

## BOOK REVIEW.

"A History of the Diocese of Colombo". Edited by F. Lorenz Beven, Archdeacon Emeritus.

This book is of special interest to us in view of the references in it to the methods alleged to have been employed by the Dutch in Ceylon for propagating their creed. The writer of the Chapter on this subject reviews the policies adopted by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English, and in regard to the Dutch he states, on the authority of Cordiner, that "they practically held out to the heathen inhabitants of Ceylon certain privileges as a reward for their adoption of the Christian religion, or, to put it more bluntly, they were invited to abandon their own religion in return for their being given posts or advantages in the service of the Government."

Nearly every writer on Ceylon since Cordiner has adopted this point of view, in some cases going even further than Cordiner. For a long time Cordiner's statement remained unchallenged, but in recent years there has been a tendency to question its accuracy. One writer has advanced the view that high places under the Dutch Government were given to Christians, not because of the religion they professed, but because Christians were the most trustworthy to be placed in high office. Another writer takes even higher ground, and states that careful investigation has shewn that no proclamation to the effect alleged was ever issued by the Dutch.

The editor of the work we are reviewing, with strict impartiality, presents both sides of the question, and as if to be scrupulously fair to the Dutch, quotes an extract from Bishop Heber's Journal in which the religious zeal of the Dutch is contrasted with the more easy-going methods of the British.

A good deal of space is devoted to the Wolvendaal Church Controversy, in which certain members of the Sinhalese Episcopal congregation claimed the free and undisturbed use of the Wolvendaal Church. This claim was stoutly resisted by the Wolvendaal Church Consistory, and the Secretary of State, to whom the matter was duly referred, did not see his way to uphold the claim.

Apart from matters relating to the Dutch, the work contains much that is of general interest, and Archdeacon Beven and his collaborators are to be congratulated on producing a book of such lasting value.

# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



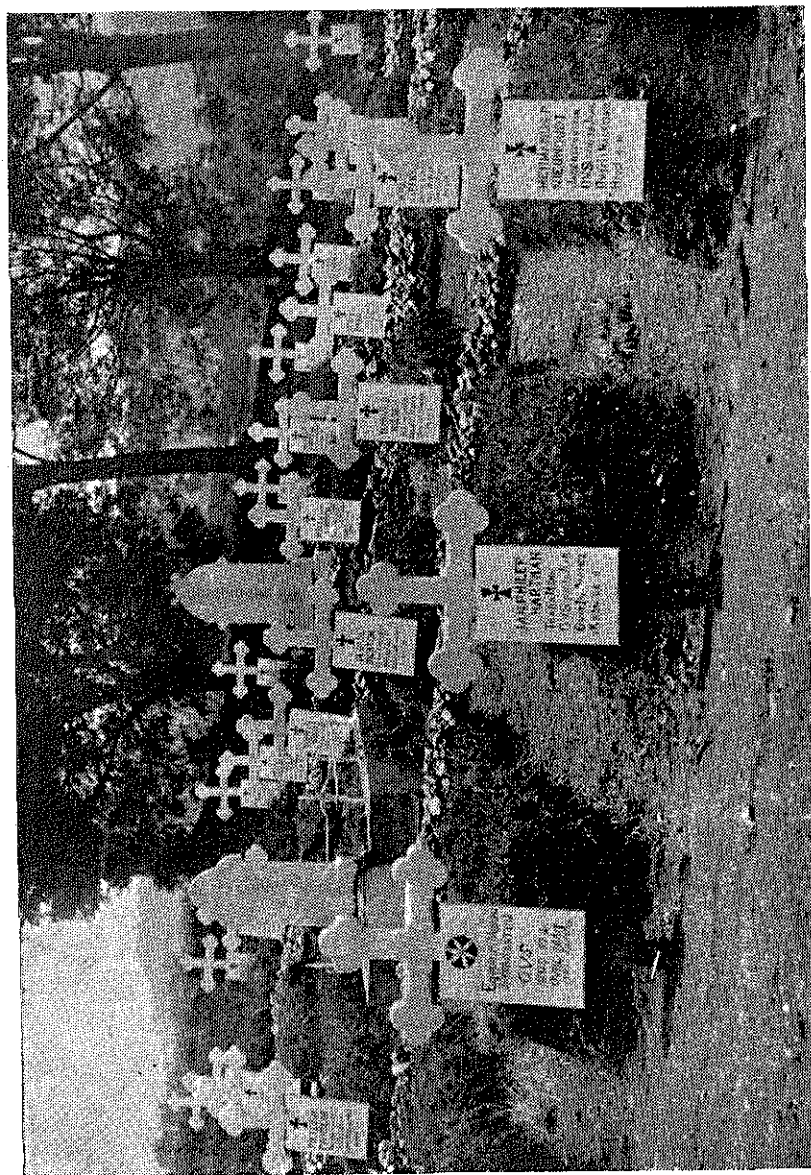
"Eendracht maakt Macht"

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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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A FEW OF THE BOER GRAVES IN DIYATALAWA.

# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

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[No. 4

## AN EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The Ceylonisation of the Services, both Government and Mercantile, is proceeding so rapidly that it behoves us to see that we are not left behind in the general scramble for employment. Within recent years new Departments have been created in which specialised knowledge is required, while in the old Departments new and up-to-date methods are being employed. This means that the old paths have to be forsaken and new knowledge acquired, but this cannot be done overnight. It calls for intensive and systematic study covering a period of years, and those who would aspire to office under the new conditions must make up their minds at an early age as to what line of study they intend to pursue. A University Degree will in future be an indispensable qualification for appointments for which less glittering academical distinctions have hitherto been regarded as sufficient, and we must not be satisfied, as we have been in the past, with giving our children the barest education and sending them out into the world to fend for themselves, for there will be nothing left for them but the crumbs.

There are many difficulties in the way of a youth's deciding on a career, the chief of them being the lack of authoritative information regarding the curriculum for the various examinations, the times when they are held, the scale of fees payable, the prospects of employment on qualifying, etc. Except in the case of law and medicine, the conditions governing which are well-known, particulars regarding the other courses are usually only published in the Government Gazette not more than twice, and only attract the notice of those on the look out for them. It is therefore only the discerning few who are able to choose careers which, offer opportunities for advancement, and which, if more widely known would be taken advantage of by those who have a special aptitude for them.

What is required is an organization whose duty it will be to collect all available information regarding every avenue of employment, both Government and Mercantile, which our youths might with advantage enter. Such an organization, which would consist of purely voluntary workers, should be in a position to offer advice and guidance, and should also enjoy the confidence and good-will of mercantile employers, who would look to such an organization as a recognised body to whom to ap-

ply for assistance, if necessary, in filling vacancies. The Employment Bureau, or by whatever other name it is called, should consist of outstanding members of the Community, with a sprinkling of younger men who will be more in touch with present-day conditions, and who will be able to impart the necessary drive. This is only the bare outline of a scheme we have in mind, which we think should be given effect to as early as possible, if we are to be represented at all in the higher walks of life, which will more largely, if not exclusively, be filled by Ceylonese in future.



## THE BOER PRISONER-OF-WAR IN CEYLON (1900—1902).

By R. L. BROHIER, F.R.G.S.

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(Continued from our last issue)

### VI.

#### The Guards of the Boer Camps, and Escapees.

The military guard for the Diyatalawa Camp was originally furnished by the 2nd King's Royal Rifles and some of the Gloucesters. The latter had left half their battalion behind in South Africa at the minor disaster of Nicholson's Nek.

In the last days of 1900, the King's Royal Rifles went over to India and were replaced by the 2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry or the D. C. L. I. as they were called for short. Coming as they did direct from one of the hottest stations in Bengal, and with many of their men saturated with Dum-dum fever, the change to a hill sanitarium did not prove to be unaccompanied by trouble as their bill of ill-health showed. Although the battalion of "Cornwalls" was over 800 strong, their effective parade strength was consequently much less. The guard at Ragama was composed of 50 N. C. Os and men of the Gloucesters. The barracks and guard centres of the British troops at Diyatalawa were picturesquely situated on five selected eminences surrounding and overlooking the barbed-wire barrier of the Boer encampment. It may well be said from impressions of British military routine which is fresh in most memories that the duty of officers and men by night as well as by day was no sinecure. The toil was not arduous, but their numbers were small compared with the 5000 stalwart adults who had to be kept in captivity, and among whom not a few were restless and adventurous.

Normally, the routine of mounting guard, or even the lighter one of sitting down with loaded rifle at corners of the sports ground, watching the Boers playing football or cricket, but ready for any emergency must have proved dull. Occasionally, there was excitement, as happened one day when over an altercation between a Boer captive and a private of the Gloucesters, the machine-gun posts on the hills surrounding the encampment were hurriedly manned to check a possible break-out; or when a Boer tried to escape over the double fence of barbed wire between the sentries and guard-huts.

There were in all 22 cases of escapes made by the "prisoners"; of these 20 were recaptured in the immediate vicinity of the camps. The remaining two were arrested at Rangoon. Besides the five guard-huts immediately outside the barrier at Diyatalawa, there were further out on the hills several thatched huts, each on an eminence, and with a flagstaff from which a white flag floated. In the event of an escape, a

red flag was run up instead as soon as news of it reached these outer guard posts. The flags were replaced by lamps at night. The signals were familiar to every labourer in the camp, and villager in the neighbourhood. It meant a reward of fifty rupees for every recapture, or news which led to one.

There was an attempt at tunnelling out, which proved to others who contemplated this method of escape the hopelessness of the process. A "prisoner" was shot dead by a sentry while attempting one night to get through the wires in a dark corner. The general impression which this attempt gave rise to was that the "prisoner" was endeavouring to creep on the sentry and secure his rifle and ammunition.

In the early months these attempts at escape by those who were weary of duance were fairly common. The successful way they evaded the vigilance of the sentries was by bravely coming out in open day, behaving very ordinarily, and assuming a parole if they did not have it. The unsuccessful way was to 'make tracks' cross-country, hiding in the grass thickets and ribbons of forests peculiar to the country round Diyatalawa, evading the hue and cry which their absence had raised, and the numerous self-constituted and armed bands of local village scouts which the promise of reward had let loose. As the fugitive generally carried a scanty supply of provisions and was afraid to venture into the more extensive stretches of forests, he was often recaptured within a few days.

Two prisoners-of-war, German mercenaries named Reishardt and Perschland, did it in the right way. They donned their best clothes, made believe they were on parole, and boldly walked out past the sentries who were accustomed to considerable freedom of action on the part of their charges. They went to the railway station and took First Class tickets to Colombo. At tiffin time, they calmly entered the refreshment-car and enjoyed a meal in the company of two Government officials of high standing, who sat unsuspectingly at the same table and found their stories and conversation most entertaining. They reached Colombo unquestioned, and their interesting progress "down" was all that the authorities were able to discuss for a time. Nobody was able to find out how actually they got away from this Island. All they admitted when arrested on suspicion at Rangoon was that they had given false names and declined to give their real ones.

Chief Inspector Ancel Collette and two European Sergeants were despatched to Rangoon by the local police authorities when news in connection with this arrest was made known to them. But apparently the Civil Government had bungled. This was a case for the military authorities. The police officers were recalled on instructions by wire, and a Sergeant and private of the King's Rifles were ordered to proceed to Madras whence they were to go over to Rangoon and assist in the military trial.

Two others who were less smart, did it the wrong way. They were W. G. Vanzyl and J. F. Corbett. Hiding by day and wandering seem-

ingly blindly at night, they took three days to reach the fringe of the Ohiya forest. Here they ran out of food and were beaten back by leeches and forced into the open. While on the way to give themselves up to a military patrol, they fell in about 6 miles on the Haputale side of Ohiya with Mr. Sydney Herft, a plate laying inspector and his gang of labourers, who had been notified of the escape of two prisoners-of-war and warned to be on the lookout for the escapees. The Boers, who were very hungry and tired and could hardly walk, made no attempt to evade arrest. They had made the attempt to get away five days earlier at 6 p.m. and hid themselves in the grass not far from the camp. An hour after they had gone past the barrier, they were followed by the Camp Police who passed with their lanterns within a few yards, and failed to see them. There was one other unsuccessful attempt at escape from Diyatalawa which merits notice. In this instance the runaway Boers, named Joseph Johannes Thomasse and Caul Pieter Cronje, were mere, lads, 20 and 18 years of age respectively.

Ragama camp recorded one attempted escape. It did not, however cause the authorities any apprehension of a weak spot in the ingenious alarm system which had been installed. The fact was that the get-away was not made through the barbed wire, wire-netting and electric-alarm entanglement. The escapee was a Frenchman. He was under arrest for insubordination and had been confined in the guard room. A glimpse at his record would have shown two previous attempts to elude the vigilance of the guard at Diyatalawa. They had cost the Government Rs. 100/- in rewards. Being seemingly well versed in the art, he once again succeeded in eluding the sentry at Ragama. Having got as far as the railway line, he made for Colombo.

A boutique keeper of Ragama, happening to see an European minus coat and a shirt walking hurriedly along the rail track at 8 p.m., suspected something amiss. When accosted, the fugitive offered him 300 rupees if he guided him across country to Colombo. Sensing he was a runaway-prisoner-of-war, and anticipating perhaps a bigger reward, the boutique-keeper loudly announced his suspicions, and with the help which seemed to materialise from nowhere hotly pursued the escapee who had taken to his heels.

The runaway, seeing he was 'cornered', showed fight, but eventually submitted to arrest, and found himself soon after being escorted back to the camp by a sergeant and two rankers. He was tried in the camp and sentenced to ninety days' imprisonment. This escapade added to his score, for it cost the Government Rs. 50/- paid to the boutique keeper as reward for effecting the capture, and Rs. 50/- more which was divided between three others who came to his assistance.

Even more thrilling is the story of the escape by five prisoners-of-war on a Sunday night, the 13th of January, 1901, in the Colombo harbour. They had jumped for it and sailed away to a safer and distant port. Three days earlier the steamer s.s. *Catalonia* had berthed in Colombo harbour with 300 Boer captives aboard. The next day 150 of them were lauded and sent to Diyatalawa. In two days the train which conveyed the first contingent was to return for the remainder. There

were five Boers among those left on board who were thinking of but one thing escape.

One of them was William Steyn who had been an officer on General Smuts' staff. He was at Roodeval when the burning of the mails took place, and claims to have set the first light there. When acting as field cornet of the Orange Free States he was ordered in June, 1900, to hold an outlying position against Methuen's and Kitchener's advance. Finding himself surrounded and outnumbered, he surrendered.

Two of the others were his particular friends, Roos who was a school fellow in Heilbron, and Botha whose father was a magistrate of Philippopolis. Haussner, a German, and two brothers named Steytler, who came from the Free States and who had the same designs, were let into the secret and fell in with the plan. One and all were well aware it was no easy matter to get away from the ship. Besides the strong guard of the Gloucester and the vigilance of the ship's staff on board, it was usual when these Boer prisoners-of-war transports arrived to find several launches patrolling the harbour at short intervals of time—day and night. They were fitted with searchlights which were turned on and off to light up the ship-side and sea, and this made the chances of escape, even under cover of darkness, extremely difficult.

The odds against a getaway in daylight were however greater, so they set their plans for the night. Zero hour was to be midnight, or just before the guards were changed. The details of their plan and how they eventually worked out, throw curious sidelights which make a remarkable story. The narrative as told by the leader, Steyn, on his return to his homeland, was given publicity in local papers, and allayed rumours and wild speculation as to how the escape had been effected.

The initial move was to secure a rope and a lifebelt for each one of the escapees. This was accordingly done, and the articles duly secreted. At the appointed time the younger Steytler threw the rope over the side, and donning a lifebelt was the first to let himself down. The noise of falling water from two cocks on the ship's side drowned that of the initial splash. He was soon safely out of range of the look-outs. The elder Steytler, who insisted on following his younger brother, was the next to go. The German, a loud-voiced clumsy individual and a poor swimmer, nearly wrecked their plans. He followed the elder Steytler. The three who got off had decided in daylight to make for a German ship they had spotted out of the forty odd ships in harbour. Steyn and Botha had agreed on a French vessel. In between, a three-funnelled ship which carried a flag with the Russian double-eagle lay berthed. Eventually, twenty minutes before midnight, the leader of the party went over, clad in nothing but a shirt over which he donned his lifebelt. Recounting high-lights in thrills, he tells of his horror on discovering a patrol boat making for the ship's side when he was half way down the rope. Sliding swiftly down, cutting his hands in the process, he reached the water, and in a few seconds, perceiving the patrol almost on him, evaded discovery by diving. Losing sense of direction in the inky darkness he gave up hopes of reaching the French ship, and was beset by a great fear lest he should swim by mistake to some British vessel. Floundering in the sea in the grip of

despair for 2½ hours, he suddenly picked out three great funnels in silhouette on the sky line. Thanking Heaven that here surely was evidence that he was making no mistake, he swam with renewed energy in the direction of the Russian ship.

Very curiously they seemed to be expecting him aboard. A sailor shouting and beckoning cast a rope over the side. Being too exhausted to climb up, he hung on to the end of the rope until two burly Russian sailors seized him, and carried him on to the deck. When he recovered from his exhausted condition, they led him away to the forecabin. To his surprise he found himself confronted there by Botha, the two Steytlers and Haussner. They had all got lost in turn and were carried by the current to the big boat with the three funnels, the Russian Volunteer steamer *Kherson*. The earlier arrivals had given warning that there were other escapees, which accounted for the look-out and the welcome accorded to Steyn. At 3 o'clock in the morning the *Kherson* weighed anchor and was steaming out of Colombo harbour.

Apparently nothing of importance happened until the ship reached Aden, here two British Officers boarded the ship requesting to see the captain. They produced two cablegrams, one from the Ceylon Government, the other from the Russian Consul, indicating that five Boer prisoners-of-war had escaped and that there was reason to believe they were either on board the Russian or the French vessel that had left Colombo before daybreak on the 14th of January.

The captain had made it his business not to contact the escapees, and vehemently pronounced he had not seen any Boer runaways aboard. An insistent demand was made for a search, but who would have thought to look into one of the funnels—the furnaces connected to it were not being used—for five men who had sat precariously, in a fearfully cramped position, on an iron ladder for six hours! Port Said, their next stop, was an international port. Nevertheless, on the advice of the officers, they remained on board, falling in with a plan that they should keep to the ship until they got to Russia, and that they should then make their way across Europe to Holland, and from there back to South Africa.

Proceeding in stages with the same connivance which afforded them safety in Aden, they travelled from Theodosia where they disembarked to St. Petersburg and thence to Berlin. They eventually got to Utrecht, and there met President Kruger, 18 days after he had undergone the operation on his eyes which he had come all that way to stand. "Morgen Kinders" he is recorded to have said greeting them: "is julle die vijf swemmers?" (Good morning children, are you the five swimmers?)

At length they trekked homewards, having travelled half round the world to rejoin their own people. They had it is true provided a nice little problem in international ethics, but this apparently was passed over as just one of so many small incidents of those times.

Steyn speaks of the party as the only five who escaped from Ceylon. He was doubtless unaware of the two who got as far as Rangoon, but were brought back.



## VII

## Spotlight on their Medical History.

The medical history of the South African prisoners-of-war in Ceylon is an interesting part of their story. Before they arrived as captives in Ceylon, the Boers had for 2½ years lived on commando, under conditions which were both arduous and far from sanitary. Quite naturally this had undermined their normal resistance to disease. On arrival many of them were found to be wearied by fatigue of their campaigns. They were also depressed by defeat. Moreover, being used to a free and active life their reaction to confinement and other restraining influences did not improve matters.

All this merely went to prove the enormity of the task which devolved on the preventive and curative branches of the Ceylon Civil Medical Department which was made responsible for the health of the prisoners-of-war camps.

The first cause of anxiety to the medical staff at Diyatalawa camp was a severe outbreak of measles. Statistics show that there were 251 cases and 7 deaths. The disease was introduced into the camp by a prisoner-of-war named J. P. Coetzee, who had arrived in September 1900 and travelled from ship to camp while suffering from measles. Even before the measles epidemic had subsided, the more tragic part of this 18 months of history obtruded itself. Few epidemics in Ceylon proved so ominous as the outbreak of a virulent form of South African enteric fever in Diyatalawa during the early months of its establishment as a camp.

On the 24th of September, 1900, a few cases of fever were traced to a batch of Boer captives which had arrived a fortnight earlier by the transport s. s. *Bavarian*. The infection was traced to some stretcher cases which had been removed direct to the General Hospital at Colombo when this vessel came into port. Kindled by this spark the fever spread like wild fire and in a most alarming manner.

The hospital accommodation for the camp originally consisted of one ward of 25 beds. As rapidly as the situation demanded it, more accommodation was provided, and by mid-November eight additional huts with provision for 282 beds had been converted into hospital wards. These were all located within the area which is in present times the camp of the Survey Department. In addition, to meet the pressing need for yet more accommodation, the two bungalows near the railway station popularly known as the 'A' and 'B' Government Bungalows, were converted into convalescent Wards, and in December another set of temporary buildings were speedily erected for the convalescents from enteric. Moreover, for several months there was a hospital ship "*Atlantian*" in the Colombo Harbour to which the convalescents were sent, besides transfers to Mount Lavinia.

Turning to statistics to glean some idea of the situation, it appears that from the 24th of September to the 31st December, 602 cases of enteric had been treated. There were 50 deaths. The peak was reached

in November when 370 new cases occurred. In December the number dropped to 196, and thereafter steadily declined. The total reckoning was 755 cases and the number of deaths, 68.

On the appearance of the outbreak everything that sanitary Science suggested was daily enforced. Dr. Griffin, Colonial Surgeon, was appointed in charge of this Boer Hospital at its inception. He had two medical officers to assist him, namely Dr. L. A. Prins and Dr. H. de Saram. Early in November, when there was a note of despair in the efforts made to bring the epidemic under control, the direction of affairs was placed in the hands of Dr. T. F. Garvin, Surgeon Superintendent of the General Hospital, Colombo. His first act on taking charge was to press for more professional staff. Dr. V. Van Langenberg, Dr. E. R. Loos and Dr. K. Eapen were accordingly appointed Assistant Medical Officers in addition to the others who had been detailed earlier.

It is unlikely that there is anybody who can realize how much Ceylon and the Boers were indebted to the eminent skill of the superintending physician and the labours of his assistants. It fell to their credit that an epidemic which had occasioned terrible anxiety was first checked, and then brought surely and effectively under complete control, but far indeed from being the least, it was also due to the women who voluntarily came out to Ceylon to nurse the sick Boers. Theirs was a sacrifice purely in the cause of humanity, unsupported by patriotism or the hope of reward.

The devoted nursing in this Boer hospital by "Sister Lucy" and her small staff which consisted of nurses Gregson, von Dadelesen, Gray and Baldwin, had to face the criticism of the blunt Britisher of those times who did not believe in this sort of sacrifice and sentiment. But apparently this did not matter a jot to these good women.

The reader who can remember this generation and contrasts the rigid ideas of late-Victorian times with the robustness of the present decade, will find special pleasure in the following extracts from a letter written by "Sister Lucy" and published in the Ceylon Review of January, 1901 :

"We are working", she wrote, "under Burgher doctors, very decent men. One I like very much. Truly the Boers are very pleasant to nurse. You do not hear bad language or at least very little, and never a bad remark or expression, or even a look so that in all this crowd of men I can safely allow my fair young nurse to go with me".

"Having nursed my own countrymen, alas! the difference is perceptible. How often my young nurses in English hospitals have had to appeal to me. These Boers seem a moral, simple, quaint sort of people, and with little idea of truth, their religion seems so much one of form."

What a vivid period-piece, and how naturally too this older lady, with years behind her and intelligence to sum conditions up, contemplates the perils which beset the pleasant-looking maid who, pre-occupied with good works, engaged herself to nurse the sick in the days of the Boer War.

As for the Boer prisoner-of-war both patient and captive—how trying it must have been for them, cooped up in a circumscribed space seeing their friends sickening and dying before their eyes. Even the Governor, Sir West Ridgeway, testified how they bore their severe trial with patience and fortitude. They had the satisfaction however of seeing their sick comrades accommodated in neatly ordained and comparatively comfortable establishments supplied even with soda-water and lemonade (gigantic luxuries to a sick man) from a Government aerated water manufactory, and ice to cool the fevered which was brought twice daily a distance of 160 miles. They realised that it was good to be a convalescent Boer prisoner-of-war with the prospect of a final spell at Mount Lavinia, looking as they pleased out upon the blue sea or back over a tree-furrowed country and distant hills.

But simple though these Boers proved to be they were not humourless, even on their sick-bed. One of the younger medical officers amused by the guileless good nature of one of his patients, propounded some problem with him on his daily round. One day, he said "I say, old boy, do you know the moon is inhabited?" "Impossible", the old fox replied with his habitual calm. "But have you not heard that your friends, the French, have watched the inhabitants of the moon through the giant telescope at the Paris Exhibition?" "Impossible, my lad," remarked the old Boer, "if the moon were inhabited the English would long ago have tried to annex her!"

It was not the singular misfortune of the Boer alone to face the tragic effects of this epidemic. The health of the camp where the British guard was located continued satisfactory for about a month after the out-break of enteric was first noticed. In mid-October, a soldier reported sick with fever which was diagnosed as enteric. From that time onwards, other cases of a similar nature were admitted at frequent intervals to the Military Hospital. This establishment was maintained as a separate institution. It was staffed by the R. A. M. C. Surgeon Major Manders and Colonel Quill officiating in turn as Senior Medical Officer.

The Revd. R. P. Butterfield, who was serving at the time as Chaplain to the Forces, and was an assiduous visitor to both the Military and Boer Hospitals, helps imagination to picture the calamitous situation in a pithy statement: I got to know the Burial Service by heart".

It is indeed equally pitiful to think of those time-expired British soldiery who paid the supreme penalty. Denied the excitement of active field service they had all the tedium of guard work, and no doubt looked forward as eagerly as the war prisoners they guarded for the day when peace should come. Their military funerals alternated with the constant procession and much greater numbers of Boer burials. While the military Chaplain officiated at the former the funeral services of the latter were conducted for the most part by their own Predicants.

The causation of this outbreak had been traced beyond doubt. The transmission of infection raised a good deal of speculation. Opinion waxed and differed. Some said it was airborne others that it was flyborne. The precautions taken almost ruled out all possibility of water being the source of infection. The pathological aspect of the subject was freely discussed in medical circles, and at a meeting of the local branch of the British Medical Association.

On the subsidence of the epidemic, Dr. F. Keyt and Dr. H. U. Leembruggen replaced their brother officers, de Saram and Eapen. Dr. Van Langenberg left with a draft of convalescents for the camp opened at Mount Lavinia, and Dr. Leembruggen took charge of the hospital at Urugas when that camp was in due course established.

As no more doctors could be spared by the Civil Medical Department, when the Ragama Camp was opened, medical assistance was secured from India. The staff lent in these circumstances included Major Thomson and Capt. Gwynn of the R. A. M. C. and a civil surgeon, Dr. Burch.

The information available discloses very few deaths in the Diyatalawa camp from other diseases. There were only four which occurred in the camp before admission to hospital. One was the result of an assault by a fellow prisoner—a dual with bare fists over some unknown disagreement until one man fell dead; one from gun shot received when attempting to escape; one from cerebral meningitis; and the last from heart disease. A truly remarkable observation made by the medical authorities was the absence of a single instance, or trace of social disease among the prisoners-of-war despite the very free parole which was given them.

Dr. Garvin continued to officiate as Superintendent of the Boer Hospital until the end of 1902, almost up to the time when the camp was practically closed. The earlier epidemic of enteric was followed by a smaller wave about the middle of the succeeding year. It was brought under control without much difficulty. Many an invitation was extended to Dr. Garvin by grateful Boer patients, to visit South Africa. The most pleasing token of appreciation of his labours in the interests of the Government and humanity, was a complimentary dinner given in his honour by his colleagues of the Medical profession, on his return to ordinary routine from Diyatalawa.

## VII.

### Good-bye to "Our Guests".

"What! are our hearts so narrow, that we have  
No tribute for the vanquish'd and the brave?  
Praise for the victor—none for the brave few  
Who fought and bled with Oliver and Roux?  
None for the unquench'd fire that kindles yet

In the proud souls of Botha and de Wet?  
Perish the ungenerous thought! Be this our boast,  
To honour those who all save honour lost.  
Call back the chivalry of long ago,  
And pledge to-night—Our Guest, the fallen foe!"

(*Ext. : from the Prologue recited at the Prize-giving of Kingswood College 8-12-1900*).

On the 31st of May, 1902, terms of peace were finally signed at Pretoria. The Boers at Urugas received the news with acclamation punctuated by such expressions as: "By Jingo, I am glad" or "Hurrah! we're going". The captives in the "foreigners' camp" at Ragama, both from sentiment and conviction, pretended to be unmoved by the news and declared that it did not make much difference to them either way. A large leaven of "Irreconcilables" in the Diyatalawa camp, who looked on their own capture as a minor incident in the contest which they expected would soon be set right, hugged the delusion that the fortunes of war were still in their favour and protested that the "end of the war story" was another British trick! Some of the older ones, in the manner becoming us poor mortals when the silvery hair goes thin on top, resigned themselves to say with hearts that were dead and lips that trembled: "The Lord's will be done".

It was generally believed by the Boer prisoners-of-war that once the war ended they would be transported immediately back to their homes or that they would be free to go whither they pleased. It was impossible to let five thousand men, even if the majority were not absolutely destitute, loose on the Island. South Africa was barred to all who were not prepared to accept the conditions created by the success of British arms, and only those who were prepared to recognise British sovereignty were to be allowed back there. This naturally raised some difficulty.

One month after the peace terms were signed, the following general decisions regarding the disposal of the prisoners-of-war were duly announced: Burghers of the late South African Republic and the late Orange Free State were permitted to proceed to South Africa immediately at their own expense, or to await repatriation as soon as arrangements could be made for their transport. Foreign prisoners-of-war, except those able to produce evidence that they were nationalized Burghers, were not allowed to return to South Africa. They were permitted instead to leave at once at their own expense if they wished to do so, or await repatriation by the Consuls of their respective Governments. All releases were subject to a declaration of allegiance to the British Crown, and in the case of those leaving at their own expense, proof of possessing means of subsistence.

It was also made known that "all rebels will be forwarded to South Africa under the charge of the Captains of the transports by which they are sent, and will be handed over on arrival to the Cape or Natal authorities respectively appointed to receive them".

The "Urugas" Boers, who had earlier signified willingness to take the oath of allegiance, were the first to leave. A suspected outbreak of chicken-pox in the camp gave rise to many fears among the inmates that it might delay their departure. Eight of them had been segregated by Dr. Leembruggen, and this had prompted a hefty son of the veldt to give it as his opinion that "the doctors know no more about chicken-pox than does the man in the moon!" "This sickness which they speak of as chicken-pox," he added "is a sort of prickly heat, and I don't think that any fuss need be made about it". Happily the outbreak was brought under control and did not interfere with the arrangements for the embarkation.

The first batch to leave these shores, numbering about 400, was brought to Colombo from Kosgoda station by a special train. Lieut. Cairncross was the chief of the five officers included in the draft, and the Boers were under no escort beyond the supervisory control of a few non-commissioned officers of the Gloucesters. On arrival at the Fort railway station, they were met by representatives of the Headquarters Military Staff, the General Manager Railways, and the Rev. David Tweed of the Dutch Reformed Church. Their heavy baggage had been sent on ahead and the men merely carried small bundles of their clothes.

A fact most noticeable was the large majority of young men in the party. There were very few who conformed to the common characteristics of the orthodox bearded Boer, namely slouching gait and easy indifferent temper. They were one and all without exception in high glee at their departure, and placed great premium on the fortunate prospect of getting home in the ploughing season, and just at the proper time to "set them on their legs".

There were no demonstrations at the jetty, and their embarkation into five large lighters which conveyed them to the transport *Templemore* was a very quiet ceremony. As they passed up the gangway, one by one, they were carefully counted and checked off. Dr. H. U. Leembruggen accompanied these prisoners to South Africa in the capacity of Medical Officer.

Nearly a month later, on the 7th of August to be exact, a second batch of 400 Boers left Ceylon by the transport "*Englishman*". In keeping with what happened on the previous occasion, the embarkation was carried out as quietly as possible. This draft too was primarily composed of prisoners-of-war from Urugas, only 33 of them having been drawn from Diyatalawa. There were as many as 26 officers, who wore the distinguishing mark of a red *puggerie* on their headgear, and included, among others, Commandant Joubert (a son of the late Commander-in-chief of the Boer Army), Von Mall, Crowther, H. P. Steyn, J. M. de Beer, J. Raux, Van Mallitz (India), John Stuyt (India), F. Broll, J. H. Meiring (India), Field Cornet Heyns, C. A. Van Zyl, P. de Ploey, Horak and Muller. The majority were Free Staters who had farms of their own. Their affluence was reflected by the character of the kit that each man carried—cameras and kodaks being greatly in evidence.



The 800 departures in two batches might have seemed a large number, and people found it hard to realise that there were yet 4000 prisoners-of-war to leave these shores. The difficulty lay with the 'irreconcilables' at Diyatalawa. A few leaders were holding out against signing the declaration in order to secure an advertisement for themselves, and they knew they could depend on the feelings of the more unintelligent Boers for their trade. They and their sympathisers sturdily declined to purchase their freedom by an oath or declaration which recognised King Edward as their sovereign.

There was no slackening in the efforts made by their own leaders to induce their irritable and captious countrymen to show sound sense by submitting to the regime of the victor, however painful it may appear. General Raux intimated to them he had acquiesced in the terms of peace and suggested that they too should submit to the inevitable. General Olivier had done likewise. Besides these appeals made locally, many copies of an outspoken letter in Dutch which had recently been addressed to the irreconcilables in India by their leaders, Botha, De Wit, De-la-Rey and others, had been freely circulated.

The situation caused by this obstructive attitude gave rise to little hope of clearing the Boer camp for some time to come. In fact, the Army Service Corps seemed to be thinking on these lines too. They were inviting tenders for supplies and services to the camp for a year longer.

However, in reality this delay in bringing the recalcitrants to reason was of some advantage. Their own land undergoing a change of Government was not quite prepared to receive them, and even if the conditions on veldt and farm justified the sudden dumping down on them of thousands, more or less in want, from other lands where they had been held captive, the means of transport were not readily available.

Whenever a ship did turn up to take them away there was a rush to sign the declaration, but that did not relieve the authorities of the problem of the Boer who in the interim period between the arrival of ships had agreed to do so. Their life in camp among their erstwhile comrades was a perfect misery, subjected to intimidation, derision and insults leading to most unpleasant situations. It was in this sequence of affairs that Urugas was converted into a "clearance camp" for those whose spirits had been softened towards their captors and guards and thus merited priority in the scheme of repatriation.

The third ship to carry away a contingent of prisoners-of-war was the British chartered transport s.s. *Lake Manitoba*. It actually received 1000 Boers on board before it sailed on the 22nd of October, 1902. This number was made up of 500 from Diyatalawa Camp, a few short of 400 from Urugas, 80 from Mt. Lavinia, and the remainder from Ragama. The Cornwalls supplied a guard of 40 men who volunteered to accompany the draft to South Africa.

Several well-known Boers were included in the party and this added to the general interest which the embarkation of such a large number evoked. The special train which brought the prisoners-of-war from

Diyatalawa picked up the Ragama contingent on the way; and the special from Kosgoda bringing the Urugas party did likewise with the Boers from Mt. Lavinia. They were met on arrival at the Fort Station by their Generals, Olivier and Roux, who were also returning to South Africa by the same ship. On detraining, the several drafts were formed into parties, and "Marched" to the Passenger Jetty, led by General Olivier and his son.

The streets of Colombo Fort, which have packed history with a strangely varied panorama of marching contingents of fighting men from other lands, might well be expected to have contributed a most poignant picture on this occasion. It should not be difficult to affect a sense of vividity to the pathetic scene unfolded to onlookers. Here indeed were men who had stretched their patriotism to desperate ends, and given blood and treasure, but were certainly not the stuff of which desperadoes were made.

Youth and age were strangely blended, in this film-reel of the past. Years of hardship and the last eighteen crowded months of exile which had intervened since they had obeyed their "commandeer brief" and the field cornets' summons to war were reflected in individual cases of disablement, halting step, or bent shoulder; while many a face with a deeper tint above the beard line than ever sun and wind on the high veldt could bestow, bore deep lines of anxiety or sadness or a far-away reminiscent and cast-down look in the eyes. In addition to the bundles of personal apparel and belongings which the captives carried in preference to packing them with heavy baggage which was sent on ahead, many of them were burdened with mementos of Ceylon. There is as much amusement as there is pathos in contemplating this widely varied collection of curiosities which included monkeys, parrots, teal, bird-nests, bunches of green plantains, pineapples and a multitude of other equally strange possessions.

A number of persons, more particularly the Burghers of Ceylon, a community which perhaps is most fitted by peculiar circumstances to cement the feelings of confidence between conqueror and the conquered Boers, had foregathered at the Passenger Jetty with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret to bid good-bye to individual friend and acquaintance among those who were embarking that day.

Time which has aged the forgotten event has so mellowed it that a peculiar interest extends even to the individual present on the occasion. "Among others", so the newspaper accounts run, "there were: Dr. and Mrs. W. G. VanDort and the Misses VanDort, Mr. H. VanDort, Mr. W. VanLangenberg, Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Mack, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mack, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Theuring, Mr. and Mrs. Colvin de Kretser, Mr. Lloyd de Kretser, Miss P. Keuneman, Messrs. T. Garvin (Jr.), F. Tous-saint, W. Ludekens, Mrs. and Miss Prins, and Mr. and the Misses Paulusz"—names which, brought into the perspective of years, call to memory many a bygone worthy and a few who have outlived the intervening period.

General Roux, labouring under a muzzling order imposed on him by the Superintendent of Police to the effect that he was not to speak

to newspaper men, expressed resentment by speaking to no one. He refused to meet friends who had come to see him off and went on board the transport by himself in a private boat. His Orders were to go on board between 8-15 and 10-30 a.m. Most Ceylon residents who came in contact with him agreed he was the most cultivated man among the Boers held captive in the Island.

General Olivier, when interviewed, more tactfully remarked that he was "against communicating anything to the press, and that it would serve them better if the papers said less about the Boers!" He was pleased to add, however, that he had made many friends in Ceylon, whom he was sorry to leave, that the Boers had been well treated, and that their Camps were all that prisoners-of-war could desire — excluding Ragama about which he could not say anything. Declaring there was nothing more to say, he shook hands with those present, and left in a private boat with his two sons, for the steamer.

Other popular Boer personnel who left by the same transport were Captain P. H. de Villiers, the leader of the cricket eleven which played the premier Ceylon Club, the Colts, and lost; a nephew of General Botha; M. Douwes, who was on the Printing Staff of the Colombo Apothecaries Co.; Commandants Du Plessis and Hertzoy; Wallace—the Boer who had created a sensation by stating that he and his young friend Parkes an Irish naturalised Boer, had found a gold reef in the neighbourhood of Urugas; young Grant whose father was a major in the British Army; Commandant Krantz, the Boer naturalist who assisted Dr. Willey at the Museum; Revd. Thom a Boer predicant; and Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Roos with their two sons, a three-week old Ceylon-born baby, and a Sinhalese ayah. During their eighteen month stay in Kandy the two boys had been students of Kingswood College. The prisoner-of-war in whom every one seemed most interested, was Jim Holloway. "Where's Jim Holloway?" was the question asked on every side, and there were a great many people who were disappointed on being shown a lightly built man with a quiet face, wearing a suit of white clothes with a big bundle on one shoulder and carrying a fiddle case and other paraphernalia in his left hand. "You don't mean to say that chap is an international boxer" was the oft repeated remark, so ordinary looking was 'Jim' with not the slightest appearance of any swagger about him. "You can make sure I am coming back to Ceylon" was Holloway's final remark. "I only want to make a little money first.....I like Ceylon." Those who knew him well accepted the sincerity of his declaration. One wonders whether he kept his word.

As each lighter moved off handkerchieves were briskly waved and shouts and cheers were given by the Boers. Seven sick Boers from the General Hospital were also embarked on board this vessel.

Contrasted with this imposing send-off, the two departures which followed were of a quiet nature. The s.s. *Dunera* which sailed for Durban and Cape Town on the afternoon of the 16th December, took 900 Boers away. Dr. V. Van Langenburg proceeded with this draft as Medical Officer. The last batch which left five days later by the s.s. *Ionian* also consisted of nearly 900 Boers.

In between the massed departures the prisoners-of-war of foreign origin, and the naturalised Burghers of the late South African Republic who were able to find their way home at their own expense, had been leaving these shores in small numbers. In July 1902, a German steamer the *Oldenburg*, took away 8 officers and 48 German mercenaries who were to be disembarked at Bremen. A week later, the *Marquès Bacquehem* bound for Trieste eliminated the Austrian mercenaries: Frans Muller, Giovanni Bussanich, Arthur Clemens Cernice, Alois Ortner and two others. About the same time an American-Boer was repatriated to Boston.

A party of 76 Hollanders, late belligerents in South Africa who were held as prisoners-of-war in Ceylon, were also repatriated in July. As no steamer proceeding direct to Holland was due for some time, they were put on board the Rotterdamschi Lloyd s.s. *Selak* which was proceeding to the Straits and the Dutch Indies. They were to be transhipped at Padang on to a Dutch liner which goes direct to Holland without touching at any port east of the Suez. The party included 65 men from the Ragama Camp. The officers were Capt. Van Hoogstaaten, who took command of the draft on board, Lieut. Keulemans, formerly of the Staats Artillery, and a Mr. Funke, who was one of the leading men among the prisoners at Diyatalawa. Despite the great deal of trouble this Ragama element gave the authorities, they embarked very quietly but insisted on flying the Dutch tricolour on the steam launches which took them on board. There were about 30 other Dutch prisoners-of-war who were sent home by the same circuitous route about 2 months later, in a Dutch mail boat "*Princess Sophie*", which arrived from Amsterdam and left for Batavia.

The imprisoned Dutch Ambulance Staff which was detained and sent to Ceylon for carrying "war letters", left direct for Holland in July. Dr. Coster, interviewed on arrival at the Hague, referred to the rare consideration with which he and his medical colleagues were treated in Ceylon, and described their 'parole' as "elastic". He made special mention of the full facilities afforded them to use the laboratories and prosecute their studies.

The Frenchmen captured with the Boers were handed over to the French Consul and eventually repatriated by a homeward bound French mail boat. They were all from the Ragama Camp where they were incarcerated despite vehement protest that they were non-combatants, and that the *Comité Française Pour la Conservation de l'Indépendance Boer* which sent them out, dumped them at Delagoa Bay without giving them any further assistance and left them there to shift for themselves.

A few prisoners-of-war were dealt with as "rebels" and were sent back under arrest. On arrival from Ceylon they were handed over to the Cape or Natal authorities to stand their trial. Joseph and William Brooks, charged with high treason, were sentenced to pay a fine of £10 each, or to undergo one month's imprisonment. Jacobs Stephanus Swart, on a similar charge, was sentenced to £20 fine or to two months'

imprisonment. E. C. Stowe, another Ceylon prisoner-of-war, said to have been of British parentage born in Cape Colony, was charged on arrival at Durban of being a British subject who fought on the Boer side.

The case of William Cheney, a Pietermaritzburg youth of 19, appears to have excited special interest. His mother had distinguished herself by reason of having had six sons fighting for the British in various columns. William Cheney did not follow his brothers' example. He went to the Free States a few months before the war began and was induced by the Boers to fight for the Republic. He was in one of the Boer units sent to reinforce General Cronje at Paardeberg, but here took the opportunity to desert to the British lines. He was made a prisoner, sent to Ceylon, and eventually sent back to Natal as a "rebel" to face a charge of "high treason". According to the London Standard's Durban correspondent, forty-one Cape Colonists were arrested on their return from the prisoner-of-war camps in Ceylon, on charges of high treason.

The younger Gillingham was the first Boer to pay his way home. He declared he was going direct to Pretoria to look after his father's business until his father joined him. C. L. Neethling, the ex-M.P., of the Transvaal, was a passenger for South Africa on the *City of Benares*. Revd. Postma and his wife, temporarily residing at "Guyscliff" in the Cinnamon Gardens, were passengers on the s.s. *Gera*. The *Somali* took away Commandants Boshoff and Wilcock who were captured with Cronje at Paardeberg; Adjutant Boshoff, a son of the Commandant; also three others named Botha, Hollard, and Cardinal. They proceeded to Zanzibar and transhipped to Durban. The *Umlazi* removed Kruger, the son of the ex-President, who said he was proceeding direct to his farm at Grassenburg where he intended settling, and Mors who had been connected with the Ceylon Government Printing Office. The elder Gillingham was nearly the last to pay his way home. He sailed in December by the s.s. *Pangola*, loathe to leave Ceylon, but glad to take over his large interests in South Africa.

#### IX.

#### The Irreconcilables.

In the manner described, batch after batch of Ceylon's "guests" from South Africa left the scene of their involuntary sojourn. Martial Law ceased at Ragama Camp. The camps at Urugasmanhandiya and Mount Lavinia were empty. Diyatalawa—the first camp to be formed, the largest, most tenanted and in every way the most important of the four—was occupied by only 14 prisoners-of-war. There were 16 others in Welikada Jail, who had made themselves notorious. None of the Boers in these two lots were prepared to accept the conditions laid down for repatriation.

The story of these "irreconcilables" supplied ample material for a Boer nursery rhyme, descriptive of how they grew fewer by degrees and gracefully less. The Welikada lot, who came to be known as Major Firminger's party, were the first to give way. They asked to be sent to

Java. By arrangement with the Dutch Government they were released and permitted to take their departure without any declaration or oath on the undertaking that they were to settle there permanently as colonists. They were first shipped from Colombo to Singapore. From there they were sent on to Batavia, and were immediately moved off by railway to the Preanger Province where the Government had assigned an abandoned estate on which these new colonists were to settle as small cultivators. "Of course, you much prefer South Africa to Java" they were asked before they left Ceylon. "Yes", they replied, adding "it can't be helped".

Mr. Tom Kelly of Barbeton, who was specially sent to Ceylon and India as an emissary by General Botha, to induce irreconcilables to take the oath of allegiance, succeeded in persuading nine of the diehards in Diyatalawa to do so. When these duly left, there were seven, but two subsequently and at the last moment when they found their comrades going, decided to join them in becoming co-citizens with the British in Africa. The names of the five who still remained were: Engelbrecht, Rogers, van Rooyen, Bagot and Goldenhuis—a combination which produced a picture as pathetic as their frame of mind was obstinate. Goldenhuis, who was well over 70 years of age, gave expression to his feelings by displaying a tombstone he was carving for his grave, in anticipation of dying in Ceylon. The others, excepting Engelbrecht, were also veterans well over 50, who had families, including grandchildren in South Africa awaiting their return. Each and all refused to have anything to do with the Ceylon Government, acclaiming that they had been brought here as prisoners-of-war and would only go back to their homes as prisoners-of-war.

For nearly a whole year this refractory fragment rigidly adhered to their determination not to take the opportunity offered to them to rejoin their kith and kindred. Like ghostly figures of a past they continued to wander aimlessly within the barbed wire barriers of the deserted Diyatalawa camp, under the eye of a squad of the Royal West Kent Regiment. Some of their time was spent in making curios for which they had received orders from Colombo and were well paid. When in July, 1903, Diyatalawa was for the first time used as the practising ground and venue of the annual camp of the Volunteer Forces of Ceylon, they were still there and were interested spectators of the "summer manoeuvres".

Many and varied comments were made on the expediency of treating these "irreconcilables" seriously. While the authorities seemed to wait until patience and good sense would have their regard, the public were beginning to look upon the very idea of keeping these helpless men prisoners in the Island as possessing a good deal of humour about it. "What could they do against the might of the British Power?" asked one person. "Do they count at all", asked another. And then the clamour went up: Why should they not be permitted to go where they like and do what they like, rather than be subjected to these childish punitive precautions! In this, as in not a few other public opinions concerning the Boer prisoners-of-war, the authorities decided to abide by the voice of the people.

On the 24th of September, 1903, the Secretariat issued the *communiqué* notifying the release of the remaining five Boers incarcerated at Diyatalawa, stating that "they are now free to go anywhere they liked in or out of the Island except South Africa. When they took the oath, they can go to South Africa." They were permitted to accept employment in the Island, and information concerning their qualifications was to be supplied on reference to the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Simultaneously with this order two of them, van Rooyen and Baegot, were brought under escort to Colombo, put on board the s.s. *Lady Havelock* and landed at Jaffna; Engelbrecht and Rogers were escorted and left at Hambantota; while Goldenhuis under charge of a corporal of the West Kents was taken to Batticaloa and given his freedom. Thus separated and in pastures new, but perhaps less pleasant, on the north, south and east of Ceylon, they were left to meditate on their lot. They continued to receive a bounty from Imperial Funds, of two rupees a day as a "living allowance". Stranger still, it was made known that the allowance would be paid to them only at the revenue stations to which they had been posted at the time of their release.

Very naturally, these strangers in strange surroundings who could hardly speak any language but their native "taal", were a source of great interest to the local people. The gray headed old man banished to Batticaloa was destined to the loneliest existence of them all. He refused to exchange it, turning down even a personal appeal from General De-la-Rey who telegraphed from India asking him to take the oath of allegiance. He took a delight in bathing in the lake and fishing. He also apparently enjoyed a fish tiffin, to judge from the catch he was known to make of a morning, which he proceeded to cook and eat under the shelter of a tree. One curious mannerism of this veteran, which amused the people of Batticaloa a good deal, was his habit of keeping his topee on, even when inside a house. Opinion seemed divided as to whether he took his boots off when he went to bed! But the anguish and tribulation of this aged exile was destined to be of short duration. He died about the middle of 1904.

The Jaffna climate, and separation from his comrades, seemed to have worked a change in van Rooyen and Baegot. Although still very bitter against the British, they decided to take the oath. Two passages were found for them on the Natal Line s.s. *Umkuzi*, and they sailed for their home, to rejoin their families, sufficiently primed to impart a strange story to their children, and their children's children.

Robert Rogers, who with H. E. Engelbrecht was compelled to take up his residence at Hambantota, has left a very vivid picture of his experiences. "My life", he declared, "was a perfect misery in Ceylon". On arriving at Hambantota, they were housed in a tumble-down tenement which the Assistant Government Agent had rented out at six rupees per month. Within twenty days of their arrival, according to Rogers, their allowance of two rupees per day was cut down Rs. 1/25. On this miserable pittance, their condition was rendered really pitiable, for they were brought to the verge of hunger and nakedness. Eventu-

ally driven by want and the irksomeness of the hermit life they were leading, Rogers declared that he managed to find his way to Colombo. The rest of the story is perhaps best told in his own words: "I came up to see the Governor who refused to see me. So I stopped nearly 7 months in Colombo. They ordered me to go back, so that I may receive my allowance. I however continued to stay in Colombo, losing my allowance from Government for disobedience of their order".

Asked how he found it possible to live in Colombo, he said: "Mr. L. Sauer (the Boer prisoner-of-war who married Miss Felsing) was kind enough to give me my food and clothing. I am also grateful to many other friends for their kindness in helping me—especially the Burgers who were exceedingly good to me". Continuing he said: "On the 24th of August, I petitioned the Governor to send me anywhere he liked except to the British Colonies. I received a reply that he could not send me to a foreign country, unless one of the Consuls allowed it. I accordingly communicated with the Dutch Consul who saw no objection to my going to Holland".

These were the circumstances under which Robert Rogers, who had taken part in actions at Penhoek, Naesby, Heidelberg, Bethlehem and Taba-nen; who surrendered with General Prinsloo and arrived in Ceylon with General Roux, terminated a four and a half year sojourn in the Island. He left on the 4th of March, 1905, by the s.s. *Berlin*, severely cautioned that he was never to set foot on Africa's shores.

Engelbrecht, a Free Stater, continued to eke out a miserable existence in Hambantota. For a short time the pittance paid by the Imperial Government was augmented by a small allowance from a fund which was started for him in Holland. But this came to an end, and it would appear that even the small concession of a roof over his head was denied him. Early in 1905 an action for recovery of rent and for ejection was filed in the Tangalle Courts in which he was mentioned as the defendant. The case evoked considerable interest both from a point of law, and from the disclosures in the evidence led. The issue raised was whether this action against an alien enemy was maintainable. The Commissioner of Requests (Mr. Schrader) observing in his judgment that he saw no law which prevented the defendant suing or being sued, proceeded to declare that it was the Assistant Government Agent and not the Boer who engaged the "tenement". He held that it was only the notice to quit which was justified. Remarking that an allowance of Rs. 1/25 a day was hardly sufficient to enable Engelbrecht to pay for food, clothing, shelter and washing, he suggested the obvious remedy—representation to Government.

Public opinion once again stirred itself in the interests of this unrelenting Boer prisoner-of-war; and he came to be installed in the very congenial post of Warden of the Yala Game Sanctuary. He had many traducers and there was a good deal of opposition to his appointment. The Engelbrecht episode was consequently not permitted to rest closed.

A decade later, during the World War No. 1, when the enemy cruiser "Emden" in a mysteriously elusive manner was sending ship

after ship flying the British flag to the bottom of the Indian Ocean, the wildest rumours were circulated that Engelbrecht, the Boer who had not taken the oath of allegiance, was apparently in communication with the enemy cruiser. The authorities did not pause to sift the truth of these reports. Whether or not his failure to take the oath was made the occasion for confirming the rumours about him, there are none who will tell. What we do know is that Engelbrecht was arrested, removed from his post at the Yala Game Sanctuary, and detained in the Kandy Barracks. His reinstatement in office a few weeks later was in itself a declaration that he had been found innocent. Somebody had bungled, and bungled badly in the hope of earning the smiles of official favour.

The visit of the new *Emden* to Colombo in 1936, gave Mr. L. G. Poulier, a friend of this Boer sportsman, the opportunity to vindicate the baseless reports on which a harmless man was humiliated. On the testimony of the German officers who served on the *Emden* at the time of the raids, Engelbrecht's innocence was placed beyond all shadow of doubt. Engelbrecht died in Ceylon on the 25th of March 1922.

Beyond the wild, relentless waters of the Styx, the turbulent spirit of the last man in 5000 who would not compromise, had found eternal release. A simple inscribed stone in the Hambantota cemetery marks the spot where his mortal remains were buried. In this setting the rhythmic beat of sea on shore, and the sighing winds of the open spaces sound a continuous dirge. Their mournful murmur echoes the yearnings of these exiles whose misty eyes were strained on every hill and glade of green:

".....Till anguish keen  
Did once again a fresh hold take,  
The dear dead voices of the veldt awake  
The might have been."

("In Exile", from the *Diyatalawa* "Dum Dum").

## GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF NELL OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Altendorff)

### I

Frederick August Nell came from the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, as "Hofmeister" to Colonel de Meuron. He married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 8th December 1793, Catharina Petronella de Fonseca. He had by her:—

1. Pierre, born 1795 died young
2. George, who follows under II.

### II

George Nell, baptised 17th December 1797, married in St. Peter's Church, Colombo, 4th January 1823, Maria Elizabeth Conderlag, baptised 18th August 1806, died 16th June 1844, daughter of Johan Fredrik Conderlag and Elisabeth Erfson (D. B. U. Journal Vol. III page 50, and Vol. IX, page 71 and Vol. XXV, page 159). He had by her:—

1. Georgiana, born 23rd May 1824, married in St. Peter's Church Colombo, 6th March 1839, David Anderson of Roseboun near Dumfries (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. 5 page 65.)
2. Eleanor, born 12th June 1825, died 12th November 1871 married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 19th December 1850, Charles Ambrose Lionel Lorenz, Barrister-at-Law, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Ceylon, Member of The Legislative Council, 1856—1868 born 8th July 1829, died 9th August 1871, son of Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Lorenz of Templeburg in Prussian Pomerania, and Anna Petronella Smith (D. B. U. Journal Vol. III, page 49, and Vol. XXXI, page 1).

3. George Frederick, Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, Deputy Queen's Advocate, born 12th October 1828, died 1867. (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XXXII, page 86)

4. Louis, who follows under III.
5. William, born 30th October 1832, died 1836.
6. Arnold, born 29th August 1834, died 1848.
7. George Michael, M. D. born 29th August 1836, died at Jaffna in 1874, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 25th October 1871, Emelia Lorenz Poulier, born 16th July 1844, daughter of George Poulier and Adelaide Amelia Lorenz (D. B. U. Journal Vol. III, page 49, and Vol. XXIV, page 29).

### III

Louis Nell, Crown Counsel born 26th November 1830, died at Chicwick in England, 17th May 1922, married:—

- (a) In Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 4th September 1851, Lucilla Julia Andree, born 14th September 1833, daughter of



Andreas Everhardus Andree and Frederica Margarita Lorenz (D. B. U. Journal Vol. 6 page 17)

- (b) In St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 25th January 1879, Caroline Eliza Cherrington of the first marriage, he had
1. Marc, who follows under IV
  2. Maud, born 29th October 1853 married in Holy Trinity Church Colombo, 24th February 1873, Frederick John de Saram, Proctor and notary Public, son of Frederick John de Saram and Arnoldina Henrietta Martensz.
  3. Paul, who follows under V
  4. Ralph, who follows under VI
  5. Ruth, born 21st February 1858, married 25th November, 1882, Wilmot Edgar Leembruggen L.R.C.P. and S. (EDIN), L.F.P. and S. (GLAS.) Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, born 26th October 1856 died 8th March 1934, son of Gerard Hendrik Leembruggen and Elisabeth Riberg (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. IV. pages 26 and 27)
  6. Agnes, born 28th September 1859, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo 24th June 1891, Charles Adolphus Leembruggen, Surveyor, Federated Malay States, born 14th November 1859, son of Gerard Hendrik Leembruggen and Elisabeth Riberg (D. B. U. Journal Vol. IV, pages 26 and 28).
  7. Ernest, born 28th December 1860.
  8. Winifred, L.M.S. (Ceylon), born 24th March 1862, died 24th August 1943.
  9. Andreas, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.M.S. (Ceylon), Consulting Surgeon, Victoria Memorial Eye and Ear Hospital Colombo, born 3rd May 1864.
  10. Lionel, born 5th September 1865.
  11. John, born 5th August 1867.  
Of the second marriage he had :—
  12. Petronella, born 18th March 1880, died in London in 1938.
  12. Louis, born 18th May 1883.

## IV

Marc Nell, Inspector of Police, born 18th August 1852, married in Holy Trinity Church Colombo 28th January 1875, Margaret Rosaline Toussaint, born 18th January 1853, widow of George William Koch (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. X page 130) and daughter of Peter Frederick Toussaint and Susanna Elizabeth Koch (D. B. U. Journal Vol. IV page 39, and Vol. X, page 129) He had by her :—

1. Lucilla Julia, born 10th January 1876
2. Rosaline Mary, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 12th April 1899, Frederick Bernard Toussaint, born 17th April 1874 died 24th November 1945, son of Bernard Adrians Toussaint and Frances Alice Jonklaas (D. B. U. Journal Vol. IV, page 9, and Vol. XXIII page 206.)

## V

Paul Nell, born 5th February 1855, married at Matale in 1881, Alice Newman, and he had by her :—

1. George Frederick, born 1882, died in Australia, married Winifred Tringham. He had several sons and daughters.
2. Agnes Marion, born 30th October 1884, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 23rd January 1908, George Edmund de Silva, Proctor, Minister of Health, Ceylon State Council.
3. Elsie Ruth, born 5th August 1893, married in Scots Kirk, Kandy, 28th December 1916, Joseph Reginald Grenier, C.E., M.I.E. (Lond), A.M.I.E.S. (Scotland), Inspector of Mills, born 11th December 1879, son of Joseph Richard Grenier, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court, and Lydia Driberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 67, and Vol. XXXIV, page 10).
4. Paul Melville, born 1896, served in the Great War, 1914—1918, in the Royal Fusiliers, and was killed in action on 12th April 1917. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, page 5).
5. Grace Mary, born 12th April 1899, married in St. Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy, 16th June 1923, Oswin Ansbert Wright, born 28th April 1896, son of Joseph William Alfred Wright, L.M.S. (Ceylon), Civil Medical Department, and Alice Josephine Van Langenberg. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXVI, page 26).
6. Marc Ernest, who follows under VII.

## VI

Ralph Nell, born 23rd March 1856, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 16th May 1887, Charlotte Matilda Ebert, and he had by her :—

1. Saumer Ralph, born 6th April 1888.
2. Bertram Ralph, born 20th December 1890.
3. Michael Ralph, born 4th January 1893.
4. Doris Ralph, born 26th January 1895.
5. Doris Ralph, born 1st January 1897.
6. Monic Ralph, born 27th August 1899.
7. Lucilla Petronella Ralph, born 14th October 1901.
8. Louis Frederick Ralph, who follows under VIII.

## VII

Marc Ernest Nell, born 9th September 1905, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 23rd December 1933, Mavis Helen Herft, daughter of Percival Clement Herft and Elsie Marian Willenberg. He had by her :—

1. Paul Marc, born 28th February 1935.
2. Pamela Averil, born 5th May 1938.

## VIII

Louis Frederick Ralph Nell, born 7th May 1904, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 21st May 1927, Helen Violet Wittebron, and he had by her:—

1 Louise Marcia, born 21st May 1928.

2 Louis Frederick Ralph, born 10th June 1931.

*Note.*—Dr. Winifred Nell, referred to under III, 8, was the first Ceylonese lady, who qualified to practise medicine and surgery. She was attached to the Lady Havelock Hospital, Colombo.



## The Annual General Meeting.

The 39th Annual General Meeting of the Union was held in the Union Hall on Saturday, the 22nd March, at 6 p.m. Dr. V. R. Schokman, the President, occupied the Chair, and about 100 members were present. After the distribution of awards in the Sinhalese Examinations and the Billiards Tournaments, the President moved the following motion which was carried with acclamation:—"The Dutch Burger Union desires to place on record its appreciation of the munificence, and its grateful thanks for the generosity, of Dr. R. L. Spittel for his donation of one acre of land at Kaluboville for the establishment of a Home for the Aged."

The President then reviewed the work of the Union during the past year and thanked the Standing Committees, the General Committee, the Office-bearers and the office-staff for the valuable assistance they had rendered him in carrying on the work of the Union. After remarks offered by some members, the motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts was carried unanimously.

The President then proposed an amendment to rule 6 (f) of the By-laws providing for credit being extended to a member up to a limit of Rs. 50, and this was unanimously carried. He then vacated the chair, which was occupied *pro tem* by Mr. H. K. de Kretser, who referred to the good work done by Dr. Schokman during his first year of office and proposed his re-election. The motion was carried unanimously, and Dr. Schokman, in resuming the Chair, briefly addressed the gathering.

The election of the other office-bearers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:—*Honorary Secretary*: Mr. Fred Loos (re-elected); *Honorary Treasurer*: Mr. L. Thomasz (re-elected).

**General Committee:** Colombo. Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. L. E. Blaze, Dr. J. R. Blaze, Mr. R. L. Brohier, Dr. F. E. R. Bartholomeusz, Mr. C. L. Beling, Mr. C. P. Brohier, Mr. B. R. Blaze, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Mr. A. E. Christoffelsz, Mr. H. vanden Driesen, Mr. C. E. Foenander, Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, Mr. L. L. Hunter, Mr. C. M. Jennings, Hon. Mr. A. E. Keuneman, Mr. H. K. de Kretser, Mr. H. E. S. de Kretser, Mr. F. E. Loos, Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy, Mr. I. G. L. Misso, Col. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. C. C. Schokman, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. E. A. vander Straaten, Dr. H. E. Schokman, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Dr. Sam de Vos.

**Outstation.** Dr. V. H. L. Anthonisz, Dr. Eric Brohier, Mr. A. E. Buultjens, Dr. H. A. Dirckze, Mr. Frank Ernst, Mr. E. G. Jonklaas, Col. A. C. B. Jonklaas, Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Sr.), Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Jr.), Mr. V. C. Kelaart, Mr. H. R. Kriekenbeek, Dr. N. Kelaart, Dr. H. Ludovici, Mr. Wace de Niese, Mr. F. W. E. de Vos.

**Auditors:**—Messrs. Satchithananda, Schokman and de Silva (re-elected).

At the conclusion of the meeting a collection was taken in aid of the Social Service Fund. Then followed an "At Home" to members at which the General Committee were the hosts. A Band was in attendance and a pleasant time was spent.

### Thirty-ninth Annual Report

Your Committee has much pleasure in submitting the following Report:—

**Membership:**—The number of members on the roll at the end of the year under review was 560 as compared with 568 at the end of 1945.

|                                    |       |       |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| As at 1st January 1946             | ...   | ...   | 568   |
| Add new members joined in 1946     |       | 38    |       |
| Add old members rejoined           | ...   | 4     | 42    |
|                                    |       | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                    |       |       | 610   |
| Less resigned                      | ...   | 20    |       |
| " died                             | ...   | 6     |       |
| " struck off under Rule 6 (e)      |       | 14    |       |
| " members who have left the Island |       | 10    | 50    |
|                                    |       | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                    |       |       | 560   |
| <b>Colombo Members</b>             |       |       |       |
|                                    | 1944  | 1945  | 1946  |
| Paying Rs. 1/50                    | 281   | 271   | 291   |
| " Re. 1/-                          | 43    | 25    | 20    |
| " 50 cts                           | 55    | 50    | 45    |
| <b>Outstation Members</b>          |       |       |       |
| Paying Re. 1/-                     | 94    | 103   | 95    |
| " 50 cts                           | 92    | 99    | 89    |
| Out of the Island                  | 13    | 17    | 20    |
|                                    | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
|                                    | 578   | 568   | 560   |

**General Committee.**—Eleven Committee Meetings and two Special Committee Meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 17 members.

**Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purpose.**—Six Committee Meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 4 members.

Lectures on the following subjects were delivered:—

- (1) "Medicine during the War and After" by Dr. J.R. Blazé.
- (2) "Serendipity or the Romance of Chemical Discoveries" by Dr. Eric Fonseka.
- (3) "Anthology of Ceylon Poems" by Mr. A. E. Woodall.

- (4) "Courtship and Marriage among the ancient Sinhalese" by Dr. G. P. Malalasekera.
- (5) "From Donoughmore to Soulbury" by Mr. N. Nadarajah.

The attendance at these lectures was larger than usual.

**The Journal.**—Continues to play an important part in the life of the Union; several articles of interest to the community were published and included the genealogies of many families. The number of subscribers was 86. The Union owes a great debt of gratitude to Mr. J. R. Toussaint for continuing to edit the Journal for several years.

**The Bulletin** was edited by Mr. J. A. Leembruggen until October 1946, when pressure of work compelled him to resign. The office has kept members informed of the activities of the Union for each month until a successor is appointed.

**Reference Library.**—Although the Library has an extremely good collection of books, very few members avail themselves of its advantages.

**Standing Committee for Purposes of Social Service.**—Eleven meetings were held with an average attendance of seven members. The Receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 2,326.15 and included a grant of Rs. 504 from the Public Assistance Committee.

Regular financial assistance was given monthly to 22 persons, while a sum of Rs. 379.70 was expended on hampers, which were distributed at a Christmas treat given on the 23rd December. About 100 adults and children attended and thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment provided. Old clothes and toys were also given away. The thanks of the Union are due to those who gave donations in cash and in kind towards this Christmas treat.

**Standing Committee for Genealogical Research.**—Eleven meetings were held with an average attendance of six members. Forty applications for membership in the Union were considered.

**Standing Committee for Social, Recreation, Entertainment and Sport.**—Ten committee meetings were held with an average attendance of twelve members. The following functions were held during 1946:—

- (1) St. Valentine's Dance in February.
- (2) Children's Party in July
- (3) Supper Dance in August
- (4) Old Folks At Home in September
- (5) Founder's Day in October
- (6) Young Folks At Home on Christmas Day
- (7) New Year's Eve Dance.

**Billiards.**—The Billiard tables continue to be popular. Twenty-four competitors participated in the 1946 Billiards Tournament which was won by Mr. G. A. H. Wille (jr.); Mr. J. J. Weinman was the runner up.

**The Choral and Dramatic Group** provided an excellent evening's entertainment on the occasion of "Old Folks At Home" in September and the concert items on Founder's Day.

**The Contract Bridge Group**—met regularly every Friday. Two successful duplicate games were held during the year. The first was brought to a close on the 7th May with a Dinner and the second was played on the 14th June when a farewell Dinner was given to Mrs. F. J. T. Foenander.

**Standing Committee for Increasing of Membership.** This Committee did not meet during 1946. Many of those who joined during the year were introduced by members of this Committee.

**Standing Committee for Historical Manuscripts and Monuments.** This Committee met once and had Dr. Parauvitane, the Archaeological Commissioner, at this meeting. The activities of this Committee were summarised in the report made to the General Committee and published in the journal.

**Sub-Committee for Purchase of Shares in D.B.U. Building Company Ltd.**—Six of the Education Fund shares and fifteen of the St. Nicolaas' Home Fund shares were redeemed by the Union, bringing the number of shares purchased by the general funds of the Union to 153.

In addition the Union holds in trust for the Education Fund 18 shares and for the Social Service Fund 29 shares, making a grand total of 200 shares.

**Education.**—11 meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of six members. A Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year in respect of the Education Fund from which all normal grants and current expenses are met is published with this report.

As compared with the previous year the total subscription increased from Rs. 1,096.50 to Rs. 1,236.75. The number of subscribers was 52 as compared with 36. The fees or part fees of 17 children were paid during the year.

The Committee regrets to record the death of a very promising medical student who was being helped from the Vocation Fund. The sum to the credit of this Fund at the end of the year was Rs. 4,087.81.

**The Education Endowment Fund** has increased as follows during the year:—

|                                  |     |              |
|----------------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Balance on 1/1/46                | ... | Rs. 1,801 95 |
| Refund from Agricultural Student | ... | 33 00        |
| Subscriptions                    | ... | 33 00        |
| Interest                         | ... | 61 17        |
| Dividends on shares              | ... | 27 00        |
| Transfer of shares               | ... | 550 00       |
|                                  |     | <hr/>        |
|                                  |     | Rs. 2,506 12 |

**Speldewinde Trust Fund.**—The sum of Rs. 120/- was expended during the year in maintaining a student at the Industrial School Wellawatte.

The Sinhalese Prize Examination was held in three divisions in December. 32 candidates took up the examination. Although the Sinhalese class for adults did not attract many students, the interest in it is being kept alive by a few enthusiasts.

Two students at the University were helped from the Higher Education Fund. The money was used primarily for the purchase of books.

**St. Nicolaas' Eve Fete.**—This function attracted a very large number of members; 261 children were entertained. The Police Band and the Millionaire's Band supplied the music. Rs. 2,385.40 was received by subscriptions and Rs. 2,378.95 expended.

**St. Nicolaas' Home Fund.**—A plan for the building was submitted to the Committee by Mr. H. K. de Kretser. A sum of Rs. 13,050.21 was subscribed by members making the total at the end of 1946 Rs. 20,997.10.

**Finance.**—Eleven meetings were held with an average attendance of 9 members. The excess of Income over Expenditure was Rs. 850.66.

F. R. LOOS,  
*Hony. Secretary.*  
D. B. U.

**Addendum: Dr. De Hoedt Medical Scholarship Fund.**—Your Committee has pleasure in submitting for your information the following report received from the Trustees of the Fund:—

"Assistance to the extent of Rs. 352/- was rendered to a student for the purchase of medical books. No fees were paid during the year.

The balance at credit in the Bank on 31st December 1946 was Rs. 2,100.99.

A sum of Rs. 15,000/- is invested in Ceylon Government 3½% Defence Loan."

## CEYLON IN THE SIXTIES.

(Continued from our last issue).

The list of mercantile firms in Ceylon recalls to mind the names of those who played an important part in the early political history of the island. Among these may be mentioned E. J. Darley, W. W. Mitchell, G. B. Leechman, the Mackwoods, J. M. Robertson, George Wall and Alfred Wise.

Ice had about this time become a luxury and a Company was formed, with the modest capital of £1,600 to manufacture it as well as aerated waters in Colombo. Among the Directors was the ubiquitous Dr. F. W. Willisford, while the Engineer was Arthur Possner (the prefix Von being probably added later), and Ebenezer Rusbridge, well-known in later years as the Librarian of the Colombo Library, officiated as Agent.

Landing and shipping of cargo was attended to by the Colombo Boat Company, one of the four Directors being William Donnan, probably a connection of J. Donnan, Master Attendant. The Manager was William Morey, who later discharged the duties of American Consul.

There were three newspapers, each published by mutual agreement on two days of the week, the "Ceylon Observer" on Mondays and Thursdays, the "Ceylon Times" on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the "Examiner" on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The last named paper was edited by Lorenz, with Leopold Ludovici as Sub-Editor and Francis Bevin as Assistant Editor.

The two principal firms of Auctioneers were Ledward & Co. and Venn & Co. The latter had John Whatley Venn at its head—an individual with much force of character, who was returned as member representing the Fort Ward in the Municipal Council, along with Morgan, Lorenz and others. Of Chemists, there were two well-known firms—J. Maitland & Co. and O'Halloran Brothers. It is believed that these two firms were afterwards merged in Cargills and the Colombo Apothecaries Company, respectively. The private medical practitioners did not number more than six, two of them only being qualified Doctors. This explains the small number of private dispensaries.

Hotel accommodation was very limited, there being only four establishments. Of these, the one which took first place was the Galle Face Boarding House, the predecessor of the present Galle Face Hotel, followed by the Royal Hotel in the Fort. Sir Samuel Baker, on his first visit to Ceylon, stayed at the latter Hotel, and he describes it as "very white and clean throughout but there was a barn-like appearance, as there is throughout most private dwellings, which banished all idea of comfort". Two other institutions were "Bastian's Boarding House" in the Fort, and "Prince Alfred Inn" in the Pettah.

Carriage hiring was a fairly lucrative occupation, and there were 24 persons drawn from all communities engaged in it. Many of the

houses were not provided with facilities for the accommodation of a horse and carriage, and where this was so ingenuitly supplied the deficiency, the horse being led through the drawing room to its makeshift stables at the rear of the house, while the carriage found a temporary resting-place for the night on the front verandah.

The profession of nursing was then only in its infancy, and had not attained the important place which it has secured today in the domestic life of the people. And so it is not surprising to find only five monthly nurses offering their services, all bearing English names—Campbell, Beard, McClay, Lavery, Wilkins. At this period nursing was apparently regarded as the exclusive field of married women, for only these figure in the list.

Music of a kind was taught in those days, but it was not regarded as an indispensable adjunct to a complete education. If the Music teachers of that day did not reach very high professional standards, they made up for this deficiency by being the bearers of impressive names, such as Botticelli, Stephenson, Silvaf, Quintal and Secherpel. In addition to music, Silvaf held himself out as a "Portrait and Landscape Painter".

A class of person who does not resort to advertising himself at the present day is the Pundit, but in the days of which we speak there was not this reluctance shewn. Eleven Tamil and two Sinhalese Pundits faced the limelight, two of the former under the *aliases* of Henry Knight and C. W. Rockwell. Among the Sinhalese Pundits we find the famous name of Batuantudawe.

The compiler of the Almanac gives us useful information about Church and School matters. The Church of England in Ceylon was dependent at this time a great deal for the work in Ceylon on the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The President of the local branch was the Bishop of Colombo and the Secretary and Treasurer was the Rev. James Bacon. The Committee was composed of leading public men of the day, including Alfred Wise, who has already been mentioned, C. A. Lorenz, and of course Dr F. W. Willisford.

The Bishop of Colombo filled the dual office of Visitor and Warden of St. Thomas' College, with the Rev. James Bacon as Sub-warden and Bursar. The Rev. Hugh Calverly Claughton, (probably a brother of the Bishop of that name) was Classical Tutor, while John Woodhouse was 2nd Master, and Messrs. Francis Henry Pereira, A. de A. Seneviratne, and S. G. Edwards, all of whom were known to many of the present generation, were 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Masters, respectively. There was a Boarding School "for daughters of native gentlemen" under the direction of the Bishop.

The names of medical officers in charge of Colombo institutions recall to mind some of those who later rose to distinction. Dr. C. A. Kriekenbeek was in charge of the Lunatic Asylum, and Dr. Richard Andree presided over the destinies of the General Hospital, which must at that time have been a very modest institution, with Dr. F. A. VanderSmagt as his assistant. Dr. W. C. Ondaatje was in charge of the Hulftsdorp Jail and the Seamen's Hospital in the Pettah, Dr. E. L.



Koch assisting him. The first attempt in the direction of a Private Hospital was made by Dr. Simon De Melho Aserappa with his "Merchant Seamen's Hospital and Consulting Room" in Chatham Street, Fort. The rates of admission were one guinea for entrance and two shillings a day for diet, medical treatment and attendance.

The Pettah Library, which reached the heyday of its prosperity when Mr. G. A. Wille was its Secretary, was established at this time, among the Committee Members being C. A. Lorenz, C. L. Ferdinands, J. S. Drieberg and J. A. VanGayzel. Cornelius Dickman, Assistant Auditor General, was its first Secretary. The number of members was 202 and the number of volumes 2,884. The Roman Catholics, too, established a Library of their own at this time, among the office-bearers being Joseph Wickwar (Vice President), Marcus Lewis Vander Straaten and Adrian VanSanden (Committee Members).

There were eight Cricket Clubs at this period, but the Colts Cricket Club had not then come into being. There was an Archery Club, a Shooting Club, a Quoits Club and a Paper Hunt Club, these being the recreations in vogue in those days. Music was represented by the Philharmonic Society and the Quartette Society. Freemasonry was very popular among the Burghers, most of whom favoured the Sphinx Lodge, among them being Dr. C. A. Kriekanbeek, C. A. Lorenz, C. L. Ferdinands, Samuel Grenier, A. S. Andree and L. Ludovici.

J. R. T.

(To be continued)

### Dr. Christopher C. Beling.



Dr. Christopher C. Beling.

We regret to record the death of Dr. Christopher Charles Beling, which took place in his home at 102 North Mountain Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey, on the 30th November, 1946. The deceased was born in Ceylon on 4th April, 1873, his father being William Wright Beling, a well-known Proctor in his day. Passing out of the Ceylon Medical College in 1897, Dr. Beling served for a short time under Government and then left for Scotland and entered the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, where he gained his qualifications in 1900. He then left for America to enter upon a distinguished career and remained there until his death.

From 1901 to 1906 Dr. Beling was assistant Physician at the New Jersey State Hospital for the Insane. From 1907 to 1912 he was clinical assistant at the Vanderbilt Clinic in New York. He was visiting neurologist at Newark City Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital from 1908 to 1923. He was neuropsychiatrist for the United States Veterans' Bureau from 1919 to 1923, and was frequently called as psychiatrist in Court cases requiring an expert opinion on the sanity or testamentary capacity of persons.

Dr. Beling was president of the Morris County Medical Society in 1907, and President of the Physicians' Club of Newark in 1918. In 1923 he was Judicial Counsellor of the Medical Society of New Jersey, and a member of the board of governors of the Essex County Medical Society. He also served for a time as chairman of the committee on medical defence and malpractice insurance of the Medical Society of New Jersey.

In additions to these appointments, Dr. Beling was a member of the British Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the New York Neurological Society, the New York Academy of Medicine, the Academy of Medicine of Northern New Jersey, the American College of Physicians, the Association for the Study of Internal Secretions, the American Neurological Association, and the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Disorders. He was also a Rotarian, and for years was in charge of juvenile delinquency work of the Rotary boys' work committee, in addition to being consulting neurologist for numerous hospitals in New Jersey.

Dr. Beling leaves in America his wife, Mrs. Lucille Abbott Beling, a daughter, Mrs. James A. Richardson, a son, Dr. C. Abbott Beling, and his youngest brother, Mr. Aelian Beling. His surviving sisters in Ceylon are Mrs. Walter Schokman and Mrs. Edgar Vander-Straaten, his brothers and sister who predeceased him being Harry, Willie, Leopold and Antoinette Aileen, who married Dr. C. T. Van Geyzel.

## NOTES OF EVENTS.

*Summary of proceedings of the General Committee—19th November, 1946:*—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. Hugh Joseph. (2) The following were admitted as members:—Miss I. E. Collette, Mrs. G. E. Leembruggen, Messrs. C. E. Anthonisz, H. C. de Kretser, G. H. Wambeek, F. E. G. van Buren, J. C. E. Ferdinands, R. S. D. Jansz, A. W. W. Toussaint, and C. J. van Alpen. (3) The following Executive Committee was appointed in connection with the proposed Carnival:—The President, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, *St. Nicolaas' Home Fund*: Messrs. H. K. de Kretser and A. E. Christoffelsz, *Entertainment and Sport*: Dr. Sam de Vos, Mr. H. E. S. de Kretser, *Social Service*: Mrs. B. C. Kelaart, Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand, *Education*: Messrs. C. A. Speldewinde and L. L. Hunter.

*17th December, 1946:*—Votes of condolence were passed on the deaths of Dr. E. R. Loos and Mr. G. P. Keuneman. (2) A vote of congratulation was passed on the attainment by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar vander Straaten of the 50th anniversary of their marriage. (3) Messrs. H. F. Ferdinands and A. L. Smith were admitted as members of the Union. (4) Mr. C. F. A. Jonklaas was re-admitted as a member. (5) The resignation of membership of Mr. H. R. Hunter was accepted.

*21st January, 1947:*—(1) Votes of congratulation were passed on Mr. R. S. V. Poulier, C.B.E., and Major V. O. Kelaart, O.B.E. (2) Messrs. A. C. Joseph, R. G. M. Todd, and D. M. N. Toussaint were admitted as members of the Union. (3) It was decided to postpone the Carnival for 4th and 5th July 1947. (4) Mr. F. A. van Cuylenberg was re-admitted as a member. (5) The resignations of membership of Messrs. P. G. Berenger and H. W. Hatch were accepted.

*18th February, 1947:*—(1) Read letter from Mr. John Wilson, Proctor, setting out the Procedure to be adopted for the representation of the Union Trustees at Meetings of the Building Company. (2) It was reported that the plan for the St. Nicolaas' Home for the Aged, prepared by Mr. H. K. de Kretser, with two slight alterations, had been accepted, and the transfer of the land donated by Dr. R. L. Spittel had been effected. (3) It was reported that Mr. J. R. Toussaint had agreed to resume the Editorship of the *Bulletin*. (4) The following resolution was passed:—"This Committee resolved to transfer at par two of its shares in the Dutch Burgher Union Buildings Committee to the person holding the office of President (if required to make him eligible for election as a Director of the Company) on the understanding that he will transfer them back to the Union at par on vacating his office of President".

*18th March, 1947:*—(1) Mr. K. L. Christoffelsz was admitted as a member of the Union. (2) It was reported that arrangements were being made for the Rev. A. Clifford Wilson to deliver a lecture on the 22nd May. (3) The resignation of membership of Mr. C. A. H. Keuneman was accepted.

*Obituary:*—We regret to record the death, which occurred on the 6th February, of Mr. T. D. Mack, Proctor and Notary. The deceased,

who was 84 years of age, was the son of the late Mr. J. W. Mack, well-known in his day as Secretary of the District Court of Colombo. Mr. T. D. Mack was held in high esteem as a Proctor by reason of his high integrity and close attention to business. He was noted for his charm of manner and was a valued member of the Union.

The death also occurred, on 22nd February, 1947, of Miss Florence Ludekens, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Ebenezer Ludekens.

*Ourselves:*—With this issue we close Vol. XXXVI of the *Journal*. A new volume will open with the issue for July. We would take this opportunity of inviting more members to become subscribers. They scarcely number a hundred at present while the total membership is nearly 600. The annual subscription is only Rs. 5 for four quarterly issues.

## THE JEW IN LITERATURE.

The Jewish "Terror" that is still raging in Palestine brings before us again one of the most difficult problems in history. The Jew has been a problem for ages, a political, religious, and social problem, and the problem is yet unsolved. He has never been a popular or welcome figure in any country, but always the victim of ridicule and oppression; at the best of sullen toleration. He has accumulated wealth, and wealth has given him political power; but that wealth and power have made him the envy and the fear of nations.

What could be done with a people who were regarded as almost a necessary evil? They could not be exterminated either by massacre or by persecution. Their religious and social exclusiveness made it impossible to live with them as intimately and as freely as with other people. Among them, however, there were men and women of exceptional brilliance in literature, statecraft, and business; men like Heine, Lasalle, the Disraelis, the Rothschilds, &c. Why not find them a home of their own, especially in Palestine whence they came? Zionist movements were organized a hundred years ago, but the Jews as a body preferred to stay where they were. The Arabs in Palestine were also opposed to a Jewish State in their midst. To the Arabs too Palestine is a "holy" land, though why is not so clear. The events of the last fifty years have induced the Jews to change their minds. They are not only willing, but apparently anxious to settle in Palestine and restore the throne of David. But the Arabs will not have it.

The story of the Jews in England—they were brought there in 1066 by William the Conqueror—is given in full and masterly detail by Dr. Montague Modder in his book\*. Dr. Modder is well remembered in Ceylon as a prominent artist and journalist not many years ago. He has since settled in America, where he is Professor of English in Beloit College. This book is a tribute to his distinction as a teacher, a writer, and an earnest student of Literature. The painstaking research that

\**The Jew in the Literature of England*, by Montague Frank Modder—Philadelphia 1939.

has resulted in this well-printed volume of 435 pages is scarcely realized by a reader who is carried away by the clearness and vivacity of Dr. Modder's style and method.

The first chapter deals with Medieval England, and here a place is found for the legend of the Wandering Jew. In Tudor times the Jew was the victim of reproach and scorn, leading Marlowe and Shakespeare to portray him "as money-lender, villain, and hook-nosed banker after Christian blood". But Shakespeare's real feelings towards the Jew are a matter of divided opinion.

Early in the seventeenth century certain Jews, known as Marranos, settled in England. They appear to have professed Christianity while observing Judaism in secret. It was hotly debated at the time whether Jews should be allowed to settle in England, strong objections being raised. But this tenacious race persisted, and the eighteenth and nineteenth century saw the dawn of a new era. Here we have reading of special interest to modern readers. The author's thoughtful summary of the whole story is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the subject.

L. E. BLAZE.



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