CHAPTER II.
(DR. LEITNER, 1876-1886).

1876-1877.

The numbers of the College showed a marked increase in this year, rising to 101. This was due to the carrying into effect, of the first of the two great reforms—the amalgamation of the Delhi and Lahore Colleges. This took place in the winter of 1876, and a large number of students from Delhi joined the Lahore College. The other great reform—the granting to the Punjab University College of full powers of conferring degrees still hung fire. The Supreme Government was not yet entirely convinced of the desirability of the step, and hence the dual system of examinations still went on.

But this year is of importance for another reason. As mentioned in the last chapter, it was in this year that the College moved into the buildings which it still occupies. These buildings had been under construction for some time and took altogether five years to complete. Their cost was three and a half lakhs. In the autumn of 1876, when they were first occupied, they were still in an unfinished state. As has been pointed out in the College Record, physical exercise was then inadequately appreciated, and the result was that at first the new buildings were somewhat hemmed in, and it is only the exertions of a later generation which have secured the present playing grounds close to the College. In those early days there was no residential connection between the staff and the College. The Principal lived on the Lower Mall—the present Principal's house was first the Registration Office and later the Dak
Bungalow—and the rest of the staff where they could. The Boarders lived in the small kothis near the East wing of the College. The Superintendent of the day discharged the offices of Clerk and Librarian as well, and "being rather haughty and tale-bearing was, one dark night, soundly beaten by the Boarders!"

A student of the period, Pundit Sheo Narain, thus describes the move to the new building and his contemporaries at the time:

"It was in October 1876 that we shifted to the present Government College building; it was not then entirely complete. I do not know what became of an oil painting, a three-quarter size portrait of Principal Lindsay—painted by one of his pupils, Bhai Gurmukh Singh. It used to be hung up in the Principal's room in Dr. Rahim Khan's kothi (careful enquiries have revealed nothing.—Editor). Some months after the Delhi College broke up, a good number of scholars was added to our class, five of whom afterwards rose to high positions. Umrao Singh became an Inspector of Schools; Dwarka Das became Principal of Patiala College, and afterwards became a lawyer of eminence; Girdhari Lal and Jugal Kishore leading pleaders at Delhi; Mohammad Hussain, Member of the Council of Kashmir and a Sessions Judge. Of the Punjabis, who became prominent, I may mention Rai Mool Raj, Rai Lal Chand, Rai Narain Das, Rai Achhru Ram, Rai Chuni Lal and Bhagat Ishaar Das. They were in higher classes and are too well known, and will, I hope, contribute some reminiscences of their own. When I joined the College, Rai Mool Raj was the most senior student. In this year he gained the Prem Chand Roy Studentship of Calcutta University—(the highest academic distinction ever gained in
"India, out of Bengal.—Editor) He was the founder of the Lahore Arya Samaj, if my memory does not fail me, his first lecture on Arya Samaj being delivered in English, in 1878. Most of the College students enlisted themselves as Samajists; some deserted the new sect shortly after, and the writer was one of the deserters, while many more joined afterwards. I am not sure in what year Dayanand Saraswati came to Lahore, but I remember hearing many of his lectures in the gardens round Lahore and elsewhere. About the time I am writing the Koh-i-Nur was the principal Urdu newspaper of any importance. Anjuman had its Urdu organ also; the public generally read a cheaper print The Akhbar-i-Am, then known as Paisa Akhbar."

1877-1878.

The College had now risen to a total of 115 students. The abolition of the Delhi College had involved the transfer of its staff to Lahore, and Messrs. J. Simc, B.A., and R. Dick, M.A., joined the Lahore College. Later in the year Mr. J. W. Johnstone also joined the staff. Mr. Dick was destined to be the first Principal of the Central Training College which was about to be established. In the same year the long felt want of a Professor of Natural Science was supplied by the appointment of Mr. J. C. Oman. There is an interesting table attached to the report of this year comparing the pass results of the Delhi College during its seven years of separate existence, with those of the Lahore College. The balance is slightly in favour of the former institution. The dual examination system still went on, much to the general discontent. The legislation relative to the Punjab University was still delayed till the Secretary of State was satisfied that the examinations were proved to be equal in difficulty
"to those of the Calcutta University." The Lieutenant-Governor in referring to this intimated his intention of appointing a Committee to enquire into the standard of examinations and if the latter were found to be inferior to Calcutta, the standard was to be raised. We may conclude our reviews of this year with an appreciation of one of the new members of the staff of the College, Mr. Sime, afterwards Principal and Director of Public Instruction, by one of his old pupils:—

"I reserved mention of Dr. Sime for the last. On the breaking up of Delhi College he joined the Lahore College as a Professor. He was a teacher of the old type, who did not expect any student to look up his dictionary or memorise anything; under no circumstance would he encourage cram. In the 2nd year class he taught us 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel,' and I can assure everybody who reads this that his method of teaching was so perfect, that pupils without any effort remembered almost every word of what he taught; he used to pace to and fro in his lecture room all the while he lectured, the students were all attention, took copious notes and never did any task work at home beyond refreshing their memories by the notes for their examinations."

1878-1879.

Dr. Leitner went on leave in this year to attend an Oriental Congress in Florence, and Dr. Stulpnagel acted during his absence. There were no additions to the staff and the numbers of the College fell to 88 "principally owing to the rigid enforcement of the rule regarding fees." As a result of the addition to the staff of a Professor of Natural Science, "for the first time in the history of the College, two students took up Chemistry in the First Arts Examination of the
"Calcutta University, and both were successful." As usual the dual examination system confused the work of the College, but it may be of interest to give some of the years' results as a comparison with later days. For the Degree examinations of Calcutta, the following are the figures:—M.A., one candidate passed; B.A., six candidates, two passed; F.A., 21 candidates, 10 passed. In the light of the modern figures, the results are startling.

The question of Boarding-House accommodation was giving trouble at this time. The Government grant was insufficient and a scheme of levying fees from Boarders was mooted. The Director considered it essential, but Dr. Leitner was "reluctant to enforce such a measure," and it was deemed inadvisable to press it when the falling off of students was attributed to the strict levy of fees.

In this year arose a demand for practical instruction among the students, and Dr. Leitner in remarking that "students who obtained high academical distinction might fail to obtain employment through want of technical knowledge, recommended the advisability of instruction in bookkeeping, &c." It is interesting to note in this connection that at that time "Engineering was taught in the Oriental College"! and that "were this carried to a higher standard, students of the higher classes of Lahore College would be prepared to study it."

Tempora mutantur, and the thought of the Oriental College of to-day, battling with the laws of mechanics and resounding to the noise of model engines, fills one with horror.
1879-1880.

There were numerous changes in the staff during this year. Dr. Leitner officiated as Director of Public Instruction for some time, and Dr. Stulpnagel acted as Principal. Messrs. Sime and Dick were on sick leave, and the latter was appointed the Principal of the Central Training College, which was to be established in Lahore during the course of the next year. Mr. Reid left the college to join as Principal of Ajmere Government College. Moulvi Muhammad Hussain, the famous Maulana Azad, was engaged on special duty, and Arabic and Persian classes were taught by Moulvi Fazal Hussain of the Oriental College.

The number of the students on the roll went up to 87, although the number of scholarships was greatly diminished.

There were 92 candidates on the roll, but many more attended the classes whose names were entered in the books of the Oriental College, which they were induced to join by the offer of certain pecuniary advantages. This is an obvious proof of the fact that the public had already begun to realise the importance of Western education both as a means and as an end. It will not be out of place here to point out that in this year the Government transferred the award of scholarships from successful candidates of the Calcutta University Examinations to those of the Punjab University College. The Director of Public Instruction in his report says, "Scholarships tenable in the Lahore College have been hitherto awarded to one out of every four candidates who are successful in the Entrance and First Arts Examinations of the Calcutta University. In future the award of Government scholarships will
"be determined by the results of the corresponding "examinations of the Punjab University College. Scholar-
"ships are also awarded by the Senate of the Punjab "University College to students who are successful in "the examinations of that institution." This was doubt-
less done to encourage and popularise the instruction which the local institution then afforded, and happy as the change was, which attempted to deliver this Province from looking up to a distant one as the source of its enlightenment, yet it created a double government which threw this College into a state of chaos, till the founding of the Punjab University with power to confer degrees. This double government, of which we hear Dr. Leitner complain so loudly, was caused thus. The students knew that, in spite of all, the Calcutta University was a University, and the Punjab University College a mere College—a University in embryo. So most of them went up for the Calcutta University Examinations. But the bait had been laid by the Punjab University College. The award of the scholarships was with them, and so their examinations were also indispensable for those who required a stipend. Consequently every individual student prepared for both the corresponding examinations, to get certificates of the one and stipends of the other. Besides the fact that real excellence could not be attained by those who were dealing a double blow, the teaching power of the staff was also weakened by having to pursue two courses. This, added to difference in dates of examinations and vacations, rendered any satisfactory arrangement of the time table impossible.

It was in this year that the Principal was after all given the concession of the discretionary power to remit tuition fees. We have seen how, year after year, Dr. Leitner complained in his reports against the want
of this privilege and very gladly ascribes the rise in numbers during the present year due to the exercise of this power. The results of the examinations were quite satisfactory, notwithstanding the above-mentioned, and other difficulties, devotion to law and the allurement of Government service. In connection with the latter it is interesting to note that out of 34 students who left the College during this year, one Charles Golaknath (afterwards Principal of the Law College) went to England, and a few became lawyers while all the rest joined Government service on salaries ranging from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100.

The arrangement of residence in the College was still far from satisfactory. A rent of Rs. 100 was sanctioned by the Government, which could hardly supply a decent house for the boarders whose number was now on the increase. No extra expenditure for servants, etc., was allowed and the Principal was in the following dilemma: “either to levy a small fee from the students with the certainty of a majority of them leaving the hostel, and thus causing the income to fluctuate, or else to secure some cheaper house in the city, which is objectionable for many reasons and defeats the very object of a College Boarding-House.” In the end the Principal requested the Government to build a suitable Boarding House, or else to hand over the Dak Bungalow, as Lahore was amply provided with hotels. “If a fee for the servants has to be charged, a special grant of five hundred rupees to start with is required in order to supply charpoys (cots), boxes, tables, etc., to students and put the house in a thoroughly comfortable condition so as to be able to compete successfully with the extremely low rents of rooms in the city, and then to charge a small fee to cover the expense of menials.”
The College at this stage began to enter in the Circle School Tournament, and the College Cricket Eleven was sent to Amritsar in this year, where they easily beat the Lahore District School, but were in their turn beaten by the Hoshiarpur Competitors.

Some of the distinguished students of the College were appointed to responsible Government posts, and Dr. Leitner feels grateful “for the encouragement given “by Government to higher education.”

Narayan Das, M.A., and Gurdial Singh, Gurbachan Singh and Mulraj, P. R. scholar, were accepted candidates for E.A.C.-ships. Mr. Young, Secretary to the Punjab Government, in his review of the Director of Public Instruction’s report, says: “It may here be mentioned that it is to the credit of the Lahore Government College that the three members first selected for the Native Civil Service in this Province, have all been graduates of this institution.”

A great addition to the Science Department was made by a gift by Mr. Medlicott, Superintendent, Geological Survey, Calcutta, of a collection of fossils and minerals arranged in a scientific manner.

1880-1881.

The year under review is not marked by any event or movement of importance. There was an increase in the number of students. There were one hundred on the rolls altogether in the beginning of the academic year. Dr. Leitner as usual proceeded on sick leave for a few months early in summer, and there were a few other changes in the staff as well. Mr. Sime whom we saw proceeding home on leave, returned to Lahore after the vacation and was appointed Inspector of Schools in place of Mr. Alexander, whom we have already seen as the first acting Principal of this College. Mr. Johnstone
also officiated as Inspector of Schools, and then became a Headmaster in a Government school at Ajmere. Mr. Carne and L. Sagar Chand, B.A., were appointed Assistant Professors.

The examination results were very satisfactory, 8 out of 11 candidates got their degrees from the Calcutta University, a similar average was attained in the diploma examinations of the Punjab University College. To the great delight of the Principal, no failures are recorded in English, "the fatal subject," as Dr. Leitner somewhere appropriately remarks. Jiya Ram, afterwards Assistant Professor of English in this College stood first in English in the First Arts Examination and won the Duff Scholarship. Rumours of the establishment of the Punjab University were afloat, although double government still went on. The scholarships continued to be awarded by the Punjab University College, and the degrees of the Calcutta University now, as ever, fascinated the eyes of the scholars. The results of the Law examinations were likewise favourable. We have observed how lectures on law diverted the attention of our students of the higher class. A similar source of complaint now arose in the shape of the Central Training College, whose establishment we have noted during the last year. The institution, like all new ones, had a large number of stipends and scholarships so many of the Government College students also joined the Central Training College to enjoy double scholarships, or at least, the scholarship of the one and the instruction of the others. This conduct was most annoying, and Dr. Leitner complained against the practice bitterly. He requested the Principal of the Central Training College not to admit students of the Government College without his permission, and from such students he
required assurance of the fact that they seriously wanted to enter upon a tutorial career after their training.

K. B. Maulvi Sheikh Inam Ali, B.A., Divisional and Sessions Judge, Hissar Division, who entered the College as a student in this year, gives the following reminiscences of his College days:

"Having passed the Calcutta University Matriculation Examination of 1879, I joined the Government College in the beginning of 1880, getting the first Government Scholarship. Professor J. Sime, who was then acting as Principal in place of Dr. Leitner, on leave, used to teach English to the Junior classes. Perfect harmony and friendship existed among the Professorial staff of the College, and the students were looked upon by them as if they were their children. The students in those days were unassuming, simple boys, reverential to their Professors, knowing nothing about politics and mostly absorbed in their own College work. Sports were not so much encouraged then, as they are now. Professor Sime also taught English and Philosophy to the Senior classes. His method of lecturing to the class was most impressive. His voice was loud and his words well chosen and distinctly uttered. He used generally to stand before his chair when lecturing, and in his zeal to impress the boys, he looked like an actor on the stage. He was attentive to every student in the class, and could find out, from the demeanour of students, whether they had understood him, and repeated his expressions, if any student appeared not to have understood him. The Indian Professors, B. Mukerjee and Rai Sagar Chand, were hardworking and quite sympathetic to their students, whilst Maulvi Azad was a teacher as well as a friend and amused the pupils attending his class, with delightful pieces of poetry in Urdu and Persian. At the
close of each period the students used to go to the College Hall either to go over their books or to chat, and in the event of the students delaying their coming to the class-room, the Professor silently came out of his room with a loving face, and the students used to gather like a flock of sheep before him, and entered the Professor’s room, followed by the Professor, who was looked upon with affection as a shepherd of his flock. The Professors used to hold House Examinations and keep registers of marks and judged the merits of their students by the results of these examinations. In those days some Medical College students also attended the Government College, and many of the Government College students also attended Law lectures in the evening, in the Principal’s room. The Senior Law Lecturers, with whom we then read, were Messrs. Clifford and Parker and the late Rai Lal Chand. On return from leave Dr. Leitner became Principal of the Government College. He was also a man of great erudition, but took a chief interest in the Punjab University and Oriental College affairs. The ideal of his University, the diffusion of Western learning through the medium of the Vernaculars, did not find proper support, and the chief activities of the Punjab University are no longer the same as he wished them to be. Dr. Leitner was a true friend of friends and a foe of foes. He possessed a dauntless spirit. After I had passed the B.A. Examination, he often employed me on confidential work in the University office. So kind were he and his wife, that I often saw Mrs. Leitner with some delicious eatable for my table. When the late Amir Abdul Rahman Khan came to Rawal Pindi, and Government held a grand Durbar there, Dr. Leitner was invited and he took me with him as a sort of aide-de-camp, and got a tent pitched for me, by the side of his tent. He asked me once to translate into Urdu a speech
of Lord Dufferin, and I complied. It was to be read out in the Anjuman-i-Punjab. It fell to the lot of the late Raja Jahandad Khan to read out the translation. The Raja's sweet and eloquent voice doubled the impressiveness of the Urdu translation and evoked for me much greater praise than I deserved. It was through the Doctor's influence that Lord Dufferin, Viceroy of India, visited the Government and Oriental Colleges and shook hands with all the Professors, visiting them in their classes. I remember one M. Abdul Majid, a student of the B.O.L. class, then in my charge as McLeod Arabic Reader, read on that occasion an Arabic poem in a madni tone so nicely, that Lord Dufferin was very much pleased.

Unfortunately Dr. Leitner was not on good terms with Mr. Lewis, our revered Professor of Mathematics, whose favourite pupil I was. This placed me in a difficult plight, but I remained faithful to both, and so each of them liked and trusted me. I was specially grateful to Mr. Lewis, who extended his fatherly sympathy to me on all occasions. He learnt once that there was a Translator's post in Hyderabad, Deccan, carrying a salary of Rs. 250 per mensem, and he wrote to me to ask if I would like to go there. He got me the Punjab University McLeod Arabic Readership, and the Senate of the University passed a special vote of thanks to me in appreciation of my work, as a Reader, when I was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Government College, Lahore. I was nominated to the Statutory Civil Service by the Education Department, and both Dr. Leitner and Mr. Lewis were my helpers in this matter. It was the late Colonel Holroyd, the popular Director of Public Instruction, who recommended me then to Government. On the occasion of
the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria (of blessed memory) the College students were sumptuously feasted at the expense of Government. I and Sheikh Amir Ali were in charge for the Musalman students. There were great rejoicings. Musicians and bands were called in and at night there was a grand procession of College students, with torches, bands and music, towards Government House, Lahore."

1881-1882.

The year under review is the eve of that great event in the annals of the Punjab—the establishment of the Punjab University. In view of its comparative unimportance and quiet, it may safely be styled as the "Calm before the Storm." The rise in numbers was smaller than usual, being only from 94 to 103. The Staff also remained without any great changes, except the arrival of Mr. T. C. Lewis, M.A., as Professor of Mathematics, and Dr. Leitner's absence on sick leave for a few months, which by now had become a matter of course. Mr. Lewis was a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a distinguished scholar, about whom we shall hear more later on in his capacity of the Principal of this College.

The Punjab University College, which was destined to merge its existence into that of the Punjab University, happily anticipated the change, and, strange to say, did not hold its Proficiency and High Proficiency Examinations. Accordingly, our students only went up for the Calcutta University Examinations, where eight succeeded in the First Arts and four received their degrees. Very satisfactory results were attained in the Law Faculty. In the Final Examination, four candidates went up and all passed. In the first examination
twelve appeared and seven succeeded.

From this dull and quiet year we pass to one which is bristling with facts and events and is of primary importance, not only to this College, but to the educational world and the whole Province as well.

1882-1883.

The number of students in the College during this year was the same as in the year before, viz., 103. A few changes took place in the staff. Dr. Leitner departed on deputation in connection with the Education Commission, and subsequently on sick leave to Europe. Mr. Sime officiated during his absence, and the report of the year is from his pen. Dr. Stulpnagel left the College temporarily to act as Inspector of Schools. The outstanding feature of this year was the long desired transformation of the Punjab University College into a full University, with power to grant degrees, etc. This reform, so long and earnestly desired, took place on October 14th, 1882. On November 18th the inaugural Convocation of the University was held, at which His Excellency the Viceroy presided in his capacity of Patron of the newly-born University. A number of degrees were conferred, among others that of Doctor of Oriental Learning, honoris causa, upon Dr. Leitner.

To return to the Government College, as we shall call it in future. A feature in development was the application of several Eurasian students for enrolment. But as an Oriental language had to be learnt "in company with students already well grounded in the language, and in classes instructed by teachers who cannot speak English," these applications could not well be entertained. The examination results were disappointing. Mr. Sime attributed this to a number of causes, among others to
"the uncertainty of examinations" and also to the fact that a considerable number of students, especially in the lower classes, read Law simultaneously with their study of the Arts course, and this exercised an injurious effect on their progress in the latter. To remedy the first of these Mr. Sime suggested a board of "Moderators" as in European Universities. The Director supported the idea and commented upon the fluctuating nature of the working.

1883-1884.

The number of students rose in this year to 128, showing a marked increase. This was considered particularly satisfactory, as St. Stephen's College, Delhi, had recently come into existence (1882) and was likely to attract a number of students from that district. Dr. Leitner still remained on leave and Mr. Sime discharged the duties of Principal. In this year a higher scale of fees was introduced, a sliding scale of Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 in accordance with the means of the parents or guardians. This scale seems small in comparison with modern days, but so unpopular did it prove that it was found necessary to modify it in the case of First Year students, and reduce the maximum to Rs. 6. The new University of the Punjab was now in full swing and, as the Lieutenant-Governor remarks, "The results of the Entrance Examination show an increasing preference of the Punjab test to that of Calcutta, and it may be expected that the preparation of pupils for the dual examination will cease in no long time." As regards Degree examinations, the number of B.A. candidates for Calcutta from the Government College had already dwindled down to two. It may be interesting to consider the popularity of the various branches of study in those days. Philosophy easily
topped the list. Then came Physical Science, a bad second. History was frankly unpopular, and only the most elementary Mathematics were taught in the College. Mr. Lewis, who was a high Wrangler and a Fellow of his college, had not a single pupil reading as high as Differential Calculus.

Within the College itself the Library though increasing was still starved for want of a regular grant. A Junior Debating Club was started in this year (presumably the direct ancestor of the modern Young Speakers' Union) which rather hurt the Senior Club. Cricket was "prosecuted" with vigour throughout the cold weather. "In the open ground between the Anarkali Gardens and the Agra Bank might have been seen daily from 30 to 50 students practising the game "with great spirit. The best team is by far the strongest the College ever had." There has been no mention of football for some years. Presumably it had died out.

1884-1885.

The number of students in the College in this year reached the high figure of 186. Dr. Leitner arrived in December 1884, on return from leave and re-assumed charge of the College. The only other change in the staff was the outcome of the severance of the Oriental College from the Government College, which took place in this year. The result of this was the transfer of the Assistant Professors of Arabic and Sanskrit to the Oriental College, and the consequent abolition of classes in those languages in the Government College. The number of students not holding scholarships was increasing—a proof of the appreciation of the value of University education. There was no longer so much need to hold out inducement as in the earlier days. The examination results showed a marked improvement upon the previous
year. As to other details during the year, the Library was being increased and the Principal, in his Annual Report, urges the need of an annual Library grant which, needless to say, has long since been given. The Boarding-Houses flourished under a "Committee supported by weekly censors, who continued to aid the Superintendent." The only trouble apparently was "the refusal of the proprietor of the house to execute repairs," a complaint which seems to belong to all times and to all ages.

Other College Institutions, to which reference is made, are the Debating Club which met weekly during the cold weather, and the Cricket Club which played with great energy during the year, and also the Reading-Room which had been thoroughly overhauled, and which was the scene of a number of popular lectures. Dr. Leitner also remarks, "Mr. Oman, Professor of Science, elaborating a scheme for a Science Institute, which should "obviously be connected with the College, where appliances exist which may be made available, especially "with increased resources, to the public." This scheme was elaborated, and the Professor's name is still held in high estimation as a distinguished Physicist and a pioneer of popular science in the Punjab.

We may here insert a memoir of his college days, contributed by L. Kashi Ram of Ferozepore (1884-1889). Although it carries us down to a date far beyond this chapter, it may be inserted as a whole at this stage.

Some time in May 1884, at the age of 15 years, I joined the Lahore Government College. At that time there was no other Arts College in Lahore, nor indeed, so far as I can remember, any in the Punjab except the St. Stephen's College at Delhi, and another at Patiala,
the latter teaching only up to the Intermediate in Arts standard. Nor was the number of students desirous of going in for collegiate education anything very large. I do not think the Matriculation result in that year announced more than 300 successful candidates, and the number of admissions to the first year class in the Government College was about 110 students, the largest since the foundation of the College. The tuition fee charged from students from the College was uniform and fixed at Rs. 2 per month. Whether a student was in the M.A. class or in the 1st year class, he paid the same fee. There was no security money demanded, no library, cricket or club subscription. In fact, Rs. 2 a month was all that a student had to pay. No charge was levied even in the shape of a Boarding-House fee. A big kothi, at the back of the Lower Mall, known as House No. 48, Chief Court Street, was rented by Government to serve as the Boarding-House for Hindus. The Mohammedan boarders were accommodated in a small cluster of buildings in the College compound near the portico entrance to the Principal's room. In summer the Mohammedan boarders slept on the open ground in front of the main building of the College, and two pipes fixed in a wall of the said building served to supply all the water needed by the students in the College.

The boarders made their own messing arrangements, by forming themselves into groups, one man in each group being put in charge of the expenses of the kitchen and dividing the total monthly cost among the members.

There were no literary or debating clubs in connection with the College, and such of the students who wanted to train themselves in the art of debate or otherwise learn the art of making speeches, had to organize
their own clubs. When I joined the College some of the senior students had a debating club, and meetings were held in the house of two twin brothers (Kashmiri Pandits), who were students of the College. But the club had never the patronage of the College authorities and none of the Professors, therefore, ever took part or presided over any of its meetings. The subjects discussed in the club were generally social, but at times some of the senior students, in order to show themselves off to advantage, chose scientific and other philosophical subjects, much to the chagrin of the freshers in the College, many of whom could neither take part in the discussions, nor even so much as to follow them. I very well remember that the subject selected for discussion for the Saturday meeting was—“How to find true time by the observation of stars.” The gentleman who had to open it at the meeting was a fourth year student (I do not remember his name) and had taken Mathematics as one of the subjects for his B.A. We knew nothing of astronomy and were simply looking on at the speakers; there were only two or three who spoke, with admiring eyes, wondering if there would come a day when we might also be in a position to speak on such intricate, scientific topics. Just before the meeting came to a close, another fourth year student announced that the subject for discussion next Saturday would be “Ether as a luminiferous medium.” The scene of the previous meeting was repeated at the next, and we returned home as blank as we had gone to attend the meeting. The Free Debating Club lasted for about a year after I joined the College, but then, either because some of the moving spirits turned their attention to other channels, or left College, we did not hear of the club any further.

In the matter of creating or promoting a taste for
manly games also, the students had to shift for themselves. The College authorities did not evince the slightest interest, unless of course the payment of small subscriptions by the Professors each year, at the earnest request of some of the senior students to help them in their funds to carry on a cricket club, could be considered sufficient interest in that line. The Government College, Lahore, was thus no more than a teaching institution to prepare students for certain Arts examinations. There was no tennis, hockey, football or any other club to show that students ever seriously thought of their physical culture on modern lines. However, the Government College had its cricket club, and a good cricket team. It had, as I have just mentioned, to depend upon its own enterprise and its own financial resources, helped as they were by subscriptions ranging between Rs. 5 and Rs. 16 each, received from the Professors and the Principal every year. The Director of Public Instruction used also to be approached for subscription and was more generous, paying Rs. 20 whenever the Secretary of the club asked for help from him. For ordinary purposes the subscriptions received from the members were quite sufficient to keep the club going. The members appointed their own Secretary, who acted as ex-officio Captain of the team whenever a cricket match had to be played. I am writing of the time of my own College days, and do not know what interest the students took, even in the game of cricket, before the year 1883. I remember that in 1883, the Government College had a strong cricket team, because in that year, while I was yet in the Amritsar Government School, some very keenly contested matches were played between that team and the Amritsar Government School cricket team, which was supposed to be the best
school team in the Province. The year 1884 brought Faiz Rahman, the Captain of the Amritsar Government School cricket team, who was known to be the best all-round cricketer among the students of the Province, to the Government College, and he was really an acquisition to the cricket club. With him as the principal bowler, and some other students of the first year class, who had also joined the College in 1884, as players and fielders, the Government College cricket team became practically the champion Indian team in the Province, and it beat the Punjab Club cricket team in the first match played against it when Mr. (now Sir) Edward Lee-French of the Police Department was one of the players. I feel a little elated even to-day, after the lapse of about thirty years, when I think how happy we were to win that match. I distinctly remember one of the players of the Punjab Club team, speaking of Faiz Rahman, our bowler, that “he bowled like the devil,” and many a finger of the hands of the batsmen were hurt, so hard was his bowling, in spite of the batting gloves the players had on.

While College was closed for summer vacation in 1884, or when it had just reopened, Mr. Beck, Principal of the Aligarh M.A.O. College, brought his cricket team on a playing tour to the Punjab, and played a match with the Government College team and won. The College was smarting under that defeat, as it had not been able to put all the members of the first team in the field owing to their absence on account of the vacation, and the club determined to visit Aligarh during the Christmas holidays to play another match with the Aligarh team. The question of funds stared us in the face, and a strong effort had to be made to raise subscriptions from among the students of the College. Without an official or personal
influence at his back, the Secretary, or any other senior student specially entrusted with the work of collecting subscriptions, had to approach any well-clad youngster with hesitating steps, absolutely doubtful if his appeal for a dole would touch responsive ears, and ask for help exhorting him that, in order to uphold the honour of his College, he should subscribe liberally towards the expenses of the team's journey and other necessary expenses to Aligarh and back; always trying to make the case for help strong by representing to the would-be donor that it was by pure accident that the Aligarh team had got the better of the Government team in the last match. The very words of one of the applicants for subscription are still ringing in my ears, when he addressed a student who had just entered the College hall, in the following words—"You look like a well-to-do gentleman, will you kindly pay a subscription to the College cricket club?" but I forget the reply he gave. After all, we did succeed in getting together the necessary funds, and made our preparations for our cricket expedition to Aligarh in Christmas, 1884.

Along with the cricket team went a student, (the late Pandit Guru Datta Vidyarthi, M.A.) of the 4th year class, who was by far the best speaker and debater of his time in the student world of the Punjab in those days. The object of taking him with us was that, should there be any occasion when any of us might be expected or called upon to address a meeting, we might be in a position to show the best specimen of our College. And so it turned out, we proved to be true prophets. The night we reached Aligarh we were invited to the debating hall of the College after dinner was over, and Mr. Beck was presiding over
the meeting. Certain students of the Aligarh College spoke, and then our scorer, Pandit Guru Datta Vidyarthi, got up to speak and addressed the meeting for upwards of half an hour. Such was the impression produced upon the hearers, and so pleased was the Principal of the Aligarh College that, in the concluding remarks before the meeting ended, he said, that he wished that Pandit Guru Datta Vidyarthi and Faiz Rahman had been students of his College.

The cricket match came off the next day, and we found the stumps had been pitched on a very soft ground specially prepared for the purpose, to nullify the effect of the hard bowling of Faiz Rahman. We remonstrated and insisted that the match should be played on the station ground or on some other ground, but the other side did not agree. We were not prepared to yield and ultimately it came to this, that we had to choose between playing on the ground which our hosts had prepared for us, and going back to Lahore without the match. After much hesitation and with great reluctance we decided to play. The result proved disastrous to us. Faiz Rahman could not, and did not, bowl on that ground, as it was too soft, and Aligarh made a good score. We went in, but by that time the ground was only a sea of dust, and we did poorly. The second innings had to come off the next day, and we refused point-blank to play on the ground where we had played the first innings. The other side then arranged for the station ground, and the second innings was played there. We did much better than Aligarh, but lost the match by a few runs, as the difference of runs in the first innings was very considerable. There was, however, great enthusiasm in the cricket field, a very large number of spectators being present,
among others being also the late Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of the M.A.O. College, and other big functionaries and office-bearers. When this match was over we expressed a very keen desire to play a return match, and pressed Sir Syed very much, to arrange the match. We submitted to him that at great cost and trouble we had undertaken all this long journey to Aligarh, and might not be able to do so again in the near future. We supplicated and begged, but all our efforts proved of no avail, and we had to return crest-fallen at the thought that we had been so meanly taken in, and in fact cheated. With such feelings surging in our breasts we left Aligarh in disgust.

But the worst we had yet to face. We knew with what difficulty we had collected the subscriptions, what promises of success we had held out to the subscribers and how easy a victory we had assured them, would be ours. The idea was most galling to us, "what accounts shall we render to these people." Most of the subscribers were not cricketers themselves. They did not know that cricket, after all, was sometimes a game of chance. On our return, therefore, we were greeted with satirical placards in poetry, stuck on the College walls, ridiculing the principal players and the Secretary, the burden of the song being "Hár ke áe jwán-i-kálaj" (the youth of the College have returned after being defeated). I still remember some of the lines. "It was better that they "should have stayed on at Aligarh, so that we might "not have heard that the youth of the College had "returned after being defeated." And again "with what enthusiasm they were ready to collect subscriptions." With reference to the Secretary, the following is a line of a couplet—"Where is now that honour in trousers and where is that show of looking like a Pathan?" The force
of the above line is felt, especially when it is remembered that the Secretary (Mr. I. C. Chandu Lal, M.A., now Deputy Commissioner) of the club used to wear trousers, and his headdress used to be a lungi over a kullah.

For several days after our return we had to offer explanation about our losing the match at Aligarh, and to try to convince the enquirer that, after all, we did not lose the match in fair play. I have been rather long over this incident in my College life, but, after all, as I have got down some of my reminiscences, I have thought this one of most amusing ones down to this day, and need therefore make no apology for having been a little long over it.

Sufficient has been said to give the reader a general idea of the difficulties the cricketers had to face in order to keep the cricket club a going concern, and it only remains for me to add, that the place we utilized for cricket in those days was the Volunteers ground near the present Municipal Hall. With whose permission we were using it I do not know, but this much I do know that once a week the Volunteers came to this ground for their drill, and we had no play on that day. Otherwise it was on this ground that we had all our cricket matches, and here also were played the annual cricket matches for the cricket belt, between schools of various districts in the Punjab, whenever they were played at Lahore, while I was in College.

I said in the beginning of these notes that about 110 students were admitted to the 1st year class in 1884. There was only one section for each class, and all the students had to find seats for themselves in the class-rooms. There was no room occupied by any of the Professors which could conveniently seat so many as
110 students. In two instances, therefore, on the first floor of the building, a wall had to be removed and two rooms made into one, in order to afford more sitting accommodation to the students. Whenever classes, I mean the junior classes, had therefore to go from room to room, at the change of hours the students had to run as fast as they could and to struggle hard in order to secure seats in the front row, so as to follow the lectures properly. In this struggle some of the students were often shouldered back, and occasionally there were instances of students falling down, but immediately getting up again to run for their seats. There was a good shaking of the roofs and great rattling noise when the junior classes had to change rooms. Before the two rooms on the first floor were made more spacious by removal of walls between, the Principal’s room had, for some time, to be utilized for the 1st year class, when the Principal had to take no class. Dr. Sime was the Principal, and as the students were rushing into the room all in confusion, he had once to address us as follows—“Come like gentle—men, not like cattle.”

We had our House examinations, once in summer, and usually two or three in winter, but nothing depended on the results of these examinations. They were mainly held for the satisfaction of the Professors themselves, as they had no other opportunity of seeing whether the students had been working properly and taking any interest in their studies.

Professors were very anxious that in the cases of optional subjects students took up the subjects which they happened to teach. This was so specially in the case of senior students. In the B.A. we had three compulsory subjects and one optional. No student could thus take up more than four subjects. English
and one other language were compulsory, for the third compulsory subject, however, there was choice to the students, and similarly for the fourth which was optional. It is therefore very amusing at this day to contemplate that even the Principal of the College in 1885-1886, who was teaching Mathematics, had actually to persuade certain students of the 3rd year class to take up Mathematics in preference to Philosophy which they had already commenced learning. I have mentioned this only by way of example. Instances of this description among Professors were not rare.

There were certain Professors whom the students simply loved, and for whom they had the highest regard. Mr. John Campbell Oman, Professor of Physical Science, was a striking instance in point. In the year 1887 he went home on furlough, and the enthusiasm which the students showed at that time was remarkable. They gave him a most hearty send-off, and previous to his departure his photograph was taken; it was nicely framed, and Professor Robertson was asked to suggest what lines of poetry would be most appropriate to express the very loving manner in which he always treated and taught his students. Mr. Robertson, I remember, suggested two lines, each independent of the other, and the reader will still find them printed lower down on the photograph, which must still be either in the Principal’s room or in the room of the Professor of Physical Science. These lines were:—

“Stand by, and mark the manner of his teaching,”

“Out of love I teach.”

Another Professor whom I cannot omit to mention, and who was very popular with the students, was Dr. C. R.
Stulpnagel, M.A., Ph.D. It would be literally true to say in his case, that it was really a treat to attend his lectures. He was always pleasant and extremely witty in his remarks. When the hour to attend his lecture came, he invariably allowed from 10 to 15 minutes to the students, to refresh themselves or play as they liked, and there was always wit in his talk, even when he had to find fault with the students. I must illustrate my remark with instances. Suppose a student yawned; he would hurl a small piece of chalk aiming it at the gaping mouth and say, "I thought you were going to devour me." Again, to intimate that a student had not answered any question regarding what he was teaching, properly, he would say, "Faiz Rahman, you are a first class cricketer, but no political economist." Again, seeing two or three students not attending to his lectures, but holding a conversation with each other, he would express it in these words, "I am afraid I can't have two Kashmiris together," and it so happened that the students the Doctor was addressing, were Kashmiris. Once wishing to point out to a student that he was not properly dressed, he said, "some students come with dhoris, others with langotis, and the rest, I fear, will come naked." Addressing the class on a rainy day, when he found students had entered his room with muddy shoes, he said, "I can grow molis here if I like." Dr. Stulpnagel, long after I had left the College, died of cholera, and the number of his present and past students who accompanied the coffin, to pay their last tribute of respect, was very, very large, indeed.

Another noble soul whom I would specially mention was Shams-ul-U'lama Maulvi Mohd. Hussain, Azad, the renowned poet and master of Urdu prose. It is not my purpose here to speak of the revolution he made in
Urdu literature by writing his books on the lines of the Histories of English Literature that we are familiar with. I have more to do with him as a teacher and how he treated his students. He was a little too free in his jokes and pleasantries with his students, and often, rather than teach Persian to his students, which was the subject to learn, and for which the students attended his lectures, he was always entertaining them with Urdu and Persian poetry which had nothing to do with their courses of study. Occasionally mushairas were held in his classes, and the Maulvi Sahib was always keen to generate a living taste for poetry in his students. The classes which he took up for teaching were generally the 1st year and 3rd year, because the 2nd and 4th year students could not afford to pass their time in obtaining only a general taste for Persian and Urdu Literature. They had more substantial work before them—the preparing of their subject for University examinations.

The way the fees were realised from students was very convenient to them. In fact, a student might pay his monthly fees at any time convenient to him. We, therefore, sometimes paid our fees after three or four months, as we liked, and I know that some students left the College without paying anything, while they were six months in arrears in the matter of their fees, and nobody took the slightest trouble to realise the amounts due from them. It was only from scholarship-holders that fees were received every month, inasmuch as they had to be deducted from their scholarships when they were paid to them. Another time, when arrears of fees were bound to be realised, was, when students sent up their fees for University Examinations, as the students had to settle their whole account with
the College.

Fines to students were practically unknown. I remember once a student was fined Re. 1 by a Professor for pushing a fellow student down the bench, but I know it was never realised.

The students had a very free use of the College Library. Books were issued to them on demand, and were not returned by them sometimes for more than a year.

Professors were not very particular whether any individual student attended their class or not. The College hall was used generally by those students who wanted to keep away from their class at any time. Post peons, instead of delivering letters to the respective addresses, used to place all the letters, etc., meant for College students on a table lying in the hall, and the students had to pick up their own letters whenever they thought fit to do so.

Students got yearly promotion from 1st and 3rd year classes, as a matter of course, and no student was made to continue in these classes for another year on the ground that he had shown poor results in examinations or had not attended a certain percentage of lectures delivered to the classes. For House examinations students got paper, ink and blotting-paper free, and no extra charge was made to them in any shape whatever.

No notes of his reminiscences by a student of my time can be complete if he omits to mention, and even prominently bring out, an essential figure in the College precincts, never to be missed, always to be met almost as surely as one would find any other fixture in the
building and its compound, and yet a human soul. I mean the College Clerk and Librarian, Lala Sardari Lal. If you went to College in College hours you would find him in his office with a number of registers, books and papers, spread about his table and lying in a most untidy fashion, with a number of students around him, scholarship-holders asking for their scholarships, or quarrelling with him with reference to the number of absences marked against them, which would mean certain deductions from their scholarships; they and other students also, some of them asking for the loan of certain books, others simply interrupting him and not letting him do his work, keeping him occupied with all the gossip relating to the College and Boarding-House. For, besides being the Clerk and Librarian, he was also the Superintendent of the Boarding-House, and it was in this latter capacity that, after the College was closed, Lala Sardari Lal would change his seat, and leaving his chair in the office, would go and more often than not lie down rather than sit on a charpoy under the shade of a big Pipal tree that was near the small kothri of the College peon Ganga Ram and busy himself with his huqqa, which he would not leave even in his office. Yes, nobody could think of the Government College without its Lala Sardari Lal, and vice versa. He had passed the Pleadership examination, but so enamoured was he of the College building that he would rather draw Rs. 80 a month and remain in the College precincts than go and practise as a pleader and be away from there. Lala Sardari Lal subsequently also became Law Reader in the Law School, and I myself had the honour of attending his lectures. But why did he accept this post in the Law School if he was so loth to leave the Government College precincts? The answer is simple; because the Law School was held in a part of the Government College building.