

## SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

### ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA— 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

A scheme for the development of the Anthropological Survey of India was approved by the Standing Finance Committee which met in New Delhi recently under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member.

The five-year scheme for the organisation and development of the Anthropological Survey of India was prepared at the request of the Government of India by Dr. B. S. Guha, now Director of Anthropological Survey of India, and Col. R. B. Seymour Sewell, of Cambridge University, and lately Director of the Zoological Survey of India. It was accepted in principle by the Government of India last year.

The scheme includes the establishment of a Bureau of Anthropology. The greatest importance of the lines of work to be adopted by the Bureau lies in the effect that the study of Anthropology and the dissemination of a knowledge of the various races and tribes that form the population of India can have on the unifying and gradual welding of the variegated and diverse components into a unified whole. Such an effect, it is pointed out, has already been fully exemplified by the result achieved in the U.S.S.R., where a conglomeration of tribes and races of diverse languages, origin and customs has been welded together into a single unified nation.

The impending changes in the social and administrative services in India will, it is also considered, require expert guidance from a properly developed Anthropological Survey Department, if India is to assimilate about 25 million of the aboriginal and tribal people in a healthy manner into her general system.

The Government of India have already set up a nucleus of the Anthropological Survey of India and an expenditure of Rs. 1,37,730 was provided to meet expenditure during 1946-47. During 1947-48, the second year of the plan, expenditure is estimated to be Rs. 3,62,000. During the years 1948-49 to 1950-51, an expenditure of about Rs. 10 lakhs is estimated. It is proposed to shift the Anthropological Survey of India, which is now situated in Benares, to the Indian Museum at Calcutta where it has been possible to obtain some additional accommodation for it.

### URANIUM UNIT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

A plan with regard to the uranium and thorium deposits discovered in India will be worked out by the Atomic Research Committee and a Uranium Unit under the Geological Survey of India. The former organisation has already been formed under the chairmanship of Prof. H. J. Bhabha, while the latter is under contemplation and will be in charge of Dr. M. S. Krishnan, when formed.

So far as British India is concerned, the export of uranium, monazite and thorium is at present controlled under the Commerce Department's Export Control Notifications which will continue in force upto March 25, 1946. He indicated also that steps to prevent foreign exploitation of these deposits, including legislative measures if necessary, were under consideration.

There have been small occasional finds of specimens of uranium-bearing minerals from the Abraki Pahar Mica Mines and from Pichhli in the Gaya District, from Sungri in Singhbhum District, from the Sankara and Kodandarama Mica Mines, and from Tummalatalupur in the Nellore District, from near Vaiyampatti in the Trichinopoly District, from Yedur in Mysore, from Thadagay Hill in Travancore and from Bisundni in Ajmer-Merwara.

Monazite, one of the thorium-bearing minerals, occur in the Beach Sands in Travancore State and in the coastal areas of the Madras Presidency and Orissa.

### CORRESPONDENCE WITH GERMANY

Indian scientists will be gratified to learn that steps have been taken by the Government of India to permit resumption of commercial, financial and other correspondence with persons and firms in Germany subject to the condition that such correspondence is conducted through unregistered letters up to 1 oz. in weight and non-illustrated postcards. Unregistered packets containing newspapers, magazines and periodicals up to 1 lb. in weight may be sent to the British Zone and the British Sector of Berlin only.

### TWO UNITED NATIONS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

The Purdue University, Lafayette, U.S.A., has offered to Indian students two United Nations Scholarships each of the value of 130 dollars per term tenable at the University for study in Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Pharmacy and Education for the term beginning in September 1947.

The scholarships will be granted for one term in the first instance but can be extended a term at a time till the completion of the course provided the scholars make satisfactory progress. Candidates must be graduates of Indian Universities and should be able to supplement the scholarship from their own funds in order to meet the high cost of University education in the U.S.A. They should be prepared to spend about 2,500 dollars from their own pockets.

The Government of India have invited Universities and other Educational Institutions of similar rank to recommend names of suitable students. The final selection will be made by the authorities of the Purdue University.



## GOVERNING BODY FOR DELHI POLYTECHNIC

With a view to developing the Delhi Polytechnic into a first class Technological Institution, a Governing Body has been set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Lall, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour. Besides the local industrial and other interests, the Delhi University and the local centre of the Institution of Engineers (India) are also represented on this Body, which will perform both advisory and governing functions. An officer of the Education Department will act as Secretary to the Governing Body.

## THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

At the 9th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of India, held on 6th January 1947 at Delhi, Dr. K. B. Lal and Dr. K. D. Baweja were elected President and Secretary respectively.

## SIX NATIONAL LABORATORIES

An expenditure of nearly 90 lakhs of rupees for the erection and equipment of the six National Laboratories for Physical, Chemical, Metallurgical, Fuel, Glass and Road Research for the year 1947-48 was approved by the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India, on the 9th February 1947.

## GRANT FOR THE RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India, decided that subject to funds being obtained from the Central Government, a capital grant of Rs. 3 lakhs should be made to the Raman Research Institute of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

Prof. M. N. Saha has been elected a member of the Astronomical Society, America, and Sir S. S. Bhatnagar has been awarded the Sir C. R. Reddy National Prize in Chemistry.

## EXHIBITION OF INDIAN PATENTS

The Exhibition, which has been organised in memory of the late Jamshedjee Tata, is intended to stimulate Indian talent and enterprise to develop the resources of the country. It is proposed to have in the Museum a permanent section for Patents, which may ultimately develop into a Patent Museum.

In his inaugural address, Dewan Bahadur K. Rama Pai, Controller of Patents and Designs, stressed the usefulness of the Exhibition in providing an incentive to inventors and patentees for giving practical effect to many of their ideas. He regretted that Indian invent-

ors were not aware of the proper channel through which their inventions could be adopted for industrial purposes. It was a sad fact, he said, that while 90 per cent. of the applications for patents filed in India during 1946 came from aliens, only 10 per cent. were from Indians. It was, therefore, necessary, he maintained, that the Patent System should receive greater attention in all responsible quarters in the country.

Warning that industrialists should not be hasty when judging the value of the inventions exhibited, Mr. Pai narrated the episode of Alexander Graham Bell (with whose birthday the inauguration of the present Exhibition coincided) at the Philadelphia Exhibition where his invention of the telephone went very nearly unnoticed until the Emperor of Brazil recognized him and appreciated his 'talking box'. He also related Bell's adventures with Mark Twain who refused to invest a small amount in telephone stock and thus lost a fortune. Even the Patent Office, Mr. Pai continued, was sometimes not able to estimate the possibilities of new inventions. While the 1921 Annual Report of the Patent Office had only a sceptical reference to the invention of a pocket *charka*, he had seen in the present day very efficient *charkas* which could be clipped on to the vest pocket like a fountain pen.

Finally, he expressed the hope that the Exhibition would direct the attention of all concerned to the importance of utilizing the Indian Patent System, which has been in existence for more than 90 years, to the best advantage of this country.

## INDIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Mycologists and Plant Pathologists who met at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, at 5 p.m. on 28th February 1947, resolved to establish a Society to be known as the Indian Phytopathological Society, membership of which is open to all persons and concerns interested in the study of fungi, bacteria, viruses and their useful (*industrial fermentations, food yeast, penicillin*) and harmful (*plant and animal diseases*) aspects. The Constitution and By-laws that had been drawn up, were approved. Those interested can join as Patrons paying Rs. 1,000 (= \$350 or £ 75), or as Life Members paying Rs. 120 (= \$42 or £ 9), or as Ordinary Members paying Rs. 10 (= \$3.50 or 15 shillings) per annum. Both the Life Members and Ordinary Members are required to pay an admission fee of Rs. 10, Patrons and Foreign Members being exempt. A Committee consisting of Mr. J. F. Dastur, Chairman, Drs. B. N. Uppal, S. R. Bose, A. Sattar, with Dr. B. B. Mundkur as Convener to found a Journal, was formed and Dr. B. B. Mundkur was elected Secretary-Treasurer for the year 1947. It was also resolved to designate the members joining before January 10, 1948, as Charter Members. A cordial invitation is extended to all persons and concerns in India and abroad to join the Society and make it a success.