HYDRAULIC MOTORS.

It is probably but little known, with you in Ceylon—writes a home correspondent—how very successful has been the result of the working of the Hydraulic Power Company in London. Although that Company has had to compete with many varied forms of power-producing, such as gas-engines, oil-engines, electric-motors, steam and several other readily applicable sources, yet hydraulic power is steadily gaining on all of these in the estimation of power users. We cannot state with precision how many miles of these singular-looking pipes, with their oddly-shaped junctions have already been added to the mysterious net-work of gas and water pipes, electric mains, sewers, and other concomitants of underground London. But many residents in London know the mileage to be large, and they daily witness its being extended throughout all quarters of the capital. It may be concluded, therefore, that this hydraulic (or probably more correctly hydrostatic) power is widely appreciated, and that in some departments it serves economic purposes that none of the other sources of power-transmission that have been above indicated so adequately fulfil. The question is whether it might not be found possible to provide a facility of a similar kind for power-users in Colombo at a cost with which it would be impossible for any other description of power supply to compete? Every child almost must know that the only thing required to obtain this power is either to draw the water from a higher level or to subject it to such weight pressure in accumulators as to obtain a pressure corresponding to that higher level. Power is, of course, necessary to obtain this pressure by the second method. In the case of Ceylon rivers, with their generally rapid water flow, it is pointed out to us that power should be ready to our hands. From the Kelani, it is supposed might be obtained the water required to transmit that power to all quarters of Colombo. This we take leave to doubt. It would seem on *prima facie* evidence that force so obtained and so transmitted must be, relatively, to any other form of supply, almost costless. We cannot estimate for ourselves what the demand might be for such an agent as we have described, but no doubt upcountry at least it would be considerable, and probably quite sufficient to make the investment of capital in the plant and distributing mains a paying one. Into this branch of the question, however, we do not feel ourselves competent to enter. We were very anxious, some years ago, to get pressure from the Labugama supply to drive a water-motor in our Printing Office, but were told, the pressure was insufficient. We very much doubt, therefore, if intending users of hydraulic motors in Colombo now could get an affirmative answer in reference to the pressure that might be obtained from Labugama proving sufficient to afford the power required. And yet we know there may be inventions of late years (as in the case of gas) to increase pressure for a special purpose. If then the question regarding Labugama pressure could be affirmatively answered, it might certainly be worth while to consider whether, in the necessary event of a second main being laid from that great reservoir to Colombo, this could be made of sufficient strength and capacity to form the medium of bringing to workshops so grand a source of power? Probably the extra cost of strengthening the second main to the required standard would not exceed that of the plant that would have to be erected for utilizing the flow of the Kelani river. It seems a pity that a method that has been well tested elsewhere, and that has been proved to meet with so much public appreciation, should not be made available for local wants, especially considering how favourably circumstanced some of our towns—Kandy, Gampola, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla—are for obtaining it. In London, every gallon of water used for this hydraulic supply has to be pumped by steam power. In many of our towns this costly operation would not be necessary. Neither should we have to pay, as the London Hydraulic Power Companies have to do for the water passed through our mains. The power so economically obtained could be utilized, not only for factory purposes, but for the production of electricity for lighting purposes and for charging the mains for electric traction on our tramways. Nor is it difficult to see that the same agency might be made to convey power from the waterfalls at our upcountry districts to estates or groups of estates, whether above or below the level of the prime source of that power.

EAST-HAPUTALE.

WEATHER—BREADFRUIT—FRUITS FROM UVA BY RAILWAY.

July 14.

Since I last wrote nearly a month ago, we have been favoured with only a couple of very moderate showers. The winds are variable, at times easterly and northerly, and from the South-West we do not expect now any regular rains, before say 10th or 12th September next, but hope to get thunder showers now and again. I cannot remember a July or August without showers of rain, though of course it becomes very sultry and hot before the periodical rains are experienced.

In reading over G. A. Nevill's Report (see page 99) I was struck with his valuable remarks regarding the breadfruit tree, and the fruit of it and can from my own knowledge, affirm that in some of the West India Isles the species of breadfruit tree that is cultivated, is greatly superior to any I have seen as yet in Ceylon; but the tree requires a rich loam to produce large nutritious and palatable fruit. I have heard the South Sea Islands are most famous for the best kinds of breadfruit. Any way if introduced they might supplement the ubiquitous jakfruit, and help the goyia in hard seasons, and in districts where there is not a heavy rainfall. Now that the railway will soon reach Bandarawela—in dells and valleys where the soil is fairly fertile, all about here, and on the high lands for miles and miles in Uva—it would pay well to cultivate oranges, peaches, and other suitable fruits. I have an orange tree here (4,500 ft. elevation) that bore I should say 150 oranges last season, and has now over 100 oranges on it as this year's yield, and this on *patana* land; but from time to time, this tree has been manured simply by throwing a few basketfuls of cattle pen manure round the tree, and now and again wood ashes have been thrown close to the trunk of the tree. I have also a couple of mango trees now bearing fruit, but the mango thrives best in low lying lands as also the plantain tree. I wonder the mulberry tree is not prized and cultivated, the juice of it is so rich, and would make a very acceptable "home made wine," and grows readily and without any trouble. The avoca-pear tree grows well on an adjacent estate, it might be profitably cultivated. The inside of the fruit eaten with pepper and salt in hot weather is to most palates very acceptable. I have seen two varieties of it and you may remember a fine tree that flourishes and yields famous crops at Peradeniya.