

Current Events.

The Tirupur Cattle and Pony Show and Exhibition: The Fourteenth Cattle and Pony Show and Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition was opened at 11 A. M. on Thursday, the 31st May 1923. Sir Charles Todhunter, the Hon'ble Finance Member, in opening the show, enlarged upon the importance of holding such Shows and Exhibitions. He said that the holding of Shows and Exhibitions was a means of education to the ryots in cattle breeding, practical farming and scientific agriculture. Cattle breeding in Coimbatore District was of a higher standard than in other districts and it was the duty of all to make the best use of their cattle by improving the breeds on up-to date lines; for, the improvement of agriculture, which was the main-stay of the people, depended very much on the livestock. Mr. K. Unnikrishna Menon then read a paper on the "Fodder problem in South India" and exhibited specimens of Guinea grass and Elephant grass which he said were very profitably cultivated in the Central Farm, Coimbatore. He also showed specimens of young cholam preserved in silo pits which he said were eagerly devoured by cattle. His paper is printed elsewhere in full. Among those present were Lady Todhunter, Mr. Braidwood,—the Collector and President of the Association, Mr. R. D. Anstead, the Director of Agriculture, Mr. C. Narayana Ayyar, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr. Littlewood D. D. Livestock, Mr. Ware, Supt. Civil Veter. Department, Mr. S. Sundararaman, the Government Mycologist and the Offg. Government Entomologist. The show was, on the whole, rather poor this year and many of the stalls were empty and one would wish that the Agricultural Association would bestir itself to greater effort in future years and try to attract more exhibits. The Agricultural Department as usual put up a fairly good show wherein agricultural implements, improved seeds, improved manure pits and pictures and specimens of pests and diseases of crops were exhibited. At night on the 31st May and 1st June 1923, magic lantern slides on various Agricultural subjects such as improved methods of agri-

culture and remedies for pests and diseases were shown to a large and interested audience. The lantern show was much enlivened by the comic performances of one of the senior Artists of the Agricultural College. In the Fisheries section the exhibition of fish meal, which was reported to be very nutritive as food for cattle, horses and poultry, was particularly noteworthy. In the cattle section, the cattle exhibited by the Pattagar of Palayakottah, the famous breeder of Kangayam Cattle, were as usual very conspicuous. On the 2nd inst. at 10 in the morning, Sir Charles Todhunter, gave away the prizes, after which he delivered a short speech in which he expatiated on the importance of improving the breeds of cattle in this country. He condemned the usual system of maintaining thousands of miserable half-starved creatures which had to find what living they could on communal grazing grounds and which were left to themselves, without check of any sort, to breed indiscriminately. The function came to an end by the proposal of thanks by Mr. Braidwood, to all responsible for making the cattle show and exhibition a success.

Presentation of Diplomas—Hebbal Agricultural School, Bangalore. On Wednesday the 6th inst. at 5-30 p. m. there was a large gathering consisting of Officers and staff of the Mysore Agricultural Department, and gentlemen interested in Agriculture. Dr. Michael Forster, Director, Tata Research Institute, presided. After the distribution of Diplomas and prizes, on which occasion the President shook hands with the successful candidates, he delivered a speech, in which he dilated upon the importance of Scientific Agriculture.

Scientific Agriculture, he said, was amongst the noblest of occupations. It was an industry which aimed at providing the maximum of wholesome nourishment to man-kind so as to enable it to accomplish the necessary tasks of civilization. Moreover, for no other industry could it be claimed that its complete and efficient practice involved almost every branch of science. It was to supply the elements of a knowledge of these things that the Hebbal School of Agriculture was established and one of its great advantages was to be found in the circumstance that there the student

was confronted with the experimental method and was thus brought face to face with facts and indeed for the first time, in his experience learnt what was meant by a fact and gained some insight into the process of making knowledge.

The experimental method had the further advantage of inculcating pride in craftsmanship. It taught the joy and the dignity of being able to use one's hands and it established the virtue of self-reliance. He further said that Agriculture was the one industry of which it might be said with confidence that it would endure so long as the human race survived. Looking ahead some two or three thousand years when all the coal and petroleum in the world would have been consumed, the human race would probably revert to the condition of an agricultural community. Speaking of the utility of the Hebhal School, he said that it should be the ambition of every land-holder to improve his property and to enable his son to hand it on to his descendants in a better and more fruitful condition than that in which it came. Thus he could turn his personal advantages to the general welfare of the State.

The Day's proceedings terminated with the singing of the Mysore National Anthem followed by three cheers to H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore.

Government Agricultural Middle School, Taliparamba. The first "School Day" of the above institution was celebrated on the 1st June 1923 with great *eclat* under the presidency of W. B. Brierly, Esq., Principal, Government College, Tellichery.

The programme of the day included several items, the chief of which was Sports including the following events:—Cross country race, 100 yards race, obstacle race, quarter mile race, high jump, long jump, blind man's buff, throwing the cricket ball and the tug of war. The guests as they arrived were first entertained with light refreshments and then conducted to a spacious and beautifully decorated pandal put up in the court-yard in front of the students' quarters. The President was, on arrival, welcomed at the entrance and garlanded by the Head Master who took him to the

ground where the sports were being held. What attracted the attention of the spectators most was the lively enthusiasm displayed by the students in competing for the prizes in every one of the various events; and the sustained energy and dogged determination exhibited by every one of the competitors was really remarkable.

The sports being over, the President took his seat on a raised dais in the pandal in the midst of a large audience. The Head Master, then, in a few well chosen words, gave a brief history of the founding of the institution as well as a short account of the work turned out during the year under review. He was glad to have been able to present a clean bill of health in regard to all students so far. The prizes which consisted of a choice selection of a variety of articles in daily use were then distributed by the President and the announcement was then made of the award of the championship medal of the year to Kunhappa Nambiar of Kalliat house, who won the first prize in five of the events.

Thereupon the President in the course of a very interesting speech emphasised the importance of agricultural education. He drew sharp lines of distinction between a literary and an industrial education as also between the kind of education that was being imparted in England and other European countries and the system of education that was being adopted in India. He very much deplored the fact that everybody aspired for literary eminence irrespective of a question of their aptitude for it or of their satisfying certain conditions needed to make literary education a success. He likewise regretted the needless, nay injurious, persistence of many in the said directions, whereby in the long run most of them had to acknowledge their failure and were driven to the necessity of entering life as clerks with a bare hand to mouth living. The President's speech, in fine, was illuminating and instructive and very much suited to the occasion and the teachers, the students and the guardians all alike owe a deep debt of gratitude to the President for his valuable advice calculated to help the up-lift of the students in general and consequently of their homes and the country at large.

Short scenes from the popular Hindu Drama "Harischandra charitam" were then enacted by the students and were followed in quick succession by other items of a variety entertainment such a English recitations and a Malayalam farce.

The celebration of the School Day was a distinct success and the day's proceedings were brought to a happy close at about 9-30 p. m. with the proposal of very hearty cheers to the President and the singing of the National Anthem.

M. K. Nambiar.

Students' Corner.

Reopening of the College. The College was reopened on Friday the 16th June; and B. Sc., II, B. Sc., III, and short course II classes have been formed, but the full complement will be made up when the selections for the short course I and the B. Sc., I, are completed. The date fixed up for the celebration of the College Day this year viz., July 14th, is not very happy so far as the students are concerned, as it does not give many of them sufficient time to prepare themselves to take part in the College Day entertainments. We hope the newly joined students will not mind the inconvenience so caused.

Selections for Certificate course and B. Sc., classes 1923. The Principal, Mr. Parnell, examined the applicants for the short course, on June 1st at Coimbatore and also visited Anakapalle and Bellary in this connection for the selection of students from the Northern Districts. Under a recent G. O. admission for the short course is, we understand, confined to S. S. L. C. eligibles. We also hear that applications for admission into the short course will be received till 30th June in view of the lateness in the publication of S. S. L. C. results.

Applicants for admission to the B. Sc., Ag., course were examined by a committee formed of the Minister for Development—Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu Garu,—the Director of Agriculture and the Principal, on Tuesday, the 19th June, at Coimbatore. They proceeded to Madras on the 20th and to Samalkota on the 22nd in connection with the selection of students from the central and the northern districts.