

THE ORIENTAL COLLEGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I have just paid a visit to this interesting and notable institution. As you are aware, it has been founded by Dr. Leitner at his own expense, and with the single object of advancing the real interests of India. It is within half an hour's ride by rail from London to the Woking Station by the South-Western line. The first object of interest to the antiquarian, or the Indian, or the literary man, is the museum. Since your notice of the purchase by Dr. Leitner of the Dramatic College the museum has taken a remarkable stride. It is now full of antiquities illustrating the ethnology, literature, industry, and art of the people of India. Looking at the specimens in this museum, I am inclined to think that India was far before, in point of time, Greece and Rome in her inventions. Dr. Leitner has so arranged every department of his museum that you can trace at once the influence of Greek art on the art in India. He has done this by bringing within a "chair's length" the sculpture, the literature, and the coins of the period. This is a hint to our librarians in town.

There is another species of exhibit which struck me. There is a large collection of Punjaub fabrics, with reference numbers and prices attached, so that a purchaser in England for a dress or a shawl, without the intervention of the "middle-man" in England or India, can communicate direct with the native manufacturer, the object of this being to induce the English purchaser to place the full profit of production into the hands of the Indian artizan.

I was also struck at the large collection of Indian manuscripts and books, some of them proving that India possessed the art of printing long before its invention in Europe. This is a branch of research worthy of our best antiquarians, and I think it will bring India more prominent than any country in Europe.

I find that the rooms of this college are being rapidly tenanted by students from India. Dr. Leitner charges nothing for the rent of a suite of rooms consisting of a study, drawing room, and kitchen. The whole arrangement is on the principle that whether the student is a Hindoo or a Mussulman he can live in his own way, as though he was at home in India, without the slightest interference with his peculiar customs with respect to his food and domestic arrangements.

I consider that India is much indebted to Dr. Leitner for establishing such an institution. There is here a beautiful home, where the highest in that great country can go and live, and study all the scientific appliances which England can produce, without coming into any sort of contamination, as they may consider, with European manners and customs. He can, moreover, study the history of his own country from specimens of art, coins, manuscripts, and books, the like of which I have never seen. I believe also he can be examined and become a graduate of the Punjaub University on the same plan as a student in our colonies can become a graduate of the London University.

I know you have numerous readers in this country and in India who take an interest in this subject, and hence I trouble you with this communication.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August 25,

G. R. BADENOCH, LL.D.