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Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



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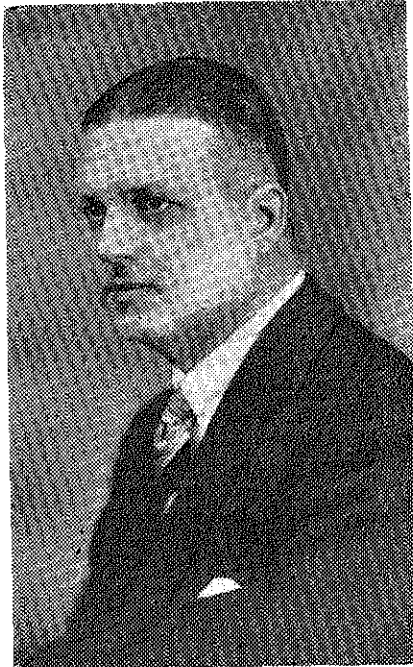
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Contributions are invited from members on subjects calculated to be of interest to the Union. MSS. must be written on one side of the paper-only and must reach the Editor at least a fortnight before the date of publication of the Journal.

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OUR NEW PRESIDENT



Dr. V. R. SCHOKMAN

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[No. 4.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

The election of Dr. V. R. Schokman to fill the office of President of the Union in succession to Mr. Kenneth de Kretser is a tribute to his qualifications no less than to the sound judgment displayed by the members in the difficult task that confronted them. Dr. Schokman had been closely associated with the Union in its early days, when he took a prominent part in every branch of the work, and was responsible for maintaining its activities at a high level. But he could not resist the attractions of outdoor Sport, and for a time this absorbed his entire attention to the exclusion of other forms of recreation. It was during these years that he entered politics and worthily represented his Community in the old Legislative Council and later in the State Council. He also made history by being elected Mayor of Colombo for two successive years. In recent years the objects of the Union have once again appealed to him, and he has brought to it the fruits of his experience gained in other spheres. His powers of organization are well known, and this augurs well for the schemes—notably education and social service—which the Union has recently launched. We look forward with confidence to Dr. Schokman's term of office as President.

The retiring President has every reason to be satisfied with his four years' tenure of the office, which synchronised with the war years. This brought about conditions which imposed a heavy strain on the resources of the Union, but Mr. de Kretser was equal to any emergency, and his calm and unruffled bearing inspired confidence in others, with the result that the Union emerged from the ordeal without any ill consequences. Mr. de Kretser's uniform courtesy and conciliatory methods will always be remembered as his best qualifications for the office he so worthily filled.

A REVIVAL OF READING.

BY NIEMAND.

Not that the habit of leisured reading had entirely ceased among the educated in Ceylon, and that books were not thought worth buying (or borrowing); for there has always been a patient remnant of the faithful when the multitudes were absorbed in remunerative material pursuits. A Revival of Religion, such as now and then occurs, does not mean that Religion was entirely dead, that there were no devout worshippers in a world of practical unbelievers. The great Revival of Letters in the sixteenth century spread rapidly in Europe because here and there, in remote monasteries, and in the secluded libraries of thoughtful men, there were those who loved to pore over the invaluable classics bequeathed to the world by Greece and Rome.

There can be no comparison of course between any great Revivals and the present awakening of the Reading habit in Ceylon. But it is plain that an awakening has taken place after a long period of dullness and neglect, though even during that period there were some who kept reading and re-reading, not merely the published works of the day, but also the classics of English Literature.

Signs of this awakening may be seen, for example, in the unusually prominent and unusually frequent advertisements which appear in our newspapers. Booksellers seem to have become aware that there is now a reading public which will even buy books, and they vie with one another in advertising the books that are most likely to attract readers. It may be that most of the books advertised are school texts or books on technical subjects; in our present stage of evolution these books would seem to be the first necessity, but they are not all that are advertised.

Nor is it only the booksellers who offer books for sale. In the "classified advertisements" in the newspapers there is always a corner for "Books", in which private persons offer—usually at fancy prices—volumes they no longer require. Others ask for books of which they are in special need. Thus, if on the one hand some people wish to sell their books, on the other hand many are willing to buy them.

It may be that here also there is cyclic succession, that periods of dull indifference to the pleasures of literature are followed by periods of revived interest. Possibly also, the collection of useful or rare books has become, or is becoming, a fashion; a good library, if only for show, is an excellent addition to the furniture. One may boast of his sets of popular novels, or of famous poets; or of books on Ceylon; or of books on sport; or perhaps of books on Religion or religious history. Somebody is sure to read them, or borrow them. At any rate, they are there, and can be seen.

The present revival in Ceylon may, however, be traced to easily ascertainable causes. Strangely enough, one of these causes was the Great War now officially declared to be ended. It was impossible for

our Island to escape being somehow involved in the struggle. The Island became an armed camp. The chief towns were filled with Servicemen, their trucks, their lorries, and their canteens. They were stationed along the coast, in remote villages, and even in jungles the very names of which were unknown to all but those immediately concerned. Now, these Servicemen were, most of them, readers, and many of them were students—not pupils in schools, but men eager to keep up the studies from which the War had ruthlessly torn them. They wished to add to their knowledge of the peoples, conditions, and history of the land in which they found themselves. Others of them were content with fiction and whatever other agreeable books they could get. The result was that our booksellers reaped an unexpected harvest. Books became scarce, especially as it was difficult to get new stocks from England and India. The blackout confined most people to their houses at night. The value of books and reading was brought home to many who had found profit in less elevated pursuits.

The growth of schools and colleges and the consequent spread of education in English, which has long been practically the "mother tongue" of the educated classes, contributed largely to the extension of the reading habit. The establishment of the Ceylon University and the necessity for obtaining University degrees enlarged the scope of reading. Then, there was the political upheaval which opened out a new vista to the reader. The adult franchise, granted some years ago, opened the eyes of the dullest and most illiterate, and everybody wanted to know about the new Free Lanka that is about to be.

Reading of this kind is for professional and technical purposes, and is so necessary as to be indispensable, but it must not be mistaken for the reading of Literature. It is not the reading which "maketh a full man". Every generation creates its own literature according to its own tastes and the circumstances of the time; and there will be readers. *Abunt studia in mores*—manners are influenced by studies, and the character of a generation may fairly be judged by its favourite authors.

A LITTLE-KNOWN CEYLON AUTHOR.

JOHN WHITCHURCH BENNETT, F.L.S.

While a good deal is known regarding the personal history of many of the well-known writers on Ceylon, it is surprising what little information is extant regarding one whose contribution to the history of the island is no less valuable than that of any others. Indeed, if for no other reason, John Whitchurch Bennett deserves to be better known on the ground that one of his books, "Ceylon and its Capabilities", is one of the largest in point of size, running into 427 folio-sized pages of general matter, with 84 pages of appendices. But apart from its dimensions, Bennett's work has other and weightier claims on our notice. Like many another distinguished

Civil Servant, he did not hold himself aloof from the people of the country among whom his lot was cast. He mixed freely with them and tried to understand their point of view. Unfortunately, owing to a grievance, real or imaginary, which he nursed against the Government, his views are apt to be sometimes prejudiced, but when due allowance is made for this, there is still a good deal in his work not dealt with by other writers which is of permanent value.

Although the work "Ceylon and its Capabilities" was published so far back as 1843, it was not until fifty years later that any interest was evinced in the author, and then only through the fortuitous circumstance of another of his works—that on the Coconut Tree—coming into the hands of Mr. Donald Ferguson, who was unable to find any record of Bennett's career in any of the Biographical Dictionaries in the Library of the British Museum. The correspondence which this statement gave rise to elicited the fact that Bennett had severed his connection with the Ceylon Civil Service in consequence of having "lost his reputation in connection with the importation of some Madeira wine by the Ceylon Government for the use of the troops in Ceylon". This cryptic reference does not give any indication as to the nature and extent of Bennett's participation in this supposedly questionable transaction, and no further attempt was made to trace his career.

A good deal of information regarding Bennett may be gathered from the internal evidence afforded by his work "Ceylon and its Capabilities". He arrived in Ceylon in the year 1816 and was given an appointment in the Civil Service. He seems to have been previously employed in the Navy, for in one part of his book, where he indulges in retrospection, he says: "Thus was I, after a faithful and unimpeachable public service of 22 years, suddenly bereft of every prospect of official promotion (to which my half pay as a First Lieutenant in the Royal Marines had been originally sacrificed) and deprived of a comparatively competent income". His nautical knowledge is apparent throughout the book, and he quotes freely from instructions extant at the time for ships sailing round the island. He speaks of having acted in 1816 as Collector of Customs, Colombo, but this appointment must have been of short duration, as his name does not appear in the Ceylon Almanac for that year. He, however, shews much familiarity with Customs procedure, and has reproduced in his book the Customs Ordinance in full.

Bennett was something of a botanist and horticulturist. In 1817 he was living in Colpetty, and seems to have visited Mauritius in 1821, for what purpose is not clear. He, however, made good use of his knowledge of horticulture, for during his stay at the Governor's country house in Mauritius, he availed himself of the permission granted to him to make a selection of plants from the Government Garden there, and among others, he brought over to Ceylon two of the date palm (*Phoenixdactylifera*, L.) and two of the *Cycas Circinalis* L. The two former did not survive the change of

climate, but one of the latter he planted at Bagatelle, in Kollupitiya, and when he left Ceylon it had grown to be a fine tree. The other he presented to Sir Hardinge Giffard, Chief Justice, who made it over to the Royal Botanic Gardens, where it flourished, like its fellow in Colombo.

A point that struck Bennett very forcibly during his service in Ceylon was the inadequacy of the scale of salaries paid to Ceylonese. In proof of this he states that a very intelligent Dutch gentleman drew his attention to the fact that the quarter's pay of a clerk, who had served Government long and faithfully "would barely supply him with an English broad cloth coat and a beaver hat, the cost of the former being 42 rix dollars, or £3.13, and of the latter 32 rix dollars, or £2.16; and at the same time 250 lbs. (avoirdupois) of black pepper, or 360 lbs. of coffee, or 200 lbs. of tobacco, or 80 gallons of arrack, of colonial produce, could be purchased at a less price". In those days the nationalistic movement had not manifested itself, and Bennett notices the partiality of the Sinhalese for British goods. "The higher ranks indulge in the best wines, particularly Madeira and Champagne, which are liberally dispensed at their parties to European guests; and no people in the world set a higher value upon British medicines, stationery, and perfumery; or relish with a keener zest English hams, cheeses, butter, porter, ale, cider, perry, herrings, salmon, anchovies, pickles and confectionery, all which they prefer to similar imports from France and America, except in regard to price".

Bennett was not favourably impressed with the regard for the oath shewn by the Sinhalese of his day in courts of justice. He attributed this "to the indifference which the local Government has long manifested to the mode of administering oaths to Sinhalese witnesses; and for this, among other reasons, none but persons descended from the Portuguese and Dutch families and styled Europeans, should be selected for Police Vidahns". The proposal is a novel one, and is not likely to find much favour at the present day.

We find Bennett advocating the establishment of a separate Bishopric for Ceylon, on the ground that "the diocese of Madras, of which it at present forms an archdeaconry, is so extensive, that a very small proportion of the Lord Bishop's attention can be devoted to Ceylon, if justice be done to the rest of his diocese". In making this suggestion, Bennett shewed an intelligent anticipation of events, for Ceylon was formed into a separate Diocese in 1845—two years after his book made its appearance.

Great play is often made of the fact that the Dutch made a monopoly of cinnamon. But asks Bennett: "What did *not* the British Government in Ceylon monopolize over which it had power? and even during the continuance of its own monopolies of cinnamon and salt, *cum multis aliis*, which had obtained from the cession of the island by the Dutch in 1796, the Kandyan Kingdom had

scarcely been *eighteen* months in our possession, when the Government declared the late King of Kandy's 'monopoly in areka nuts, cardamoms, bee's wax, coffee and pepper, to be highly prejudicial to the growth of those valuable articles of inland produce, and injurious to the commercial interests of the colony' and it was thereupon abandoned by proclamation dated 15th June, 1816, in the Kandyan territories; but it was not until the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Goderich, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, from 1830-1833 inclusively, abolished the iniquitous and arbitrary system altogether, that the monopoly in cinnamon ceased in the maritime provinces."

All our supplies of indigo at the present time are, it is believed, obtained from abroad, but according to Bennett, during the Dutch administration, "vast quantities of indigo had been manufactured for the European market and exported from Trincomalee". He tells of two attempts in British times to revive the industry, one by a Mr. Fawkenor, and the other by a Mr. Tranchell, but owing to the lukewarmness of Government and other reasons the projects did not succeed. He himself was fully confident of the suitability of Ceylon for such an enterprise, and he went to England in 1827 with full powers for establishing a company for that purpose, but the death of Mr. Tranchell in the following year put an end to further negotiations. He mentions the existence in Ceylon of two other plants from which a valuable blue dye could be obtained by a process similar to that by which indigo is made.

It seems to have been the custom in Bennett's day—a custom which was continued even into the early years of the present century—for people of humble position holding umbrellas over their heads to close them on the approach of high Government officials and other people of rank. Bennett strongly resented such distinctions. He mentions the case of a Magistrate who, whilst driving through the town of Colombo, "laid his whip violently over a black merchant's umbrella" because he had failed to close it in time. Bennett could not restrain his indignation over this incident. "Although my blood overboiled at the time," he says, "I knew that the Magistrate was in favour at court, and that a representation of it would have had no better effect than an exposition of the various abuses and impositions upon the public which the Secretary of State would have had through a private channel at home". He also instances the case of his Court Interpreter being refused admission to the Kachcheri because he wore shoes and stockings. On his appealing to the Governor, he was informed that "His Excellency would not sanction the adoption of the most comfortable portions of the European and native costumes, and that the interpreter must choose one or the other". Bennett records that the interpreter "relinquished his visits to the Kachcheri rather than the comforts of his adopted dress".

Bennett has something interesting to say about the use of the Dutch language in Ceylon. Besides the Dutch themselves, the language was known to a restricted circle among the higher classes of the

Sinhalese. The reason why Dutch was not more widely spoken was explained to Bennett by a Dutch gentleman, though it does not appear to be very convincing. According to this informant, the Dutch would not employ any domestics who were acquainted with that language for fear that they would become acquainted with the subjects of conversation at their master's tables. At the present day people get over this difficulty by not discussing private matters at table. Bennett contrasts the Dutch attitude with that of the Portuguese, whose language survived during the whole of the Dutch occupation, and even lingered up to fairly recent times.

The introduction by him of several plants not indigenous to the island is one of the claims put forward by Bennett. He takes credit for the "white and digitated mulberry plant" and the manioc or "cassada" from Mauritius, as he calls it. Had he lived in our day, he would have made a good food production officer, for he visualised the possibility of the latter root taking the place of rice. "One or two failures in the rice crop would not only point out the value of the *Jatropha Manihot*, but its cultivation would be considered an object of paramount necessity, as the only certain and easily obtained substitute for that chief article of native consumption". He speaks of the utility of a garden plant that has now almost disappeared from our ken—the sun-flower. "Every part of it is useful. The most delicious oil is expressed from the seed; the oil cake is a fattening diet for cattle and poultry; the dried leaves afford an excellent substitute for straw for cattle; and subsequently form a rich manure for sandy soils". According to him, Ceylon is rich in gums, and he could not understand why a greater commercial use was not made of them.

The Dutch are given credit by him for the introduction of coffee into Ceylon from Java. It was originally planted by Governor-General Zwaarderoon, who procured the seeds and plants from Mocha in 1723. Bennett did a disservice to the island by introducing the opium plant in 1826, but he is not to be blamed, for opium had not then acquired the sinister reputation that it enjoys at the present day. Bennett received the thanks of the Governor for sending him a packet of poppy seed, with instructions for the cultivation of the plant and the preparation of the opium, which the Governor believed could be brought to perfection in the island, "if the natives could be convinced of the importance of attention to agricultural industry".

A perusal of Bennett's work will shew what a great deal we owe to the Dutch for the introduction of fruit trees into Ceylon. Speaking of the edible fruits, he says: "The best are from naturalized exotics, originally introduced by the Dutch from Guiana and the islands of Java and Amboyna". The mangosteen was introduced from the island of Great Banda; the Rambotan from Java; the Nam-nam from Malacca; the Sour-sop from Surinam; the Brazil Cherry by Bennett himself from Mauritius, on the occasion of his visit to that place, already referred to. He gives the Portuguese credit for introducing the grape from Goa, adding the interesting information that the Portuguese envoys carried grape vines to the Kandyan Kings, and that they thrived well in the hill capital. Bennett attributes the introduction of many other fruit trees to the Dutch.

He could not reconcile himself to the disparity in the salaries of civil servants as compared with those paid to clerks, who were mostly drawn from the ranks of Burghers, and in another part of his book he returns again to the subject. "The Government clerks", he says, "are selected from these (Dutch and Portuguese) families, and manage all the clerical duties of the public offices in an admirable manner; and fortunate it is that their economical habits of life enable them to support their families upon their scanty and altogether inadequate pay. Their great claims upon the consideration of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies are just and strong, for there is not a public department in the United Kingdom in which the details of office and punctuality in attendance are more regularly performed than in Ceylon; and whatever may be the difference expected from gentlemen doing duty as clerks in the former, in point of dress, appearance, and society, even then the difference is in the greatest degree invidious, and the balance too great against the latter". He emphasises this difference by pointing out that in Ceylon, whereas the head of a department drew £2,000 a year, a junior clerk in the same department drew only £20—a disparity unknown in England.

In recent years we have been told of the virtues of fresh toddy, and the late Dr. S. C Paul warmly advocated the use of it. The European community of Bennett's day were not unaware of its health-giving properties, and Bennett speaks of the European civil and military officers and merchants driving, riding, or walking in the early morning to the general rendezvous, near the third mile post on the Galle Road where there was a tamarind tree, "to quaff the wholesome and renovating nectar fresh from the toddy palm". This tamarind tree stood until a few years ago somewhere near the spot which is now represented by New Buller's Road.

Bennett speaks of an attempt on the part of a Burgher gentleman, Peter Engelbert Vanderstraaten, to cultivate the pepper vine in Madampe, on the road to Chilaw. He obtained a grant of land from Government and established pepper gardens there, but he did not receive the support of Government to the extent he expected. Mr. Vanderstraaten then made a horticultural experiment in another direction, and "near his spacious bungalow he planted the best and rarest varieties of the plantain tree that the island and the neighbouring continent of India produced".

Once again returning to his pet subject, the inadequacy of the salaries paid to subordinate officers, Bennett instances the case of a cloth taxer in the Calpentyn Customs being paid £20 a year, and a searcher £10 a year, and asks with righteous indignation: "Is this enough to support them and their families, and at the same time keep them honest in the midst of temptation? I have seen £2,000, £1,600, £1,200, and £800 a year insufficient to keep certain Europeans, called Ceylon civil servants, faithful and honest in their public duties; but perhaps the indigenous breed are expected to be composed of more trustworthy materials although, by comparison, expected to live on chameleon diet."

A pleasing incident regarding a Dutch descendant of Point Pedro is recorded by Bennett. J. E. Theile was a gentleman of Prussian descent, who had served under Frederick the Great. Coming to Ceylon in the time of the Dutch, he was, after the Capitulation, appointed a Sitting Magistrate, and W. J. S. Boake, in his Diary of the Mannar District, has the following reference to him: "1816. Orr is back again as Collector. He falls foul of Theile, already referred to as Sitting Magistrate of Vidaltivu, and who seems also to have been Collector of Customs there, for interfering with the headmen, and reports him to Government. The Governor rather snubs them both, telling Theile that he is "an assuming young man", and advising Orr that he should have sent his instructions to the headmen through Theile". Boake humorously adds: "I suppose a Sitting Magistrate in those days was regarded somewhat in the light of a sitting hen. He might 'sit', but was not to be sat on".

At the time when Bennett had made the acquaintance of Theile, the latter had retired and was spending the evening of his life in Point Pedro. Bennett describes him as "a fine specimen of the Prussian Grenadier of the old school, being not less than six feet three inches in height". He entertained Sir William Coke, Puisne Justice, with the greatest hospitality, and Sir William returned the compliment. A few extra glasses of the Judge's champagne had a pleasing effect on the old gentleman, who was eighty years of age, for after dinner, instead of shouldering a crutch, "to shew how fields were won", he desired his pretty daughter to play a favourite Prussian march, and "advancing arms", with Bennett's gun, he marched about the room as if he had been sixty years younger than he really was. Theile left descendants in Ceylon to carry on his name.

Bennett is never tired of exposing the deficiencies of the Service of which he was a member. He recalls a Dutch tradition that one of their revenue officers in Ceylon, being unable to account for the disappearance of a few thousand rix dollars, reported that the white ants had eaten them; and he caps this with the story of a Civil Servant of a later day, who finding himself in a similar plight, said that the white ants had eaten the vouchers supporting the expenditure of the missing sum of money. Again, the opportunity is too good to be missed of having a dig at the Civil Service, and he says: "This way of 'doing' the public was a very thriving trade in the colony for a number of years, because it seldom failed to ensure impunity, and was generally followed by promotion or a pension".

It will surprise many to learn that tea of a sort was grown in the Batticaloa and Hambantota districts long before it was introduced up-country. Bennett speaks of a "wild tea tree"—a species of *Orchis* which the poor people were accustomed to use both as food and drink; for the former, boiled and mixed with *Tyre*,* and for the latter, an infusion of the green leaf. In 1826, Staff Surgeon Crawford sent him what he considered a specimen of the real tea, in flower. "It fully answered the generic description of the *Thea Bohea* of Linnaeus". Bennett states

*Curd.

that Crawford did not claim any merit for his discovery, as the Dutch were well aware that the tea plant was indigenous in the Eastern Province. He quotes Captain Percival as saying that "the tea plant has also been discovered native in the forests of the island. It grows spontaneously in the neighbourhood of Trincomalee and other northern parts of Ceylon". While on the subject of tea, it may be mentioned that the introduction of an agricultural implement largely used in preparing the ground for its cultivation, viz., the *Mamotie* is attributed by Bennett to the Dutch.

Bennett had his own ideas about the type of man suited to fill the office of Governor. He preferred Military officers to Civilians on the ground that the former were more active and energetic. He also disliked the parsimonious type of Governor who grew his own vegetables. "The natives cannot reconcile what they call 'arrack and onion' or 'pumpkin Governors' with the dignity of the British nation. They do not like to have a Governor who stoops to the degradation, in their opinion, of cutting his own vegetables, and filling every space of the public grounds upon which his residence may stand, with pumpkins, &c., instead of encouraging horticulture amongst the natives, and depending upon the *markets* for supplying his own table". Had Bennett lived in our own day, he would perhaps have had reason to revise his opinion about 'pumpkin Governors'.

Bennett's unorthodox manners and views do not appear to have found favour with the powers that be, and an excuse was found to get rid of him. Just as he had begun to compile a work on the fishes of Ceylon, he received orders to return to England. "At the time it was impossible for me to believe otherwise than that my absence would be but temporary, but I subsequently found that the most unparalleled stretch of official power and injustice that had ever till then been exercised in the public service in this or any other country boasting a free Government had been employed as a reason for rejecting my appeal against the atrocious proceeding". On his return to England he appealed to Sir Alexander Johnston to use his influence on his behalf, but he received a curt reply from our former Chief Justice that he could not be of any use to him at the Colonial Office. This is the last we hear of this remarkable character.

J. R. T.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Proceedings of the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burgher Union held in the Union Hall on Saturday, the 23rd March, 1946, at 5 p.m.

1. The President, Mr. H. K. de Kretser, occupied the Chair and there were about 80 members present.
2. The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, after which prizes were presented to the successful candidates in the examination in Sinhalese. The following were the Prize winners:—

Upper Grade:—Miss Sheila Driberg

Lower Grade:—1st Prize—Miss Sheila Misso

2nd Prize (tie)—Miss Moira de Jong

Master F. H. Collette.

3. The Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.
4. The President then addressed the meeting. He said that he did not propose to deal with the work of the Standing Committees in detail. He stressed the vital part that these Committees played in the affairs of the Union, and urged all members of these Committees to keep them alive and active. If these Committees slept the Union slept, and the office bearers could not be expected to do their work. He also dealt at some length with the question of employment for the rising generation, outlining some of the avenues open to them. In conclusion he expressed his appreciation of the assistance of the office bearers and the clerical staff. He then proposed the adoption of the Report and Accounts, which were passed with minor alterations.
5. Proceeding to the next item on the Agenda, the election of office bearers, the President proposed the election of Dr. V. R. Schokman as President for 1946. This was seconded by Col. W. E. V. de Rooy. The motion was unanimously carried with acclamation. Dr. V. R. Schokman then took the Chair. He thanked the members for electing him as their President. He would do his best, and he knew he would have the co-operation of the Union. Before proceeding to the other elections, he took the opportunity to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring office bearers. This was carried with acclamation.
6. Mr. J. A. Leembruggen proposed and Mr. C. E. Foenander seconded Mr. Fred Leos for election to the office of Secretary. This was carried unanimously. Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand proposed and Mr. Wace de Niese seconded the election of Mr. H. L. J. Thomasz for election to the office of Treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Mr. H. L. Austin proposed the following General Committee:—

Colombo.—Mr. D. V. Altendorff, Mr. L. E. Blaze, Dr. F. E. B. Bartholomeusz, Mr. C. L. Beling, Mr. C. P. Brohier, Dr. J. R. Blaze, Mr. R. L. Brohier, Dr. H. S. Christoffelsz, Mr. A. E. Christoffelsz, Mr. A. E. Direkze, Mr. H. vanden Drieaen, Mr. C. E. Foesander, Mr. A. L. B. Ferdinand, Mr. G. H. Gratiaen, 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. J. A. Leembruggen, Mr. W. J. F. La Brooy, Mr. J. A. Martensz, Mr. Ivor Misso, Col. W. E. V. de Rooy, Mr. C. C. Schokman, Mr. C. A. Speldewinde, Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. E. A. vander Straaten, Mr. J. R. Toussaint, Dr. Sam de Vos.

Outstation. Col. V. H. L. Anthonisz, Mr. B. R. Blaze, Dr. F. L. Christoffelsz, Dr. H. A. Direkze, 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. G. P. Keuneman, Dr. N. Kelaart, Dr. H. U. Leembruggen, Dr. H. Ludovici, Mr. Wace de Niese, Mr. F. W. E. de Vos.

This was seconded by Mr. Rex Poulter and carried unanimously.

8. Col. W. E. V. de Rooy proposed the appointment of Messrs. Satchidananda, Schokman and Silva as Auditors for 1946 on a fee of Rs. 200/-. Mr. Ivor Misso seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.
9. A collection was made at the end of the meeting in aid of the Social Service Fund and realised Rs. 114/40. There being no other business the meeting terminated.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

Your Committee have much pleasure in submitting the following report for 1945:—

Membership.—The number of members on the Roll at the end of the year under review was 568 as compared with 578 at the end of the previous year.

As at 1st January 1945	578
Add new members joined in 1945		30	
Add old members rejoined	...	4	34
		—	612
Less resigned	...	9	
„ Died	...	8	
„ Struck off under Rule 6 (c)	...	8	
„ Members who have left the Island	...	19	44
		—	568

Colombo Members	1943	1944	1945
Paying Rs. 2-50	74	—	—
„ 1-50	—	281	271
„ 1-00	216	43	25
„ 50 cts.	128	55	53
Outstation Members			
Paying Rs. 1-00	74	94	103
„ 50 cts.	78	92	99
Out of the Island	27	13	17
	597	578	568

Out of the 271 Colombo members paying Rs. 1-50, p.m., 63 pay Re. 1-00 extra for credit facilities.

3 Colombo Re. 1-00 and 4 Colombo cts. 50 members transferred to Rs. 1-50 membership during 1945.

General Committee.—12 Committee Meetings and 2 Special Committee Meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 21.

Standing Committee for Ethical and Literary Purposes.—One Committee meeting was held at which a comprehensive programme was mapped out. This programme could not be put into effect. The following lectures were arranged:—

“Death in High Places” by Capt. W. R. Bett.

“Japan” by Professor Graham Martyr.

“Probation Work in Ceylon” by Mr. A. E. Leeding.

In conjunction with the Historical Manuscripts and Monuments Committee a lecture by Dr. S. Paranavitana was arranged. He spoke on the question of the preservation of Dutch monuments.

The Journal.—made its appearance regularly and maintained its usual standard. Several new Genealogies were published and for this we are much indebted to Mr. D. V. Altendorff. There was a slight falling off in the number of subscribers, the number at the end of the year being 86 as against 89 the previous year. This is due to cessation of membership through death and other causes.

The Bulletin.—Mr. R. L. Brohier gave up the editorship in the course of the year and his place was taken by Mr. J. A. Leembruggen.

Reference and Lending Libraries.—A catalogue of all books in the Reference and Lending Libraries neared completion during the year. The Lending Library of Dutch books was augmented by books presented by Messrs. F. W. T. Morgan and C. J. Oorloff.

Sub-Committee for Purposes of Social Service.—The number of meetings held during the year was 10; the average attendance being 8. The total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 2,869.37. Of this amount Rs. 1,740.40 were received as contributions. Rs. 600 were received as a donation from the Public Assistance Committee

and Rs. 260.97 were collected by the sale of refreshments at concerts. Regular assistance was given to 24 persons and the total payments for the year amounted to Rs. 2,858.80. A sum of Rs. 217.97 was also expended in December on the Christmas treat. The total amount spent during the year was Rs. 2,616.97. A sum of Rs. 638.28 was carried over from the previous year. The year under review closed with a balance of Rs. 890.68. Special treats to the poor were given by Mrs. H. K. de Kretser, Mrs. A. L. B. Ferdinand and Dr. Sam de Vos during the year.

Sub-Committee for Purposes of Genealogical Research.—10 meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 7. The total number of applications dealt with was 30, none from persons temporarily resident in the Island.

Sub-Committee for Purposes of Social Recreation, Entertainment and Sports.—10 Committee meetings were held during the year, with an average attendance of 10. Members' Evenings and Whist drives were not popular, but the 4 guest evenings and 6 dances were well attended. V.E. and V.J. Days were celebrated by dances; the Education Endowment Fund and the Education General Fund benefited from the proceeds of dances in March and October. H.M. Queen Wilhelmina's Birthday was the occasion for a Tea and concert in the course of which the Coat-of-Arms of the Netherlands Kingdom, presented by the R. N. N. Forces in Ceylon, was unveiled by the Netherlands C-in-C. Founder's Day was observed by a social followed by an historical review of the Union by Col. W. E. V. De Rooy. A new departure was a children's party held in September and enthusiastically received. A Nativity Play, arranged by Miss Olive Rodé, was presented in December in aid of the Social Service Fund.

Billiards.—A Paulusz Memorial Shield (subscribed by members in memory of the late Mr. J. G. Paulusz) was presented to the Union. It will be used as an award for future billiards matches.

Dramatic and Choral Group. One entertainment consisting of two one-Act plays was organised in July.

Contract Bridge Group.—This Group was begun in August and continues to receive fairly substantial support. It meets every Friday.

Standing Committee for Increase of Membership.—3 meetings were called but at none of them was there a quorum. Individual members of the Union did, however, on their own initiative endeavour to bring in new members. The Committee has under consideration the preparation of a circular letter to be sent to eligible persons inviting them to join the Union.

Standing Committee for Historical Manuscripts and Monuments.—At a meeting held during the year the Archaeological Commissioner made an appeal to members of the Union inviting sugges-

tions for the preservation of the Dutch monuments taken over by his Department and of those which should be protected or conserved.

The following monuments in private ownership have been declared protected under the Antiquities Ordinance: The Churches at Kalpitiya, and Mannar. The following have been declared Archaeological Reserves: The Forts at Katuvana, Galle, Jaffna, Kalpitiya, Batticaloa, the Star Fort at Matara and the Dutch Burial Ground at Negombo.

Standing Committee for Purposes of Education.—The Committee met 11 times during the year with an average attendance of 8. 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 number of subscribers fell from 47 to 36 and the total subscriptions from Rs. 1576.50 to Rs. 1096.50. The fees or part fees of the same number (16) of children were paid during the year.

During the course of the year:—

- (a) The usual Sinhalese Prize Examination was held. The entries were disappointing but there was a considerable improvement in the standard of the answers in the Lower Grade.
- (b) A conference of representatives of all Burghier Associations and of members of the Community interested in Education was arranged to consider the new educational proposals and their effect on the Community. It was well attended. Several resolutions were passed and a representative committee appointed to implement them.
- (c) The subscribers to the **Vocation Fund** very generously agreed to transfer the administration thereof to this Committee.
- (d) The **H. P. Beling Memorial Fund** was augmented by a legacy of Rs. 300/- from the estate of the late Mr. Henry P. Beling.
- (e) The **Education Endowment Fund** was increased by Rs. 1496.35 and now stands at Rs. 3052.95. Rs. 1250/- represents value of shares in the D. B. U. Buildings Company Limited and Rs. 1500/- is invested in 3½% Ceylon Government National Loan.

Sub-Committee for Building Shares.—During the year under review 19 shares were transferred, making the total owned by the Union 200 shares. The amount to the credit of the fund for the purchase of shares at the end of 1945 was Rs. 1229.12.

St. Nikolaas' Fete.—This function was exceptionally popular, over 240 children being catered for. Expenditure was on the high side due to the high cost of toys and refreshments, but collections amounted to Rs. 1833-50 leaving a credit balance of Rs. 143-30

SPECIAL FUNDS.

(1) **Loos Legacy.**—In Bank at 31.12.45 Rs. 6,582-09

(2) **Arndt Trust Fund.**—In Bank at 31.12.45 Rs. 2,201-75

(3) **H. P. Beling Memorial Fund.**—In Bank at 31.12.45 Rs. 887-62

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

One student was assisted by this Fund in 1945. The fees paid amounted to Rs. 397/50.

A further sum of Rs. 1000/- was invested during the year in Ceylon Government 3% Defence Loan, bringing the total sum invested in this loan to Rs. 15,000/-

The balance at credit in the Bank on 31st December 1945 was Rs. 2002.99.

(5) **Vocation Fund.**—In Bank at 31.12.45 Rs. 4006-61

Standing Committee for Purposes of Finance.—11 meetings of this Committee were held during the year with an average attendance of 9. The monthly statements of accounts were tabled and passed at these meetings. A Sub-Committee consisting of Col. W. E. V. de Rooy, Dr. V. R. Schokman, and Messrs. C. E. Foenander and F. R. Loos, was appointed in August to report on the system of accounts. The report submitted by this Committee was accepted, and the audit were to be asked to have the amendments given effect to.

The accounts at the end of December showed an excess of Income over Expenditure of Rs. 2723.60.

During the year the Union spent a sum of Rs. 1168/- for entertainment to the Soulbury Commissioners and also for the V. E. Day Dance. A sum of Rs. 1000/- was paid to the Education Endowment Fund from the surplus at the end of last year and a sum of Rs. 150 was paid for the Christmas treat for the poor. There is a slight increase in the balance this year when compared with that of last year. The Treasurer desires once again to express his personal thanks for the very ready help and co-operation given to him by all members.

Help Holland Fund.—A whirl-wind campaign yielded the sum of Rs. 3803.66 which was sent to the local Help Holland Committee of Ceylon for remittance to the main body in London to be used for the relief of distress in Holland following its liberation.

Buildings Sub-Committee.—It has long been felt that certain extensions to the Union premises are necessary. A special sub-committee was appointed in May to go into the question. It has met several times but has not yet issued a final report.

St. Nikolaas' Home Fund.—This fund, begun in 1937 on the initiative of Dr. E. W. Arndt, for the establishment of a Home for members of the community unable to provide for themselves, received special attention in the course of the year and stood at December 31, 1945, at Rs. 6834.88.

An acre of land has been donated by Dr. R. L. Spittel and other substantial donations and subscriptions have also been received. A special Committee has been appointed to collect funds and to build, equip, maintain and administer the proposed Home.

The Soulbury Commission and Constitutional Changes.—The question of making representations to the Soulbury Commission was discussed with delegates of other Burgher Associations. The Union's report was not accepted by them on 2 issues and the Union therefore decided to send its own deputation led by Mr. G. A. Wille, the others being Mr. H. K. de Kretser, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Messrs. J. R. Toussaint, G. H. Grataien, and E. D. Toussaint.

Upon publication of the Commissioner's report in October the Union sent a Telegram to the Secretary of State on the question of Burgher representation. Subsequently, in view of a Government circular regarding officials who were members of associations which carried on political activities, it was decided by resolution that the Union should abstain from any further activity in this connection.

J. A. LEEMBRUGGEN,
Hony. Secretary.

March 4, 1946.



GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF CLAESSEN OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Altendorf).

I.

Jan Pieter Claessen of Hamburg married at Trincomalee Anna Lourensia, and he had by her:—

- 1 Catharina Elisabeth, baptised 9th May 1760, married in the Dutch Reformed Church Wolvendaal:—
 - (a) 29th May 1784, Johan Christiaan Halle of Broeksaal.
 - (b) 19th November 1786, Anthony Boelrig of Delmenhout, Quartermaster,
- 2 Hans (Harmanns) Pieter, who follows under II.
- 3 Johanna Adriana, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 19th September 1790, Johannes Gerardus Mertels, Scheepstimmerman.
- 4 Jacob Fredrik, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—
 - (a) 16th October 1791, Margaretha Hendrika Hessing of Nagapatam.
 - (b) 26th May 1805 Anna Catharina de Rosayro, widow of Jacobus Loursenz, Chief Surgeon in the service of the Dutch East India Company. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VIII, pages 70 and 71).
- 5 Angenita Wilhelmina, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 13th February 1815, Johan Jacob Hanzen.

II.

Hans (Harmanns) Pieter Claessen, Bockhouder, baptised 19th April 1761, married:—

- (a) In the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 3rd June 1796, Maria Henrietta Jansz.
- (b) Elisabeth de Rosayro.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Emanuel Juliams, who follows under III.
- 2 Catharina Anthonetta, baptised 29th September 1799, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th November 1817, Jacobus Martinus Schubert, baptised 12th October 1794, Son of Jacob Schubert of Mavelswysing and Louisa Silvester Dias, widow of Kannonier Bartels Roodde.
- 3 Jan Jacob, who follows under IV.
- 4 Huyberta Jacomina, born 29th October 1804.
- 5 Susanna Petronella, born 4th June 1806.

- 6 Petronella Wilhelmina, born 3rd March 1807, died 8th May 1869, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 11th September 1837, Nicholas Micol (widower).

Of the second marriage, he had.

- 7 William Anthony, who follows under V.

III.

Emanuel Juliams Claessen, born 28th December 1797, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 30th July 1818, Sara Sophia Wetzelins, baptised 16th September 1798, daughter of Johannes Nicolaas Wetzelins and Johanna Fernando. He had by her:—

- 1 Johanna Catharina, born 5th July 1819, died 9th October 1855, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 14th May 1849, George Elders.
- 2 Johan Pieter Alexander, who follows under VI.
- 3 Coenraad Henricus, who follows under VII.
- 4 Wilhelm Lodewyk, born 20th June 1824.
- 5 Anthonetta Merciana, born 24th February 1826.
- 6 Dionysius Wilhelmus, who follows under VIII.

IV.

Jan Jacob Claessen, baptised 1st February 1802, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—

- (a) 27th October 1842, Susanna Frawley, (widow).
- (b) 27th July 1846, Sarah Dorothea Muller.

Of the second marriage, he had:—

- 1 Harmanus Pieter Muller, who follows under IX.
- 2 Huyberta Emelia, born 7th July 1849.

V.

William Anthony Claessen, Crown Proctor, Tangalla, married in St. Mary's Church, Matara, 8th August 1832, Sophia Anna de Caan, and he had by her:—

- 1 Francis William Albert, who follows under X.
- 2 Henry Michael Raffa, died unmarried.
- 3 Matilda Harriet married.....Markus.
- 4 Georgiana Petronella, born 23rd March 1847, died unmarried.
- 5 Susan Augusta Lydia married Henry Daniel Kellar, born 17th July 1841, son of Nicolaas William Henry Kellar, and Frederica Charlotta Catharina Ephraums (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 81, and Vol. XXIV, page 105).
- 6 Madelin, died young.
- 7 Clara Julia, born 21st October 1858, married Wilfred Andrew Ebert, born 12th April 1865, son of Edward Edmund Ebert, Assistant Forest Officer, and Paulina Elisabeth Jansen.
- 8 Josephina Amanda, died 16th July 1945, married in St. Mary's Church, Matara, 24th May 1882, Francisco Veniga, Band Master.
- 9 Roland Theobald, died unmarried.

VI.

Johan Pieter Alexander Claessen, born 26th November 1820, died 23rd April 1872, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 13th June 1844, Amelia Wilhelmina Schokman, born 1st November 1825, died 13th April 1870, daughter of Jan Hendrik Schokman and Johanna Christiana Herman. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 106) He had by her :—

- 1 Julia Ursula, born 25th March 1845, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 18th December 1867, John Alfred Bartholomeusz, son of Hubert Ursinus Bartholomeusz and.....Theile.
- 2 Drusilla Sophia, born 28th March 1847, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 18th, January 1866, Peter Frederick van Langenberg, son of Joseph Raymond Alexander van Langenberg and Maria Cornelia Thiedeman.
- 3 John Peter, born 24th December 1848, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th December 1874, Georgiana Andriesz.
- 4 Arthur Benjamin, born 14th January 1851, married Eliza Henrietta Andriesz widow of Francis William Albert Claessen, who follows under X.
- 5 Edward Oswald, born 4th January 1853, died 23rd May 1914.
- 6 Edmund Kessen, born 29th October 1854.
- 7 Laura Griselda, born 21st November 1856, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th September 1879, Julian Foenander, son of Henry Adolphus Foenander and Maria Elizabeth Sansoni. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XI, page 29).
- 8 Adeline Augusta born 17th November 1858, died 18th April 1945, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd June 1881, Lloyd Loftus de Kretser, born 15th November 1854, died 1st October 1904, son of Dionysius Adrianus de Kretser and Seraphina Magdalena Loftus (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 19).
- 9 Emily Letitia, born 26th June 1862, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 12th December 1878, Francis John Thomasz.
- 10 Ella Maud, born 10th October 1867, died 9th February 1941, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 20th December 1894, Walter John Wallet Ludekens, born 18th September 1864, died 17th February 1917, son of William Louis, Wallet Ludekens, Registrar of Lands, Kalutara, and Clara Lucretia Mottau. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. V, page 56, and Vol. XXIII, page 172).

VII.

Coenraad Henrious Claessen, born 21st July 1822, married Maria Georgiana de Caan, and he had by her :—

- 1 Peter Watson Anthonisz, died young.
- 2 James Gerald, who follows under XI.
- 3 Stephen Godwynd, born 12th August 1851.

- 4 Henrietta Ellenora (Harriet Eleanor), born 27th August 1853, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Matara, 23rd May 1873, Arthur Edward Kellar, born 27th July 1849, son of Nicolaas William Henry Kellar and Frederica Catharina Ephraums. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 81, and Vol. XXIV, page 105).
- 5 Ensina Adlin, born 5th December 1857.
- 6 Chatwin Philip, born 27th March 1862.
- 7 Clement Walter who left for the Malay States and there adopted the surname of "Viner".

VIII

Dionysius Wilhelmus Claessen, born 7th October 1829, died 27th June 1893, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 17th October 1861, Matilda Caroline Elders, born 27th June 1841, died 18th July 1920, daughter of George Elders and Johanna Margareta Van Geysel, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 73). He had by her :—

- 1 Evelyn Matilda born 28th April 1862, died October 1931, married Robert Colomb.
- 2 Rosaline Caroline, born 28th April 1862, died 6th May 1935, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 27th December 1878, Francis Frederick Meerwald, Surveyor, born 19th August 1852, son of Leonard Frederick Meerwald, Secretary, District Court, Kandy, and Harriet Charlotta Theile.
- 3 Clara Sophia, born 7th March 1864.
- 4 Frederick William, born 5th October 1865, died young.
- 5 Edmund Richard, born 26th May 1867, died unmarried.
- 6 Walter Jonathan, born 15th September 1868, died unmarried.
- 7 Granville Hillebrand Freywer, who follows under XII.
- 8 Alfred Lionel, born 27th July 1871, died unmarried.
- 9 Austin Horace, born 22nd April 1873, married in Singapore, Gracie Towers, and had a daughter, Norma, who married ... Koch.
- 10 George William, born 8th November 1874, died unmarried.
- 11 Florence Bridget, born 11th July 1876, died 1892.
- 12 Spencer Loret, born 18th August 1878.

IX

Harmanus Pieter Muller Claessen, born 4th August 1847, died 16th January 1919, married in the Methodist Church, Negombo, 25th May 1874, Edith Rosalind Kelaart, born 22nd September 1857, died 4th June 1931, daughter of Johannes Wilhelmus (John William) Kelaart and Henrietta Argina Schubert. He had by her :—

- 1 Henrietta Argina, born 24th October 1875, died 3rd May 1936, married in the Methodist Church, Pettah, Colombo, Albert Eustace Siers Woutersz, born 9th April 1880, died 23rd November 1943, son of Henry Vincent Woutersz and Mary Jane Siers.

- 2 William Nelson Seward, who follows under XIII.
- 3 Arthur
- 4 John
- 5 Maria Emily Julia, born 21st March 1883, married in the Methodist Church, Pettah, Colombo, 7th October 1903, Joseph Hugh Phillips.
- 6 Eleanor Elizabeth, born 5th June 1885.
- 7 Susan Sarah, born 24th October 1887, married in the Methodist Church, Pettah, Colombo, 23rd January 1933, Ernesto Zafarino Corea, born 29th November 1900, son of Sabino Pedro Corea and Anna Elizabeth Gonzalves.
- 8 Rosalind Edith, born 16th October 1889, died 31st August 1940.
- 9 James Peter, who follows under XIV.
- 10 Eva.
- 11 Ruth.
- 12 Gerald Alexander, born 15th June 1897, died 30th April 1940.
- 13 Mary Josephine, born 16th January 1901, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 27th December 1924, Nobel Hector Edward Misso, born 8th July 1892, son of Paul Valentine Misso and Rosalin Eleanor van Sanden. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIX, pages 64 and 72).

X

Francis William Albert Claessen, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 16th September 1865, Eliza Henrietta Andriesz, born 31st August 1847, died 18th April 1918, daughter of George Andriesz and Rudolphina Georgiana Van Dort. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 21). He had by her:—

- 1 Elsie Winifred Sylvia, born 18th February 1872, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 26th June 1895, Samuel Walter Poulter, born 8th July 1869, son of John Frederiek Poulter and Frederica Gerardina Spittel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXIV, page 24, and Vol. XXV, page 163).
- 2 Otteline Angela, born 22nd January 1874.
- 3 Ailie Ethelind Lois, born 4th July 1876, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, John Henry Burbery of New Zealand, who died at sea in 1919.
- 4 Agalia Blanche, born 1st August 1878.
- 5 Adis Bevin, born 4th April 1880, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 9th February 1903, Eric Egmont Kriekenbeek, born 1st February 1878, died 6th July 1943, son of John Justin Kriekenbeek and Rebecca Jane Stork. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. V, page 70, and Vol. VII, page 24).

- 6 Ottelia Louise, born 17th July 1881, married in Holy Trinity Church, Colombo, 9th February 1907, Terence Wilton Aelian Kriekenbeek, born 23rd May 1879, son of John Justin Kriekenbeek and Rebecca Jane Stork. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. 5, page 70, and Vol. VII, page 24).
7. Jeane Alexander, born 15th October 1882.
- 8 Elaine Imay, born 3rd December 1883, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 20th June 1918, James Wilfred Allan Anthonisz, born 26th October 1894, son of Wilfred Henry Anthonisz and Lydia Augusta Roosmale Cocq. (D.B.U. Journal Vol. XIV, page 20, and Vol. XXXIV, pages 54 and 55).
- 9 Avice Mira, born 17th May 1885, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 23rd September 1918, Samuel Canagasabay.
- 10 Millicent May, born 27th June 1886, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 1st June 1921, Matthew Granville Anthonisz, born 14th April 1900, son of Wilfred Henry Anthonisz and Lydia Augusta Roosmale Cocq. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XIV, pages 20, and Vol. XXXIV, pages 55 and 56).
- 11 Florence Enid, born 13th August 1887, married in St. George's Cathedral, Singapore, Ellis Whithan of Manchester.
- 12 Aelian Bertram, who follows under XV.

XI

James Gerald Claessen, Station Master, Ceylon Government Railway, born 2nd November 1848, died 30th July 1931, married in Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal:—

- (a) 20th September 1876, Sarah Lucretia Schokman, born 22nd February 1856, died 29th January 1879, daughter of Charles Everhardus (Edward) Schokman and Joseline Petronella Van Geyzel. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 73, and Vol. XXV, page 109).
- (b) 22nd June 1882, Adeline Maud Schokman, born 14th October 1863, died 20th December 1919, sister of (a) supra.

Of the first marriage, he had:—

- 1 Eleanor Jocelyn, born 20th June 1877, married in Christ Church, Warleigh, Dickoya, 30th December 1895, Walter Louis Bartholomeusz, Station Superintendent, Ceylon Government Railway, born 29th July 1868, died 11th May 1937, son of Agnew Edward Bartholomeusz and Jane Elizabeth Williamson.
 - 2 Constance Ethel, born 8th September 1878, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 28th December 1921, Arthur O'Brien.
- Of the second marriage, he had:—
- 3 Allan Buchanan, born 9th April 1883, married and settled in India.
 - 4 Oswald Boyd, born 9th March 1885, married and settled in Batavia.

- 5 Glenville Dunbar, who follows under XVI.
- 6 Basil Norman, who follows under XVII.
- 7 James Sinclair, born 20th October 1889.
- 8 Clarence Walter Schokman, who follows under XVIII.
- 9 Cecile Noble Maud, born 21st March 1895, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 17th April 1920, Walter Henricus Anthonisz, born 31st July 1888, died 26th July 1934, son of George Edward Anthonisz and Lydia Maud Bogaars.
- 10 Adeline Beatrice Maud, born 25th March 1897, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Dehiwala, 8th December 1928, Kingsley Vernon Oorloff, born 23rd September 1904, son of Charles Joseph Oorloff and Louise Wilhelmina de La Harpe. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 46).
- 11 Edward Arthur Athling, who follows under XIX.

XII

Granville Hillebrand Freywer Claessen, born 12th February 1870, died 29th May 1922, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 15th April 1895, Ethel Blanche Mc Carthy Heyzer, born 27th July 1875, daughter of Julian Jonathan Heyzer, Proctor, and Laura Mc Carthy. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 28). He had by her:—

- 1 Julian Granville, who follows under XX.
- 2 Denzil Clarence, born 10th October 1897, married in St. Paul's Church, Kandy, 27th February, 1924, Lodwin Elma Maxworth, born 9th December 1906, daughter of James William Maxworth and Viola Aileen Reimers. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 49).
- 3 Ethel Gladys, born 9th February 1899, died 7th January 1919.
- 4 Esme Grace, born 26th May 1900, married in St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, 18th June 1928, Ian Edward Dirckze, L.R.C.P. and S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. and S. (Glas.), Civil Medical Department, born 22nd February 1901, son of Augustus Edward Dirckze, Superintendent of Surveys, and Ellen Catherine Paulusz.
- 5 George Edward, who follows under XXI.
- 6 Noel Douglas, born 30th December 1911.
- 7 Ralph Douglas, who follows under XXII.

XIII.

William Nelson Sieword Claessen, M.A.S., (Lond.), F.S.A. (Lond.) Architect, born 10th July 1877, died 20th July 1924, married in the Methodist Church, Pettah, Colombo, Clarice Agatha Woutersz, born 29th November 1892, daughter of Henry Vincent Woutersz and Mary Jane Siers. He had by her:—

- 1 Edward William.
- 2 George.
- 3 Hugh.
- 4 Mavis.

XIV.

James Peter Claessen, born 27th December 1891, died 12th June 1926, married in All Saints' Church, Borella, 29th December 1924, Eva Jansz, daughter of Patrick Vincent Jansz and Eliza Rodrigo.

He had by her:—

- 1 Edith Rosalind, married in St. Anthony's Church, Dematagoda, 27th December 1943, Bernard Cole.
- 2 James.

XV

Aelian Bertram Claessen, born 21st February 1889, died 1st September 1924, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Regent Street, Colombo 9th January 1917, Ruth Atwell, born 1st June 1895, daughter of Arthur William Atwell and Susan Amelia Warkus. He had by her:—

- 1 Henrietta Ruth, born 18th April 1918.
- 2 Francis William Aelian, who follows under XXIII.
- 3 Arthur Bertram, born 29th October 1921, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 27th January 1945, Dorothea Koch.
- 4 Kingsley Edward, born 3rd June 1923.

XVI.

Glenville Dunbar Claessen, born 1st June 1886, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 27th July 1917, Iris Agnes Fretz, born 22nd March 1887, died 29th May 1927, daughter of Arthur Henry Fretz, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Civil Medical Department, and Agnes Jane Stork. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. II, page 74, and Vol. VII, page 24). He had by her:—

- 1 Noeline Stephanie, born 24th December 1919, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 18th January 1941, Albert Eugene Reginald Ebert, born 9th November 1913, son of Edgar Charles Ebert and Stella Margaret Morgan Jumeaux.
- 2 Ian Dunbar Fretz, born 18th January 1922.
- 3 Glenville Malcolm Fretz, born 15th September 1923.

XVII.

Basil Norman Claessen, Surveyor, Harbour Engineer's Department, born 13th September 1887, married in Christ Church, Tangalla, 30th June 1913, Vivian Ada de Zilwa, born 11th March 1885, daughter of James Henry de Zilwa and Catherine Leonora Daviot. He had by her:—

- 1 Carmel Sheila Armint, born 10th April 1914.
- 2 Doreen Vivian, born 3rd December 1918, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 21st November 1942, William Benjamin Viirco Thiedeman, born 10th September 1917, son of Benjamin John Viirco Trench Thiedeman and Eugenie Amelia Woodhouse.

- 3 Thelma Merle, born 13th June 1921, married in St. John's Church, Nugegoda, 27th December 1943, William Manning Solomons, Petty Officer, C.R.N.V.R.
- 4 Dodwell Basil, born 27th September 1925.
- 5 Trisette Marie, born 16th December 1926.

XVIII.

Clarence Walter Schokman Claessen, Superintendent of Minor Roads, Colombo District, born 26th June 1892, married in St. Paul's Church, Milagriya, 12th July 1924, Thelma Irene Oorloff, born 28th November 1902, daughter of Charles Joseph Oorloff and Louise Wilhelmina de la Harpe. (D. B. U. Journal, Vol. XXX, page 46). He had by her:—

- 1 Beatrice Joy, born 20th January 1927.
- 2 Clifford Durand, born 18th February 1931.
- 3 Merrill Ronald, born 30th October 1933.
- 4 Carmen Daphne, born 24th March 1935.
- 5 Christine Moira, born 10th February 1937.
- 6 Mignonne Sherine, born 20th October 1939.

XIX.

Edward Arthur Athling Claessen, born 16th August 1900, married Norma Mercia Baryl de Silva, and he had by her:—

- 1 Galston Maurice, baptised 17th February 1928.

XX.

Julian Granville Claessen, A.M.I. Mech, E, Member A.S.M.E. Government Factory Engineer, born 4th May 1895, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, 24th April 1922, Mabel Bianca Mattheisz, born 28th February 1901, daughter of Sydney Edgar Mattheisz and Rosamond Mabel de Zilwa. He had by her:—

- 1 Constance Ethel Mabel, born 7th July 1923, died 24th January 1926.
- 2 Douglas Julian, born 24th June 1925.
- 3 Hector Andrew, born 30th November 1926.
- 4 Radley Lorenz, born 15th November 1931.
- 5 Elton Brian, born 27th July 1934.
- 6 Herman Granville, born 24th September 1937.

XXI.

George Edward Claessen, born 5th May 1909, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 18th September 1937, Inez de Kretser, born 14th March 1908, daughter of Frederick George de Kretser and Stella Irene Heyzer. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVI, page 28. He had by her:—

- 1 Roger Gerard, born 17th July 1938.

XXII.

Ralph Douglas Claessen, Superintendent, Government Saltern, Palavi, born 4th June 1915, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Bambalapitiya, 25th February 1939, Cynthia Alison Foenander, born 27th June 1918, daughter of Clarence Eugene Foenander, Salt Commissioner, and Madaleine Blanche Henrietta Foenander. He had by her:—

- 1 Rodney Derrick, born 2nd April 1940.

XXIII.

Francis William Aelian Claessen, born 14th March 1920, married in St. Luke's Church, Borella, 26th December 1942, Irene Esmie Van Dort, born 12th August 1915, daughter of Esme Glenville Van Dort and Alice Irene Margenout. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXVIII, page 33.) He had by her:—

- 1 Heather Irene, born 5th August 1944.

Notes:—(1) The marriage at Trincomalee of Jan Peter Claessen and Anna Lourensia, referred to under I, is recorded on page 91 of the Wolvendaal Marriage Register for the period 1743-1810.

- (2) The Governor-General of the Netherlands possession in the East-Indies remitted in 1846 to the Ceylon Government a donation for the relief of widows and orphans of Servants of the late Dutch Government. A Ceylon Government Notification dated 17th July 1847 gives a list of persons whose claims were considered and showing the proportion allotted to each. Among the recipients was Elizabeth de Rosayro, widow of Hans (Harmanns) Pieter Claessen referred to under II.
- (3) The marriage of George Elders with Johanna Catharina Claessen, referred to under III, was his third marriage. He previously married (a) in the Wesleyan Church at Negombo (and recorded in the Wolvendaal Church marriage Register) on 16th November 1835 Johanna Wilhelmina de Vos; and (b) in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, on 28th July 1842 Johanna Margareta Van Geysel, widow of Jan Baptist Micolle. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. X, page 73.)
- (4) Sarah Dorothea Muller, as widow of Jan Jacob Claessen referred to under IV, married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal on 23rd December 1858, Jan Rabot widower of Johanna Carolina Mertels.
- (5) Henrietta Argina Schubert, referred to under IX, was a daughter of Jacobus Martinus Schubert and Catharina Anthonetta Claessen (vide II, 2). She was born on 17th September 1821, and married Johannes Wilhelmus (John William) Kelaart in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolvendaal, on 14th September 1843.

AN ACCOUNT OF CEYLON.

BY THOMAS PENNANT.

(Continued from page 94 of the issue for January 1946.)

Cryptogamia.

I shall avoid speaking of the *Cryptogamous*, except to instance two or three particular species, as this class is generally too uninteresting to merit attention.

Circinalis, i. tab. 21, 22. *Raii Hist. Pl.* ii. 1360. *Fl. Zeyl.* No. 393 *Kampf. Amaen. Acad.* p. 897, is a curious genus, related to the palms. Writers differ about the height. Ray, from the *Hort. Malab.* gives it that of forty feet.* *Rumphius*, i. p. 86. tab. xxii., xxiii. makes the utmost height but twenty-four, and most usually twelve. The male plant flings out from the summit a substance, in shape like the cone of the Norway fir: the female, a stem about a yard long, out of the summit of which issues several upright pinnated leaves, and fruit of the size of a plumb: the last fastened to a slender stalk, and pendent. These contain two nuts.

This plant is of great use as a food in every country it grows in. The young shoots are dressed like asparagus; the fruit is also commonly eaten, and forms an ingredient in broths. The soft wood is chewed with the *Areca* nut.

This species is not indigenous in Ceylon, and is only cultivated, and that rarely, in that island. In Malabar it grows on certain rocky and sandy mountains, and is called there, *Todda Panna*; see *Rheede*, iii. P. 9, tab. 13. 21. It is said to have a great sympathy with iron, and that if dying, will revive on having an iron wedge driven into it. The fruit is eaten by the Malabars with sugar, (*Saccharo St. Thomaeo*).

The *Thomists* or *Christians of St. Thomas*, deck their Churches with its branches.

Rumphius, i. p. 91, denies that this is the genuine species, and we must allow his authority. At tab. xxiv. he gives the true kind, which is the same with the *Cycas revoluta* of *Thunberg*, *Fl. Japan.* p. 226, the pith of which is the famous *Sago*. In time of war the Japanese soldiers carry it with them in their campaigns; so small a portion will serve to support a single man, that the emperor prohibits the exporting any of the trees to a foreign enemy, under pain of death, for fear of imparting to a hostile neighbour the same benefit Japan enjoys from this nutritive food.

The *Coffee tree* has been introduced and succeeds greatly. Nothing can equal the beauty of the plantations. The trees are placed thinly, and between them is planted that charming shrub the *Erythrina Coral-lodendron* with its rich scarlet flowers, designed to protect the delicate coffee from the intense heat of the almost vertical sun. *Thunberg's Voy.* iv. 153.

* *Hiet. Pl.* ii. 1360.

Scandens,—vi. tab. 32, and the *Fleuxosa* of the same plate, are long climbing plants, and when split are of vast use as thongs, and for the making of baskets.

Quercifolium is a singular species, engraven by old *Clusius* in his *Exoties*, and by *Rumphius*, vi. tab. 36. It is used in Amboina against the dangerous poison of the *Gekko*.

Palms.

The last class, the *Palms*, suddenly appear, superior in sublimity to the rest of the vegetable kingdom.

Cocos, Nucifera, Calappa or *Tinga Rumph. Amboin.* i. tab. 1, 2, is the noblest and most useful tree of this class. I have spoken of it at page 138; so shall proceed to the following, as next to it in importance, whether we regard its magnificence or utility.

Borassus. Flabelliformis, Rumph. Amboin. i. tab. 10. The leaves are large and palmated, the edges of the stalks serrated; the leaves are four feet long, divided into seventy or eighty rays, like the sticks of a fan, and may be folded up in the same manner. In Macassar they are made into umbrellas, but are so highly esteemed there, that they are carried by none but by a few persons of the first rank. The fruit grows in clusters, and each is about the size of a child's head. Within is a very eatable pulp, and besides are three lesser nuts, of the size of a goose's egg, containing when young a soft kernel, when old, a very palatable liquor. A bread, or cake is made from the kernel, which requires a considerable preparation: and a liquor greatly in use called *Sura*, is extracted from the body, with the usual process of tapping the tree. From that again is got, by boiling, a rich syrup, and a sort of sugar. The timber is elegantly veined, and striated, and often made into chests.

The ascent to the summit of the tree is performed by a man, who attains the height by the assistance of a girdle which surrounds his waist and the tree; his knees are fixed against the body, and he gains the height by alternately removing the girdle, which supports his body, and then with his knees gaining a new advance: A most dangerous operation; for should the girdle break, his life is lost.

Phoenix. Dactylifera has been spoken of before in vol. vi. p. 366, 410, and vol. vii. p. 209, of the M.S. outlines. It is so amply treated of by the learned *Koempfer*, in his *Amaen. Exoticae*, page 661, that it is difficult to give anything in addition. It grows not only in Ceylon, but in many parts of the peninsula of India, and is called (in Ceylon at least) *Indi* and *Mahaindi*. As the plenty and harvest of India consists in success of the palm trees, it is supposed by *Linnaeus* that India might derive its name from that which these trees bear in that country. It must be the general name, for *Mr. Ives* says that the dates do not ripen to perfection in the peninsula of India.

The beautiful *Corypha, Umbraculifera*, i. tab. 8, is the most elegant species of the palm kind, from the regular expanse of the leaf

which is quite circular, and terminating in the most beautiful rays, resembling a glory, like that of the sun, surrounding the whole. They are about three feet and half in diameter, and are the finest umbrellas in nature, and in universal use in Ceylon, to protect against the rays of the sun, or the fury of the rains. Knox, at page 14, shews the Ceylonese man under the protection of one of the leaves. They also serve for paper for the wrapping of parcels. The wood is hard, and veined with yellow and serves to make chests, like the preceding. The fruit is in the form of a cannon ball, containing within two other nuts, of the size of a musquet ball, which are eaten by the poor. These are of the richest saffron color, and give a most brilliant appearance to this elegant tree, and hang down in clusters three feet long.

This palm is the *Tal* of Bengal, the *Brab* of Bombay, and the *Talagas*, and *Tala* of Ceylon. Arrian, i. p. 522, mentions the bark of the *Tala* as a food used by the Indians, a particular not noted by modern writers.

Blate. Sylvestris, Rheed. Malab. iii. tab. 22, et seq. This grows only to a height of about fourteen feet; is covered with a greyish crust, instead of a bark. The fruit, of the size and form of a small plumb, (sic.) is sometimes made use of, by the poorer people, to chew with *Betel*, instead of the *Areca*.

The stalks of the fruit are greedily sought after by the elephant, for the sake of the sweet pith they contain.

Caryota. Urens, Rumph. Amboin. 1. tab. 14, grows to the height of a middling coco palm. The fruit grows in vast clusters, adhering to the sides of the twigs; are of a round shape, and of the size of a common plumb (sic): each has within two nuts, of no sort of use; the leaves are triangular, and grow in pairs. The timber is useful, especially for shingles to cover houses. Of the pith may be made a sort of *Sago*, but far inferior to the true kind.

(To be Continued.)



OBITUARY.

DR. VINCENT VAN LANGENBERG.

The death of Mr. Vincent van Langenberg has deprived the Community of one of its prominent members. A son of the late Mr. James van Langenberg, Advocate and Burgher Member in the Legislative Council, Dr. van Langenberg, who was born on the 31st May, 1870, was sent for his medical studies to Aberdeen, where he gained his M.B., C.M. degree. After serving a short time in Singapore, he returned to Ceylon, where he entered the Medical Service and had a distinguished career, retiring in 1930 after acting as Director of Medical and Sanitary Services. He served in the Great War of 1914—1918, receiving a Commission in the R.A.M.C. at Aldershot. He took a great interest in Volunteering, rising to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in the Ceylon Light Infantry—a rank to which his second son has also risen. Dr. van Langenberg was a valued member of the Union, in the objects of which he was greatly interested.

MRS. J. R. TOUSSAINT.

I should like to place on record in this JOURNAL the deep sense of regret and loss felt by a wide circle of Members and others at the death of Mrs. Toussaint, wife of Mr. J. R. Toussaint, our Editor of the JOURNAL. She was a familiar and greatly valued Member of the Union, and her real interest in it was shewn in many ways. She was a regular attendant at all the general meetings, even at the Lectures, which are not usually well attended. She had an admirable sense of duty and responsibility where the Union was concerned. She was all through an active member of the Social Service Committee of the Union. Her constant work for the Union, so unobtrusively done, will be gratefully remembered.

The same zeal and loyalty marked her work for S. Paul's Church, Milagiriya, with which she was connected. There too her quiet and ready helpfulness will be missed.

Of her hospitality and geniality as a hostess it is not easy to speak. Happy in her home, devoted to her husband and family, she extended to all who were privileged to call at "Muresk" a smiling welcome and cheerful greeting, and generous hospitality.

L. E. B.

NOTES OF EVENTS.

Summary of Proceedings of the General Committee—15th January, 1946 :—(1) A vote of Rs. 160 for binding books in the Reference Library was passed. (2) The following recommendations in regard to St. Nicolaas Fete were adopted :—(a) The Fete Committee should be appointed earlier in the year, say June (2) the closing date for the receipt of names of children should be strictly observed (c) the practice of providing each collector with a list of members in his or her area should continue (d) the Committee favoured the importation in bulk of toys, surplus toys to be sold after the Fete. (3) The resignations of membership of Mrs. L. E. Thomas and C. E. Hatch were accepted. (4) The President announced the receipt of a letter from the Dutch Consul conveying the thanks of Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina for the congratulations sent by the Union on the liberation of the Netherlands and the Netherland Indies. (5) A Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Sam de Vos, Messrs. C. A. Speldewinde, F. R. Loos, T. B. Collette and the Honorary Secretary was appointed to organise the At Home after the Annual General Meeting.

19th February, 1946 :—(1) A vote of condolence was passed on the death of Mr. Henry Ludovici. (2) It was reported that the balance to the credit of the St. Nicolaas' Home A/c was Rs. 10,004.88. (3) Approved proposals made for the re-organization of the office, the staff to consist of an Office Assistant on a salary of Rs. 2,100—120—2,700, and a clerk on a salary of Rs. 900—90—1,200. A sum of Rs. 600 per annum to be ear-marked for Commission on such collections as may be necessary. The proposed division of work between the Office Assistant and the Clerk was approved, subject to revision and adjustment after trial. As long as Mr. Johnson remains as Clerk, the maximum of the salary scale to be Rs. 1,500, with a personal allowance of Rs. 300. The scheme to take effect from 1st June, 1946.

4th March 1946 :—(1) The audited accounts for 1945 were passed for publication, the Auditors to be asked to prepare an abridged statement for publication in the Government Gazette. (2) The proposed agenda for the Annual General Meeting on 23rd March was approved.

D. B. U. Lecture. Dr. J. R. Blaze delivered an interesting lecture on "Medicine During the War and After" at the Union Hall on 15th March. There was a large attendance, and the lecture was followed by a lively discussion.

The Journal. This issue completes Volume XXXV. of the Journal, and a new volume begins with the issue for July. Will members kindly remit their subscription of Rs. 5 to Mr. J. R. Toussaint, "Muresk", Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya. The number of subscribers (86) compares very poorly with the total membership of the Union (597), and an addition to the list of subscribers will be very welcome.

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