

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

THE year 1957 is a memorable one, being a year of anniversaries for the Indian Republic, the University of Madras and on a more modest scale for Stella Maris College. Like a small grand-daughter, ten year old Stella Maris can look with veneration and family pride on her 100-year old grandfather, the University, and although it would be presumptuous to claim ten per cent of her grandfather's honours, she can at least point with pardonable pride to her birthday, the 15th of August 1947, and say: "I am not as old as the University but I am just the same age as independent Mother India!"

It is also circumstantial and indeed a great honour that the Chief Justice, Sri. P. V. Rajamannar, who presided so ably over the University Centenary Celebrations, should have so kindly consented to be present here this evening in spite of his numerous engagements and heavy work. We deem it, Sir, a signal privilege that you, who have distinguished yourself in the fields of both law and letters, should honour us with your presence this evening.

The expansion of Stella Maris during these past ten years is typical of that of the University as a whole—an ever-expanding curriculum, an ever-increasing number of students. However, to quote from Dr. Radhakrishnan's eloquent Centenary address: "You cannot get eternal life by textual learning. You have to deepen your learning and transform your life. . . Religion must show itself in the work and deeds you perform." Thus, in spite of the heavily-charged time-table which leaves little opportunity for idleness and makes thinking a luxury, we have endeavoured to attach primary importance not to mere book-learning but to the formation of character and the instillation of a sense of discipline. As an eminent educationalist has so aptly said, "The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered, but to have fought well." To inculcate in our students such convictions has been our aim, that they may find in them light and guidance in the difficulties they have to face along the path of life.

### *B.Sc.*

OUR long-cherished dream of the B.Sc. course became a reality this year, when with the kind approval of the University, the first thirty-two students were admitted, taking as their Main Zoology, and Chemistry and Botany as subsidiaries. The rush for seats for this new course was far beyond our expectations; in this, as also in the Pre-University course, we have to apologise to numerous parents for being unable to accept so many deserving applications. In spite of this, our strength showed another annual increase, reaching a total of 800.

## EXAMINATIONS

The worth of a College is not judged by its achievements in examinations, but since it is customary to list them on such an occasion, I am glad to render thanks to God for last year's excellent results. The Social Service Diploma Students, the B.A.'s and the Inters., all vied with one another in securing high percentages.

Social Service	95%
B.A's Part 1	95%
Part 2	90%
Part 3	94%
Intermediate	85%

Avril Bamford, the former President of the College Union, distinguished herself by securing the "Kuppuswami Naidu Memorial Medal", standing first in the Presidency in the B.A. Examination results, whilst R. Saroja was awarded the "Bysani Madhava Chetty Medal" for securing the highest marks in Sanskrit. Our congratulations also go to Moira Coelho and Philomena Paul who both obtained a double First Class.

## GAMES AND SPORTS

But it is not only in the academic sphere that Stella Maris has achieved success this year. On the games field, the students have also striven hard. In the Inter-Collegiate Tournament, we secured the throw-ball runners-up trophy. In sports, Pamela Broughton of the P.U. class, proved our best athlete for the year, faring creditably in the Madras University Inter-Divisional Sports and in the Madras Inter-Collegiate Sports. She represented the Madras University in the Inter-University Sports held in Calcutta, and along with Rita Devasagayam represented the Madras Division in the Centenary Sports. Unfortunately Pamela missed the Individual Championship by just one point. We heartily congratulate her on her achievements and hope that she will do even better next year.

## ASSOCIATIONS

The whole harmonious structure of regular college life, the simple round of lectures, study, reading and essay-writing, was integrated by the free, spontaneous activities of the students in their College Associations.

Early in August, Sri Shri Prakasa, then Governor of Madras, delivered the Inaugural Address on "Women's Education in India" and although it was abbreviated by a torrent of rain from a bleak, stormy sky, yet to the minds of the students, the Governor's words brought the luminous example of a hard life dedicated to the service of others. The Associations then settled down quietly and efficiently to constructive work.

The bright colours of Kalidasa's art, the ancient glory and grandeur of India, the art treasures of the Vatican, and the mysteries of science were revealed to the students by learned professors. While the two Music Associations found their fullest expression in two concerts, one a Flute Recital by eminent professionals, and the other a Piano Recital by the students, held on St. Cecilia's Feast Day, the students of the Economics Association listened with interest to explanations of the achievements of the Five Year Plans and the Community Development Projects, hoping one day to be able themselves to share in the mighty work of building a new prosperous India.

Inter-Class Debates were never monotonous but rich in genuine spontaneity. Pre-University students ascended the platform with serene and unbounded confidence; their persuasive tone and their humorous arguments were a challenge even to the most experienced speakers of the B.A. classes, while the "looking out for points" became a common feature of college life during the lunch break, and resulted in a series of pleasant, interesting and carefully prepared debates.

The Cultural Week on Christian Art in December and the University Celebrations in January brought to the College foreign visitors from Canada and the Philippines, from U.S.A. and France. The students appreciated the opportunity to exchange views on common problems in discussions where petty distinctions and differences of nation, opinion and temperament were forgotten in a deep feeling of unity, and a common understanding.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding accomplishments of the associations was the persistence and enthusiasm with which the students participated in the numerous Inter-Collegiate Debates and musical and oratorical competitions, facing a few defeats with energetic optimism but gaining a creditable number of prizes and setting up one of the best records of success. Later in February, Rev. Father Murphy, S.J., M.A., delivered an interesting Valedictory Address, clarifying for us the real meaning of education. Thus a year of extra-curricular activity, that has been full of joy and rich in achievements, came to an end. All students who entered whole-heartedly into these activities profited by their real educational value.

#### ART

The Art students have been very much in earnest this year. November saw them off to Tanjore and Trichy to spend a few days amid the archeological treasures of ancient India. There they forgot Madras with its modern problems as they studied and sketched those centuries-old monuments and carvings.

Then came something really practical, the thrill of preparing two exhibitions of Indian Art. Their efforts were amply rewarded by the appreciation of the delegates to the Cultural Week in Christian Art in December and still more by the award of one of the few gold shields "Class A" at the recent Centenary Exhibition of the University of Madras.

#### SOCIAL SERVICE

Members of the Stella Maris College Social Welfare Organisation have continued their weekly visits to the local cheris throughout the year, rendering material aid and social guidance. St. Helen's Day Nursery, opened last year, has more than doubled its strength and now provides forty-five little children with excellent care. A new venture has been the opening of a Sewing Society where fifteen young girls are trained in useful domestic sewing by which it is hoped they will soon be able to earn their own livelihood. When funds were sinking low, the College Welfare Association soon rectified the situation and by means of a Benefit Film Show raised in a few days a sufficient amount for the whole year.

#### HOSTEL

Accommodation in the Hostel was an envied possession this year when the demand for admission reached an unprecedented figure. Happiness and industry, combined with serious

preparation for life and a sense of responsibility, are the chief characteristics of the Stella Maris Hostel, which strives to correspond with the aim of the University making hostel life an integral part of University education. Friendly contact with fellow students from Malaya, Ceylon and all parts of India, the intermingling of different cultures, the give-and-take of life lived in common and the wise use of freedom, form an excellent preparation for young women soon to take their place in the world.

#### STAFF

Special mention must be made of our conscientious and painstaking staff. A few only are with us of those who saw the opening of the College in 1947 but one and all are animated with the same devotion to duty and deep personal interest in every individual student. To them is offered this evening the grateful appreciation of the Management for their splendid co-operation and the gratitude of the students who owe so much to them.

#### STUDENTS

The students, ever the "Cinderella" of a College Day Report, are not forgotten here. Their excellent spirit, their sense of discipline displayed on so many occasions, their readiness to sacrifice themselves for others, and to undertake the responsibility and preparation of the multiple functions of the year, deserve a word of praise on this occasion. May their splendid spirit of loyalty and good-will pass on down the ages from generation to generation.

College Day always brings with it a twinge of sadness as the end of the academic year approaches and we realise that our final degree students will soon leave us. June will bring many new faces but the alumnae are never forgotten and will always receive a warm welcome at their Alma Mater.

#### NEW YEAR

The coming year will usher in many changes with the introduction of the three-year degree course, certainly a new venture but, under the able guidance of the University and the distinguished and experienced leadership of Sir A. L. Mudaliar, we can rest assured that its ideal will be realised and that students will obtain thereby a more complete and comprehensive education.

#### CONCLUSION

Learning, success and happiness are but gifts of our good God, due to no merit on our part. If He has so manifestly blessed the humble beginnings of Stella Maris we must, without any personal vain-glory, thank Him alone from the depths of our hearts for whatever success Stella Maris has achieved in the past, whilst confiding to Him the next ten years with all that they may bring.

"He can do all things; with Him all things are possible."

Before concluding, I should like to express once more our gratitude to Sri P. V. Rajammannar for having so kindly consented to be with us this evening. I also thank His Grace, the Archbishop, for having responded so cordially to our invitation. We also thank the Reverend Clergy and all the ladies and gentlemen who have honoured us with their presence here this evening.