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XXIII

JULY, 1948.

No. 1.

Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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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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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XXXIII.]

JULY, 1943.

[No. 1.

A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

At the meeting of the General Committee held in November 1942, Mr. C. L. Beling moved "That in view of the greatly increased number of activities of the Union, the duties of the Standing Committee for purpose of Social Recreation, Entertainment and Sport, as at present constituted under By-law 10, do form the subject of review in all its aspects by the General Committee." The resolution was accepted and a special Committee consisting of Mr. L. E. Blazé, Mr. J. H. Toussaint, Mr. R. L. Brohier, Mr. W. J. A. Van Langenberg and Mr. C. L. Beling was appointed to consider the proposal and submit a report. They have reported as follows:—

In considering schemes of Entertainment embodying activities that bear a direct relationship to the Aims and Objects of the Union, it will be desirable, as a first step, to consider the nature as well as the character of the Entertainments that have been provided for Members in past years. In other words, with what forms of Entertainment are they already familiar? Secondly, how can the existing form be adapted or modified, or, if necessary, be wholly changed, so that any new or projected activities may bear some relationship to those Aims of the Union we are all striving to realise? Thirdly, it may be worth-while to consider some of the problems as well as the re-actions the execution of any such problem will create; and finally, the need for a co-ordinated policy. If we may deal with this last subject first, it seems to us of vital importance that the policy should largely be shaped by the General Committee itself, and the details filled in by the Standing Committee concerned—the Entertainment Committee. All other Committees should co-ordinate and help. Indeed, the need for co-operation is vital to the success of the scheme, which in itself is designed to cover a period of at least 3 years. A long view is recommended, since the first efforts must necessarily be experimental. Modifications and adaptations will undoubtedly be found necessary in the light of practical experience. For the same reason, failures—and there may be many—should not, we suggest, deter the General Committee from pursuing the scheme further—unless it is found, after trial, that a particular effort is definitely unworkable and creates no response amongst the Members.

Nature and character of Entertainments organised by the Union.

An analysis of the Social Gatherings, Entertainments, and other Functions, held in the Union Hall, covering a period of 6 years, com-

piled from reports and articles relative to them published from time to time in "The Bulletin", although not complete, is nevertheless useful as a guide in assessing the Social and Recreational Activities conducted in past years. Discussion Circles, Talks, Lectures, and Literary Meetings, are included in the analysis, since they may be looked upon as cultural-recreational activities, and not Meetings of a purely academic character. It is interesting to note that Reading and Discussion Circle Meetings were consistently maintained from 1937 to 1940, a slight falling-off being shown during 1941-1942.

No Children's Parties were held in 1942, and no Plays appear to have been produced since 1937, although the Drama Group had 8 Meetings during same year. There were 2 Arts and Crafts Exhibitions during 1938, and one in 1939, designed to encourage talent in Handicrafts amongst the younger Members. Lectures continue to be maintained, but not all are well attended.

Dances, as such, amount to 20 in number during the 6 years under consideration, but it must be recorded that practically every Function in the Union Hall, including the Annual St. Nicolaas Fete celebration, is utilised as an opportunity for indulging in this form of Entertainment. On this basis, the Weekly Socials and Guest Nights, the Monthly or Weekly "Members' Day", and the activities of the affiliated "Comrades" Association, bring the total Entertainments, in which Dancing finds a place, to 89 in number. If the 20 Dances, already referred to, are added to this, we find that there have been 109 Entertainments in which Dancing was included, working out to an average of 18.1 such Entertainments per annum. In other words, 18 times in a whole year have been utilised in Social Entertainments or Functions of this character.

From the figures before us, it cannot be said that the Union has neglected the purely Social side of the lives of its Members. It is not the intention of this Committee to condemn the efforts of the past in this direction. It must take note, however, of the view prevailing amongst many Members, whose opinion it values, that the Social Activities of the Union are over-emphasised in this one particular direction, and the figures quoted seem to justify that allegation. Data are not available on the subject and this Committee is unable to point to any Social Organisation or Club in Ceylon in which the number of Social Entertainments provided are quite as high as ours. Even if it were possible to do so, it need not necessarily serve as a criterion of value or as a guide in shaping the recreational activities of our Members, but we should not be unmindful of the fact that the Union Hall should serve a wider purpose than as a convenient venue for amusement.

Club Dinners and Suppers appear to have been a regular feature up to 1941, and the reason for the discontinuance of these during 1942 can readily be understood.

Bridge Drives. 5 of these were held in 1940, preceded by 2 each in 1937 and 1938 respectively, and 3 in 1939. None appear to have been organised in 1941 and 1942. This is a feature of Club life that should be maintained. An occasional Whist Drive, which will pro-

bably interest a wider circle of Members, might be tried as an experiment and, if successful, organised at regular intervals, any profits being devoted to the Social Service Fund.

We have now examined the existing forms of Entertainment, Recreation, and Social Functions, provided up to the present time by the Standing Committee for Entertainment. It remains for us to suggest alternative Schemes of Entertainment calculated to have some bearing on the revival of interest in the historical past of the Community; its relationship to our present-day lives, and its influence in developing, among other things, a consciousness of Community or Race awareness through the revival of traditions which belong to us alone. As a first step, it is felt desirable that certain of the more important events and the personages connected with them are worthy of commemoration. It is suggested that the anniversaries of these events should be marked or set apart as special "days" and suitably observed. A list of these events, in accordance with the Calendar, is given below, followed by a few suggested or "typical" programmes.

January.—Conquest of Negombo (4th January 1646).

February.—Capture of Manaar by Rycklof Van Goens. (22nd February 1658).

March.—Capture of Galle by Koster. (13th March 1640).

April.—Hulft, during the siege of Colombo, has audience with King Raja Sinha at the Sinhalese King's camp at Reygamwatte. (7th April 1656). On the 10th April 1656, Hulft was fatally wounded.

Both events are given. One or the other can be suitably observed. The former offers scope for a Tableau as a finale to a Concert).

May.—Portuguese surrender of Colombo to the Dutch. (10th May 1656).

Van Spilbergen lands at Batticaloa (31st May 1602). Visits Kandy and has audience with the King of Kandy.

June.—Westerwold leaves Batticaloa. (4th June 1638) after signing a Treaty with Raja Sinha, King of Kandy, at Batticaloa. (23rd May 1638).

July.—Death of Koster at Niligala near Kandy. (July 1640).

August.—

September.—Arrival at Galle of Gerard Hulft, in the year 1655, as Director-General of the Forces in Ceylon.

October.—Founder's Day. R. G. Anthonisz born 1852.

November.—

December.—Annual St. Nicolaas Fete.

Note: All the events chronicled above need not be observed during the course of a single year, but it is suggested that the following should be marked down as special events and observed annually as Festivals;

Spilbergen's Day, Westervold's Day, Hulft's Day, Founder's Day.

The remaining events, as they occur, could be combined with or worked into the normal Members' Day held every week. In such cases, careful preparations should be made beforehand, a timed programme drawn up, and followed as closely as possible.

There are other personalities in whose time important events took place connected with the Dutch occupation of Ceylon, and among them may be mentioned the work of Governor Maatzuyker. Other names and events will suggest themselves to the Members of the General Committee as well as to the Members of the Entertainment Committee themselves, and could be adopted as variations of the names and events already indicated.

A Few Suggested Typical Programmes.

Programme No. 1.

SPILBERGEN'S DAY. (May)

A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND SONG TO COMMEMORATE
THE LANDING OF ADMIRAL JORIS VAN SPILBERGEN AT
BATTICALOA ON THE 31ST MAY 1602.

General Arrangements.

Model of a Dutch Galleon set on the Stage in front of a painted back cloth representing the sea, with the shores of Batticaloa in the distance. Indirect "step-back" lighting. Side wings of Stage draped in Orange Cloth, piped or fringed in black. Fretwork cut-out circle of V. O. C. sign, painted black, fitted centre to left front wing, and the Crest of ZAANDAM, treated similarly, fitted to right wing. (Alternatively and if possible, Spilbergen's Crest fitted to left wing).

Usual Stage arrangements. (Stage needs a proscenium) Wall decorations (optional) but large portrait sketch of Spilbergen suggested with the motto "Falling, I arise to fight again" prominently displayed in the hall. A large Map, about 7' x 4', showing Spilbergen's Travels in the Orient, displayed in the Foyer.

Duration, 1 1/2 to 2 hours, with an interval of 15 minutes, when "Spilbergen Souvenirs" and refreshments can be sold.

The Proceedings should commence with a short Introduction on the significance of the Celebration. The Speaker may build a brief word-picture of Spilbergen's landing in a strange land, taking the Audience with him, so to speak, in the journey through forest-infested land, to the Court of the Sinhalese King at Kandy. The Speaker should draw a parallel between the quest for Adventure and Exploration on the one hand, and that of Culture and Learning on the other that marked Spilbergen's time in Europe.

Programme Proper. This should be arranged in consultation with really competent Musicians and Artists, and it is suggested that the Music selected should consist of the Works of Composers of the later XVI and early XVII Centuries. Songs should, if possible, be of the early English Folklore type, as well as items in Dutch—Solos, Duets and Trios. The Netherlands Members of the Union can help in this part of the Programme.

The Proceedings should end with the singing of Neerland's Volkslied (Dutch) and Het Lieve Vaderland (English) jointly, the Choral Group leading and the Audience joining in. (See Choral Group Song Leaflet No. 1.)

This Festival, as indeed the others of their character should be open to the Public, and tickets of admission sold beforehand. Refreshments can be sold during the Interval. Profits, if any, can be handed over to the Social Service Fund of the Union.

On the question of selling tickets to the Public, it is pointed out that it is to Functions of this character that outsiders should be encouraged to attend, since such efforts emphasise the back-ground of culture and tradition which belongs to the Community as a heritage, rather than to Ballroom Dances, which, especially if held too frequently, confirm the current impression that it is all the Union can offer in the way of Recreation and Entertainment.

Admiral Joris Van Spilbergen wrote a book about his Travels. A copy is probably available, either at the Archives, or in the Colombo Museum Library. This as well as any other books of Reference, should be consulted in order to gather more facts.

Programme No. 2.

Westervold's Day (June).

Although Admiral Westervold first arrived in Ceylon on the 10th May 1638, he left Batticaloa on the 4th June of that year after signing a treaty with Raja Sinha. We suggest that, in view of the month of May being devoted to Spilbergen, the events connected with Westervold's arrival and departure should be commemorated in June.

It is suggested that Westervold's Day should be commemorated with a Concert or Variety Entertainment, the historical significance of the event being emphasised by a suitable introductory Talk lasting not more than 5 to 8 minutes, and on the lines suggested for Spilbergen's Day.

Duration, 1 1/2 to 2 hours, including an interval of 15 minutes when "Westervold Wapens" and refreshments can be sold. The Wapens or Crests can take the form of buttonhole badges for men and brooches for women, inexpensively produced for the occasion.

Programme Proper. This should consist of Semi-classical items, Character Sketches, Humorous Songs, etc. Great care is to be exercised in the type of item offered. The Jazzy "Carmen-Miranda" sort of song is distinctly out-of-place and should not be encouraged. Immediately following the Interval, will, for reasons of Stage Management alone, be the most suitable time to introduce a "Tableau Vivant" showing King Raja Sinha and Admiral Westervold signing the Treaty at Batticaloa.

Relative portions of the Treaty can be read out in Dutch and translated into Sinhalese.

The details of the Scene will have to be carefully worked out. A Producer and a Stage Manager, assisted by a small group of persons familiar with the historical details will be necessary.

(For full text of the Treaty, consult Baldaeus's "Beschryvinge"; also Anthonisz's "Dutch in Ceylon".)

As with the Spilbergen Commemoration, the Concert should end with the singing of Neerland's Volkslied and Het Lieve Vaderland by the Audience, led by the Choral Group.

Tickets to be sold to Members as well as to the Public. Profits, if any, may be devoted to the Social Service or any suitable Fund in the Union.

Programme No. 3

Hulft's Day. (April or September)

It is suggested that the Commemoration should emphasise those qualities of Hulft's character that will encourage the younger members of the Community to emulate him. Sporting events can be organised beforehand that will culminate or finalise themselves on the afternoon of the day set apart for the purpose. Endurance Tests, Walking and Cycling Tours can be organised for the older boys, and a Sports Meet held for the younger members on the Union grounds, the whole proceedings ending with a Concert, the principal feature of which should be the Tableau depicting the death of Hulft whilst visiting the work in progress for the attack on Bastion St. Joan.

(A) **Advance Leaflets**, prepared at least 3 months beforehand, should be sent out to all members. Frequent references made to the Celebrations in the "Bulletin" and the programme of activities published from time to time and, as it develops. (The Leaflets may be difficult in these days of paper restriction, but an effort should be made to get some form of advance propaganda going even on a modified scale.)

(B) **Foyer Displays**. Large map poster, in colour, depicting Hulft's journey from Java to Ceylon; the maritime towns of Ceylon he captured from the Portugese, culminating with his death before the capture of Colombo.

Super-imposed portrait of Hulft on top left of Poster, his Coat of Arms on top right. XVII Century Dutch Galleons approaching Ceylon from bottom right of the Ocean. Space reserved on bottom left for Date of Festival, Programme announcements, etc.

V. O. C. Monogram and other historical features worked in as a decoration.

Sports Meet from 2 to 5 p.m. Concert from 6.30 to 8.15 p.m. (Approximate.) Allow interval of 15 minutes for sale of refreshments and "Hulft Souvenirs" during Concert.

The Sports side to be worked up by a competent Sub-Committee. The Heats and Finals of most events will probably have to be worked off at the University College grounds (if available) on a day about a week before the date fixed for the Celebration at the D. B. U. The Finals, High Jump, Long Jump, and other events not demanding much ground space can be worked off on the D. B. U. grounds. The long distance Cyclists and Walking Tour Competitors should time their arrival at the D. B. U. grounds by midday, in order to be judged.

Prizes, which should be of slight intrinsic value, should be distributed during or just before the Concert interval.

The Concert itself should consist of Vocal and Musical items, one item to consist of Singing (part, individual and Chorus) round the Camp Fire—a reconstruction of one of the Dutch Camps when Colombo was besieged by the Dutch Forces. The Songs round the Camp Fire can be in Dutch and Malayan in addition to English. A scene, showing a section of the Portuguese ramparts in the distance, to form the background. Other individual items, humorous and otherwise, to be encouraged, but care to be exercised that humorous or comic items are "clean".

Very young children could be trained to give an item or two. Apart from the training the children receive, this will interest the parents and ensure their presence at the Concert.

Semi-classical Ballet Dances can form an item, but "Swing" music and modern Jazz "Crooning" are best omitted. What is important is that members and their families should contribute the items themselves, rather than seek them from outsiders.

Proceedings end with the singing of Neerlands Volkslied and Het Lieve Vaderland.

As this is entirely a "Members' Show", it is suggested that tickets should not be sold to the public. At the discretion of the President and the General Committee, a few distinguished outsiders, who sympathise with our Cause, may be invited to the Sports Meet and/or the Concert.

Profits, if any, can be ear-marked for improving on the next year's Hult Celebrations, or sent to some Public or War Charity.

The above 3 Programmes will, it is felt, give the Entertainment Committee a working Plan to build upon. Provided the historical significance of the event is not lost sight of, the form of the Celebration can be varied from year to year. Under no circumstances, however, should any of these Celebrations end up in a general Ball-room Dance.

"Members' Day"

In examining this aspect of the Union's Activities, we find that it divides itself into two distinct categories—Club Activities proper, for the older people, and Social Activities for the younger ones. Both are approached from a purely relaxational attitude of mind on the part of the Members. Under "Club Activities", we find that the Club life of the Members is on more or less well-established familiar lines in the shape of Billiards, Bridge Tournaments, and the provision of a Reading Room and Library. We do not propose to offer any suggestions on this part of the Club life of the Members, except perhaps to say that a Member of the Entertainment Committee might be allocated the duties of organising Competitions or Tournaments for Billiards and Bridge. The present "Black-out" arrangements need to be looked into. If Louvred shutters are fitted to the window frames, the necessity of closing the glazed window shutters (presently blue) will not arise. This is need hardly be pointed out, shuts out through currents of air, and on crowded nights, the atmosphere is distinctly vitiated. The lighting of the Reading Room and Lounge needs rearrangement. The corners are too dark. The provision of a couple of "Rodeo" Strip Lights and or a Standard Lamp or two will brighten things up. With the fitting of the Louvred shutters, the Black-out shades fitted to the existing lights can be dispensed with. More artificial light will produce a homely and cheerful atmosphere, and thereby encourage Members to stay longer in the premises. The furniture, cushions, carpets etc., need overhauling. Attention to these details might, with advantage, be allocated to a small "House Committee". These remarks are not given in a spirit of criticism of the work of any Member who is presently assigned these

duties. We realise that present conditions are difficult, but our remarks are recorded in the hope that attention will be paid to these amenities as soon as possible.

Regarding the purely social activities which are more or less confined to the members who do not normally go upstairs, one difficulty exists in organising the events of the evening in that the Organisers have no means of ascertaining who will turn up, and even if Members do turn up, they may do so for a game of Bridge or Billiards or to meet friends. A "Members' Day" does not connote a highly organised evening, and it will probably be better to leave the Club evening as an opportunity for informal gatherings. Members may be encouraged to form Groups such as an Indoor Games Group, a Choral Group, the Philately Group, a "Wander vogel" Group for Cycling and Walking Tours, and when conditions are favourable, the formation of a D. B. U. "Music Box"—a house band. The purchase of instruments presents difficulties under present conditions, but the formation of such a Group may be kept in mind for the future. A Photography Group presents similar difficulties at the present time, but there are many keen Amateur Photographers who may wish to form a Group. These Groups should be encouraged to meet on the "Club Day" as far as possible. Members should be circularised and asked to indicate what particular Group they would like to join. *The aim should be to get at least every Colombo member to join a Group.* In this way, a "Community of interest" will be created and Members will find activities suited to their particular tastes and inclinations. Under present conditions, with Black-out restrictions, Petrol rationing, War and A. R. P. work, it is difficult to meet regularly every week at the Union premises. These very difficulties may serve a purpose in inaugurating some form of decentralisation of activities. Groups, once formed in the Union, may meet in Members' bungalows, sending in Reports periodically to the Union Secretary, recording their progress. Extracts from these Reports may be published in the Bulletin. It is hardly necessary to add that any Groups formed should be entirely self-contained and self-supporting. The Members should keep to the spirit and letter of the Union's Aims and Objects. Once a quarter or so, a combined "Social" may be organised, when a Member of each particular Group gives a short account of how his Group is progressing. These quarterly Socials will unify the Groups in a bond of fellowship and goodwill.

For the Ladies, we urge the formation of a "Women's Fellowship of Service". It can take over the work so well begun by the Willing Workers' Depot, as well as seek new avenues of Service. Every Lady Member must either join a Group or the Women's Fellowship. A Women's Fellowship can, with every advantage, be attached to Groups.

Suggested Form of Programme for the Quarterly Groups' "Social".

Members sit in a large semi-circle facing a small Stage, on which is placed centrally the Union Galleon "Eendracht". The President and the Hony. Secretary sit below the Stage. A Group Member in turn gives a one minute Talk on what his Group is doing and what it plans to do in the future. The President makes his comments. The Hony. General Secretary follows with Union Announcements.

Indoor Competitions and Games. (Games calculated to amuse and, at the same time, instruct the Players).

Dancing, and light Refreshments.

Closing Song (Neerlands Volkslied and/or Het Lieve Vaderland) National Anthem.

There should be no Dancing after the Meeting is concluded.

Bi-Monthly Members' Day.

(with special reference to New Members)

We have indicated what we consider to be 3 of the most important Annual Commemorative Festivals, and outlined what we feel to be the most useful way in which the recreational time of the Members can be related to Social contacts through the medium of common interests and hobbies, co-relationship as well as loyalty to Union Aims and Ideals, being emphasised in the Quarterly Groups' Social held in the Union Hall. We have suggested that the weekly "Club Day" need not be a highly organised feature of the recreational activities of the Entertainment Committee, particularly at the present time.

It now remains for us to suggest some form of Meeting, in which all Members, both in Colombo and the out-stations, can be given an opportunity of meeting one another in the Union Hall. In these Gatherings, the new Member should be made to feel that he is welcomed, that his admittance to the Union carries a privilege as well as responsibilities; that he or she belongs to a Society whose Aims and Objects are really worthwhile. We suggest that these Gatherings should be bi-monthly, instead of monthly. The new Member is in fact the chief person and our suggestions in the main are centered round him. We suggest there should be some form of simple "initiation" or Enrolment Ceremony for New Members, held towards the conclusion of the evening's proceedings. Though simple and short, the Ceremony should be solemn and impressive. Its main purpose is to re-emphasise the Aims, Objects and Ideals for which the Union was founded. That its purpose is wider and deeper than to provide a Club House for meeting friends and entertaining guests. And finally, it seeks to make the New Member personally responsible for carrying out the Ideal of SERVICE to the Community of which he is a Member. We have examined the Enrolment Ceremonies connected with other Societies and Movements, and we think something on the lines of the "Ceremony of Light" in the "Too H" Movement can be adapted to meet our requirements. We suggest the Ceremony itself takes the form indicated below:—

All New Members assemble and sit in the front rows of chairs, or in a portion of the Hall specially set apart for them.

The President and Office Bearers of the Union sit on chairs placed on a low dais facing the New Members and the rest of the Audience.

To the right of the President is a XVII Century Dutch Galleon, on the stern of which is a small oil-lantern shaped as a Mariner's Lantern, but without the roof. The Galleon is brought into the Hall by the President himself, with the lamp alight. (The Audience standing meanwhile). He places it on a table to his right. In front of him, on a low table, is the UNION LAMP OF SERVICE, previously placed in position, but not lighted. The President takes his seat and the Audience resume their seats. The Hony. General Secretary calls out the name of the New Member. If many are to be enrolled, he may read out all the names. The New Members to be enrolled form up in a semi-circle immediately in front of the LAMP OF SERVICE.* The President asks the New Members to repeat the following after him:—

* At this stage of the Proceedings, all lights in the Hall are switched off except one.

"I believe in the future of my Race, and of my Community. I will do my best to live up to the Aims and Ideals of the Union".

The President takes the "Lighter", lights it from the flame in the Lamp of the Galleon, and hands it to the Member nearest him, who holds it to the wick in the Union Lamp of Service and lights it.

Each New Member, in turn, lights the Lamp of Service. The flame is extinguished by one of the Office Bearers, to enable the next Candidate to light it.

After the last Member has lighted the Lamp, the flame is left unextinguished; the President asking the newly-enrolled Members to repeat the following:—

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old
With the going down of the Sun and in the Morning
We will remember them
We will remember them".

The others, assembled in the body of the Hall, join in, repeating the last line.

The President shakes hands with the New Members and greets them with these words: "I welcome you into this Union, which exists to serve the Community to which you and I have the honour to belong".

(The House lights go up)

The Assembly stand and sing "Het Lieve Vaderland"

The New Members resume their allotted seats.

The President delivers a short address on the symbolism of the Ceremony. ("This Ceremony of which you are privileged witnesses, etc".)

The inner meaning behind this simple Ceremony may be summarised as follows:—The Union Galleon "EENDRACHT" typifies the traditions of the past and the bond of a common heritage. The lighted Lantern at the stern of the Ship symbolises the Ideals behind the formation of the Dutch Burger Union—that of preserving and maintaining the rights and privileges of the descendants of the Dutch in Ceylon; the consolidation of an united Community and its preservation as a distinct entity.

The Union "Lamp of Service" typifies the Community to-day as the surviving Representatives of Dutch rule and influence in Ceylon. The transfer of a part of the flame from the Ship of Union to the Lamp of Service symbolises the Member's faith in that tradition and common heritage; his belief in the future of the Community of which he is a Member by race; his willingness to unite in a common Cause—to put Community first and self second. His acceptance of those duties and responsibilities which his membership and kinship in a well-defined and honoured Community connotes.

The Programme Itself.

We suggest that the Programme itself be along the following lines:—

Short opening Talk by the President.

Informal 1/2 minute Talks or Reports by the Hony. Secretaries of the various Standing Committees of the Union on the work their respective Committees are doing, followed by the Hony. General Secretary and Hony. Treasurer. Or, as an alternative, a pre-arranged Speaker gives a short talk on some subject that bears some relation to the Community. A list of suggested Talks is given in Appendix "B".

If Chairmen or Hony. Secretaries of Outstation Branches are present, they will be expected to speak a few words on the work the Branches are doing, the difficulties they are up against, etc.

Opportunity to be given to Members to ask questions, or comment; but any tendency to start long discussions on controversial subjects, etc., to be discour-

aged. As these Talks are more or less informal, a note of quiet humour desirable. An atmosphere of cheerfulness and optimism to pervade the Talks.

This part of the Proceedings must not last more than 10 minutes at the maximum. The aim should be to supply the members present with first-hand information of what is going in the Union.

The President sums up and announces the next item on the Programme, which should be a Musical Item, during the course of which, he leaves the Hall accompanied by the Office Bearers. He re-enters the Hall at the conclusion of the Item, bringing in the Union Galleon with Lantern lighted.

The "Initiation" or Enrolment Ceremony is then conducted, at the conclusion of which, the Members meet the President, Members of the General Committee, friends, etc., and take part in any indoor activities that have been organised by the Entertainment Committee.

This can take the form of a Dance, a Recital of Musical Items, a Concert, or any appropriate form of amusement the Entertainment Committee may devise. There should, however, always be a "Master of Ceremonies", who takes charge of the proceedings and sees that the Items, on a previously prepared Time-table, are adhered to. Guessing Competitions, for instance, can be interspersed with Dance Contests, etc. The M. C. "keeping a grip" on the proceedings and terminating the Entertainment exactly on time. Refreshments to be sold and not given free. Being a Members' Day it is hardly necessary to add that guests are out of place.

Dances and Annual Balls.

Our comments in the foregoing pages in respect of modern Ballroom dances that are held periodically in the Union Hall, may convey the impression that we are in total disfavour of this form of entertainment. This is far from the case. In our view, there is nothing intrinsically wrong in Dancing. It is a pleasant form of relaxation and exercise, and its increasing popularity to-day, amongst younger people particularly, throughout the modern World bears witness to the fact that it fulfills a need of the times we live in. It is not our purpose to dilate on the philosophical or ethical values of the Dance—much less on its psychological re-actions, direct or indirect, upon Communities or the individuals who compose them—except perhaps to say generally that the Dance belongs to life itself. From the rhythmic expressions of barbaric peoples of the earliest known times, to the measured *tempo* of a 20th Century "Tango", much that concerns man and Society has given it inspiration and sustenance. Since it owes its being to Society, the Dance in its turn influences social life, giving it at best a richness and grace which it might otherwise never have possessed. We, therefore, recognise that the Dance, both Classical and Modern—has a place in the scheme of things. Many amongst us to-day, who are here as sojourners, turn towards the Ballroom as a relief from either the stress or the tedium of a total World War. This very circumstance may make it desirable to arrange some measure of control over these Functions. We are concerned not only with the *number* or frequency of such Entertainments, but also the *manner* in which they are conducted. In saying this, we do not imply that those Performances held in the past have all been dissolute affairs. This would be far from the truth. But there have been occasions when decorum and etiquette have been forgotten as the conviviality of the night increased, causing re-percussions that have not been lived down. With incidents of the sort that have been brought to our notice, the Union cannot justifiably disclaim its responsibility. It remains for us to suggest remedies:

1. All Ballroom Dances to be under the control of a competent "Master of Ceremonies", who will *conduct* the proceedings from start to finish.
2. Functions to close down punctually at the previously announced time.
3. Any cases of misbehaviour to be dealt with promptly and firmly.
4. Number of Tickets sold should not exceed the capacity of the floor area to take the Dancers. (We believe this to be 70 couples).
5. Prices for admission of guests to the Annual or Principal Dances to be raised over and above the prices applicable to members.
6. Practice of introducing Guests to be steadily discouraged, until it is finally eliminated.

We do not see any reason why Dances should not be a regular feature, provided the suggestions we have offered above are followed and the Members co-operate in carrying them out. These Entertainments need not all be held at night. We suggest a "Saturday Tea Dance" (4.30 to 8 p.m.) once every other month. These "Tea Dances" could, with every advantage, be combined with a Light Variety Entertainment, for which purpose, we suggest that the Entertainment Committee organise a "Concert Party" Group. There is plenty of talent available amongst the younger Members, and with a little training and rehearsing, this Group will be a cheerful and useful adjunct to the many other Groups we have already suggested in this Report.

Admission to these "Tea Dances" should, of course, be by Ticket, the cost of Teas being extra.

Annual Balls.

We believe it is the practice to hold two such events a year—Annual Race Ball and the New Year's Eve Dance. Both Functions are popular and may be maintained. These two Entertainments could, however, be linked up with events and personages either in our own history or that of Holland.

The August Race Dance could be described as a "Rembrandt Night". Other Titles suggest themselves, such as "Frans Hals Night", "Tulip Time in Holland", "Night in Zaandam", etc.

The success of these Functions depends very largely upon the time and attention paid to the General Organisation, the Decorations for the occasion, and the Programme itself of the evening. The "Master of Ceremonies" should take charge of the Ballroom arrangements and conduct the Proceedings, thus freeing the Hon. General Secretary and the Entertainment Secretary to attend to the many other matters that need attention on an occasion when large attendances are to be expected.

Financial Implications of the Scheme outlined in this Report.

We wish to stress the point that the financial implications of any of the Programmes we have suggested in this Report, should not be such as to cause a drag on the resources of the Union. Our aim, as far as possible, is to make each Event financially self-supporting. We recommend that a small sum of money—say up to Rs. 300/—should be voted as a loan from the General Funds to the Entertainment Fund, to put the Scheme into operation. It is our hope that the Festivals and other Events we suggest, will be the means of augmenting the Entertainment as well as the other Funds of the Union—particularly the Social Service Fund.

Seeing that the suggested Schemes, if adopted, will bear a closer relationship to the avowed Aims and Objects of the Union, than the forms

of Entertainment the Members have hitherto been accustomed to, the first efforts may not realise all that is expected of them financially. For a beginning, so long as there is no actual loss, the General Committee should encourage the Entertainment Committee to pursue the Scheme. In this respect, much depends on the co-operation and enthusiasm of the Members of that Standing Committee and the general reception given the Scheme by the Members themselves. We feel sure that a Spirit of Goodwill and Co-operation will prevail.

Conclusion.

We have tried in this Report to supply a practical working Programme, that will we hope serve as a guide to the Standing Committee for Social Recreation, Entertainment and Sport. Throughout our deliberations, we realised that the work of this particular Committee brings it in close touch with a wide circle of Members, both young and old alike, and we have therefore sought, in our suggested Schemes of activity, to appeal to as broad a range of ages and tastes as is reasonably possible. To relate an historical past to the living reality of the present, particularly in a Community such as we know ours to be to-day, is a bold step, and may, we hope, represent the dawning of a new socio-recreational order, the practice of which will in time bring its own reward—the realisation of at least some of those Aims and Objects for which this Union was founded.

In this connection, we would draw the attention of all Members to the Article entitled "The Union and the Community" which appeared in the April 1937 issue of The Journal.

We earnestly commend this Scheme in its entirety to the careful consideration of the General Committee, and we feel we cannot more fittingly conclude this Report than by quoting from an address delivered in the Union Hall by an esteemed Member of the Union, as reported in Vol. 9 of The Journal.—

"The History of Holland is the History of RECLAMATION. Thousands of acres have been, by dint of great industry and large expenditure of money, reclaimed from the sea, and form to-day large tracts of fertile country. Had the Hollanders said, "It is too late, the sea has encroached too much and the water is too deep now for anything to be done", there would perhaps be no Holland to-day worth speaking of. In the same way, let US to the work of RECLAMATION—reclaiming from oblivion those customs and traditions that will help us, reclaiming to general use the lost art of our Language and of our Literature, and bringing together our people, till we have established in Ceylon a Holland of men and women who will be true to our traditions and to our Nation—a Holland guarded by the dykes of unity and honour and National instinct, and true patriotism, and of loyalty to the King under whose rule our lot has been cast".

LEAVES FROM MY DIARY.*

(Being a record of the occurrences in Singapore from 8th December, 1941, to 6th February 1942.)

By AGNES M. PAULUSZ.

At about 4 o'clock this morning I was rudely awakened from my sleep by a terrific blast of thunderous sound quickly followed by a succession of similar sounds. I was petrified. When I was able to move, I jumped out of bed and rushed to the verandah where I found Hugh and Edna—my brother and his wife—already standing at an open window. The din continued, but was diminishing and the bangs grew fainter and fainter till they ceased. Then, upon the tense silence there crept uncannily the wail of the "alert" swelling in volume till its grim message was heard all over the Island. "What is it all about, Hugh?" I whispered, rather unnecessarily perhaps, "should we go into the shelter?" We had had a snug air-raid shelter prepared for any emergency, safe from anything but a direct hit. "I am just as ignorant as yourself" replied my brother. "Wait and see what is happening." He added that he and Edna had seen flashes simultaneously with the explosions.

We waited thus awhile, and then as everything was quiet we retired to bed. After sunrise, the 'Amah' took Phinie (my little niece not yet three years old)—out, as usual to the Oldham Hall play grounds, where she had her morning romp with her friends, and returned in time for her breakfast. While we were at breakfast, a car drove up bringing one of Hugh's friends accompanied by his wife. They rushed to us with the news—the Japs had bombed Singapore and thereafter had declared War on Great Britain.

From that date I have had no peace of mind by day or night and have been kept in a constant state of agitation. During the week that has elapsed, we have had only occasional alerts. The Japs have come again, dropped a few bombs and been chased away by our Airmen. But the nights have been sleepless and miserable, for we know not when we might be taken by surprise, perhaps lying in deep slumber, deaf to all alerts. After a few such nights of harrowing uncertainty, my brother devised a plan by which we should keep vigil by turn, so that two of us might get a little sleep while one listened for possible alarms.

Edna was to take the first watch from 10 p. m. to half an hour past midnight, I was to follow from 12-30 to 3 a. m. and then Hugh was to be on duty till dawn. But knowing that when Edna is absorbed in a book, she is deaf to all sounds around her, the two and a half hours of her watch was for me a time of tossing in bed listening for the alert which I feared would not penetrate to her consciousness.

* Passed by Press Censor.

December 15. To-day Mrs. MacCormac (Patsy) has come to live with us. Her husband, Charles MacCormac, is an Airman. As the Air-base was terribly bombed on December 8th and is still being bombed, the wives and families of the Airmen have been ordered to evacuate immediately. Several of these are temporarily accommodated in the Mental Hospital till passages to the United Kingdom are available. We know the MacCormacs fairly well, and Edna gladly took Patsy in, as her husband could find no room for her elsewhere.

December 16 to December 23. We were left in peace, I am thankful to say.

December 23rd. Last night (December 22nd) at about 10 o'clock we had an alert, so we all went down to the shelter where we had to remain for only half an hour before the "all clear" was sounded. Now that Patsy is here, she shares our watch with us, which is thereby reduced to only two hours each. Mr. MacCormac comes over every afternoon and returns to duty at the Air-Base, after dinner.

Christmas Eve. There have been no "alerts" to-day. As the enemy is very active in the F. M. S., I am very worried about the safety of my friends there. I do hope and pray that they are alive.

December 25th. We attended Divine Service this morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of England. (Hugh, Edna, Phinie and I). The attendance was poor. There was no receiving of toys etc. for poor children in the hospitals. The two parcels of toys which we had taken as our gifts had to be brought back home. We abandoned our usual Christmas visits, not daring to go far from home for fear of raids, and contented ourselves with a visit to an old lady in our neighbourhood, named Mrs. Westerhout, who is very fond of our little girl. "Peace on Earth." A quiet and "peaceful" day it has been, but there can be no peace in our hearts, with the menace of sudden doom in the very air round us. Is it the quiet of impending horror?

One thing brought me a little happiness. I was surprised and delighted to receive Christmas greetings from my friends in the F. M. S., I do hope they are safe.

December 26 to 28th. We have had another three quiet days and nights. But the absence of alarms for so many days and nights, makes me fear that the Japs are gathering resources for something terrible. I pray God that they may fail in all their undertakings, chiefly for the sake of our little darling and all the other little darlings in Malaya. May they be saved from all horrors.

December 29th. No raids to-day.

December 30th. We were at dinner last night, at 8 o'clock, when Mr. MacCormac who was dining with us, suddenly bade us be silent. "The zoom of planes. They are not ours" he said. He left the table and listened at the front door in tense silence. Then, "To cover," he yelled. We called to the "Amah" to take Phinie down, and we all rushed to the shelter. We had not left the house when

the first bomb fell, with the second bomb, the alert was sounded when we were just unlocking the door of the shelter. In the half hour that followed several more bombs were dropped and a part of Singapore was in flames. When we were able to return to our interrupted dinner, an hour later, another raid followed, and so from 9-30 to 10-30 we were back in the shelter. The last and worst raid for that terrible night began at 1-30 a.m. This was a moonlight night with the moon at its brightest, towards the 'small hours' of the morning, and the Japs took full advantage of this to carry out their nefarious actions. Mr. MacCormac had obtained leave, by telephone, to remain with his wife owing to the repeated raids, and his presence gave us moral comfort. Dear little Phinie woke up during the third raid but she behaved wonderfully. Came at last the 'all clear' at about 3 a.m. and I went to bed, but it was dawning before I could find sleep.

December 31st. We had two alerts to-day, one at 1-20 p.m. while we were at lunch, and the other during dinner at 8 p.m., neither of which lasted long, but bombs were dropped.

January 1st, 1943. We had to spend an hour in the shelter last night from 10-15, the 'all clear' sounding forty minutes before midnight and the end of the old year. What would the New Year bring?

The New Year began with an 'alert' that drove us to the shelter from 4-30 to 5-15 a.m. (At midnight we had heard on Mr. Mac's radio the chiming of bells from London with "Auld Lang Syne" and "Happy New Year" greetings). The morning brought us the sad news of the death of Jerome, the fine, bonny little one year old son of friends of mine. He died of shock—one of the many babies killed by the mere sound of the devilish bombs. He died at the General Hospital yesterday. I wish I could be with his parents, grandmother and aunt—who made a pet of little Jerome—even for a few minutes, but with the enemy bombing us incessantly, I dare not venture so far. I have written to them of my heart-felt sympathy and with that I must be content.

January 2nd. We had a raid at 9-50 on New Year's night. Then for the first time we heard our own Night Fighters giving chase to the enemy. I do hope that every time the Night Fighters go into battle, they will be as successful as in this their first attempt, for the enemy were promptly driven away and the 'all clear' sounded at 10-20 p.m. There was another 'alert' at 1-40 a.m. during Edna's watch and I went round waking everybody. Again we were in the shelter for only half an hour, and the rest of the night was quiet. We also had a short day alert at 11 a.m. to-day, when only Patsy, Phinie, her Amah and I were at home.

January 3rd. We had four raids last night and spent almost the whole night in the shelter and to and from it. The raids were at 10-45, 12-20, 1-20 and 4 a.m. Fortunately for us, few bombs fell in our neighbourhood.

January 4th. Only one raid last night and that was over by 10 p.m. It was not very severe in the neighbourhood of our house in Barker Road—I do not know how the rest of the Island fared. I hope there were no deaths. I was told that the civilians of Kuala Lumpur have been ordered to leave. I do hope that my friends and their little girl are amongst those who arrived safely at Singapore yesterday morning.

January 5th. We had a quiet night last night till 4 a.m. when the enemy raiders came again, but they seem to be severely handled this time, for they retired in confusion amid the loud clamour of our anti-aircraft guns.

January 6th. All yesterday and last night was quiet till 4-30 this morning, when we heard the 'alert' and the zooming of the big Jap planes; only two shells were fired at them and they retired. Yesterday too we had some kind friends who called to enquire how we were faring.

January 7th. All yesterday was again quiet as the Japs now come chiefly at night and the early hours of the morning taking advantage of the moonlight. I ventured out at about 10-30 a.m. with Edna to call on my friends who lost their little Jerome. We found only his grandmother at home and we learnt the sad details of his death from her. She was naturally very upset. To add to her troubles, a family of her friends—five in number—have taken refuge with her, and she has to attend to their needs too, with the help of only one servant, the others having left owing to the bombing. Jerome's parents and aunt were away at their A.R.P. posts. At about 6-30 p.m. while Hugh, Mr. and Mrs. Mac and I were on our lawn with Phinie, I saw Phinie make a sudden dash towards the shelter. I called out "Phinie where are you going, darling?" and she replied "I's going to the selter, there's the silen" and sure enough we heard the sirens only then for we were talking and Phinie, the little darling, not three years' old at the time, heard the distant siren and made a dash on her own to the shelter! She has had to go so often there, that she did not wait this time to be taken! Edna was out and we wondered where she was during the raid. The 'all clear' was at 7 p.m. and shortly afterwards Edna returned safely. She was on her way home in a rickshaw when she heard the 'alert', so she jumped out telling the puller to get into the nearest drain, and she rushed into the nearest house.

January 8th. A curious phenomenon alarmed us last night. There was a red glow on the horizon in the darkness of the black-out. What did it mean?

January 9th. The red glow we saw on the night of the 9th has been explained. A small native boat had mysteriously caught fire and it had been allowed to burn itself out. Are "Fifth Columnists" at work?

We had another quiet night till 4-30 a.m. This time the Jap planes either came in two relays, or kept circling overhead. Any-

way, I am thankful to say that they were driven off by our Airmen and anti-aircraft guns within half an hour, having dropped only a few bombs.

January 10th. We had an alert from 1-50 a.m. till 2-30 a.m. but we heard no bombs or guns for which I am truly thankful. This is 8 a.m. now, and little Phinie is away at the play grounds playing with some of her friends whose mothers, like Phinie's, dared to send them out there, believing that no harm could come to them. My mind is a prey to anxiety about her. May God bring her safely back! It was a great relief to me to see Phinie being brought home shortly after 8 a.m. About an hour after her return, there was an 'alert' which lasted half an hour. This was Phinie's last outing to the play grounds, as, at Hugh's request she was kept at home and allowed to play on our grounds with two of her friends who come over almost every day.

January 11th. We had an alert at 4-20 this morning, but heard no sound of planes, bombs or guns.

January 12th. No incidents all day yesterday. To-day we had to get ourselves inoculated against typhoid. We had an alert in the morning just before breakfast and we had to remain in the shelter for three hours without it. There were bombs and guns as usual. After breakfast, we hurried off for our inoculation, returning at noon just before another alert, which kept us in the shelter for two hours. A third followed almost immediately—poor little Phinie was, this time, troublesome. Her arm must be very painful, mine is.

January 13th. We had a calm night for which I am very grateful.

January 14th. Yesterday a bomb fell very near us. We were in the shelter and the sensation was frightful when the blast rushed in through the door and out of the ventilation pipe of the shelter. We heard the terrible crash and clatter of falling masonry etc., as some buildings were blown up uncomfortably near. It was a memorable and fearsome day! We had four raids in all, of which the first one, at 11-20 a.m. was the worst. It lasted half an hour and the others soon followed at 12-30, 1-30 and at about 4-30 p.m. To add to our terror, a severe thunderstorm raged all the afternoon, and we knew that if the alert was sounded we should not be able to hear it. I retired immediately after dinner as I was feeling very cold, sleepy and weary. At 11-30 Mr. Mac—who I am glad to say was given permission to spend the nights at our home from the 30th of December and who shared the watch with us,—woke me to go to my post, and I kept watch till 1 a.m. It was still very cold and wet. But there were no more raids, and, exhausted with the tension of the day's anxieties, we all slept moderately well.

January 15th. Last night was another peaceful night for which I am very thankful. Yesterday we had an alert at 10-50 a.m. I heard the Jap planes, but I am glad to say that I heard no bombs. At 11-20 a.m. the 'all clear' was sounded and we all came up. Edna

had gone out with Hugh on business and on her return by rickshaw, she had heard the alert and had gone into No. 9 Barker Road for shelter (our house is No. 25) and had remained there till the 'all clear' was sounded.

January 16th. Yesterday we had an 'alert' from 9-35 a.m. to 12-05. There was some firing by our anti-aircraft guns and some bombs were heard, but there did not seem to be much damage done. The night was peaceful. I do hope that to-day while I am alone with Phinie there will not be any raids as the terror and the responsibility would be too much for me. Edna and Patsy have to go to the Doctor's, on Patsy's account, leaving us alone. I do hope they will come home without much delay. This morning at about 7-50 I heard the firing of guns and I asked Patsy if she had heard them. "Yes it is the gun practice" she said. But I was sure it was not, as the firing seemed very rapid. I was right. That was not practice. Even while I was writing my diary, I heard the alert. I put my pen down and yelled to Hugh who followed me to the shelter with Patsy. Edna and Phinie had already gone down. The "all clear" was heard after about ten minutes, but five minutes later the firing started again followed by another alert, and we all rushed back to the shelter. There we remained for half an hour, then "all clear"—and breakfast. Hugh, Edna and Patsy left by car at 9 a.m. for the Doctor's. At 10 o'clock a huge flight of planes passed over the house. It struck me that a raid was expected and sure enough before the alert was sounded we heard bombs and guns. Phinie, the "Amah" and I went to the shelter, after about ten minutes of fierce bombing and firing, the alert was sounded. We had to remain in the shelter for an hour until the "all clear".

January 17th. All was quiet last night till 4-05 a.m. when the alert sounded. It was raining slightly but we reached the shelter without getting wet. The "all clear" at 4-35 a.m. brought to an end an uneventful half hour.

January 18th. To-day I heard some dreadful stories from Mr. MacCormac. God help us! We had an alert yesterday from 9 to 9-55 and another from 10-25 to 11-45. Since then, there has been quiet, except for our planes so busy overhead.

January 19th. Yesterday morning our Chinese cook came home from market very late. He explained that he had to run away from some policemen who were snatching bicycles away from poor fellows, as they rode about on their usual business. The cook had been told by a policeman that they had had orders to collect 20,000 bicycles, as these were wanted for the Malay Regiment. Hugh and Edna went to the Police Station and there they saw a great number of bicycles which had been seized. Our servant had evaded the Police by leaving his machine at a friend's house, and had walked home. Some of our friends who called this afternoon gave us the news of their intended evacuation to India. Oh that we could join them!

January 20th. Alerts from 8-10 to 8-30, 8-35 to 8-45, 9-15 to 10-10, 11 to 11-35 and 2-15 to 2-45 yesterday. We had a terrible time!

January 21st. Again we had alerts from 9-15 to 9-45, 10-50 to 11-50 and 12 to 12-50 to-day. Bombs and firing.

January 22nd. We had no more raids after 12-50 yesterday and the night was quiet. What is in store for us all! I cannot settle down to anything. The days are drawn out in ceaseless anxiety and nerve wracking idleness, for I can do no more than remain at an open window and strain my ears to hear the faintest alert. Usually I am the first to hear it and give the alarm to the others. It is 1-50 p.m. now as I write and all seems quiet. The MacCormacs left us to-day to stay with Patsy's aunt. We miss them very much.

January 23rd. We had no more raids yesterday or last night. We had three alerts this morning from 8-30 to 8-45, 9 to 10-25 and from 10-30 to 11-10. When the enemy's planes and ours are flying overhead the noise is terrific and frightful!

January 24th. The night has been quiet but as I write (7-50 a.m.) some of our own planes are whirling around excitedly. Again I say, what is in store for us all?

January 25th. Last night, we had an alert at 7-55. We had visitors at the time who accompanied us to the shelter and waited there with us till about 8-50. This morning we had two more; 8-45 to 9-45 and 9-50 to 10-55. There was heavy rain at the time and the terrible bursts of sound we heard may have been bombs or thunder.

January 26th. Two raids last night 8-45 to 9-55, 2-45 to 3-05 a.m.

January 27th. Two raids last night 9-45 to 10-10, 10-25 to 12-45. The enemy planes came in three relays and several bombs were dropped. Terrible!

January 28th. Only one raid last night 9-25 to 9-45. A daylight raid began at 10 a.m. while Hugh was at his office and it lasted till 10-45. We heard bombs and guns far away towards the City. Hugh relieved our minds by telephoning to us to say that he was all right. Patsy, with her husband called today as she is leaving in the afternoon for England and she wished to bid us goodbye. I hope the poor girl will reach her destination safely. She is soon to be a mother and the parting from her husband must be a great wrench.

January 29th. Last night was a very disturbed night. From 7-40 to 3-30 a.m. we had a succession of raids, eight alerts in all. What a nightmare!

January 30th. Till five minutes past midnight last night we were again subjected to a succession of raids while we were at dinner at 7-10. Four raids in all.

January 31st. We had raids yesterday from 9-15 to 9-30 a.m. 10 to 12 a.m. 4 to 4-15 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m. and alerts today from 8-20 to 8-40, 8-45 to 9-15, 10 to 10-20, 11-30 to 12-50 and 12-40 to 12-45. It has been a terrible and awful day for Phinie and me. Edna and Hugh were out trying, as they had been trying for several days, to get passages for us to go to Colombo. They returned unsuccessful at 2-15. During the raid from 11-30 to 12-50 Phinie, poor little darling, was in a very nervous and peevish state. I could neither keep her in the shelter nor keep the shelter door closed. She was so worried at having to go into the shelter which at mid-day is very hot. I was just as nervous and worried and in despair, and I knew not what to do. At last in my distress I burst into tears myself and wept aloud, and only then was Phinie subdued and allowed the "amah" to bring her away from the open door of the shelter to her comfortable bunk inside. False hopes were raised in me today by Mr. MacCormac, who called while Hugh and Edna were out and said we could get passages to leave today. As soon as he left in search of Hugh and Edna to tell them to try, I got dressed and ready to go on board the ship that was to take us away from this inferno. But alas! we have to wait till Tuesday. God help us!

February 1st. Last night we had three alerts 8-35 to 9-10, 9-15 to 9-30 and 11-25 to 12 o'clock. After this all quiet. I was delighted when our friends the Van Der Holts, who escaped from Kuala Lumpur, called and inquired if Edna could accommodate them, as Mrs. Van Der Holts' mother's house was too near the Naval Base which was being bombed. Edna very readily welcomed them. They helped us at keeping watch. From 5 o'clock this morning the big guns facing Johore kept firing intermittently for two hours or more. We had raids to-day from 8-10 to 8-30 a.m. 12-30 to 1 p.m. and 1-30 to 1-50 p.m. We are trying to arrange to leave Singapore for Colombo even if we have to travel as deck passengers. Our friends who are staying with us too and their relations, (about seven of them) are also anxious to travel in this way so long as they can leave Singapore! But there is no chance of a boat till Tuesday or Wednesday!

February 2nd. Last night was peaceful. But this morning we have already had two raids, one just as we sat to breakfast 8-10 to 8-25, and the other from 9-30 to 9-45. After I had written the above we had more raids to-day 10-55 to 11 a.m. 11-40 to 12-15 a.m. 12-35 to 12-45, 1 to 1-30, 3 to 3-15 and 8-35 to 9-05 p.m. Awful bombing and firing!

February 3rd. The night was peaceful but we had a long raid this morning from 9-45 to 11-25. Several bombs were dropped and two fires started in the city. Again we had a raid from 1-20 to 2-30 in the afternoon when several more bombs were dropped.

February 4th. The zinc of our shelter door kept rattling all the time during our second raid for the day from 12 to 12-35 p.m., for bombs were dropped not far away. The earlier raid was from 10 to

10-40 a.m. Our friends left us to-day for Mrs. Van Der Holts' mother's house promising to return in the evening if they could get sufficient petrol.

February 5th. Our friends have evidently failed to get the petrol, for they have not returned. They have to stay on at Van Der Holts' mother's house. We had a raid this morning from 5-30 to 5-45. After breakfast I rushed to the Newton Post Office on business. Hugh took me there and back by car and then left for office. Almost immediately there was a terrible raid which lasted from 10-40 to 12-15. Hugh had by that time reached office and telephoned that he was all right. To-day I could do nothing but gaze through the window at the sky and I even got out into the garden—I seldom went out into the garden after the raids started on December 8th, 1941—and kept looking up at the sky. Singapore lay in the shadow of a canopy of dark grey clouds with no clear sky to be seen, but for a narrow streak of lighter shade along the horizon. My heart was heavy with fear and despair. Would we ever be given passages to Ceylon?

Some prominent and influential Asiatics of Singapore are said to have interviewed the Governor, and obtained from him the promise that 90% of the accommodation on the next evacuation steamer would be reserved for Ceylonese and Indians, and the remaining 10% for "others". Meanwhile, our peril increases each hour, and it may be too late to get on board!

February 6th. There was, yesterday morning, another alert from 4-30 to 4-50 a.m. but another alert sent us back to the shelter almost immediately until 5-10 a.m. A third followed at 5-45 and though we heard a distant "all clear" shortly afterwards, we chose to remain in the shelter until 7 o'clock as the two nearest sirens had not droned their "all clear". The next raid did not take place until 9 o'clock. It lasted until 9-25. The whole of the sky has been just a mass of low grey clouds and it is still so dark (10 a.m.) that the dawn might be just breaking. I do not know if any part of Singapore is on fire now. Since the small hours, Singapore has been shelling the Japs at Johore and being shelled in return. Pray God the enemy may not make the causeway before we can escape from this place. At about 11 o'clock this morning, I heard the telephone ring. I rushed to it in a panic lest the ringing should cease. Such was my anxiety and excitement that with trembling hands I lifted the receiver to my ear. That sixth sense so often heard of had told me what to expect. It was Hugh. "Tell Edna to be ready to leave for Ceylon at 7 p.m. tonight". It was the gladdest sound I had heard for years. Hardly had Hugh stopped speaking when the grim wail of the "alert" sounded, but the tone did not strike me with such terror, for, thank God, we can leave Singapore at last!

We had a raid to-day from 11-10 to 11-55 and another from 2-30 until 3-15 p.m. and when we came up at 3-15 I fervently hoped and prayed we had used our shelter for the last time.

THE STORY OF HENDALA*

(Continued from page 133 of the issue for April 1943).

Among the list of Government Students educated in the Bengal Medical College, Calcutta, as graduates were Thomas Gill and L. A. Evarts, who both served in the Ceylon Medical Department and retired as Medical Superintendents, Hendala.

I understand Dr. Joseph Sansoni, possibly one of the ancestors of the Sansonis of Negombo, was also at one time in charge of the Hendala Asylum, but unfortunately records of work done before Dr. Meier's time are not available, these either having been lost or destroyed by white ants.

Dr. Meier's successors were Dr. Collin Heynsbergh and Dr. R. Pestonjee. The latter was severely assaulted by some of the patients in trying to maintain order and discipline, and it was during the period of Major Pestonjee's service of 20 years, three of which were spent on war service, that it was considered necessary to build a high wall round the Asylum and have a Police Station established within the premises in order to prevent absconding, the sale of illicit liquor, and the introduction of prohibited drugs and articles. It was during the period of Dr. Pestonjee's services, too, that the Franciscan Sisters were appointed to take over the nursing of the lepers.

The only easy method then of access to the Asylum was by ferry-boat from Mutwal to the Hamilton or Pamunugama Canal, across the mouth of the Kelani River. To-day, there is an excellent road and bridge two miles from the Victoria Bridge on the way to Negombo. I am happy to say that this bridge to Hendala at Hekitta, was constructed by Mr. Mahadeva and completed by the P.W.D. during the period that our present President was the Director of Public Works, Ceylon.

An Ordinance for the compulsory segregation of lepers was enacted by Government Ordinance No. 4 of 1901, and Ordinance No. 15 of 1912, and the Medical Superintendent was invested with Judicial powers (J.P., U.M.). Dr. Sivasithamparam, who succeeded Dr. Pestonjee, was Medical Superintendent of the Institution for three years, and I took charge from him in June 1932. At the time there were over 500 patients, and in the following year the number had risen considerably. It was therefore thought necessary by Government to take some action and in 1933, at the suggestion of Dr. Rupert (now Sir Rupert) Briercliffe, D.M. and S.S., Dr. Robert Cochrane, who was Hon. Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, was appointed to report on the incidence of the disease in Ceylon. Subsequently with the assistance of Drs. Sam de Simon and A. C. Fernando, both of whom had received a special training under him in India, a Leprosy Survey was undertaken.

This Survey showed that certain areas of Colombo, viz. Mutwal and Slave Island, Welligama in the Southern Province, and Kalmunai Dis-

* A paper read by Dr. Frank Bartholomeusz before the D.B.U. Literary Circle on 25th January, 1943.

trict in the Eastern Province, were chiefly susceptible to Leprosy. Particularly distressing was the discovery of leprotic infection amongst children.

Since then, a campaign against Leprosy has been established, and with the development of a public health conscience and better sanitary measures in the villages they have materially assisted in the control of this disease. Previously, every case detected as Leprosy by the officers of the Department were "shunted" into Hendala, but at present home isolation is being given to many and only "open" or infective cases are segregated.

Here, I might relate an incident that took place during the temporary absence of the Medical Superintendent. It was reported to the authorities that one of two brothers in a family in the Kalutara District was suffering from Leprosy, and according to the regulations two Doctors had to certify that the suspect was a leper before the P.C.M.O. could authorise H.E. the Governor to have the leper sent for segregation at Hendala. The suspect was seen by the D.M.O. of Kalutara who certified him a leper. The A.G.A. Kalutara had instructed the Police Headman of the village to produce the leper before the second Doctor who was then the Provincial Surgeon, W.P., Colombo.

Unfortunately, the Police Headman of the village was ill at the time, and his duties were being attended to by the Headman of the neighbouring village, who was not quite acquainted with the villagers in which he was acting as *locum tenens*. On receiving the order from the A.G.A. Kalutara that he should produce the leper before the P.S., W.P. at Colombo on the day and hour specified, the Acting Headman went to the village, enquired for the leper, and had him removed to Colombo. The brothers had arranged that the afflicted one, who had some lands to cultivate and monies to receive, should remain at home, and that the healthy brother should give himself up in his brother's place, volunteer to go to Colombo, and appear before the Provincial Surgeon.

The so-called leper was produced by the Acting Headman before the Provincial Surgeon, who enquired from him his name and whether he had been examined by D.M.O. Kalutara, to which he replied in the affirmative, and acting on this information the Provincial Surgeon appended his signature to the reports and had him removed to Hendala. The Hendala authorities had some suspicion that it was not a genuine case of Leprosy, but expressed no contrary opinion. Subsequently, however, the plot was revealed when a number of petitions was sent to A. G. A. Kalutara, and the real leper was found to be in hiding. The Police on a Magisterial Warrant arrested him, the Acting Headman lost his job, and all the actors in this episode are now dead.

It has been approved by Government that a third Hospital for Lepers be opened at an early date at Urugaha in the Southern Province in order to relieve the overcrowding at Hendala for within 25 acres of land there are at present 850 Lepers, (700 men and 150 women.) In my opinion, this new institution should have sufficient land for Agricul-

ture, and should be on the Cottage System. Such a Colony would have the following advantages :—

- (1) It would relieve the supervision of patients.
- (2) It would bring contentment, and foster a feeling of responsibility.
- (3) It would change their status from outcasts to honourable citizens.
- (4) It would encourage those who are keen on Art, Music, Literature etc, to cultivate a hobby.
- (5) It would increase good fellowship and camaraderie and help in the building of team work and character.

It took me many years to evoke the hearing of Government and convince the authorities that "Occupational Therapy" was an integral part in the treatment and cure of Leprosy. I was able during the ten years of my administration to provide work such as Weaving, Pottery, Rattaning, Gardening and Carpentry, and those who visited Hendala have realised that it is only by a thorough change in their attitude towards Lepers that their plight can be improved. At the beginning of 1942 I was able to obtain from the A. G. A. (Emergency), Gampaha, Vegetable Seeds, Manioc, and Sweetpotato cuttings. Plots were laid out by the patients, the seeds and cuttings planted, and I am pleased to say that the results of the food production drive were very satisfactory. Other activities in Hendala were the Scout movement amongst the youth, the Dramatic Union which staged several plays, and the Leper Band for which we are grateful to Mr. Pippet, S. P., W. P., who supplied us with several instruments.

The Colombo Ladies' League, Too H, and many generous people amongst the Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims have taken a kindly interest and several amongst the public have sent Magazines and Books. The Local Press too send the daily editions of their papers to the patients, who have a well fitted Reading Room and Library. The Institution has also a good Wireless Set and several loud speakers connected to the Wards, so that they could listen in from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo, who organises the annual treat, at his first visit in 1939 commented on the institution being called "an Asylum" and subsequently the name was altered to "Leprosy Hospital" by the State Council in 1940.

The annual garden competition and treat to the patients as a rule takes place on the second Saturday of January, and the flower gardens are then at their best. H. E. The Governor (Sir Andrew Caldecott) visited the gardens two successive years with the Bishop, and commended highly the flowers grown by the patients. The Hospital has also a leper boutique started about 20 years ago by Dr. Pestonjee with a capital of Rs. 30/-. To-day that capital has increased to Rs. 7000/-, and I doubt whether any Co-operative movement or Society in this Island could show a better result. Each patient is given 2½ cents a day or 75 cents a month as a good conduct allowance, and this sum is uti-

lised by the patients in purchasing betel, tobacco, plantains, soap, powder and all other articles they need from the boutique. The boutique is in charge of a leper who employs two assistants, and out of the profits of the boutique a sum of Rs. 20/- per mensem is paid to the Boutique Keeper, his Assistant, and Librarian as their salary. On an average the profits of the boutique amount to Rs. 50/- per mensem.

A Recreation Room for the patients was long wished for, and now with a recent donation of Rs. 2000/- from the late Mr. Lindsay White, and a legacy of Rs. 275/- from the late Mrs. Dias Abeyesinghe, this building will shortly be started by my successor Dr. de Simon.

Ten years ago, Hendala and its neighbourhood was so to speak, in cimmerian darkness, but with the extension of buildings, electricity has taken the place of coconut and kerosene oil. We avail ourselves of electricity not only for lighting but utilise it in our new electric Kitchen and Laundry, and Mr. Algernon Martin, electrical engineer, has invented a labour saving device in the form of an electric coconut scraper, and promises if funds are given him, to construct an electric curry grinder.

And now after this review, having given you an account of my stewardship, you may well ask me what of the future? It is generally recognised in any disease that an improvement in health follows an improvement in the mental outlook of the patient. The victim of Leprosy deserves our sympathy, but much more, he requires understanding, and the mentality of the majority of the lepers is a subject for the Psychologist! It is natural for lepers to seek liberty in spite of the close watch kept on them by the Police, a Supervisor, and six guards, and who like other human beings are not chafed by confinement, particularly when that confinement is compulsory?

Being exiled from their families and Society, it is necessary therefore to do as much as we can to make them contented and happy, and here I would pay my tribute of thanks to the Board of Visitors appointed by the Hon'ble the Minister of Health, to the many doctors who were friendly colleagues, to the minor staff of the Institution, and particularly to the Mother Superior and the Franciscan sisters for their devoted and unselfish service. I may here add that all religious communities are provided with places of worship. I endorse the view held by Leprologists that the patients should be given larger employment, and be engaged in productive labour, and if vegetable gardening, animal husbandry, poultry rearing, weaving, carpentry and other industrial occupation can be given them, the colony may be made self-supporting.

With the present establishment of Leprosy Clinics, and proper leprosy control, the ports and harbours to our Island being safe-guarded from India, to which land many have been repatriated of recent date, I am hopeful that 50 years hence the incidence of Leprosy in Ceylon will have declined, and possibly by the end of that period the disease will have been exterminated.

(Concluded)

AN ACCOUNT OF CEYLON.

By THOMAS PENNANT.

(Continued from page 113 of the issue for January 1943).

Crocodiles are very common in Ceylon, and sometimes are found of the length of eighteen feet.

The *Lacerta Calotes* is a singular lizard, with a serrated back.

The *Lacerta Iguana* is common to both the Indies, and grows to the length of five or six feet; its flesh is eaten, and thought to be medicinal.

The *Lacerta Gekko* is a species justly dreaded for the poison, which exudes even from the ends of its toes, and which infects, to a degree of fatality, anything it passes over; its urine and saliva are equally dangerous; its voice, which is acute, like that of a cricket, flings a whole company into consternation. The Indians obtain from it a deadly poison for their arrows. They tie one of these animals pendent by the tail, and provoke it till it emits its deadly saliva on the point of the weapons, which kill with the slightest wound. This dreadful reptile seldom attains a foot in length.

The *Draco Volans*, the animal which bears the dreadful name of Dragon, is no more than an innocent little lizard, furnished with membranes, extending along the sides in form of wings, with which it makes short flights from tree to tree, chirruping as it goes. Beneath its chin is a long slender appendage; the tail is very long and slender, but the length of the whole creature is not more than nine inches; and this is the only animal that bears really the form feigned by poets and writers of romance for that of the tremendous dragon.

The insects of Ceylon are of uncommon sizes: scorpions have been found there eight inches long, exclusive of the legs; *Scolopendras* seven inches in length; and of spiders, the *Aranea avicularia*, Seb. mus. i, tab. 69, with legs four inches long, and the body covered with thick black hair, a species that makes a web strong enough to entangle the smaller species of birds, on which it feeds.

The hare of Ceylon differs in no respect from the English hare.

The crested porcupine, No. 314, is an animal of this island. A bezoar is sometimes found in its stomach: the reign of its pretended *Alexipharmic* qualities is now over. Tavernier gave five hundred crowns for one, which he sold to advantage. It is a mere concretion like the human calculus, and of course of no kind of effect.

The white legged squirrel, ii. p. 139. Var. a. is a variety of the common squirrel.

The Ceylonese squirrel, or *Dandoelana*, Ind. Zool. tab. i. is remarkable for being three times the size of our squirrel, and having a tail twice as long as its body.

The palm squirrel, No. 346, lives much in the coco trees, and is very fond of the *Sury*, or wine extracted from the palms.

The perfuming shrew, No. 424, is a native of this and others of the Indian isles. Its musky odour is so subtil, as to pervade everything it runs over. It will totally spoil the wine in a well-corked bottle, by barely passing over the surface.

The two-toed sloth, No. 251, and Wolf 181, is common to Ceylon, India, and South America.

The short-tailed manis, No. 460, inhabits this island.

The talgoi is a species of ant-bear, or eater; we cannot ascertain the species, unless it be the same with the Cape, No. 466. A Mr. Strachan, in the Ph. Trans. Abr. v. 180, gives an account of one found in this island, with the same manners as the others, of its laying its slimy tongue before the ants' nest, and pulling it into its mouth as soon as it finds it covered with those insects. If it is not the same it is a new species. In the *Faunula Indica* I have made two, this and the *Obscure*.*

The cordated bat, No. 499, with its heart-shaped appendage to the nose; and the striped, or *Kiriwoula*, No. 507, inhabit Ceylon. The monstrous species called the Ternate is very frequent here.

The manati I have mentioned at page 183, and the water elephant seems no more than the dugung, No. 469.

Many of the above mentioned animals are, in all probability, common to the continent of India, and doubtlessly many more which have escaped the notice of travellers: there is all the appearance of Ceylon having been united with the continent; and that the gulph of Mannar was once solid land. The Maldives, and Laccadives, seem likewise to have been fragments of the once far extended continent.

Birds, which have the locomotive power so strongly in their formation, have a less chance to be local than the preceding class. The ornithology of my friend Latham, is as unerring a guide, as human imperfection can produce. In respect to the birds, I shall here, and elsewhere, only point out those on whom nature hath impressed any characters worthy of philosophic attention.

To shun prolixity, I avoid giving (in general) descriptions of either beasts or birds. In respect to the first, I refer entirely to the third edition of my *History of Quadrupeds*, in which I flatter myself the reader will find them amply treated. As to the general enumeration of birds, it will be found at page 67 of my *Indian Zoology*, with reference to Mr. Latham; or in cases where any species are common to Great Britain, to the *British Zoology*. The list of the known quadrupeds of India, its fishes, reptiles and insects, are also given in the same work.

There are several sorts of falcons in this island, many of which are trained for the pursuit of game. There is a white species, with an elegant pendant crest of two feathers. My friend Mr. Loten, long

* Doctor Thunberg, iv. p. 178, mentions a species, but leaves it undescribed.

governor in Ceylon, could not give any account of any part excepting the head.

The black and white, *Ind. Zool.* tab. ii. is a small kind, pied like a magpie. The small brown hawk, in *Brown's Illustr.* 6, tab. iii, is another found here.

Wolf speaks of a white hawk, which is, with the Malabars, a kind of augury, for if they see him fly over their heads in a morning they will not that day either undertake a journey, or any business of moment. This may be perhaps the species with white crest.

Among birds of elegance of colour may be mentioned, the *Indian Roller*, Edw. 326, and the swallow—tail'd, 327, with its two singular external feathers in the tail, of vast length.

Among the grotesque birds may be reckoned the two species of *Buceros* or horn-bill; the *Rhinoceros*, Edw. 281, called from the singular recurvated accessory beak, by the Dutch, *Dubbeld Bek*; and the *wreathed*, Latham i, p. 358, called in Ceylon the *Year Bird*, being supposed to have annually an addition of a wreath to its bill. They make a great noise when they fly, and have a sluggish flight, perch on the highest trees, feed on berries, and are reckoned very sweet food.

The golden oriole, *Br. Zool.* ii. App. 626, is an European bird, is called in India the mango bird, from its feeding on the fruit of that tree. The bee-eater *Merops Apiaster*, and the greater redstart, Latham, i. p. 176, are also common to India.

The fasciated Curucui, *Ind. Zool.* tab. iv. and the spotted, *Brown's Illustr.* tab. xiii, are elegant birds from Mr. Loten's collection, as is the *Zeylan Barbet*, and the red crown'd, *Brown's Illustr.* Tab. xiv, xv.

The red-headed cuckoo forms the 5th plate of my *Indian Zoology*, as does the red-wing'd wood-pecker, tab. vi. Mr. Latham gives another, ii. 580 under the name of the *Ceylon*.

The European hoopoe is frequent there. I may say that our common nut-hatch, and creeper, the wheat-ear, the wry-neck, the yellow wren, the house swallow, the wood-cock, and the snipe, are also natives of India. The creepers of this island, the *Ceylon*, Latham, ii, 712, and the Lotenian, 715, and the green-gold, 716, are elegant little birds.

Knox mentions a small green parrot found in Ceylon, but not remarkable for its loquacity. The Romans were very fond of the parrot kind, which they must have had from the eastern side. The Indians (*Barbari*) profited of this passion and made them an article of commerce. The Wedas are most skilful archers, and probably do the same.

These birds inhabit the forests, in which, says Solinus, C 65, the trees were so lofty, that they were beyond the reach of the arrows aimed at their inhabitants. Parrots were esteemed by the Indians as sacred, particularly by the Brachmans.*

The yellow-crown'd thrush, *Brown's Illustrd.* tab. xxii. is kept here in cages, and is remarkable for its powers of mimicking every note that is whistled to it.

* Aelian, de Nat. An. lib. xiii., c. 18.

It is impossible not to mention the tailor bird, *Indian Zoology* tab. viii, a warbler; on account of its wonderful nest; my own account of its oeconomy, taken from the *Indian Zoology*, page 44, deserves attention. It is thus introduced:—

Had Providence left the feathered tribe unendowed with any particular instinct, the birds of the torrid zone would have built their nests in the same unguarded manner as those of Europe: but there, the lesser species, having a certain prescience of the dangers that surround them, and of their own weakness, suspend their nest at the extreme branches of the trees: they are conscious of inhabiting a climate replete with enemies to them and their young; with snakes that twine up the bodies of the trees, and apes that are perpetually in search of prey; but heaven instructed, they elude the gliding of the one, and the activity of the other.

The brute creation in the torrid zone, are more at enmity with one another, than in other climates; and the birds are obliged to exert unusual artifice in placing their little broods out of the reach of an invader. Each aims at the same end, though by different means. Some form their pensile nest in shape of a purse, deep, and open at top; others, with a hole in the side; and others, still more cautious, with an entrance at the very bottom, forming their lodge near the summit.

But the little species we describe, seems to have greater diffidence than any of the others; it will not trust its nest even to the extremity of a slender twig, but makes one more advance to safety, by fixing it to the leaf itself.

It picks up a dead leaf, and, surprising to relate, sews it to the side of a living one, its slender bill being its needle, and its thread some fine fibres; the lining, feathers, gossamer, and down. Its eggs are white: the colour of the bird, light yellow; its length three inches; its weight only three-sixteenths of an ounce; so that the materials of the nest, and its own size, are not likely to draw down a habitation that depends on so slight a tenure.

Two fly-catchers, of uncommon form, attract the eyes of all strangers: small birds, with tails of enormous length, darting through the air like arrows. Both are engraved by Mr. Edwards, one in tab. 113, of a black and white colour, with a cuneiform tail; the other with a rufous back and tail, and two feathers exceeding the others in length by near nine inches.

As these are remarkable for the length of their tails, a pie, engraved by Mr. Edwards, in tab. 324, is distinguished for the brevity of that part, and also for the beauty of its colors. Linnaeus calls it *Corvus Brachyurus*.

Swallows (I do not know the species) never quit Ceylon.

(To be continued)

NOTES OF EVENTS.

Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee, 16th April, 1943:—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. L. M. Anthonisz. (2) Mr. C. L. Beling's suggestion that the Secretaries of Standing Committees should give short talks on Thursday evenings so as to keep members informed of the activities of the Union was approved. (3) The following were admitted as members:—Messrs. I. C. Meier, R. L. de Kretser, D. D. Jansz, L. F. R. Nell, G. Hepponstall, H. A. Wakker, C. Sybesma, G. van Berkel and Dr. G. H. Arndt. *Re-enrolled:*—Messrs. E. L. Ephraums, H. L. Dirckze, and J. Leembruggen.

18th May, 1943:—(1) It was decided that there should be normally two organised members' evenings a month (on the first and third Thursdays), one subscription dance at which guests would be permitted (on a Saturday evening but not in the same week as an organised members' evening), while the other Thursdays should be regarded as members' evenings but be observed informally. (2) The Honorary Treasurer reported that Rs. 500 had been received from the Public Assistance Committee of the Colombo Municipal Council, and that the concert held in April had brought in about Rs. 375. (3) Mr. C. A. Speldewinde reported that it was proposed to organise a Dutch Class for children between the ages of 10 and 12. (4) It was decided to recommend to the Finance Committee the grant of a donation of Rs. 100 or more to the C. E. de Vos Memorial Fund for a Boys' Home at Galle. (5) Mr. J. R. Toussaint having expressed his inability to continue to edit the Bulletin, Mr. R. L. Brohier was appointed Editor, with a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. L. E. Blazé, C. L. Beling and W. J. F. LaBrooy to assist him. (6) A Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Mr. E. A. vanderStraaten, the Treasurer, and the Secretary was appointed to consider the rules bearing on the eligibility of Secretaries of Standing Committees to serve on the General Committee, and to recommend any amendments if necessary for consideration at the next Annual General Meeting. (7) Mrs. R. B. Beling, Mr. A. W. Beven, Miss B. M. Ochrstoffelsz, Messrs. H. J. Gerlach, A. Visscher, A. F. Blouwer, B. J. A. de Kock, J. L. Verhoex, N. Mozer, and E. C. Knuppelt were admitted as members.

15th June, 1943:—(1) Arising out of the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to review the activities of the Union, it was decided to celebrate Founder's Day in October this year, a Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Messrs. C. L. Beling, L. E. Blazé, R. L. Brohier, F. M. Keegel, A. J. Martin, C. A. Speldewinde, J. R. Toussaint, and Dr. V. R. Schokman (with power to add to their number) being appointed to make recommendations for the purpose. It was further decided to recommend to the Entertainment Committee the formation of a Choral, Dramatic, and Concert Group Party (to be financed if necessary out of the Entertainment Fund), and to consider the Report generally at the November meeting of the General

Committee. (2) Mr. C. A. Speldewinde reported that the Education Committee had decided to award two prizes in Sinhalese for competition among Burgher children with a view to encouraging the study of Sinhalese by them in school. He also reported that a member of the Union had promised prizes for Dutch or the Dutch period of Ceylon history. (3) It was decided that in view of the shortage of paper, no notices should be sent out regarding meetings of Standing Committees except in the case of the Genealogical Committee. (4) Mr. C. L. Beling's motion that provision be made in the rules of the Union for the formation of local branches in outstations was adopted, and a Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Dr. V. H. L. Anthoniz, Messrs. L. E. Blazé, F. W. E. de Vos, G. H. Gratiaen, C. C. Schokman, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, with Mr. C. L. Beling as Convener was appointed to draft rules for the purpose. (5) On the suggestion of Dr. V. R. Schokman, it was decided that the rule prohibiting the parking of chauffeur-driven cars in the Union grounds be relaxed in favour of members' cars, except on special occasions.

D. B. U. JOURNAL

Subscriptions to the D.B.U. Journal for the period 1st July 1943 to 30th June 1944 are now due. Those who have not yet paid their subscription are kindly requested to forward it as early as possible to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya.