteem. If our hall had been larger our circle of guests would have been very much greater.

As Mr. Dassenaïke has said, when this Union was founded 25 years ago, there was a great deal of opposition. A lot of people

said, "You are trying to be very exclusive—to break away from association with the other communities". I ask you, especially our honoured guests here, has that been so? We are here 25 years after the Union was founded. Has it in any way affected our desire to co-operate with you in every respect, in all worthy activities, in withstanding injustice? I think I can say truthfully it has not, because I am quite sure in my own mind that my regard for my friends in the other communities is entirely undimmed. It is one of the things that we value in our lives. Our roots are deep down in this country. We are all Ceylonese. There is no question about it. For good or for evil our future is here. But that does not mean that we forget our own traditions any more than any of you gentlemen, Sinhalese or Tamil, who are quite rightly trying to keep up your own customs, your own literature, your own traditions. It is very necessary that you should. In the inborn traditions, customs, and culture of a people the spirit of the nation is enshrined. If you lose your own particular individuality, it means that you have nothing to offer except an imitation. We do not want an imitation. We want the genuine article, and even a small community like ours can make a definite and valuable contribution to the common good. I think we as a country can say that we have made a large contribution in spite of our small numbers, because we have inherited a deep-rooted spirit of duty and good will from our forefathers. We have tried to give of our best wherever our lot has been cast—and we ask you to be our judges. Mr. Dassenaïke mentioned Lorenz, who along with James Alwis and others formed the Ceylon League. Coming down to later times, there is Dr. P. D. Anthonisz, whose memorial tower was built by a Sinhalese gentleman, Mr. Sampson Rajapakse. The Koch memorial tower was built by Dr. Koch's admirers of all communities. Dr. James Loos, the founder of the Medical College, Sir Samuel Grenier, &c.—I can go on indefinitely giving you the names of members of our community who have been out and out Ceylonese. I want to remove the misconception that exists in the minds of many people that our Union is in the nature of a separatist movement. It is not so. We want to uphold our position as a distinct entity and to help the weak ones among us for the good of the country at large. Our community is rather individualistic in its outlook. We want our own people to take a greater interest in the political development of the country, and in the public service in general. I can

assure the other communities that we are with them in all progressive movements for the welfare of our country of adoption—Lanka.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I do not want to make a long speech. I want to tell you how grateful we are to all our guests who have come here to join in this family gathering to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Union. This is a typical Dutch function which we have observed for the past 300 years. The Zilveren Bruiloft is a gathering at which only the intimate friends and relations gather together, and that I think is what we are doing to-day. It is a gathering of friends and relations, and I want to assure you all that we are entirely with you all the time. I thank Mr. Dassenaike and our other friends most heartily and gratefully for the very kind words spoken on this occasion (loud applause).

THE GUESTS.

Mr. E. H. VANDERWALL in proposing the toast of "*The Guests*" said:—Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—Prominent among the qualities which we are proud to derive from our Dutch ancestors, is the maintenance of friendly relations with the other permanent residents of the island. We hold out the right hand of fellowship to all those who call themselves Ceylonese, since we Dutch Burghers of Ceylon realise that we are ourselves Ceylonese. It is in this spirit that we welcome the guests who are present here this evening.

I see before me the Hon'ble Mr. T. B. Panabokke, whom I knew many years ago as a small boy at the Royal College. But though he was a small boy he had a way of going steadily at his objective, which augured well for what he was going to do in his future life. I feel quite sure that in the problems that come before him as Minister of Health, he is able to go straight at his objective, just as he did as a school boy many years ago.

Next there is my old, familiar friend, Mr. E. W. Perera. Thirty years ago, he and I visited India together, and with minds keenly aroused by the Indian National Congress, we both attended the annual meeting of that body at Madras. Mr. Perera is familiarly known as the Watch Dog of the State Council; he is also called the father of the House, though his hair is not yet grey. But what is of greater interest to us Dutch Burghers is the fact that he belongs to a family, that has consistently maintained friendly

relations with our community. His father was a well-known friend of the Burgher Community, and Mr. E. W. Perera and his brothers have always maintained that tradition.

Then there is Dr. Paul whose healing touch is known in many a home, and though he does not belong to what the newspapers euphemistically describe as the major community, he belongs to the community that is the next largest in numbers.

There is my friend Lieut-Col. J. W. Rockwood to whom I taught Latin, Arithmetic and other things, many years ago at the Royal College. I hope he has grown wiser for the lessons he received from me.

There is Mr. F. L. Goonewardene, the friend of the London students and a great authority on sport. The President has already referred fully to Mr. S. W. Dassenaike.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is hardly necessary for me to make further individual reference to the distinguished guests who have honoured us by their presence here to-night.

Mr. Dassenaike, while pointing out that the Dutch Burgher Union was not a political body, has exhorted us not to be discouraged by our political outlook but to exercise our political rights. The political field is limited for a large number of Dutch Burghers who are public servants. Personally I am not restrained by the trammels of Government service, and I wish to say that we Dutch Burghers have the fullest trust and confidence in the major community of Ceylon. (Applause).

We are quite prepared to trust our interests to their keeping. We rely not merely on their sense of generosity, but also on their sense of justice. (Hear, hear).

All we Dutch Burghers ask for is a fair field and no favour.

We remain perfectly convinced that we shall have all the justice we deserve at the hands of the major community. (Applause).

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Union is an event which we might have celebrated in a quiet sort of way, and so to say, among the family. But we did not choose to do so, because on great occasions such as this we desire that our good friends should participate in our rejoicings. The friends who are present here to-day are representative of the many good friends we have among the other communities, which make this island their home.

I have much pleasure in calling upon you to drink to the health of our guests, and I couple with this toast the name of Mr. E. W. Perera. (Loud applause).

Mr. E. W. PERERA, in replying to the toast of "*The Guests*," said that he was overwhelmed at the reception accorded to him, and the kind way in which the toast had been proposed. It was always an honour and a privilege to speak on behalf of the guests, but the task imposed on him that evening was a heavy one as he had to represent distinguished guests like his friend the Hon'ble Mr. Panabokke, Minister of Health, Mr. S. W. Dassenaik, Dr. S. C. Paul, Mr. F. L. Goonewardene, Dr. John Rockwood and others. Mr. Vanderwall had suppressed the fact that he had been his (the speaker's) master, as that might have given away too much (laughter). Mr. Vanderwall had taught him mathematics. He failed in all his examinations in mathematics (laughter). He thanked Mr. Vanderwall most heartily for the kind terms in which he had spoken of his family. Not only had he and his people been friends of the Burghers, but the Burgher Community, individually and collectively, had been friends of his family for as long a time as they had been in the island (applause). That was the first occasion on which he had been present at the Dutch Burgher Union Hall, but that was not due to any remissness on the part of his friends. Time and again he had been asked to lectures and other functions, but living as he did in his village home, he had not been able to avail himself of these kind invitations. This occasion, however, was a special one, and being an old friend of Dr. Leembruggen, their President, he had accepted the invitation with much pleasure. Dr. Leembruggen had arrived in this world a week before he did (laughter), and they had known each other as children. They were at school together, they almost passed out of college together, and started in life together, when their paths diverged. His friend had reached the top of the official ladder and had attained the proud distinction of officiating as the Head of the Medical Services in this island (Applause). He would like to say just one word in regard to the great institution whose 25th anniversary they were celebrating that day. The Burghers as a Community had been and would continue to be a great national asset. Their traditional hospitality was not dead but was very much alive. They were all very grateful to them for the sumptuous way in which they had been entertained.

The Burghers were children of tradition. Tradition was a great asset to a people, especially to a small people. It should be a true tradition, a high tradition, not a tradition of narrowness or prejudice, and the Burgher tradition was a true tradition and a high tradition. Courage, character, and achievement had been the tradition of the Burghers of Ceylon. Mr. Vanderwall had referred to the confidence that the Burghers reposed in the so-called major community. That feeling was entirely reciprocated. (Applause). Consciously or unconsciously Mr. Vanderwall had reproduced the words of perhaps the greatest Ceylonese of modern times, Mr. Frederick Dornhorst, when he said at a Royal College Prize giving at which the Governor was present, that the Ceylonese only wanted a fair field and no favour. Give them that opportunity—the Burghers in particular—and they had nothing to fear. (Applause). He would like to refer to some of the past Presidents of the Union whom he had known, who had been an inspiration to all of them, who had been the fathers of the Dutch Burgher movement, and who had done all in their power to preserve all that was worth preserving in the Dutch Burgher tradition—Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, Mr. F. C. Loos, and Mr. F. H. de Vos (applause). He was glad to see among his hosts the daughter of a great friend of his family, Dr. VanDort, a distinguished man, a man of high character and brilliant attainments, whose name would live for all time in the memories not only of his friends but of his countrymen (loud applause). Once again on behalf of the guests he thanked his hosts for their kind hospitality and the generous way in which they had been treated. He wished the Union all success and hoped that the community would continue to occupy as useful and distinguished a position in the future as it had done in the past. (Loud applause).

After the dinner an informal dance took place.



MORITZ SPERLING CHRISTOFFELSZ.

(Communicated).

It is given to some to fulfil the psalmist's prophecy before they go to their rest within the narrow limits where human grandeur is soon forgotten. It is fated that others should be called away in the prime of life :

" Untimely gone ! for ever fled
A clod amid the valley lie
And " dust to dust," the mourners cry ! "

Such thoughts give us pause. They have a special poignancy when associated with Moritz Sperling Christoffelsz, whose death at the early age of 41 was briefly referred to in the pages of the last number of the Journal. He was taken ill while on a holiday in the United Kingdom and passed away after a short illness of three weeks.

The subject of this memoir was the younger son of William Sperling Christoffelsz—a grand old man who has served both his community and the State with distinction. He was born on the 12th of May 1891.

I came to know him, when, at the age of nine, he and I and twenty-nine other boys diffidently faced the perplexities of the first day of admittance to the lowest form in the Royal College. It is sad indeed to reflect that the class-room in which we assembled that day, to be taught the three R's before getting on to the extras, is used now to stable the horses of the mounted police. But time must bring change, or as the form master who endeavoured later to teach us Latin would have said, "Tempora mutantur et nos motamur in illis."

In that upward climb from the first form, which ended in doubtful achievement, the Remove B, we faced together that drama which affords inspiration and zest and exquisite pleasure to look back upon. Somehow, it was felt that the fight against odds was doomed to failure, while it had been left to the others to crown themselves with success in the Remove A.

But Moritz Sperling Christoffelsz proved that all rules have their exceptions. He showed that efforts to achieve could be aroused even in the twilight of a school career. He set himself to face the greater struggle, and lived to crown it with such pleasures which those who are saddled with the fatal gift of easy and effortless success are often denied.

I well remember the day when he propounded a theory that parallel lines must eventually meet ! It was perhaps rather unfortunate that he elected to explain it for the benefit of the class when

the form master was restive and could hardly be expected to appreciate or express admiration for one who was able to show up the unpardonable ignorance of Euclid !

However, even at the worst of times, L. G. V. always showed a latent vein of dry humour, so he closed the episode by merely cautioning our theorist not to venture on too long a railway journey if he was so sure of an eventual derailment.

Perhaps it was the indulgence in theories of this type and his particular forte in arranging lines and angles which roused enthusiasm and fitted him out for the career he later pursued. But, to take up his course in Engineering, he threw up a promising opening in the Ceylon Police which he was doubtless pressed into by the atmosphere of militarism which a temporary commission in the College Cadet Corps had created.

He was appointed by the Secretary of State in 1917, and on arriving in the Island he assumed duties as District Engineer in charge of the construction of the Agalawatte-Badureliya road, which was to open up considerable areas of forest land forming the back blocks of the Kalutara District.

Later, he was District Engineer at Vavuniya, served for a short period in the Railway Extensions Department at Ambepussa, and reverting to the Public Works Department after a holiday in Europe, was District Engineer at Avissawella and Galle respectively.

The secret of efficient road-making and maintenance had doubtless passed down to him as a heritage from a grand-father who had to his credit fifty years of service in the Civil Engineer's Department, and who moreover had learnt his lesson from the greatest of all roadmakers, the late Major Skinner.

This heritage he fulfilled to the letter. He certainly negatived his own school day theory since the grass-edges which flanked his roads never met !

As a man, Moritz Sperling Christoffelsz combined an instinctive sense of propriety with tact and loyalty, common to most well-regulated Dutch Burgher families. As a friend, even in his boyhood days, he raised around himself barriers of reserve which merely served as an outer shell to conceal staunch companionship and vivacious friendliness.

Like his parents he was devoutly attached to the old Church of his fathers, and was a Deacon in the Galle consistory, resigning office only a short time ago when he left the island.

With much yet left undone he has in the short span of 41 years measured one of the secrets of success by a determination, constantly put into practice, of grasping opportunity by the forelock.

Far from the land whence he derived his birth and infant nurture, may he rest in peace.

R. L. B.

BATTICALOA IN EARLY BRITISH TIMES.

BY J. R. TOUSSAINT.

A fact that is perhaps not generally realised is that the district of Batticaloa is associated with some of the most momentous events in the history of Ceylon. The first place at which the Dutch landed in Ceylon was Karativu, 30 miles south of Batticaloa; Admiral Seebalt de Weert met with his untimely death at the same spot; Willem Jacobsz Coster, Commandeur of Galle, was murdered at Nilgala on his way to Batticaloa; Admiral Westervold cast anchor near the present day town of Batticaloa, which was the first place in Ceylon which the Dutch wrested from the Portuguese; the treaty of 1638 between Rajasinha and the Dutch, which had an important bearing on the history of the time, was signed at Batticaloa; Major Arthur Johnston's celebrated march to Kandy through a hostile country was commenced from Batticaloa. The prominent part played by Batticaloa in the early history of Ceylon is explained by the fact that the most accessible route to the Kandyan territory was situated on the east coast.

Batticaloa was fortunate in having the advantage, during the closing years of Dutch rule, of the services of an able administrator in the person of Jacob Burnand, who after a distinguished term of service extending to ten years, handed over the district in a flourishing condition to his successor, Johannes Philippus Wambeek. The latter was not destined to administer the district long, for in 1795 Holland was involved in a war with England, and the British proceeded to attack Ceylon. After taking Trincomalee they proceeded against the other important Dutch forts, and Batticaloa was attacked and surrendered to a detachment under Major Fraser.

One can only speculate on the state of things which followed immediately after the surrender of Batticaloa to the British. There must have been an interval when there was an almost complete cessation of all civil and judicial functions until the necessary machinery for administering the new possessions was set up. It was decided that the East India Company should retain possession of Ceylon, the immediate management being in the hands of the Governor and Council of Madras. A Superintendent of Revenue was appointed and under him were Assistants. For revenue purposes Jaffna formed one unit, Colombo and Galle another, and Batticaloa,

Trincomalee and Mullaitivu a third. The first revenue officer in charge of the third unit was a gentleman named Garrow, who had his headquarters at Trincomalee. These Assistant Superintendents of Revenue were also called Collectors, but in addition to supervising the collection of revenue they had a considerable jurisdiction in the trial both of criminal and civil cases. The Madras administration however, was short-lived, and in 1798 the Hon'ble Frederick North was appointed Governor and Commander-in-chief. Garrow, the Collector of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Mullaitivu, soon got into trouble over a case of illegal arrest, and was succeeded by Captain Thomas Young.

For the earliest descriptive account of Batticaloa in British times we are indebted to the Rev. James Cordiner, Chaplain to the Forces, who accompanied Governor North on his tour round the island in 1800. The party embarked on board the government brig "Tartar" on 30th August of that year, and on 2nd September the flagstaff on the fort of Batticaloa was clearly discerned. The vessel anchored off Dutch Bar, one mile from the sea shore. The Agent of Revenue, Captain Young, went out immediately in a large boat to conduct the Governor ashore. On reaching land the party got into barges and proceeded $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles up the lake till they arrived at Pulyantivoe. The Governor was received at the jetty by the Commandant, Lieutenant Macdonnel, and three Dutch gentlemen. His landing was announced by a salute of nineteen guns from the batteries, and he walked through a lane of Sepoys to the government house, where, in the picturesque language of Cordiner, "he was welcomed with the same unaffected hospitality which he would have experienced in the house of a Highland Chieftain in Scotland". At night there was a grand dinner at the house of the Agent of Revenue, and the visitors on retiring to rest were accommodated within the fort in the quarters of Lieutenant Macdonnel.

Cordiner describes the island of Pulyantivoe as being "three miles and five furlongs in circumference, with a pleasant walk on the sand beach round it. The fort is of a square construction, having four bastions nearly uniform, on which twenty-four guns are mounted. The internal dimensions are small, containing only a low barrack, a granary, a magazine, and the spacious mansion of the Commandant. A little village stands a few hundred yards from the walls of the fort, and several huts are scattered over the island. At the farther end of it two Portuguese chapels are reared within a stone

east of each other. One is entirely appropriated for the accommodation of fishermen and their families; the other is open to the inhabitants of every denomination. The buildings are neat, built of stone and mortar, and roofed with curved tiles. They are not meanly decorated, and contain a great many images. These in general appear rather smaller than life, but are wonderfully well executed. There is likewise another chapel of a similar description on the opposite shore."

It is said of Ralph Fitch, one of the earliest Englishmen to visit Ceylon, that he was much interested in the ears of Eastern peoples. He remarks on them no less than three times in the narrative of his journeys. Cordiner shares this weakness with Fitch, for in describing the dress of the inhabitants of Puliyantivoe he says:—"Their ears are pierced at an early age, and the orifice is gradually enlarged by a round piece of wood, or rolled up palmyra leaf, pressed into it, until at last the flap of the ear hangs down several inches in an open ring, so wide that a man's hand can pass through it." Cordiner continues:—"Even the richest inhabitants wear no other dress, except the usual piece of muslin girded about the loins, and hanging down low enough to conceal one knee. The common people, who live chiefly by fishing, cover their nakedness as sparingly as possible."

The Hindus and Mohammedans of Puliyantivoe, according to Cordiner, had at this time no special places of worship but performed the rites of their religion in private houses. The number of Protestant Christians was very small. The Governor had, however, appointed a 'Malabar' preacher of the Gospel, of excellent character, who had revived several parish schools, which had long been neglected, and was meeting with considerable success.

Small-pox was a far greater scourge in early British times than it is at the present day. On the occasion of his visit to Batticaloa, Cordiner accompanied the Superintendent of Hospitals on an inspection of the villages of Vandaramulai and Eraur which had suffered severely from an outbreak of this infectious disease, and he describes in moving terms the misery which this scourge brought in its train. "On such occasions the husband forsakes his wife, the mother her children, and the son his father, often leaving them in their miserable huts to the ravages of famine, and the wild beasts of the forest. Sometimes, however, they continue to furnish them with subsistence without entering their dwellings, but in those

sequestered hamlets medical aid was only now beginning to be known. For many years great desolation was committed annually by that exterminating malady the natural small-pox." Simon Sawers, the Collector of Batticaloa, writing in 1811, estimates that in the years 1803 and 1804 the district lost nearly one half of its inhabitants by small-pox.

Cordiner was greatly impressed with the manners of the natives. He describes them as "uncommonly obliging and always ready to accompany a stranger and afford him information when he expresses a wish to see any curiosity which the little isle produces. Tranquillity, plenty, and contentment reign among them, and they feel no desire to leave the spot where they were born."

Captain Robert Percival of the 19th Foot visited Batticaloa at about the same time as Cordiner, but he has very little to say about the place. He dismisses it with the remark that it consists of a trifling fort occupied by a subaltern and a small detachment from the garrison of Trincomalee, with a village where a few Dutch families reside.

Governor North made another tour of the island from Trincomalee to Matara in April and May, 1902, and was accompanied by Messrs. Arbuthnot, Atkinson, and Christie, the last named being Inspector of Hospitals in Ceylon. By this time there had occurred a change in the personnel of the civil and military offices in Batticaloa, for we find that at a place called Anadyoe the gubernatorial party was met by Lieut. Jewel and Mr. Barclay, the former being the Commandant and Revenue Officer of Batticaloa, who had been appointed to the combined offices held by Capt. Young and Lieut. Macdonnel.

Towards the latter end of 1802 the post of Agent of Revenue of Batticaloa was held by Joseph Smith, who had been previously in the service of the Dutch. During his tenure of office the Kandians invaded the Province and succeeded in raising an almost general insurrection amongst the inhabitants. Smith conducted a successful expedition against them on 3rd September, 1803, killed eight of the rebels, and dispersed the others with a small part of the garrison of the fort, but was delayed in returning, having expended all his ammunition. Two months afterwards the Kandians and rebellious inhabitants were driven to the frontiers by Lieutenant (afterwards Major) Arthur Johnston. He seized many of the rebels, who were tried at Batticaloa, and one of them was executed. The greater part of the inhabitants then returned to their homes, and the chiefs of the rebels took shelter in the mountains. As showing the state of tranquillity which was brought about by the measures adopted by Johnston, it is said that postal communication between Batticaloa and Trincomalee was re-established.

A few words as to Major Johnston's career may not be out of place here. He was born in 1778, and when very young received

his Ensign's and Lieutenant's commissions in the 19th regiment, and accompanied that corps to Ceylon, where he early attracted the attention of the Governor, and was placed on his staff. In 1800 he commanded a corps of pioneers, which opened a road for general Macdowal's embassy to Kandy. On the breaking out of the Kandyan war in 1803 he was appointed to command a free corps, composed principally of Malays, and was generally employed in escorting supplies to and from the different depots, a service which led to frequent skirmishes with the enemy. He was next appointed first Commissioner for regulating the affairs of the newly ceded Kandyan provinces. Illness, however, obliged him to repair to the sea-coast for the benefit of his health, and he thus escaped the massacre which took place in Kandy. On the re-establishment of his health he was appointed to command the district of Batticaloa, which, in common with most of the other provinces, was invaded by the enemy. He continued at Batticaloa till September 1804, when he received instructions which, according to his reading of them, required him to march on Kandy, and in conjunction with other detachments to adopt such measures as would most tend to effect the greatest devastation and injury to the enemy's country. The story of Johnston's march, of his surprise on reaching Kandy to find that none of the other troops had arrived, and of his masterly retreat to Trincomalee, are too well known to need repetition. Johnston was next appointed to the command of Hambantota, but his naturally fine constitution never recovered from the effects of that severe and trying expedition, and it was not long before he was obliged to return to Europe.

Simon Sawers, Collector of Batticaloa, writing in 1811, says that in the years 1803 and 1804 small-pox and famine were added to all the horrors of war and rebellion, and that one-fourth of the whole population of the district, which he estimates at 40,000, fled to the Kandyan country, while another one-fourth died of want and disease. It was not until the proclamation published by order of the Governor inviting the fugitives to return and resume their lands that they began to come back, and it was only towards the latter end of 1806 and the beginning of 1807 that they returned in fairly large numbers.

Sawers came out to Ceylon as a Civil Servant in 1805, and was straightway appointed Assistant Collector of Batticaloa, but at the end of the year he went to Chilaw in a similar capacity. In June 1809 he was re-appointed to Batticaloa as Acting Collector and Customs Master, in which appointment he was confirmed on March 1, 1812. He held this post until April 1815 when he was appointed Agent of Government at Badulla. He was the author of "A Digest of Kandyan Laws" and "A journey from Kandy *via* Adam's Peak to Caltura in 1819." While at Batticaloa he had the misfortune to lose his wife, whose death occurred on 2nd October, 1814. A

tablet was erected to her memory in the old Garrison Church, and when this Church was demolished, the tablet together with others, was removed to the Wesleyan Chapel. When the Ault Memorial Hall was built on the site of the old Garrison Church, this tablet, along with four others, was let into the walls of that structure. Mr. J. P. Lewis, writing of these tombstones, says:—"The tablet commemorating Mrs. Sawers is a handsome oval one of white marble, with a border of black marble of Greek pattern. It is built into the centre of the end wall of the hall, and is flanked by the grave stones of Captain Jones on the (proper) right and of Robert Smith on the left. They are unfortunate in their surroundings, and I can imagine that Simon Sawers would not be pleased if he could see what had befallen the handsome memorial tablet which he had erected to his wife 'untimely gone.' The Memorial Hall, so called, a rather mean building, is hardly a memorial, and is not used as a hall. It is now a book depot, and when I visited it in March 1910, packing cases were piled up against the walls to within a few inches of the memorial stones. One wonders why it did not occur to the responsible authorities to have had them built into the walls of the new Church, where at least the atmosphere would have been more congenial, and they would have been sometimes seen by persons who took an interest in the civil and military annals of the country. To such the monuments of the wife of Simon Sawers and Captain Jones especially would seem to have deserved better."

While on the subject of tombstones, it may be mentioned that Governor Brownrigg made a tour of the island in 1814 in a "one-horse chaise," and while at Batticaloa his coachman, Jonathan Fudge, died, and was buried in the Cemetery. The inscription on his tombstone records that "he was for several years coachman to His Excellency Lieut. General Robert Brownrigg, and as he was a faithful servant his memory was justly valued and his death sincerely regretted by his master."

Towards the year 1810 Batticaloa was visited by one of those severe storms of wind and rain to which it is periodically subject. The dams of many of the tanks burst, and a large part of the country was inundated. Simon Sawers, the Collector, reported on the damage done in these terms:—"There is hardly a tree or a house left standing.....The seed corn that the natives had laid up in their houses is much damaged, and what is most to be lamented of all, at least one half of the bullocks and a fourth part of the buffaloes have been swept away by the overflowing of the river or have perished with cold. The violence of the tempest seems to have been confined to the northern provinces of Corlepattoe, Erraoor, and Manmoene, but they have got a blow from which they will not recover for many years".

It is a matter of common knowledge at the present day that the presence of a garrison in a town has a large effect on the consumption of liquor. That things were not different in those early days in Batticaloa is shown by the fact that the removal of the 66th Regiment from Batticaloa, with the exception of six artillerymen and three privates of the Staff Corps, caused such a falling off in the sale of arrack that the renter complained of the heavy loss sustained by him, and the Collector anticipated that the Rent would fetch a much smaller sum the following year. It is interesting to note that as early as 1814 the suggestion was made that the arrack and toddy rents should be put up for sale separately.

One does not associate Batticaloa with the cultivation of cinnamon, but it is a fact that cinnamon of a good quality was found growing in certain parts of Batticaloa district in these early days. It was thought that it would be possible to establish a new industry, and accordingly a Maharala, a cangani, and twenty cinnamon peelers were sent to Batticaloa to peel the cinnamon grown there and to furnish a report. Mr. Sawers entertained the highest hopes of the success of the experiment, and expressed the view that when the bushes had been cut and pruned regularly for two or three years, cinnamon equal in quality to any that was produced in the island might be expected from the District, but these expectations were not realised. While there was no doubt that the cinnamon plant found in Batticaloa was of the same species as that found in the other parts of the island, the bark itself was not up to the required standard, and the experiment was therefore a failure.

The arrival in 1814 of the first Wesleyan Missionary in the person of the Revd. William Ault marks an important epoch in the history of Batticaloa, and incidentally furnishes us with very interesting information as to the conditions prevailing there at that time. Mr. Ault entered upon his short Missionary career in Ceylon under the most unpropitious circumstances. On the voyage out from England his wife, who was accompanying him, died on board and was buried at sea. Having after a tedious voyage reached Galle, Mr. Ault and one of his fellow missionaries, while attempting to land in a canoe, were carried out of their course, and after spending a perilous night at sea, were landed at Weligama the next morning. On the way to Batticaloa in a dhoney he fell overboard, and barely escaped with his life. Yet another disaster overtook him at Batticaloa, the canoe in which he was landing being capsized at the bar. Once again he just managed to save himself by wading ashore.

On his arrival at Batticaloa, Mr. Ault waited upon the Collector, Mr. Sawers, who received him in the most friendly manner and invited him to stay with him until he could get a house. Mr. J. Atkinson, the Sitting Magistrate, was equally kind to him. Mr. Ault opened his first school in a large store-room allowed to him by

Government—probably one of the Customs Warehouses. Mr. Ault's letters to his people in England give us a very good idea of the amenities of Batticaloa at this time. The succession of misfortunes which had dogged his footsteps from the time he first set out for Ceylon must have clouded Mr. Ault's judgment to some extent, but when due allowance has been made for this, it would still appear that Batticaloa in his day was a very primitive place. In a letter written shortly after his arrival he says:—"With regard to accommodations, I am not very pleasantly situated. I scarcely ever see bread. I have been housekeeper nearly two months, during which time I have not had in my house either butter, cheese, mutton, beef, veal or pork, or in fact any meat at all, except two peacocks which had been shot. One was sent to me as a present, the other was brought to me but I had to pay for it. I have had no vegetable of any kind excepting curry. I have not had beer, ale, wine or spirits or any kind of liquor..... The cattle have died and famine is apprehended on this side unless we soon get rain. This place has not long been in the possession of Europeans. It is but little removed from the savage state. It was a long time before I could buy a single fowl..... I dwell at present in a hut, mud walls and thatched with leaves, and no glass in my windows. When small showers come down I have to run about from place to place to find a dry spot on the floor of my hut where I may stand to screen myself from the rain..... This is the only house at Batticaloa which is at liberty, and I pay ten guineas a year rent, or at the rate of ten rupees per month. I am very much annoyed by the insects at night. I have seldom a good night's rest. They sting very badly indeed. Frequently in the morning or in the night when I awake, I have some part bitten and swollen, with considerable pain..... I am obliged to take medicines continually, or I believe I should hardly preserve life. In short, I find that this is a forced kind of existence, rather than the enjoyment of life."

Living under such unfavourable conditions, it is not surprising that Mr. Ault should have succumbed to the illness which was his portion from the day he landed in Batticaloa. He died on 1st April, 1815, eight months after his arrival. No friends of his own community were by his bedside at his death. The only person present was a Tamil, who at his request read a chapter from the Scriptures. Having made a few pious observations on the passage read, Mr. Ault turned in his bed and breathed his last. He was buried in the Church where he had laboured so faithfully, the service being read by his friend Mr. Sawers. The Burgbers of Batticaloa among whom he had worked erected a monument over his grave "as a testimony of the esteem and regard with which they were impressed by his exemplary piety, moral goodness, and the religious instruction which he imparted to them during the short period that he was permitted by Providence to remain among them."

(To be continued.)

OUR LADIES' CORNER.

Hadt ik er maar aan gedacht ("Had I but thought of it")

Translated from the *Hollandsch Huisvrouw* by Dora Anthonisz
(Mrs. Denzil Koch)

A small phrase, that is much used—too much alas! Marie gets up a Garden Party, and invites all her friends. A week later, she meets her Cousin Jane who seldom goes about, and who leads a tedious life in a factory. "You should have asked her too" says her sister. "Oh yes, had I but thought of it." Aunt Henrietta sends a basketful of roses from her garden; each little vase and bowl gets filled with them, and the whole house is filled with the delightful perfume. You pay a visit to a sick seamstress; her room is so dull and there is nothing there on which the eye could rest with pleasure. And then the thought strikes you suddenly, if you had but taken her a bouquet of fresh roses. It was so easily done! Now you are sorry, and say sadly to yourself, "Had I but thought of it." You are interested in a nice periodical, and your best friend has just lost her father, and her mother, who is left in straitened circumstances, is not able to spend on anything, except it be absolutely necessary. Your friend's subscription to the periodical which she once read, must be given up as something superfluous. It is a long quiet winter for your friend. After some months, you relate to her, accidentally, something from the periodical, and then suddenly remember and say, "O it is true, you do not read it now. I shall henceforth lend it to you, pity I had not done it before." "Had I but thought of it." Then comes the great month of apples. You send your annual gift to your former Governess, who is married, and is in good circumstances. The apples are a fine variety, and you have the greater portion on your hands which ripen and get spoilt. Had you but given some away. The Charwoman has a houseful of little children, who would so eagerly have had an apple, but you had forgotten about it and now it is too late, and you think with regret, "Had I but thought of it"!

These are only some instances, taken from here and there. Let us now see if one of us has not had such a case, and even if it is a trifle, it is not less thoughtless, for not to think of others and what gives pleasure to others, can be the cause of serious harm. How often people die, who during life are not understood,

because nobody troubled to understand them. How often stands there some one beside a grave, with tear-filled eyes. "Oh, had we but done our best to be good and kind." "Had we but done more to brighten his or her life." These are bitter tears that men shed, for they bring no comfort.

Oh, think yet, while there is time, think in the midst of all your pleasures, all your joys, if there were not perhaps among your friends or family, one who could share a portion with you. Think amidst all your abundance, of those who have so little. And above all, think always kindly and indulgently of those around you, lest you may just lose one of your dear ones by death, and that you may be spared painful regrets, with the idea, "Had I but thought of it"! For when once the eyes close for ever in eternity, it is too late, then; all your repentance, all your reproaches, will not atone for what you have left undone. Then all your foolish tears that your thoughtlessness has caused do not get wiped out.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

"Ceylon and World History" by David Hussey, M. A. (Professor in the University College of Ceylon). Book II. of this series, which includes the Dutch period, has just been published and should therefore be of interest to readers of the Journal.

This work finds a place in the list of books approved by the Education Department for use in schools. The Department is however careful to explain that this approval does not involve responsibility for the opinions expressed in the work or the accuracy of its subject matter.

It is one thing to have a book approved for use in schools, it is another thing to have it used in schools.

Mr. Hussey's opening paragraph in the first volume of the series is as follows:—

"History is the longest and most interesting of all stories; it is the story of what the people had done in the past".

Very true—the function of the historian is to show a correct picture, and this can be achieved only by those whose minds are trained to historical balance.

The long period of nearly 150 years during which the Dutch administered this island must necessarily include its successes and its failures, its triumphs and its disappointments. But the vital question is, "How does the balance of advantage lie?"

Do the substantial benefits which the people of the island derived from the Dutch methods of administration, law, education, irrigation, agriculture and social service occupy an important place in the assessment, or is the narrative, in the main, a recital of the faults of the Dutch? No unprejudiced reader, who glances at the pages of this work relating to the Dutch, can resist the conclusion that the picture presented is wholly blurred and false to the facts.

What were the sources of history on which the author relied? The original sources in the Archives are written in Dutch and are presumably beyond his comprehension. But the author does not leave us long in doubt with regard to one of his principal sources, for among the books he recommends for the teacher are the works of Dr. Pieris.

On the subject of Dr. Pieris and Dutch history it would be sufficient to call attention to the following extract from an article written by the late Mr. R. G. Anthonisz:—

"Dr. Pieris' prominence as a scholar and writer and his character and position entitle him to all the respect which we would fain accord him; but his undue animosity towards the Dutch has been manifested at every opportunity and in every book he has written, and the accuracy of many of his published statements has been repeatedly challenged".

Let us first turn our attention to the following amazing extracts from Mr. Hussey's work:—

"One of the causes of the strength of the British Empire has been that service in the colonies has always been regarded in England as an honourable career, fit for the best educated and most respectable men. In Holland a very different opinion was held. The Dutchmen were willing enough to make great profits from their colonies, but to go to one and serve in one of these colonies was regarded, by respectable families, as little better than a disgrace. Most of the colonists, therefore, were drawn either from among Dutchmen, who had for some reason been unable to find satisfactory careers for themselves at home, or from among foreigners, who came only for money and had little sense of duty or loyalty to the nation

they represented. As a result, many of the merchants and officials were men of great greed, little education and doubtful character, and many abuses were common among them".

We wonder whether Mr. Hussey was suffering from some mental confusion and thinking of the early British settlers in Botany Bay. We sometimes read in English books and magazines of some undesirable son being shipped off from England to the Colonies. Given a writer of Mr. Hussey's mentality, with sufficient prejudice against the British, what a case might not be made out against British colonists as a class!

Mr. Hussey, who has himself come out for service in the colonies and is following "an honourable career fit for the best educated and most respectable men," perhaps imagines that the passage we have quoted will serve the double purpose of raising him in the esteem of school-boys, while it defames the Dutch. But we can assure Mr. Hussey that school-boys know a thing or two more than he imagines.

Mr. Hussey's defamation of the Dutch Colonists not only rests on no evidence that is worthy of the name, but is in the worst possible taste, for among the school-boys, for whom the work is intended, are the direct descendants of these very Dutch Colonists. Nor is this the only instance of bad taste exhibited by this author. Everyone knows that the term "Eurasian" is now regarded as little short of an insult, and that under the direction of the Government of India, the community once known as "Eurasian" has changed its name to "Anglo-Indian".

That in the face of these facts Governors Falck and Vuyst should be labelled Eurasians shews a petty spirit, unworthy of a book intended to be used in schools. It is scarcely necessary for us to add that, according to the outlook of the Dutch in such matters, both these Governors were regarded as Dutchmen. As regards Governor Falck, there is not even a shadow of excuse for the insulting term, as his detailed genealogy given in No. 4, volume II of the Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union, shews that he was of pure European extraction.

Mr. Hussey was probably misled by Dr. Pieris' statement in "Ceylon and the Hollanders" that Governor Falck's "swarthy complexion earned for him the sobriquet of the crow". Governor Falck was so called because his coat-of-arms bore a Falck (falcon), which resembled a crow.

No observant person would dispute the fact that a certain amount of bribery has always existed in Ceylon. Bribery, like the quality of mercy, blesseth him that gives and him that takes and is difficult to stamp out. It is therefore no more true of Dutch days than of British days to say :—

“All offices from Mudaliyars downward, were obtained by bribery; and to repay themselves for the bribes paid to their superiors, the headmen had to exact ruinous bribes from the villagers”.

Such sweeping statements are merely evidence of prejudice or of insufficient mental ballast.

It is significant that, when the author refers to the bribes taken by Clive in India, he adds a good deal of special pleading to palliate the fact.

The Dutch, who prided themselves on the profession and the practice of the Roman Dutch law, which still remains the common law of this island, would turn in their graves to hear that.—

“The Dutch laws, founded largely on the ancient Roman laws, are sound and wise in theory, but in Ceylon they were never properly codified or administered, and the corruption and the delays of the courts soon cured the people of any hope of obtaining justice from them.”

This is a rash and unfounded statement regarding an administration, which even codified the existing Tamil customs into the Tesawalamai, under the instructions of Governor Simons, who was a graduate in laws of a Dutch University.

The author further states :—

“Governor Schreuder himself complained that even the Judges of the Chief Court were uneducated men, ignorant of the laws which they professed to administer.”

Judging by the spirit of the author's unfair observations about the Dutch, one need take no serious notice even of such a positive statement, when it is unsupported by authority.

All that is known is that Governor Schreuder complained of some irregularities in the Courts, much of which he attributed to pleaders, whom he dismissed and in whose place he appointed licensed proctors.

The author has lived quite long enough in Ceylon to know that irregularities in law and procedure, which it is the business of the Courts of appeal to set right, exist in our courts of law to this day.

Whether the Dutch were at peace or at war with the Sinhalese King, it equally affords the author an opportunity to indulge in his pet pastime of vilifying the Dutch. If the Dutch elected to live in peace, paying the King the ceremonial honours which an Eastern potentate expects, they are abused as foolish, humble, begging and servile; and when Governor van Eck invaded the Sinhalese King's territory, occupied Kandy but failed to attain ultimate success, scorn and contempt are poured on him.

The author adds that it was generally believed that Governor Van Eck killed himself for shame of his failure, a statement he borrows from Dr. Pieris' "Ceylon and the Hollanders." Generally believed by whom? The detractors of the Dutch will believe anything which suits their purpose, but as a matter of fact Governor Van Eck died on 1st April, 1765, of an attack of fever brought on by exposure during the Kandyan campaign.

Quite different is the treatment accorded by historians to General Macdowal, whose experiences in his invasion of Kandy were similar to those of Governor Van Eck, but whose ultimate failure is referred to with understanding and sympathy.

Of the Dutch Nation the author says :—

“The Dutch had owed a good deal of their prosperity to the fact that, for half a century, their neighbours had been too busy to rival them.” No generous tribute is paid to the inherent greatness of a small nation, which vanquished the mighty Spanish Empire and wrested the carrying trade of the world from the Portuguese.

The author adds that after the English war with Holland :—

“Holland has never re-gained her lost greatness either in Europe or abroad. From this time, except in so far as Ceylon is concerned, we need not consider her an important nation.”

Holland was in the 17th century the greatest commercial country in the world. Its merchant fleet was equal to all the other fleets of Europe put together. Naturally, it could not expect to retain this leading position for all time. But just as England survived the loss of her American Colonies, so has Holland survived the loss of South Africa and Ceylon. The Dutch own a vast Colonial Empire, which is 64 times larger than Holland itself. They also maintain a leading carrying trade. They are not a great military nation, but they have by no means sunk to the insignificance the author suggests.

One thing is certain. A fully detailed history of Ceylon which is acceptable to our schools has yet to be written. Such a history must, as a preliminary condition, pass the censorship of a representative historical committee.

"*The English: Are they human?*" by Dr. G. J. Renier, Ph. D. (Williams & Norgate Ltd). This is a serious and comprehensive study of the English character by a Dutchman who knew no English when he went to England, where he has resided for a period of seventeen years. The author has a good deal to say about the peculiarities of the English, but his criticism is friendly and is in no way calculated to give offence. Among the peculiarities of the English he notices their over-estimation of themselves and all that concerns them; their reserve; their conversational idiosyncrasies; their table manners; their contempt for logic and for the things of the mind. He has a good deal to say about the Englishman's ritualistic conception of life. "Until the ritual of introduction has been performed, the second person is a stranger to the first, who can therefore by definition take no interest in his health..... The answer to the ceremonial "How do you do" is therefore an equally ritualistic "How do you do" to which there is no further recognised response." He relates how a distinguished Dutchman was once invited to a dinner where Dean Inge was to be a fellow guest. The Dutchman, who was in the first stages of his English novitiate, failed to find the entrance to the dining room where he was expected. Meeting the Dean he addressed him with a polite salute, and asked him if he might follow him, as he could not find the dining room. The Dean did not acknowledge his existence with as much as a glance. But when later in the evening an introduction had taken place, the Dean was affable in the extreme. The meeting before dinner was not once referred to.

The book was received with a chorus of approval in England, and has been described as being full of wit and keen perception. One newspaper has gone so far as to declare that it is a book which no English gentleman's library should be without.

"*The Early History of Ceylon*," by G. C. Mendis, B. A., Ph. D. *The Heritage of Ceylon series. Y. M. C. A. Publishing House, Calcutta. Re. 1-50.* Dr. Mendis's book will probably not satisfy the demand for a History of Ceylon for the general reader, valuable though this book unquestionably is as a contribution to the subject. In the first place, a satisfying History must be acceptable from both the Sinhalese and the non-Sinhalese points of view. It is always difficult to reconcile keen nationalism and cold-blooded dissection of evidence. That is why the historian of any nation fails to be just to its rivals and enemies. Dr. Mendis, however, is much more a faithful historian than a nationalist, for he accepts nothing which is not well documented. Whether we agree with his conclusions or not, we are compelled to respect them. He forces us to think and to weigh evidence; hence the unusual value of his book.

In the next place, though an immense amount of work has been done in this field, there still remains much more to be done before a fully authentic History can be written. We seem to be actually at the beginning of serious research. Apart from the manuscripts and other records still to be investigated in Southern Ceylon, there are the Tamil records of the North which cannot be ignored. The early history of Southern India must obviously tell us something more about Ceylon, while Burmese, Siamese, and Chinese records still await consideration. The way in which our early beliefs and theories are being shattered one by one shows that much deeper and more extensive study is needed before a solid, unshakable body of historical truth is established. Dr. Mendis justly observes that "To the research student many of the statements about the early history of Ceylon appear as problems to be investigated rather than as facts on which a stable structure can be erected." That is not inspiring, or even consoling, to an ardent patriot.

This little book of a hundred pages reviews the history of Ceylon from its beginning till A. D. 1480, or near to the period of the Portuguese invasion. It is a history of the people much more than of the kings, and the various foreign influences which have contributed to the development of the island are clearly shown: the influence of Buddhism; of the Architecture, Sculpture, and painting at different periods from India; of the Pali and Sanskrit languages and literatures; of trade with the East and the West.

Trustworthy history begins, with Dr. Mendis, practically from the brother and successor of Dutugamunu, and then care is needed to distinguish the provable from the legendary. Written records appear to have been kept from about B. C. 43, but the story of Mahinda's parentage is not supported by evidence from outside Ceylon.

It would serve no useful purpose to dwell in detail on the six chapters of this valuable book—valuable not only to students but to the general reader also who wants to see the wood rather than the trees. It is a helpful contribution to our knowledge of Ceylon history, and ought to be carefully studied by all who are interested in the subject.

VERSES, by Wendy.

We should not like to pass entirely unnoticed a booklet of sixty-eight pages, daintily got up by Messrs. Plâte, which contains the poetical exercises of "Wendy", the young daughter of a valued member of our Union. The book is a child's book, and meant for children, who are sure to delight in it; but "children of a larger growth" will read it with pleasure.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Our 25th Anniversary: We have much pleasure in giving our readers the following translation of an article which appeared in the January issue of *Neerlandia*, conveying to the Union the good wishes of the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond on the attainment by the Union of its 25th Anniversary:

The Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon attains its 25th Anniversary on January 18th. The following article has, by request, been contributed to the special jubilee number of the Journal by the General Committee of our Society.

It gives us great pleasure to respond to your kind invitation to contribute an article to the special issue of your Journal which is due to appear on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of your Union.

At the beginning of 1908 the foundation of your Union was hailed by us with satisfaction because it afforded proof that the Dutch race, which had contributed so much to the development of the "precious jewel" as Ceylon is called, had not died out, but, on the contrary, was still alive and vigorous in its descendants; and because the aims which inspired the D. B. U. were identical with those of our own Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond, founded ten years earlier, namely (to express it in your own words) "to promote the moral, intellectual and social well-being of the Dutch descendants in Ceylon".

Ever since that time we have followed with interest the development of your Union and have at all times readily thrown open the columns of our monthly paper to articles, news items and communications dealing not only with your efforts to foster and maintain the bond that unites you with Holland and the Dutch, but also with your work in collecting everything that recalls the Dutch rule in Ceylon, an enterprise whereby much material has been, and will continue to be, rescued from oblivion.

We cast our minds back to the beginning of the 17th century when the first Hollander Joris Van Spilbergen trod the soil of your island Paradise in the Indian Ocean; to the "superb ocean bridge" which was lost to Holland two hundred years later; to the old Dutch gateways, the ruins of the forts, the scattered churches and their numerous gravestones which still preserve the memory of Dutch enterprise and colonisation—in a word, Dutch culture which has left its mark on Ceylon.

After the establishment of your Union it became our privilege to make personal acquaintance with influential Dutch Burghers who, when travelling to Europe, regarded it as a filial obligation to visit the original home of their ancestors and to take that opportunity to make our acquaintance at the Head Office, Laan 34, the Hague. Especially fresh in our memories are the pleasant friendships we formed with Dr. L. A. Prins, at that time President of the Union, and with Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, your President of to-day, both of whom bear such good Dutch names and throughout their lives have held in high esteem the qualities of their ancestors. And both of them took advantage of their stay in this city to learn to

read, write and speak our language better than was possible to them in their distant island. Moreover, in order to promote the study of Dutch among the Burghers they most willingly took back with them the course of lessons we had provided—and this amply fulfils our purpose to spread wherever possible throughout the world the language of the Dutch and with it the influence of Dutch culture.

The fact that we never had the opportunity to meet the venerable founder of your Union, Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, proved no impediment to a pleasant understanding and a fruitful correspondence with this pioneer of Dutch civilisation. His services among you in the study of the Dutch Archives have been and will remain of high value, and *Neerlandia* has repeatedly given them prominence. We need hardly say that his memory will ever be held by us in honour.

We have mentioned only a few names, but we are convinced that many of you,—we have in mind, among others, Advocate de Vos, will continue to make their contribution to the good name of Holland in English Ceylon.

From the bottom of our hearts we wish you luck in your Silver Jubilee, and we hope that the Dutch Burger Union will for all time enjoy strong growth and rich prosperity.

You may be assured of our lasting interest.

On behalf of the Directorate of the Algemeen Nederlandsch Verbond

P. J. DE KANTER, *General President.*

J. E. BIJLO, *General Secretary.*

We thank *Neerlandia* very heartily for its good wishes and its kind references to Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, Mr. F. H. de Vos, Dr. L. A. Prins, and Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, whose services to the Union are so much appreciated by us.

Another reference to our 25th Anniversary appears in the newspaper *Het Vaderland*, published at the Hague, under the title "*The Dutch in Ceylon.*" The following is a translation of it:—

The 18th of January is a festive day for the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon. On that day the Dutch Burgher Union attains the 25th anniversary of its establishment. This Union consists of descendants of the Dutch in this British island, where the first Dutchman, Joris Van Spilbergen, on 31st May 1602 set foot on land, and which 200 years later was lost to Holland by the Peace of Amiens.

A large number of Dutchmen, with their families, left for Batavia, but a certain number remained in the island which they had learned to love and to which they were bound by family ties.

Since the time of the French the island has become anglicised and the Dutch language has gradually been forgotten. The younger generation had no time, in the struggle for existence, to learn the language of their ancestors, but the recollections of the past nevertheless remain alive, and they are proud of their Dutch descent, their old Dutch Churches, their family graves, monuments and archives of the Dutch period, all of which attest the prosperity of the Dutch Colony.

For the first time in 1899 an attempt to bring about a union was made by the establishment of "the Dutch Society of Ceylon" on 6th May at Colombo, but the Boer War, a year afterwards, brought this Society to an end, and it was not until 18th January, 1908, that the Dutch Burgher Union arose like a Phoenix out of its ashes through the indefatigable efforts of Mr. R. G. Anthonisz, who a few years ago died at an advanced age.

The Union consists of members who are descendants in the male line of those of European nationality who were in the service or under the rule

of the Dutch East India Company of Ceylon, and the children of such descendants in the female line by marriage with Europeans. The object of the Union is to promote the moral, intellectual, and social well-being of the Dutch descendants.

The Dutch Burghers take a pride in this name, have their own Club, and publish their own Journal—the Journal of the D. B. U.—which for 25 years has been the repository of much useful information and genealogies of families. They occupy an honourable place in society as lawyers, judges, teachers, doctors, and several have received the distinction of knighthood.

The Dutch language is again being learnt in various classes, and old Dutch customs are held in honour. The present President, Dr. Leembruggen, made a special study of the language about two years ago while on a visit to Holland. The motto of the Union is "Eendracht maakt macht". Although full of love for the land of their forefathers, the Dutch Burghers are loyal subjects of the British Crown. They are however, not wholly lost to the Dutch race. The 25th anniversary of their Union is a proof of this.

A Dutch Costume: A later issue of the same paper *Het Vederland* contains the following article regarding a peculiar Dutch Costume. We wonder whether any of our readers will be able to throw any light on the matter.

As a result of the article in our issue of 17th January regarding the 25th anniversary of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon, an interested reader informs us that he saw, at the Paris Exhibition of 1899—1900, in a Ceylon tea house, girls in national costume. They consisted of a sash, in some cases light-green, in others of three colours—orange, white and blue in three rows. The girls said that this scarf formed part of their Sunday costume, but they know nothing more.

Our reader presumes that this is a historical article of costume, the origin of which is lost, but that probably it has some connection with the former occupation of Ceylon by the Dutch.

Invention of the Telescope. Over three centuries ago—in the year 1608, to be exact—in the town of Middleburg, on the island of Walcheren in the Netherlands, lived one Hans Lipperheim. He was of an inventive mind, and was busy one day polishing some rounded pieces of glass, when one of his little girls picked up two of the round discs and held them apart to look through. Suddenly she exclaimed, "Oh father, see how near the steeple comes to me!" Hans went over to the child and saw her looking through two glasses, one at the eye and the other at arm's distance. The lens at the eye was plano-concave or flat on the one side and hollowed out on the other. The other was plano-convex, or flat on one side and bulging on the other. The father repeated the experiment himself, and saw the discovery of what became the telescope. On October 22nd, 1608, Hans Lippersheim sent three of these telescopes to his government. Not long afterwards one Jacob Adriansz of Alkmar, a town twenty miles from Amsterdam, claimed that two years previously he had discovered the principle of the telescope. To one of these two men belongs the honour, and it is certain that Hans Lippersheim never knew of the discovery of Adriansz.

DR. S. P. JOSEPH.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

20th December, 1932.—(1) Mrs. Blanche Ernst was elected a member of the Union. (2) The resignation of membership of Mr. D. E. Martensz was accepted.

24th January, 1933.—(1) The resignation of membership of Mr. Colin Kriekenbeek was accepted. (2) Mr. H. de Hoedt and Mrs. P. D. Siebel were re-elected members. (3) On the suggestion of Mr. R. L. Brohier, it was decided to inaugurate a Children's Day to be held on every alternate month and the following Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements:—Messrs. R. L. Brohier, W. W. Beling, R. S. V. Poulter, and J. H. O. Paulusz. (4) Resolved that the telephone be provisionally re-installed for a period of three months, and that the Billiard Table rates be reduced, subject to re-consideration at the end of six months. (5) A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider and advise whether one of the Billiard Tables should not be sold. (6) Read letter from Mrs. W. G. Mack reporting a profit of Rs. 607-96 on the Bazaar. Resolved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mrs. Mack and that the money be deposited in a separate account to be called the "Social Service Trust Fund." (7) Resolved that a letter be written to Mr. W. H. Wanzer of the Holland Society of America expressing appreciation of his kindness in sending exhibits through Miss Van Dort for the Dutch Exhibition, and explaining that the Exhibition had to be abandoned for want of sufficient support. (8) Resolved that every encouragement should be given to the Students' Arts and Crafts Exhibition proposed by Miss Van Dort, and that the General Committee approved of its organisation by the following Sub-Committee suggested by her, with power to add to their number:—Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Messrs. C. L. Beling, E. G. Koch, A. E. Keuneman, E. A. Vander Straaten, E. Van Dort, and Miss G. Van Dort.

D. B. U. Lecture.—Professor Losey of America delivered an interesting lecture on "The Pleasures of Poultry-keeping" on Saturday, 25th February, at the Union Hall. Dr. H. U. Leembruggen presided, and there was a good gathering. At the conclusion of the lecture several members of the audience asked questions.

Marriage.—The marriage took place on the 26th October, 1932, of Mr. Christian Charlemont Gauder, son of Mr. John Gauder, landed proprietor, and Miss Amelia Caroline de Saram, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Herbert J. de Saram and great grand daughter of Sir Richard and Lady Morgan.

25th Annual General Meeting.—A full report of the proceedings will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths.—Members of the Union are entitled, free of charge, to the insertion of notices of domestic occurrences. These notices must be restricted to a bare statement of the name or names, place, and date of occurrence, and must be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Dutch Burgher Union.

Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.—The attention of members is invited to the need for co-operation in carrying out the object laid down in sub-section (f) of Rule 2 of the Constitution. Any suggestions on this subject are to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Literary Purposes, Mr. L. E. Blazé, Arthur's Place, Bambalapitiya.

The Journal will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk", Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, to whom also all remittances on account of the Journal should be made.

Changes of Address.—All changes of address (especially within the last three years) should be notified without delay to the Honorary Secretary of the Union, Dutch Burgher Union Hall, Reid Avenue, Colombo, or to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union. This will ensure the safe receipt by members of all notices, invitations reports, etc.

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. Gerald Mack, Nikape, Dehiwela, and not to the Hony. Secretary.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mr. Wace de Niese, Bambalapitiya, the Hony. Treasurer of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon Buildings Co., Ltd.—All communications should be addressed to G. H. Gratiaen, Esq., Secretary of the Company, D. B. U. Hall, Reid Avenue, Colombo.

