In counting the mātrā structure by alleting one mātrā to each light (−) syllable we find that—

in (1) the light syllables count 7, and therefore CVC = 2.
in (2) the light syllables count 7, and therefore CVC = 2.
in (3) the light syllable counts 1, the two CVC syllables count, as shown in (1) and (2), 4; therefore the two CV syllables = 4, whence CV = 2, in (4) the light syllables count 6, and therefore CVC = 3.

This observation indicates that a three-term system of mātrā structure should be recognized for non-Sanskritic metres in Sinhalese as—

(C) V = 1 mātrā.
(C) ā, (C) VC = 2 mātrās.
(C) VC = 3 mātrās.

On this basis a three-term system of syllable quantity may be set up for analysing Sinhalese as light, medium and heavy, whereby the phonetic distinction of length between such pairs as pan, pān; gat, gāt; mas, mās; etc., can be phonologically stated in terms of the category of quantity.

M. W. S. DE SILVA

Obituary

EDWARD Joseph Thomas, M.A. (B.A. 1905), died on 11 February, 1958 at the age of eighty-eight. He was born on 30 July 1869. His father was gardener at Thornhill Rectory in Yorkshire, during the incumbency of the Reverend Joshua Ingham Brooke, a man of some wealth, part of which it was his pleasure to spend in assisting promising local boys to a grammar school education. But E. J. Thomas was not one of them, though he was of a studious turn, and almost as early as he could remember used to save his pennies till they would buy something at the secondhand bookshops in the adjacent towns. At fourteen he left school and went to work as a gardener for the next twelve years; but we should be wrong in interpreting this as a reluctant apprenticeship to his father's trade; despite an unlucky handicap of colourblindness he retained all his life a profound love of flowers and gardening; and he did well at it. But he busied himself in other ways too; for when in 1894 he went to spend a year as a student gardener at Kew he already had the London Matriculation Certificate (1st Division) in Botany, Mechanics, Latin, Greek, English and Mathematics. While there he obtained certificates in Elementary Physics and Chemistry and in various branches of Botany. It was presumably during this period that he decided to devote himself to linguistic studies. In 1896 he entered the University of St. Andrews, where under John Burnet as Professor of Greek he eventually graduated M.A. (1900-01) with first class honours in Classics. His other subjects of examination were Mathematics, Moral Philosophy, and Modern Greek. In this last, which foreshadows his subsequent philological learning, he was a pupil of A. N. Jannaris, author of what is still perhaps the only scholarly dictionary of English and Modern Greek. In 1903, at the age of thirty-four, when with most men the zeal and capacity for learning have begun to wane, Thomas came to Emmanuel as an Advanced Student, drawn, possibly, by the already wide repute of Peter Giles; at all events, philology was his special subject in the Classical Tripos Part II, which in 1905 gave him his Cambridge B.A. It was by this course that he came to the study of Sanskrit and Pali, and so of the Buddhist scriptures and religion, on which he became in time the most eminent English-speaking authority; and by his appointment in 1909 as an Under-Librarian at the University Library, Cambridge became his home for the remainder of his long life. For a long time he was in charge there of all foreign books, and his knowledge of languages continued to grow pheno-
Dr Edward Joseph Thomas, M.A., formerly Head of the Department of Oriental Languages of the University of Cambridge and Librarian of the Library of the Oriental Faculty died on 11th February 1958.

Before his death he had bequeathed his entire library to the University of Ceylon. It is but fitting that the memory of such a generous benefactor should be preserved in permanent form.

No better could be found than publication in our Review, of the Obituary notice contributed to the Emmanuel College Magazine by Dr F. H. Stubbings. It is reproduced in these pages by courtesy of the editor.

S. C. BLOK
Librarian

"Square" is the mortar-board, the square head-gear with a tassel, part of the academic costume.