

## SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

### SCIENTIFIC MAN-POWER COMMITTEE

To ensure the proper development and utilisation of India's scientific man-power and resources the Government of India have set up a Scientific Man-Power Committee with the following terms of reference:—

(1) To assess the requirements for different grades of scientific and technical man-power, taking a comprehensive view over a period of the next ten years, of the needs of Government (civil and defence), of teaching and research, and of industry, agriculture, transport, medicine and other fields dependent on the use of scientific and technical man-power.

(2) To make recommendations regarding action to be taken during the next five years to meet these requirements, in particular with reference to:

(a) the immediate improvement and expansion of facilities for scientific and technical training in Indian universities and special institutions;

(b) training overseas in scientific and technical subjects;

(c) the promotion and development of scientific and technical research;

(d) the utilisation of scientific and technical man-power; and

(e) the maintenance of a register of scientific and technical personnel to facilitate their utilisation to the best advantage.

The future of industry and defence as well as the large number of development plans and projects which have been prepared or are under preparation depend upon the proper and most effective organisation and utilisation of the scientific man-power and resources available in India. The Scientific Man-Power Committee will survey the problem in all its aspects and recommend policies which should govern the use and development of the country's scientific man-power and resources during the next ten years.

### DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD'S APPEAL TO SCIENTISTS

The need on the part of scientists to apply themselves first to matters relating the welfare of the common man was stressed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member, Government of India, when he addressed the members of the Indian Institute of Science, on the 9th May.

The primary need of the common man as also of everybody was food, and as such, research institutes such as the Indian Institute of Science should first concern themselves with research in food production. It was no good for research workers concentrating themselves in any work if it meant ignoring the needs of their villagers. Their work should have a bearing on the needs of the villagers and they should evolve formulæ by which more and better food would be grown.

### INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The following students of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, have

been awarded the Diploma of the Institute (Assoc.I.A.R.I.) after completion in September 1946 of two-year P.G. Course:—

#### Agricultural Botany and Plant Breeding

(1) Narendralal Dhawan: "Interspecific hybridization in *Sesamum* L." (2) S. Basharat Ali Shah: "Colchicine-induced polyploidy in different varieties of chillies (*Capsicum annum*)". (3) V. Ramamurthy: "Pt. I.—Studies in the seed-coat anatomy of *Brassica* species." "Pt. II.—Studies on colchicine-induced polyploidy in some Imperial Pusa types of *Sesamum orientale* L." (4) Choudhry Mohd. Sharif Sardar Khan: "Influence of late sowings of wheat on yield and variation in plant characters". (5) Yogendra Mohan Upadhyaya: "Variability and the role of natural selection in wheat varietal mixtures and hybrid generations". (6) Shyam Narain Sharma: "Effect of temperature on the development of wheat grain".

#### Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science

(7) Khubo Gianchand Tejwani: "Effect of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers on soil fertility and crop composition when legumes or either included in or excluded from the rotation (a Lysimeter study)".

#### Entomology

(8) Parkash Lall Renghen: "Pt. I.—On the morphology of immature stages of fruit-fly *Dacus cucurbitæ* Coq. with short notes on its biology." "Pt. II.—Our present knowledge of the insect pests in India of the important edible fruits of the family Rosaceæ". (9) Abdul Maman: "Pt. I.—The Survey of insect pests of dried fruits." "Pt. II.—Biology of the saw-toothed nuts beetle *Oryzæphilus mercator* Fauvel, with description and bionomics of one new species of the genus *Statimopoda*". "Pt. III.—Thorough review on the work done on most important pests of dried fruits, with a separate chapter on control measures". (10) Mohammed Mohsin: "Pt. I.—Studies on the role of nutrition in the longevity and fecundity of *Microbracon gelectise* Astom., a larval parasite of potato tuber moth." "Pt. II.—A review of the work done in the control of the sugarcane moth borer, *Diatraea saccharalis* Fab. by its egg parasite, *Trichogramma minutum* Riley."

#### Mycology and Plant Pathology

(11) Hari Krishna Saksena: "Studies in the physiology of *Ustilago tritici* (Pers.) Rostrup. causing loose smut of wheat".

#### Sugarcane Breeding

(12) Obaidullah Jan: "Pt. I.—Sugarcane breeding with special reference to the work done in Coimbatore". "Pt. II.—Some studies on the influence of the size of the sugarcane setts, location of nodes and the depth of planting on the germination, tillering and final stand of the crop". (13) Om Prakash Agarwal: "Pt. I.—The activities relating to the production of Co. canes with special references to the breeding work at Coimbatore". "Pt. II.—Studies on the effect of period factor on growth of sugarcane".



### FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT, PATNA UNIVERSITY

The First Anniversary of the Geology Department, Patna University was celebrated on the 25th April 1947 in the University premises.

In the premises of the University Library, a geological exhibition was held illustrating the Mineral Industry of the Province. It contained most of the industrial minerals and products of Bihar, e.g., iron, coal, copper, aluminium, ceramics, cement, glass, etc.

The function in the evening was presided over by the Hon'ble Acharya Bhadrinath Varma, Minister for Education for Bihar. A popular lecture illustrated with maps and lantern slides was delivered by W. D. West, Director, Geology Survey of India, on Bihar's Mineral Wealth and Industries.

### JOINT EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC

Leading British Scientists have accepted the general plan for the joint Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition to the Antarctic.

Mr. L. P. Kirwan, Director of the Royal Geographical Society in London, said that though the bulk of the work is going to be done by Norwegians because the expedition was being conducted under the Norwegian Flag, it had been agreed that a Briton would be Deputy Leader to Major-General Hjalmer Larsen, the Norwegian explorer, who has been the main figure in arranging this joint Antarctic trip.

"We have decided to give financial help to this joint expedition and we expect financial help from the British Government", Mr. Kirwan said. "This will match the help from the Norwegian and Swedish Governments, for the expedition is to cost £100,000."

Mr. Kirwan added that one of the two Catalina flying boats which will be used by General Larsen will be manned completely by British personnel.

### GOVERNMENT OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

One hundred and thirty-six candidates have been selected for the Central Government's Overseas Scholarships this year. These include 86 Hindus, 34 Muslims, 2 Scheduled Castes, 6 Christians, 1 Parsi and 7 Sikhs.

The total number of applications received was 2,497 and 293 were interviewed. Most of the successful candidates will go to U.S.A. or the U.K., though a few will go to the Continent and China as well as the British Dominions. The total of subjects for which candidates have been selected is 83.

### COCONUT RESEARCH SCHEME, CEYLON

Dr. T. S. Raghavan, formerly Professor of Botany, Annamalai University, has been appointed Botanist to the Coconut Research Scheme, Ceylon, in place of Dr. W. V. D. Pieris. He has published much work in cytology and cytogenetics. Recently he synthesised a new species of *Sesamum* by hybridisation between *Sesamum orientale* and *S. prostratum*, the sterile hybrid having been artificially rendered fertile through the induction of amphidiploidy. In the hybrid has been incorporated the perennial habit of the prostratum parent.

### INDIAN SCIENTISTS TO VISIT BRITAIN

SIR SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR will leave for the United Kingdom in the first week of July to attend the Centenary celebrations of the Chemical Society, London, and the International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry, London, to be held in July. Three other Indian scientists—SIR J. C. GHOSH, SIR C. V. RAMAN and SIR K. S. KRISHNAN—are also expected to attend the Centenary celebrations.

Sir Shanti Swarup intends to visit Germany and Switzerland also.

### PLAN TO CONSERVE COAL RESOURCES

With a view to drawing up a ten-year programme for conservation of coal resources through scientific process of coal stowing, the Government of India in the Works, Mines and Power Department, have decided to appoint a Committee of Experts, consisting of Mr. J. R. Harris, Coal Commissioner, Mr. Nausher Ali, Chairman, Coal Mines Stowing Board, one nominee of the Railway Board having experience in railway transport problems, and the Chief Inspector of Mines.

### SOLAR ECLIPSE

On 20th May 1947 scientists studied the total eclipse of the sun at Bocaiuva in Brazil. Many other points on the sun's path, close to this village, were chosen by various expeditions from all over the world.

Various projects had been planned for this eclipse including the testing of new, high-powered photographic instruments as well as scientific confirmation of existing theories of light, magnetism, colour and space. Einstein's relativity theory was studied by several Geophysicists. Brazil's National Observatory which had also organised an expedition in the field and another in the observatory hundreds of miles away from Rio de Janeiro, compared observations from the sun's path and from a varying angle.

Interesting results are expected from these investigations.

### WORLD STATISTICAL CONFERENCE

The United States have invited 62 Governments to send delegates to the International Statistical Institute, and the 21 American Republics to send delegates to the first session of the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

These organisations will meet in September. The World Statistical Congress, which is being convened by the U.N. Economic and Social Council, will also meet in Washington at the same time.

The International Statistical Institute has held biennial sessions for more than 60 years at the invitation of various Governments. President Truman, as chief executive of the host nation, has accepted the Honorary Chairmanship of this session.

### COONOR PASTEUR INSTITUTE

Dr. N. Viceraghavan has been appointed to officiate as Director of the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, in place of Lt.-Col. Ahuja who is transferred to Kasauli as Director of the Central Research Institute.



### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Mr. M. S. Thacker of Calcutta has been appointed the Head of the Power Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Science.

### UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

The Registrar invites applications for the post of a Lecturer in Leather Technology on Rs. 210-15-300 plus D.A.; and a Lecturer in Textiles on Rs. 210-15-300 plus D.A., before the 25th of June 1947. Further particulars can be had from the Registrar.

### AQUARIUM FOR BOMBAY

Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, laid the Foundation Stone of the "Taraporevala Aquarium" in Bombay on the 9th May. Mr. D. B. Vieaji Taraporevala, after whom the Aquarium is named, donated a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 while the Government of Bombay has contributed Rs. 5,00,000 to meet the cost for the construction.

### PHARMACEUTICAL COLLEGE FOR BOMBAY

A sum of three lakhs and one thousand rupees has been donated to the Ahmedabad Education Society for starting a Pharmaceutical College in memory of the late SETH LALLUBHAI MOTILAL.

The Governing Body of the Society has decided to name the College which will be the first of its kind in Bombay Province after SETH LALLUBHAI MOTILAL.

### RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIA

Mr. Asim Kumar Datta of Bengal and Mr. Lovraj Kumar of the United Provinces were elected by the Rhodes Trustees to the two Rhodes Scholarships that were allotted to India for the first time last year. Two more of these scholarships have now been advertised in the Press by the Selection Committee for India, presided over by Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi. The scholarships tenable at the University of Oxford, for two, or in certain circumstances three, years are of the annual value of £400 with, subject to certain conditions, a supplementary allowance of £100 per annum.

### DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member, Interim Government, laid the Foundation Stone this morning (13th May 1947) of the Hydro-Biological Laboratories at "Fish-lands", Chetput, Madras.

A "Mermaid Fair" had been organised to demonstrate the importance of fish as food and the various experiments that were being carried on by the Fisheries Department. Several stalls had been put up. Fish of various kinds found in the Province, and charts showing their food-value were also exhibited.

### THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The International Union of Biological Sciences (sec M. J. Sirks, University of Groningen)

will hold its 9th Assembly in Copenhagen, on July 28, 1947. The meeting will be chiefly concerned with establishing a programme of work for the Union and its Sections for the period 1947-50. The Union will be in a position to arrange, in the near future, for special conferences (limited to ten invited scientists) on timely subjects and Dr. Sirks will welcome suggestions from delegates and other colleagues for such conferences.

### THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS

(Secretary, C. K. Van Daalen, Bilthoven, Neth.)

The Fifth International Grassland Congress which will be held in the Netherlands, June-July 1949, will be concerned chiefly with grassland problems of regions with a temperate climate. Excursions will be made through the various pasture types represented in the Netherlands. There will be five sections: (1) Soils, Manuring; (2) Genetics, Breeding, Seed prod.; (3) Grassland sociology and ecology, Botanical analyses of grassland; (4) Making, management and utilisation of grassland, Farm organisation questions; (5) Fodder values of pastures, Fodder conservation.

### DEVELOPMENT OF MINERALS

An administrative organisation to standardise conditions of mineral development in India and also to exercise Central control over the exploitation of the country's mineral assets will soon be set up by the Government of India.

This organisation, to be known as the Bureau of Mines, will function under the ægis of the Member for Works, Mines and Power of the Government of India.

The scope of this central organisation will include powers to frame rules regarding the terms and conditions of leases, the application of improved mining methods to ensure conservation of mineral assets, control over exports, collection and compilation of statistical returns, encouragement of the domestic utilisation of ores and minerals, and the prosecution of research on mining and fuel.

The Central Government, it is gathered, have decided to form this organisation with a view to formulating a policy of co-ordinated development, conservation and consolidation of India's mineral wealth as well as to provide an effective check to unrestricted exploitation. This Bureau will not only further mineral development within the sphere allotted, but will also assist Provincial and State Governments in such schemes as they might sponsor for the development of their mineral resources.

A well-organised laboratory with the latest and most up-to-date equipment will be attached to this Bureau for fundamental and applied research in mineral development, etc., and other necessary purposes. A department of Public Relations will form part of this organisation, to acquaint the general public with the details of mineral research undertaken by the Bureau.