

many reasons why it would have been good if Littlewood had been around longer, but he was called for war work shortly after Ramanujan arrived. These reasons include the mathematics he would have discussed with Ramanujan, and his sociability. He was a different person from Hardy, an excellent dancer, and, later in life, a mountain climber. I could see him taking long walks with Ramanujan, while it is unlikely Hardy would have done so.

Finally, in 1917, the tragedy of Ramanujan's health, probably caused to a large extent by poor eating, finally caught up with him. The last two years in England were primarily spent in various sanatoria, and the last year in India was spent doing what was probably his greatest work as he was dying. All of this, and later developments like the influence of Ramanujan's work on two high-school students, Atle Selberg and Freeman Dyson, and the discovery of the sheets that contain the last great work of Ramanujan, first by J. M.

Whittaker at Watson's home and then by George Andrews at Trinity College, are, covered by Kanigel. This is a marvellous story, and, as has been said before, no one would believe it if it had not happened. We will never have the definitive biography of Ramanujan, for there are too many open questions, too much we do not know and shall never know, but this is a book that can be read with pleasure by anyone who cares about what human beings can do.

Ramanujan grew up in a society that did not understand what he wanted to do, or what he had done, but one that nourished intellectual activity in at least some children. While his college did not bend its rules to allow Ramanujan to keep his scholarship despite failing some courses, it had a good library that helped to deepen Ramanujan's insights, and eventually led to some marvellous mathematics. We must see that such opportunities continue to be available for the children of our time. That is how we can best pay homage to Ramanujan,

recalling that he intended to use a substantial fraction of his fellowship from Trinity to provide scholarships for poor students.

1. Hardy, G. H., *Ramanujan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1940.
2. Andrews, G. E. et al., *Ramanujan Revisited*, Academic Press, San Diego, 1988.
3. Ranganathan, S. R., *Ramanujan, the Man and the Mathematician*, Asia Publishing House, Bombay, 1967.
4. Srinivasan, P. K., Ramanujan Memorial Number, vol. 1, Letters and Reminiscences, Mathialpet High School, Madras, 1968.
5. Selberg, A., 'Reflections around the Ramanujan centenary', in *Collected Papers*, Springer, Berlin, 1989, vol. 1, pp. 695-706.

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Errata

Optical and infrared excess in radiation from Be stars

K. M. V. Apparao

(*Curr. Sci.*, 1991, 61, 756)

A key word in the article was mistakenly altered in the editorial office. The first word in the abstract as well as the first word in the text should be 'Be' instead of 'beryllium'. The meaning of the name 'Be' for these stars was explained in the first paragraph. The name 'Be stars' refers to B-emission stars, and not the element beryllium.

The phrase 'beryllium stars' in the last line of page 705 should also read 'Be Stars'.

The present scope of the field of terrestrial cosmogenic nuclides

D. Lal

(*Curr. Sci.*, 1991, 61, 744)

Owing to a production error, Figures 1 and 2 on page 749 were interchanged. The lower figure on the page (appearing above the caption for Figure 2) is Figure 1.

Emanation of radon from rock minerals

Rama

(*Curr. Sci.*, 1991, 61, 751)

The author states that since the work described in the article was done with a colleague, the word 'I' in the abstract should read 'we'.