

Mysore. The author, who is one of our leading authorities on the subject of Indian agriculture, invites attention to the urgent need of an application of the nitrogenous and phosphatic manures to the impoverished soils with a view to increase the acreage yield. The author has shown that there is little need for bringing new land under cultivation. "Even the agency set up by the Government of India for the

'Grow More Food' campaign came to the conclusion that there was a better chance of achieving their object by concentrating their attention on producing more per acre from lands under cultivation than by extending the area."

We commend this article to the earnest attention of all those interested in securing greater returns from our impoverished soils.

SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

The Indian Drugs Research Association, Poona, inaugurated early last year, has just issued a short report of its activities for 1944. The study of indigenous drugs offers to the scientific investigator a rich and promising field, and is of vital economic importance to an impoverished country like ours. The system of Indian medicine has already given to the world, a substantial number of potent drugs which are now being extensively employed in the remission of some of the refracting diseases. It has several more treasures, if only our scientists and the Government would organise an intensive study of the time-honoured drugs of lasting repute. The Indian Drugs Research Association represents a praiseworthy organisation intended to advance this object.

Workers experienced in this field have felt that the methods which are now adopted for elucidating problems connected with the study of indigenous drugs have to be replaced by a system of analysis and investigation which is more fruitful and rapid, while the adoption of the present methods may lead to unexpected results of far-reaching value, the immediate objective is often bypassed. A new and fresh approach to the problem is essential; at the moment the orthodox course of investigation is painfully cumbersome, pitifully slow and frightfully extravagant.

One is tempted to speculate upon the methods of investigation which were adopted by the founders of the ancient systems of medicine. If a revival of these methods—now extinct—could be secured through the co-operation of the progressive and enlightened leaders of Hindu and Unani systems of medicine, and a new system of investigation evolved by modifying the methods in the light of modern technique, the Indian Drugs Research Association would have contributed substantially to the study of Indian drugs.

University of Madras: The Ramanujan Memorial Prize, 1945.—"The Ramanujan Memorial Prize" of the value of Rs. 500 will be awarded for the best essay or thesis written on any branch of Mathematics embodying the result of the personal investigations of the author and containing clear evidence of independent and original research. The prize is open to all persons born or domiciled in India. Intending competitors should forward their essays or theses so as to reach the Registrar not later than the 1st December 1945.

Endowment Lectures, 1945-46.—The Syndicate will proceed shortly to select persons to deliver lectures under the following endowments for the year 1945-46. Applications for

lectureships will be received by the undersigned not later than the 1st March 1945. Applicants are requested to give full particulars regarding their qualifications and the subject selected by them for the lectures. The lectures are to be delivered before January 1946. Separate applications should be submitted for each lectureship.

The principal terms and conditions of award are given below:—

(1) *The Maharaja of Travancore Curzon Lectureships.*—Three lectureships of the value of Rs. 250 each relating to Medicine (Clinical), Engineering, and Agriculture. Applicants should be graduates of the University.

(2) *The Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 250. The lectures should be on a subject connected with Ancient Indian History and Archaeology. Applicants should be graduates of the University.

(3) *The Sankara Parvathi Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 250. The lectures should be on a subject connected with Ancient South Indian History. Applicants should be graduates of the University.

(4) *The Sir William Meyer Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 1,500. A course of not less than six lectures should be delivered on a subject in Economics. Half of the remuneration will be paid after the delivery of the lectures and the other half after the publication of the lectures.

(5) *The Principal Miller Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 350. A course of not less than two lectures should be delivered on a subject dealing with the exposition of the Inner Meaning of Human History as disclosing the one increasing purpose that runs through the ages.

(6) *The Dr. Elizabeth Matthai Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 300. A course of not less than three lectures should be delivered on a subject embodying the results of original investigation in some branch of Medicine and Surgery. Preference will be given to a subject having special reference to the requirements of women and children.

(7) *The Sundaram Ayyar-Krishnaswami Ayyar Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 200. The lectures should be on a subject relating to (a) Public International Law, or (b) Inter-State Relations of Indian States and British Indian Provinces, or (c) Comparative Legislation.

(8) *The Diwan Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Rao Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 200. The lectures should be on a subject relating to some aspect of Ancient Indian Cultures studied from original sources.

(9) *The Father P. Carty Lectureship.*—Value Rs. 200. A course of not less than two lectures should be delivered on a subject in

Economics with particular reference to Indian conditions.

Further particulars from: The Registrar, University Buildings, Chempauk, Madras.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal held on 5th February 1945, Dr. P. C. Bagchi, M.A., Dr. es. Lettres (Paris), of the Calcutta University, was elected an Ordinary Fellow of the Society.

Joy Gobind Law Memorial Medal has been awarded to Rai Bahadur Dr. S. L. Hora, D.Sc., F.N.I., Director of Fisheries, Bengal, in recognition of his conspicuously important contributions to our knowledge of Ichthyology of Asia.

Paul Johannes Bruhl Memorial Medal was awarded to Dr. N. L. Bor, D.Sc., F.N.I., formerly Forest Botanist, Imperial Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for his important piece of Original Research in the Graminae and the Econogy of Indian Plants.

Dr. Bimala Churn Law Gold Medal has been awarded to Dr. D. R. Bhandarkar, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.A.S.B., formerly Carmichael Professor of Ancient Indian History and Culture, Calcutta University, for his conspicuously important contributions to Ancient Indian History and Archaeology.

Sarat Chandra Roy Memorial Medal was awarded to Dr. Verrier Elwin, D.Sc., F.N.I., of the Bhumijan Seva Mandel, Patangarh, C.P., for his meritorious and many-sided contributions to the study of Cultural Anthropology of India.

The Elliott Prize for Scientific Research for 1944 has been awarded to Dr. S. K. Chakrabarty, D.Sc., of the University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta, and the subject of the Prize for 1944 was for Mathematics.

Dr. Meghnad Saha, D.Sc., F.N.I., F.R.S., F.R.A.S.B., has been elected President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal for the year 1945.

SEISMOLOGICAL NOTES

Among the earthquake shocks recorded by the seismographs in the Colaba Observatory during the month of January 1945, there were five of slight and one of moderate intensities. The details for those shocks are given in the following table:—

Date	Intensity of shock	Time of origin I.S.T.	Epicentral distance from Bombay	Co-ordinates of the epicentre	Depth of focus	Remarks
		H. M.	(Miles)		(Miles)	
4	Slight	11 51	1030	Epc: Near Honshu, Japan		Reported felt in Honshu.
11	Slight	08 33	1495			
13	Moderate	01 08	4110			
13	Slight	18 27	3690			
16	Slight	20 07	4045			
17	Slight	21 32	3705			

MAGNETIC NOTES

Magnetic conditions during January 1945 were slightly less disturbed than in the previous month. There were 20 quiet days, 9 days of slight disturbance and 2 days of moderate disturbance, as against 14 quiet days and 17 days of the slight disturbance during the same month last year.

The quietest day during the month was the 25th and the day of the largest disturbance the 29th.

The individual days during the month were classified as shown below:—

Quiet days	Disturbed days	
	Slight	Moderate
2, 5, 7, 8, 11-14, 16, 18-25, 27, 30, 31	1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 17, 26, 28	15, 29

No magnetic storms occurred during the months of January in the years 1944 and 1945.

The mean character figure for the month of January 1945 was 0.42 as against 0.55 for January of last year.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following journals:—

"Chemical Products and Chemical News," Vol. 7, Nos. 11-12.

"Indian Farming," Vol. 5, No. 6.

"Transactions of the Faraday Society," Vol. 40, Pt. 11.

"Indian Forester," Vol. 70, No. 12; Vol. 71, No. 1.

"Bulletin of the Indian Central Jute Committee," Vol. 7, No. 9.

"Indian Medical Gazette," Vol. 79, No. 11.

"The Review of Applied Mycology," Vol. 23, Pt. 10.

"Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society," Vol. 25, Nos. 7-8.

"Journal of Nutrition," Vol. 28, Nos. 4-5.

"Nature," Vol. 154, 3914-17.

CORRECTION

Vol. 14, No. 1 (January 1945)

Article on "A Chlorosis of Paddy (*Oryza sativa* L.) due to Sulphate Deficiency", p. 10, column 2, line 15 from bottom: for "ammonium sulphate" read "Ammonium Phosphate".