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JANUARY, 1926.

[No. 3.]

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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EDWARD FREDERICK KELAART, M. D., A. M. S.

Dr. F. F. Kelaart was the only Zoologist or Naturalist of any note whom Ceylon can claim as her own. If his associations with Great Britain loom more largely before our eyes than his interests in Ceylon, it is still true that he was born in Ceylon, of a Dutch family long domiciled in Ceylon, that his early education was in Ceylon, that he served chiefly in Ceylon, and that his published writings were nearly all connected with Ceylon. The Community in Ceylon have every right as well as every reason to be proud of his career and his achievements as part of their contribution to the general progress and reputation of the Island.

Dr. Kelaart was born in Colombo on the 21st November, 1819, the son of Willem Hendrik Kelaart, Apothecary to the Forces, and Anna Johanna Frederica Meyer. Education in English was not in those days so highly organized or so extended as in our time, but after some instruction he attended a class for medical students which was started in 1835 and was the first of its kind in Ceylon. Among his fellow-students were F. W. Ferdinands, P. H. van Cuylenburg, M. B. Misso, J. W. Ebert, J. Trask and J. Cleveland. On the 16th May, 1837, Kelaart left Ceylon for England on the transport "Numa" as Assistant to Staff Assistant Surgeon Boyes who went in charge of a detachment of the 78th Highlanders. He entered Edinburgh University for the study of Medicine and, as Dr. J. L. vander Straaten observes, "may, therefore, be considered as the first Ceylonese who acquired a British medical degree." A list of some of the qualifications he acquired during his short lifetime

is worth recording as it shews us the bent of his mind and his activities, and prepares us to appreciate the work he did in Ceylon and elsewhere. He was M. D. of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Linnaean Society, Fellow of the Geological Society, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, Fellow of the Royal Botanical and Physical Societies of Edinburgh, Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London, &c.

When he had qualified at Edinburgh he was appointed to the British Army, and he came back to Ceylon in 1841 as Staff Assistant Surgeon. Two years afterwards, on the 15th January, 1843, he left for England on the "Persia" with a contingent of the 90th and 95th Regiments, and in England, on the 24th June of the same year, he married Fanny Sophia, only daughter of Phineas Hussey, Esquire, of Wyrley Grove. The Husseys were an ancient county family in Staffordshire. The newly-wedded couple were soon after stationed at Gibraltar where a son was born to them in 1844. It is interesting to note, in view of what is going on at present, that in 1844 the French had a small war with Morocco, into which, it was feared, England would be drawn. The Kelaarts returned to England in 1845, and Mrs. Kelaart died in 1847. In 1849 we find Dr. Kelaart again in Ceylon in his former office of Staff Assistant Surgeon. He was promoted Staff Surgeon in a few years, and meanwhile he had married Elizabeth Nye in May 1851, at Trincomalee. It is interesting to note that Dr. Kelaart's brother, William Casper Kelaart, also a Doctor, married Miss Elizabeth Nye's sister, and accompanied him to the West Indies where he died in November 1875. Another brother was Charles Kelaart, Proctor, who died in October, 1895.

Dr. Edward Kelaart was stationed in various parts of the Island, chiefly Colombo, Trincomalee, and Galle. In 1859 he was at Trincomalee, and his departure from Ceylon took place in the next year. Major-General H. F. Lockyer was appointed on the 30th June to act as Governor of Ceylon, but his health broke down, and on the 30th July he embarked at Galle on the "Nubia" for Suez. With him went Dr. and Mrs. Kelaart, five children, and two servants. A friend remarked to Dr. Kelaart, "Well, you are going home at last." "No," replied the Doctor, "I am sorry to say I am leaving home for good." From the "Nubia" the passengers

appear to have transhipped to the "Ripon." On the 30th August, Major Lockyer succumbed to his illness, and on the next day Dr. Kelaart died of heart disease. Bishop Bravi of Colombo and Mr. Thomas Spofforth were also passengers from Ceylon who died earlier during the voyage on board the "Nubia," on the 15th and 12th August respectively, before they reached Suez.

Mrs. Kelaart and her children settled in Bedford. The eldest son, Gerald Talbot, entered the Royal Garrison Artillery and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the year 1900. He died at Brighton, England, in March, 1909. The second son, William Henry, became a tutor in Bedford College, and the third, Edward Frederick, was a successful merchant.

So far as can be ascertained, Dr. Kelaart's writings are as follows:—

Flora Calpensis; Contributions to the Botany of Gibraltar. 1846.

Prodromus Faunae Zeylanicae; Contributions to the Zoology of Ceylon. 1852.

Notes on the Cultivation of Cotton in Ceylon. 1853.

Report on the Natural History of the Pearl Oyster of Ceylon. 1857.

Report on the Tamblegam Pearl Oyster Fishery. 1857.

The list of his contributions published in the "Journal" of the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch, is:

Notes on the Geology of Ceylon. 1849—50.

List of Mammalia of Ceylon. 1849—50.

Description of New Species and Varieties of Mammals found in Ceylon. 1849—50. (Published also in "Young Ceylon" Vol. I. June, 1850.)

Catalogue of Ceylon Birds. 1853.

Description of New or Little-known species of Reptiles found in Ceylon. 1855.

Synopsis of Ceylon Reptiles. 1855.

Ceylon Ornithology, with Descriptions of Birds of Ceylon. 1855.

Descriptions of New and Little-known species of Ceylon Nudi-branchiate Molluscs and Zoophytes. 1856—58.

(Printed also as a separate pamphlet in November, 1857, and in the "Annals and Magazine of Natural History" in 1858).

In 1859 an announcement was made that preparations were begun for publication in London of "Coloured Illustrations of Ceylon Naked Mollusca, Sea Anemones, and Entozoa. From original drawings by Dr. Kelaart," who "hopes to be able, with the aid so kindly offered by His Excellency Sir Henry Ward and the Ceylon Government, to publish at least 50 lithographed plates, containing upwards of 100 coloured figures of new species. Price to subscribers not likely to exceed 5 guineas each copy." It was believed that after Dr. Kelaart's death these illustrations were presented in 1861 to the British Museum, but the Museum authorities failed to find any record of this in their registers. In 1906, however, Sir Charles Eliot read a paper "On the Nudibranchs of Southern India and Ceylon, with special reference to the Drawings by Kelaart and the Collections belonging to Alder and Hancock preserved in the Hancock Museum at Newcastle-on-Tyne." Thirty-five coloured drawings of Kelaart's are reproduced with the paper in the Zoological Society of London's "Proceedings." In the course of the paper Sir Charles Eliot says: "If a Nudibranch bears a name given by Kelaart, it need not be rebaptized if it is found to be identical with species imperfectly described by Pease, Angas, Abraham and others. Apart from this, Kelaart is by no means an authority to be despised, though he has not found favour with many of his critics. He totally ignored anatomy, and his descriptions of external characters have not that wealth and precision of detail which might be desired. But he is exact in recording localities and seasons, and he adds many notes on the habits of the animals, particularly on their spawn. His papers are of little service to the student of preserved specimens, but, taken together with his drawings, they will probably enable a naturalist in Ceylon to identify most of his species."

When it is remembered that Dr. Kelaart made his researches at a time when research was scarcely carried on in Ceylon, the work he did is astonishing and deserves far more recognition than it has yet received. His book on Gibraltar was welcomed as "a treasure," and a Colonial Magazine in expressing its appreciation said, "Would that every one of our colonies had its Dr. Kelaart to observe and chronicle its beauties, natural and artificial." The *Acanthus mollis* mentioned in this book led to an amusing newspaper quarrel between

Dr. Kelaart and Mr. William Ferguson in 1859, and the Editor of the "Ceylon Observer" intervened to ask if the Doctor had "got hold of the right Molly." But the incident is not worth further reference. In his Preface to the book on Ceylon beasts and birds by which he is best known in this Island, Dr. Kelaart said it did not "profess to be any more than a *Prodromus* or *Beginning*." His studies of Ceylon animals began in early life, and it is very pleasing to note the reference to his father:—"I must not omit here acknowledging with filial gratitude the great interest taken by my late father in my Zoological studies. The various collections of Ceylon birds, which he from time to time forwarded to England, enabled me to become scientifically acquainted with the feathered race of my native country long before my return to the Island."

His investigations into the Pearl Oysters of Ceylon, to which he was appointed by Sir Henry Ward in 1857, upset more than one received opinion. The conclusions at which he arrived are summarized in an exceedingly clear form in his Report, and the principal fact set forth about the pearl oyster is "that it has locomotive powers, beyond any idea which can be formed from former observations." Till then it was believed that it had no power to detach itself or to remove itself at its own will. Dr. Kelaart proved also that its power of movement is both inherent and necessary, that it goes about in search of food, that it dislikes impure or agitated water, and that it can be taken from its native bed and made to colonize other parts of the sea. Colonel Maude, R. A., in his "Memories of the Mutiny," said:—"Dr. Kelaart, one of our medicos at Trincomalee, was not only a clever Surgeon but also a Naturalist of no mean reputation. He made an interesting and exhaustive analysis of the habits and peregrinations (for they do move about) of the pearl oyster, which, as is well known, is a lucrative product of those waters. Some people used to go so far as to say that he had trained one to follow him about like a dog. But although that was an exaggeration, it is certain that most of his pets and curios were peculiarly docile under his influence. He never lost an opportunity of studying Natural History."

The layman is scarcely aware that it was Dr. Kelaart who first suggested that the formation of pearls might be due to parasites.

A study of Dr. Kelaart's life should induce some of the more intelligent of his countrymen to follow his lead and to interest themselves in a pursuit which, as the Editor of "Young Ceylon" shrewdly remarked, "may be said to *profit* while it *pleases*." The subject of our sketch found it of peculiar attraction. "No occupation, save the one of giving relief to human suffering, have I found more congenial to my own mind than the study of Natural History." And no one who has taken up this study has failed to find in it both profit and absorbing pleasure.

OLD MATARA AND THE REBELLION OF 1760-61.

A Lecture delivered at Matara on the 19th February, 1925.

BY E. REIMERS.

(Continued from page 64.)

March 4, 1761.—Letters read dated 19, 22 and 28 February from the Council at Galle reporting that only 64 European troops (out of 180) were left at Matara, and that the garrison had been reinforced by 48 troops from Galle as well as 32 sailors from the ships at Matara, in reply to which the Council at Galle were ordered to send further reinforcements of 1 Ensign and 36 Javanese to Matara. It would also appear from the proceedings that Jan Diderich Fedder had already been appointed (on 19th February) Provisional Captain and Dessave of Matara, relieving Samlant, Commandeur of Galle, who was still at Matara. The following were also read, viz., (1) a letter from the captain of an English ship addressed to His Excellency Jan Schreuder, Governor of Ceylon, &c. as follows:—Mr. Thomas Dickson, Captain of the Ship "The Savoy" lying at anchor in the roads of Colombo, takes the liberty of acquainting Your Excellency that the Sinhalese rebels at Matara sent a letter written in Portuguese by *cattamaran* to the captain of

the man-of-war "The Chatham," Thomas Lynn, asking him if he would assist them to capture Matara and Galle, which places were being besieged by them, and suggesting that the English by sea and they by land should attempt to capture all the Company's stations in the Island, the English receiving from them all the fortifications so captured; however, that Captain Lynn laughed at their request and sent back the messengers but kept the letter which he showed him. He also told him that the letter was signed "Ree de Candie;" (2) Statement made by the soldier Philip Hartman of Duykerk regarding what befell him on the march from Galle to the Matara Dessavony:—The declarant states that having been sent on the 27th December last with a force to Matara, he duly arrived there and was sent to Tangalle with the same force under the Ensign Quinix; that during the first days of their stay there they conducted themselves in such a manner with the natives, who appeared at the spot where they got their water, that they did not suffer the loss of a single man, and that this state of things continued until the approach of a certain sabbath or feast-day of the Sinhalese, who observed it without molesting our men or even appearing before them, however, that the occasion was seized as a favourable opportunity by our people for going aboard the ship during the night, the reason for the withdrawal being partly the lack of water and their inability to oppose the Sinhalese, who were there in great numbers; that, on returning in this manner to Matara, they left after a few days' rest for Hakmana under Lt. Wynbergen and the abovementioned Ensign Quinix, losing 15 or 20 men on the way and firing blindly into the jungle; that they arrived at Hakmana, encountering several palisades and barriers on the way, and saw the blackened ruins of the Company's rest-house from the top of a high hill, but no signs of the detachment under the Dessave Leembruggen but only a great force of armed Sinhalese, who were assembled in a field, which so greatly struck terror into the hearts of our men that they gradually began to retire, and in the end would not heed the commands of the officer but went away, through which the force was so greatly weakened that it was absolutely powerless to offer any resistance to the enemy without courting certain death; accordingly, that they too one after the other took to their heels, Lt. Wynbergen being in the meantime disabled by a

wound in his side ; however, that the declarant and a few others kept on firing on the enemy who now appeared in their rear, and that the declarant approached a palisade and seeing an open space at the end which was covered with leaves and boughs, attempted to cross it but fell into a deep pit, into which there fell shortly afterwards 10 or 12 of his companions ; that while they were in this pit they heard the voice of Ensign Quinix crying out to the Almighty to have mercy on his soul, whereupon the 10 or 12 men above-mentioned climbed up out of the pit, but that he stayed there a while longer till he thought he could do so with safety ; that accordingly coming out of the pit he heard no voices of men nor any other sound, whereupon he, fully armed as he was, sought refuge in a jungle, through which he crept for 2 days and nights and at length struck the high road to Matara on the third day, along which he saw the bodies of many Europeans lying about all stripped naked ; that coming suddenly into a field he was captured by a large force of Sinhalese, bound, and brought to Adam's Berg (Mulikirigala) where he found the king's Dessave with a great force of about 30,000 men ; that on his arrival he was questioned by the Dessave as to what his profession was and asked whether he knew how to handle cannon, but, on his answering that he was a periwig maker and had learned nothing else, that he was put into the stocks, where the following day a servant of the Mudaliyar Ilangakoon came and made the declarant understand that he would again be questioned the next day, and that he should answer that he belonged to the artillery and knew how to handle cannon, if he wished to save his life, which he did, and that, thereupon, he was immediately set free and provided with food, &c. The declarant went on to say that he saw the Dessave Leembruggen here and Captain Dies, who were the Dessave's prisoners, and that Captain Dies had cried out on seeing him, " O God, I see here still another old soldier of my garrison " ; that 2 days later, on the order of the abovementioned Dessave, a great force marched against Cattoene and, having approached the fort, erected a battery and mounted 4 guns thereon, viz., 2 bronze and 2 iron 8-pounders, which they as well as the declarant, who was forced to join them, fired continuously on the two following days at the fort, the Company's people replying briskly with grapeshot and bullets ; that on the third day a white flag was flown from the

fort, whereupon certain Sinhalese approached the fort and came back with the report that the Hollanders were ready to stop firing and to surrender the fort on the condition that no harm should befall them ; that the Dessave was informed accordingly, and on his coming up with his followers, finding the gates of Cattoene open, he and his people entered the fort, and having brought out the Hollanders, led them into the jungle and shot them dead, sparing only 6 Javanese and a piper and a drummer, who were carried to the camp, the said Cattoene having been completely destroyed after the Sinhalese had taken away the artillery and other things ; that after a day's rest all the Sinhalese as well as their Dessave set out, and crossing the Matara River three-quarters of an hour later, encamped on the other bank and erected 5 batteries made of coconut trunks and mud, viz., one near the bridge, 2 behind the Dessave's residence, 1 somewhat further away, and 1 at the mouth of the river, which were duly provided with cannon ; that on the same day the Sinhalese fired 3 shots from 2 batteries at the Dessave's house, sounding an alarm on their drums at the same time, and two days later directed a sustained fire on the fort during the whole day, the fire being returned by the fort and by the ship, the sloop, and the schooner in the bay, whereupon several of the Sinhalese falling, the rest took to flight, thus enabling the declarant, who was stationed at the battery at the mouth of the river, to escape by swimming across the river, being fired at while in the water but coming safe to the fort, where he was brought before H. E. the Commandeur.....Thus declared in the city of Galle at the Secretariat of Policy and Justice, this 27th day of February 1761.

March 9.—Letter read from Captain Fedder dated February 27 reporting that the insurgents were approaching nearer and nearer and that 6 and 4-lb balls had been fired into the fort, so that they had almost no place where they could take refuge ; also asking for more reinforcements, ammunition, and provisions. Galle letter dated 6th March was also read reporting that the enemy had come so near the walls that they could fire into the fort with their muskets, and that a battery had been erected on this side of the Moors' temple ; also stating that although Matara could be reinforced with an additional 100 from Galle, it was a question as to whether that place could be held for the 8 months of the bad mon-

soon, during which time communications by sea would be interrupted, it being observed at the same time that although this place was called by courtesy a fort, it in no way resembled one, being altogether exposed on 2 sides, with certain buildings on the third side, and only 4 irregular little bastions on the 4th side. It was thereupon resolved by the meeting that, in view of the absence of any mention of casualties through the enemy's fire, and the certainty that the Sinhalese would not attempt to storm the fort, Matara should be defended till the end of the monsoon; however, that if contrary to expectations the defence could not be maintained, the garrison should take to the ships in the bay, bringing away with them the Company's effects, and destroying what could not be taken away.

March 17.—Galle letter read dated March 13 reporting that Matara was not in such a desperate state as to warrant a retirement. It was thereupon resolved to confirm Galle's suggestion, the Council also commenting at the same time on the gloomy picture presented by Samlant and van de Graaf (Commandeur and Fiscal of Galle, respectively) when they were at Matara.

March 27.—News of the massacre of the Hanwella garrison having been communicated to the Council, it was resolved to withdraw the garrisons of Matara, Kalutara, Negombo, Calpentyn, and Batticaloa, if the circumstances warranted it.

March 30.—With reference to the above resolution, letter dated March 20 was tabled stating that the situation was growing worse, and that the fort could not be held with any certainty till the end of the bad monsoon, especially as the enemy had not only erected 4 or 5 redoubts on the other side of the river, but had also set up 4 batteries which were higher than the curtain of the fort, from which all their dispositions could be seen; that the said batteries were so strongly built that, notwithstanding the continuous fire from cannon, they could not do them the least damage, in addition to which the rebels from every side, both from the batteries and the other fortifications, poured in their fire as well as arrows with such deadly effect that no shelter could be found from them, and that he had sustained many casualties both in killed and wounded, so that he was at a loss how to carry on under these fearful conditions

that if it was decided to hold Matara, he should be supplied with 6000 lbs. of powder, cannon balls, grapeshot, heavy mortars, bombs, &c., &c. It was also reported to the Council that all this had been communicated to Galle by letter dated March 26, and that matters having progressed thus far, a letter was received from Galle dated March 25 containing the unwelcome news that Matara had been abandoned on the 24th, and that it was discovered that the enemy had erected 3 demilunes with fascines so close to the walls that their voices could be heard in the fort; that our men by moonlight, although it was rather misty, discovered in time that some project was on foot and fired on the enemy with grape and caseshot, which accounted for at least 200 of them; that on the following morning, viz., the 24th, the Dessave Fedder was shot dead at the point 'sGravenhage, and, lastly, that on the same day, the officers having first shipped the wounded and everything else possible, they began to embark the men, of whom 10 to 15 were drowned by the swamping of a boat, and that everything possible was brought away such as the money, the cotton goods, &c., as well as the provisions and as much ammunition as possible, the rest having been destroyed or rendered unfit for use—the cannon being spiked and some of the lighter pieces sunk out at sea.

Here follows a sworn statement relating to the abandonment of Matara: This day the 28th of March, 1761, there appeared before me Gerrit de Vos, Junior Merchant and Secretary of Policy and Justice of this Commandement, in the presence of the witnesses undersigned, the Hon. Jan Jeronimus Bartelsz and Baltzer Swygert, the former the Senior Lieutenant and the latter the Senior Ensign last stationed in the fort of Matara, who arrived yesterday in the ship the "Renswoude", and made the following statement at the requisition of H. E. the Commandeur of the City and Lands of the Galle Commandement, &c., Abraham Samlant, viz., that during their presence in Matara, in spite of their utmost efforts to destroy with their fire the batteries and other works of the enemy, the latter had entrenched themselves so close to the walls that they commanded most of the houses in the fort with their cannon and muskets, so that no one within it could consider himself secure, and that they were accordingly forced to heap sandbags on the walls; that on Monday the 23rd of this month, on the enemy attempting some

project by night, the same became known to our people, and thereupon that a sustained and well-directed fire was poured on them with grape and caseshot, our fire ceasing at daybreak, when it was discovered that the enemy had erected 3 half-moons with fascines, one of which was half completed, so close to our walls that we could clearly hear their voices and also see them working by moonlight, which helped us to account for many of them; that the Dessave Fedder of blessed memory, having that morning inspected the dispositions of the enemy, had confessed that without the necessary bombs and mortars and strong reinforcements the place should have to be abandoned, especially as the enemy's works clearly demonstrated that they were prepared to attempt an attack within a short time and as their numbers were so large and ours so small, whereupon His Honour immediately began to have the Company's effects placed on board the ship and the sloop, while in order to delude the enemy as much as possible he kept them engaged with our fire; that His Honour on the same morning at 9 o'clock, while inspecting the curtain between the points Nerpier and 'sGravenhage, was shot at the latter place by the enemy and killed instantly, whereupon his body as well as the other goods and the wounded were sent on board the ship and the sloop, following which the men were embarked in the evening, about 10 or 12 of whom we lost, together with 3 brass cannon of 1 lb and 2 ditto culverins, by the swamping of a flat-bottomed boat by the breakers at a spot where the sea was fairly deep. The provisions left behind, the declarants state, were negligible, consisting of grain and 4 casks of salt meat or bacon, while the powder and a small quantity of balls, arrack, and oil were either thrown into the sea or poured out, 18 iron cannon being spiked and put out of use, the 19th having burst on the walls. All this having been accomplished, the former declarant states that at night at 7 o'clock he embarked on board the ship "Renswoude" with the remaining people, and that shortly afterwards a Moor sailor swam to the ship from the shore and informed him that he and 4 Europeans who had stayed behind had escaped the rebels and taken to the sea, but that he did not know what had become of them. The declarants add that the sloop made ready to sail the next morning, the ship following, but that they could not leave till the day after, viz., the 25th (sic), also that they had perceived on

the preceding night that the fort of Matara was on fire, with the exception of the Dessave's house and the warehouse standing next to it, the fires undoubtedly having been kindled by the rebels..... The declarants state lastly that during their last 4 days at Matara at least a thousand of the rebels must have been killed by their fire, and that on the last night of their stay there the rampart of the point Nerpier gave way and thus a wide breach was made. Thus declared in the city of Galle at the Secretariat of Policy and Justice, on the day, month, and year above stated, and in the presence of the First Sworn Clerk Nicolaas Bernardus Marthese and the Sworn Clerk Pieter de Vos, both witnesses who have seen this minute as well as of the declarants, and me, the Secretary, (Sd.) G. de Vos, Secretary.

Matara, you will be interested to know, continued in the hands of the rebels till the 26th February of the following year, when a strong force under Major Bisschoff and Captain Medeler, after having first cleared the road from Galle to Matara, embarked for Matara and re-occupied the fort with hardly any resistance. They found only 8 cannon on the walls, among which was an English gun.

(Concluded.)

SOME DUTCH PAINTERS.

Holland has been described by a French critic as a Museum of Art, seeing that there is "perhaps no country in the world which has so closely preserved up to the present day the features of the period during which its great painters flourished." By this he means that the passing years have not greatly altered the natural features of the country. There is the same flat landscape with its windmills and cattle which Cuyp and Petter loved to paint, the same canals and narrow cobbled streets with their old churches and steeples, the same humid yet luminous atmosphere so often painted by Ruysdael van Goyen and Hobbema. The scenes which you see on the canvases on the walls of the art galleries in Holland may still be recognized in your daily walks in the towns or countryside. This dispensation of Providence is of great use to us since it helps us to compare the models or subjects with the works of art which they inspired or gave birth to. We can thus realize the atmosphere of these works which is so essential to a just understanding and appreciation of the art treasures which we behold.

I should like to interest our readers in a few names, some of which are universally known, others not so well-known except to art students, and to point out to them sources of pleasure and things of beauty, which will remain a "joy for ever."

I shall begin with one who was, to me, at any rate, something in the nature of a discoverer. This was Jan Steen, the painter of simple joys and sorrows, of homely folk and their ways, their vices and their virtues. He was born in 1626, during that wonderful period in the history of Holland, just after her heart's struggle against the tyranny of Spain, and her victory and attainment of independence. During a short period of about forty years there sprang into being, fully armed, like Pallas-Athene from the head of Zeus, that amazing generation of painters, with no tradition or art-history behind them, to remain a wonder to the present day. Leyden ("mine own romantic town") can proudly claim to have produced "much heroic clay," and Jan Steen and the immortal Rembrandt are not the least of her illustrious sons.

Jan Steen's father was a brewer, and his son appears to have inherited a professional thirst from his ancestors. Little is known

of his childhood, but as a young man he studied art under Nicholas Knupfer, Adrian van Ostade, probably also under Brouwer, finishing up with van Geyen, whose daughter he married in 1647.

In 1672, three years after his father's death, he was keeping a tavern, but being his own best customer, his cellar soon ran dry, and Jan was driven to work at his painting to pay his rent and to keep the wolf from the door. And to this circumstance we owe the production of numerous works of art which, "for a long time were to be found only in the hands of dealers in wine." "Who, after this, shall have the hardihood to speak evil of the grape?"

There is no painter like our Jan, who more appeals to our common humanity, or who is so "touched with feeling for our infirmities." As E. V. Lucas so well says "he remains the most loveable painter in Holland, and the tenderest.....in a country where tenderness is not easily found."

And what are the scenes that this "Burns of the brush" loved to paint? Look at this picture of his own family which hangs in the Mauritshuis. We see the common living room with the jolly Jan sitting at ease at an oaken table smoking a long churchwarden pipe, with an air of great contentment. There is a merry smile all over his face as he listens to the intent youngster who is standing by the table beside his mother, trying to get some music out of his flute. Just behind the boy is his little sister seated on the ground and playing with a little dog. In the foreground is the adoring granny, dandling her little grandchild on her knee, while the grandfather is seen in the shadows behind, looking at a book. On the floor is a great mess, a brass warming-pan, and a saucepan (painted as only these Dutch realists knew how), and a brass mortar and pestle such as our own grandmothers were wont to use, for rubbing up their spices. A dog stands by granny's knee looking intently at a basket of cakes on the floor. A bird-cage hangs from the roof. In the back-ground we see a maid and a man-servant engaged in a mild flirtation. It is a typical scene of domestic felicity and democratic kindness. One has only to compare this with conventionally-arranged and carefully-posed pictures by Orchardson or Marcus Stone, which had a vogue in modern times, to see how vital and natural is the work of Jan Steen. Among English painters

George Morland perhaps approached our pot-boy in his paintings of rustic scenes, but they lack his naturalness and are not so full of tenderness. Our Jan is not a stern moralist like Hogarth to whom he has been compared, and he does not emphasize the ugliness and crudeness of the types which he paints, like Brouwer and van Ostade, but shows a sympathetic feeling for the weakness of our common nature.

The titles of some of his pictures will indicate the sort of thing he loved to paint, and as typical we may take the "Anniversary feast of the Prince of Orange," the "Feast of St. Nicholas," the "Visit to a Dentist," the "Sick Woman," the "Oyster Feast" (with its triumph of drawing), the "Quack-doctor," a "Country Fair," "Jan Steen's Brewery," the "Topsy Woman," a "Merry Company," "The Cat's Dancing Lesson," etc. In nearly all his pictures there are portraits of children, for whom he must have had a great love, which is most charmingly shown in the picture entitled the "Menagerie," or the "Poultry Yard." This shows us a little girl about ten years of age seated in the paved courtyard of a great house with a lofty arch at the back, through which we catch a glimpse of a noble pile of buildings across a stretch of water. The little mistress, who is charmingly posed below the archway, is clothed in a light yellow frock with a white fichu and apron and a ribbon in her hair. Her broad-brimmed hat lies on the steps behind her, and she is holding a bowl of milk to her pet lamb, and there are two little dogs at her feet. In the foreground are grouped an enormous fat pigeon, some ducks in a duck-pond, and a magnificent cock. Filling up the background of the archway is a mixed medley of turkeys, guinea-fowls, and every variety of poultry, while there are pigeons flying about, and others perched in niches in the wall and on cotes. There is also a gorgeous peacock with scintillating tail perched on a dead tree on the left. All these details break up the lines of the great wall behind, and make a well-balanced and perfectly composed picture. Approaching the girl from behind the tree is the benevolent-looking old butler, who has a basket of eggs on his right arm, and a jug in his left. You can see that he is addressing some affectionate banter to his little mistress, by the kindly smile on his face, and the shy looks of the girl who affects absorption in the ducks. Above the steps on the left is seen a mis-

shapen dwarf, probably the gardener, whose eyes are also directed towards the little favourite who forms the centre of the picture. The dwarf is dressed in a long smock which draws attention to his huge feet, and emphasizes his ugliness, but the artist has put such a wealth of devotion, kindness, and pleasure into the lined features of the dwarf as to make the whole scene one of infinite tender charm. It reminds one of Ghirlandaio's "Portrait of an old man and his grandchild." Generally Jan Steen puts all his strength into one or two figures, leaving the rest of the picture somewhat sketchy, but this picture is an exception, and the whole is well conceived and well executed. The treatment of the hands and the texture of materials of clothing, curtains, etc., is Jan's strong point. This is well seen in his picture of the "Sick Woman" where the hands, jacket, and the complexion of the patient are perfect. His pictures are also full of atmosphere; you can walk round them. There is also a perennial gaiety in most of his scenes, in which he paints himself as a sort of "Master of the revels." He has great powers of observation and infinite humour, and a sympathetic kindness in his characterisation of the follies and festivities of the common people.

Another painter of "genre pictures" who is more familiar to us is Pieter de Heegh, whose Dutch interiors have been reproduced and broadcast the world over. He is one of the Masters of light, and the enthusiastic Lucas thus rhapsodizes over this quality.

"No one has managed direct sunlight so well as de Heegh. The light in his rooms is the light of day. One can almost understand how Rembrandt and Gerard Don got their effects of concentrated illumination, but how this omnipresent radiance streamed from de Heegh's palette is one of the mysteries. It is as though he did not paint light, but found light on his canvas, and painted everything else in its midst."

We are all familiar with de Heegh's scenes of rooms with tiled floors, into which the light streams from an open window and shows us the rooms beyond, through an open door, and the innocent domestic scenes which he loves to place in these surroundings. He also loves to add a rich crimson dress or jacket as a note of colour. It is interesting to compare his style with Steen's, the one all quiet

domesticity and refinement, the other bubbling over with the joy of life and riotous merriment.

Our readers who have visited the National Gallery will recall the brilliant "Interior of a Dutch House," showing a simply furnished room paved with black and white tiles, with the light coming from two windows at the left. By this window are grouped three figures, two cavaliers seated at a small table and looking at a glass of wine which the lady of the house (whose back is turned towards us) is holding up to the light. The light streams into the room and brilliantly shows up the black velvet jacket and dark red skirt edged with gold lace, which the lady wears, her white lace cap providing a contrast. The gorgeous cavalier in the centre (who is "en profile") has on a yellow velvet jerkin with a terra-cotta sash across his chest, and this note of colour is repeated at the knee of his frilled breeches, a buff cloak lying across his lap, and his plumed hat (with blue and crimson feathers) being on his right knee. The other cavalier faces us from the opposite end of the table, and a large map occupies the wall above his head. There is a handsome fireplace at the back of the room with red malachite pillars and wooden mantelpiece harmonizing with the beams of the flat roof. A serving-maid dressed in an olive-green jacket covered with a white neck-erchief, an inner skirt of blue with white borders, and a looped-up outer skirt of a purplish mauve, approaches with a small pan of charcoal for lighting the cavalier's pipe. This is the type of picture Meissonier loved to paint, but most of de Heegh's scenes are more domestic, such as his "Courtyard of a house," the charming "Store cupboard" of the Ryks Museum (described as the origin of the Christmas supplement), or even such homely scenes as the "Mother looking through her little daughter's head." This latter picture exemplifies the simple subjects and accessories which suffice these painters. All we have here is a section of a room showing a curtained bed-cupboard (beloved of Scotch landladies) close to which is seated the mother on a low chair, with her little daughter kneeling before her to afford easy access to her head (on her head-hunting expedition). The inevitable brass warming-pan hangs above the mother's head, and the top-light comes from a window on the right (the lower half having a wooden shutter to keep off the glare). On the left is the open door with a cat seated on the floor and gazing

through it across another little room, with an open window affording a glimpse of the landscape beyond. De Heegh's pictures are amongst the rarest of the Dutch Masters, another being Vermeer of Delft, who is also a magician of the light, which he treats in somewhat similar fashion.

It is well worth going to Holland simply to see Vermeer's famous "View of Delft," a serene gem of landscape painting, which can scarcely be described. Reproductions give one no indication of its charm and words cannot convey it. One can only sit in front of it and enjoy its cool luminous atmosphere, admire the beautiful dignified town with its twin spires (of the Oude and the Nieuwe Kerken), and wonder at the gem-like figures in the foreground, which complete a unique masterpiece of composition and colour. Vermeer of Delft (not to be confounded with his namesakes of Haarlem and Utrecht) was born in 1632 and died in 1675, and is the greatest of the painters whom Delft claims. Very little is known of his life, and it is said that less than 40 pictures from his brush are extant. Another of his masterpieces is the "Head of a young girl," which is the acme of refinement in painting. It is simply the head and shoulders of a young girl of Eastern type, shown three-quarter face with the lips slightly parted, the eyes a little prominent but full of light and vivacity. She wears a blue and white turban with the ends hanging down, and a large pearl earring draws attention to the little ear. The invaluable Lucas declares this to be one of the "most beautiful things in Holland."

I cannot refrain from quoting him again regarding this picture. He says "No other Dutch painter could compass such liquid clarity, such cool surfaces. Indeed, none of the others seem to have tried; a different ideal was theirs....."

"There is a winning charm in this simple Eastern face that no words of mine can express. All that is hard in the Dutch nature dissolves beneath her reluctant smile. She makes Holland sacred ground."

Vermeer's light is of a cool silvery quality, and he loves orange yellows, the green of fresh moss, and the blue of the sky.

These colours are all seen in his "Girl at the Spinet" which is in the National Gallery. The cool clear light streams through a

window behind a young lady who stands before the spinet. She is dressed in fresh moss-green velvet, and a blue velvet tippet lies round her shoulders, and there are touches of cherry colour in her hair, in the front of her bodice and sleeves, and the blue is repeated in the cushioned seat of the chair beside the spinet, varied by the purplish indigo tones of the chequered tiled floor. A landscape picture of green woods with white clouds and blue sky above, framed in orange, hangs by the window, and a picture of a large Cupid, bathed in yellow light, forms a foil to the girl's head, on which the green light from her dress is reflected on her face and hair.

A picture as fine as the "Head of a girl" is the one described as "The Reader," a woman reading a letter. Only a section of one wall is shown as background, and the woman faces the light obviously coming from a window opposite. She is dressed in a loose "boudoir jacket" (as we should now call it) of a beautiful cool blue colour, and her perfectly posed head and intent face is silhouetted against a large map on the wall—a bold innovation in backgrounds of which Vermeer was as fond as Steen was of painting curtains.

The reported discovery of a new Vermeer in Vienna the other day has caused a stir in Art circles, which are ever on the lookout for such finds.

Space does not permit me to do more than refer in passing to Torbergh and Metsu, to Gerard Don and Nicholas Maes, many of whose masterpieces are on view in Amsterdam and the Hague. I have also not touched on the pure landscapists like Ruysdael, Hobbema, van Goyen, animal painters like Cuyt and Petter, and greatest of Holland's artists, the incomparable Rembrandt, but may do so in another issue if our readers are interested in these impressions of Dutch Art as seen by the uninitiated man in the street.

To the picture lover a visit to Holland, even to its chief cities like Amsterdam and the Hague, is one of pure delight. To the student of history, or even to the sightseer, the country is one full of novelty and charm.

But to visit Holland, and not to attempt to see and understand these works of genius, will indeed be to miss a great opportunity of cultivating our aesthetic sense, and of adding some abiding impressions of pleasure to our store of memories to carry away, for future use.

As Wordsworth so feelingly puts it,

"For oft when on my couch I lie,
In vacant or in pensive mood
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils"

H. U. L.

A SHORT HISTORY OF S. PETER'S CHURCH, COLOMBO.

The history of S. Peter's Church is to be traced to an early period in the Dutch occupation of Ceylon. The exact date of its building is not known; but there is sufficient proof of the fact that it had been standing some time when Valentyn wrote his account of Ceylon in the early years of the eighteenth century. Designed originally for secular uses, it is well known that previous to the British occupation it had been the Dutch Governor's official residence within the city. In the old plans of Colombo the entire block of buildings, with the ground enclosed, forming the square lying between Church and Prince Streets, was occupied by the Governor's quarters. These quarters included an audience hall and other ground floor apartments, an upper storey over a part of the building, and several contiguous offices. The description given of the edifice by the earliest writers leads to the conclusion that the original building had suffered much diminution in size and modification in structure in the course of years. Valentyn's description (1723) is as follows: "Among the handsome buildings to be seen in Colombo, the house of the Governor excels all others in magni-

science as it rises above the battlements. It is a noble edifice and may be included among the very finest in all India (*Beschr. v. Ceilon*, p. 25). Half a century later, the following passage in Thunberg's *Travels in Europe, Asia, etc.* (1770—1779) seems to indicate that a certain modification in the structure of the building had taken place in the interval: "The Governor's palace is very elegant, although it is only one storey high. The balcony is of equal length with the house itself, and forms a pleasant and cool apartment, from which there is an entrance to several chambers on the other side."

The description given of the building by the two earliest writers of the British period, Percival and Cordiner, shows that up to their time little or no alteration had taken place. Cordiner gives the following account of the building as it appeared when the British first arrived: "The government house, which fronts the sea on the north side of the fort, is a handsome building of two storeys, with two wings of one floor. An arched portico of a cubical form, open on all sides, and flat roofed, projects from the centre of the building, and leads into a large and lofty vestibule, on each side of which are two excellent rooms. These occupy the length and half the breadth of the principal building: parallel to them, a spacious hall extends about three hundred feet in length, from one end of the house to the other. The upper storey has windows only in the front of the house, and is not at present occupied. Behind the building is a square garden, sunk twenty feet below the common level of the ground, to which a flight of steps descends. It was originally formed as a tank or reservoir of water: in which state it must have had a beautiful appearance. But the stagnant water becoming offensive, it was found necessary to drain it. Rows of buildings extend on two sides of it at right angles to the house. These form the various offices of Government, and likewise afford accommodation for a small troop of cavalry." (*Description of Ceylon*, Vol. I. p. 84.)

The most accurate account, brief and concise, of the events connected with the building after it had been adapted to ecclesiastical purposes by the British Government, will be found in Mr. J. P. Lewis' work on *Tombstones and Monuments in Ceylon*. But before we come to that it will be interesting to note that the

building had been, in Dutch times, the scene of many historical events.

What is now the aisle of the church was apparently part of the audience hall in which the Governors received the various embassies from the Kandyan Court. A representation of one such embassy is to be seen in the painting by Reimer, preserved in the Ryks Museum, Amsterdam, of which a photographic enlargement is hung up in the Colombo Museum.* This shows Governor Falck's interview with the Kandyan Ambassadors in 1772. The Governor, in his three-cornered hat, is seated on a slight elevation at one end of a long table, with the members of the Political Council on his right and the three Ambassadors on his left. A number of native headmen stand behind the Governor's chair. The original painting is a small water colour, but each of the figures, it is stated, was a portrait from life. It was in this hall that the famous treaty, at the conclusion of the war between the Dutch and the Kandyans, by which the former acquired the entire sea board of the island, was signed on the 14th February, 1766.

There was also a reception room which adjoined the audience hall, to which entrance was gained from outside by a "western gate," which we may perhaps now locate near the large archway leading to the General Treasury. At this entrance the Governor stood with his staff on state occasions to receive distinguished guests and to receive and despatch, with the pomp and ceremony observed on such occasions, the letters which passed between the Dutch East India Company and the King of Kandy. These letters were placed on a silver tray, covered with gold brocade, and pending transit, were guarded in the reception room by dragoons and lascorins with drawn swords.

From the portico in front of the building the bodies of several of the Governors who died in Colombo were conveyed to their last resting place in the old church which stood on the site of Gordon Gardens.† Accounts have been preserved of some of the stately

* A reproduction of the painting with the names and some details relating to the persons represented was given in Vol. II p. 147 of this Journal.

† For the names and some particulars relating to these Governors see the article "Dutch Governors who died in Ceylon," by R. G. Anthonisz, *D. B. U. Journal* Vol. X, p. 113.

funerals. We read in the account of Governor van Eck's funeral in 1765 that "at 3 o'clock, the *pennists*, marines, military artisans, burghers and lascorins, took post in front of Government House under their respective officers, and the funeral horse covered with a black cloth as well as the charger of the late Governor was led within the portico of Government House."* The burial place was not more than a few yards distant from the residence: therefore, to allow for the passage of the long and stately cavalcade, the route taken was a circuitous one, along what is now York Street, passed Chatham Street, and into Queen's Street where the old church stood.

The building was never used as a gubernatorial residence by the British, but almost from the first it served the purpose of a hall for giving audiences, holding levees, receiving ambassadors, etc. At this early period it was also used as a theatre and as a ball room, being often gaily decorated on these occasions. It does not appear to have been the intention of the Government at first to set it apart for religious use. The troops used to be marched to Wolvendaal where a Church of England Service was conducted between the hours of the Dutch services, but as the march from the fort in sultry weather proved an inconvenience, services were held in the mornings in the old roofless church where the Dutch Governors were buried. Frequent showers of rain here suggested the expedience of using the Government House, which thus came to be employed at the same time for "the most gay and festive amusements" and also for "the most serious and solemn duties." (Cordiner). Percival (p. 124) speaks of a proposal of Governor North to roof the old church for the accommodation of the soldiers, but the project appears to have been soon abandoned, and Government House became eventually the permanent place of worship of the military and those "professing the doctrines of the Church of England," and it was called the "Garrison Church." The permanent use of the building for divine worship appears to date from the year 1804, with a short interruption in 1806 for repairs.

Those who remember the fort of Colombo before the demolition of the fortifications in 1870, and before the building of such

*Vide "Three Funerals of Ceylon Dutch Officials in the 18th century," by F. H. de Vos, *Journal C. B. R. A. S.* Vol. XVIII, p. 100.

prominent edifices as the Grand Oriental Hotel, the new Treasury Offices, and the new wing of the Colonial Secretary's Office, would find no difficulty in identifying most of the places mentioned in Cordiner's description. By that time a great many of the apartments contiguous to the church, which formed part of the Governor's quarters, had been diverted to other uses; such, for instance, as the low ground floor and the upper storey of the General Treasury, the premises occupied by the Loan Board Offices, and the rooms beyond them which stood on a part of the site of the Grand Oriental Hotel. But traces of the "two wings of one floor," of the "large and lofty vestibules," and many other parts of the old building yet remained. It was only within the last decade that the "square garden" behind the building, "sunk twenty feet below the common level of the ground," was encroached upon; and the "flight of steps" still remains.

Mr. Lewis refers to the several clergymen who ministered in the church, commencing from the Reverend James Cordiner, the author of the well-known work on Ceylon; and he gives the inscriptions of the numerous mural tablets placed on the walls, with much interesting information relating to the subjects of the memorials. "Several persons," he tells us "have been buried in the church, viz., Henry Matthews, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court and father of Viscount Llandaff; W. Tolfrey; Archdeacon Twissleton, who was re-interred here"; Captain Dawson, R. E. whose monument is conspicuous at Kadugannawa." (Lewis' *Tombstones and Monuments*). It would appear from her monument on the wall that Lady Louisa Rodney, the wife of the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Honourable John Rodney, was also buried in the inner hall. An interesting account of her funeral on the 2nd December, 1814, taken from the Government Gazette, is quoted at length by Mr. Lewis.

The most important event in connection with the building after its appropriation for divine worship was its consecration by the first Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Middleton, on the 21st May, 1821, from which date it was called S. Peter's Church. About a week

* He died at Hambantota.

previous to that, 16th May, a deed of gift under the hand of Sir Edward Barnes had transferred the building, or at least that part of Government house which now forms S. Peter's Church, to four trustees on behalf of the "Military Garrison and other British inhabitants" of Colombo who "professed the doctrine and discipline of the United Church of England and Ireland." The Government reserved the right of effecting repairs to the building or of taking it down for the purpose of erecting a new church on the same site, to be vested in the same trustees with the same objects.

The stage or platform which is now used as the Governor's pew was originally built for the organ, and was used for this purpose up to the end of the sixties. The Governor with his suite then occupied the front row of seats on the left as one faced the altar: the right line of seats, with the General Commanding the Troops in the first row, was reserved for the military officers. Many other changes, mostly of a trifling kind, have taken place in the course of the last fifty years, but they hardly come within the scope of this brief sketch.

R. G. A.

ST. NICHOLAS AT THE D. B. U.

AN IMPRESSION, BY BELLA SIDNEY WOOLF

(MRS. W. T. SOUTHORN).

"Will you come to our St. Nicholas Party?" Joyfully I accepted the kind invitation. It took me back in a flash to the days of my childhood.

"Tell us about St. Nicholas Parties" we used to say to our mother as we sat round the big centre table in the library on a December evening in London. Probably there was a thick yellow fog outside, but indoors it was all firelight and cosiness. A parcel had arrived from our three great-aunts in Haarlem and we were busy helping to unpack the treasures—large gingerbread men with currants for eyes, boxes of "Haagsche Hopjes"—a delicious sweetmeat—toothsome "ontbeit-koek" (breakfast cake)—a kind of honey gingerbread, and pink and white "Muisjes" (comfits) which Dutch children sprinkle on their bread and butter.

It was all very thrilling and we loved to listen to the description of the St. Nicholas Parties, especially the one where there was a conjurer, who did a trick with a candle, with the help of "Oom Piet," and unfortunately set Oom Piet's curly hair on fire. However, the conflagration was extinguished and Oom Piet was none the worse for his adventure. In those far-off days of course Oom Piet was a small boy, but in our days he appeared as a grave elderly uncle who occasionally came over from Holland.

And we loved to hear how our mother and aunts used to be arrayed in stiff, starched muslin frocks with low necks and short sleeves, and "Oh! how cold we were" said my mother. When they were ready for the party they used to have to sit stiffly on chairs with the muslin skirts hung over the back so that they might not get unduly crushed. Those were prim days.

"But we enjoyed ourselves immensely when we got to the St. Nicholas Party" said my mother. "We hadn't so many treats and presents in our days as you children have nowadays."

So it was with feelings of joyful anticipation that I, renewing my childhood, stepped into the doorway of the D. B. U. Hall on

the evening of 5th December. It was dark and wet outside and gave one an impression of an autumn day in the West, but inside there was a glow of light and warmth and children's voices and varicoloured balloons swinging overhead. A prettier sight could not be imagined. Scores of charming children ranging from mere babies to demure misses with large bows in their hair played about in joyful anticipation of St. Nicholas' visit.

In the corners of the room there were roped-off enclosures with presents stacked high in baskets. I was much struck by the wonderful organization of the present-giving. The baskets were divided into presents for children of certain ages, and corresponding tickets were sewn on the children's frocks. So that when at last St. Nicholas appeared in all his glory of scarlet robes and white swansdown and long white beard, there was no scrambling or pushing for presents. The little ones were formed up outside the rope barriers and the presents were handed to them in turn on presentation of the ticket.

It was delightful to see the shy looks of delight with which the little ones took the parcels, and then the excited opening of the treasure, and the displaying of dolls and games and tea-sets and bricks to proud fathers and mothers.

Then games were played by those children who could be parted from their parents. Many of them preferred to sit on a chair or wander about blissfully clasping the gift to their hearts. However a number of boys and girls took part in musical chairs, and much merriment was caused when the winner proved to be a diminutive boy who had missed a chair about ten times but had insinuated himself back in the ranks each time with imperturbable calm.

Meanwhile admirable refreshments circulated all the time, keeping up the reputation of Dutch hospitality and Dutch cooking. I was introduced to a wonderful brand of home-made ginger beer prepared according to an old recipe, and as for the curry puffs, I defy anyone to produce specimens equal to those of the D. B. U. There were also sweetmeats made according to recipes handed down from the Dutch ladies who in the past presided over their spotless kitchens, with the gleaming brass and copper.

At last it was time for the little ones to go, and the older young folk began to dance. Followed by the haunting dance strains I left the cheerful hall and my kind hosts and hostesses and drove home under a star-lit sky. And I thought that the spirits of those fine Hollanders who worked and rejoiced and sorrowed here so many years ago probably mingled with the happy throng that evening. And far away in Holland itself a few hours later the same festivities would begin. But I doubt if any party could rival in gaiety, in the thought bestowed on it, and in the happy, kindly spirit breathing through it, the St. Nicholas Party in which I was privileged to take part at the Dutch Burgher Union Hall.

DR. DE HOEDT MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP.

We regret that in the Rules and Regulations for the above scholarship, published in the last number of this Journal, there was an unfortunate printer's error in Clause 6, which we now take the opportunity to correct. The rule in question should be read as follows:

6. The Scholarship shall be tenable for the full period of the pre-Medical and Medical College Curriculum and shall entitle the holder to receive his education and such other assistance as the Trustees may from time to time determine.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Christmas Day.—In the early years of the British rule in Ceylon the Dutch Burghers did not celebrate Christmas Day in the way we have been accustomed to do. *Kerstfeest* was of course remembered as a day of commemoration, but it was not a festival. The great annual social event with them was New Year's Day, which was celebrated by a special service in the Church, the interchange of visits of felicitation, and other festivities. It is no doubt the influence of the English which introduced this change in our social observances. We know that in the ritual of the Church of England the service appointed for Christmas Day is given special prominence, and the time-honoured customs connected with the social observance of Christmas have always appealed to the warm and innermost feelings of the race. With the Scotch Presbyterians, even now, New Year's Day, and not Christmas Day, is the social festival. Going back to remote times, we learn that Christmas was not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian Church. In the 5th century, the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated "for ever" on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol, on the 25th December, although no information respecting the day

of Christ's birth existed. In the Eastern Church it was celebrated on the 6th January. Christmas is called in German *Weihnachten*, i.e., Holy or Consecrated Night, from the fact that Christ was born during the night (St. Luke's Gospel). In the United States it is said to be little regarded, except by the Episcopalians.

Haafner's Travels in Ceylon.—Jacob Haafner was a German by birth, but came under the influence of the Dutch from an early period in his life, his father having obtained employment in the Dutch East India Company. Jacob Haafner spent a considerable time in the East Indies, especially in South India and Ceylon, and, on his return to Holland, wrote an account of his travels. His adventures in India and Ceylon are described in his three works: 1. "Adventures on a Journey from Madras through Tranquebar to the Island of Ceylon," published in 1806; 2. "Journey in a Palanquin, or Adventures and Remarkable Incidents on a Journey along the Coasts of Orissa and Coromandel," published in 1808; 3. "Journey on foot through the Island of Ceylon," published after his death by his son in 1810. None of these has been translated into English. We are indebted for these brief particulars of his life to an Introduction by the late Donald Ferguson to a translation made by him of a posthumous work of Haafner's: "An Account of Ceylon," published in the *Ceylon Literary Register* (Vol. V. pp. 82 *et seq.*)

It will, we are sure, interest our readers to learn that the first instalment of a translation made by Dr. L. A. Prins and Mr. J. R. Toussaint in collaboration, of the third of the works named above, viz., "Journey on foot through the Island of Ceylon," will appear as a supplement to the next number of this Journal and be continued in the following issues until completed.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

Summary of Proceedings of Meetings of the Committee.

Monday, 7th September.—1. Vote of Condolence on the death of Mr. P. D. Siebel. 2. Mr. Wace de Niese appointed Treasurer of the Union and Mr. D. V. Altendorff to fill the vacancy in the Committee so created. 3. Applications from Messrs. W. L. Bogtstra and J. Th. Reerink, Hollanders, considered. They were declared eligible for membership under the constitution. 4. Read letter from the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, C. B., re exchange of Journals. Approved. 5. Read letter from Mrs. Louisa Rode expressing a desire to be a paying member of the Union. Approved. 6. Read letter from Dr. H. W. Prins, New Zealand, forwarding a painting of Cornelis Arnoldus Prins, Secretaris van Justitie at Trincomalee, 1728. Resolved that he be thanked and the painting framed and hung up in the D. B. U. Hall.

Monday, 5th October.—1. Resolved that a wreath on behalf of the D. B. U. be placed on the Cenotaph on Armistice day. 2. The following new members were elected:

Johannes Theodorus Reerink
 Louis Antoine Pierre Francois van Oosterzee
 Willem Lucas Bogtstra
 David Ernest Maartensz
 Benjamin Donovan Andree
 Basil Joseph Ohlmus
 Noel Kalenberg.

3. Resolved that a meeting of the Committee be fixed for the 12th instant to further consider the proposal of amalgamating the D. B. U. Club and the Union.

Monday, 12th October.—1. Vote of Condolence on the death of Mr. E. de Kretser. 2. Resolved that reminders be sent to those members who had not yet replied to the circular regarding the proposal referred to in article 3 of the proceedings of the last meeting.

Monday, 2nd November.—1. Dr. L. A. Prins appointed to the vacancy in the Committee created by the death of Mr. E. de Kretser. 2. Resolved that a book offered for sale by Mr. A. Gammon in aid of the "Not Forgotten" Fund be purchased at a cost of Rs. 10. 3. Mrs. L. M. Maartensz appointed Honorary Secretary of the Social Service Sub-Committee in place of Mrs. G. S. Schneider who has left for Europe. 4. Resolved that the invitations to St. Nicolaas' Fête be confined to those on the list of paying members.

Monday, 7th December.—1. The Annual General Meeting of the Union for next year was fixed for the 3rd Saturday in February. 2. The following new members were elected:

A. D. Raffel
 Rev. D. Evan Joseph
 „ L. O. Toussaint
 C. E. P. Moldrich.

3. Resolved that a vote of thanks be conveyed to Mrs. H. P. Joseph and the other ladies on the Entertainment Committee for the excellent manner in which they had carried out the arrangements for the celebration of the St. Nicolaas' Fête. 4. Resolved that the proposal for the amalgamation of the D. B. U. Club and the Union be referred to the Managing Committee of the Club.

Lectures.—The following lectures were delivered at the Union Hall and were well attended:—

September.—"The Eye" by Dr. E. A. Coorey. *Chairman*: Dr. L. A. Prins.

October.—"The Tyrannies of Life" by Revd. C. V. A. Mac Echern. *Chairman*: Lt.-Col. E. H. Joseph, V.D.

November.—"Jane Austen" by Mrs. W. T. Southorn. *Chairman*: The Hon. Mr. G. A. Wille.

St. Nicolaas' Fete.—This annual function was held on Saturday, 5th December, and was voted a great success. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Mrs. H. P. Joseph, who was assisted by several ladies and gentlemen, and the proceedings went with a swing from start to finish. An appreciative article

on the Fête from the pen of Mrs. W. T. Southorn appears elsewhere.

Death.—We regret to record the death of Mr. E. de Kretser, I.S.O., which took place in the month of October after a short illness. The late Mr. de Kretser was an original member of the Union and also served on the Committee, the deliberations of which were materially assisted by his mature advice.

Annual General Meeting.—The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Union has been fixed for Saturday, 20th February, 1926, at 4-30 p.m. It is hoped that all those members who can conveniently attend the meeting will do so.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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

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

The *Journal* will be issued at the end of every quarter, post free, to each member of the Union who pays a subscription of Rs. 5/- per annum towards its cost of publication. Literary and other contributions are invited and should be sent to Mr. E. H. Vanderwall, Linton, Brownrigg Road, Colombo, Secretary of the Board of Management, while all remittances on account of the *Journal* should be made to Mr. J. R. Toussaint as above.

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

Remittances.—Remittances, whether of subscriptions due to the Union or contributions for special objects, must be made to the Honorary Treasurer of the Union, Mr. Wace de Niese, Cherrydale, Bambalapitiya, and not to the Honorary Secretary. The annual subscription of Rs. 6 for the year 1926 is now due and should be remitted to the Honorary Treasurer.

Remittances on the account of the Social Service Fund must be made to Mrs. L. M. Maartensz, Horton Place, Colombo, the Honorary Secretary of the Standing Committee for purposes of Social Service.

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