

Appreciations

## **HE LEFT HIS STAMP AS A DEDICATED TEACHER**

The upper most thought of all Thomians with the sad announcement of the death of Dr.Hayman on May 7 at Bournemouth would have been the imperishable memory of a dedicated giant, whose remarkable qualities of head and heart, whose lovable personal qualities so endeared him to the men who sat at his feet, that their entire future lives were influenced by their beloved school master.

Scorning the prospect of a Research Fellowship in Oxford University, and the rewards and glamour of ascending to the top most height of the academic world well within his grasp he desired no audience more selected than his own students, and the tinsel glitter of public acceptance left him cold.

Dr.R L Hayman, M A D Phil, Oxon. M B E, came to Sri Lanka in 1928 as a school master to St.Thomas College, Mount Lavinia, with his colleagues, Mr.Keble and Mr.Wheat and it was the first time that a man with a doctorate came as an Assistant School Master to any school in Sri Lanka.

He was in fact a true craftsman deeply skilled in that most exacting and delicate of skills - the fashioning of character and personality of the boys he taught- at times transmitting base metal into gold. He moulded gentlemen whose guiding spirit in life was loyalty to the school and country.

He was a fine synthesis of culture, spirituality and childlike simplicity. His modest and unassuming nature cloaked both his profound learning and the grandeur of his soul.

Those of us who were privileged to see this all giant of a man- impeccably dressed in white and always a plain blue tie, courteously saluting in response to the greetings of little smiling school boys- heard the quiet courtesy and dignity of speech, whether in assembly or personal conversation, could not be otherwise impressed with his deep sincerity.

At Mt.Lavinia he encouraged an out door training course with the sea as a setting and up in the hills of Gurutalawa, he organized the "Outdoor Training School", a vacation course (open to students of other schools as well) designed to give the participants instructions against an adventurous background of scouting, hiking, boxing, swimming, life saving and first aid. This idea was itself inspired by the famous "Outward Bound Training School" at Gordonstown, Scotland. He believed that.

" Two voices are there - one is of the sea,  
One of the mountains -each a mighty voice."

We cannot help but enumerate-much against his will the gifts to St.Thomas college.

About 50 years ago, he gifted to St.Thomas' College, Mt.Lavinia a fine swimming pool.

He methodically, day after day, instructed the boys in the principles of scientific swimming, which is difficult to do in the sea with the rough currents during the monsoon. Later he presented the Gurutalawa Branch with another swimming pool.

The Fives Courts at Mt.Lavinia and at Gurutalawa the Chapel, the Science Laboratory and the swimming pools are standing monuments of his unlimited generosity. But the help and the many scholarships he has given to poor students at College and the University to enable them to continue their higher studies remain unknown.

This is best expressed in the words of Rudyard Kipling.

"Not as a ladder from earth to Heaven  
Not as a witness to any creed, But single service simply given  
To his own kind in their common need."

Had he made no benefactions to the schools, yet he left his stamp on St.Thomas' College as a first class dedicated teacher. With an M A Phd of Oxford. Physics and Mathermatics were his forte. He had the ability to impart to his pupils the desire to apply their own knowledge to practical purposes and think on original lines.

Dr.Hayman returned to England in 1963, after 34 years of teaching at St.Thomas' College. Though he was Sub Warden at Mt.Lavinia and Head Master at Gurutalawa, he considered himself a teacher. It was only two months ago that he and his wife visited us and stayed at Gurutalawa and Mt.Lavinia being the last of his four visits after he left. It was indeed a joy to meet them.

Dr.Hayman exerted to us, Thomians, an influence far greater than we realized, great Head Master a learned teacher but specially as a man of character, steadfast faith and simple kindness, he will live long in the thoughts of all who had the previlege of knowing him.

Dr.Hayman, is survived by his wife Mary, who shared his total commitment to the College and the students, and when they were in England, Thomians and friends never failed to call on them, and even stay there a few days.

It was always an experiance to partake of their quiet but bounteous hospitality - Truly an upright honest man - if ever there was.

-GUY DE SILVA

Moratuwa