

The Object Scope and Progress
OF THE
MADRAS YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NIGHT SCHOOL.

(ESTABLISHED 1ST JANUARY 1913.)



President:—M. R. Ry., V. Masilamani Pillai Avl., B.A., B.L.,

(HIGH COURT VAKIL.)

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The Madras Young Men's Association

Night School.

I. OBJECT.

The object of the institution is the education of the masses. We take into the school young people of the working classes who have had no opportunity to receive even a primary education or had to leave the school quite early to earn their livelihood. It is our aim to educate them—in the widest sense of the word. Our ideal is to enable these young men to lead with intelligence a healthy and honest life. The teaching of the three Rs. what is popularly known as the primary education, forms, therefore, but a means to an end in our system, and occupies our main attention in the first four classes. The end is to make good men and good citizens of those boys that come under our influence. In our higher forms the pupils do not only acquire the ability to read and enjoy good books in Tamil, but also equip themselves with the knowledge necessary to lead life as we would wish them to lead. All through their days in our school we do our best to teach them good manners and sound principles of life and above all the dignity of labour is being brought home to them. We insist upon proper discipline consistently with our attempts to make them realise the charms of a regular school-life to which most of our pupils had been strangers. The achievement of our aim depends as much upon the constant sympathy of the Public to the cause

as upon the steady and energetic work of the members of the Association.

2. SYLLABUS OF WORK.

The syllabus of work published here is drawn up in accordance with this aim and object and has been entirely based upon our past experience. The wonderful receptiveness of the boys and their eagerness to learn have been noticed at every step with much satisfaction and it can be said with some confidence, that when they leave us from our highest class the III Form, they will take with them an amount of information and knowledge sufficient to continue for themselves with interest the education that has been begun for them in our school.

In framing this syllabus we were guided to a large extent by the class diaries which record the amount of actual work that was possible to be turned out during the past year and a half, and this acting as a check upon our ambition kept us within the sphere of practicability.

I STANDARD. *Tamil*:—Primer (First Standard Reader for the Senior Section) Dictation of simple words.

Correct use of கூ, வ, ழ, ஊ, ல, ண, ன, ந.

Arithmetic:—Addition, Subtraction, (Multiplication Tables) one line multiplication. Mental sums involving the three processes (in one digit).

II STANDARD. *Tamil*:—Second standard reader. Dictation of simple sentences. The correct use of கூ, வ, ழ, ள, ல, ண, ன, ந, த, ர.

ஆதிச்சூழி and கொன்றைவேந்தன்.

Arithmetic:—Revision of addition and subtraction.

Multiplication. Division.

Compound tables:—Coins—Rs. As. P.
£. sh. d.

Weights—Mds. vis. pal.

Tons. cwts. qrs.

Length—Miles. fur. pol.

Number—Ream. quire.

Compound addition, subtraction, multiplication & division.

Mental sums involving the four rules.

English:—Alphabets and simple words.

III STANDARD. *Tamil*:—Prose,—Third standard reader.

Poetry—வெற்றிவேற்கை and வாக்குண்டாம்.

Copy writing with headings (home work). Dictation.

Arithmetic:—Reduction. Shop bills.

Fraction tables of $\frac{1}{16}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and mental sums involving fraction tables.

English:—Primer.

IV STANDARD. *Tamil*:—Fourth standard reader.

கல்வழி, and நன்னெறி.

Dictation. Copy writing (single line; home work.)

Grammar. Pope's first catechism.

Arithmetic:—Numeration and Notation.

G. C. M. and L. C. M.

Fractions: the application of the four rules.

Profit and Loss. Mental sums.

English:—First Reader.

History:—Chellappa Sastri's I Book.

(a general and brief narrative of the History of India).

Geography:—The Madras Presidency (Marsden's Madras Presidency in Tamil.)

I FORM. *Tamil*:—Prose;—Select lessons from the

Text book (C. L. S. V. Reader).

Poetry:—இனியவைநாற்பது and இன்ன
நாற்பது and select stanzas from
Vivekachintamani.

Grammar:—Vasudeva Mudaliar's
Tamil Grammar.

சமுத்தியல், பெயரியல், வினையியல், உரிய
யல், இடையியல்.

Dictation and Copy writing (Home
work).

Arithmetic:—Simple Rule of Three, Compound Rule of Three, Problems in Proportion, Square Measure. Mental sums as an exercise of memory and attention.

English:—II Reader.

History:—Chellappa Sastri's Book II. 'A general summary of Indian History.'

Geography:—Asia and Africa (Duncan's Tamil Geography).

II FORM. *Tamil*:—Prose;—Panchatantram.

Poetry;—Select stanzas from திருக்கோயில், நான்மணித்தழை, செறுபஞ்சமூலம், (100 stanzas).

Grammar;—(Vasudeva Mudaliar's Tamil Grammar.)

பதவியல், பொதுவியல், சொற்றொடரியல், and புணரியல்.

Non-detailed study:—6 select books (at home) of Namasivaya Mudaliar's one anna publications. Transcription and Composition.

Arithmetic:—Cubic Measure. Simple and Compound interest, Time and work, Time and Distance.

English:—Third Reader.

Dictation and Copy writing.

History:—The British Period in detail
(Sinclair's History of India in Tamil along with 'Easy stories from Indian History by E. Marsden.

Geography:—Europe, America and Oceania.
Map drawing.

Science:—Elementary lessons in Human Physiology and Hygiene.

III FORM. *Tamil*:—Selections in Prose and Poetry
(Mostly from Matriculation Tamil Texts.)

Grammar:—Select stanzas from Nannul as aids to correct spelling.

Non-detailed study:—Kambar Charitram (C. L. S.) and a 'Tamil Novel.'
Transcription and Composition.

English:—The Fourth Reader.

Arithmetic:—Problems (Miscellaneous.)

History:—Early India in detail and Mohammodan Period. Elements of Civics.

Geography:—Physical Geography. India in detail.

Science:—A general idea of the Animal and Plant life. A conception of the Universe (The Heavenly bodies.)

3. REPORT OF WORK.

It has been year and a half since the association started a night school in Purasawalkum. It is proposed here briefly to review the history and work of the school during that period.

After some preliminary enquiry and preparation the school was started on the 1st of January 1913, in the Hindu Union School premises. The president of the Association, Mr. V. Masilamani Pillai (High Court Vakil) undertook to finance the movement in its early stages, the members of the association volunteered their services and Mr. S. Vataranyam B.A. who was appointed as the Head Master conducted the work with the assistance of five volunteers who were all college students.

There were only a dozen boys to begin with, but the rapidity with which it gathered strength was very encouraging as it thereby assured us that we were only supplying a demand which had long been latent in this part of the city. By the end of June the strength was 56—among whom there were 8 girl pupils. At first regular attendance was very difficult to secure, so that the progress of work was not as satisfactory as it had been hoped to be. Some progress and a definite beginning, however, had been made.

In July 1913, the beginning of the next term Mr. T. N. Seshachalam B. A. took the place of Mr. S. Vataranyam as the superintendent of the school and he was assisted in his work by Mr. T. R. Krishnaswami, the then secretary of the association. It was not found possible to work a mixed school and so the girl pupils

had to be sent away. The boys were re-arranged and a fresh class, the I Form was opened. New text-books were introduced. A provisional syllabus of work was drawn up by the Committee. Every teacher from this time forward, has been made to maintain a diary in which the daily work done in the class is recorded. The Superintendent, by examining these diaries, keeps himself abreast of the whole school-work and has the best opportunities to gauge the daily work of the various classes and direct all work in the right lines.

By the end of August the working of the whole school had been systematised and brought as much as possible, in harmony with the object with which the institution was established. It was at this time that we ventured to approach the public for support and met with a generous and gratifying response. The School gained gradually the abundant local popularity which it is enjoying now.

The School was nearly a hundred strong in December, and the rise in strength as well as the desirability of a permanent teacher for the lower classes necessitated the appointment of a few paid men. Two teachers, Mr. Ganapathi for the I standard and Mr. Rhenius Pillai for the II, were accordingly appointed about this time.

Mr. T. N. Seshachalam, the Superintendent, had to prepare for the F. L. Examination of 1914 and so had to take leave on the 1st of January, 1914. Messrs. T. R. Krishnaswami and V. R. Ranganathan took his place to the end of April, during a period of normal progress.

Mr. T. N. Seshachalam resumed charge of the school from the 1st of May. It is known that malarial fever raged in Pursewalkam with severity during the four or five months from March 1914. Added to the permanent grievance of the constant 'over-time' work that is pressed upon our boys in the various printing-presses where many of them are employed, the fever had told very much upon the attendance and the strength of the School. The Superintendent spoke to some of the employers and managers requesting them to relieve our pupils in time to attend the School. Some of them have kindly consented to exempt such of the boys as may report themselves to be reading in our school, from 'over time' work. One or two letters have also been published in the columns of the Madras Mail where it has been shown that the employers in their own interest ought to facilitate our work; for then they would be able to get better, more honest and more orderly sort of servants than are, at present, at their disposal.

The Superintendent also worked steadily to cure the poor fever-stricken boys. The Special Malaria Officer of the Corporation was approached, who kindly visited the School, examined every boy and granted free quinine and other drugs, required for their daily consumption. Dr. V. Rama Kamath, a private practitioner in Pursewalkam, has been kind enough to pay regular visits to the School and give the necessary directions for the proper administering of the medicines. Thus a few cases which would have otherwise been neglected even to death have fortunately been rescued: The regular quinine treatment is still continued and now we have

carely any case of fever in the school. The parents of our boys were also gathered together on more than one occasion and have been addressed by the superintendent on the importance of education, the necessity on their part to send their boys to us, and to send them regularly and punctually.

These and other similar steps brought back to the school many of the boys that had left it, during the months of fever. There have also been a number of new admissions, the strength up to date coming to 115. This had made the appointment of a third paid teacher necessary. Mr. Rhenius Pillai was put into the III Standard and Mr. Natesan has been appointed for the II Standard.*

Annual examinations were held for the classes at the end of June after which the school had a fortnight's holiday. The results of the examination were satisfactory—only about eight boys being ineligible for promotion. With the promotions of this term a higher class, the 2nd Form has been newly opened. A fresh and practical syllabus of work (page 2) has been drawn up by the Superintendent and is in force since the beginning of this term.

V. MASILAMANI PILLAI B.A., B.L.

M. SUNDERUM B.A.

President.

Secretary.

18th August 1914.

*Recently the I Standard has been divided into two sections and another teacher appointed for the senior section.

4. FINANCE STATEMENT.

The School could not have been started but for the generous encouragement which the Association had received from the President Mr. V. Masilamani Pillai, High Court Vakil. He bore the initial expenses and financed the school for the first six months. With increasing strength and fresh needs we approached the public in August last, a year ago. The generosity with which some of the gentlemen contributed by way of monthly subscriptions and munificent donations has indeed done much to encourage us in our work. The Superintendent takes this opportunity to record, on behalf of the Association and on behalf of the poor boys, their deep gratitude and hearty thanks to one and all of the donors and subscribers.

DONORS.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Mr. V. Masilamany Pillai B.A., B.L.,	40	0	0
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice F. B. Tyabgi	15	0	0
Mrs. Viswanada Aiyar	3	0	0
A. B. C.	1	0	0
Mr. T. Ramalinga Chettiar B.A.,	2	0	0
„ V. R. Swaminada Mudaliar B.A.,	2	0	0
„ S. T. Srinivasagopala Chariar B.A., M.L.,	2	0	0
„ A. Rathnavaloo Chettiar	5	0	0
„ C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliar B.A. B.L.	2	0	0
Dr. C. N. Muthulakshmi Ammal	1	0	0
„ M. A. Thirunarayana Chariar B.A., (annual subscription)	2	0	0

Rs. A. P.

Mr. "A Friend."	5	0	0
„ A. Ramaswami Mudaliar B.A., B.L., ...	3	0	0
„ C. S. Venkatachariar B.A., B.L., ...	5	0	0
„ T. A. Rajarathnam Pillai ...	1	0	0
„ K. Subba Reddi B.A., Bar-at-law ...	3	0	0

SUBSCRIBERS. (Monthly)

„ V. Masilamany Pillai B.A., B.L., ...	5	0	0
„ C. Ramanujam Chettiar of Messrs, King & Co.,	5	0	0
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice T. V. Seshagiri Aiyar B.A., B.L., ...	2	0	0
Dr. C.N. Muthulakshmi Ammal M.B. & C.M. Messrs, T. A. Venkaswami Rao and T. S. Krishnaswami Rao (Proprietors Law Printing House).	1	0	0
„ T. Ethiraju Mudaliar B.A., B.L., ...	5	0	0
„ V. V. Shunmugham	1	0	0
„ V. S. Gnanaprakasam	0	8	0
„ K. Govindachari of Messrs Best & Co.	1	0	0
„ A. D. Krishnaswami B.A.,	0	8	0
„ E. Duraiswami Aiyar B.A., B.L., ...	1	0	0
„ Dr. U. Rama Rao	1	0	0
„ V. Rama Kamath	0	8	0
„ A. S. Thirugnanam	0	8	0
„ V. S. Govindachari B.A., B.L., ...	0	8	0
„ T. R. Srinivasa Aiyar	0	8	0
„ S. Anavarathavinayakam Pillai M.A., L.T.	0	8	0

Statement of Income and Expenditure from
January 1st 1913, to July 31st 1914.

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Donations	94	0	0			
Subscriptions	148	0	0			
Securities received for books ...	17	0	6			
Commission for books	3	6	0			
Expenditure from January 1st to July 31st 1913				39	13	0
Expenditure from August 1st 1913 to July 31st 1914:—						
Lighting expenses				33	10	6
Stationery				17	12	6
Books, Slates and Maps				32	2	0
Security returned for books ...				4	14	0
Establishment charges... ..				79	6	0
Furniture, Locks etc.				10	0	0
Miscellaneous				4	9	10
Balance on hand				40	2	8
Total ...	262	6	6	262	6	6

V. R. RANGANADAM,

18th August 1914.

Treasurer.

T. N. SESHACHALAM,

Superintendent.

5. Statistics of Age, Occupation and Attendance.

Strength of the school:—115. Divided into six classes
(1st standard 2 sections)

Age of the pupils:—The highest age ... 28

The lowest age ... 5

The average age for the school. 13.1

Occupation of the pupils —

Employed in presses as Compositors, Type founders, Readers and Engravers	...	...	...	50
Jewellers	...	...	...	12
Fitters, Blacksmiths and Tinkers	...	...	...	11
Washermen and Tailors	...	...	...	6
Masons and Carpenters	...	...	...	6
Shop Assistants and Attenders	...	...	...	10
Mill-hands	...	...	...	6
Nil	...	...	...	14
				115

Percentage of attendance
from October 1913 to July 1914.

	Oct. 1913.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1914.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
I St.	67.4	67.4	73.8	64.5	64	48.2	47.5	50	56.5	66.1
II St.	55.7	68	53.7	56	46	54.8	56.3	54.1	64.5	66.1
III St.	55.6	57.4	66.1	49.6	64.4	72.8	42.3	62.8	80.3	72.2
IV St.	71.9	79.5	62.2	57.2	68.8	55.8	41.6	45.5	77.3	71.7
I Form	91.1	73.8	82.1	77.8	93.2	66.6	63.7	84.5	96.1	80.8
II Form	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95.4

‘BRIXTON HOUSE,’
18th August 1914.

T. N. SESHACHALAM,
Superintendent.

6. Volunteers who have served or are serving in the
Night School, since January 1913.

Mr. S. Vataranyam B.A.	Mr. S. Narayanaswami.
„ N. K. Mohanrungan B.A., B.L.	„ M. S. Srinivasa Aiyangar.
„ T. R. Krishnaswami.	„ E. Kumariah B.A.
„ V. R. Runganadan.	„ M. Damoderum B.A.
„ M. Sunderum B.A.	„ V. N. Duraiswami.
„ S. Subramaniam.	„ E. N. Marakathavaloo.
„ T. N. Venkataraman.	„ K. Srinivasan.
„ M. V. Sunderasan.	„ T. G. Damoderum.
„ P. V. Subramaniyam.	„ C. Nathanial B.A.
„ C. N. Ramiah B.A.	„ V. Rajagopalachari.
„ E. Vinayaka Rao B.A.,	

T. N. SESHACHALAM B.A.,

Superintendent.

7. EXTRACTS FROM THE VISITORS' BOOK.

Very remarkable work is being done in this little school. Pupils who joined as illiterates have in the course of a few years made such progress that now they can both read and write Tamil well, and have even quite a useful preliminary acquaintance with English. Evidently genuine "Education" is going on, the pupils being both keen and united and their attendance wonderfully regular, one could not praise too highly the devotion of the teachers, whose sacrifices must be very great.

(Sd.) J. C. ROLLO,

30th December 1913.

Principal, Pachiappa's College, Madras.

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Very glad to see the work carried on in this school. The plan of work is admirable and the zeal evinced cannot be too much commended. I cannot wish for the school anything better than a future which will be in keeping with and a natural development of its present condition.

(Sd.) O. KANDASWAMI CHETTY,

Lecturer in English, Christian College, Madras.

New years Eve 1913.

I have just seen the work done in this school. It fills me with a wonder and a hope. The thirst for knowledge which these little people show is remarkable considering that most of them work hard at mills and presses the greater part of the day. The enthusiasm for self-sacrifice which is the striking note of young India is seen in the young men of the Madras Young Men's Association. I wish them great success. I hope more work of this sort will be done.

(Sd.) C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN,

Professor of History, Maharaja's College, Trivandrum.

31st December 1913.

I had heard great things of this school, and I am very glad to say that my visit in person has not only confirmed. What I had heard about the good work that is being done, but has also made me realise more clearly than any report from another could have done how excellent a result it must be producing by bringing together those who are more fortunate in this world's

wealth and learning and those who are less fortunate. I feel sure that the future well-being of India depends on the readiness of its young men to do unselfish, unostentatious work for others.

(Sd.) ARTHUR DAVIES,

17th February 1914.

Principal, Law College, Madras.

It has been a great pleasure for us to visit this interesting night school- Since it was started we have known of it and of the efforts of its teachers on behalf of the children; and to see the progress the pupils are making the brightness and happiness so evident in their faces and the eagerness with which they learn has been inspiring to us. A big work is being done here and done for the good of India.

(Sd.) MARY M. P. HOGG,

Superintendent, Perambore Mill Schools.

AND

17th March 1914.

(Sd.) A. G. HOGG,

Professor of Philosophy, Christian College, Madras.

I have had the pleasure of paying two visits to the night school, and there I have had a most interesting time. The pupils are all keen, and they seem to be working well. I heard the reading of some and it was very good indeed. Their writing and Arithmetic and general knowledge were well up to the standard too. The students who conduct the school are most enthusiastic in their very commendable work.

I sincerely wish the school the best of success in its work, this I think certain if only the next generation of students prove as faithful to their charge as the present.

23rd March 1914.

(Sd.) F. W. BUCKLER,

Professor of History, Christian College, Madras.

It has been a real pleasure to visit this night-school and to note that in spite of the heat the interest of the pupils and teachers does not flag.

Surely brighter days are ahead for India when her young men are willing to give themselves so unsparingly for the good of others. May every success be theirs.

29th April 1914.

(Sd.) ADA R. FERGUSON.

The interest and enthusiasm of these young men who are working for these children is very encouraging.

It has been a pleasure to visit the school and see the excellent work being done—May the work grow and more be done for the needy children.

29th April 1914.

(Sd.) JULIA E. BENT.

OUR OBLIGATIONS.

It is with a very great pleasure that we avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our deep sense of obligation to all who have sympathised with and helped us in our work. We thank with gratitute all donors and subscribers who have so generously contributed

towards the maintenance of our night school. It must be noted here that those of our members who were engaged in collection work found that these gentlemen had made their work a pleasant and easy duty.

The association is deeply indebted to Mr. V. Desikachariar, Manager of the Hindu Union Secondary School, for the kindness with which he allows us the free use of the 'Brixton House' premises with its furniture for holding our classes in.

We are extremely grateful to Captain Hodgson I. M. S. the Special Malaria Officer and also to Dr. V. Rama Kamath for the anti-malaria work they are doing in our school and we express, on behalf of our boys, our warmest thanks to them. No less thankful do we feel to the many volunteers who have served as teachers side by side with our volunteers, and to all our visitors whose words have been a welcome encouragement for us to persist in our work.

Sensible of our obligations to all, we have been more than ever enabled to see the broad spirit of sympathy that characterises the public of the city. Whenever we have occasions to approach the public in future, and we know they are many and will ever grow with fresh needs, we are confident and hopeful that all our legitimate wants will be readily provided for.

D. N. SESHACHARIAN, B.A.,

Superintendent.

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