

WELFARE WORKER

9-2-41

MENTION is made in a letter I have seen of an Indian contingent stationed in the South of England. It does not say where, or how many.

The point of the letter was an inquiry as to the possibility of getting Hindustani gramophone records which are apparently difficult to come by in England.

Mention is also made of the fact that the Welfare Officer in the area comes from Ceylon. The name is given as Dr. Chandra—something or other—of Trinity, Cambridge, so I imagine it is Dr. Chandra-sekera.

At any rate, he is said to be most patriotic and to have a "mentioned in despatches" on his ribbon, although he seems youngish. The Ceylon doctor said he wished he was a real combatant in this war, but he had broken his back while playing polo.



Mr. Chandra Gooneratne.

CEYLONESE RECIPIENT OF KAISER-I-HIND MEDAL

MR. Chandra (Charlie) Gooneratne, who (as The Tatler revealed yesterday) was the recipient of the Kaiser-i-Hind Silver Medal in the Indian birthday honours list, is a Sinhalese now with the Y.M.C.A. Indian contingent in Europe.

About 47 years of age, he is the son of Mr. J. W. Gooneratne, of Madampe, and of Mrs. Ellen Gooneratne, of Dematagoda. He has three sisters, Mrs. H. A. Goonetilleke, Mrs. W. A. Goonetilleke and Mrs. F. W. Gunasekera.

Mr. Gooneratne, who was educated at Wesley College, was Secretary of the Basra Y.M.C.A. during the last war. After the war he went to Edinburgh University and thence to the Chicago University, where he obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. In 1934 he won a scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge.

He went with the Y.M.C.A. to France during the present war and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He is now with the Y.M.C.A. in Scotland.