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Excellence

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“EXCELLENCE IS
DOING THE BEST WE CAN
AND SOME.”

Text of citation of the Excellence Award
presented to Professor D. N. MARSHALL

Sir :

For more than 40 years as the Librarian of the University of Bombay, you have steadfastly and patiently built up not only a world of books but a bright tradition of scholarship in this University which is one of the oldest in this country. These have been years of transition and experiment in our educational system. If Bombay has been able to retain its premier position in the intellectual sphere, a good deal of the credit goes to the silent service you have rendered to generations of young men and women, as also to the scholars and savants.

You have in you make-up of an ideal librarian. A competent scholar, a self-effacing humanist, a great lover of books, a gentle but effective trainer of young minds-in brief a rare composition of those qualities which confer on you the distinction of being just the right man in the right position.

Equally unique has been your contribution to the library movement in our country. Indeed it would be truer to say that you have been the architect of it, and have carved for yourself, unknowingly as is your nature, a place of honour in the library world. You have pioneered the study of library science and elevated it into a discipline by itself with openings for research in an otherwise virgin field.

In honouring you today we are but acknowledging the achievement of excellence in an ancient profession that has come to its own but recently, thanks to the sustained service that you have rendered to it with an independence of mind matched only by a single-minded dedication to it. It is in the fitness of things that the University of Bombay has designated you as Emeritus Professor of Library Science, the first such in the whole of South Asia.

On behalf of The Indian Centre for Encouraging Excellence as also on behalf of the large community of students and scholars who have benefited by your promotion of library consciousness, may I wish you a long and healthy life of fruitful service to the cause which you have made your own.

May I also request you to accept this Scroll and the Award for Excellence as a token of our appreciation and regard for your memorable work.

Bombay
The 10th of May, 1973

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

By

Professor D.N. Marshall

to all those who thought of this function and who exerted themselves to organise it, were I not to thank them for the honour they have done to me and much more to my profession. I appreciate very sincerely the affection and regard which have prompted this function, I thank you, one and all, with all my heart for your kindness.

The Role of the Librarian

My field of work has been librarianship, and I am asked to tell you what is this librarianship and how I thrived in it. Taking up the first, a fact which strikes one, as one looks around the library scene in this country is, as I have said elsewhere, that today in this country, considerable misunderstanding prevails regarding the concept of a librarian and what is librarianship. The misconception is rather widespread and so it militates against the best interests of the country. A clarification is, therefore, worth attempting, particularly as the role of the librarian and the library in the changing world of today is being recognised in other countries so truly and well and the contribution of the librarians and libraries in the development of these countries has been of no mean order.

It is with considerable diffidence that I stand before you this evening. Because unaccustomed as I am to public speaking, public stage and rather shy of public functions, you can well appreciate my feelings at the moment. But I am conscious that I would be ungrateful

"A Capital Investment"

The UNESCO experts and many other authors have asserted that: "resources invested in libraries represented a capital investment which paid high dividends." Particularly, in building up an infrastructure of human values in any country, libraries necessarily constitute an essential element. Some of us are aware of how Andrew Carnegie considered libraries as a real capital investment, and how through his famous Carnegie Trust, major philanthropic aid finance to libraries in the U.K. and the U.S.A. aided progress and development of these countries and yielded such handsome dividends. The personal case of Andrew Carnegie is rather typical and will bear recalling in details. He migrated when a boy from Scotland to U.S.A. He began to work there in a coal mine. On his daily way to the mine, on the road, there was a public library, and he dropped in occasionally for warmth, only in the first instance. But gradually he developed a curiosity to read, while he was in the library. Ultimately he so to say educated himself thus and profitted thereby so much that in course of time he became one of the world's leading industrialists and a philanthropic millionaire. Conscious of the debt he owed to a

library, he set apart a very large part of his fortune for the development of libraries. History of many countries and lives of many individuals bear witness to the fertilising force of libraries and the important role that they play in the development of nations as also individuals. It is difficult, therefore, to understand how in our present position in this country, there has been so much indifference to and positive neglect of libraries even in the field of education.

Outdated Ideas

The prevalent misunderstanding is largely due to the outdated ideas still persisting about what a library is. The mediaeval concept of a library as a storehouse of books, where books were carefully guarded and preserved, is prevalent here even today. Some of our valuable collections remain largely unused, just because of this outdated approach. They are in charge of persons who become suspicious of any request made to them for permission to refer to the collection. Now this is true that in mediaeval Europe also, at one time, books in libraries were chained, but as long as they continued to be chained, there was darkness all around. The renaissance and the reformation worked out their historical

roles, and modern Europe took its birth out of the dark ages, only when these chains were loosened and ultimately removed. Today, public libraries in advanced countries aid the generation of forces for promoting social and economic progress and the democratic working of these societies. They provide to every citizen equal opportunities and all facilities, free of any charge, for stimulating his mind and heart, infusing in him a creative urge to know, to understand and to participate intelligently in what is going on around him. Public libraries thus provide individuals today with the means to make the best use of their latent potentialities for the benefit of themselves as also those around.

"A Resource Centre"

It is this opportunity for self-realisation provided by a well organised and adequately developed library service that needs to be emphasised the most. Libraries today in developing countries can play a very important part in the resurgence of the nation, only if the libraries are not allowed to remain passive units of mere book collections. But they are more media centres or education resources centres—housing, besides printed materials, different types of mass media, audio aids and

visual representation materials, duly processed and readily available for use. In such centres, visitors can find their own media, adjust themselves to their respective levels and satisfy their individual interest. Be one young or old, each one can thus be set on one's own road of self-exploration and discovery, initiating in one's own person a process of self-education according to one's own make up.

Baroda Library Movement

Turning to our country, and examining conditions here as they are today we find a tragic neglect of libraries. The classic instance of what appreciation and understanding of libraries our government has is provided by the story of the Baroda library movement. It was a monumental achievement of the then Baroda State to assure library service in every part of its scattered territories. Because means of transport were not so helpful and their means of communications were so difficult, it was so effectively providing a comprehensive library service over an extensive rural area, suited to our requirements. And yet the democratic government, elected by the people, that on the merger of the State in 1947, succeeded the so called administration of the Maharaja of Baroda,

swept out of existence the whole of the library organisation built up over a period of 30 years, leaving no vestiges behind. In the sphere of education also, until very recently, to give only one instance, the Government of Maharashtra did not recognise expenditure on a library in a school as admissible expenditure for grant-in-aid!

Equal opportunities to grow

There is another important role which the public libraries can fulfil. Ours is an attempt to have a democratic set up. And democracy implies equal opportunities for one and all. The all important opportunity that it can assure is the opportunity for self-education — self-flourishing. Today in our democratic set up, we have given a vote to every adult, but we have not given to each adult that necessary wherewithal as can equip him and enable him to use that vote as it ought to be. The result is that there is no participation of the real mass in the governance of the country. There is no dialogue or rapport between the voter and the one for whom he votes. And a few of the latter, therefore, trade upon the ignorance of the many of the former with the result that we see around us today. This void can be effectively filled up by

means of an integrated library service organised on a national scale, where printed reading matter is not the only media, but to overcome the handicap of mass illiteracy and also of conflicting languages, other — audio-visual — media are also employed extensively. Libraries so organised can provide that wherewithal to the individuals for the promotion of that dialogue so necessary for healthy and effective democracy.

Plans to become realities

Turning next to the economic development of the country and the planning therefore, it is obvious that planning cannot succeed by mere orders or writs of the state. It can succeed only if there is resurgence of mind and heart of individuals as may induce an encourage popular participation in the planned efforts of the vast mass of people for whom retual planning is meant. Such resurgence can be brought about only if the participants have access to human experience of the past, information about the present and some vision of the future. Now access to human experience and knowledge can be assured provided only through centres where such data is collected, stored, processed and made available as and when wanted. In other words, through a network of libraries. If provision is

made for systematically organised libraries where such information and knowledge are available in the form of printed words and/or through very many types of audio-visual aids in the shape of radio, television, tapes, films and very many alike; modern means of mass communication, then curiosity may be aroused in individuals, interest created in them, and motivation and incentives provided. Such an impact on the mass mind generates creative efforts so essential to the success of the plans, because it is through such variety of media that an individual gains some idea about conditions prevalent in other places and how problems are tackled there. This leads him to compare and contrast, inducing in time a sense of awareness of his own position in the scheme of life. And such awareness invariably stimulates the needed incentives.

National Resurgence

What is necessary for national resurgence is the release of the mass mind from the present humdrum negative acceptance of the life situation as it is. If once the erosion of the existing negative approach begins, and the crust of fatalism is pierced, the individual is prompted then to probe into his limitations and exert himself to

(Contd. on Page 14)

The Man

I had the good fortune of going to Mysore on deputation as University Librarian for a period of two years. Marshall visited the city in connection with a Selection Committee meeting within 5 to 6 months of my taking over. He was evidently happy at what he saw there. On his return to Bombay he wrote to me informing me that the University of Mysore had given him a larger travel allowance than what he had actually spent. He asked me to check up whether there was any mistake in preparing his travel bill. I made enquiries in the University Office and was told that everything was in order. I wrote to Marshall accordingly but along with his reply, which I received promptly, was a cheque for Rs. 50. In the covering letter Marshall had asked me to give away this extra sum which he had received from the University, as a prize to the student who would top the list of successful candidates at the forthcoming Lib. Sc. examination of the University of Mysore.

I thereafter moved on to Bangalore to look after the infant University Library there. In the second year of my stay there the University Grants Commission's Library Review Committee headed by R. A.

The News

I was thrilled to learn that the first Excellence Award is being conferred on Prof. D. N. Marshall. In my entire career I have not come across a person in any walk of life who would deserve this award better than Prof. Marshall. The other two persons whom I could bracket with him would certainly be placed after Prof. Marshall.

N. N. Gidwani

ABOUT PROFESSOR D. N. MARSHALL: THE MAN & THE MISSIONARY

Wadia visited Bangalore. As the University Librarian, I played host to this Review Committee. Marshall, though a member of the Committee, could not attend its sessions at Bangalore. I had arranged visits to several college libraries, the Indian Institute of Science Library etc. for this Committee.

In the course of a visit to one of the colleges, Wadia and I began conversing. Professor Wadia casually inquired of me as to where I had my training in Library Science, and was very happy to hear that I was Marshall's student and went on to speak with great gusto about how Professor Marshall as a young man had passed the ICS examination and had been prevented, for no fault of his but only because of the narrow and unjust prejudices of the British Government, from joining the ICS. Had he been allowed to enter the ICS, he would now have been occupying a gubernatorial position or serving as an Ambassador in some foreign land. But luckily for us, and still more luckily for the profession of Librarianship and the world of scholarship in western India, that was not to be. Marshall joined the University of Bombay as Assistant Registrar, turning his back upon a glittering administrative career which would

have led him to at least a Vice-Chancellorship, and chose to serve the cause of the academic world as Librarian of the Bombay University.

A number of stories are told illustrating the strength of character, selflessness, uncompromising attitude on principles, nobility of mind and other great qualities of Professor Marshall. He has never swerved from the straight path of truth and in so doing has even courted the displeasure of some who were his superiors. Recently, on a matter of principle he resigned from the membership of the Library Committee of the UGC, a position which many have sought but failed to secure.

His message to us, his students, has been, "Belong to the category of those who work trusting only in Him and none else." **For him work is worship**, and "yoga", proficiency in work. Library work has been very dear to him and even on Sundays and public holidays he is always to be found in his chair in the library. A story is told about the quiet way he got married. It is said that on the day of his marriage he left the library during the luncheon interval as usual. From the Library he proceeded to the Fire Temple after changing his dress. He returned to the Library soon after lunch-break, but a married man!

K. S. DESHPANDE

His Contribution To Librarianship

What is Marshall's contribution to Librarianship? The answer is—himself. And in that answer is contained a world of significance! What he has done is to build a great tradition of service to scholarship, both postgraduate and undergraduate, which has to be seen to be believed. Of course, his monumental bibliography on the Mughals is something which is an abiding contribution to the world of scholarship. But more than all, **it is the living tradition** that he has built through long years that is most important. That is his signal contribution to profession. Numberless librarians have written about themselves extensively. But a close scrutiny of their work, which in the ultimate analysis should be active service to readers, will reveal a most unfortunate state of affairs.

Marshall's character is **an example to the profession**. He has never resorted to any sort of subterfuge to gain advantage, either personally or professionally. He has never sought to lobby opinion to support any particular stand he has taken. And what is more, he has never taken any stand at any time that amounts to a posture! He has his very devoted band of friends and admiring

students, but never has this group degenerated into a coterie. His professional life, with its deep involvements and incorruptible integrity, was so exemplary that he led without wanting to lead! I have no doubts whatever that the very sound tradition that he has built in Bombay will endure for years to come. We, the librarians of India, would like to salute him on the occasion of his retirement and to say that we feel taller because he was and is one among us.

B. S. KESAVAN

His Hand of Help

A retired police officer walked into the Bombay University library.

"Sir I want to use this library."

"Please fill this form."

"Sir, this form asks when I graduated. I am no graduate."

"Forget that column"

"Sir, there is another column requiring a fellow of the university to recommend me. I am new to Bombay and I don't know anyone in the university."

"Forget that column too"

"Thank you, sir. I have another problem I stay in Goregaon. I cannot afford to come here daily and study. I wish to take the books home for study."

"Go ahead."

The end result of this conversation is three remarkable volumes of **Devi Kosh**, an encyclopaedia of goddesses all over the world. More volumes are coming. Each volume is over 300 pages.

Says Shri P. K. Prabhudesai, the researcher, the author, yes, the retired police officer: "But for Professor Marshall's understanding help that eventful day, I would not have published one page of **Devi Kosh**."

When friends ask me why a 42-year-old businessman like myself climbed the Matterhorn, I give them a reason, but I'm not always sure they understand. I really went to the mountain because it was something I wanted to do. As a boy I was fascinated by the travel books of Richard Halliburton who once rode a borrowed elephant through the Alps. I recalled that Halliburton was a poor swimmer, yet he decided to swim the Hellespont.

Younger people today would probably say I was "doing my thing." But whatever others may think, I know that climbing the Matterhorn was one of the best things I've ever done, even if I never climb another mountain.

"You can make it too"

In the summer of 1970, my family and I were vacationing with Henry Nichol, a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer, and his family. One day he received a postcard from a friend in Switzerland showing a photo of the Matterhorn, and Henry and I began talking about it. He had done a lot of mountain climbing, and though he was 60 at the time, he was game for the Matterhorn and convinced me that I could make it, too. The idea excited

both of us, and we agreed that we would aim for the summer of 1971, a year away.

Preparation

The Matterhorn is something of a mountain climber's mecca. It was first conquered in 1865 by Edward Whymper, an Englishman, at the cost of four lives. Over the years, more than 125 climbers have been killed on this mountain. Hundreds of Alpists make it to the summit each year, but this snow-capped pyramid is no pushover.

We knew it wouldn't be easy for either of us to get into the proper physical shape, so we laid plans for a year's training to get us prepared. That fall I played a lot of handball and readjusted my daily routines to start jogging and calisthenics at least three times a week. I jogged around the lake near my house; there's something terribly boring about running past the same scenery every day, but I kept seeing the Matterhorn ahead. By the following spring, I was able to run three miles and easily do 100 chair step-ups to strengthen my leg muscles.

Henry was spending the summer in Geneva with his family, and, for the first several days after I

Anybody can scale high mountains or attain other lofty goals. All it takes is a decision, preparation, and determination.

CLIMBING OUT OF THE DOLDRUMS

By

William W. Morison

arrived in Switzerland, we tried practice climbs in the nearby French foothills. But they weren't the Matterhorn, which soars 14,780 feet, and I kept worrying.

One particular fear which had always plagued me since childhood was acrophobia, the fear of heights. Henry assured me I would get over it. When I reached the first high over-look on a practice climb, I was seized by a moment of near panic, but Henry kept telling me to rivet my eyes on the boots of the man just ahead. That helped and, as I became conditioned to the altitude, I relaxed a bit.

Other things cropped up to take my mind away from the big mountain. When we reached Zermatt at the base of the Matterhorn we found more troubles. We employed one of the top Zermatt guides to give us a crash course in mountaineering, Matterhorn style. The first thing he told me was that my boots were hiking boots, too soft for the mountain. I spent a day trying to find another pair, but there were no size 13s in Zermatt.

Next, after spending a day going through the difficult paces on a practice slope, we were told

that our guide didn't think we'd make it. Surprised and depressed, we walked out of the guide's office and just stood in the street talking it over. Then Henry brightened up and said the guides couldn't possibly know all the training and conditioning we had put ourselves through. So we went back in and said we intended to give it a try anyway.

The Journey

The next day we rode the **teleferique** (electric railway) to the first level of the Matterhorn and hiked from there to the "Hotel Belvedere," which serves as a base camp for Matterhorn climbers. We got to the hotel at about 5 p.m., and the mountain was hidden in a swirling looked like a setting for a veil of mist. The place gothic horror movie.

We got an immediate taste of the danger of scaling the Matterhorn. A German family, we learned, was high on the mountain and in great distress. A man and his four children had started up late in the day. The guides had warned them repeatedly of late afternoon rockslides but they went anyway. The father had told the guide to "mind his own business," so the guides were shrugging it off.

At 7 p.m. a lightning

storm crashed over us and darkness closed in. A mountain makes its own weather, we were told. None of this improved my outlook.

The next morning we were up at 3:30 and outside ready to go at 4; Everybody seemed dressed for the part. I was the only one not in bright colors and Alpine knickers; instead I wore a borrowed sweater over a blue striped shirt, and a pair of corduroy trousers. It was still dark when we set out single file with our guides to get to the assault route. I was walking in complete darkness, tied to a man who was carrying a tiny flashlight and who spoke no English but grunted the words, "Up, up."

The Matterhorn is covered with treacherous shale that slopes outward and downward on the east face, the steepest but still the best one to climb. For the first hour I was too busy just climbing and following my guide to think of much else. Then I began to ask myself how I felt. Surprising even myself, I felt okay, but I was still afraid of my reserve energy. We were climbing steadily, and I was gaining more confidence as we went up. I found out later on that the summer of 1971 was rated

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“A spark has a life, ashes have none”. This little thought, perhaps, decided the course of life for Adi M. Davierwalla, the noted sculptor, who designed and prepared our ‘ACME’ trophy as Excellence Award, being awarded to people in various spheres of life by our Centre for their persistent act of excellence.

52 years old Adi Devierwalla was born in Bombay and did his schooling at St. Joseph’s in the Nilgiris in South, spent two years in college, struggling with Mathematics and Science, and finally after four more years, landed up with a Diploma in Pharmacy Course. For 14 years, till 1959, he worked as a Pharmaceutical Chemist, until in that year, he finally broke off completely with his past, and plunged into the unknown—the life of a professional sculptor.

What made a full-fledged pharmacist a sculptor? When were the seeds for the love of art and sculpture sown in him? Like any other artist, Adi could not tell when exactly in his life, this must have happened. The designs he cut in papers with scissors during his childhood in Sanjan? Or was it during the school days in the South, when his fidgety and ever-active hands prepared toys in wood? Was it during the same period, when unable to compete with strong boys in sports, he withdrew more and more inwards? Or was it during his study of Mathematics, when he spent more time in literature of Art than in Mathematics? There is no definite answer. But one thing is certain. A seed that was sown sometime during this time, was gradually but steadily growing—was taking definite shape.

The first break came, when the late N.G. Pansare (a well-known sculptor of our country), who came in his life when Adi was 25, urged him to go in as a full fledged sculptor. His first one-man show in 1956 in

OUR EXCELLENCE AWARD AND ITS SCULPTOR

By
B. Karani

Bombay brought him in close contact with late Dr. Homi Bhabha, the second man in his life responsible for the turn it took. The final breakthrough came in 1959. Since then Adi has never looked back. In 1968, he spent one year in U. S. A. under a grant of Rockefeller Foundation as a visiting Artist. "It was an experience and honour to be in a large international group of artists and exchange views and ideas with them."

A large collection of his works can be seen in the collections of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay. Some of his works can also be seen in Bombay in Bank of America, Larsen & Toubro, Air India, and a private garden on Rajabali Patel Road.

The word Excellence itself, is very difficult to define in physical dimensions, to be shaped as a trophy, was aptly sculptured by Adi Davierwalla. The four-letter word 'ACME', itself meaning apex or a summit has been designed to indicate excellence symbolically a steep climb, a goal difficult to attain. Pointing in an upward direction, it symbolises an urge for quest-of probing high and deep in unknown and urge to march ever ahead—that excellence is a never-ending quest.

When I Quit !

*When I quit this mortal shore
And mosey round this earth no more,
Don't weep, don't sigh, don't grieve, don't sob;
I may have struck a better job.
Don't go and buy a large bouquet
For which you'll find it hard to pay.
Don't stand around me looking blue
I may be better off than you !
Don't tell the folks I was a saint
Or anything you know I ain't.
If you have stuff like that to spread
Please hand it out, before I'm dead.
If you have roses, bless your soul,
Just pin one on my button hole.
But—do it while I'm at my best,
Instad of when I'm safe at rest.*

BEN L. BEAR

Excellence Thoughts

It is easier to love humanity as a whole than to love one's neighbour.

Eric Hoffer

x x x x

The high prize of life, the crowning fortune of man, is to be born with a bias to some pursuit, which finds him in employment and happiness.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

x x x x

Every person has an ideal, a hope, a dream, of some sort which represents his soul. In the long light of eternity, this seed of the future is all that matters. We must find this no matter how small it is; we must give to it the warmth of love, the light of understanding and the water of encouragement.

Colby Dorr Dam

x x x x

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.

Bacon

x x x x

NEWS & NOTES

VISWAKARMA AWARDS AT EXCEL

Excel introduced this Award some years back and Shri K. C. Shroff, (Joint Managing Director, Excel Industries Ltd.) reports:

On 16th February, 1973 Vishwakarma day was celebrated at Excel's Amboli Factory, Bombay, awarding Certificates to 18 employees for their:—

1. Consistency in performance.
2. Zeal in pursuit of new horizon in the field of their duties.
3. Imparting their knowledge and skill whole-heartedly creating a cadre of successors in the proper way.
4. Creative and constructive attitude.

Vishwakarma Shield has gone to Aluminium Chloride Department for the best performance in 1972.

Disease knows no age barriers, but it is particularly disturbing when it strikes the young.

THEY CARED

Last May, Linda Cioffi, 11-year-old daughter of Frank Cioffi, an engineering designer, noticed a lump on her left leg. A biopsy of the lump revealed a malignant tumor that required the removal of the leg.

When the men and women in Mechanical Engineering learned of the scheduled operation, they wanted to let Linda know they cared. So they took up a collection and bought a color television that was delivered to Linda's home in Little Neck, Queens. Flowers and cards with get-well messages also were sent to the hospital and her home.

As one of the contributors said, "When we learned of Linda's trouble, we wanted to do something for her to lift her spirits. We thought she would enjoy watching her very own TV while she recuperated."

Touched by the kindness of the Con Edison people, Linda wrote the following letter:

"I am writing this letter to say 'thanks' for the

color TV you gave me. I always wanted one and when I found it in my bedroom, I was really thrilled. I also want to thank you for the roses you sent me at the hospital. When I got home, there was another bouquet waiting for me. I couldn't get over your kindness and generosity. Maybe when I get better I can come with my father to thank you all in person.

"You know how to keep the lights shining in New York, and you really know how to 'light up' a smile on my face. I'll never forget it because the things you did were just beautiful."

Immediately after the operation, Linda was fitted with a temporary cast and within a week she was given an artificial leg. Linda started out using a walker, but after several weeks of therapy she learned to walk on her own. Linda will continue with periodic therapy sessions, but according to her plains and is doing very well. In fact, Linda started school right on time this fall. We drive her there now, but she hopes to be walking the five blocks to school very soon."

(Contd. from Page 9)

rienced young climbers the standpoint of inexperienced one of the worst ever from who set out without guides and ended by falling to their deaths.

"Not first to give up"

I didn't want to be the first one to drop out of the parties that had gone ahead or were coming behind us. Of the several be climbing that day, most were Swiss, French, or German students, with dozen persons who would a few Americans among them. The Zermatt guides will push you, but I had resolved to set my own pace, just as when I jogged around the lake at home.

Then I got a great lift in spirits most unexpectedly. We rounded a corner high on the mountain, and I saw a pretty young woman who had dropped out. I was disappointed about it for her sake, but, for my own personal pride, I was elated. I would not be the first to give up!

It began to grow light. It was only then that the dawn began to reveal the tremendous height we had reached. We stopped to see the sun creep over the horizon. My fear of height vanished, and all I could think of was that dawn on the Alpine peaks was one of the world's most magnificent sights. What a fantastic, lonely experience! I knew at this point that I

would indeed go all the way.

We reached one particularly dangerous spot where we had to swing out and around a large snowy out-cropping. There was nothing but space below. It took me several minutes. It looked very risky, and to get the hang of how to throw my weight out and around the obstacle. My guide was belaying me, as he had most of the way, but a fall can be serious even if it is only a few feet.

All this time we had wondered about the German family, but when we reached the 13,000-foot level, the wondering ended. We found them safe inside a hut perched on a high ledge and designed for just such climbers who become stranded in the freezing night or in a storm. My guide, Max Imboden, stuck his head inside, and after seeing everyone was all right, he came out smiling.

We came to a steep wall where the only way was up, by way of three ropes. I hadn't expected them or trained for them. The first rope was not too difficult, but after the second my whole body seemed to cave in. I was gasping for breath and begged to rest, of it. He knew I must keep moving, that the air was thin, and that rest at this point would do little good. Looking back, I'm

sure I would have quit if I had rested before finishing that third rope.

And Finally

The remainder of the way to the wooden cross at the summit was almost a walk. It was about 8 p.m. when Henry and I and our guides toasted our victory with lukewarm tea. We were on top no more than 20 minutes.

I've never been a courageous type and certainly not an athlete. I never made a team, never won a letter, and never excelled in competitive sports. But since the Matterhorn, I've found that in the business world, where personal reserves are put to the test, I have my own answer. The Matterhorn was a mental test as well as a physical one, and I will never regret facing it. I can truthfully say it felt great to mount the roof of Europe, and to know that I had done it in spite of my fears.

Courtesy: THE ROTARIAN

Centre's Publications

- Gandhiji on Trusteeship management (Rs. 6/-)
- Human Excellence (Rs. 2.50)
- Studies in Indian management: A Survey of Indian Literature (Rs. 19.50)
- A set of 32 Cards (Sayings on Excellence) (Rs. 6/-)

overcome them. There follows a changed mental approach as also altered emotional vitality. Life values get transformed by this new illumination of the mind, ushering in a new milieu. Once, we provide thus a changed motivation as may lead to appropriate constructive endeavour, only then planning can be fruitful resulting in tangible development.

Data Processing Centres

Even in the daily routine of commerce and industry, while everywhere information processing and information retrieval is advancing rapidly to control the modern information explosion, we in this country are still so far behind. For instance, in an important commercial and industrial metropolis like Bombay, there is no central data processing centre wherefrom immediate, authoritative and upto-date information—general or statistical, can be had on industrial and commercial topics. If a central documentation centre where to be set up where all relevant data was collected, collated, processed and kept ready for quick and easy dissemination, as and when wanted by those interested, it would provide such a welcome help to commerce and industry. The output of information today has reached such defying proportions that its control is very necessary, as without that we

are not able to avail ourselves of upto-date knowledge and real economic progress of the nation is thereby hampered.

“Lucky to have found my work”

So much for librarianship. Turning next to the second point, where I am asked to discuss as to how I thrived in this field, well, I am on a difficult ground. Frankly, I am as normal a human being with all his faults and foibles. And as the poet has sung. I echo his feelings and his words. O would that power the giftie gie us to see ourselves as others see us. It is so difficult to see ourselves as others see us. The onlookers have a better chance to comment on the game than the players themselves. But analysing my years of work, as I have said elsewhere, if I may be pardoned a personal note, I am one of those very few fortunates, who, long years ago, found his work. It has been said:

“Blessed is he who has found his work and let his ask for no other blessedness.” This is really true. The long working life that benign providence ordained for me in this profession has been to me a very happy and a very rewarding experience.

Three Secrets

If I may attempt to indicate the secret of that

happy experience, I may say that there were three main factors. First was the God-given curiosity, almost inborn in me, to know, to learn and to understand. It has been well said that there is no limit to the knowledge of a librarian save the one that he or she places upon himself or herself. By God's grace, I did not put any limit and gained thereby immensely, in the mental voyages of exploration and discovery.

Second factor was my enthusiasm to serve others. Any request, any question put to me was to me a God-given opportunity to extend my own horizon of knowledge as also a challenge to which I felt I should rise up to and do the best to serve the readers.

And the third was humility. There is no other place as a library to make one humble. At every turn of a page or an item, the limitation of one's own knowledge stands exposed. And so wherever I was and whatever I was doing, I did try in all humility to do my best, echoing my favourite lines of an Urdu poet:

Fold up your ego, if you wish for respect and reverence. For the seed, only when it mixes with the dust, sprouts into a tree or blooms into a flower.

I thank you all once again.

EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARIANSHIP

SOME GUIDELINES

Editor: At least in the initial years, you would have been in this pursuit doing a few things consciously or, may be, unconsciously. What would be those few things?

Prof. D. N. Marshall: (a) Intensely focusing interest on and discharging with dedication and devotion whatever work come to me, and

(b) Cultivating curiosity to know and to understand and trying consistently to extend my background knowledge.

Ed: You have been rightly described as a mentor of some top librarians in our country. If a young man comes to you and seeks guidance so that he may be a top librarian in time, what attitudes, values and habits you would commend him to cultivate?

P DNM: (a) Intellectual curiosity; (b) Ready receptivity to any call or opportunity for widening of horizon; (c) Looking outward, folding up the inner ego, and taking pleasure in serving others.

Ed: Concern for others and hardiness have been described as some of the components of the pursuit of excellence. That means some sacrifice. People have started asking: What is the use of pursuing excellence? They add: It does not pay any more. What would be your comments on these trends?

P DNM: The inner serenity and the rewarding feeling of satisfaction includes pleasant poise and a very happy frame of mind, promoting health and well-being. Life is then pleasant to live without artificial aids.

Ed: To encourage excellence in your chosen field, others also can help. What steps can be taken and by whom?

P DNM: If there is appreciation by the state and the public of the creative role of the libraries and they aid the development of libraries, this can provide more scope for the display of excellence on the part of young aspirants who, to day, for want of opportunities are frustrated.

As Missionaries.....

In the demoralising atmosphere all around us today, when most of the illuminating light-points are being extinguished one by one, any plea for the assertion of moral values may seem rather out of tune. But, as has been well said: "A nation's institutions are determined by its character." The crisis that faces the country today is one of character. Just as there is grinding economic poverty of the masses, there is grinding moral poverty of the classes who can provide guidance to the vast mass of our people. As purveyors of knowledge, libraries are deemed as missionaries with the mission to wage a silent struggle to illuminate the nature of man by guiding individuals in search of knowledge and in pursuit of eternal truths. As missionaries, can we not make an effort, therefore, to provide a corrective to the depressing trends all around and to resolve the present disarray in the profession?

D. N. MARSHALL

Aims and objects of the Centre

- (1) To stimulate amongst all sections of the public thought and effort for the promotion and development of the excellence movement in the country.
- (2) To establish a network of contacts both at home and abroad to strengthen this movement.
- (3) To publish a journal that would serve as an organ of the Centre, communicate its ideas and ideals and keep the public informed of the achievements, possibilities.
- (4) To bring out original writings, reprints, translations of relevant publications in India and elsewhere that would help raise standards of achievement in different walks of life.
- (5) To compile and maintain lists of individuals and institutions that have consistently maintained high standards and to extended such support as is possible.
- (6) To establish and maintain a library of visual aids, books, periodicals and papers on this subject for the benefit of the members.
- (7) To set up institutions like school, colleges, studios, galleries, libraries etc. for training in excellence as a concept and activity.
- (8) To institute and establish fellowships, scholarships, grants, rewards and prizes to encourage the excellence movement in all its facets.
- (9) To set up laboratory which will objectively and systematically examine the products and services given to the public and loan them excellence seals for specific periods.
- (10) To found, establish, create and maintain endowments and/or grants for the purpose aforesaid.
- (11) To undertake all such activities as may promote the excellence movement in the country.

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