CHAPTER IV

EARLY DAYS OF PERIODICALS (upto 1650)

Newspapers were the forerunners of the periodicals. The first true newspaper to be published in India was the Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser. This pioneering attempt was made by James Augustus Hicky. The first issue of the newspaper appeared on Saturday, January 29, 1780. The second newspaper was India Gazette which started publication in 1780. Then appeared, in chain, the Bengal Journal, Madras Courier, etc. The story of the origin of periodicals has already been discussed in chapter II.

The first true periodical (considering the term in the modern sense) was the Asiatick Researches or Transactions of the Society instituted in Bengal, for inquiring into the history and antiquities, the arts, sciences and literature of Asia. The first volume of the periodical with the above lengthy title appeared in 1788. It was the official organ of the Asiatic society. This pioneering and successful attempt in the field of periodicals was made through the efforts of Sir William Jones. The publication of this periodical marks the beginning of era of true periodical publications in India. This periodical created a sensation in the literary world. There was great demand for this periodical among the readers.

For about nine years after the publication of Asiatick Researches, no other attempt was made for publishing a periodical in India. However, another attempt, again from Calcutta, was made in 1797 with the publication of the Calcutta Monthly Journal Including Extracts from Different Papers.
From Madras, the first periodical to be published was *Indian Magazine and European Miscellany* in January 1807. This periodical with double name and double purpose published articles on all subjects of practical utility relating to the improvements in arts and sciences.

The period from the beginning up to 1850 has been demarcated as the early days of periodicals. A brief account of the important periodicals of this period is given below in the chronological order of the period of their origin.

**ASIATICK RESEARCHES OR TRANSACTIONS OF THE SOCIETY INSTITUTED IN BENGAL, FOR INQUIRING INTO THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES, THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND LITERATURE OF ASIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>Irregular</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>1788</th>
<th>Fl</th>
<th>Calcutta</th>
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<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Rs.16/- (per volume)</td>
<td>PR(C):</td>
<td>C/INC:</td>
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It was the first true periodical in India. The Asiatic Society* was founded in Calcutta in 1784 by Sir William Jones. He came to Calcutta in October 1783 as a judge of the Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal. The object of the Society was to enquire into the history and antiquities, arts, science and literature of Asia. Sir William Jones at first contemplated the publication of a volume of *Asiatick Miscellany* every year, but no

* The name of the society was at first, 'Asiatick Society', but was later changed to Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1829, after the formation of the Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland in London.
attempt was made to bring out such a periodical during the first three years of the Society's career. Most of the papers received during the first year were short and unimportant, and it was not until the middle of the year 1787 that the Society was in a position to go to the press with the first volume of its transactions. The society had no funds at that time, and there was no publisher in Calcutta who could undertake the work at his own risk and responsibility. Ultimately, one, Mr. Manuel Cantopher, of the honourable East India Company's printing office, undertook the job as a private venture, on the understanding that every member of the society would take the book at Rs.20 a copy. The name then approved for the periodical was *Asiatick Researches* instead of what the founder had originally suggested. The first volume appeared in 1788, and the second followed in 1790. The third, the fourth and the fifth volumes appeared successively in 1793, 1795 and 1797 under the same conditions, the price being reduced to Rs.16/- per copy. It was published in English, Arabic and Persian languages. The work created quite a sensation in the literary world, and the demand for it was so great that a pirated edition was brought out in England in 1798. This was sold so rapidly that within the next five or six years, two other editions were brought out in Octavo. The demand for the work was also urgent on the continent, and a French translation was brought out in Paris under the title *Recherches Asiatiques*.

In 1819, it was proposed that the copyright should be sold to a London publisher and work brought out at shorter intervals than heretofore. In 1829, a resolution was adopted to
divide the researches into two parts, one to be devoted wholly to scientific papers and the other to literary contributions. This plan was carried out in volumes 17, 18, 19 and 20. As the two parts were intended to be bound together, no appreciable advantage was gained by it. On the contrary, the scientific parts did not sell so readily as the literary ones. In 1837, Mr. James Prinsep brought out a very carefully prepared analytical index of the first eighteen volumes of the researches. This was a valuable acquisition, as it made the rich treasures of the society's transactions readily accessible to students. However, it did not suffice to revive public interest in the valuable but tardily issued publication, and soon after the completion of the second part of the 20th volume of the Researches in 1839, the periodical finally came to an end.

The causes which led to the cessation of this publication were manifold. The first and foremost was tardy publication. During fifty-five years, the society published only twenty volumes. It means one volume in every two years and nine months on an average. This became a source of frequent complaint. Another frequent complaint was the form of Researches. A heavy quarto volume necessarily suggested elaborate and finished essays, and in the selection of papers for it, short notes, describing new discoveries or new ideas, however interesting, were frequently rejected. The frequency and regularity of another periodical, i.e., the Journal of Asiatic Society of Bengal (started in 1832) attracted the authors and they started sending their contributions to this periodical.
It was a monthly periodical devoted to daily events, military intelligence and government notifications. Besides, marriage notices, births and death notices were also included. From Vol. VI; 1800, only the name *The Calcutta Monthly Journal* was retained. From 1811, two volumes were published in a year. From April 1831, the name was changed to *The Calcutta Monthly register containing extracts of every material occurrence at the three presidencies. Shipping, military, intelligence, marriages, births and deaths and C & C.* From this number there is no indication of volume also. From January-April 1833 the name was again changed to *The Calcutta Monthly Journal; being register of occurrence throughout the British dominions in the East.* It was also issued under a new series. From 1837, Volume III, the name was again changed with the third series to *The Calcutta Monthly Journal and general register of occurrences throughout the British dominions in the East forming an epitome of the Indian press.* It ceased publication in 1841.
ASIATIC ANNUAL REGISTER OR A VIEW OF THE HISTORY OF HINDUSTAN AND OF THE POLITICS, COMMERCE AND LITERATURE OF ASIA

Pubs : Annual
Y : 1799
Fl : Calcutta
C/IRNC : C

It was a short-lived periodical. The matter in the miscellany was arranged under six distinct heads; a history of British India, a chronicle of public events in Asia at large, and particular details of all civil and military transactions in India; an account of characters both Asiatic and European, Narratives of voyages and travels; Miscellaneous essays on the arts, sciences and general literature; Asia and an account of all the best publications on Asiatic affairs. It ceased publication in 1811 after completing 12 volumes.

INDIAN MAGAZINE AND EUROPEAN MISCELLANY : A WORK CALCULATED TO DISSEMINATE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARTS, POLITICS, SCIENCES, POLITE LITERATURE, MANUFACTURES, NAVIGATION AND TRADE; MEN AND MANKIND; AND CONTAINING STRUCTURES ON THEIR EPITOME, THE STAGE

C/IRNC : C

It was a periodical with double name. In the first half the name was Indian Magazine whereas in the second half European Miscellany. Each half was paged separately. It had crude type of
illustrations in the beginning. It published articles on all subjects of practical utility relating to improvements in arts and sciences and in the condition of society. It ceased publication in 1808.

MONTHLY CIRCULAR LETTERS RELATIVE TO THE MISSION IN INDIA

P : Monthly  P : Dec. 1807  Pl : Serampore
Pub : Printed at the Mission Press
S. B. : Baptist Missionary Society
Ed :  Ed(L) :
PR :  PR(C) :
C/INC : INC

It was the first true periodical on religion. The mission to India commenced in 1793. For a number of years the mission was confined to one family. But, later on, a number of individuals voluntarily united, and a union of missions was formed, with a number of missionary sections associating with each other for the purpose of mental support and encouragement in the work of God. So due to greater need for communication, a monthly correspondence became necessary to answer all purposes of information and encouragement; and the result was the publication of monthly circular letters. They answered all the purposes of information and encouragement.
DIG-DURSHUN OR THE INDIAN YOUTH'S MAGAZINE

P : Monthly Y : April, 1818 PI : Calcutta
Pubs. :
S.B. : Serampore Baptist Mission
Ed. : J.C. Marshman Ed(L) :
PR :
C/INC : INC

It was a bilingual periodical published in English and Bengali. One page was devoted to English and another to Bengali. The Index was also given in English and Bengali. The Index was according to the serial number of the page. It was a purely educational periodical. It published popular articles on history, politics and science. Among topics discussed in the monthly were such as: discovery of America by Columbus; an account of Alexander the Great; arrival of the Portuguese in India; Rise of the Muslim power; division of the earth; the use of compass; the trees in India; the steam boat; the origin of printing; the natural history of the camel etc. The articles intended for young men and written in simple language were contributed largely for dissemination of useful knowledge and for stimulating the young minds.

THE FRIEND OF INDIA, CONTAINING INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE STATE OF RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN INDIA, WITH OCCASIONAL INTELLIGENCE FROM EUROPE AND AMERICA

P : Monthly Y : May, 1818 PI : Serampore
Pubs. : Printed at the Mission Press
S.B. :
Ed. : J.C. Marshman Ed(L) :
PR :
C/INC : INC

This periodical was started with the object of strengthening
the hands of those who were interested in the welfare of India, 
by bringing regularly before them everything calculated to furnish 
ground of encouragement. It was printed on English paper, in small 
Octavo size, and contained 24 to 32 pages. It dealt in details 
the articles which were immediately of a missionary nature. It 
published LIX numbers up to November 1819. With this the series 
closed, and in future it was issued in two series - the Monthly 
and the Quarterly. The Monthly series included shorter essays on 
various subjects, whereas the Quarterly series included the larger 
essay, connected with India and containing information literary, 
scientific, religious or statistic. In 1821, the Quarterly series 
of *Friend of India* was started in order to publish long articles. 
From 1835, a weekly series was also started. It was edited by 
J.C.Karshman, J. Mack and J. Leechman; and the price was Rs.2/- 
monthly. Its pages were occupied to a considerable extent with the 
original articles both on the temporal and spiritual interests of 
India, and the general topics of religion - with original reviews 
of works.

It was completely superseded in 1883 as a result of its 
sale in 1874 to a Calcutta organisation.

THE BRITISH INDIAN MILITARY REPOSITORY

P : Twice in a year   Y : Jan.1822   Pl:Calcutta 
Pubs. : Printed at the Church Mission Press

Ed. : Captain Samuel Parley   Ed(L) :
PR : PR(C) :
C/INC : INC

It was started with a view to encourage literary communica-
tions between the armies of the different Presidencies, to record
biographical notices of celebrated military characters, and the results of their experience.

THE AUXILIARY MISSIONARY HERALD

P : Monthly  Y : July 1822  Pl : Calcutta
Fubs. : Printed at the Baptist Mission Press
S.B. :
Ed. :
Ed(1) :
Pr. : Rs.3/- annual  Pr(C) :
C/Inc : C

This publication was principally intended for the promotion of a missionary spirit amongst the friends of a religion in different parts of the country. It contained short essays, and addresses on missionary subjects etc. It was printed on eight octavo pages. There was continuous numbering in all volumes. There were eighteen numbers in first volume. Volume II, starts from January 1824, No.XIX. From Volume VII, No. LXXIX, January 1829, the name changed to The Missionary Herald, relating to the proceedings of the Calcutta Baptist Missionary Society with brief notices of the operations of other benevolent associations. It was published by the Calcutta Baptist missionary Society. Regular. It ceased publication with the issue of May 1832, the reason for its cessation being the publication of a new religious periodical, namely, The Calcutta Christian Observer which contained a considerable missionary and other religious intelligence.
It was the first professional medical periodical published in India. It was the official organ of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, formed in 1823. The object of this publication was to give a concentric impulse to the detached members of the service, and afford them information, as well as a new excitement to emulative exertion. Contributions from all over India were published in it. The publication was considered as the most important work of the Society. It was issued annually in 1825, 1826 and 1827. Later on for the next eight years, it was issued every second year.

From 1837, the title was changed to Quarterly Journal of the Calcutta Medical and Physical Society. Six quarterly volumes were issued from 1837 to 1838. These were edited by H.B. Goodeve and W.B. O'Shaugnessy. The next volume was published in 1842 edited by Alan Webb. It ceased publication in 1845 with the publication of the 9th volume. There were about 500 pages in each volume and some coloured plates of rare diseases. It was a useful medium for the dissemination of information to medical men all over the country.
Its pages were devoted to moral, literary and religious topics. It was published in a very light face type, with three columns on a page. Continuous pagination in a volume and continuous numbering in all the volumes.

GLEANINGS IN SCIENCE

This was the first specialised periodical in general science started with the efforts of Captain J.D. Herbert who was the Deputy Surveyor General. His primary idea was to confine the periodical to extracts and abstracts from European scientific publications only, but original contributions poured in so rapidly that he had to give up extracts, and he started publishing original articles. This periodical was highly beneficial for the society. But Captain Herbert was appointed Astronomer to the King
of Oudh in 1830, and Mr. James Prinsep, who had been associated with him in the undertaking, instead of dropping the work, proposed to change its name and call it The Journal of the Asiatic Society. It published articles dealing with all aspects of science and the proceedings of various societies.

THE BENGAL HERALD OR WEEKLY MESSENGER

Pubs.:
Ed.:
FR:
C/INC:

Weekly
R. Montgomery Martin
Rs. 2/-
IHC

Y: May 1829
Ed(L):
FR(C):

11: Bengal

It was published in four languages viz. English, Bengali, Persian and Nagri. The editor of the Weekly was a surgeon who received from the government the necessary licence on 5th May, 1829. The publication was intended as a record of the passing events in India embracing the political, commercial and literary intelligence relative to the Eastern Hemisphere. A portion of its columns was devoted to information on the same subjects derived from the western world. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was also associated, as one of the proprietors, but only for a short time. Besides Ram Mohan Roy, the other proprietors of the paper were such distinguished men as Dwarkanath Tagore, Prasanne Kumar Tagore, Hilraten Halder of Chitpur and Raja Kissen Singh. It incorporated the Oriental Observer and the Calcutta Literary Gazette.
This religious periodical was started as a means to spread Christianity. It was published on the principles of evangelical religion. It appeared regularly up to 1839. From 1840 it was started in an entirely new type and under second series, with new volume numbering. The second series was issued with high aspirations as is clear from the prospectus, "Our great aim will be to advance the cause of Christian truth, purity, unity and enterprise; and our prayer is that we may be greatly instrumental in conforming the faith, enlivening the zeal, facilitating the labours and directing the efforts of the people of the Lord in this great country." The main topics, which were dealt with, were: Christian doctrines, Christian duties, Benevolent societies, Missionary and other philanthropic exertions, progress and promotion of education, Illustrations of the sacred scriptures, Translations of the Bible, bibliographic notices of eminent Christians connected with India, Bibliographical notices of remarkable native characters in ancient and modern times, Moral statistics of India, extracts from the Vedas,
Puranas and Shastra, Native proverbs, Removal of impediments to the conversion, Publications connected with India, Antiquities of India and Geography of India.

Each number contained 40 to 50 pages. From Jan 1850, the series was named as Third series; with volume one, number one. From Jan. 1860, the series was named as Fourth series; with volume one, number one. The issue of the work in the prevailing form was discontinued with Volume IV of the fourth series in 1863*, when it was incorporated with the Asiatic Weekly Review.

THE CALCUTTA CHRISTIAN OBSERVER

Pubs. : Printed at the Baptist Mission Press

Ed. : Christian ministers of various denominations

PR : Rs.10/- annual

It was the continuation of the Missionary Herald which ceased publication in May 1832. However, it was not altogether a resurrection of the Missionary Herald, as is clear from p.1 of the Calcutta Christian Observer, "The object chiefly aimed at in that (Missionary Herald)**, was the promoting of a

* S.C. Sesh in Calcutta Review, Jan.1910, p.84 says that it was started as a weekly and continued unto 1856.

** parenthesis mine.
missionary spirit amongst the friends of religion generally in different parts of the country. The object of the present publication is more immediately and intimately connected with the Baptist Missionary Society in England and its agents in India, while it is hoped that it will be found to contribute not less than its predecessor to the promotion of a missionary spirit among the other friends of religion in this country in whose hands it may come.¹ This was a periodical both literary and religious, particularly designed to aid the progress of education and Christianity in the East.

This periodical was run on the most Catholic principles. It consisted of three parts. In the first part there were essays on particular branches of theoretic and practical theology; on the principles of Biblical criticism and translation; and on the progress and future prospectus of missionary operations throughout the world. The second part was devoted chiefly to reviews and notices of works on religion and general literature. The third part was confined to the imparting of religious and missionary intelligence. It consisted of 40 octavo pages. In 1839 it completed 8 volumes. From Jan. 1840 it came out under a new series starting with Volume one. The new series was started because of the imperfect state of affairs of the former series. On its pages the volume numbers of the new series as well as of the old series are given. This periodical rendered good service to the cause of Christianity. It advocated high principles and

promoted interests common to all.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL

P : Monthly       Y : 1832       Pl : Calcutta
Pubs. : Baptist Mission Press
S.B. :
Ed. : James Prinsep     Ed(L) :
FR : Rs.3/- per quarter     FR(C) :
C/INC : C

It has already been pointed out that Captain J.D. Herbert, the then Deputy Surveyor General, had started a monthly publication under the title *Gleanings in Science* in 1828, and that when he was appointed Astronomer to the King of Oudh, in 1830, Mr. James Prinsep, who had been associated with him in the undertaking, instead of stopping the work, proposed to change its name and call it *The Journal of the Asiatic Society*. So, it started publication in 1832. However, its character was entirely changed. Instead of being a scientific periodical, it became mainly a literary periodical. Though it was started under the name of the Society, yet it was published solely at the cost and responsibility of the Secretary.

Although many scientific papers were published in it, its literary character was generally maintained. The scope and object of this publication embraced the literature, the manners, the geography, physical and mineral, the arts, the natural products of Asia, the phenomenon of its climate, and observations of the heavens. In the words of the illustrious founder of the Asiatic Society "the bounds of its investigation will be the geographical
limits of Asia; and within these limits its enquiries will be extended to whatever is performed by man or produced by nature."

It continued to be published like this until Volume 7, 1838. The numbers were continuous. Mr. Prinsep retired in 1838 and the work was taken up by Mr. Henry Torrens at his own risk. So, it was issued under the new series from January 1839, but with continuous numbering, starting from No.65. The new series was issued in two parts. There was no numbering of issues from Volume 15 (1846). The word new series was dropped from Volume 17, 1848. From Volume 20 the division of parts was dropped and the numbering begun again.

From 1867, it was split partially into proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (monthly) with journal numbering and volume continued. Price of the proceedings was Rs.2-4-0 yearly. From Volume 34 (1865) to Volume 74 (1905) it was published in two parts - Part I History etc., Part II Natural History etc. Volumes 62-73 had a third part also - Part III Anthropology.

From 1905 it started appearing as the Journal and Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal with New series, Vol.1; No.1; 1905. It was a monthly publication. From 1935 it continued as Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal; Third series Vol.1, 1935.

Part 1 Journal, Letters
Part II Journal, Science
Part III Year Book

His Majesty, the King Emperor, granted permission to the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1936 to use the title 'Royal' before its name.
Therefore, the Society was henceforth known as the 'Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal'. The journal and the year book were named as the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and Yearbook of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. To avoid bibliographical difficulties, the word "New Series" was also added. Upto 1947 it continued as such and completed thirteen volumes.

THE EAST INDIAN UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL AND MILITARY MAGAZINE

P : Monthly
Y : 1833
Il : Calcutta
Pubs. : Printed at the
Englishman Press

S.B. :
Ed. : J.R. Stocqueler, Esq.
Pr : 
Pr(C) :
C/IRC : C

It originated at the time when the army was in a high state of excitement. Lord William Bentick was continually issuing capricious orders and introducing mischievous innovations. So it was necessary to protest through a periodical. The army sought some modifications of the retirement regulations, and it was thought that this could be achieved only through representations addressed through a similar channel. This periodical was a firm and unceasing advocate of general and individual rights of army personnel and a careful register of their actions. Under this series only six numbers were published. From July 1834, a new series was started with number seven of old series. From October 1835 (No.33 of C.S. and No.22 of L.S.), the name of the
periodical was reduced to The East Indian United Service Journal. The periodical remained the medium of protest for four years and its pages teemed with animated discussions. Then the mischiefs of the Bentick are disappeared and retirement regulations were improved. So, the periodical ceased to occupy the position which it had acquired in more stormy days. Therefore, from 15th July, 1838 (on the completion of Volume XII, within 5 years), it became a quarterly. With the publication of the April issue (No. LXVIII) it ceased publication. The reason for cessation is clear from the following paragraph:

"It is quite plain, from the great rarity of contributions that the Indian Army needs no longer any other channel for its complaints – any other field for professional discussions ---- we beg most emphatically to ensure the Army that, should circumstances arise, to render a military periodical again necessary, we shall not lose a moment in reviving the journal."  

THE JOURNAL OF LITERATURE AND SCIENCE

P : Quarterly

Y : Oct. 1833

Pubs. : Printed at the Wepery Mission Press

S.B. : Madras Literary Society and Auxiliary of the Royal Asiatic Society

Ed. : J.C. Morris

Ed(L) :

FR :

FR(C) :

C/1&c : C

It was started with a view to provide a medium of expression to those who were interested in the cause of
literature and science. It was open to the communication of a less formal nature upon every subject tending to afford useful information in regard to India and its people.

From volume second, Jan. 1835, the name was changed to the Madras Journal of Literature and Science. It suspended publication on the completion of 17 volumes in Jan-June 1851, with 39 numbers. It served as a repertory for all matters of local interest, whether literary or scientific, connected with the history, Geography, Antiquities, Literature, Ethnology, Natural History and Meteorology of Southern India. It was again revived in October 1856 with number one issued under a new series and edited by the committee of the Madras Literary Society and Auxiliary Royal Asiatic Society. Volume numbering of the old series was also given.

In July 1864 it came with new numbering under the Third series. Part 2 of the third series came out in October 1866. Then there was a gap of twelve years, after which it was revived in 1878, under the editorship of Dr. Gustav Oppert. It became annual from this number. The periodical for the session 1888-89 was published in 1889. Then there was a gap till the publication of the periodical for the sessions 1889-94 in 1894. After this, the periodical ceased publication.
**THE MADRAS LITERARY GAZETTE OR JOURNAL OF BELLES, LETTERS, ARTS, SCIENCES**

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<th>P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
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Pubs.: Printed at the Madras Gazette Press

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<td>Rs. 4-8-0 per quarter</td>
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It was the continuation of a gazette started earlier but with a different body of a defunct literary effort.

It was a weekly gazette devoted to literature, arts and science.

**INDIA JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE**

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Pubs.: 

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Grant and J.T. Pearson</td>
<td>Frederick Corbyn</td>
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It was the first monthly medical periodical of India not sponsored by any society. The periodical was founded with the efforts of John Grant and J.T. Pearson, who were also its first editors. There were 32 to 40 pages in each issue. From 1836 the title of the periodical was changed to *India Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*. This change was made by Frederick Corbyn who took over as its editor. It was financially
a self-supporting periodical. However, it ceased publication in 1843. It may be due to the fact that by this time other medical periodicals had sprung up from Madras and Bombay, which led to its premature cessation.

**THE INDIA REVIEW AND JOURNAL OF FOREIGN SCIENCE AND ARTS**

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<td>Ed.</td>
<td>Frederick Corbyn</td>
<td>Ed(L)</td>
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It was started with the object of conveying the earliest intelligence of everything in Science and Art. It published reviews of works on Science embracing foreign developments in science and arts. All branches of Science viz., Geology, Botany, Zoology, Physics etc. were included. From May 1843, it was issued under a new series with new volume numbering. Old volume numbering was also retained. It ceased publication in 1847, after it had run into eight volumes.

**THE SOUTH INDIAN CHRISTIAN REPOSITORY**

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<th>F</th>
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* The back volumes of the periodical could not be traced inspite of the best efforts made by the investigator.
This quarterly publication was started mainly for the Christians. It contained discussions about Christianity.

**THE MADRAS QUARTERLY MEDICAL JOURNAL**

- **P**: Quarterly
- **Y**: Jan. 1839
- **Pl**: Madras

The Madras Quarterly Journal was started to bring before the profession authentic reports on the principal diseases to which Europeans were subjected in India and the investigation of the diseases prevailing amongst the native population. It was edited by Samuel Rogers, one of the original Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons. From Volume 3, 1841, Alexander Lorimer joined as additional editor. Altogether six volumes of the periodical were published from 1839 to 1844. It ceased publication in 1844, after the completion of six volumes.

**THE CALCUTTA MISSIONARY HERALD, RELATING TO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BAPTIST MISSION IN INDIA WITH OCCASIONAL NOTICES OF THE SOCIETY"S OPERATIONS IN OTHER PLACES AND ALSO THOSE OF OTHER KINDRED INSTITUTIONS**

- **P**: Monthly
- **Y**: Jan. 1840
- **Pl**: Calcutta

A periodical of nearly the same title as above commenced...
publication in July 1822, under the auspices of the Calcutta Auxiliary Baptist Missionary Society. It continued successfully until May 1832, but ceased publication. The objects of the present title *Calcutta Missionary Herald* etc., were intimately connected with the Baptist Missionary Society of England and its agents in India. One of the main objects of this publication was to strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of the brethren labouring at several stations occupied by the missions in India. This monthly was much applauded by persons interested in missionary efforts. It continued regularly up to Dec. 1846, Vol. 7, No. 12, when it ceased publication and merged with a new magazine, *The Oriental Baptist*.

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL OF NATURAL HISTORY

P : Quarterly Y : April 1840 Pl : Calcutta
Pubs. : W. Ridsdale Bishop's College Press
S.B. :
Ed. : McClelland Ed(L) :
PR : Rs. 16/- annual PR(C) :
C/INC : C

The periodical commenced publication with the object of making known the researches of naturalists in subjects connected with Indian interests. It was devoted exclusively to scientific objects, particularly to various branches of natural history. Besides, the topics of natural history, articles relating to Topography, Geography, Meteorology and Statistics also found place in this periodical. From Vol. II the name was changed to
Calcutta Journal of Natural History and Miscellany of the Arts and Sciences in India. Original Diagrams, even coloured, were given in the periodical. The periodical ceased publication with Vol. VIII, No. 30, July 1847.*

The Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Asiatic Society

F : Irregular

Y : July 1841

Ffl : Bombay

Pubs. : Printed at the Bombay Education Society's Press

S.D. :

Ed. : Secretary of the Society

Ed(L) : P.V. Kane & Others

Pr :

Pr(C) :

C/INC : C

At a general meeting of the Society held on the 10th of February 1841, it was unanimously decided that a quarterly periodical, on the pattern of those published under the auspices of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Madras branch of the Royal Asiatic Society be established. The result was the publication of the Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Asiatic Society. It published articles about Antiquities, Philology, Geography and History. Volume I ran from July 1841 to April 1844 and Volume II from July 1844 to July 1847**. From 1925 it was issued under a new series, with fresh volume numbering. From 1925 up to 1947 it completed 23 volumes of new series.

* This volume came out on 7th Feb. 1848.

** Upto 1924 it completed only 26 volumes.
It commenced its career as a monthly publication with no profit motive. The object was to lay before the governments, the wants and grievances of the community and pray for those advantages to which they may be deemed entitled. It was issued in English as well as Bengali, half of each page being devoted to English and half to Bengali without any line separating the two languages. From September 1842, No.7, it became a fortnightly with the same subscription. Volume II started from January 1, 1843 with No.1. From March 8, 1843, No.6, it became a weekly, because Mr. George Thompson, who was very keen for the success of the periodical gave financial support. No additional charge was levied on the subscribers. But the number of subscribers was not large. Within eight months of the issuance of the weekly, the proprietors sustained a loss of more than one thousand rupees. So, the proprietors decided to suspend this publication with the hope that, if the circumstances became favourable, it would be rejuvenated. But the records indicate that it was never revived. The last issue which came out was No.39, Nov.20, 1843.
The Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India was established in 1820 for the development of Agricultural and Horticultural resources of India, and encouragement, promotion, extension and improvement in all its various branches. The monthly periodical was started in 1842 to promote the aims of the Society. Its pages were devoted to Agro-horticultural subjects and abstracts on interesting gardening matters. Original papers read at the meetings of the Society were also published. From Volume 2, No.4, the name was changed to the *Journal of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India*. After completing 16 volumes in December 1866, a new series was started in January 1867 with fresh volume numbering. It was issued irregularly. From Volume 10, 1895, its name was again changed and it became the *Proceedings and Journal of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India*. 
This was a periodical started with a view to spread Christianity. The object in issuing this periodical was trust in simplicity and Godly sincerity, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill towards men. The desire was to promote edification of the Lord's beloved people, and extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom, by calling those who are yet ignorant of the indefinite glory of the Saviour's love, to a knowledge of His great salvation.

It was a bilingual periodical published in English and Bengali. Half of each page was devoted to English and the other half to Bengali. At the meeting of the Association of the Baptist Churches in Bengal convened in the beginning of 1842, it was thought that a magazine should be published in Bengali language. So the Evangelist was started as a medium of conveying important
information regarding the spread of the gospel and the state of Churches in India, and in other parts of the world. Its pages were also devoted to short essays on religious subjects. Each issue contained 16 pages (Seen only upto Vol.2, No.24, Dec.1844).

The Oriental Magazine consisting of original papers in prose and verse

P : Monthly Y : 1843 Pl : Calcutta
Pubs. : Sanders & Cones
Ed. : Ed(L) :
PR : PR(C) :
C/INC : INC

The Oriental Magazine was started to give prominence to everything that was connected with India. Its pages discussed resources of India, its civilisation and its customs, and explained its most common superstitions. It incorporated, in 1843, The Monthly Miscellany, because of the departure of the editor and proprietor of the Monthly Miscellany from the Presidency.

The year 1844 is considered a turning point in the history of the press in India. A group of five men was
responsible for the starting of the above periodical. Sir John Kaye was the leader in this enterprise, as also the first editor. John Kaye tells the story of the birth of the Review and of his own fears and hopes regarding it. "It had occurred to me, then residing in Calcutta, to establish a Review, similar in form and character to the Edinburgh, the Quarterly, and the Westminster Review, but devoted entirely to Indian subjects and questions. It was a bold and seemingly hopeless experiment, and I expected that it would last out a few numbers and then die, leaving me perhaps a poorer man than before. Its success astonished no one more than myself." The object of this work was simply to bring together useful information and propagate sound opinions relating to Indian affairs. The early issues were composed of four or five long review articles. They were unsigned, organised by subject, and devoted to books recently received from Calcutta. J.C. Marshman and Alexander Duff were frequent contributors. In the first two or three decades of its existence it enjoyed a greater measure of prosperity and influence. The comparative isolation of India at the time of the origin of the Review from the outside world, as well as the outstanding ability of its first editors and contributors gave it a unique position.

A new series was started in January 1913 with continuous volume numbering. The publisher was Calcutta General Publishing. The third series was started in October 1921 with Volume no.1. Henry Stephen was the Editor-in-Chief of the new series, and the annual subscription was Rs.7/- only. This periodical is still alive.
This was the periodical truly devoted to sports. It published articles on horse riding, life of a jockey and news about the races to come. It was purely devoted to horse races.

The main object of the periodical was the diffusion of pure religious and practical truth. Its columns were open for the discussion of all questions pertaining to civil and religious liberty. In general, its pages were devoted to topics likely to promote the general intelligence and spiritual prosperity. In 1849 there were 450 subscribers to this periodical. From January 1854, a quarterly part comprising three monthly numbers was also issued. It was done to meet the demand for this periodical in England. Under the new regulations of post office in those days, it was possible to forward a copy to England at a cost of 4 annas or 6 pence.
THE PICNIC MAGAZINE : A JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE,
CHESS AND THE DRAMA CONTAINING SELECTED REVIEWS :
COPIOUS NOTICES AND LISTS OF NEW BOOKS : BIOGRAPHY :
TALES : TRAVELS : SCIENTIFIC SELECTIONS AND NOTICES:
NATURAL HISTORY : ORIGINAL ARTICLES : POETRY : CHESS AND
MISCELLANEA - CAREFULLY COMPILED FROM ALL THE BRITISH
PERIODICALS LAST GENERALLY READ IN INDIA

P : Monthly  Y : March 1848  Il : Calcutta
Fubs. : W. Thacker and Co.
S.B. :
Ed. : Ed(I) :
FR : Re 1/- single  FR(C) :
copy
C/1nc : 1nc

It was a reviewing periodical; the field it covered is very clear from the lengthy title. It was started for Book Clubs to enable them to complete their stock of literary information. In the views of the projector of this magazine, "many periodicals were published in England, containing excellent reviews, tales and various other matter, which never met the eye of the public in India; and it was impossible for all the book clubs to subscribe to every one of those numerous monthly issues of the British press, that a magazine comprising picked and selected from all the periodicals will help to complete the stock of literary information of our book clubs." Number one of Volume one is based on fifteen different sources. One volume completed with No. 4; June 1848. Numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Volume 11 were issued in July, August, September and October 1848 respectively.
This periodical was projected by two gentlemen, who were joint editors during the first year of its issue. The aim of the periodical was to convey accurate and important information on the disciplines, the institutions, and the people of India and the East. It discussed in its pages philosophy, religion, missionaries etc. A 'correspondence column' was added from Volume 2. Two volumes in a year: Volume I from November to April and Volume II from May to December. It ceased publication with the completion of Volume II; Part II, in 1853. The reason for cessation was finance. The editor wrote, "the deficit of the first year was so large as to be one of the many causes which induced the original enterprisers to withdraw from their responsibility. Further, the highly educated class in India is not literary by profession. A really substantial periodical literature can hardly be sustained here with the unceasing regularity, which is not possible."
It was a short-lived medical periodical, not owned by any society. It was started by Edward Edlin. It ceased publication after completing one volume only. The volume that was published contained some excellent papers. Edlin was deputed to the Punjab War in early 1849. He made an appeal to the medical brethren to take up the publication of the periodical, but there was no response. Edlin died in 1850 and there was no further number of the periodical. The reason for the premature cessation of the periodical is recorded as:

"The uncertainty of the duration of the campaign in the Punjab and other circumstances induce the proprietor and editor very reluctantly to place the India Register of Medical Science in abeyance for one or two months, pending the enquiry, if any members of the profession will undertake for the profession that office of the chronicles for 1849, which it has been our pleasure to be able, however indifferently, to perform in 1848. The remotes of the Hooghly renders either literary responsibility, or literary proprietorship on the banks of the Hooghly, inadvisable!"
THE LITERARY CHRONICLE : A MONTHLY PUBLICATION

P : Monthly
Y : Sept. 1849
I : Calcutta
Pubs. : Printed at the Sumachar Chundra Press
S.B. :
Ed. :
PR : c annas per month
C/INC : IIC

Its pages were devoted to a variety of literary, scientific, and other interesting subjects of importance. Matters of local interest and grievances of the country were also discussed. The editor said in the first number, "... A catholicity of spirit will pervade throughout the discussion of all important questions, and nothing will divert us from the great end of advocating that which is right and necessary; and reprobating that which is wrong and censurable."

THE MONTHLY MISCELLANY OF WESTERN INDIA

P : Monthly
Y : April 1850
I : Bombay
Pubs. :
S.B. :
Ed. :
Ed(L) :
PR : Rs.12/- annual
PR(C) :
C/INC : IIC

This periodical was started by H.A. Cannon, with a view to answer the enquiry which occupies both the attention of divines and the talent of the press at home. In its pages it
discussed the topic worthy of the notice of the Christians.

**BOMBAY QUARTERLY MAGAZINE AND REVIEW**

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**Pubs.** Bombay Education Society's Press

**S.D.** Bombay Education Society

**Ed.**

**PR**

**C/1NC** 1NC

It published authoritative articles on Church and Church mission, Ecclesiastical record, ancient India, as well as notices, extracts, notices of books etc. It served local readers and provided a medium for primary research articles.

It ceased publication on the completion of three volumes, with number 12 in July 1853. No reason for its cessation is indicated, but a stanza is given:

"Happy infant early blest!
Rest in peaceful slumbers rest;
Early rescued from the cares,
Which increase with growing years".
ANALYSIS

The year 1788 can be called the "golden year" in the literary circles of India, because the first true periodical made its appearance in this country in that year. The period from 1788 to 1850 has been demarcated as the early days of the periodical, because periodicals were in the formative stage during this period. There was no specialization of the periodicals in the beginning. All the papers dealing with literature, arts and sciences were included in one periodical. This period saw the publication of the first bilingual periodical i.e. Dig-Durshun or The Indian Youth's magazine. Credit for being the first periodical in Bengali language also goes to it. Another significant event of this period was the publication of a very important periodical The Friend of India. The first medical periodical also made its debut during this period.

Most of the periodicals of this period were religious, started with the aim of spreading Christianity in India. The earlier periodicals were published mainly from the three Presidencies i.e. Bengal, Madras and Bombay; but most of them, and the earliest of them, were started in Bengal (in fact from Calcutta). The investigator came across about forty periodicals of this period, out of which thirty were published from Bengal, five from Madras, four from Bombay and one from Mirzapore. Out of thirty published from Bengal, twenty-one were Monthlies,
three Weeklies, two Quarterlies and four others. Out of Madras periodicals, three were Quarterlies, one Monthly and one Weekly. From Bombay, there were two Monthly, one Quarterly and one Irregular. The only publication from Mirzapore was a Monthly. Out of the total of forty periodicals, twenty-four were Monthly, six Quarterlies, four Weeklies, and six others, out of which two were irregular, two annual, one biannual, and one whose periodicity could not be ascertained.