A word of explanation is needed in connection with the delay in issuing the Gleaner for this year. The present Editor has since 1907 changed his residence and assumed a fresh charge. This has entailed an amount of work which makes it impossible to continue editing the paper. Attempts have been made to find a successor but up to the present without result. One who was willing to take over the work has gone to England and may possibly take it up on his return. Meantime it has been decided to issue only 4 pages of local matter from the 1st of March and subscribers will have ere this received the January and February numbers without local matter. It is hoped that our friends will accept this explanation and endeavour to assist by sending articles of interest in as frequently as possible. For the present, articles should be sent direct to G. A. Purser Esq. C. M. S. Industrial School, Dodanduwa.

Prize-day at C. M. S. Ladies' College.

MRS. L. W. BOOTH GIVES AWAY THE PRIZES.

The annual prize-giving at this institution took place yesterday afternoon. The school-hall was most beautifully decorated for the occasion. There was a large gathering of friends and well-wishers present, including Lady and Miss Mitchell, Mr. J. H. de Suran, c. o. Mrs. H. L. Wendt, Mrs. E. C. Loos, Mrs. Walter Pereira, Mrs. H. T. S. Ward and Miss Ward, Rev. and Mrs. David Tweed, Mr. P. Arunachalam and Miss Arunachalam, Messrs. T. Muttucumaraswamy, C. Namasivayam, T. Tiyanagajah, Mrs. H. Huybertsz, Mrs. J. R. Weinman and the Misses Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Fryer, Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Rodrigo, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Peiris, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Peiris, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. de Mel, Mr. and Mrs. R. Daniel, Mrs. W. H. Davies, Mrs. Dr. Fysli, Mrs. S. Schneider, Miss Von Possner, Dr. and Mrs. S. C. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Pieris, Miss Gedge, Miss Hands, Miss Webb, the Rev. W. Sinclair, the Rev. and Mrs. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peiris, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Fernando, Mrs. C. W. and the Misses VanCeyzel, Dr. and Mrs. Bannajee, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Tissera and Miss Tissera, the Misses Morgan, &c. On the platform were the Rev. H. Napier-Clavering, who presided, Mrs. L. W. Booth, Miss Nixon and Miss Whitney. Proceedings began with the singing of the hymn, "Forward be our watchward," after which the Chairman offered a prayer. This was followed by a pianoforte solo, "The Mill," by Miss G. Peris. Miss Nixon, the Lady Principal, then read her report.

The following are extracts from it:—

Each year we realise more keenly our great need of a new building, we have again and again been obliged to refuse admission to boarders to our great disappointment, but we have no farther room for them. Our building fund is, however, growing steadily. We have had several donations, one from the Hon. Mr. G. M. Fowler and Mrs. Fowler, and another from Lady de Soysa, as well as several large contributions from the relations of children. Our examination results still continue to be good. Of the five students who attended the teachers' training class regularly during the year, four gained second class certificates, being the only four women this year who did so in Ceylon. Three of these, Mrs. Green, Miss Martenez, Miss Henry, are our own, while Miss Toussaint was head-mistress of the C. M. S. Galce English school. Six girls entered for the Senior Cambridge, all of whom passed and, for the third year in succession, a girl from the Ladies' College won the Government scholarship at the same time gaining second class honours.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.

The Rev. H. P. Napier-Clavering addressing the gathering said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—It is a great pleasure to me as Acting Secretary of the C. M. S. to occupy the position of Chairman on this interesting occasion. I have been away from Ceylon during the time of the growth of this institution, which has so thoroughly justified its existence. I remember the time, shortly before I left Ceylon, when many of us were not quite sure whether this institution would really meet a need. But Miss Nixon and Miss Whitney and their helpers have proved to us that it has met a very real need, and a very great need. The present condition of the College is such that we feel—those of us who at all doubted it—that we ought to be ashamed of ourselves for our feelings of doubt and questioning. We have heard Miss Nixon's Report—a most encouraging Report—and I think it is marvellous (and I speak as one who has been a teacher). I think it is marvellous that under such utterly disadvantageous circumstances such very good results are attained. We are this evening quite conscious, I hope, of the terrible disadvantages under which teaching is carried on in this Hall. We hear the deafening noise of the iron-works next door. It is bad enough to hear it on an occasion like this, but what must it be for those who, day by day, are teaching here, and who, with the various classes going on around them have also to endure the interruption and discomfort of a noise like this. Why do I allude to it? Partly because I feel that Miss Nixon and her colleagues deserve double praise, and partly because I wish to emphasise the great need of completing the Building Fund at the earliest possible opportunity, and finding new premises, which will not be subject to the same inconvenience and discomfort as the present one's. Besides that, there is, as Miss Nixon has told us, a further reason why we ought to get into new and more commodious premises as early as possible and that is, that there is no more room at all for boarders. As one who has had a good deal of experience of boarding schools and day schools, I say without the least hesitation that the value of the boarding school is not only the passing of examinations, but it is the training of the whole being, and when girls and little boys are under the influence of ladies like Miss Nixon, Miss Whitney and their helpers, all day long and every day, there is an opportunity of warning every department of their being in a way which is impossible in the case of those who come for their lessons and then go away. And so I would make an appeal to those who have the means to subscribe liberally during the coming year, in order that the new College, which is so much needed, may be built and may very soon be occupied. When a Principal reads a Report it always
AN ADDRESS.

Hugh, son of the Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Fall died on 21st January at St. Andrew's Vicarage, Whitehall Park, London N. of mumps and diphtheria after an illness of only four days, aged 13 years. He was always a delicate boy and was apparently never able to get rid of the malarial poison which his system imbibed at Jaffna, when his father was there as Principal of St. John's College. We would express our sympathy with his bereaved parents in their sad loss.

Miss A. L. Earp has reached England greatly benefited in health by the voyage. The Doctors confidently hope for a complete recovery. Miss Earp will take furlough in S. Africa departing thither shortly.

Presentation to Mr. W. De Silva.

This pleasant function took place on Saturday afternoon at the "Grove" Mirihana, the residence of Mr. de Silva. A large number of his old pupils and friends were present on the occasion and the programme arranged for the evening was gone through very satisfactorily.

Amongst those present were:—Dr. Solomon Fernando, Mrs. R. T. Dowbiggin, Miss Geddes, Revs. R. W. Ryde, G. S. Amerasekera and G. B. Perera, Mohandiram and Mrs. B. de Silva in Ceylon College, and St. Thomas—that they may be able to take their place better than the boys who have been trained in some other preparatory schools.

And I like to ask you as you pass through the bungalow, to look at the exhibition of the boys' work in the passage. This is the first year, I am told, that there has been such an exhibition, but all the work which is in the passage is work done by the boys. You will also see the exhibition of some of the girls' work in the room on the right hand side of the passage, as you pass through the bungalow. I feel that I must also say one word with regard to the very sad loss to which Miss Nixon has referred. In all my experience as a school-master amongst our boarders we only lost one. And now during this past year, as Miss Nixon has mentioned in her report, a bright young soul has been taken home to God. The loss is great to those who are left behind—the gain is surely to her. And any one who knew her—any one who knew the simplicity and the depth of her religious convictions—will feel that she has indeed left behind her an example for us to follow. I would close by offering my very hearty congratulations to the staff of the Ladies' College upon the splendid results which we have heard detailed to us already, and I now have the great pleasure of calling upon Mrs. Booth to distribute the prizes. (Applause.)

The Prizes.

Mrs. Booth then gave away the prizes. The Chairman, on behalf of Mrs. Booth, expressed that lady's pleasure at being there that afternoon and giving away the prizes.

The following programme was gone through by the pupils:

Solo Selection . . Lucrezia Borgia Miss P. Pinto
Kindergarten Song . . Kindergarten Occupations
Song & Violin Obligato Melody . . Rubenstein
Duet Valse Brilliante . . Miss Louise Perera
Song . . Santa Claus . Miss B. Harris
Drill

The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.
We are delighted to know that the Church Missionary Society you have served so faithfully has been able to grant you a pension as a mark of its appreciation. Our earnest hope is that you may enjoy the retirement to which your long services have so richly entitled you, still finding opportunities to influence for good some of the younger generation, and hereafter that you may receive from the Master Himself the crown of reward for faithful service, united in Heaven to your loved ones who have gone before, and to many of your pupils whom you have guided into the Heavenly Road.

As a mark of our esteem and affection, we have very great pleasure in asking your acceptance of the accompanying gift.

Mirihane, February 8th.

Dr. Solomon Fernando and Rev. G. B. Perera also spoke at length congratulating Mr. de Silva on the good he had done to the public and the well-earned rest he had gained after fifty-three years' uninterrupted work as a leader in the Cotta English High School.

Mr. de Silva replied as follows:—Mr. Ryde, Ladies and Gentlemen,—"I desire to thank you very warmly for the honour you have done me to-day in coming over here and presenting me with this address and purse. It is scarcely 4 years since you had done me a similar honour at the time of commemoration of my service jubilee. I have done but little as a teacher to merit all these tokens of good-will and sympathy from you. You seem to attach some importance to the tenure of my office for an uncommonly long period extending over 50 years. It must however, be regarded in the light of a privilege, for which, I am deeply thankful to the Giver of all good. A teacher's work is generally a thankless task but to-day's proceedings bear ample testimony that it is after all appreciated and valued and this knowledge will be very gratifying to me in my retirement which I have been led to seek to avoid further strain on my health which has already shown symptoms of a breakdown. I must express my deep sense of gratitude to my friend, Mr. F. H. Perera for initiating the movement for this presentation, backed by my valued friend, Mr. B. de Livera, who spared no pains to make it a success and supported by Mr. Ryde who worked for it in his own quiet way. I desire also to thank all ladies and gentlemen whether as friends or pupils who have subscribed to the presentation fund. May God bless you all."

Cotta.

In presenting my last report of the Cotta Boy’s English school for 1907 I desire in the first place to thank God for many tokens of blessing which we have received during the last 40 years. After 52 years of active service in educational work I feel that I should, both in my own interest and that of the school seek in retirement the rest of which I stand so much in need. The present school is a relic of the well known late Cotta Christian Institution which in its palmy day was rightly regarded as the first and the best school in the Colony. It was closed in 1867 on the resignation of its last Principal, the Rev. R. B. Tonge, the day boys who were attending it (about 80) were placed in my charge and that of 2 assistants. Since then, under God’s blessing, the school has continued to prosper so that there are now 271 names on the list with an average attendance of 227 and 7 assistant teachers of whom all except 2 have been trained in the school; 119 pupils were presented at the last grant-in-aid examination in 8 standards; the results as usual have been satisfactory, the percentage of passes in all subjects being 71. In Latin fairly good results have been obtained but I regret to say that we have not done quite so well in Drawing. To maintain the missionary character of the school and to make it an agency for implanting in youthful minds the sublime truths of the gospel have been our constant aim and end. There are 192 non-Christians, and 72 Christians, the proportion being 3 to 1. I have for many years past conducted a special class for Inquirers. This year the attendance averaged 14, of whom 2 were long baptised. An eighth standard boy who belongs to the class is, I believe, a Christian in heart and yet owing to the opposition of his relations is deterred from making a public confession of his faith. Not long ago a Buddhist priest was invited by a brother of the youth and other leading Buddhists of his village to deliver a lecture in public against Christianity, but all the influence and persuasion brought to bear on him by his relations failed to induce him to attend the lecture. It is to be hoped that the religious aspect of the work will not in future be lost sight of or neglected in the anxiety to stand well at public examinations as no amount of secular instruction by itself is sufficient to mould the character of youth to train them—in habits of manliness, or inspire them with a due sense of honour and justice.

The school being situated in an important centre and largely availed of by the village population for several miles around, it would, I think be sound policy on the part of all concerned not only to maintain its present state of efficiency but if possible to take a step forward with a view to make it more attractive by raising the standard of instruction. In my 52 years’ experience I cannot call to mind a single instance in which any parent has ever objected to our imparting religious instruction to his children. The demand for English teaching in these parts is greater than ever. The question that has to be considered is, shall we or shall we not take full advantage of the opportunity generally presented in the interest of the mission? Many of our old boys in and out of the Colony are doing remarkably well, some are filling positions of trust and responsibility, others while engaged in secular work have become workers and witnesses for the Master.

I must say a word about the staff who by their loyal co-operation and devotion to duty have won my esteem and affection. Whatever success, if any, the school has attained I attribute mainly to their untiring perseverance and zeal. We miss to-day a member of our staff—a prominent figure on occasions like this. I refer to the late Mr. A. S. Perera—a pupil, friend and first assistant master for 30 years. He was called to his rest in September. Until he fell ill he had conducted the Bible class in the church at which the boys and the girls of the boarding schools in the compound attended. The morning daily service was also for some time conducted by him. During the time he was working as assistant master the boarding house was in his charge, Messrs. D. Rodrigo, A. Perera, D. Thomas, P. R. C. Perera and G. Jayawardana—as
Pupil teachers have been really useful co-adjutors. Mr. J. P. Ramannayake has been very helpful in many ways. Mr. J. G. Gurusinghe who has been on the staff for 18 months has done good work. He is leaving the school with a view to improve his future prospects. All of them have my best wishes for their future happiness and welfare.

In my business relations during the long period of my work I have come across many missionaries of the C. M. S. whose lives, I am glad to say, have been an example and an inspiration. The Rev. J. F. Haslam, the Wrangler and the saintly Principal of the Institution in its best days, the Rev. C. C. Fenn who, in spite of the weight of 84 years still keeps himself in touch with his old pupils. The Rev. E. T. Higgins whose health broke down in his anxiety to preach and itinerate in the malarial districts of Ceylon. The Rev. H. Whitley, the Apostolic Pastor of Christ Church, Galle Face, with whom I was associated for 4 years. The Rev. J. J. Jones to know whom was to love him. The Rev. S. Coles who laboured in various parts of Ceylon with much acceptance and notably the Rev. R. T. Dowbiggin and Mrs. Dowbiggin whom it is impossible to forget, their work at Cotta being a monument to their indefatigable labours. The Rev. J. W. Balding who has placed me under many obligations and last not least the Rev. R. W. Ryde and Mrs. Ryde. Mr. Ryde has rendered the school much help. He has very willingly taught some subjects in the higher standards whenever he was able to spare the time, while Mrs. Ryde has, at a very critical time, at much inconvenience and trouble undertaken the catering arrangements for the boarders. Some of these missionaries having finished their earthly career have been called to a better service in the realms above.

I also desire to place on record my indebtedness to the C. M. S. Committee at home who have, on the kind representation of my case for a retiring allowance by the Rev. J. W. Balding given these favourable consideration to it at a time of financial depression and contrary to their usual policy in such matters.

When I look back to the past there is much cause for regret and even humiliation and yet the fact that I have endeavoured to do my duty, will be, I hope, a sufficient solace in my retirement; nor can I possibly disguise my feelings on the present occasion when I have come to realize the fact that I am constrained to bid good-bye to so many friends and pupils with whom it was my privilege to be permitted to associate in terms of intimacy for the best part of my life. The sentiment which is uppermost in my mind may well be expressed in the words of Joseph to his brother with a slight variation—I am leaving, but the Lord will be with you.

W. DE SILVA.

December 18th, 1907.

I resign my charge to two old pupils, one of considerable experience and of good report, the other, once an assistant master here, returns after completing his course of training at the Government Training College. Under them I feel certain the educational aspect will not suffer, and the religious aspect will I fervently hope be kept prominently before them.

### Cotta Cleaners’ Union

The monthly gathering of the Cleaners’ Union was held on Thursday, the 27th of February, with Mr. W. de Silva, of Mirihana in the chair. There were over 50 presents and a very interesting paper, prepared by Miss Clara de Silva on “The Grove,” Mirihana, on “How the first Bibles reached Jowf,” was read. The town of Jowf in the North of Arabia is not a well-known place to many as it is marked only in very few atlases, besides, the journey there being so perilous, it is only attempted by a very few. The Rev. A. Forder, who was many years a missionary in Jerusalem, failed to brave all the perils on the way in order to take the Bible to Jowf. It was most interesting to hear how this noble servant of God, although prevented three times from carrying out his great wish, yet determined to do it at any cost, and how he at last succeeded in taking and introducing the Bible to the people of Jowf, and how God blessed his work there. The paper which was very well prepared, ended with the heart-searching question whether we were doing all we can to take or send the Word of God to people who had not had the privilege of possessing it.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Jordan who were on a week’s visit to Mrs. Dowbiggin, gave two very interesting magic lantern exhibitions in the church verandah. The first evening’s entertainment took the form of “a service of song,” and the pictures and readings were of “Uncle Tom’s cabin,” which were more than interesting and the sweet singing at intervals by Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Ryde and the girls of the Boarding School were greatly appreciated. The second night a lecture was given on interesting places in many parts of the world, and proved quite a treat to the audience.

The Rev. G. B. Perera is laid up with a severe attack of Bronchitis for the last three weeks owing to which the usual Lenten Services had to be given up this year.

A. M. P.

### Tidings from the N. C. P.

Some time ago a petition was presented to me by the Sinhalese Catechists and Teachers of the K. N. T. for a Convention to be held for seeking the power of the Holy Spirit and for receiving blessing on our work. It was decided, to hold this at Maduwachchiya, about 30 miles from Anuradhapura on the 11th, 12th and 13th March, 1908. We are a party of ten workers in all, one is a Tamil and three others were unable to come. Two were already at Maduwachchiya so four of us travelled by bullock cart for two days to get there. The first three days regular meetings were held morning and evening, the number attending being about 16. On the Saturday a children’s meeting was held and on Sunday there was another address for the S. S. children and a regular morning service was held when Mr. James Perera preached. Interest in the meetings was aroused from the first and several were touched by them as was shown by people coming night after night as long as we were there to inquire and impromptu meetings were held, the workers seldom getting to rest before midnight after the convention parties of workers went to the villages round preaching. Once they returned home at 9 p.m. only to find inquirers waiting and who kept them up till midnight.