

Modern Education System

Sir.—School students are so burdened with text books on various subjects, that they neither feel any inclination nor find leisure to study books for knowledge. Their sole endeavour has been confined to pass the examinations only, without any care for their out knowledge. In British period the Mafic students were not only acquainted with the works of Bankim Chandra Sarat Chatterjee and with short stories of eminent authors but they also read English fictions of famous writers like Dickens, Daniel Defoe; and also stories from Shakespeare's dramas.

Though there are school libraries, students are not allowed any books in many educational institutions. Finding no scope to read books beyond school texts the students lose their impetus to acquire out-knowledge. The system in colleges is also no better. So most of the college students also are quite in dark about the writings of eminent Bengali novelists. Far from reading English novels dramas of Shakespeare and poetical works of Keats, Byron, Shelley etc; average modern college students have not even heard their names. Easy passing has lured them to give up text books and devote their time to notebooks. In old days students of degree course had three papers in English to study. Shakespeare's dramas, Milton's Paradise Lost, and the Bible were among subjects to be studied for higher knowledge. English grammars by Rowe and Webb and Nesfield have been discarded since the erstwhile Pakistan days giving place to Functional English in high school. Modern High School students do not know anything about transformation of sentences i.e. uniting simple sentences into compound and complex ones and breaking up of sentences of the latter two categories into simple sentences and also about punctuation marks. Formerly prosody was taught in colleges, but a few years after Pakistan it was dropped from college syllabus. Degree passed students of today have no idea about different metrical verses and rhymes in English poems. It is meritorious, that after freedom, we should lay more and more stress on Bengali our mother tongue and national language but still English is essential and will remain so for an indefinite period as it is the key to acquire higher knowledge in world literature, science, world history, philosophy, higher politics and higher economics etc.

This deterioration in English teaching and the student's miserable deficiency in out-knowledge is brought to the notice of the Education authorities and also authorities of universities for reorientation of the present examination system. Authorities of schools and colleges are also earnestly requested to issue library books to their students freely of course keeping watch that class studies are not hampered.—Yours etc. SYED MIAZZEM ALI, C/O KAZI IMRUFAL HUQ, 30 Ravpara Road, Khulna.