

Introducing Mehrunissa Iqbal Hussain

'I am happy to be serving the nation in my small way sharing my knowledge and learning doing what I can,' says Mehrunissa Iqbal, acting Principal, Khatoon-e-Pakistan Girls' School. To see the students and the institution making progress is joy incomparable.

On discussing education and the running of a school with her one immediately realises that it means everything to Mrs. Iqbal. Things like the selection of staff and planning extra curricular activities for the students come as easily to her as the new ways a mother thinks of to keep her little one happily occupied. She introduced the students savings scheme at her school over two years back. It is completely managed by the senior girls of the school.

Starting a dramatics society and introducing debates and encouraging the students to cultivate an interest in gardening, getting a school canteen started to provide the girls with snacks, then the students' participation in the Girl Guides Blue Birds, have all benefited from her initiative.

The success of these ventures she modestly says she owes to the co-operation from the parents and students and the able guidance of Mohtrama Fatima Jinnah who herself takes a keen interest in the school and helps to initiate many interesting activities.

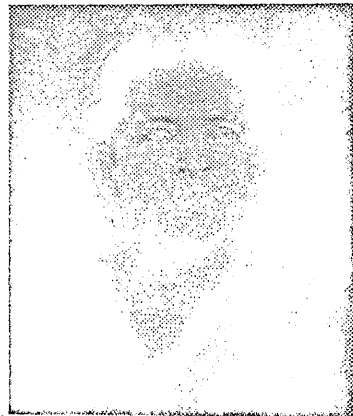
When Mrs. Iqbal became the acting Principal of the school in '59 there were eight classes. Every year she introduced one more class and now the school has 12 classes with spacious bright laboratories for the science section and large airy class rooms. Situated on a hillock, it has a beautiful panorama. A stately driveway leads to the main building, which is a palatial one, the students are not only proud of this but also of their school's traditional hundred per cent results in the Matric examinations.

The school is divided into Houses named Shaheen, Ghizal, Huma famous in the works of Iqbal and symbolic of newer heights and quickness.

Mrs. Iqbal mentioned the paintings exhibition in which the Khatoon-e-Pakistan girls school participated in connection with the Seerat-un-Nabi. She showed me a most interesting collection

of paintings depicting conditions in Arabia, with its ignorance, vice, and idolatory, at the time of our Prophet. The paintings brought out the changes wrought by him, his mottoes, practices and preachings.

Mehrunissa Iqbal has had a successful career as a headmistress, as early as '49 she took up the task of setting right the City Girls Secondary School. Her selfless devotion and sincerity to the cause of education brought the sorry institution up to the level of a modern school. When she left after ten years of service, the schools 65 students had grown to more than 800 students who had good results and enjoy-



ed extra curriculum activities such as Girl Guides.

Before the partition, Mehrunissa Iqbal was a Supt. of Education, Kurwai State in Central India, for two years where there was no girls education. During her tenure of office Mrs. Iqbal started six new schools for girls. A student of the Isobela Thoburn College in Lucknow, Mrs. Iqbal was married after her Inter degree. Busy with her home & children, she could have easily been tempted to forget her interest in a career. Instead, she appeared as a private candidate for her BA and then received her BT from Aligarh and so on to her Masters degree again as a private candidate. Her excellent results each time encouraged her on. Her four children, like her students, are doing justice to her competent upbringing.

MRS. HABEEB.

Introducing Nergis Mukadum

By Mrs. HABEEB

Nergis was a housewife with three daughters of fourteen, eleven and eight at school when she heard of the new venture of the Muslim Commercial Bank.

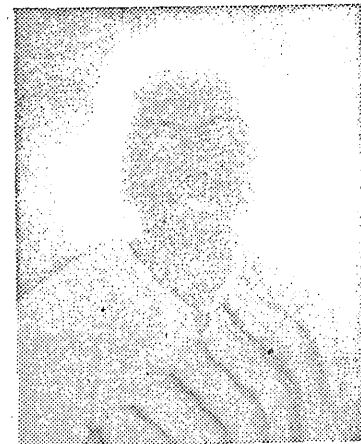
Now she is a cashier at the Ladies Branch of the Bank at Elphinstone Street. She said, that she had never thought of taking an office job but what attracted her to this job was knowing that the girls who applied and were accepted for the jobs would be given a six months training.

During the training period she was home at two in the afternoon, thus she gradually got used to being out of the house from nine to four thirty, and she says that thanks to her co-operative husband and her proud children she manages to work and come home to supervise the routine things like checking homework and other needs of the family successfully.

I asked her if counting so many digits and numbers didn't frighten her and she confidently replied that she was absolutely accurate at it and with practice quite quick too. Many women educated and uneducated, purdah and otherwise come strea-

ming in daily and she thinks the women enjoy the facility of taking their own time without rush.

Nergis also visits the girls schools for the school banking scheme. She says, that it is a



pleasure to see the anticipation in little children's faces on bank day and last Eid their purses were practically overflowing. She said that it was a good way to instill the habit of saving as opposed to throwing money around in children.

A warm and friendly person, Nergis is one of those who takes pains in dressing well and having her children well dressed too. She enjoys reading magazines and seeing movies, of course. Her favourite hobby knitting has had to take second place now. Formerly Nergis's friends just told her the size of the woolly garment they wanted and presto it was there. They could depend on her to give an attractive neatly knitted cardigan.

Her Job has given Nergis a confidence in her self and she enjoys the experience of serving and meeting a variety of people;