

a moment the cultural aspects of astronomical study. Can it be denied that astronomy is the noblest and the grandest of the sciences, that it takes us away, if only for a while, from the noise and the dust of terrestrial conflicts and leads us to a better comprehension of the universe we live in and its eternal verities?

Our politicians and philosophers are constantly reminding us of India's great spiritual heritage. Should they not raise their voice also to remind us of India's intellectual heritage as reflected in our age-old interest in astronomy, and help to build up a renewed and active interest in its study? C. V. RAMAN.

POST-WAR ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

A SYMPOSIUM on Post-War Organisation of Scientific Research in India was held under the auspices of the National Institute of Sciences of India on the 27th and 28th September 1943, in the hall of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta.

As a result of the discussion the following tentative proposals regarding the formation of a National Research Council were adopted. It was decided further that these proposals be circulated to the Government Scientific Departments, Universities, learned societies and unattached institutions for expression of their views, and discussed, with a view to their being given effect to, at another symposium meeting to be held at Delhi towards the end of the year at which representatives of the relevant organisations would be invited to be present.

I. The Council of the National Institute of Sciences of India be authorised to take necessary steps for the organisation of a National Research Council constituted under the statutory authority of the Government of India. The National Research Council shall be directly responsible to the Government and have the following functions:—

- (a) To plan the main lines of scientific work in accordance with national needs, to formulate schemes for the above purpose, to review and modify the same whenever necessary and to recommend ways and means for implementing the results of accomplished researches.
- (b) To ensure balanced development of all branches of science, and minimise overlapping.
- (c) To advise and help relevant authorities regarding the training and supply of scientific personnel for pure and applied research.

CONSTITUTION

National Research Council.—The National Research Council shall consist of scientific and technical experts not exceeding sixty in number, the majority of whom shall be elected by non-official scientific organisations, including Universities and institutions of University rank, the remaining number being nominated by the Government of India from among the scientific and technical experts. The President of the National Research Council shall be nominated by the Government of India from among the members. A Vice-President shall be elected by the National Research Council from among its members. A whole-time salaried Secretary shall be appointed by the National Research Council for carrying on its work, who will not be a member of the Council.

Governing Body of the National Research Council.—There shall be a Governing Body of the National Research Council which shall consist of the following: The President and Vice-President of the National Research Council, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each of the Boards.

Boards of Research.—For the performance of its functions the National Research Council shall constitute the following Boards of Research from among its own members, each of which will be responsible, within its own particular sphere, for giving effect to the policy of the National Research Council:—

- (1) Board of Scientific Research,
- (2) Board of Agricultural Research (Soils, Crops and Animal Husbandry),
- (3) Board of Medical and Public Health Research,
- (4) Board of Engineering Research, and such other Boards as may be considered to be necessary.

The maximum number of members of each of the Boards of Research shall be fifty. The National Research Council shall appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each Board and shall co-opt eminent scientific workers in different branches in consultation with non-official scientific organisations, Universities and institutions of University rank, scientific departments of the Government, and Federations of Chambers of Commerce.

Research Committees.—For the performance of its work, each Board will be authorised to constitute Research Committees for all important subjects, to settle the objectives of research, indicate the individuals or organisations which could undertake the several component parts of the enquiry, receive, and co-ordinate the resulting information, make it available to those who will turn it to advantage and to form a national plan into which all who are in a position to contribute information can fit the particular lines of research. Governing Bodies of National Research laboratories, when established, shall be constituted in consultation with the relevant Research Committees.

II. The Government of India be requested to form development corporations for the performance of functions analogous to those performed by the Research Enterprises Ltd., in Canada. The National Research Council shall be represented on the Governing Bodies of the development corporations.

III. To enable effect being given to the policy of scientific development determined by the National Research Council, the Government of India should make grant of five crores of rupees per annum.