

Dr. A. RAMASWAMI
MUDALIAR

AMONG THE galaxy of orators like the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Dr. C. R. Reddi, Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and Mr. S. Satyamurthi that South India produced during the early decades of this century, Sir Arcot Ramaswami Mudaliar was one of the sparkling stars. Those that had the privilege of hearing the Satyamurthi-Ramaswami Mudaliar debate during the Central Assembly election in 1935 could never have forgotten the epic clash of intellect and eloquence. It anticipated the equally celebrated Nixon-Kennedy Presidential debate decades later. His flute-like fluency, choice diction and dignified delivery captivated not only the national but every international forum. Tall, immaculately dressed and gilded with a lace turban, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar had a charming and striking personality, genial and pleasant manners which easily endeared him to the international community. A graduate from the Madras Christian and Madras Law Colleges without the advantage of foreign education, Sir A. R. Mudaliar acquired a mastery over English which few Indians could imitate and few Englishmen could improve upon. Naturally, a man of such talents rose in the British era from the back-benches to the front and from national to international stature. He was a member of the Madras Legislative Council, a member of the Council of State and later a member of the Central Legislative Assembly. As a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, he captained the Commerce Department, Supply Department and the Planning and Development Departments. He was also a member of the Imperial War Cabinet and the Pacific War Council.

Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar attended all the three Round Table Conferences in 1930, 1931 and 1932 and was a member of important committees like the Federal Structure Committee and the Indian Franchise Committee. In 1945, he led the Indian delegation to the preparatory conference of the United Nations in San

On Men & Matters

—R. V.

Francisco whence started his association with a wide range of its activities. He became the first Chairman of the Economic and Social Council and was associated with that body till 1952. He headed the controversial committee on "Forced Labour" and later became a member and Chairman of the International Civil Service Advisory Board of the United Nations, which position he held until very recently.

Sir A. R. Mudaliar was an educationist and served as the Vice-Chancellor of Travancore University. In recognition of his talents,

the Oxford University conferred a Doctorate on him. He was also the Diwan of Mysore during the crucial period of the integration of princely States. During the later part of his life, he placed his rich administrative experience and wisdom garnered from various national and international bodies at the service of industrial and economic development of the country. He believed that prosperity could be achieved only by augmenting national wealth and that industry had an important role to play. He helped to start many industries in the country and guided them till the very last breath of his life. Decorations were showered on him both by the earlier Government and the national Government in recognition of his vast services to the country. He was awarded a K.C.S.I. by the British and a Padma Vibhushan by the Union Government. In the demise of Sir Arcot Ramaswami Mudaliar, India has lost a venerable Statesman and a versatile person of great eminence.



FRANKFURT-ON-MAIN: Pedestrian precincts have proved a walk-over success in the Federal Republic of Germany. Battery-run dustcarts have been specially developed to collect garbage from these pedestrian paradises with as little noise and pollution as possible. This nippy van is noiseless, exhaust-free and surprisingly economic. It runs on 1.5 pfennings of electric power per kilometre, recharging its batteries from a conventional power point. The full battery is good for 100 kilometres (60 miles) of stop-and-go driving. The van is easy to handle, accelerates well and manages 20% gradients. Any holder of a standard driving licence may take the wheel.—(German Features)