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Abstract: In the present paper endeavor has been made to prepare an Index *to The Modern Review*, a monthly review and miscellany edited by Ramananda Chatterjee, the world famous journalist. This monthly review was started to be published from January, 1907 and continued to be published till 1980s with some gaps. Eminent persons from different spheres of life contributed their articles to this prestigious magazine. The articles published in this Review from 1907 to 1908 have been indexed in this paper.

Key Word: Modern Review, Article Name, Authors, Volume number, Page number.

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I. Introduction:

The Indian Press played an important role in awakening of political consciousness in the second half of the nineteenth century, by the end of which there were more than five hundred newspapers and periodicals in this country. Some of the notable among these were *Sambad Prabhakar*, *Hindoo Patriot*, *Indian Mirror*, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *The Bengalee*, *Somprakash*, *Sulabh Samachar*, *Reis and Rayats* in Bengal, *Voice of India*, *Native Opinion*, *Bombay Samachar*, *Indu Prakash*, *Mahratta*, *Kesari* in Bombay, the *Hindu* and the *Swadeshmitram* in Madras and later the *Herald* in Bihar, the *Advocate* in Lucknow and *The Tribune* in Lahore. The Brahmo Samaj which played an important role in modernization of India was associated with this journalistic venture from the beginning. The *Tattvabodhini Patrika* by Devendranath Tagore, *Indian Mirror*, *Dharmatattva*, *Dharmasadhan*, *Sulabh Samachar*, *Balak Bandhu*, *Mod na Garal* by Keshab Chandra Sen were some notable magazines of the Brahmos. Ramananda Chatterjee was a worthy successor to this great tradition.He was associated with the publication of numerious magazines like *Pradip*, *Mukul*, *Dharmabandhu*, *Prabasi* and *The Modern Review*.

The Modern Review was one of the important English magazines in India during the first half of the twentieth century. It was first published in January,1901 by Ramananda Chatterjee who was a Brahmo by faith. He had a bright academic record and started his career as a teacher in English at the City College in Kolkata which was run by the Brahmos. His interest in journalism grew up when he was in the City College. In those days he started writing in magazines like Indian Messengers and the Tattwakoumadi and the Indian Mirrior. Later he became the editor of the Dasi, a mouthpiece of the Dasashram, a social-work organization in 1895-1896. He had a altruistic mentality which was reflected in his articles like Stri Jatie Duhkho Bimochon, Matribhab, Oslilota Nibaron etc. In 1895 Ramanandada joined Kayastha Pathshala in Allahabad as the Principal. In those days many Bengalis used to reside in that city. Among them Jnanendramohan Das, Guruprasanna Mukhapadhyay, Pundit Adityaram Bhattacharjya, Srishchandra Basu, Bamandas Basu, Nepal Chandra Roy, Mahendranath Wahdeder, Debendranath Wahdeder were notable among them. Ramananda soon came in contact with these people and engaged himself in social work as well as political activities. A Bengali journal named Pradip was published in 1897 from Kolkata and Ramanada edited the magazine from Allahabad for nearly two years and then decided to publish a new Bengali magazine on his own. This paved the way for publication of the Pravasi, the most prestigious Bengali magazine of the early twentieth century. The first issue of the Pravasi was published in 1901. in those days tt presented the best literary works in Bengali to its readers. Six years after he launched The Modern Review, a monthly magazine, in January, 1907 and continued to edit the same till his death in 1943. The Prabasi and The Modern Review flourished side by side and exercised considerable influence on modern Bengali culture. Suniti kumar Chatterjee considered the Pravasi and The Modern Review of thirty or forty years as historical resource for reconstruction of history of Bengal as well as India.¹

Ramananda was a true nationalist and the journals which he edited received a great deal of attention as vehicle of Indian thought and culture. Rabindranath Tagore held Ramananda in great esteem. Charles Freer Andrews who acted as a bridge between Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore wrote often for The *Modern Review*.

In his book entitled *Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas* published from New York in 1930 *The Modern Review* along with the Indian Review (Madras) *The Social Review* (Bombay) and the *Servant Of India* (Poona) 'among the most important journals which discuss the problems of India...'² *The Modern Review* played an important role in introducing Rabindranath Tagore to the non-Bengali readers both in India and abroad through English translation of his works. Being a very prestigious journal *The Modern Review* attracted the attention of the leading intellectuals of the time and represented the better qualities of the Indian life.

The content of the The Modern Review initially included articles, literature including story and Poems and Notes. But as time passed on, its contents included verities of section like Indian Periodicals, Foreign Periodicals, Book Riview, Indian Womanhood etc. At the end of the each issue there was a section entitled 'Notes' where important observations on the contemporary events were written by Ramananda Chatterjee himself and read with great care all over the world. They may be regarded as important commentary on their times. These Notes were the distinctive features of the Modern Review among all contemporary Indian monthlies of the time³ Ramananda was not a mere chronicler of events, uncritical in adulation. His opinion expressed in these notes helped in construction of national opinion and character. Eminent leaders of freedom movement as well as the British administrators were eager to notice the opinion of Ramananda in these notes. Amal Home (1893-1975), himself a distinguished journalist of the first half of the last century, recalls the importance that C.R,Das attached to the opinion of Ramananda on the course of the freedom movement. Observes Home, "More than once at the height of Non-Co-operation movement, Chittaranjan Das had asked me as to what Ramananda Babu thought of a particular move or utterance of his, knowing full well that he did not subscribe to the orthodox Non-co-operator's views and differed strongly from him on those questions."³Even Rabindranath Tagore, Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi were eager to know Ramananda's opinion on numerous issues. Will Durant of U.S.A. was also a keen and zealous reader of the editorial notes of the Modern Review. These notes illuminated contemporary political issues as well as cultural events and others. At times some notes were contributed by Sister Nivedita also. Those who helped Ramananda in publishing The Modern Review, Nivedita was one of them. She was the person who encouraged Ramananda to publish Indian paintings in the magazine. In each issue paintings were published with special care and thus The Modorn Review played an important role in popularizing Indian art and culture. Aurobindo Ghosh wrote in his Bande Mataram, 'It is no exaggeration to say that The Modern Review has introduced a new feature in our magazine literature. Its wealth of illustration is really wonderful and it spends it for the benefit of its readers with a lavish profusion which is really oriental....But its wealth of illustrations pales before its wealth of articles. And no wonder even European writers are coming forward to contribute to this magazine.'4

After considering two volumes of *The Modern Review*, the *Light*, a British magazine wrote, "We are certainly surprised to see them. We have nothing in England more important-looking, more enterprising and more serious." ⁵

The Modern Review was very rich for its articles contributed by eminent persons from all over the World. One would surprise to see the list of the contributors of the magazine. Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Jagadishchandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Roy, Jadunath Sarkar, Dinesh Chandra Sen, St. Nihal Singh, ister Nivedita, AnandaKumarswamy, Abanindranath Tagore, C.Y.Chintamani, Upendrakishore Roy, Akshay Kumay Maitreya, S.Parukutty, Srish Chandra Basu (alias Sk.Chilli), Bamandas Basu, Abanindranath Tagore, John Page Hopps, J.T.Sunderland, Lala Lajpat Roy, Narndranath Law, K.P.Jayswal, Sarojini Naidu, Charles Freer Andrews, Ordhendra Coomar Gangoly, William Rothenstein, Benoy kumar Sarkar, Wilfred Wellock and many other world famous persons used to contribute their articles and literary works to The Modern Review. The observation of Jadunath Sarkar, one of the greatest historian India has ever produced, is mentioned worthy here. He said: 'a list of the contributors of the Modern review from its foundation to 1943 will be an almost complete biographical dictionary of the leaders of the intelligentsia of India during 37 years with some notable European and American sympathizers added. Hence the influence of the Modrn Review in Vienna and New York was no less than Madras and Lahore.'6 The contributors of its first volume were W. Knox Jhonson, Hemchandra Maitra, Dinesh Chandra Sen, E.V.Havell, G. Subramania Iyer, V.B.Patavardhan, Balchandra Krishna, D.B.Parasnis, Jadunath Sarkar, K.R.Kirtikar, G.V.Joshi. In the present paper an Index to articles of The *Modern Review* for the year 1907-1908 is prepared as follows⁷:

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II. Conclusion:

It is noticed that verities of topic had been discussed in numerous articles published in the *Modern Review* in its first two years. Eminent persons of India as well as persons from abroad contributed their articles to this magazine. Some of the articles did not bear the name of its author and few of them written under the pen name. Srish Chandra Basu , who translated the Pnini's *Astadhyayi*, wrote about folk tales of Hindusthan under the pen name of Seikh Chilli. 'The Yellow God' was a story written by H.Rider Haggard and started to be published in *The Modern Review* from January, 1908 and continued to be published till April, 1909. Ramananda Chatterjee died in 1943. He continued to be its editor till his death. If all these articles are taken into consideration, new avenue for research work may be opened.

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- J.T. Sunderland, an American friend of India, regarded *The Modern Review*, 'a messenger from India to the outside World' and 'an absolutely invaluable asset to India.' In a letter to Ramananda he wrote, 'I speak with care when I say that we do not have in America, nor is there in England, any Review or magazine, that covers so wide a field , and that does it with such accuracy of scholarship and so interestingly.' Similar opinion was expressed by the Chairman of the Calcutta University Commission of 1917. Sir Michael Sadler regarded *The Modern Review* as 'one of the live periodicals of the World.'
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