

SILVER JUBILEE CONVOCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE has just celebrated its Silver Jubilee to denote the completion of its twenty-five years of proud and fruitful existence. The history of this young and vigorous University is a noble record of solid achievements in every field of endeavour for which it has made ample provision. The expectations which were formed by its founders have been generously fulfilled and the University holds promise of future developments which will create for it the highest cultural traditions and the power of leadership which we associate with the best colleges of foreign universities. A large and distinguished gathering of representatives of other universities attended the Celebration and felicitated the authorities. The history of the administration of the Mysore University during the last quarter of a century falls into four definite periods of development, each co-ordinated with the other on the basis of a continuous policy of organisation and progressive consolidation. The first Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. V. Nanjundiah, has had to deal with the constitutional machinery and to bring it into working order, and on the completion of his labours, he was succeeded by Sir Brajendra Nath Seal. During his period of office the University was pulled inside out and reassembled by initiating a series of reforms in the structure and functions of the University. When Dr. E. P. Metcalfe assumed charge, his duties consisted in guiding the even tenor of the University activities resulting from the academic reforms instituted by the previous administration. We may call this the flowering period. Mr. N. S. Subba Rao, who is now controlling and directing the destiny of the University, has, while conserving his inheritance, given a new orientation to the purpose and interpretation of University life. This is the fruiting season, promising richer and perennial crops.

A Special Convocation was held, which was addressed by the Chancellor, His Highness Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Bahadur, who is a distinguished alumnus of the University. The refreshing feature of this address is its freedom from platitudes which form the staple of public utterances. It breathes a new spirit in consonance with the rapid changes in the social and economic spheres of national and international life and gives a new message which trans-

cends local interests. "The Government look to the University not only to supply them with public servants, but to assist the State in its manufacturing concerns by co-operating in research and development work; and still more important, to play its part in the democratisation of knowledge and in closing the gap between the educated and the uneducated." In all these activities the University has shown a commendable zeal, and in the voluntary organization known as University Teachers' Association, it has found an able and willing ally in the dissemination of knowledge. This institution for which India furnishes no parallel, organizes lectures with demonstrations on scientific and humanistic subjects in the language of the country in all centres and study classes among illiterate people in the rural areas. In all these efforts, the students, who have also organized themselves into small groups, render invaluable help, and what is most praiseworthy is that women-teachers and women-students take a prominent part in educating adult women and young girls in the villages. These visits are not spasmodic, but form an integral part of a carefully planned literary campaign, so that lapses are not permitted to occur. Generally at all these lectures and class studies, the Vice-Chancellor is present whose patriotic zeal and inspiring guidance must afford a stimulus to the honorary workers on the one hand and fill the hearts of the simple country people with feelings of joy and gratitude on the other. In this as in other organizations like "University Settlement", "The Social Welfare Committee", "The Adult Literacy Association", "The Music Club", "The University Unions", Mysore University is almost the solitary instance in India, daring to take the university life to the doors of the people. A university that contents itself with producing a few brilliant stars in an otherwise dark firmament has few claims upon the people; it must vindicate its existence by the amount of service it renders to the country. If this is the criterion of judgment, then Mysore has a proud record. We have pleasure in associating ourselves with the rest of India in offering the University our felicitations and in expressing our hopes that the dark corners of human existence in the State will soon radiate "sweetness and light".