

Appreciation

A TRIBUTE TO DR.R L HAYMAN

Tall, well built and powerful. Dr.Hayman strode the Thomian scene as a giant during all his many years of service in Sri Lanka.

He spent much of his time at St.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia, as Sub-Warden, and as Acting Warden in the absence of Canon R S de Saram. They were both Oxford men. Dr.Hayman then served as Headmaster of St.Thomas' College at Gurutalawa. He met and married his wife during the war years. She too became active in college life since her arrival in 1944, and has been his supporter and co-worker ever since. We share with her the thanks-giving and joy of a life well lived, dedicated humbly to the cause of education in Ceylon. We are aware of the Christian inspiration that motivated R L Hayman into selfless service. We thank God as each of us recall our special yesterdays when Dr.Hayman had some part that he played in our college life.

Fraser, Senior and Hayman were all in the line of dedicated educationalists sent by the Anglican Church in Britain to serve in Ceylon. They were all giants in their day and dwarfs like us were able to see far as we stood on their giant shoulders. Dr.Hayman also lavished financial generosity on STC. The swimming pool at Mt.Lavinia remains as a lasting memorial to his love for the college. If we want a true memorial to R L Hayman we must as to Mt.Lavinia and look around. The Old Boys in London are already thinking in terms of a Hayman Memorial Scholarship/Foundation which is an indication of the love and respect they have for one of their old chiefs.

Two extracts from the Old Testament may not be out of place here. The first comes from Ecclesiasticus -Chapter.44-

"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers who begot us..... Giving counsel by their understanding..... men of learning for the people. Wise were their words in their instructions. Rich men furnished with ability. Living peaceably in their habitations. All these were honoured in their generations. There be of them, that have left a name behind them to declare their praises. Their bodies were buried in peace and their name liveth to all generations. Peoples will declare their wisdom and the congregation tells out their praise."

The second quotation comes from Proverbs- Chapter 1-

" That men may know wisdom and instruction, understand words of insight, receive instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice and equity; that prudence may be given to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth; the wise man also may hear and increase in learning, and the man of understanding acquire skill."

In ecclesiasticus we pay our homage to the memory of the late Dr.R L Hayman. In the Proverbs passage we may detect the high ideals that motivated this gentle giant. The last word comes from the world of cricket, so familiar to Thomians near and far.

Learie Constantine, that great West Indian test player once said:-

"Stick to it in Cricket as in life. God Bless You. And, when you have played your innings out and returned to the pavilion, as we all must do, to meet the Skipper of us all, may you and I be welcomed with those words that always warm the heart- Well played Sir."

R L Hayman, Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy, educationalist, teacher, friend and guide, may you rest in peace. Esto Perpetua.

Rev. Dr.Charles Karunaratna