

The Exhibitions arranged by the various Departments of the Institute proved to be of great interest and educative value and daily attracted large crowds of visitors. Originally scheduled to close on the 8th February, they had to be extended for three more days to meet the public demand.

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations have left a deep impression on all those who attended them

and Dr. S. Bhagavantam, Director of the Institute, his staff and students deserve the warmest congratulations for the unqualified success of the celebrations. We have no doubt that with such happy auguries ushering in the new era of the second fifty years, we can confidently look forward to a period of rapid development in the activities of the Institute.

THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

THE 46th Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress was held in Delhi from 21st to 28th January 1959 under the auspices of the University of Delhi. The Session was inaugurated by Prime Minister Nehru and was presided over by Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University. About 3,000 delegates from all over the country and 85 from abroad attended the Session.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh who led the British team of delegates to the Congress conveyed greetings and good wishes from the Queen and from the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

In his Inaugural Address the Prime Minister said that "broadly speaking science had driven out many of the Gods before whom people bowed and itself assumed a Godlike pose..... Like two-headed Janus it shows the face of the Creator and the face of the Destroyer". He further remarked that "Science has to look at the heart and mind of man and integrate this knowledge with the other advances it is making".

Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar in his Presidential Address spoke on the beneficial role

played by modern science in promoting human welfare and, what is more, in preventing human ills, and dwelt in detail about the progress of medicine within the last fifty years and how medical science has been influenced and guided by the great discoveries in physical, biological and technological sciences.

About 1,500 papers contributed to the Session were taken up for presentation in the thirteen sectional meetings each presided over by the Sectional President.

Besides reading of papers there were symposia and public lectures. There were two Exhibitions: The Scientific and Technical Instruments Exhibition and the Exhibition of Scientific Literature in the fourteen Indian Languages. The latter was opened by Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, Chairman of the University Grants Commission. The bulk of the literature represented popular science, school-books and children's literature.

The 47th Session of the Congress will be held in Bombay in January 1960. Prof. P. Parija, Vice-Chancellor of the Utkal University, has taken over as General President for 1959-60.

IRELAND'S TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON, THE DISCOVERER OF QUATERNIONS

A PLAQUE commemorating the discovery of Quaternions by Sir William Rowan Hamilton, the great Irish mathematician, was unveiled at Rowan Hamilton Bridge, formerly Broome Bridge, Cabra, on the 13th November 1958 by the Taoiseach, Mr. de Valera. The story goes that on the 16th October 1843, when Hamilton was walking along the tow path of the Broome Bridge, there suddenly occurred to him the solution of a problem which had been occupying his mind for a considerable time. With a pen-knife he worked out the solution on one of the stones of the bridge. That marked the birth of the quaternions. Paying a tribute to the memory of a great scientist and a great Irishman, Mr. de Valera said, "On many occasions, since I first heard this story well over 50 years ago, I came to this bridge as to a holy place. I have searched stone after stone in the hope

of finding some trace of that famous inscription. Time had done its work but they were gathered there now to see that that inscription would be perpetuated and that those who passed there would remember that they were passing by a spot that was famous in the history of science".

There could be no question of the profound importance of what Hamilton had discovered on that day in October 1843. It was nothing less than a new era of mathematical thought, without which the theoretical development of modern physics would have been well-nigh impossible. As Schrödinger had said "Hardly a day passes, hardly an hour passes, that somebody somewhere on this globe does not pronounce the name of Hamilton, or reads it or writes it or prints it".