

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

On behalf of the staff and students of Stella Maris, we have great pleasure in extending this evening a most cordial welcome to Mrs. Jothi Venkatachellum, our Minister for Health, who, despite her ever-prssing duties, has so kindly consented to preside over our College Day.

Stella Maris, a girls' college, feels especially privileged to have you, Madam, the only lady Minister of Madras State, as President of this function. We thank you, for having accepted our invitation. The presence of His Grace Archbishop Mathias, and His Excellency Bishop Carvalho always brings to us added joy as it assures us of God's blessings on the college.

Even a rapid review of the daily routine of college work would far exceed the limits of this report, and would be superfluous also, since every year we work on the same general plan. There are, however, new features in our approach to college work, and new activities added from year to year, on which we prefer to dwell.

The year under review saw a further increase in the strength of the college: eleven hundred seems really to be the maximum number a girls' college may accept, if the ideals of education that Stella Maris stands for are to be achieved. Yet the increasing number of students presents no problem of discipline, since they all co-operate, loyally working towards a common ideal: the search for truth through charity.

The curriculum of Stella Maris was enriched this year by the addition of two long-desired post-graduate courses, and in July the first students were admitted to M.A. Social Work and M.A. Fine Arts. Stella Maris was the the first college to be granted affiliation by the University of Madras for these two courses; so that, once again, it has been privileged to make history.

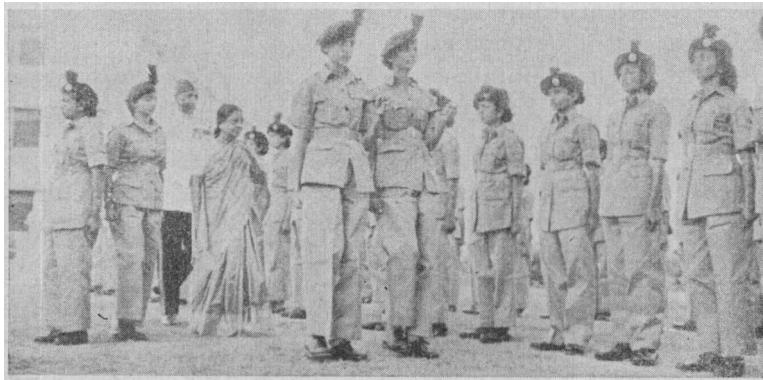
As the old Diploma in Social Service gave way to the M.A. in Social Work, the separation of the Social Service League of the college from the specialists, the students of M.A. Social Work, was a new experiment that proved fruitful, since it gave both groups greater opportunity of displaying their initiative and of satisfying their desire to give and to serve.



The construction of a permanent and up-to-date welfare centre is nearly completed. This will enable us to extend our help to many more deserving poor people, through the opening of a nursery, the establishment of a medical centre to care for the sick of the nearby cherris, and a counselling agency for women and girls, together with the usual crafts and needle-work classes.

The experiment made last year of entrusting the organization of the college associations entirely to the students having proved successful, the change-over to this new type of association activity was completed this year, and we are happy to say that the standard of achievement was more than satisfactory. This self-government is a powerful factor in the development of the full personality of the students, who have acquired skill in managing their own affairs quietly and efficiently by organizing a round of interesting, instructive, and entertaining programmes.

The National Emergency gave practical expression to the patriotic spirit of all Stella Marians.



Two companies of N. C. C. Rifles were formed among the students; others joined knitting clubs and courses for first aid and home nursing. Students who qualify in both theory and practical work are awarded certi-

ificates; but certainly more valuable than the certificates is the experience gained in subjects which are essential for every kind of social work, and useful to every girl in her home.

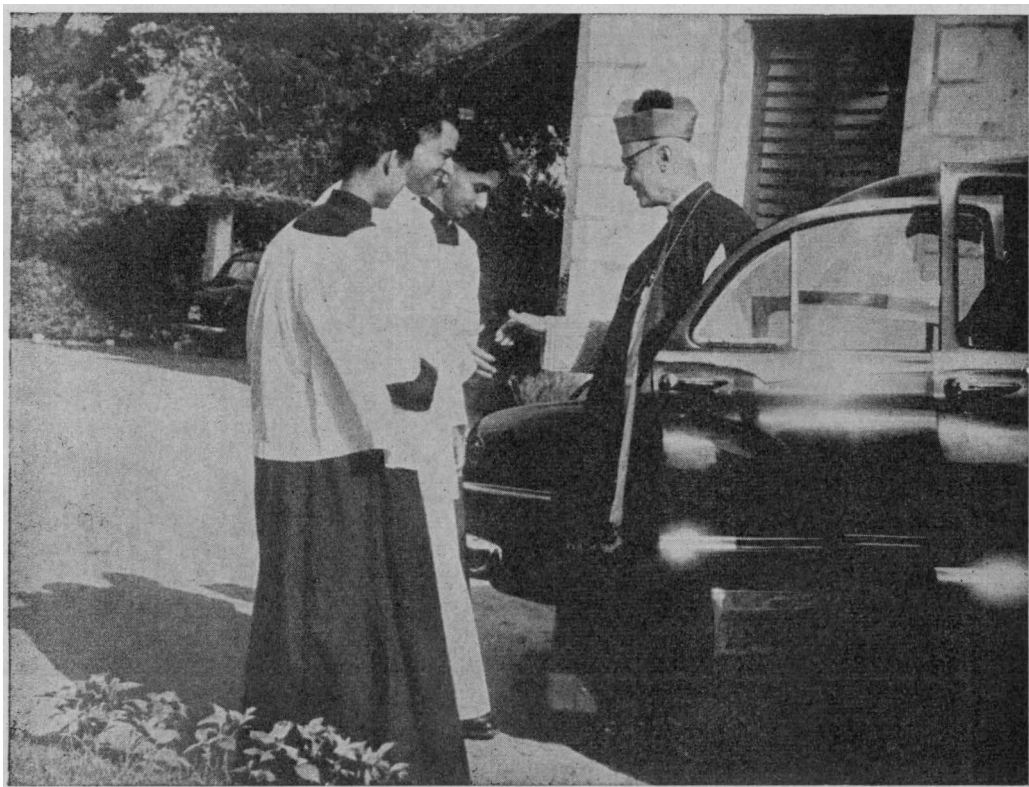


We noted with pleasure that the sportive spirit was more alive than usual in Stella Maris this year. Our teams participating in the inter-collegiate sports won the runners-up trophies for throw-ball, tenniquoit, and badminton; and the StellaMarians also formed part of the University table-tennis team against Delhi. But more important than these victories were the valuable fruits of initiative, team spirit, fair play, courage, and discipline learnt on the games-fields. Games seem no longer a burden, but a source of pleasure and physical well-being.

Evening games, a "cinema club", and orientation socials helped to create a

happy family spirit in the hostels, where social life has been gay and full. The seniors have kept up their traditions, and carried out their duty of initiating the juniors, being proud and worthy of the trust we are able to place in them, relaxing some of the old hostel rules.

Those who remained behind during the holidays served as hostesses and guides to distinguished visitors, when the college played host to an all-India meeting of Catholic College Principals, and, early in January, to the Major Superiors' Meeting of the C. R. I. inaugurated by His Excellency, Bishop Carvalho, Auxiliary of Madras - Mylapore.



As we look back on the history of Stella Maris, we cannot but return thanks to God for His guidance in the past. On Him we rely with unabated confidence for the future.

That Stella Maris may ever labour to form students of lofty ideals, students of initiative, ready to face whatever duties life imposes on them, is our prayer: students who will be an asset and a credit to their country, following your example, Madam, in your devoted service to India.