

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

On behalf of the Management, Staff and Students of Stella Maris, I have great pleasure in extending a most cordial welcome to Mrs. Lourdammal Simon, our honourable Minister for Local Administration and Fisheries, who despite her ever-pressing duties, has so kindly consented to preside over our first College Day at "The Cloisters." As a women's college we feel especially privileged to have her as a president this evening, being as she is, the only lady minister in Madras State, a post which she occupies so worthily, gracing it with her universal charity which she extends to all irrespective of caste or creed. We thank you, Madam, for having accepted our invitation and trust that it will prove the first of many future visits to the College. We are also happy to welcome His Grace Dr. Louis Mathias upon whose kindly help we know we can always rely, as also upon that of His Excellency Bishop Carvalho who with paternal interest has watched our institution grow from year to year. A final welcome to our distinguished guests, the parents of our students and all friends of the college, whose generous support is an incentive to us ever to increase our efforts in the interests of our students.

An old fairy tale tells of a certain Jack who one day planted a small bean which grew so rapidly that next morning there was a huge beanstalk stretching up high into the sky. Here at "The Cloisters" something very similar has taken place. In 1958 a little bean of hope was planted when the foundations of the first Hostel were laid, and today after only two short years 900 students are chirping like happy birds in the branches of four tall new buildings. Magic indeed, and its secret? God's never-failing blessing upon our humble efforts on behalf of His children. And after God, it is to all those kind friends that we must tender our sincere gratitude, who by their charity have contributed to the miraculous growth of our three-storied beanstalks in this beautiful setting of "The Cloisters." Thanks to so much generosity, Stella Maris can at last, after thirteen long years of waiting, offer to all aspects of education—moral, intellectual and physical—the calm, peaceful environment so necessary to the development of education.

This memorable year opened with the blessing of the new buildings by His Excellency Bishop Carvalho, followed on July 23rd by their official opening by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who graciously consented to honour with his presence this momentous event in the history of our College.

### **New Courses**

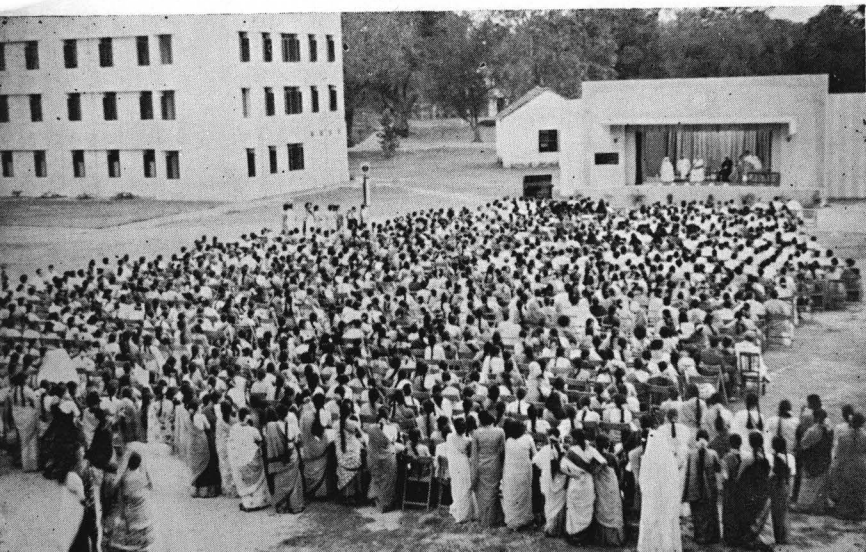
This year it was the Economics students who made history. The opening of this subject in the Pre-University class led to a rush for seats which far exceeded all expectations. Evidently the students do not see eye to eye with Carlyle who described Economics as "a dismal science." Six full years of Economics from the Pre-University to the M. A. will surely furnish candidates for half a dozen Plan-



## COLLEGE DAY

The Guard of Honour awaits the arrival of the Honourable Minister

Presidential address of the  
Honourable Minister Mrs. Lourdammal Simon



A view of the audience

## THE ENTERTAINMENT



Opening Chorus



Tamil

Dramas in



English



Gujerati Folk Dancers

ning Commissions or perhaps even render the fourth five-year plan unnecessary. But quantity has not displaced quality and though the students are well over 900 in number, they present no disciplinary problem, loyally co-operating as they do in the pursuit of a common ideal – the search of truth through the bonds of charity.

### **Examinations**

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to God for His great blessings that we recall the success of our students in the University Examinations. The first batch of M. A. Music students distinguished themselves by securing four first classes and one second class. This year it is the turn of our M. A. Economics and English students to make their debut and we trust they will follow the good example of their elder sisters.

B. A. students in no way lagged behind their “Masters” with their percentages of 96%, 100% and 93% in English, languages and subjects respectively. B.Sc’s percentages were 98 and 94 for English and language, 100% for Zoology, but Maths this year was a shooting star with its only 66%. The Pre-University students also fell down from the 80’s to 69%. But we hope the thermometer will rise this year.

Our hearty congratulations to the University Prize Winners of the year : Mrs. S. Jayalakshmi who was awarded the Rama Panicker gold medal and the G. A. Natesan prize for Indian Music, A. K. Janaki who obtained the Todhunter Prize for History, R. Suguna and V. Saraswathi who happily carried away the Codati Ethirajamma Memorial Medal for Economics and the Bysani Madhava Chetty Medal for Sanskrit respectively.

### **Associations**

Extra-curricular activities have a definite role to play in college life and a value in educational formation, provided always a just balance is maintained in their relation to more strictly academic studies, and this is our aim at Stella Maris when planning the programme of association meetings.

After the inaugural address by Mr. Sheppard of the British Council on the “Importance of Literature” the various associations settled down to quiet but steady constructive work. Whilst scientists explored the possibilities of “Space Travel” the more realistic Economists organized a symposium on the Third Five-Year Plan, which resulted in earnest discussion of India’s actual and potential achievements.

In Language associations, activities took the form of lively debates, play readings, recitations and mono-acting, all of which revealed hidden talent. Music and Art pursued similar themes illustrating the common and distinctive features of Eastern and Western art by means of music recitals, film shows and lectures. But paradoxical as it may seem, the highlight of our associations was their twilight—when Mrs. Tara Cherian kindly consented to deliver a never-to-be-forgotten valediction.

dictory address in which she shared with us her interesting experiences of life in other countries, making us long to follow in her footsteps at the first possible opportunity.

### **Social Service**

The College Social Service League can look back with satisfaction upon the time and service they have generously devoted to the relief of the neighbouring poor. Despite the utter inadequacy of our little one-room temporary Welfare Centre they have managed to accomplish much, caring for the sick at the dispensary, distributing milk, food and clothes and organizing happy recreations for the children. In the same small building a sewing class is also held, which prepares poor girls to earn a livelihood. Christmas saw the usual large Christmas Tree when hundreds received useful gifts, this year the emphasis being laid upon the family as a unit. On behalf of the poor, we plant another bean of hope. Trusting in God's help and the continued assistance of our good friends, we are planning the construction of a permanent Welfare Centre which will enable us to extend our help to many more deserving poor. We confidently trust that this year will see the realisation of yet another beanstalk.

### **A. I. C. U. F.**

Members of the Catholic Students' Union have spent a busy profitable year. Self-organized discussions upon student problems have formed an important feature in the weekly meetings, resulting always in practical resolutions and appropriate action. The M. A. students terminated a series of discussions upon Reading by organizing an Inter-class Debate upon "Whether immorality lessens the literary value of books"—which was characterised by a high standard of debating, and some very sound arguments were propounded with genuine conviction. But activities were by no means confined to the portals of Stella Maris; students availed themselves of the vacations to attend the various all-India camps and study weeks organized by the Federation, the leadership camp at Belgaum, the Bangalore study week and the Pondicherry camp.

### **Sports**

The spacious grounds of "The Cloisters" will enable us to realise a long-cherished dream — that of providing adequate playing fields for the full development of Sports. This year with the building scheme still incomplete our activities were necessarily limited and our would-be athletes, though fired with Olympic enthusiasm, had to content themselves with a modest share in the Inter-Collegiate Table Tennis Cup. But this year's problems have not been without their advantages, having elicited a spirit of cheerfulness and adaptation under difficulties, together with an initiative which made it possible for the regular games and sports to be conducted as usual.

Excursions have been very popular this year. A hundred Hostelites led the way with their enjoyable visit to the Red Hills, which thanks to last year's generous Monsoon, more than came up to their expectations. Senior Zoologists followed, their choice falling upon the famous Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary which the rains had thickly populated with aquatic birds of many types and species. But the Art students out-

shone all with their five-day Archaeological Tour of Bangalore, Halebid, Belur and Mysore, covering a distance of 514 miles by bus, excluding the journey to Bangalore. But their efforts were amply rewarded by an interesting and detailed study of Hoysala architecture.

### **Hostels**

Our two Hostels have solved our accommodation problem and this year we were happy to be able to welcome almost all applicants. One Hostel is occupied mainly by Juniors and the other by Seniors and Staff members. But this is no hard and fast division—all are on very good visiting terms and form in reality one big family—living, working and playing together, proud and worthy of the trust that we are able to place in them. From early morning to late in the evening colourful sarees brighten up the lawns as singly, in pairs, or in groups, they find a favourite corner for study or for a stroll.

### **Staff**

Our achievements of the year could not have been accomplished without the co-operation of our loyal, efficient staff who devote themselves unstintingly to their task, taking a personal interest in the welfare and progress of each student, thus facilitating the smooth working of the college.

### **Conclusion**

By the opening of the next academic year we hope to be able to offer to our non-resident students increased comfort and facilities, in the new Centre which you now see under construction, one of whose most welcome features will be the College Canteen.

In the academic field we hope to introduce next year the B. A. Course in Social Sciences, subject to the approval of the University.

The horizon is not, however, entirely cloudless. A large debt on the College buildings still remains outstanding. But we have an unshaken confidence in God's paternal Providence, as also in the continued assistance of our kind benefactors and truly loyal students whose efforts in this direction have never flagged throughout the year. Their cheerful and enthusiastic generosity is indeed a consolation to us.



Before the Hostel

Thus Stella Maris looks forward to the future, her eyes fixed on the Star of Truth and Charity whose gentle, yet powerful light she ever seeks to follow, realising well that the highest value an education can offer is "a mind that knows the truth about itself and the world and knowing the truth has been made free." That Stella Maris may ever labour to form students imbued with such lofty ideals, students of initiative, with courage and determination to face whatever duties life imposes on them, is our oft-repeated prayer: students who will be an asset and a credit to their country, following the example of our distinguished President in her devoted service to India and to the state of Madras in particular.