

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1995-96
(Read on Prize Day - 16 March 1996)

Lt. Gen. Gulati, Mrs Gulati, Trustees & Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for us to welcome you here this evening. We are aware of your extremely busy schedule and we consider it a great mark of your favour that you have accepted our invitation to preside over our Prize Distribution. We hope that you will remember your visit to La Martiniere with as much pleasure as we have in welcoming you here.

As a token of our esteem and affection we should like you to accept some small tributes from our garden.

It is a matter of no small distinction to read, today, the report for 1995-96, the one hundred and fiftieth year since the College first opened in 1845.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS

Both the Trustees of the College changed. Mr Mata Prasad, Chief Secretary to Govt. U.P. took over charge as Senior Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities from Mr Brijendra Sahay, on the latter's transfer. Mr Khem Karan, Legal Remembrancer to Govt. U.P., took charge as a Trustee of the College on the transfer of Mr Ikramul Bari. We were pleased to welcome the new Trustees and to wish them a happy tenure. We are also grateful for the interest of Mr Brijendra Sahay and Mr Ikramul Bari in the well-being of La Martiniere and wish them success in their new posts.

There were also some changes on the Local Committee of Governors. Mr Pritam Singh was succeeded by Mr Atul Gupta who in turn was succeeded by Mr Naresh Dayal as Commissioner, Lucknow Division. Mr Rajeev Kher was succeeded by Mr Pradeep Shukla on his appointment as District Magistrate, Lucknow. Brig. P.S. Bhatia took over from Brig. N. Deka as Commander, Lucknow Sub-Area, on the latter's transfer. We were pleased to welcome the new members of the Committee and are grateful for each one's contribution. Their continued support and interest in the functioning of the College is, indeed, a source of great encouragement.

BEREAVEMENT

It is with deep sadness that I record the passing of Mr Frank deSouza on 27 September, 1995. He was regarded by many as an institution in himself and his association with La Martiniere spanned over six decades. He studied at the College in the twenties and returned to serve it in 1941. From then on, he never left it. He was appointed House Master of Martin House and later became Vice -Principal of the College, a post he occupied for almost 22 years. He also served for a short while as Officiating Principal. When he retired in 1977, he continued to live on the campus in a house which he had built and which he gifted to La Martiniere. His passing was gentle but somewhat sudden. Age and failing health had taken its toll of a robust, athletic and energetic man, but "age could not wither" the spirit of a wonderful, warm and genial human being. Our lives will be the poorer but the wealth of the memories he leaves behind is the stuff of which legends are made. Frank deSouza's life was centred around La Martiniere. He most literally lived and died here. We mourn his passing but all with whom he came in touch are richer for the experience of having known and loved him.

With no less sadness do I record the death of Mr John Safir on 3 October, 1995. He retired as Second Assistant in 1995, after having served the College for nearly seventeen years. A kindly benevolent man of many parts, he was popular with his students and colleagues. His passing was rather sudden and it left a gloom over the College.

La Martiniere mourns their loss and prays for the repose of their souls.

STAFF

There were considerable changes on the Staff last year. Mr P. Bhatt, Mr L. Godin, Mr A. Kamal, Mr B.P. Pant and Mr C. Joseph resigned in May, and Mrs J. Chopra in July, all seeking to better their prospects. They are all wished success and happiness in their new assignments.

Mr A. Seymour, Ms R. Mehrotra, Mrs S. Godin, Mrs S.B. Hasan and Mrs R. Khosla joined the Staff in July. Mrs A. Zutshi also joined in July but resigned in January owing to personal reasons. Mrs S. Yadav was employed in July to teach the newly opened section in the Nursery Class.

As the College began running its own computer programme in July, Mr M. Aslam, Mr N. Srivastava and Mr N. Rao were employed to teach Computer Studies in the Junior and Middle School. Mr N. Rao left at the end of August and his place was temporarily filled by Mr J. Kapoor. Mr A. Kumar and Mr P. Chandra, in turn, temporarily replaced Mr P. Bhatt, but both could not continue any longer.

Ms N. Rai, resigned in July and Mr V.P. Singh temporarily filled her place. Mr G.F. Gomes was employed temporarily as an Assistant Warden and P.T.I. from July. Mrs S. Serrao resigned at the end of September and her place, as Housekeeper, has been temporarily filled by Mrs B. Searchfield. Mrs S. Mehta was temporarily employed to deal with the additional work connected with the sesquicentennial celebrations for one year.

We wish all the new members of the Staff a long and happy association with the College.

Owing to medical reasons, Mrs Audrey Ireland retired prematurely from the Staff at the end of December. She had served the College since 1972 and her skill as a Teacher was widely known and respected. The fact that her Class was nearly always the recipient of the Molly Daniell Trophy for the Best Classroom in the Junior School speaks volumes for her commitment. Her absence has created a void which it will be difficult to fill and she is greatly missed. She is wished good health and a peaceful retirement. Should her health permit her to teach again, La Martiniere would welcome her back gladly.

We are indeed grateful to Mrs P. Cowasji, who has served to fill leave vacancies stretching over considerable periods of time. We shall be happy to have her with us as a regular member of the staff.

On 5 January, 1996, Mrs B. Bobb completed twenty-five years of service at the College. The Local Committee of Governors is happy to recognize her long service. Her contribution to the College is greatly valued and she shall receive an award this evening as a token of the esteem in which she is regarded.

FINANCES

The Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College were pleased to sanction an increase of twenty percent in Dearness Allowance applicable to all categories of the Staff and servants of the College w.e.f. 1 April, 1995. This, however, had to be accompanied by an increase in the fees. Owing to the rise in the cost of foodstuffs, the boarding fee had also to be raised from Rs 825/- to Rs 900/- per month.

DEVELOPMENT

Owing to the constant pressure for admission it was decided to increase the sections in the Nursery Class from two to three. An expansion scheme for La Martiniere is envisaged, in the not too distant future. This will not only serve to protect our land but will go a long way to fulfilling a social need by providing education for many more children than is possible at present.

ENROLMENT

In March 1995 the new academic session commenced with 1751 students on the roll. Of these 234 were boarders which included 21 Foundationers and 16 Demi-Foundationers in keeping with the provisions of Maj. Gen. Claude Martin's Will. At the close of the session the enrolment stood at 1786 of which 249 were boarders, including 21 Foundationers and 16 Demi-Foundationers.

HEALTH

In general the health of the resident scholars continued to be good. We are grateful to the Medical Staff of the College as well as to the Steward and Housekeeper in caring for the health of the boarders and in providing them with a wholesome and nutritious diet.

EXAMINATIONS

In March 1995, the College presented 113 candidates for the ICSE Examination. Of these 104 were awarded Pass Certificates. Shantanu Rastogi came first in order of merit scoring 5 points in the five compulsory subjects. He scored an aggregate of 93 %. Ankur Agarwal came second scoring an aggregate of 92.2 %. In all, twenty-five boys scored over eighty percent, six of whom scored over 90% on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

109 candidates were presented for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination, of whom 107 were awarded Pass Certificates. Nikhil Garg stood First with an aggregate of 92 %. In all, 35 boys scored over 80% on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on 10 March, 1995. His Excellency M. Philippe Petit, the Ambassador of France in India was Chief Guest. The traditional Guard of Honour was presented by the N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing.

The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet was held at Calcutta at the end of August 1995. Although the College teams acquitted themselves well they did not win any of the trophies. We are grateful for and commend the efforts of Mr T. Savaille, Mr P. Collins & Mr G.F. Gomes in training the debating, football and swimming teams respectively.

At the Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition, held on 13 September, as part of the ssquicentennial celebrations, Vimlendra Choudhary, Alameen Qadir and Karmnisht Sarin were

declared Champions in the Senior, Junior and Colts Divisions respectively. Two new records were set by Vimlendra Choudhary in the Senior Division. The improved timings were in the 200 metres Breast Stroke and 100 metres Butterfly Stroke events respectively. Karamnisht Sarin set a new record in the 25 metres Back Stroke event of the Colts Division and the Junior team of Hodson House improved on the time of the 4x 25 metres Medley Relay.

The Annual College Play in English, "The Tyranny of Tears", by Charles Chambers was performed on 13 September, 1995, and formed part of the sesquicentennial celebrations. The cast performed most creditably and the play was very well received. Mr T. Savaille, Mrs B. Bobb and Mrs S. Godin, jointly produced and directed the play. We commend and are grateful for their combined efforts. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayor Award for Histrionics is to be presented this evening to Sudeep Malik.

The Annual Inter-House Athletics Meet and P.T. Display were held on 2 December, 1995. Brig. P.S. Bhatia, Commander, Sub-Area, Lucknow, and Member of the Local Committee of Governors, was Chief Guest. Mrs Bhatia graciously gave away the prizes. The Senior Championship was won by Gaurav Bhatia for the second successive year, while the Junior and Colts Championships were won by Amit Raj and Nikhil Saxena respectively. La Martiniere won the Inter-School 4 x 100 metres relay at the Annual Athletics Meet. The College team was represented by Gaurav Bhatia, Dharmendra Gupta, G.K. Gupta and Amit Roberts.

We are thankful for and appreciate the efforts of all the members of the staff who helped with the organisation of the Meet, especially Mr R Robinson, Master in-charge of Athletics, who was in overall charge. We are also grateful to Mr D D Singh and Mr G.F. Gomes for organising the P.T. and the Gymnastics Displays.

The Annual Play in Hindi "Apni Kamai" was performed on Saturday, 9 December, 1995. It was directed and produced jointly by Mr K.B. Lyall and Mrs Lily Parel to whom we are most grateful. The cast is to be commended for their efforts. Somit Walia and Deepak Vaid performed remarkably and have been jointly awarded the prize for Histrionics in Hindi which they will receive this evening.

A Thanksgiving and Carol Service was held in the College Chapel on 14 December, 1995. The singing, readings and recitations were much appreciated. For all matters in respect of the Choir, we are grateful to Mrs M. Whittaker.

The Annual N.C.C. Inter-Platoon Junior Division Competition was held on 15 December, 1995. The Naval Wing was awarded the Hashman Memorial Shield. The Intermediate Trophy for the Best NCC Troop was won by Platoon No. 1 comprising of Class XII. Special mention in this connection must be made of Gaurav Bhatia, without whose efforts Platoon No. 1 might not have participated. In the Inter-Wing competition the Senior Division Army Wing, Platoon No. 1 was adjudged the best and will be awarded the Boardman Trophy this afternoon. Gaurav Bhatia and Amamt Mautiyal were jointly adjudged Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Senior Division. Saket Asthana was adjudged Best N.C.C. Cadet in the Junior Division and Khwaja Umam was adjudged Best Scout.

The Annual Hindi Declamation Contest was held on 14 August 1995.

The Annual English Elocution Contest was held on 11 December, 1995.

The prize winners of both contests will receive their awards this afternoon.

Special parades were held on Independence Day and Republic Day in which the Scouts and cadets in all three wings of the N.C.C. participated. Mr Francis Moore, nominated member to the Legislative Assembly, was Chief Guest on Independence Day, and Mr S. Venkatramani

presided over the function on Republic Day.

Cadets of the Senior Division, Army Wing attended the combined annual training camp at the Army Parade Ground from 23 October, 1995 to 2 November, 1995. Amit Rana had the privilege of being appointed Battallion Havaldar Major of the Camp. Eight students of the College were chosen to present a special Guard of Honour to Brig. K.S. Kahlon, Deputy Director General N.C.C. The two pilots were also chosen from among the College contingent.

Dr Amrita Dass was most kind in organising a one day workshop in July for the purpose of helping teachers act more effectively as counsellors for their students. It was most informative and we are grateful to her.

A workshop on Career Couselling has become an annual feature. This year it was again conducted in November for students of Classes X to XII. We are thankful to Dr Amrita Das and her Faculty from the Institute of Career Studies, Lucknow, for their professional guidance. Students have found the workshop of great help particularly in making the correct choice of subjects for the development of their careers.

OTHER EVENTS

I am pleased to record that our boys participated enthusiastically in several competitions during the year and emerged successful.

Eight schools participated in an Inter School Aquatics Meet held in October. It was organised by the City Montessori School, Gomtinagar Branch. The College team emerged as the overall winners.

In the City Final for the Limca Book of Records Quiz the College team represented by Sudeep Malik, Kunal Pradhan and Prince Arvind came first. However, in the national final held at Calcutta in November, they placed fifth. Even so, it provided fine exposure for the students who

enjoyed the experience immensely.

In the Inter College Quiz organised by the Industrial Toxicology Research Institute on 22 November, 1995, the College represented by Vaibhav Vaish and Dheeraj Rai stood first.

In the Western Music Group Competition of Crossroads '95 the College team placed first.

At MacFair '95, organised by the City Montessori School, Mahanagar Branch, Vaibhav Vaish and Ashish Agarwal who represented the College, placed second. Kunal Pradhan came second in the Science Fiction Writing Contest and Abhishek Jaiswal stood third in Extempore Speaking.

At the Inter School Literary Meet held at St Agnes' Loreto Day School on 25 August, Akash Banerjee was awarded second prize for Declamation and the College team represented by Aditeshwar Seth and Amit Mohan came third in the "What's the Good Word" Competition.

I am pleased to report that the annual cricket and hockey matches between the Past and the Present have been revived. On 26 January Mr Satish Bhatnagar, an Old Martinian, presided over the Past versus Present Cricket Match. The Past played creditably but the Present team won the match.

Mrs F. Keelor, Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College, was Chief Guest at the Past versus Present Hockey Match. The match ended in a draw, with each team scoring two goals.

Ashish Agarwal who competed in the Indian National Mathematical Olympiad conducted by the National Board for Higher Mathematics placed eighth. He is now entitled to an annual scholarship of Rs 9,400 if he opts for Mathematics at the Graduate level. He is also eligible for being selected to represent India at the International Mathematical Olympiad in 1996. His achievement is all the more creditable as the National Olympiad Examination is at the level of Class XI and he is in Class X. We are proud of him and commend his praiseworthy achievement.

JUNIOR SCHOOL EVENTS

The Annual Junior School Sports and P.T. Display were held on 01 December, 1995. Rev. Sr. M. Consuelo, Principal, St Agnes' Loreto Day School, was Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. The College is greatly appreciative of and commends the efforts of the Headmistress and Staff of the Junior School for the exceptionally entertaining and innovative items.

Elocution Contests in English and in Hindi were held as usual both in groups and for individuals. The winners in the individual contests will receive their prizes this afternoon.

There is no dearth of activity for the boys of the Junior School. 150 students and four members of the Staff went on an excursion to the Corbett National Park in November. The children not only enjoyed themselves immensely but came back enriched with knowledge and experience.

Two Bal Melas were held in the course of the year. These were enormously popular even though they were conducted only for the children and no parents or visitors were invited. The proceeds go into the Junior School Welfare and Development Fund, money for which is utilized for projects in the Junior School.

As a Children's Day treat the entire Junior School went to the cinema to see "The Lion King". They were hugely entertained.

To keep them involved and to provide an outlet for their creative talents Art competitions were organized for Classes Nursery to I.

Perhaps the entertainment that was most enjoyed was the Christmas Party in December which was organized for all the classes.

After the Final Examinations, the whole Junior School paid a visit to the Dinosaur Exhibition recently held in the city and came back delighted.

A singing and musical instrument competition was held after the examinations and a wealth of talent emerged. Classes II to V had Quiz Competitions in which they participated enthusiastically.

A friendly cricket match was played between the teachers and the boys. In the interest of justice and fair play I am happy to say that the boys won, because the teachers simply "did not play cricket".

REPORT ON SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

This report would be incomplete without a record of the sesquicentennial celebrations. For an institution to celebrate its one hundred and fiftieth birthday is no mean achievement. Much is expected in the way of celebrations but few realize that such matters cause great disruption in the routine of a school. Bearing in mind always that catering to the intellectual needs of the students is our paramount concern, it was decided to capsule the celebrations into a few days stretching from 8 September, 1995, to 13 September, 1995. The time chosen was significant, being Founder's week. This gave the celebration its just importance but kept it in its proper perspective. However, as the events were scheduled during the monsoon season it meant taking a grave risk. Just before the curtain went up on the celebrations, the weather chose to be at its worst. Fortunately, the days on which the various programmes took place were blessed with wonderful sunshine.

The inaugural ceremony took place on the East Terrace of Constantia and was presided over by Prof. M.S.Sodha, Vice-Chancellor of the Lucknow University. The Chief Guest was greeted by a Guard of Honour consisting of the cadets of the three N.C.C. Wings of the College and the Scouts.

The Parade commanded by Anant Nautiyal, was inspected by the Chief Guest. It then marched past the dais, under a canopy erected over the steps of the embankment facing the College.

Honoured guests at the function and seated on the dais with the Chief Guest were the two Lady Principals, Ms S. Chatterjee and Mrs F. Keelor, from La Martiniere for Girls, Calcutta, and La Martiniere Girls' College, Lucknow, respectively, Mr D. M. Alney, Principal, La Martiniere for Boys, Calcutta, Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Principal of the Cathedral and John Connon School, Bombay, and Mr T.W. Phillips, Principal, Wynberg-Allen School, Mussorie, the two latter being former Principals of La Martiniere College, Lucknow.

Staff and Servants of the College who had devoted a great part of their lives to its service were honoured at the awards ceremony which followed. The award consisted of a porcelain plaque with a print of the College occupying the centre and bearing the legend "La Martiniere College, Lucknow - Sesquicentenary " on the rim. All members of the Staff and Servants, who had served in the College for twenty years or more, received plaques and a citation.

To mark the occasion La Martiniere published a history of the College entitled "Bright Renown". It was written by Mr Satish Bhatnagar, a retired I.A.S. Officer and Old Boy of the College. Prof. Sodha most graciously released the book.

In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the College on its sesquicentennial anniversary and commended its tradition of providing quality education at the primary and secondary stage. He deplored the fact that there were very few good Degree Colleges in the city and he hoped that La Martiniere with its fine tradition and reputation for providing a high standard of education would consider expanding its facilities to encompass Higher Education as well.

He commended the Principal, staff and students, thanked the N.C.C. Cadets on a well organised function, and congratulated all those who had received awards. He then announced that the Local Committee of Governors had graciously awarded a Gratuity of Rs 1000/- to all current members of the College Staff and College Servants which was to be presented on 01 October, 1995,

the birthday of the College.

The exhibition which followed, was opened by Prof. M.S. Sodha. The exhibits were displayed in the Library, the Memorial Hall, the lobby leading to the Memorial Hall and the Conference Room. They consisted mainly of photographs and brief descriptions tracing the history of the College from its inception to the present day. The exhibition was on display throughout the period of the celebrations and must have been visited by thousands. The splendour of the rooms themselves lent a grandeur to the occasion which could rival any museum in the world.

After he had been round the exhibition Prof. Sodha was entertained to tea in the fabled Blue Room of the College, with several distinguished guests. Parents and other visitors were treated to a reception in Spence Hall.

A Fete was held on 9 September, 1995, in the Junior School Complex and Mr Atul Gupta, Commissioner, Lucknow Division, opened it at 2 p.m.

There was a phenomenal attendance consisting mainly of students, parents and Old Martinians who had all come there to enjoy themselves, which they obviously did. The Fete lasted till 7 p.m., after which many guests and visitors flocked to see the exhibition and to enjoy the view of "Constantia" which had been illuminated for the entire period of the celebrations, lasting from 7 September till 14 September.

On 10 September, 1995, the College was thrown open to visitors. Many old students came with their families to relive memories of their stay in La Martiniere.

A Seminar on Child Development which was organised by the Institute of Career Studies for the parents of students in the College was held in Spence Hall from 10.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m.

Dr George Judah, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Management, Pune, delivered a lecture on Parent-Child Relationship, which was followed by a Question and Answer Session.

Dr Bryan Cooke, an Old Boy and Master of the College, who is currently in California was scheduled to speak on Health Issues but he was unable to come. Dr Anil Kumar (Paediatrician) spoke on Personal and Health Issues, which was followed by an exposition on Career and Educational Opportunities by Ms Sunita Dass, Additional Director of the Institute for Career Studies.

The lectures were followed by a discussion which was lively and those who attended participated actively. Lunch and tea were served to the participants.

However, it was disheartening to note that not many parents attended. Even so, those who did were most encouraged and felt that more such programmes should be arranged.

In the evening a celebration dinner was organised on the Principal's lawn at 8 p.m. Illuminated, Constantia made a magnificent backdrop to the event. It was attended by almost 1200 people including the boarders and prefects of the College. Before the dinner commenced soft drinks were handed round to the guests and the Principal raised a silent toast to the pious memory of the Founder, Major General Claude Martin.

Earlier in the evening the College Servants were also treated to dinner which comprised of the same menu. The Principal of the College, accompanied by Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Mr T. W. Phillips, both, former Principals of the College, and their wives, played host to them.

On 11 September, 1995, the Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, was Chief Guest at the Physical Training and Gymnastics Display organised on the College Sports field at 4.00 p.m. The Display consisted of items from all Sections of the School. The Prep Class performed a drill called 'Little Clowns'. This was followed by Hoop Drill by Classes I and II and Pyramids by Class III. At the conclusion of the Pyramids the leaders in each group came up to the dais and presented tiny College flags to the Chief Guest.

The Blue and Gold Drill performed by the boys of Classes IV and V was most colourful. This was succeeded by House Pyramids performed by the Senior School and organised by the boys themselves. Classes VI to VIII performed a Drill with cubes.

The College Gymnastics team presented a display of Matwork, exercises on the parallel bars and exercises which included vaulting over apparatus. They also performed Rope Work which was very well appreciated.

The Senior School presented a well executed bamboo drill, at the conclusion of which the entire Middle and Senior School formed up on the field.

In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the College on its Sesquicentenary and commended the efforts of all concerned in organising the programme.

The function concluded with the beating of the Retreat and the lowering of the College and House flags by the College Captain and Prefects.

The Chief Guest, his entourage, Staff and distinguished guests adjourned to tea, thereafter, on the Principal's lawn.

The Inter-School Quiz Competition which was held on 12 September, 1995, commenced at 12.30 p.m. Mr A. Lunn, a distinguished and elderly Old Martinian and a former Principal of Bishop's School, Pune, was Chief Guest. The competing schools comprised of teams from La Martiniere Girls' College, Loreto Convent, St. Francis' College, The City Montessori Schools, Chowk and Mahanagar branches and La Martiniere College. Mr C McFarland was the Quiz Master.

The Quiz competition was won by La Martiniere College, Lucknow. Loreto Convent was second and La Martiniere Girls' College placed third.

The Quiz was sponsored by Lions Financial Services Limited. The members of the

Winning team received gift coupons worth Rs. 1,000/- each and the Runners Up team received gift coupons worth Rs. 500/- each. A shield was presented to each team.

The Past vs. Present Football Match was held the same evening at 4.00 p.m.

Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Principal of Cathedral and John Connon School, Bombay, and former Principal of La Martiniere College, Lucknow was Chief Guest. The Match was very well attended by many Old Boys and other spectators and thoroughly enjoyed. The Present team won the Match.

The 150th Commemoration Service was held at 8.30 a.m. in the College Chapel. It was a solemn occasion and so many guests attended that the boys of the College had to be seated in the Library adjacent to the Chapel.

Before the service commenced all guests who had been prefects of the College in the past were invited to lay wreaths at the Founder's tomb as has been the traditional custom. About seventy people did so. Honoured guests at the service were a contingent of Old Martinians from Lyon, led by Mlle Chabrolin, and M. Pierre Goddard, President of the Old Martinians Association in France. Mlle Chabrolin is a former Principal of one of La Martiniere schools at Lyons in France. Although the Service followed the traditional form there were some additional readings from the Holy Scriptures. The Vice-Principal, the College Captain, Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Mr T.W. Phillips, Mr Christopher Doutre, who represented his father, Mr Meredith Doutre, former Principal of the College, and Mr A. Lunn did the readings.

The Rev. Oswald Lewis, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lucknow and Principal, St Francis' College, Lucknow, delivered the address. It was based on the life and achievements of Claude Martin and was a remarkable comment on the effect he had had on the lives of people fortunate to be educated in the institutions he founded. The singing was particularly beautiful, a special feature being that La Martiniere Girls' College Choir sang along with the boys. We are especially grateful to Mrs F. Keelor for permitting the girls to sing and to Mrs I. Madan who trained

them and brought them to perfection. Mrs M. Whittaker, who trained the College Choir deserves a special word of praise. The richness and harmony of the combined choirs was a joy to hear and lent special meaning to a memorable occasion. So moved was the gathering that Mr Walter Johnson, an Old Boy, in order to show his appreciation, invited all those who sang, to a special tea held at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

The Inter-House Swimming Competition which was held a little later was a nostalgic event for the many swimmers of the past who attended the event. Mr Christopher Doutre, a past swimmer and winner of Championships in all three divisions, was Chief Guest.

The Founder's Play in English, already mentioned earlier in the report, was held in the evening. The cast did its best even though the effect was slightly spoiled by an electrical power failure.

The evening concluded with a special dinner, once again held on the Principal's lawn. All those who attended were pleased that they had come. Presents at the dinner were exchanged between the College and the contingents of Old Martinians from Lyons and Australia. The effect of the illuminations, special fireworks and the goodwill that prevailed brought the celebrations to a wonderful conclusion.

The functions were attended by people who came from great distances not only within the country but from Australia, Britain and U.S.A. Several souvenirs were produced for the occasion. These included wrist watches, ties, keychains, mugs, plaques, picture postcards, T-shirts, posters and other memorabilia. People came to celebrate the occasion and to enjoy themselves and a tremendous sense of satisfaction and nostalgia prevailed.

The greatest cause for celebration and the most remarkable event in the long history of the College took place on 1 October, 1995. La Martiniere College, Lucknow, was honoured by the

country, inasmuch that the President of India, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, released a postage stamp, to commemorate its 150th Anniversary. For this signal honour by the head of the nation, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, will forever be indebted. In his address the President said that he was glad to associate himself with the release of the Postage Stamp to commemorate an educational institution which was celebrating its 150th Anniversary. La Martiniere College was among the premier institutions of the country whose students had contributed to nation building in diverse fields. It was contributing to the process of inculcating in our youth values on which we seek to build a new India. La Martiniere College's long tradition of excellence bore testimony to the expertise and devotion of those connected with its growth and development. He was confident that the College would aspire to even higher standards and achieve greater distinction in the years to come. He hoped that the stamp, which signified his respect and commitment towards institutions of learning, character development and nation-building, would travel in all directions and spread the message of education and progress.

We owe a debt of thanks to the Honourable Minister of State for Communications, Mr Sukh Ram, who was present on the occasion, for graciously consenting to have the stamp released and to the Department of Post for arranging all details in this connection. Mr Justice S.N. Sahay kindly represented the Local Committee of Governors on the occasion and greeted the President and Mrs Sharma on their arrival. In his welcome speech he expressed the gratitude of all concerned for the honour bestowed on the College by the President. The College was represented by the Principal, the Vice-Principal, House Masters and Headmistress of the Junior School.

Many distinguished guests and well-wishers of the College were also present on the occasion. We are most grateful for their support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the support and guidance of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters concerning the welfare of La Martiniere.

I thank Mrs F Keelor, Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College, for her help and co-operation in matters which concern us jointly and for her advice and assistance at all times.

I am deeply grateful to the Vice-Principal, the House Masters and to the Headmistress of the Junior School for their contribution towards the smooth functioning of the College. It would not have been possible to manage without their whole-hearted support.

Each member of the staff has a special role to play in the scheme of things and it would be improper and insensitive to discount it. I am deeply appreciative of the contribution and the co-operation of all my colleagues. No institution can run without the active support of its members and I record my gratitude to every category of the staff. There are too many to mention by name, but each one has my sincere thanks.

The children of a school are the focus of its concern. In spite of everything we might achieve, we have gained nothing as an institution if we forget to serve them. It is they who add new meaning to life. It is they on whom the future rests. It is to them that we look to rectify the mistakes of our generation. The prospect would be bleak indeed if we failed to recognise in them our hope for the future.

CONCLUSION

La Martiniere is now one hundred and fifty years old. It has successfully served society and the country throughout those years. As we move into the latter half of the second century of our existence let us forge ahead with added strength and commitment to meet the emerging challenges of the time. To strive for perfection, to seek the truth and not to yield to the forces of decay and dissolution should be our constant endeavour. It is not in spectacular events that the greatness of La Martiniere is to be found. Its real achievement lies in having performed the unglamorous daily routine tasks of life with honesty and dignity. It is because of that and by

upholding its rich tradition of sincerity, loyalty and service that the College ranks among the foremost in the country and perhaps in the world. With the blessing of God may it always remain that way.

Vive La Martiniere !

REPORT ON SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

(Extract from the Principal's Annual Report)

For an institution to celebrate its one hundred and fiftieth birthday is no mean achievement. Much is expected in the way of celebrations but few realize that such matters cause great disruption in the routine of a school. Bearing in mind always that catering to the intellectual needs of the students is our paramount concern, it was decided to capsule the celebrations into a few days stretching from 8 September, 1995, to 13 September, 1995. The time chosen was significant, being Founder's week. This gave the celebration its just importance but kept it in its proper perspective. However, as the events were scheduled during the monsoon season it meant taking a grave risk. Just before the curtain went up on the celebrations the weather chose to be at its worst. Fortunately, the days on which the various programmes took place were blessed with wonderful sunshine.

The inaugural ceremony took place on the East Terrace of Constantia and was presided over by Prof. M.S.Sodha, Vice-Chancellor of the Lucknow University.

The Chief Guest was greeted by a Guard of Honour consisting of the cadets of the three N.C.C. Wings of the College and the Scouts.

The Parade commanded by Anant Nautiyal, was inspected by the Chief Guest. It then marched past the dais, under a canopy erected over the steps of the embankment facing the College.

Honoured guests at the function and seated on the dais with the Chief Guest were the two Lady Principals, Ms S. Chatterjee and Mrs F. Keelor, from La Martiniere for Girls, Calcutta, and La Martiniere Girls'College, Lucknow, respectively, Mr D. M. Alney, Principal, La Martiniere for Boys, Calcutta, Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Principal of the Cathedral and John Connon School, Bombay, and Mr T.W. Phillips, Principal, Wynberg-Allen School, Mussorie, the two latter being former Principals of La Martiniere College, Lucknow.

Staff and Servants of the College who had devoted a great part of their lives to its service were honoured at the awards ceremony which followed. The award consisted of a porcelain plaque with a print of the College occupying the centre and bearing the legend "La Martiniere College, Lucknow - Sesquicentenary " on the rim. All members of the Staff and Servants, who had served in the College for twenty years or more, received plaques and a citation.

To mark the occasion La Martiniere published a history of the College entitled "Bright Renown". It was written by Mr Satish Bhatnagar, a retired I.A.S. Officer and Old Boy of the College. Prof. Sodha most graciously released the book.

In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the College on its sesquicentennial anniversary and commended its tradition of providing quality education at the primary and secondary stage. He deplored the fact that there were very few good Degree Colleges in the city and he hoped that La Martiniere with its fine tradition and reputation for providing a high standard of education would consider expanding its facilities to encompass Higher Education as well.

He commended the Principal, staff and students, thanked the N.C.C. Cadets on a well organised function, and congratulated all those who had received awards. He then announced that the Local Committee of Governors had graciously awarded a Gratuity of Rs 1000/- to all current members of the College Staff and College Servants which was to be presented on 01 October, 1995, the birthday of the College.

The exhibition which followed, was opened by Prof. M.S. Sodha.

The exhibits were displayed in the Library, the Memorial Hall, the lobby leading to the Memorial Hall and the Conference Room. They consisted mainly of photographs and brief descriptions tracing the history of the College from its inception to the present day.

The exhibition was on display throughout the period of the celebrations and must have been visited by thousands. The splendour of the rooms themselves lent a grandeur to the occasion which could rival any museum in the world.

After he had been round the exhibition Prof. Sodha was entertained to tea in the fabled Blue Room of the College, with several distinguished guests. Parents and other visitors were treated to a reception in Spence Hall.

A Fete was held on 9 September, 1995, in the Junior School Complex and Mr Atul Gupta, Commissioner, Lucknow Division, opened it at 2 p.m.

There was a phenomenal attendance consisting mainly of students, parents and Old Martinians who had all come there to enjoy themselves, which they obviously did. The Fete lasted till 7 p.m., after which many guests and visitors flocked to see the exhibition and to enjoy the view of "Constantia" which had been illuminated for the entire period of the celebrations, lasting from 7 September till 14 September.

On 10 September, 1995, the College was thrown open to visitors. Many old students came with their families to re-live memories of their stay in La Martiniere.

A Seminar on Child Development which was organised by the Institute of Career Studies for the parents of students in the College was held in Spence Hall from 10.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m.

Dr George Judah, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Management, Pune, delivered a lecture on Parent-Child Relationship, which was followed by a Question and Answer Session.

Dr Bryan Cooke, an Old Boy and Master of the College, who is currently in California was scheduled to speak on Health Issues but he was unable to come. Dr Anil Kumar (Paediatrician) spoke

on Personal and Health Issues, which was followed by an exposition on Career and Educational Opportunities by Ms Sunita Dass, Additional Director of the Institute for Career Studies.

The lectures were followed by a discussion which was lively and those who attended participated actively.

Lunch and tea were served to the participants.

However, it was disheartening to note that not many parents attended. Even so, those who did were most encouraged and felt that more such programmes should be arranged.

In the evening a celebration dinner was organised on the Principal's lawn at 8 p.m. Illuminated, Constantia made a magnificent backdrop to the event. It was attended by almost 1200 people including the boarders and prefects of the College. Before the dinner commenced soft drinks were handed round to the guests and the Principal raised a silent toast to the pious memory of the Founder, Major General Claude Martin.

Earlier in the evening the College Servants were also treated to dinner which comprised of the same menu. The Principal of the College, accompanied by Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Mr T. W. Phillips, both, former Principals of the College, and their wives, played host to them.

On 11 September, 1995, the Honourable Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, was Chief Guest at the Physical Training and Gymnastics Display organised on the College Sports field at 4.00 p.m.

The Display consisted of items from all Sections of the School.

The Prep Class performed a drill called 'Little Clowns'. This was followed by Hoop Drill by Classes I and II and Pyramids by Class III. At the conclusion of the Pyramids the leaders in each group came

up to the dais and presented tiny College flags to the Chief Guest.

The Blue and Gold Drill performed by the boys of Classes IV and V was most colourful. This was succeeded by House Pyramids performed by the Senior School and organised by the boys themselves. Classes VI to VIII performed a Drill with cubes.

The College Gymnastics team presented a display of Matwork, exercises on the parallel bars and exercises which included vaulting over apparatus. They also performed Rope Work which was very well appreciated.

The Senior School presented a well executed bamboo drill, at the conclusion of which the entire Middle and Senior School formed up on the field.

In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the College on its Sesquicentenary and commended the efforts of all concerned in organising the programme.

The function concluded with the beating of the Retreat and the lowering of the College and House flags by the College Captain and Prefects.

The Chief Guest, his entourage, Staff and distinguished guests adjourned to tea, thereafter, on the Principal's lawn.

The Inter-School Quiz Competition which was held on 12 September, 1995, commenced at 12.30 p.m. Mr A. Lunn, a distinguished and elderly Old Martinian and a former Principal of Bishop's School, Pune, was Chief Guest.

The competing schools comprised of teams from La Martiniere Girls' College, Loreto Convent, St. Francis' College, The City Montessori Schools, Chowk and Mahanagar branches and La Martiniere College. Mr C McFarland was the Quiz Master.

The Quiz competition was won by La Martiniere College, Lucknow. Loreto Convent was second and La Martiniere Girls' College placed third.

The Quiz was sponsored by Lions Financial Services Limited. The members of the Winning

team received gift coupons worth Rs. 1,000/- each and the Runners Up team received gift coupons worth Rs. 500/- each. A shield was presented to each team.

The Past vs. Present Football Match was held the same evening at 4.00 p.m. Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Principal of Cathedral and John Connon School, Bombay, and former Principal of La Martiniere College, Lucknow was Chief Guest.

The Match was very well attended by many Old Boys and other spectators and thoroughly enjoyed. The Present team won the Match.

The 150th Commemoration Service was held at 8.30 a.m. in the College Chapel. It was a solemn occasion and so many guests attended that the boys of the College had to be seated in the Library adjacent to the Chapel.

Before the service commenced all guests who had been prefects of the College in the past were invited to lay wreaths at the Founder's tomb as has been the traditional custom. About seventy people did so. Honoured guests at the service were a contingent of Old Martinians from Lyon, led by Mlle Chabrolin, and M. Pierre Goddard, President of the Old Martinians Association in France. Mlle Chabrolin is a former Principal of one of La Martiniere schools at Lyons in France.

Although the Service followed the traditional form there were some additional readings from the Holy Scriptures. The Vice-Principal, the College Captain, Mr D.E.W. Shaw, Mr T.W. Phillips, Mr Christopher Doutre, who represented his father, Mr Meredith Doutre, former Principal of the College,

and Mr A. Lunn did the readings.

The Rev. Oswald Lewis, Vicar General of the Diocese of Lucknow and Principal, St Francis' College, Lucknow, delivered the address. It was based on the life and achievements of Claude Martin and was a remarkable comment on the effect he had had on the lives of people fortunate to be educated in the institutions he founded.

The singing was particularly beautiful, a special feature being that La Martiniere Girls' College Choir sang along with the boys. We are especially grateful to Mrs F. Keelor for permitting the girls to sing and to Mrs I. Madan who trained them and brought them to perfection. Mrs M. Whittaker, who trained the College Choir deserves a special word of praise. The richness and harmony of the combined choirs was a joy to hear and lent special meaning to a memorable occasion. So moved was the gathering that Mr Walter Johnson, an Old Boy, in order to show his appreciation, invited all those who sang, to a special tea held at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

The Inter-House Swimming Competition which was held a little later was a nostalgic event for the many swimmers of the past who attended the event. Mr Christopher Dautre, a past swimmer and winner of Championships in all three divisions, was Chief Guest.

The Founder's Play in English, already mentioned earlier in the report, was held in the evening. The cast did its best even though the effect was slightly spoiled by an electrical power failure.

The evening concluded with a special dinner, once again held on the Principal's lawn. All those who attended were pleased that they had come. Presents at the dinner were exchanged between the College and the contingents of Old Martinians from Lyons and Australia. The effect of the illuminations, special fireworks and the goodwill that prevailed brought the celebrations to a wonderful conclusion.

The functions were attended by people who came from great distances not only within the country but from Australia, Britain and U.S.A. Several souvenirs were produced for the occasion. These

included wrist watches, ties, keychains, mugs, plaques, picture postcards, T-shirts, posters and other memorabilia. People came to celebrate the occasion and to enjoy themselves and a tremendous sense of satisfaction and nostalgia prevailed.

The greatest cause for celebration and the most remarkable event in the long history of the College took place on 1 October, 1995. La Martiniere College, Lucknow, was honoured by the country, inasmuch that the President of India, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, released a postage stamp, to commemorate its 150th Anniversary. For this signal honour by the head of the nation, La Martiniere College, Lucknow, will forever be indebted.

In his address the President said that he was glad to associate himself with the release of the Postage Stamp to commemorate an educational institution which was celebrating its 150th Anniversary. La Martiniere College was among the premier institutions of the country whose students had contributed to nation building in diverse fields. It was contributing to the process of inculcating in our youth values on which we seek to build a new India. La Martiniere College's long tradition of excellence bore testimony to the expertise and devotion of those connected with its growth and development. He was confident that the College would aspire to even higher standards and achieve greater distinction in the years to come. He hoped that the stamp, which signified his respect and commitment towards

institutions of learning, character development and nation-building, would travel in all directions and spread the message of education and progress.

We owe a debt of thanks to the Honourable Minister of State for Communications, Mr Sukh Ram, who was present on the occasion, for graciously consenting to have the stamp released and to the Department of Post for arranging all details in this connection.

Mr Justice S.N. Sahay kindly represented the Local Committee of Governors on the occasion and greeted the President and Mrs Sharma on their arrival. In his welcome speech he expressed the gratitude of all concerned for the honour bestowed on the College by the President.

The College was represented by the Principal, the Vice-Principal, House Masters and Headmistress of the Junior School.

Many distinguished guests and well-wishers of the College were also present on the occasion. We are most grateful for their support.