

APPENDIX I.

SANSKRIT PROSODY.

I.

Introductory.

A stanza (पद्य) is a group of four quarters or verses (पाद) governed either by the number of syllables (अक्षर) or by the number of syllabic instants (मात्रा).

A पद्य may either be a वृत्त or a जाति.

A वृत्त is a stanza whose metre is governed by the number and arrangement of syllables in each verse or quarter.

Vṛttas are divided into three classes, viz., सम, अर्धसम and विषम.

A समवृत्त is that in which the component verses are all similar.

An अर्धसमवृत्त is that in which alternate verses are alike.

A विषमवृत्त is that in which the component verses are all dissimilar.

In a regular Vṛtta the number of syllables varies from 1 to 26 in each verse.

A syllable is a vowel with or without one or more consonants.

अ, इ, उ, ऋ, ए, ओ are short vowels.

आ, ई, ऊ, ऋ, ए, ओ, औ are long vowels.

But the addition of an *anusvāra* or *visarga* makes a short vowel a long one ; and a naturally short vowel becomes long when it is followed by a conjunct consonant. (ऋ and ॠ, however, are said to be occasional exceptions. See K. S. vii. 11, Sis. x: 60; but in both cases there are *v. l.*). Moreover the last vowel of a verse or *pa'da* is either short or long according to the exigence of the metre, whatever may be its natural length.

A syllable is short if its vowel be short and long if its vowel be long.

In the following pages we shall use ∪ to denote a short syllable and — to denote a long one.

For the sake of convenience writers on prosody have devised eight syllabic feet, each consisting of three syllables. They are :—

म	—	—	—
य	∪	∪	—
र	∪	∪	—
स	∪	∪	—
त	∪	∪	—
ज	∪	∪	—
भ	∪	∪	—
न	∪	∪	—