

### THIRTY-TWO YEARS AGO

**W**E reproduce on this page a picture taken at the banquet given in Leningrad on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences celebrated in September 1925. Three delegates from India attended the celebrations. Professor C. V. Raman represented Science. The two others were orientalists, viz., Messrs. H. Mody and Braganza Kun. The picture shows the first-named in the foreground facing the camera. Seated near him on the opposite side of the table and at the extreme right of the picture appears Professor Joffe, the well-known Soviet physicist, an article by whom was published in the June issue of *Current Science*.

of public attention. Their portraits appeared in the Moscow and Leningrad newspapers and numerous interviews with them were published.

Looking back over the years, no one can fail to be impressed by the amazing development of science and technology in the Soviet Union. The principal factor has been, of course, the very great attention paid to scientific and technological education, research and development by the U.S.S.R. Government. Many of these activities are carried on by and through the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences which is a large and powerful organisation.

The same issue of *Soviet Land* contains an interesting account of the procedure adopted in



A recent article in the magazine *Soviet Land* from which the picture has been reproduced recalls that this was the first visit of Indian scholars to the Soviet Union and that it made a special contribution to the development of Indo-Soviet cultural co-operation. During their sojourn the Indian delegates were the centre

the Soviet Union for the conferment of scientific degrees. This is calculated, on the one hand, to encourage originality and, on the other, to prevent access to science of persons who have no talent or ability to do creative scientific work.