

days. I have no thermometer yet, but when I have, I shall take an account of the weather as it will interest you, as yours does me.

Give my love to Martha and tell her I received her account quite safe; also Isaac did the Heartsease off his plant which he has often spoken of. My poor Auricula that I brought with me is living, but looks very poorly. It drooped sadly while on the water, but I hope it will revive again. I have had a great many flowers made me a present of. I need Rebekah to attend to them. I have also a little pig which requires great attention.

As this is rather a long letter and I wish to write several others I must conclude. I wish when you have read this you would send it to Mrs. Futvoye to read as I shall not have time to write so much as I wish to her.

And with love to all my brothers and sisters and all dear friends, many of whom I intend to write to in turn, believe me, my dear mother, ever to remember

Yours affectionate daughter,  
EADY FUTVOYE.

## Forty Years of Regent's Park College.

[Read by Professor Farrer at the College Annual Meeting, 20th June, 1940, on the occasion of his retirement from the position of Senior Tutor.]

**I**T was (to be precise) in 1894 that I entered as a student. Let me clothe the bare date with flesh and blood by adding that the senior student was J. E. Ennals, now Dr. Ennals, of South Africa, and that in the year above me were his younger brother Sidney, martyred a few years later in the "Boxer" riots, W. Sutton Page, later of Serampore, and Rowntree Clifford, now the unmitred bishop of Barking.

The Regent's Park College of those days seems now more like a pleasant dream of long ago than a sober reality. It is true that within a short walk of it, in Lisson Grove, there were slums and thieves' kitchens, which we visited to hold services on Sunday evenings. But the College itself, surrounded with ample grounds, and these again by the park, was a bit of *rus in urbe*. In spring and early summer the garden, with its flowering trees and warbling birds, was a delightful retreat in which to sit and read, or walk and talk. And quiet was our life in general. We were unconcerned about politics to an extent incredible in these

latter days. Our work we did on the whole with reasonable interest and diligence, and we enjoyed the humours of the classroom; e.g. the student who, after a class-examination, asked who was Priscillian, and on learning that he was an obscure Spanish heretic, groaned out, "And I've said he was Jerome's aunt!"; or another who confessed he had always thought that a statue of Cicero outside the New Testament classroom was an idealised portrait of the tutor, S. W. Green.

We were fortunate in having adjacent to the garden a playing-field, including tennis courts and cricket and football pitches—to say nothing of the interest taken in our proceedings by the street urchins outside the railings, and the swift and deadly sallies of their Cockney humour. There was a tall and lean student of rather lugubrious countenance whom they promptly dubbed "six feet of misery"; and a fussy little man who ran about the field incessantly without doing anything effective with the football: him they christened "Charlie's aunt still running." There was also the wordy game of debates—minor ones weekly, and an annual engagement attended by admiring relatives and sweethearts. In one of the latter I recall a fervid diatribe against Socialism which wound up with the ejaculation: "And that, gentlemen—er, ladies and gentlemen—is the rock on which Socialism must *flounder*."

There were still men in the House who had been with Dr. Angus. In his last years his great age and partial failure of mental vigour had resulted in some decline in the efficiency of the work of the College, and consequently in its reputation; and his successor's disastrous breakdown of health came too soon for him to have done anything material towards restoring its position. That task then was left to Dr. Gould. In the nature of the case he will supply a major part of these reminiscences. He was my beloved and honoured teacher, who more than any other shaped my thoughts on matters theological. His colleague, Green, was also a born teacher, to whom teaching was as the very breath of life. He clung tenaciously to his work for the College till the last possible moment; and when he had finally to relinquish it, with staggering swiftness he faded away. The lifelong friendship and co-operation between Gould and Green was as beautiful a spiritual phenomenon as I have been privileged to witness. Only on one point can I remember Green ever saying to me a word in criticism of Gould. Gould took relatively the largest share of the time-table for his Hebrew classes, and insisted on preparation for them being done, and occasional neglect of other tutors' work was apt to be excused to them on the ground of these engrossing Hebrew studies.

When I joined the staff in 1900 I was still very young, and

wholly inexperienced; there were still men in the House who had been my fellow students. But both staff and students showed me all possible consideration. Gould and Green at once took me into all their counsels, and put me wholly on a level with themselves. Throughout the twenty years of our co-operation there was never once the slightest tension or misunderstanding between us—a statement which I can gratefully extend to my second twenty, under our present Principal. I fear I have not always been sufficiently grateful for this, for it did not occur to me to regard it as anything but matter of course, until I happened to become aware that harmonious team-work on the part of the staff was not invariably the case in all theological colleges.

From the outset Dr. Gould took in hand, and steadily pursued to its completion, the redecoration of the buildings, which had, I believe, been almost wholly neglected during our previous occupation. The handsome moulded plaster ceiling of the large library looked uniformly grey. On investigation, however, it proved to have been painted in eight colours; it would cost £400 to renew that colouring, but the Committee felt that it ought to be done.

Dr. Gould also reduced the number of studies. Dr. Angus had preferred to have as many students as could be got into the house, holding that this was good for the subscription list! Dr. Gould would only take men of good promise, whether more or fewer. This enabled him to withdraw from use some unsuitable rooms, including one that I had occupied in my first year, and which, for some unexplained reason, was known as the "Astronomical." It had a fire-place, but no window—only a sky-light just above the work-table, which could be raised by a rope, and then admitted a hurricane of draught down my neck. One winter day I found a pile of snow on said table.

The garden was under the care of a man who left more than half of it a wilderness, and for the rest gave us annually the regulation red geraniums, yellow calceolarias and white marguerites. Dr. Gould engaged better gardeners, who reclaimed the wilderness and gave us varied and beautiful flower-beds. He was personally fond of the garden, and there were few days on which he did not stroll round, enjoy the flowers, and have a word with the gardeners.

In speaking of house arrangements, it would be unpardonable to omit all reference to the work of Miss Gould. Here, however, I must content myself with saying that she was as efficient in her department as the Doctor in his. All the house-linen was renovated, the "table" was improved, and students' health sedulously cared for.

To Dr. Gould as a teacher, I have not space to do justice.

His lectures in Church History, and later, in Christian Doctrine, were careful and competent without, I think, being found particularly inspiring. His proper subject was Hebrew and the exposition of the Old Testament, and here he was brilliantly successful. With almost monotonous regularity our College used to contribute the first man in Hebrew in the annual Associates' examination of the Theological Senatus of Free Church Colleges, which our students took before London University gave us an available B.D. examination. He loved the details of Hebrew grammar, every "jot and tittle" of it, and could inspire students with something of his own interest and enthusiasm. And he had limitless patience in drilling it into slow or untoward students. Only once did I see him within measurable distance of losing his temper. It was the end of Session, and we were revising the grammar for the second or even third time. In the class was a stolid Yorkshireman who, when asked a question, had an irritating habit of merely blinking and looking as if it was wholly unreasonable to expect him to know these things. The Doctor plied him with questions, but could get nothing out of him. His face reddened, and we prepared for an outburst. But with a visible effort he swallowed his wrath and merely said, "I think you might have known it by now."

The sermon class, under his presidency, certainly was a formidable ordeal. His standards were inflexibly high. He detested loose thinking and all triviality and vulgarity, and looked decidedly askance at anecdote. He rammed his criticisms home relentlessly—a practice which he more than once defended to me by saying that men were thick-skinned, and you must hammer hard to get through the crust of their self-complacency. Usually, however, his estimates were wholly right in their main drift. On rare occasions he was unjust, and then we were thankful for the presence of Green, who, with sober, tactful speech, did something to restore the balance. Gould used to trounce not only the preacher, but also the preacher's critics, if he thought them wide of the mark.

But I must be careful to forestall a possible impression that Gould's criticisms were inspired by anything but the highest considerations. Beneath them all lay a great jealousy for the divine honour of our Lord, and a profound personal piety. This showed itself also, and most directly, in his conduct of morning prayers. I have heard many of his old students say that the best thing in their College course was the inspiration of those morning devotions. He never used forms, but always prayers of his own composing; and their never-failing freshness, depth and practical helpfulness, maintained day after day, year in, year out, afforded

unmistakable evidence of much time and thought devoted in private to their preparation.

Soon after his accession to the presidency came the re-shaping of London University, and with it the institution of examinations for theological degrees. Dr. Gould took advantage of the opportunity, and we became an affiliated school of the University, and sent our students in for the B.D. examination. It was, however, characteristic of his rigid integrity that he himself always refused to act as examiner where pupils of his own were competing.

The climax of his work for the College might be fittingly associated with the luncheon in celebration of its centenary in 1910, in which year he also brought out his excellent brochure on its hundred years' work.

I must not omit to mention the signal wisdom and tact which Dr. Gould displayed in the business of the College Council. He was careful to consult it on all matters of moment relating to the work of the College, and to encourage full and free discussion. His patience was specially tried by one member who grudged time spent in discussion, and wanted to settle matters by his own *ipse dixit*. More than once the Doctor had to suppress him, and always did it with studied courtesy, though he might fume about him a little to his colleagues in private. In all business of importance he usually got his way, but simply because what he said showed that he had thought more about the matter, and had better reasons for the view he took, than anyone else present. The most striking instance of this was the adoption of an age-limit for the staff. From experience of the very serious difficulties that had arisen from the absence of such a limit in time past he was determined that *he* would not be the occasion of any such difficulties, and that the date for his retirement should be settled while he was clearly in full possession of his mental powers. The Council, anxious to retain his services as long as possible, was against him almost to a man, including even his colleague, Green; but he carried in their teeth the resolution which requires retirement at latest at seventy. Curiously enough, in his own case events decided otherwise. When he attained that age the work of the College had been reduced by war conditions to a minimum, and he acceded to the Council's request to carry on until normal activities could be resumed.

It goes almost without saying that the last war marks the "great divide" in these forty years of the life of the College. It is that more than anything else that has served to make the Regent's Park College of the 'nineties seem an idyllic dream. Life since then has been a different thing—in how many ways I need not attempt to say. The changed conditions had the effect

of thwarting some cherished aims of the Principal; e.g. when Mrs. Rylands left us £5,000, he had eagerly secured that it should be primarily appropriated to providing a travelling scholarship for advanced students abroad. But the (I think) first and last holder was caught in Germany by the war, and had difficulty in getting back, and since then we have been glad to use the fund for more pressing purposes.

The resumption of work after the war brought with it a much fuller co-operation with New College, London, in a comprehensive system of joint classes, in theology as well as arts. This secured solid advantages. There was great stimulus for teachers in the fellowship of a larger staff, and in lecturing to much larger classes; and to students in being members of a larger body, including more varied types. But I must not indulge in any detailed reminiscences of these additional colleagues or pupils.

Perhaps in closing I may be permitted to record one conclusion that has been steadily impressed on me with growing force during these forty years. It is the extreme difficulty and delicacy of selecting the right men for the ministry. College Councils are sometimes blamed for having accepted this man or rejected that. But remember, you cannot estimate a man's spiritual quality by written examination, nor his character and ministerial aptitudes in a half-hour's interview. Hasty judgments have to be avoided. I have known men go through an entirely satisfactory college course and come to grief, or at least cut no ice, in the ministry. And I have known men about whom we had serious and repeated misgivings during their college course, who have made good, and sometimes much more than good, in the ministry. And how thankful should we be to reflect that the vast majority of our students justify their selection, and spend lives of good and faithful, if quiet, service in the churches. And so far as my own observation goes, in the few cases where men have left us for other denominations, their inability to acclimatise among us has been for reasons perhaps not wholly unconnected with their own personality, or its peculiar manifestations.

I must conclude, though I have said hardly anything of the present Principalship. There may be a suitable occasion later on for speaking or writing about that. Dr. Wheeler Robinson has maintained, if not surpassed, the traditions of our College in its best days; and we all hope that the new departure which he has inaugurated in Oxford with such conspicuous ability and success may be but the prelude to yet further progress that shall eclipse all the glories of the past. In Mr. E. A. Payne he has a coadjutor who will be able to second his efforts far more efficiently than I could ever do.

A. J. D. FARRER.