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St. STANISLAUS MAGAZINE

ASSOCIATION SECTION

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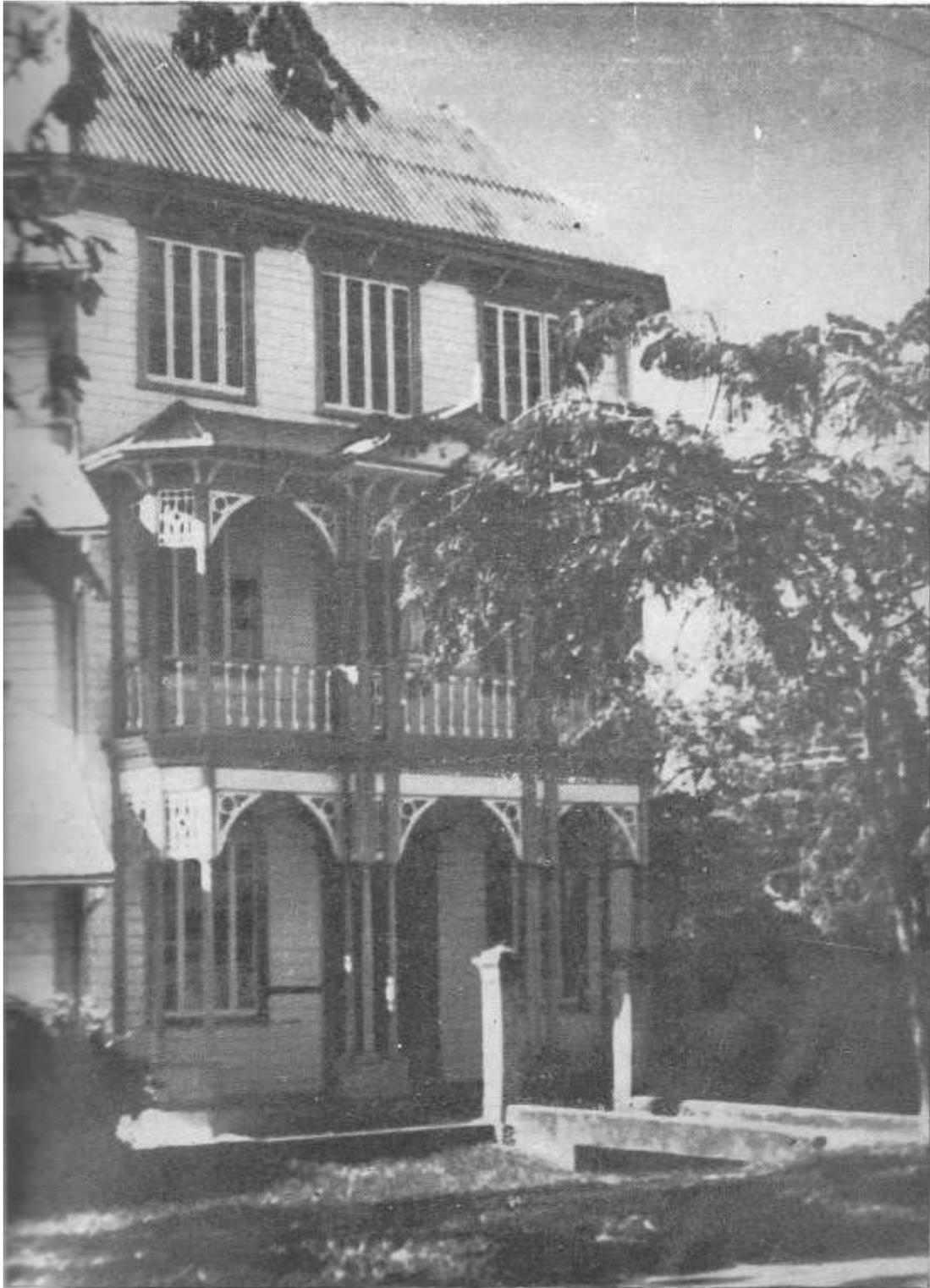
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COLLEGE SECTION



St. Stanislaus College, Georgetown, British Guiana

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

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J. JARDIM, A. A. ABRAHAM and P. F. De CAIRES.

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C. C. De FREITAS, R. J. FITT, J. JARDIM, J. B. GONSALVES, A. A. ABRAHAM,
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Chairman: C. P. De FREITAS.
Hony. Secretary: A. A. ABRAHAM.
Members of the Committee: REV. FRANCIS J. SMITH, S.J., M. E. BELGRAVE
and P. F. De CAIRES.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON

It is a great pleasure to welcome the appearance of a new periodical especially when there is prospect of useful work to be done.

The formation of a St. Stanislaus College Association has been called for, and has been under consideration for many years. There were many difficulties in the way, and not least of these was the absence of a suitable hall in which to meet. But the time has at last come when a start, and a very successful one, has been made.

The purpose of such an Association is mainly twofold, the bringing together of students and their parents, and the assistance that can be given to the rest of the school.

The work of a school is not merely the instilling of knowledge. Far more important is the building up of character, the development of a boy to take his proper place in the world. A school should leave its own impression on a boy. This is where the Association can help so much. In their gathering, old memories are recalled, and old impressions revived and intensified. The spirit that has been implanted in them comes to maturity. Debates, lectures and discussions continue the work and open up new ideas, develop power of thinking, and continue the education in the wider field of practical life and usefulness.

And this is where a School Magazine can help so much. All can have the opportunity of expressing their ideas on various subjects of general or particular interest. They learn to express themselves clearly and, at the same time, develop their own minds and expand their ideas.

At the present time, when there are so many important questions for discussion - education and social in particular - it is a means of getting or instilling clear and correct ideas which are so necessary, if far-reaching mistakes are to be avoided.

All these phases of thought will find their place, in due time, in the magazine, and it is to be hoped that it will prove a real source of benefit to a large and growing circle of readers.

I cannot end without a word about the second object of the Association, for this, the Magazine will mainly be a channel.

Every school, which has an Association of Old Boys, derives great help from the organisation of its games, the offering of prizes and various other ways. But St. Stanislaus College stands in a particularly difficult position. It has to give the same education, and prepare for the same examinations as Queen's College and has very nearly the same numbers. Yet it receives no financial aid at all. It has to do this on the fees alone, whereas Queen's College is financed by Government in full less the fees, which go to Government. The difference is a matter of considerably more than \$30,000

a year. Anyone can understand what that means. This is so different from Trinidad where the salaries at St. Mary's are paid by Government on the same scale as the Queen's Royal.

One of the many useful works the Association will do will be the organization of ways and means to bridge this gap. And the Magazine will play its part in this work too.

We wish it and all the works of the Association every success.

† GEORGE WELD, S.J.

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FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the first issue of this magazine - an effort of the recently formed ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION. This Association was formed on 21st September, 1942, and its objects, among others, are to keep old boys of St. Stanislaus College in close touch with each other as they go through life, bringing back to them the many happy days spent at school studying, playing games and having their characters built up to enable them to take their rightful place among the best citizens of British Guiana, and to ensure that this really fine College is able to keep its doors open.

St. Stanislaus College, as everyone knows, is unaided by Government. It has to depend on its fees to meet its current expenses. This may have been possible if its entire teaching staff were priests, for though a priest may be an M.A., his cost to the College is very small indeed. This, however, has been found impossible owing to the shortage of priests, so a number of Lay Masters has had to be employed at a very much increased cost. General increases in everything (except College Fees) caused through the War, have made it impossible for the College to pay its way. Every year there is a deficit and if we are to have St. Stanislaus College always with us, this deficit has got to be met.

The members of the Association have undertaken to raise the necessary funds to meet this deficit by holding dances, entertainments, fairs, etc. The first dance was held on February 26th last, and was a success; there will be another on July 2nd, and I can assure you of an equally enjoyable evening and feel certain of the support of all our well-wishers. On September 4th "Wonderland," a fair which used to be an annual feature of the College, is being revived. These efforts should be sufficient to meet the College's financial deficit. Any surplus will be put aside for the building of an extension which, besides housing additional classrooms, will have a hall for the use of the College and its Association.

The Association's membership now stands at 182 and I indeed feel highly honoured at being its first president and will do my best to make the movement a complete success, so that, with God's help and yours, St. Stanislaus College will be able to keep its doors open and continue, for many years to come, the good work it has done in the past.

My sincerest hope is that your children and mine will become members of this Association and continue to support it long after we have passed on.

JOHN FERNANDES

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EDITORIAL

The publication of a school magazine has been the hope and dream of many a student at St. Stanislaus College. This magazine realises those hopes and dreams, but it does more than just that. It marks the coming into being of St. Stanislaus College Association. It can, and should, be one of the strongest bonds between College and Association.

In the past we went, some gladly, some like Shakespeare's "schoolboy, with his satchel and shining morning face, creeping like a snail unwillingly to school". But all of us were sorry to leave, and we sensed a feeling of futility in our going. Some were greater debtors than others, but we all owed something. What could we do in return? At last a chance has come to show our gratitude. Some have waited many years for that chance, and their enthusiasm today is an example worth following.

The Association is open to past students, and parents and guardians of past and present students. Its objects are clearly stated in the rules. The cynics and trouble-makers express the view that its members have nothing to gain; we recommend them to read an account of what has gone before, and what is yet to come. We recommend them to think, for a moment, of the growth of the College from its humble beginnings to a great force, undeniably for good, in the higher education of the Colony's youth. Then let them consider the great potentialities, still undeveloped, of that force. Let them look around and see what College boys have done, now old boys of the past decade, for the foundation of the College is on more solid ground than long examination lists and even scholarship awards.

The Association is not merely a source of support for the College; neither will it exist for the sole purpose of holding an annual dinner. We are aiming high. No one denies the length and hardships of our journey; for that reason, if for no other, there is no room for useless passengers on our ship.

The "old school tie" has become the object of cheap burlesque wit; where it stands for conceit and smug superiority, it deserves no better. But it can mean fellowship and friendship in the best and widest sense of those much abused words: it is then a symbol of which any man can be proud.

This magazine will record the activities, the successes, the aims, the hopes, and yes even the failures, of the College and its Association. In time it should become a record that we would want to keep. That is high endeavour indeed, but to fall short of it would be utter failure.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION, for the period ending 31st December, 1942.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership of the Association totalled 114, comprising 90 Ordinary Members, 14 Honorary Members, 9 Associate Members and 1 Life Member.

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE EXTENSION FUND: At a Meeting of the Committee of Management held on the 25th November, it was decided to open immediately a fund to be called "The St. Stanislaus College Extension Fund", for the purpose of raising money to extend the present College building as early as possible.

The extension would contain a Hall for the use of both the Association and the College, Class-rooms, and a Library for the use of the members of the Association.

A preliminary survey of the plans revealed that the approximate cost would be \$12,000.00, but the project could be started with about \$7,000.00 in hand.

Fr. Morrison has offered to give \$4,000.00 which was collected some time ago for this purpose, to this Fund as soon as it is possible to commence building. Activities will soon be started to increase the Fund.

COLLEGE DEFICIT: Consideration has been given to the annual deficit of the College, and the Committee has decided to organise an Annual Fair, to be called "Wonderland", and an Annual Dance, for the purpose of meeting it.

The 1943 "Wonderland" will be held on the 4th September, and the dance on the 26th February, with a repeat on the 2nd July.

Should any excess over the deficit be realised by these entertainments, the Committee has decided that such sum be put towards the "Extension Fund".

ST. STANISLAUS MAGAZINE: Preparations are well advanced for the publication of a Magazine to serve the interests of both the Association and the College, to be known as the "St. Stanislaus Magazine". It is planned to release the first issue in April, 1943, and subsequent issues at regular half-yearly periods.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Plans were completed for the holding of monthly meetings of the Association at the College, on the second Friday of each month, commencing in January, 1943. It is intended that matters of interest be discussed at these meetings, such as the Control of Education, and other similar subjects, and members' suggestions in this connection will be gratefully received.

SOCIAL EVENING: A Social evening was held at the College on Friday, 4th December, 1942, at which there was a large gathering of members, including His Lordship Bishop G. Weld, S.J., Patron of the Association.

The Committee feels that Socials of this kind serve the very useful purpose of bringing the members of the Association together, and it is hoped that it will be possible to have them at regular, but not too frequent, intervals.

IN CONCLUSION: The Committee wishes to thank all the members most sincerely for the keen interest they have shown in the activities of the Association since its formation, and asks them, in all earnestness, to continue to do their utmost at all times to further the interests of the Association.

One certain way in which every member can do his part to ensure the continued success and progress of the Association, is by making a truly special effort to get his friends and relatives who are eligible for membership to enrol as soon as possible.

With every new member our strength will grow, and thus will we be fortified to accomplish the tasks we have set ourselves, and which lie ahead of us.

THE ASSOCIATION IN 1943

SINCE the report given above was presented at the Annual General Meeting in February, the Association has made much progress.

The membership roll stands at 182, and continues to rise. The regular monthly meetings on the second Friday of each month have already won a strong following; at the first one in January there was a very lively discussion on the Education problem, a full report of which is given elsewhere in this issue. In February Mr. C.P. de Freitas gave a lantern lecture on a trip to Canada and New York, via the West Indies; the slides, in colour, were magnificent. We owe Mr. de Freitas a great debt of gratitude for a most enjoyable evening: but we intend to make that debt greater, as we know that he has other suitable subjects similarly prepared, and the Program Subcommittee, of which he is a member, has already obtained his consent to call on him for future meetings. In March Mr. C. N. Delph led a discussion on the Formation of a Youth Movement.

The Dance at the Assembly Rooms on the 26th February was a success, and it was good to hear the favourable comments made by those who attended and the spontaneous expressions of regret by those who had missed a good time. Preparations are already afoot for the holding of "Wonderland" on September 4th. These activities are in aid of the College, to wipe off the deficit from last year: the cause is one which needs no commendation to members of the Association - it is the very life of the Association itself.

A remarkable and gratifying development since last year has been the change in the rules to permit of the enrolment of overseas members at a reduced subscription rate. The fact that Old Boys living out of the Colony are ready and willing to join the Association is a compliment to the College. In the neighbouring Colony of Trinidad alone 22 members have already taken advantage of the privilege. It is expected that this number will increase, and action has been taken to bring in Old Boys in other places.

Another long cherished hope that appears much nearer realisation is the extension of the College. A Hall was the main item when this project was first considered; the rapidly increasing numbers at the College make it imperative that more

accommodation be available. A building to contain more class-rooms, a hall, and a room for the use of the Association, is now under consideration. War conditions will hold up the fulfilment of this plan but we aim at using this delay to ensure that funds will be available to start building as soon as it is practical to do so.

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The Early Days of the Old Grammar School

DISCUSSION ON THE CONTROL OF EDUCATION

THE first monthly meeting of the Association took place at the College on the 8th January, 1943. The fact that the members realised the importance of this question, perhaps the corner-stone of the foundation of the Association, was evidenced by the large attendance and the spirited discussion which followed the leading speaker's introduction of the subject.

The President, Mr. John Fernandes, introduced Fr. F. C. Fenn, S.J., who led the discussion. Fr. Fenn said that the fate of the Primary Schools was at stake. All parents, Catholic or not, had the right to choose at what school their children should be educated; this right was fundamental and based on divine right. Teachers acted *in loco parentis* at school, and not *in loco civitatis*. Education began in the home, and the school was an "extension" of the home. The denial of this principle of the parents' right of choice was a form of totalitarianism.

The Hammond recommendations, on the other hand, aimed at complete Government Control.

Fr. Fenn then discussed the "Trust Scheme," whereby the school would be placed under a Board of three members, two to be nominated by the Head of the Denomination concerned, and the other by the Government. This apparent majority for the Denomination was misleading, however, as any one member had the right of appeal on a question concerning the employment of a teacher to the Governor, whose decision would be final. The "Trust" could also refuse aid to any school which it considered "unnecessary or unsuitable." In any case where a school required rebuilding, the land would go to Government, and the school would either be run as a Government school or be put under the "Trust." The choice of teachers under the "Trust" was really vested in Government, as the 2:1 ratio was false and candidates for posts would be submitted by the Education Department.

Fr. Fenn pointed out that the "Trust" scheme was a "half-way house" to full Government control. The Hammond Report had been rejected by the Catholic and Anglican denominations, and an alternative scheme had been prepared by Christian bodies in the W.I. islands.

Fr. Morrison said that Mr. Hammond had recommended that his report be considered by a large committee representing all councils, Christian bodies, Industry, Commerce, Trades Unions, Teachers, Youth Movements and Women from social groups, and their recommendations should go to Government for consideration. He pointed out the unwieldiness of such a committee.

Fr. Morrison then neatly summed up the case against the Hammond Report, making the following points:-

- 1) No majority can abrogate the rights of a minority;
- 2) Religion is an integral part of a child's life, and not merely another subject in the curriculum;
- 3) A Church school satisfying the requirements of the Education Department had a full right to public funds;
- 4) Taxpayers had a right to the benefits of taxes, these being distributed by, but not owned by, the head of the State.

He read extracts from the principles laid down by the conference in Grenada, and suggested a similar statement from the local heads of denominations.

Mr. Jorge Jardim said that the estimated cost of a school reconditioning scheme was \$2,000,000, of which the Welfare Fund would bear \$1,200,000. This meant an initial local Government outlay of \$800,000 and an annual upkeep expenditure of \$50,000. He suggested a percentage allocation of the Vote for Education.

Dr. de Caires pointed out that an allocation basis was unsound, as the figures for percentages of the population on racial grounds showed. He indicated that financial considerations appeared to offer an obvious platform for opposing the scheme.

Mr. John Fernandes suggested the adoption of the Canadian principle whereby Income Tax is divided into Income Tax proper and Education Tax; each taxpayer had the right to name the beneficiary of his payment of Educational Tax.

Mr. Jorge Jardim called attention to the difficulty in allocating taxes, as the Colony's distribution of 20% direct and 80% indirect taxation was just the opposite of the usual returns. Dr. de Caires also indicated that such an allocation would deny, to certain sections of the population, the very rights for which we were fighting.

Fr. Goodwin presented the problem of the teachers' point of view, as they would obtain material benefits in Government controlled schools. He stressed the fallacy in the Hammond Report's "common syllabus of religious education."

Mr. C. G. de Freitas suggested a campaign to better the teacher's lot, and Mr. C. N. Delph stressed the fact that the opinions of teachers should be ascertained, pointing out that teachers would like to gain the security of Civil Service status.

Mr. A. A. Abraham said that a discussion of this nature was bound to be one-sided. He reminded the meeting that the disadvantages of the system of education in this colony were obvious, and had been realised in the Report. Mr. Hammond had, however, failed to grasp the whole situation, as his suggested common syllabus of religious education" clearly indicated; again, the request for just East Indian schools might have political significance.

Mr. L. O. da Silva expressed the opinion that the Hammond Report was not well enough known. Fr. Fenn replied that it was the intention to publicise it, and it was hoped to form a United Christian Front to formulate principles which would be placed before the public; such a Front would deal with other questions besides education.

Mr. L. O. da Silva suggested the motto: "Give us the money and we will do the job."

The meeting terminated with a hearty Vote of thanks to Fr. Fenn, which was carried unanimously.

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THE FORMATION OF A YOUTH MOVEMENT

AN objective discussion on the formation of a Youth Movement was the topic chosen for the third programme in the monthly series planned by the Programme Sub-Committee, and the large number of members of the Association who attended provided gratifying evidence of the interest of the members in the subject selected. In addition there was also present a group of the older boys from the College who had been asked to attend on this occasion in accordance with the Association's policy of inviting these boys to any of its activities which might be of interest or benefit to them.

The discussion was opened by MR. C. N. Delph who said:

The subject on the programme – " Discussion on the formation of a Youth Movement " – has many facets; these I will endeavour to bring out under the heads of reasons, aims and fundamentals, before throwing it open for discussion. I will not be long, because this is a very large and sore subject with all who follow the doings of most such organisations in the world today, and it will only be possible for me to give the barest outline under the three heads. There is no gainsaying the fact, however, that Youth organisations of the right sort are essential in all well ordered communities.

Reasons. Personally, I have always wondered, why the redundancy – Youth Movement – Youth connotes movement, and because of this, it has its own trials and is seldom met sympathetically, and sometimes not even recognised at all. We find youth sensitive, temperamental, emotional, morbid, self conscious, shy, reserved, and, in general uneasy. How do I know this? I'll tell you. I was once a youth myself!

The ferment in youth's breast is indeed, very difficult to describe; it takes such varied shapes, and is, as a rule, inarticulate. This ferment is caused by the surging forces and fires of feeling, which are the raw material of healthy manhood – strength in the making. Sometimes the discipline of parents destroys all self-confidence; or, on the other hand, produces resentment in youth. Different natures exhibit different reactions to guidance.

Egotism may be another malady of youth, yet in youth, it is a form of egotism that has not yet become ignoble. It suffers chiefly from excessive sensibility-always ready to resent the hurt that honour feels. Youth even frets at restrictions at home, the respectabilities of society, and the claims of the Church. All these youthful troubles have to be met, countered and overcome by tactful leadership, in such associations as youth movements.

Aims. For these reasons, then, the formation of Youth Associations is very necessary, and should have as its basis, the welfare and full physical, mental and spiritual development of youth, for citizenship here, and in the life hereafter. There should be no attempt, whatever, to produce a 'youth training machine,' hiding under the name of Youth Movement, to turn out types moulded to pattern. Every youth is an individual with a soul. It is of the first importance that youth should be trained to recognise and accept

responsibilities, at the same time acknowledging its dependence on God. Kipling's description of "The Ship that found herself" is not mere fanciful fiction, but a parable of youth. Vehement energies surge in uneasy conflict in most of us in our youth, and we scarcely know what we would be at. It is a critical and trying time, which can be successfully overcome only by the definite and sure foundation of Christian teaching and training. Placed in such circumstances, youth enjoys the assurances of Divine love, the wholesome interest of life, and that beautiful and glorious world of which Christ is the sun.

Youth must be instructed in the sense of comradeship, which is the germ of citizenship - not nationalistic, but as Christ taught us, "to love our neighbours as ourselves," in its widest application. It is admitted, even by youth itself, that young people need help and guidance in developing their own individualities, so that they may have a full share in the social, educational and cultural life of the Community. But this guidance must be definitely Christian in its formation of youth – as our late Holy Father, Pope Pius XI wrote in one of his encyclicals "The education, and the Christian formation of Youth belongs to the Church; not through human favour but by divine mandate."

We believe this; and that being so, all Associations of Youth and the training of youth must have a Christian foundation standing four square against all others. Religion and morals as taught by the Church, therefore, must be *sine qua non* – an indispensable condition of all youth movements.

Fundamentals. Turning now to fundamental grounds. Any Movement, Organisation or Association of Youth which makes a machine of youth, cannot then be reconciled with the natural rights of the family. Youth must not be made chattels of, and regimented into "forked radishes," soulless puppets, whose religion is one of convenience. That would be committing soul-murder. Any Youth Movement, therefore, which helps to uplift the individual, preserve family life, and maintain Christ's teachings, it is our duty as Christians to support, and this becomes more and more apparent as Christianity advances. If the points I have made appeal to you, and you are in sympathy with them, then discussion may result in something concrete. I, therefore, declare the discussion open.

* * *

It was evident that much thought and care had been given to the preparation of the subject and Mr. Delph's remarks were received with an attention which was an impressive tribute to their substance and to the speaker's manner of delivery.

Mr. Delph was followed by Rev. Fr. T. Pearson, S.J., who rose to ask whether in the opinion of the leader of the discussion, a Youth Movement – of whatever denomination it may be – should be controlled by the young people themselves, by their own authority and on their own responsibility.

Mr. Delph's reply was prompt. He felt that it was both desirable and essential that as much authority and responsibility for their own activities as possible should be borne by the members of a Youth Association themselves, but he also thought it equally necessary that each organisation should have available some sympathetic authority to which its members could turn for information and advice when such was needed.

After this the discussion became general – in fact, it began to look like several separate discussions. Reference was made to all the well-known Youth Movements in history including the Massacre of the Innocents, the Hamelin Pied Piper's party, the Jugend, Jocistes, and the President's Own – private and progressive, whilst the name of Fr. Flannagan, of BOYS' TOWN fame, was mentioned so often as to make Spencer Tracey's ears ring jointly and severally.

But all this was not in vain for it crystallised itself into the question: Is there any scope for the formation of a Youth Movement under the auspices of the St. Stanislaus College Association?

Then the boys who were present as the guests of the Association were encouraged to join in the discussion. They were asked whether, as far as they knew, there were in existence any groups amongst the boys at the College who had organised for themselves anything that was in effect the means of keeping themselves out of trouble by providing themselves with something positive and worthwhile to do in their spare time.

From the replies it seemed probable that there may be some such groups but that they were not effectively organised but it was suggested that there would doubtless be a ready response if a statement of the ideals to be aimed at were put before the boys.

Mr. Delph offered a wealth of suggestion on what form a Youth Association at the College could take, but stressed that, in his opinion, a Movement would stand a much better chance of success if the demand for its formation came from the boys themselves, and he urged those who were present to think along those lines. He was certain that any guidance or assistance which any group might need would be readily and willingly available.

The sound of the Stabroek Market bell striking ten o'clock gave the assembled company an admirable illustration of a possible Youth Movement for immediately on the first stroke of the hour one youth moved to the door, like a bullet to its mark, evidently under parental injunction "to leave at 10 o'clock". Here was something positive and practical in the training for citizenship - PUNCTUALITY.

The programme came to an end with the President moving a vote of thanks to the leaders of the discussion and expressing the hope that some day the members of the Association would be guests of an organisation which was the result of this discussion.

As the gathering dispersed Mr. Delph could with justification have felt like the sower who had finished his sowing and could now wait on his harvest in that confidence which is born of his faith in the works of God.

– A. A. A.

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CHRISTIAN SOCIAL EDUCATION

(Gathered from various sources and compiled by E. M. Correia)

The Problem.

We need not waste many words describing present-day social and economic ills. The question we should ask ourselves is: Have we tried to do something about it? Yes; but not enough. In Churchillesque phrase: "Too few have accomplished too little for too many".

A Spiritual Decision.

Mr. C. Dawson, of the Sword of the Spirit Movement, describes what he calls the "end of neutrality" in the present war, terming modern warfare "a struggle of mass-wills and a test of moral strength for the whole population; hence, in the last resort, it is a conflict that calls for the intervention of spiritual powers and demands a spiritual decision".

The present social and economic crisis offers tremendous opportunities for a change for the better in the post-war world. Mr. Dawson emphasizes the importance of study, "the intellectual arm based on the indestructible Christian principles as opposed to the intellectual powers divorced from the spirit, that is, if we are to avoid the mistakes of the past".

No thinking man or woman believes that a "better order" will arise spontaneously. We have been rocked out of that assurance by the upheavals in history. Almost universally we agree that evolution (if not revolution) is inevitable. The Old Order is dying; a new way is building; but who is going to build it and by what plan?

Social Education.

However, one general duty and opportunity exists for all of us: that of educating ourselves and others in sound social principles and facts. Christians everywhere are loaded with a heavy responsibility. They are the guardians of the Natural Law. They are charged to keep the Natural Law for man and society before the eyes of men. And today they possess the only long-term solution for a crazed and darkened world.

The burden, indeed, is great; but there is no weariness on the part of those who bear it. Christian Social Education is not rich in material resources; it is supported mainly by the sacrifices of those whose share in the goods of this world is not large. Yet Christian Social Education is alive. It is constantly growing, constantly renewing itself, striving ever to realize better the sublime purposes for which it exists. The power which sustains it under God is the holy conviction cherished by Christian sociologists that the only social education which is good enough for society is that which is rooted in Jesus Christ. "It is, therefore, of utmost importance to foster in all classes of society an

intensive programme of social education adapted to the varying degrees of intellectual culture". No one is exempted from responsibility for action. But action demands knowledge. The Christian democratic programme depends not only on the clear thinking and devotion of a few leaders, but on the intelligent co-operation of every citizen. What means have we of extending this knowledge?

The Study and Discussion Club.

The opportunities for study and action are many and varied. Among these are: Sermons, Lectures and Forums, Conferences on Industrial Problems, Workers, Schools, Credit Unions, Trade Unions, the Press, the Radio and last but not least the Study and Discussion Club.

The Study and Discussion Club in the hands of intelligent Christians can be a power for good. It can be used to deepen religious knowledge and conviction, to review history and to analyse Governmental and non-Governmental movements. Here it is proposed as a means of social education leading to social action, particularly to social and economic reform. As a method, it differs from the lecture course and formal night school, and, at its best, is far superior to either in effectiveness. When steered towards practical objectives, it can support a real transformation in living conditions over entire communities.

Suggestions for Study Clubs.

Name ... Each Club should have a name.

Aims and objects.

The Study Club is not a group to listen to lectures; it is a friendly gathering of ten to fifteen learners and talkers, so as to permit general discussion and conversation. The purposes of the group are: –

- a) So its members will know the Christian teachings on social, economic and political relations.
- b) To develop a thinking articulate Christian laity.
- c) So its members can speak at private and public meetings.
- d) So they can be leaders in the activities of social and civic Welfare organizations.
- e) So they can apply the teachings to their civic life.
- f) So they can guide the civic and political organizations to which they belong.
- g) So they will be better Christians.
- h) So they will be better citizens.

Membership.

The discussion group is composed of ten to fifteen congenial members of various occupations and interests, or of special groups. They may be men or women or both. A number of small groups established within each organization is desirable. In rural districts, one or more families can constitute successful study groups.

Committee.

A committee shall be appointed for the management of the Club, to arrange discussion programmes, outlines for discussion and to select reading and other materials for discussion.

Leadership.

The leader is a member of the group and learns with the group. If possible, different leaders should be chosen for different subjects. In addition to membership qualifications, the leader should be tactful, patient and persevering. Good leaders are essential. This does not mean intellectual giants or individuals possessing numerous degrees, but individuals possessed with the right spirit and motives and capable besides of leading others in an unobtrusive, kindly and unassuming way.

Meetings . . . Programmes.

A definite line of study, reading and discussion is mapped for a semester ahead. The committee will fix the dates, the times and the place of meetings. The place may vary for each meeting, possibly the homes of the members or some other fixed place; but the place or places chosen should be convenient to all members. Meetings should be held weekly, twice monthly or monthly. The duration of meetings should be one, one and a half or two hours.

Meetings . . . Procedure.

Begin and close meeting on time. Then roll call . . . A brief review of previous meeting ensures continuity . . . Questions and answers . . . Then follows the subject for discussion. The discussion, as a rule, follows the outline point by point and should be non-belligerent, to the point and well distributed. Timid members can take heart in the thought that their questions or ideas may be the very ones some other member may want to hear or cannot express. Quibbling or monopolizing discussion is taboo. While enlightened self-interest has its place, it should not predominate nor should idle curiosity. Creation of the right spirit and motives is essential. Devotion to the common good, to the creation of conditions favourable to the temporal-spiritual welfare of all the members is the ideal atmosphere for the useful operation of a study club programme.

“ROLL OF HONOUR”

OLD BOYS SERVING WITH THE FORCES

R.G. Amory	R.A.F.	F. P. Gonsalves (Sq/L)	R.A.F.
D. Birtles	Tanks	L. B. Grace	R.A.F.
F. Brazao	R.A.F.	A. Grant	R.A.F.
P. Camacho	R.A.F.	R. Gonsalves (P/O)	R.A.F.
Al. Cunningham	R.A.F.	R. Gomes	R.A.F.
D. Cunningham	RA.M.C.	A. P. HEALD-R.I.P.	R.A.F.
An. Cunningham	R.A.F.	(Killed by Accident)	
I. Cunningham	R.A.F.	L. Hart	U.S. Army
F. D'Agrella	R.A.F.	H. Hart	U.S. Army
J. H. Davies	M.N.	A. S. H. July	Q.R. Regiment
D. J. de Caires	R.A.F.	D. R July	Tanks
C. De CHALUS-R.I.P.	R.A.M.C.	(Prisoner of War)	
(Died on Service)		J. F. July	Tanks
A. V. de Freitas	R.A.F.	(Prisoner of War)	
C. L. de Freitas	R.A.F.	B. C. Jardine	R.A.F.
(Prisoner of War)		A. Jones	Tanks
M. de Freitas	T.R.N.V.R	C. King	R.A.F., D.F.M.
S. da Silva	R.N.V.R	J. Lopes (Lt.-Col.)	R.A.M.C., India
F. da Silva	Tanks	O. Marks	R.A.F.
V. da Silva	Tanks	H. N. Nascimento	R.C.A.
A. de Freitas (Major)	R.A.M.C.	P. Nobrega	R.A.F.
L. A. de Freitas	R.A.F.	(Prisoner of War)	
R. A. de Freitas	R.A.F.	B. O'Dowd	R.A.F.
P. M. de Freitas	R.A.O.C.	D. S. PSAILA-R.I.P.	R.C.A.F.
H. E. de Freitas	R.A.S.C.	(Died on Service)	
J. P. de Freitas	R.C.A.F.	N. Rego	R.A.F.
P. J. Dodds	R.A.F.	W. Roth	R.A.F.
J. Evelyn	R.N.V.R	F.D. Slater	1st Bat. Loy. Regt.
H. Fernandes	R.N.V.R	C. I. Schultz	R.C.A.
P. Fernandes	R.A.F.	C. Serrao	Tanks
T. Fitzgerald	R.A.F.	J. Smith	R.A.F.
C. Foster	R.C.A.	K. Smith	T.R.N.V.R
G. French	R.A.F.	G. Tranquada	R.A.F.
C. Gomes	Tanks	I. Vieira	R.A.F.
E. Gomes	R.C.A.F.	S. Wallbridge	Tanks
F. I. Gonsalves	Tanks	L. Willems	R.A.F.

This list has been compiled from various sources and is in accordance with the latest information available. We are aware that there may be omissions and inaccuracies and we appeal to everyone to enable us to keep the list accurate and up to date. We hope to have more information before the next issue of this magazine is published.

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NOTES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD BOYS WITH THE FORCES

DENIS de CAIRES.

When he was only 15, Denis de Caires left the Colony in 1936. He went to Cranwell and then to Wiltshire, returning to Cranwell as an Instructor, and later still he was re-transferred to Wiltshire.

He is now a Flight-Sergeant in the Royal Air Force and is at present stationed in the Shetlands. His present job is instructing those men chosen as Instructors in the R.A.F. It is to his credit that he has won such a responsible position. He writes home regularly and is in fine fettle.

Celso De Freitas

Celso de Freitas joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, and went into action as a Sergeant-Observer. He took part in the now famous thousand-bomber raids on Cologne and Essen, and during a similar raid on Hamburg his plane was one of those which failed to return. On the way home both engines on one side of the giant bomber were shot away, and the pilot had to make a crash landing. The crew were badly shaken, but managed to get out of their plane and set it on fire; they were taken prisoner only a few miles from the coast.

Celso is one of the unfortunate prisoners of war who have been put in chains, and in a recent letter he speaks of the new experience of receiving Holy Communion in chains.

As lately as the 19th December last year he was wearing the same clothes in which he was captured. He says he is writing a Diary which "should make interesting reading after the war." He appears to be fit and well, but remarks that food is one of the chief topics of conversation in the camp. He has been playing cricket too, but that must have been some time ago.



Celso DeFreitas

Cecil Percy King

Cecil King left the Colony in 1933 at the age of 13, and went to Prior Park College, Bath. He joined the Inner Temple in 1939 to study for the Bar, and entered King's College, London University, to study for the LL.B. degree. He passed the Intermediate for the LL.B. in 1940. On the outbreak of war in 1939, he volunteered for service with the R.A.F. and was called up in June 1940. He received his "Wings" in December the same year and became a Sergeant Pilot in a Whirlwind Fighter Squadron, with which he has been serving since. He received a commission in 1942 as its Pilot Officer and was awarded the D.F.M. He is now a Flight Officer.



Cecil Percy King



A.V. DeFreitas



P. Nobrega

Alfred S.H. July

After leaving St. Stanislaus College, Alfred July went to St. Michel, in Belgium, where he completed his studies. He went over to England in 1933 and chose the Army as his career, joining the C Company of the Queen's Royal Regiment as a Private. In 1936 he was promoted Corporal, and that same year he proceeded to Palestine with his regiment. He became a Lance-Sergeant in 1940, and a Sergeant in August of that year, being attached to the Polish Army. The fact that he speaks French fluently is the probable reason.

He had the honour of taking part in the Silver Jubilee Royal Review by His Majesty the King at Rushmore Arena, Aldershot, in July 1935. His father received a Greeting Telegram from him last Christmas.

Alfred's younger brothers went to England in 1937 and joined the Third Division Royal Tank Regiment in 1938, as Troopers. They were members of that Rearguard which made the miracle of Dunkirk possible. They were reported missing on May 23rd, 1940, and Prisoners of War on 19th September the same year.'

These brothers must have stuck close to each other, as it is an interesting fact that their numbers as prisoners of war, are Consecutive. They are in the same camp. and their father hears from them regularly. They were taken prisoners on the very beaches at Dunkirk and tersely liken their experiences to the nether regions.



DENIS and JACK JULY (2nd and, 4th from left)
in a German Prison Camp.

Dom. Psaila

DOM. PSAILA went to Canada in 1941 partly for health considerations, and the Dominion's bracing climate did wonders for him, and soon he was able to realise his ambition to serve his country. He joined the Royal Air Force and obtained his flying colours that same year,

On the 20th January, 1942, came the sad news that Dominic Stephen Psaila had died in hospital.

Although he had not yet completed his training he was given full military honours and his comrades bore him to his last resting place; volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded at the graveside, where the Union Jack flew at half mast.

Those of us who knew Dom. have lost a friend; his great sacrifice, and theirs, will not be in vain.



Funeral Procession of DOMINIC STEPHEN PSAILA, *R.I.P.*

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THE 1941 GUIANA SCHOLAR

MERVYN BELGRAVE gained the College's fourth Guiana Scholarship award since 1932. The rivalry with our friends at the other end of Brickdam has never been keener, but it is friendlier than ever too. In the class-room and out of it there is closer contact; games and athletics are on an organized basis, and we all hope that the time may come when Queen's College and ourselves may join forces against similar schools in the neighbouring Colonies. Old boys from the two Colleges would form the nucleus of any Colony team on the football and cricket fields.

Mr. Belgrave gained his Junior Cambridge Certificate in 1936, winning the Centenary Exhibition Scholarship, five years after entering St. Stanislaus College at the age of eight. The following year he gained his Senior Cambridge Certificate, obtaining the much coveted exemption from the London Matriculation.

In 1940 he sat the London Higher, also entering for the Guiana Scholarship. In 1941 he topped the list, passing in Applied Mathematics as his fourth subject the following year, and gaining exemption from the London Inter Arts.

At present he is studying for a degree in Civil Engineering, and Queen's College has extended its hospitality to him as they did to a previous winner from St. Stanislaus. We wish him every success in the career that lies ahead of him, and we are sure that here is another citizen of whom the Colony will be proud. His father's example should be an incentive to him to make 'public service' his life's work.

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“ALMOST SIXTEEN YEARS”

Almost sixteen years ago, I was fortunate enough to be appointed a Lay Master of St. Stanislaus College. We were then housed in two buildings on the eastern portion of our present site – one, a three-storey building, and the other, a two. I can still see the tall, imposing figure of our Headmaster, the Revd. George Weld, S.J., M.A. (Oxon.), standing in the doorway, smoking his pipe during "Breaks". The Masters crossing the open space between the two buildings for "Change of Classes", and our faithful caretaker, "Jolin" Purdessy (R.I.P.) enforcing the "White Man's" orders on truant lads. Our total number was about 130.

Then came the welcome news that we were going to build a new school. Soon the "old" house to the west of us, which was then occupied by Dr. Jose de Freitas, was pulled down, the ground around levelled, and the uprights of our 'present building appeared. That portion was "Out of Bounds", but many a lad chanced the "Head's" wrath and stole across to inspect for himself. With the completion of the building, we moved over, and our numbers, which were increasing steadily, continued to rise still higher. It was soon after this that we suffered the great loss of our Headmaster, to whom, if I may venture to say, St. Stanislaus owes its present position. He was chosen for a still more important office-to be our Vicar Apostolic.

His successor, the Revd. John Marrion, S.J., Ph.D., put in a terrific amount of work, and among the many things for which we have much to be grateful to him are the winning of three British Guiana Scholarships the successful candidates being: Percy de Caires (1932), Alphonsus Lee (1935) and Bertram Grace (1936), and a trip to Trinidad, as the guests of the Fathers of St. Mary's College.

Now the Revd. Francis Smith, S.J., B.A.; is our Principal, and he already has to his credit one Guiana Scholar, Mervyn Belgrave (1941), and the St. Stanislaus College Association, which has been recently founded. Our Games section is in the capable hands of the Revd. Aiden Gill, S.J., through whose untiring efforts the new ground at the Sea Wall is in its present condition and the boys have every chance of participating in well organized games. We are proud of the past, yet we eagerly look forward to the future, which promises the fulfilment of a long cherished hope - the extension of the College to provide a much-needed Hall and more accommodation for our ever increasing numbers – thanks to the S.S.C.A.

S. A. Marques

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OVERSEAS MEMBERS

When the call for funds to pay off the debt on the new playing field went forth it reached the ears of some Old Boys in Trinidad. They did not just hear the call; they did something about it. Mr. John Mendonca, with Messrs. Claude Santos and Ivan Thomas as his chief helpers, made contact with other Old Boys and invited them to lend a helping hand.

While this work was in progress, the Association was formed, and it was learned that many of those who had subscribed would be willing to join, and so make permanent contact with the Old School. This example will be copied by other Colonies, and we have reasonable grounds for hoping that an active overseas branch of the Association will soon be formed. One cannot help but feel that this development will have a marked tonic effect on the Association as a whole, and may well serve to keep Old Boys in the Colonies in touch with each other and with St. Stanislaus. This magazine will provide them with an account of what is happening here. We extend a sincere and cordial invitation to all Overseas Members to write and let us know how they are getting along, for their own interest and ours.

We wish to take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. John Mendonca on his marriage and the recent addition to his family. Congratulations also to Mr. Ivan Thomas on his marriage late last year. Mr. Alex Gonsalves, who returned to Trinidad not long ago, has resumed work with his old firm; he has gained promotion and we are glad to hear of it. Many a friendship of long standing has been disrupted by Old Boys going away, and we welcome this unique opportunity of renewing old acquaintances: we intend to make the most of it. Here is a list of Trinidad Members:-

Abraham, Basil	Gonsalves, Charles
Abraham, Winston	King, Terence
Allamby, Anthony	Mendonça, John
Barcellos, A. M.	Mew, Fred
Boon, Rex	Santos, Claude
Boon, Robert	Santos, Cyril
Correia, Jack	Santos, Manoel
Fernandes, Aubrey	Schuler, Ronald
Gonsalves, Albert	Schultz, Desmond
Gonsalves, Alex	Thomas, Bernard
	Thomas, Ivan M.

It is interesting to note that eleven of the twenty-one are employed by the Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd., of Pointe-a-Pierre.

SURINAM MEMBER

Gomes, John

Most of us remember Frank and Maurice, both of whom played football for the school some years ago. As soon as their father heard of the formation of the Association he hastened to become a member. He is Manager of the Paramaribo branch of Messrs. William Fogarty Ltd.

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WITHIN BRITAIN AT WAR

Many incidents are reported which show the courage and spirit of the people of Britain during this war. The term "people of Britain" is a loose one, and apt to be misleading, because in Britain there are many people who come from all over the world. It is in times of grave danger that this spirit manifests itself; not in an environment of excitement where action on the spur of the moment is not uncommon, but where those trapped in a bombed building are being released: where obvious and imminent danger has to be met in cold blood. There are a gifted few who have the knack of acting naturally in such situations, often with a sense of dry humour that sustains those around them.

There is the case of the man who was brought into hospital with a wound of the thigh. He had been wounded during an air raid, but it was known that at that time of his injury the raiders had already dropped all their bombs and were hurrying home with guns blazing. At the site of the wound a sharp object could be felt, and it was thought that this was a fragment of the broken thigh bone. An X-ray picture, however, revealed that there was an unexploded cannon shell embedded in the tissues! The bomb disposal unit was summoned, and the officer recognized the shell as one of the armour-piercing variety which explodes on impact. If the shell were left to explode the man would, at best, lose his leg which would be shattered; he would probably lose his life. The risks to be run if it exploded during an operation to remove it were no less evident. The patient was left in blissful ignorance and the surgeon, anaesthetist and nurses set to work. Within half an hour the job was completed, and the surgeon had performed the most dangerous and skillful operation of his career. The report did not give his name, but mentioned that during the operation his junior assistant had calmly put his head round the door to enquire what were his chances of promotion to the Senior Staff !

On one occasion two fire-watchers were guarding the roof of a hospital while incendiaries were being dropped. One fell on the roof of an operating theatre, in which ether abounded. It was scooped up and began to splutter while being removed. It was funny to hear the man at the other end of the shovel solemnly warning the bomb that this was hardly the time or the place to carry on as if it were Guy Fawkes Day. His companion nearly dropped his share of the burden.

Another time a casualty was being removed from a burning store-house which contained whisky. Entry had been gained through a window, by one ladder; in the interval, before the time came to leave, another ladder had been placed in position to facilitate the removal of the injured man. Two figures reeled towards the window and with a gasp of horror beheld two ladders where previously there had been one. With a loud yell for help, qualified with a confidential whisper – " We're both drunk," one more bit of humour had brightened a night's work.

One evening there was a crowd round the fire, some reading, others discussing the "higher strategy" of the war, when there was a terrific explosion which shook the hospital, banged doors and windows, and fairly put the wind up everybody. One of "Jerry's" planes had been cruising about, and had tried to lay a mine in a shipping lane;

something had gone wrong and bits of the pilot, the mine and the plane were picked up over quite an area. While everyone else waited tensely for further developments the gentleman who figured in the last two incidents glanced up casually from the book he was reading, and remarked: "Take it easy. You've all got far less to worry about than the Angel Gabriel. Fancy having to put that chap together again!"

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EXPERIENCE

BY WILLIAM D'ANDRADE

EXPERIENCE in the opinion of the practical man, is the source of all knowledge. That this is true is beyond question. But books are the recorded experience of the best minds of all ages, and the practical man has no use for books. Hence he must mean by 'experience,' his own personal 'experience,' which of necessity is restricted in scope and limited in time, man's span of life being but three score and ten years. He insists that experience must be dated in years, but then a single man's experience is as nothing compared with the experience of thousands of years, which we find recorded in books. He boasts of common sense, but surely it is not common sense to discard the collected, arranged sifted and corrected experience of countless men?

The 'bookish' man collects all this available experience, which he finds recorded in books, and adds to this his own limited experience. He starts where his predecessors left off; the practical man starts where they began. It is the "bookish" man who has advanced human knowledge. If all men were practical men we would still be barbarians.

But the 'bookish' man is very prone to make the opposite error – to avail himself of past experience to the exclusion of personal experience. When this happens science stagnates.

In the one thousand odd years between Galen and Vesalius the science of anatomy had advanced very little. Human bodies, if used at all, were used merely to demonstrate the principles of Galen, not as a source of new knowledge. The facts were being made to fit the theory, not the theory to fit the facts.

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St. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

ENROLMENT FORM

WHY?

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE receives no financial assistance from Government. If the College is to exist, help is needed. The Association offers an opportunity to give this help and obtain benefit in so doing.

HOW?

The Association will organise Fairs, Dances, etc., to raise funds to meet the College's annual deficit. Money obtained from subscriptions will be used solely for the Association itself.

MEMBERSHIP

All past students of St. Stanislaus College, fathers and (male) guardians of present or past students and all lay masters of St. Stanislaus College – past and present – shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership. For the purpose of these rules, a guardian shall be taken to include any person who has paid, or undertakes to pay, at least one year's tuition fees for a boy at St. Stanislaus College.

Associate Members shall be those past students of St. Stanislaus College who have left the College for a period not exceeding three years and desire membership at a reduced subscription. Provided, however, that no person shall remain an Associate Member for a longer period than such three years after leaving College.

The annual subscription for Ordinary Members shall be five dollars payable half-yearly in advance, and for Associate Members one dollar payable in half-yearly advance. Any Ordinary Member whose usual place of residence is out of the Colony shall not be called upon to pay more than two dollars per annum. Life membership – fifty dollars.

PLEASE FILL IN THE ATTACHED FORM AND SEND IT IN AT ONCE.

(CUT HERE)

The Hony. Secretary,

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ASSOCIATION,
3, America Street, Georgetown.

I desire to become a member of the above Association.

I enclose herewith dollars and cents,

being one
half year's subscription as an Ordinary
Associate Member.
Overseas

NAME (BLOCK LETTERS):

ADDRESS

..... DATE

.....
Signature

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COLLEGE SECTION