

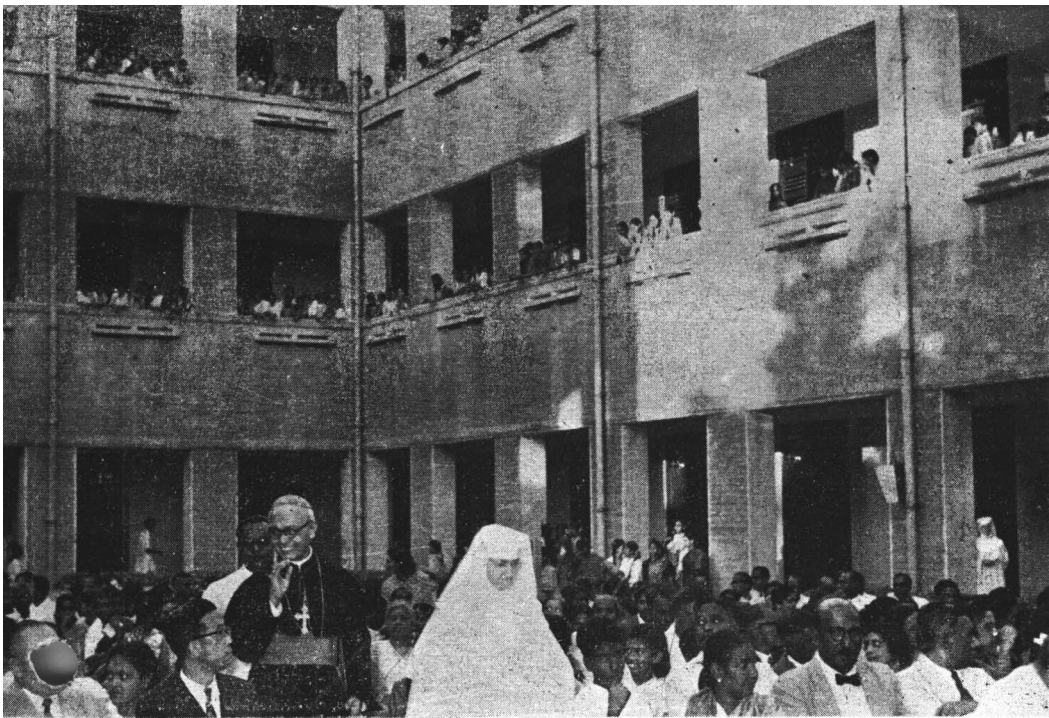
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ON behalf of Reverend Mother Superior, the Staff and Students of the College, I am very happy to extend to one and all, parents of our students and friends of the College, a warm welcome to this evening's function. To Sri Emberumanar Chetty, our distinguished President, our special thanks are due, as in spite of the very numerous and pressing duties of his new office of Sheriff, he has nevertheless found time, at what inconvenience we know personally, to honour us with his presence here this evening. We are extremely happy to have you with us, Sir, since your genuine interest in the progress of education is well-known, and numerous are the educational institutions which have benefitted by your generous philanthropy.

According to educationalists, a child reaches a critical stage in her intellectual development between the ages of eleven and twelve years. At eleven plus, according to educational terminology, the child has completed her preparatory school training, and is mentally equipped for either a technical or higher academic education. In India the child at this stage is ready for the High School. By a happy coincidence, Stella Maris College has also just reached the critical age of eleven plus. Her progress has been steady, having grown from a strength of 30 students in 1947 to that of 730 to-day. Her youthful mind, well sharpened by the initial courses in Mathematics and Economics, has now matured and absorbed a wide range of Main subjects—Zoology, History, Indian Music, Drawing and Painting, and the History of Fine Arts, whilst last year she precociously embarked upon an M.A. Course in Indian Music. So Stella Maris, like most young pupils of eleven plus, is ready to become a Senior; but to provide a suitable institution for the young lady necessitates the building of a new Hostel and College at Teynampet. We have long planned and arranged for her admission and with the help of good friends and the blessing of God, we hope and pray that her entry will be possible before 'Stella Maris' becomes 'over-age'.

The Foundation Stone of the Hostel building was laid last October and we expect the new building to be ready for June. It will do much to relieve the present congestion in the Hostel here and to afford accommodation to more students coming from outside the city. We trust with the help of our generous benefactors that the new College building will soon follow and that in the near future Stella Maris will be finally established in the beautiful surroundings of 'The Cloisters', where the spacious campus of 23 acres will bestow new life and vigour on this growing child and make for her continued physical, temporal and moral development.

A general survey of College life and its activities is expected as part and parcel of the College Day Report. It is always old and always new, as variations occur from year to year according to the new trends of education.



COLLEGE DAY

His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. F. Carvalho escorts the Sheriff Sri Emberumannar Chetty
to the stage



The President Sri Emberumannar Chetty
addresses the gathering

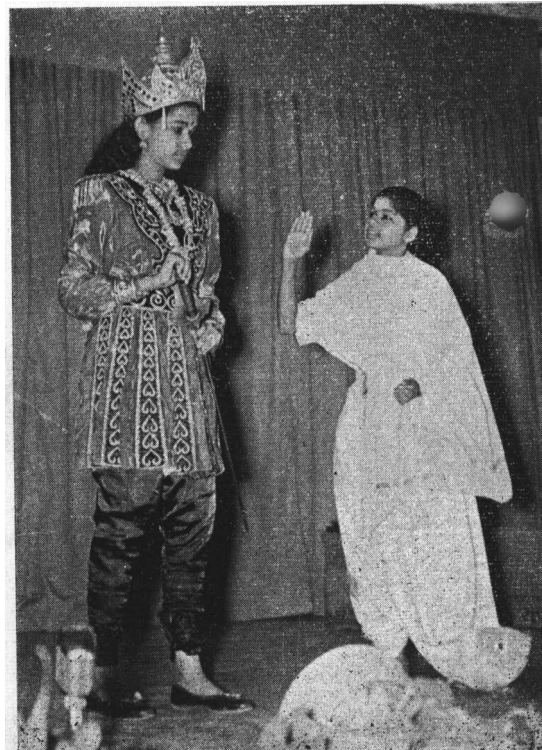


Professor Ruthnaswamy addresses the Assembly after the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Hostel at Teynampet by His Grace Dr. Louis Mathias, S.D.B.

The Poet and the King in "Tamil Tanda Tambian"



A dramatic moment in "The Merchant of Venice"



New Courses.

Having already been the first College in South India to adopt the B. Mus. Course four years ago, Stella Maris had the distinction, at the beginning of the present academic year, of being the first to introduce the newly-constituted M.A. Course in Indian Music. Once again it has been privileged to make history.

Examination Results.

Last year's examination results in the B.A. and B.Sc. Degrees were gratifying. A high percentage of passes was secured: in the B.A. 74% in Part I, 98% in Parts II and III. In the B.Sc. 80% of the students passed. For the first time the College secured the first prize in Indian Music in the B.A. Examination, when the G. A. Natesan Prize and the Rama Panicker Medal were awarded to Uma Hariharan. Our heartiest congratulations, Uma !

The Pre-University students secured 76% passes, including 33 First Classes.

The Social Service Diploma Students scored cent per cent passes and 6 were awarded distinction mainly on the merit of their exceptionally good research theses.

Sports.

In the field of games and sports we achieved more than usual success this year, securing for the first time the Winner's Trophy in Badminton as well as the Runners-up Shield in Tenniquoit. This merited for our Badminton team the honour of representing the Madras division in the Inter-divisional matches in which they once more carried off the victory. This year's achievements in the various sports, Inter-divisional and Inter-Collegiate, have also been of a high order, and Rita Devasagayam was selected to represent the Madras University at Jubbulpore.

Associations.

The ordered sequence of lectures and study which comprise the College working day needs to be relieved by a variety of personal activities. If we view the student's life as a composite whole, it is evident that the extra-curricular activities play an essential part in the development of a spirit of initiative and of a more complete personality.

Elections for the College Associations were over towards the end of July when Dr. Krishna Rao kindly delivered the inaugural address, speaking on famous women whose unceasing labour and austere mode of life have set an example for all to follow.

Abstract philosophical thought held little attraction for the Mathematics and Science students, who preferred to examine the 'Concept of Zero' and explore the 'Mysteries of Wild Life'.

The problems facing India to-day, whether industrial or agricultural, were dealt with but certainly not solved, by the Economics Association, both in lectures and debates.

In response to the invitations of the Language Associations, visits from distinguished Tamil, Sanskrit and Hindi scholars were numerous. They came to address the students on the poetic beauty of ancient literature, or on the technical problems of language formation.

Often the French Association joined hands with the Western Music to provide excellent vocal and instrumental recitals, while the Indian Music had frequently the joy of listening to the classical songs of India, punctuated by the sweet melody of a veena or tambura. Under the auspices of the Indian Music Association, the first Inter-Collegiate Competition was held in the College this year, and a beautiful Rolling Shield was presented by the Association to be awarded to the best team in Vocal Carnatic Music. Ethiraj College had the honour of being the first to receive it, whilst Kumari Durga of II B.A. was declared the best individual singer.

The Senior B.Sc. students laboured for a full day on the beach of Ennore to catch specimens of fish and crabs, but returned home joyful and amply rewarded. The Art students spend their September holidays touring central India in order to rediscover the beauties of ancient Indian architecture. Hyderabad, Ellora, Ajanta, Aurangabad and Bombay were all included in their itinerary. The days sped by all too quickly to permit them to examine and appreciate to the full the famous paintings of Ajanta and the architectural and sculptural beauty of the rock-cut Chaitya halls.

Inter-class debates were as lively as ever, though initial success rather overawed some of the usual carefree P.U. speakers, and their confidence evaporated as they faced their dignified seniors. But at least they have wisdom and prefer to climb slowly.

Audrey Pinto, R. Vasantha and Santosh Kumari distinguished themselves in the Inter-Collegiate University debates in English, Tamil and Hindi respectively. We are happy to announce that for the third time in succession one of our students was chosen to represent the Madras University at the Inter-University Debate at Waltair. To Audrey Pinto goes the honour this year.

Social Service.

Social Service is perhaps the most discussed topic of conversation in India to-day. From its earliest days Stella Maris has given this dedicated service an important place in her life. The Stella Maris Social Welfare Organisation has now two branches, one working at 'The Cloisters' and the other here in Mylapore. At 'The Cloisters' a 'welfare centre' has been established at which specialised case and group work are attempted on modern lines. The Stella Maris Ladies Cottage Industries Co-operative Society in Quil Tope, as well as the St. Helen's Day Nursery continue to function.

The Social Service League of College students has also been working assiduously in the four cheris near the College. Their activities have included medical, recreational and educational work as also needlework classes. Members of the League go faithfully each day to their appointed cheri, where they find their reward in the boisterous, happy welcome which the cheri children give them as they arrive laden with medical kit, games equipment and even with slates and books. The leaguers also played a large part in organising the Christmas Tree in December when 300 women and children were provided with clothes and other gifts. All this naturally entails the sacrifice of free time, but the students do not grudge it, happy in the knowledge that they are thus living up to the ideals with which their Alma Mater has always tried to inspire them.

A.I.C.F.

The Stella Maris unit of the All India Catholic University Federation has been active at the local level throughout the year in its study of current social and religious questions. Several C.S.U. members have also participated in regional activities, the Stella Maris team securing First Prize in the Madras regional Debate in January.

Delegates attended the A.I.C.U.F. Seminar held in Delhi in September and also the Bombay Congress in December. From their various discussions on the academic, social and moral requirements of University life and the student's role in the modern world, they came back full of enthusiasm and courage, eager to contribute their utmost to the betterment of the national life in India to-day.

Earlier in the year, Rita Lovett flew to Hong-Kong to represent India at the International Asian Seminar, where she caught a glimpse of the communist world and made very useful contacts with other nationalities, particularly of the East.

Hostel.

Coping with admissions to the Hostel was, as always, quite a problem at the beginning of the academic year. However, no problem is without its solution and after a little adjustment all were happily installed. Gaiety and sociability certainly abound in the hostel, but without detriment to the regular hours of solitude and peace and quiet—so desirable and necessary for serious individual study, which is, after all, the first requisite of University life.

Tours.

This past year has been unique in more than one way. Travel to all parts of the world seems to have been its keynote. Delhi, Bombay, Jubbulpore, Ajanta and far-away Hong-Kong have already been mentioned. But the party of students who flew to Europe for the Lourdes centenary last February broke all records. In many ways they ushered in 1958, constituting the first Indian pilgrimage of the year, the first group of University students to make a European tour, and the first student delegation to be received in audience by the Holy Father, who was pleased to mention them by name. 'Stella Maris in the air' was so well reported and photographed in India and in the European press that it only remains for us to affirm that the exceptional success of this wonderful spiritual and educational venture was due in great measure to our Very Reverend Mother General in Rome, whose maternal goodness was responsible for the very warm welcome received by our students in the great cities of Europe—Rome, Munich, Paris, London—and finally Lourdes itself. These privileged pilgrims of 1958 will certainly never forget the host of happy memories associated with their European tour.

Conclusion.

This report would not be complete without placing on record the gratitude of the management to our devoted and selfless College Staff, who have not spared themselves in giving of their very best both in curricular and extra-curricular activities. Knowing full well that the excellence of the students depends largely upon the excellence of the teacher it is our hope that with such a loyal and competent staff the College will not fall short in its

great task of producing students of character, ever faithful in the performance of their duty, practical examples of truth, honour and charity. Management and Staff are one in their outlook regarding Education, not merely as a matter of academic learning preparatory to the acquisition of diplomas but rather as a formation of character and training of will. In the words of the late Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, we seek to 'fashion and educate the students to exercise a salutary influence upon their age and generation, yes, and on future generations. Thus they will leave the world a better place, sweeter and nobler than they found it'.

Such is the ideal which we hope with God's help to realize. To Him also are we indebted for the countless blessings bestowed on the College during the past year. The individual is only the instrument, and a very feeble one at that, in God's hands. It is He alone Who gives the increase.

Before concluding we renew our thanks to you Sir, for having honoured us with your presence this evening. Our most sincere gratitude are also due to His Grace the Archbishop, and to His Excellency Bishop Carvalho, whose paternal solicitude is ever a source of encouragement to us. We also avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank the parents of our students and all well-wishers of the College for having accepted our invitation to this evening's function, as also for their generous material support towards the erection of the new Stella Maris which will, we trust, redound to the greater glory of God and the cultural and moral advancement of India's youth.