

foundations are needed for their installation. The series capacitors thus provide a broad field of service in power systems and may well be given thought to in the proposed network of transmission and distribution lines in India.

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PROFESSION OF CHEMISTRY IN INDIA*

PROF. FINDLAY said that he had been sent by the Royal Institute of Chemistry to convey their greetings to their members in the Indian Dominion and to consult the Indian colleagues as to the best way in which the Fellows of the Royal Institute of Chemistry here in India could build up a strong professional body like that of the parent body in Great Britain.

The Royal Institute of Chemistry, he continued, came into being 71 years ago as a result of the pressing demands of an Act in Great Britain called "The Food and Drugs Adulteration Act". At that time there was no standard of chemical competence in Great Britain which could fulfil the aims and objects of the "Food and Drugs Adulteration Act". When such was the state of affairs the Royal Institute of Chemistry was brought into being in order to (1) prescribe a standard of scientific competence for the profession of chemists; (2) see that the standard is maintained; (3) arrange for courses to produce chemists of the proper standard; (4) hold examinations in order to decide the eligibility for membership; and (5) safeguard the interests of chemists and chemical engineers in fixing their salaries in Government Departments, Factories and other concerns.

Professor Findlay then referred to the education of young men and women in Britain who were unable to attend the university for their education. He narrated the practice followed in Great Britain in this respect. Examinations were held and National Certificates were issued to the pupils. The examination papers would be approved by a competent body appointed jointly by the Education Ministry and the Royal Institute of Chemistry. According to them the Senior National Certificate is equivalent to a B.Sc. degree. Those candidates who attained necessary efficiency, after about two years of approved work would be eligible for admission to the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

* Summary Report of an Address delivered by Prof. Alexander Findlay, D.Sc., F.R.S., on 17th March 1948, at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

"At the present it is your intention," Professor Findlay said, "to build up new industries and to develop your old ones. Those of you who are qualified for the profession should organise a strong professional body and build up in India such a high standard for the membership that you could speak with authority as to what must be done in the best interests of the country. It will be found advisable to form local centres of your professional bodies where you could come together from time to time and discuss problems of paramount importance to the country and for safeguarding the interests of the profession of chemistry. The body should not work for the benefit of its members only. It should always bear in mind the public interest. When I landed in Bombay I suggested to my colleagues there to form the local centre and to make use of the machinery available in Great Britain. Since you have been conferring D.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in almost all the universities, there will be no difficulty for you to fix up the standard for this Certificate. There are about 100 members of the Institute of Chemistry in India; and I have been sent here to offer to you on behalf of the Royal Institute, any assistance that you might need. Any suggestion which you have to make regarding simplification or alteration of the rules in order to meet the needs of this country will be welcomed. It has been agreed, for the present, to set up four branches of the Institute in India—at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and one in S. India. When these local centres have been established, I hope they will realise the importance of their duties in India and undertake to enrol for their professional body all the chemists qualified to become members. You can also maintain a register of qualified chemists.

"The whole plan should be in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in India. But for the full support and co-operation of this Ministry in Great Britain we would not have been able to build up the Institution to the status it now enjoys."