University Examinations during the previous five years.

The period may be said to be one of those happy ones which have practically no History. Every form of College activity was forging steadily ahead, and the absence of any detailed comment beyond the statement “at no time has so keen and general an interest been displayed in cricket and football matches, and a very fair share of victory has been the result,” only serves to emphasize this. A new aspect of College activity is found in the establishment of a Philosophical Society in this year.

The Boarding Hostel still lacked its North Wing, and the Principal in urging its speedy completion pointed out that until the quadrangle was complete the structural arrangements would remain totally unsuited to the purposes of a well managed and well supervised Boarding Hostel.

1895-1896.

Mr. Bell departed on long leave in this year, and Mr. Dallinger acted for him, Mr. Hirst being appointed to officiate as Professor of History. The number of students rose to 264 in this year, another marked increase chiefly in the 3rd year classes. “During the year Shadi Lal of this College obtained the State Scholarship and has gone to England to prosecute his studies in an English University.” This distinguished old student has recently become a Judge of the Chief Court.

As regards the activities of the College in this year a separation was effected between Sports and Debating. Hitherto one Club—the Union Club—had been responsible for all. It was now deemed advisable to establish a separate “Sports Fund,” to which subscriptions from past
students were also invited. The Philosophical Society, the first of the learned societies, pursued a flourishing career.

A feature of this year was the holding of a scientific conversazione in the College Hall under the direction of Professor Oman. "The students conducted a series of most interesting and instructive experiments, and showed, when questioned, an intelligent and well grounded knowledge of principles." The entertainment is described as being "unique of its kind in India."

The various College teams had most successful seasons but were much handicapped by lack of sufficient grounds. The water supply was a great difficulty, and we find Government coming forward in this year with a grant for the improvement of the grounds. The Boarding House was still minus its extra wing, and was therefore extremely crowded. The Principal in urging its completion draws attention to the value of residence to students as giving better opportunities for systematic reading and more regular exercise. A change made in this year was the division of the Library into two sections, one to be for the students only and to be the nucleus of a "Students' Library" increased from time to time from the funds of the Union Club.

1896-1897.

On the return of Mr. Bell from leave he was appointed an Inspector of Schools, and Mr. Dallinger became permanent Principal of the College. A further change in this year was the resignation of Professor J. C. Oman, and his retirement on pension after twenty years' service. Professor Oman had rendered splendid service to the College and University, and the latter honoured him on his departure with the degree of Doctor
of Literature. Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni temporarily filled the vacancy while L. Kunwar Sain acted as Assistant Professor. A new Professor of History arrived in this year, to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Mr. Dallinger, in the person of Mr. P. S. Allen, who arrived in February. The number of students on the rolls was 246, a slight decrease on the figures of the previous year. The Principal remarks, "In almost all subjects the number of candidates and percentages of passes have considerably increased."

In this year we hear first of the Punjab University Sports Tournament—more familiarly known as the P. U. S. T. C. It came into existence owing to the exertions of a number of old students, one in particular, R. B. Pandit Hari Kishen Kaul, C.I.E., being specially energetic in its organization. In this, its first year, four trophies were presented for competition, and of these Government College secured three. The P. U. S. T. C. has had a flourishing and ever expanding existence, and to-day its activities extend to nearly every branch of sports (1914). Government College has succeeded in maintaining its high standard of achievement in this tournament, and despite the large number of Colleges now taking part, secured this year, (1914) 7 out of the 9 trophies which are now open for competition.

Considerable improvement was shown in all forms of sport—probably the establishment of the P. U. S. T. C. was a strong incentive. The College grounds were also considerably improved, and the whole of the garden was now transferred to the Principal by the Municipality.

1897-1898.

Considerable changes took place in this year. Mr. Dallinger resigned the Principalship and a new Principal
was found in the person of Mr. Robson, then Principal of the Dacca College, who took over charge in February 1898, and was destined to hold office for 15 years. Mr. Ussher, the Professor of Philosophy, also resigned in this year and was succeeded by Mr. T. W. Arnold of the Mohamedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh. These changes, which were accompanied by a consequent amount of “shuffling” among the other members of the staff, had naturally a somewhat adverse influence upon the teaching efficiency of the College. The numbers also declined somewhat, falling to 235. Otherwise the College activities flourished. The College won the trophies for football and gymnastics in the P. U. S. T. C. It is interesting to see what the newly arrived Principal thought of the College grounds. Although as we have seen, considerable improvement had been effected, yet the water supply is entirely inadequate no provision being made for an adequate supply of canal water, without which it is impossible to keep up the grounds.” Further, “The football ground is in very bad order and urgently needs improvement. It is a very dusty, and brick-bats constantly come to the surface and have to be removed. The ground should be laid out in grass. The special grant made in 1896 was spent entirely on the cricket and tennis grounds, and on the purchase of a roller and lawn mower. The football players constitute a majority (this was before the days of Hockey, “Editor) and naturally complain that nothing is done for their ground.”

As a general summary of the events of this period we give the reminiscences of L. Kunwar Sain, M.A., now Principal of the Law College, who entered the College as a student in 1891, and who remained on, as a member of the staff, continuously till 1897.
"I joined the Government College as a student of the First Year (F.A.) Class in the second, \textit{i.e.} winter session, in October 1891, and left the College while officiating as Assistant Professor of Physical Sciences, in October 1897. The period of my connection with the College, therefore, covers exactly six years, corresponding to the term of office of three Principals, \textit{viz.}, Dr. Stulpnagel, Mr. Bell and Mr. Dallinger. As, however, Dr. Stulpnagel succumbed to an attack of cholera within a few months of his taking over charge in 1891-92, and Mr. Dallinger had not long presided over the College before I left it in 1897, the period of which I have many distinct recollections and during which I took some part in the corporate life of the College as a student, coincides almost wholly with the term of office of Mr. Bell, the Principal who controlled and guided this big institution for about five years, with a strength, decision and sympathy all his own.

My joining the College synchronised with three more or less important changes in the history of the College.

1. Dr. Stulpnagel filled the Principal's chair instead of Mr. Robertson who had left the College for good before the summer vacation.

2. A new Boarding House was erected close to the College, and received resident students for the first time. Formerly boarders were indifferently accommodated in hired houses on the Lower Mall; and

3. Some grounds, however inadequate, were added and better arrangements made for games and sports. Cricket used to be played before, too. But I doubt if there were grounds enough for football. From October 1891 football began to be played regularly on the
ground outside the Boarding House. There was, however, no turf; every kick raised a cloud of dust.

**Topography**

The Topography of the College during this period may not be without some interest.

The low ground now occupied by "The Oval" was a grove of oranges and lemons, which harboured boys and bees for several hours of the long summer days. Boys with their books and mattresses "rolled about like tumbled fruit on grass," underneath the shady trees, adding to the hum of the busy bees. What a contrast to the lusty shouts that we hear now on the green hockey field on the same spot.

There was, moreover, a venerable old banyan tree right in front of the small tower to the north. The small dais round the trunk was invested with all the associations of generations of College students. That area has since been cleared of the tree and added to the excellent cricket fields. Poetry has yielded place to utility.

The area between the Northern Wing of the College and the main Boarding House was dry and bare in 1891, and began to be laid out in grassy plots a couple of years later.

There was no separate Chemical Laboratory building as there is to-day. Its site was covered with some out-houses, etc., belonging to the Small Cause Court, which used to be held in the premises now occupied by Professors Wathen and Garrett.

As regards the dispositions of the class-rooms, the whole of the Science Department was confined to the
three or four rooms on the upper floor of the Eastern Wing. Only Physics and Chemistry were taught, no Biology or Geology. The humour of this allocation became apparent, when you spilt chemicals or solutions trickled down through the thin wooden ceiling on to the clothes and bodies of the students and Professors engaged in the rooms beneath. A story passed current towards 1897 (how much of truth it contained, I can't say) that a certain mischievous boy of Junior Class, slyly dropped a small piece of ice on the neck, under the collar of a Professor, from behind and sheltered himself under the alleged leakage (all too frequent) from the Science room above.

A wit could perhaps see more meaning in this nasty leakage. All knowledge, they say, comes from above; and Science was perhaps making its way from above into the domain of Philosophy and History below—no wonder that, when Science came down it transmuted Philosophy and History into many sciences. Government College to-day is pre-eminently a College of Sciences.

The Eastern half and nearly the whole of the first floor of the Northern Wing was monopolized by the Oriental College. The small corner room next to the Principal's office constituting the Law School. Looking back from the vantage ground of the present, it seems nothing short of a miracle how this one College building, which is now considered all too small and inadequate for the requirements of a single Arts College, should have accommodated no less than three separate and distinct scholastic institutions. But then the number of scholars was less by far and the term of tuition not the same. I expect, however, that the traditions of the Madrassas
and Pathshalas of old had not died out till then, and people thought that as under the shade of one Pipal tree, or under one common roof of a mosque, there could be taught all the various branches of learning, from the Alphabet and Multiplication tables onwards up to the subtlest points of Astronomy, Law and Philosophy, why not so in one respectable building?

**Professors**

I need hardly give a list of the Professors that adorned the various chairs during the period. Some of those have risen to, and retired from, the most eminent ranks of Educational service. Messrs. Lewis, Bell, Stein and Godley are of this number. Only one of them, Professor R. S. Ruchi Ram Sahni, still occupies a chair in the College and connects the past (I am speaking of) with the present. Of these (except of one) I shall refrain from saying anything, out of sheer regard for them. Quite a number of the Professors, however, with whom I have had the privilege and pleasure of studying, have alas! passed away. And I shall venture to give a few lines to each of them—not always in a serious mood.

Professor Umrao Singh, in his Babu cap and long flowing toga-like coat, taught History and English for some time, to the Junior classes. There was nothing more characteristic of him than his gentleness—quality of which the F.A. students seldom failed to take an undue advantage.

Professor Jiya Ram, although gentle like a lamb and tender-hearted like a deer, had abundance of feeling and sentiment about him. Extremely quiet and reserved in his habits—serious and pensive to a degree—his eyes would brighten up and his voice become tremulous
with emotion when some sentimental topic came up in the course of his teaching. I shall never forget his lectures on the Rural Funeral and the Broken Heart from Washington Irving's Sketch Book.

Professor Shoshi Bhushan Mukerji commanded the respect and even veneration of the students, by his eloquent silence. For days and days together, classes used to go to him, sit in the room for an hour or so and come away with no more than two words from him, *viz.*, "Any questions?" He taught in silence—no student dared break it. Mathematics, perhaps, thrives better in such an atmosphere. But whenever he chose to speak and go to the Board, he showed that his own rule had exceptions. These exceptions are gratefully remembered by several of his pupils.

He was not grey, but he seemed (at least to us) to be old—very old, like a *Rishi*. And a *Rishi* he was in character and sentiments. There was one thing very mysterious about him. Till about March we used to recognize him by his characteristic shaggy beard. But when, after the Examinations, we joined the College again in May, we used to miss the only *sine qua non* in him; and would remain in doubts about his identity, till the summer vacation interrupted them. It was only in October again, that we used to recognize him in his appendage. This sudden disappearance and reappearance of this epidermal growth in him will for ever remain a mystery.

That a devotee of Mathematics need not be of one type only, was amply proved by Professor Golak Nath Chatterjee who was, in every sense of the term, a contrast to his senior. Correct and scrupulous in his dress, almost to a fault—and his dress was characteristically Hindustani
(or Punjabi, if you like), he possessed an amount of vivacity, a fund of wit and humour, and a wealth of imagination and sympathy that were unequalled by any of his predecessors and contemporaries and, I venture to say, have perhaps been unsurpassed by his successors. Generations of students remember his witty sayings, humorous sketches of men and events and innocent practical jokes, delivered in a manner both impressive and agreeable. He possessed a very good memory, and was proud of it. He was fond of displaying feats of his Mathematical skill and perseverance. Sometimes he would go on working away at problems—one after another—like a machine, on the blackboard. He was the only bachelor Professor then on the staff of the College; and he used to ascribe his vivacity to this privilege.

Professor Oman was in many ways a truly remarkable personality. He combined in him a genuine love of Science, Art, History, Literature, and even Philosophy. He was a specialist, without the defects of a specialist. Punctual to the minute, regular and methodical in his teaching, filled with the faith of honest doubt, which Science engenders, and yet imbued with the true spirit of reverence for what is good and beautiful, and fired with a passionate love of adventure and liberty, he inspired his pupils with his personal example. His lectures were illuminative, suggestive and stimulating. His broad humour never failed him and he was truly sympathetic and friendly towards his pupils. An event may be related which severely tested these qualities.

A Chemistry student of the B.A. Class was one day doing his "practical" in the laboratory, when Professor Oman came up to him and asked him what he was about. "Preparing Picric Acid" was the ready answer inno-
cently given. "Oh!" exclaimed the Professor, starting, "and you are going to blow up the whole College?" "Am I, Sir? but it is not ready, Sir," was the absent-minded reply, and the student went on still pounding away at the wet mixture with pestle and mortar. "Stop!" sternly interrupted the Professor, and caught hold of his hand. All of his Science students were then called in together by the Professor, to see and realize how grave would have been the consequences of a crazy curiosity, but for his timely interposition. Needless to say that a quantity of this dry stuff, about the size of a pin head when struck with a long rod, made an explosion and gave a report enough to startle the whole College. Science has its pitfalls, too, to save from which, the guiding hand of sympathy and warning are necessary.

Our teachers of Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic are also no more. Pandit Bhagwan Das, Moulvi Mohammad Hussain Azad and Moulvi Mohammad Shuaib. Always kind and forbearing and generally too familiar, these Pandits and Moulvis were liked by the students with an unfeigned liking, while with them the students felt quite free and easy and played all sorts of pranks. Once a regular Kushti took place in that period, between two students who had quarrelled over a point of grammar, and the good teacher discreetly withdrew, leaving the young combatants to settle the point by fighting it out between themselves. It is hardly necessary to say that the rest of the class locked the room from inside, and saw the fight through.

Principal.

The body of Professors, no doubt, go to make a College, and they raise or lower the status or tone of it. Nevertheless it is the Principal who is not only responsible for giving, but, if strong, does give, a distinct
character to his institution. Before 1891 Mr. Robertson had caught the imagination of his pupils, and when I came in October 1891, I heard expressions of genuine regret on the part of many students who maintained that a more poetic, more learned, and more lovable Principal they could scarcely expect. Mr. Bell as a Professor of Philosophy was, I gathered, more feared than loved. When, however, he came to occupy the Principal's chair, he exhibited qualities of the head and the heart that at once made him the typical head of a typical institution. With him, it may be said with exactitude, was inaugurated the regime of development and discipline which has since continued unabated till to-day.

In order properly to appreciate the reforms introduced by Mr. Bell, it would perhaps be necessary to have some idea of him as a teacher. Of his many-sided scholastic activities and the reforms he introduced in the Punjab Educational Department later, it would be irrelevant to say anything here. But he was first and foremost a thorough-going teacher—earnest, methodical and painstaking—himself and expecting his colleagues and pupils to be equally so. He never allowed a moment of his time with a class in irrelevant talk—always gave copious notes, and insisted on everybody taking them down, and (what was more) on learning them. Mr. Bell's notes became proverbial for fullness and detail.

It was, however, as a disciplinarian and organizer that Mr. Bell's name would, and ought to be remembered in the history of the College.

He took up the question of Boarding House first and started the "gating system". There being only three wings of the Hostel then, this system could not be
strictly enforced; and instances may be recalled, by
the Boarders of those days, of some fiascoes brought
about by the cleverness of some fast young men. These
tenants (only one or two) would always manage to give
the Superintendent the slip and would seldom fail to
attend theatres in the teeth of orders to the contrary.
But the system worked well on the whole—the more
so perhaps because it was not so strictly enforced. In
this connection the personality of old Lala Sardari Lal
can never be forgotten.

A massive figure, round and square, covered under
ante-diluvian raiments, heavy pock-covered countenance
and a heavier nose which used to give warning of his
existence by day as well as by night—these were the
outward credentials of one who combined the multifarious
functions of the College Clerk, Librarian and Superinten
dent of this Boarding House—and a Law Lecturer
withal—in short, he was a factotum and a walking
history of the College. The inevitable corollary of Mr.
Bell, he would be often gasping for breath and perspiring
while endeavouring to keep within hearing distance
behind the quick easy paces of the tall Principal. He
was the big boss of the menial staff of the College Board
ing House, and the keeper of all the College registers
and things, and as such, he wielded his powers not over
strictly. Underneath a by no means attractive appear
ance, he had a kind heart and a sense of humour. Once
in a merry group of Boarders bent upon enjoying them
selves with singing, etc., he made his appearance. I at
once quoted a well known proverb.

He gave a hearty laugh, jumped up and withdrew
good-humouredly, thanking me for a cautious hint, and
never again attempted to ‘come like ghosts to tumble
joy.’
Mr. Bell believed that the University Examination was a test, but after all only one of the tests of the many-sided activities of a scholar—and even that, by no means a very satisfactory one. He therefore introduced a system of granting certificates as a matter of course, to every one of the students at the end of the year by each Professor, who based his remarks and opinions on the House Examination results. Similarly a certificate by the Superintendent of the Boarding House was to be given. The part, if any, which a student had taken in athletic sports, etc., was also stated. It was Mr. Bell’s intention to make these certificates of equal, if not superior, value to the University diplomas and degrees. I am not aware how long after Mr. Bell left the College, this system continued in practice. Perhaps it did not. But in it may be found the germ of the present-day Tutorial group system.

Till Mr. Bell’s time not much use was made of the College Library. He made it accessible to the students.

Athletics and Sports.

To the development of athletics and games and sports too, he devoted much attention. He improved the grounds for cricket, tennis and football; acquired the church building and converted it into a Gymnasium equipped with the most up-to-date appliances; encouraged the intercollegiate matches and was, I believe, instrumental in organizing the University Tournament.

An anecdote may be related to show how keen an interest he took in our Athletics and Sports. It was the month of January or February 1895, when one fine morning Mr. Bell sent for me before the College opened and sounded me as to whether my Football team would play a match with the Police Officers who had sent a challenge to him. From the tone and manner of his talk I
guessed that he would heartily like to accept the challenge. Although I knew, and pointed it out to him that most of our men were going up for the F.A. and B.A. Examinations in the following March, and would be loth to risk limbs broken or bruised in an unequal match, I took upon myself the responsibility of persuading them to play the match. This pleased him immensely and when the following day he saw us return triumphant, after winning by one goal to love, so overjoyed was he that he at once sent to me, in an envelope, Rs. 10 and a letter saying, "here are Rs. 10 for a feast after your victory this evening." The intoxicating delight that we felt in exchanging congratulations may be better imagined than described. Neither later on, when we won the first University Tournament Football Trophy, in 1896, nor during the whole term of my Captainship, did I seldom felt more proud than on the occasion described above.

Clubs.

There was but one Club—the so-called Literary Club in the College. It used to meet once every week or fortnight. Although the Club was not very popular in the beginning, later on the Secretary of the Club had commenced to be looked upon as a man of some consequence; and I remember that the contest for the election of the Secretary, in 1894, was fairly keen.

Mr. Bell tried to popularise the Club by making it obligatory for every student called upon to do so to speak. Nevertheless there were plenty of students who managed never to utter a word throughout their College career. Silence was believed to be golden in those days. It was generally the silent lot that made their mark in examinations. Mr. Bell soon found this out and relaxed the rule. I do not remember having spoken in the Club more than five or six times during as many years.
It was not till towards the end of Mr. Bell's *regime* in 1896 that, through the efforts of Professor Ussher, the Philosophical Society was started, with Professor Ussher himself as the first President, and I believe Mr. Hussain as the first Secretary. Some interesting papers were read during the two years 1896-97—I have, distinct recollections of the following:

Professor Ussher on Savage Customs,
Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni on Fossils from Kata Lala Balak Ram on Matter and Space.

and I read two papers (1) on Ether, and (2) some interesting experiments on Mercury globules.

Over and above these an informal but highly popular because thoroughly indigenous and boisterous, club was set on foot in the Boarding House, in about 1896. It was the so called Poetical Club of which Sher Amir Singh was the moving spirit. Extempore verses of indifferent merit, in all languages, were composed and recited, much to the amusement of the company.

*Student’s Traits.*

There was not much of politics discussed in those years. The holding of the lectures of the National Congress in 1893 did create some enthusiasm, but it was, I think, temporary. Students seemed to be more earnest in attending religious institutions and lectures. They used to sing hymns (Bhajans) in the Boarding house, and batches of them used to go to some Anjuman or Samaj or another.

They were, however, fairly sensitive at times, as an anecdote will show. Once a Professor who had not long been in India, having been interrupted more than once by a student who wanted to go out, called the student "silly" and the whole class left the room in a body, and for some days did not attend the Professor's lectures.
The conciliatory and sympathetic attitude of Principal Bell, however, soon removed the misunderstanding, and before long cordial relations were restored between the teacher and his pupils.

**Dramas**

There used to be dramatic performances in our days—invariably representations of scenes from some one or other of Shakespeare's plays. But the staging was seldom of an elaborate nature. One 3rd year class attempted "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which I took the part of Theseus. The 4th year class gave a performance of "Julius Caesar," in which Antony's part was well done. In "The Merchant of Venice," performed by the 2nd year class, Shylock's part was remarkably well done by Mr. Madan Gopal Aggarwal. Taken all in all, however, our performances bear the same relation to those given to-day by the College students as Shakespearian stage and acting does to those of the present day. But after all, as Shakespeare himself has it:—

"The best of this kind are but shadows. And the worst are no worse if God amend them."

Of Principal Dallinger's regime, I have left myself no space to say anything beyond the personal reminiscence that it was first in 1896, while a student of the M.A. class in English, that I was selected to officiate as Assistant Professor of English and History, in the place of Lala Jiya Ram, and then after I had taken my second M.A. in English, I was appointed officiating Assistant Professor of Science, which chair I held till I left for England in October 1897.

Here we may bring this chapter to a close. Mr. Robson's Principalship in which so many improvements were introduced into every Department of College life must be reserved for a separate section, in which Mr. Robson himself will take up the story.