

RETROSPECT

Another academic year is over but with a difference; it has ended not only with tea and farewell speeches, but with a journal in hand. This is indeed a concrete farewell on behalf of the society. It is this attempt to set new traditions by more academic work that seems to be the key-note of its functioning this year. The poor student bored with lectures, seminar-work and class-discussions was provided with no juggler's show, "economic dramas", debates and the like; he was sometimes morally forced and sometimes tempted to come to lectures in the evening (thanks to the good sense of the office bearers these were seldom after class-lectures), write essays, attend Study Circle meetings and above all discuss the papers read there.

This perhaps explains the fate that awaited the Study Circle — an excellent example of general students' attitude towards serious work. There was a plethora of notices on the board, yet the meetings were few and deserted. Few had the lucky chance of witnessing the spectacular show when a paper was read in the Study Circle in the presence of the President, the Secretary, the student incharge of the Study Circle and of course a few girls who were unfortunately late for home that noon and felt shy of refusing the honour of being personally called to the meeting.

A few excellent papers were read no doubt! Were they really so? I wonder if any one present there thought it fit to let his attention be diverted from other more interesting things in the meeting. How amusing it was to see the Study Circle Incharge, who happened to preside over one of the very well-attended meetings, begging for questions, criticism or suggestions — but all in vain. The only response was a searching glance on his neighbour by every boy student and the drooped heads of the girls.

By contrast the meetings in which, society arranged lectures were very well-attended and with one exception there was no lack of questions. Rather at times there were too many of them. The only plausible explanation seems to be the attraction of the evening tea and the stimulation it provided. Even on those occasions, when tea was not served, the expectation might have played the role.

The indifference of the students in general to the paper-reading sort of things was most noticeable among the fifth year students and among the girls of our department, neither of whom contributed any article for the Study Circle for the Conference or for the Journal. The only exception is Iftikhar — from whom it was not much expected.

As for the girls of course there was more than one name on the executive Committee. It has been a tradition that one or two such names always decorate the list — no more no less! This year was no exception. Most girls promised to write essays for the Study Circle; quite a few attempted (they assured they did); one almost completed but refused to read in the Study Circle for reasons best known to her. All that we can hope is a better making-up of minds next year.

I wonder why the girl representatives in the executive in conjunction with the fifth year representatives did not make an attempt to persuade the serious looking, though otherwise polite, President towards the lighter-side of things. After all they commanded a majority.

The only consolation of the fifth year people perhaps was the so-called “Study Tour”. This year it was to Khewra and Rasool. But what difference could the destination make so long as it was a tour. Everything was well-managed and pre-arranged as if it were an official tour. There were none of inconveniences and troubles generally associated with such tours which give additional charm to them. Might be some students benefitted; but every one enjoyed it all right, thanks to the organizing ability and untiring work of our ever-smiling Secretary — Mr. Reza.

The next move that created a stir in the department was perhaps the invitation extended to the society to nominate ten delegates to the Third All-Pakistan Economic Conference. It is said that this invitation was obtained on the express understanding that at least a few good essays would be written by the students. Essays were written but only five got the approval of Dr. Akhtar. This aroused a good deal of speculation as to who would be the other five to go. Surprisingly indeed people who were never seen in the Study Circle meetings were found most anxious to attend the conference. Still more amazing was the selection — selection of girls whose interest in such academic activities was yet to be seen. Perhaps the decision was made under the strong influence of the girls in the executive.

The delegation to the conference was a success in more than one ways. There was quite a good deal of praise for our students in the conference both for their essays and discussion. This general admiration found clear expressions in Prof. A. Samad’s winding-up speech in the first sitting of the conference

when he particularly referred to Parvez's paper for its treatment of 'Created Money'. Imtiaz deserves our congratulations for having very composedly replied the volley of questions put to him. Above all it was from the stencils of essays read in the Conference that every student shared the gain of Conference. Papers were cyclostyled and distributed among the students. This practice seems to have found a particular appeal with the students and already there are such strong signs of its popularity that in future there is an apprehension of a demand for even the popular people in the department to be cyclostyled.

Coming again to the journal, I will have to use the first person. Thanks to the attempts made for Study Circle and Conference, which had already broken the ice we were successful in obtaining quite a number of articles from the students for this journal. We have done our best to maintain a certain standard both in contents and appearance; yet the judgment lies with you. Let us hope we will no more be here to listen to this judgement.

M. B.