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### Sir Richard Gregory, Bart, F.R.S.

When it was decided in 1932 to produce for India a general scientific journal which would command the interest and support of the leading men of science of the country, it was natural that the originators of the project should turn to editors of journals of similar character outside India for advice and help. As a result, Sir Richard Gregory, of *Nature*, Dr Arnold Berliner of *Die Naturwissenschaften*, and Dr J. McKeen Cattell of *Science*, agreed to become corresponding editors of *Current Science*. The interest that Sir Richard Gregory then showed in the new Indian journal has continued in the years that have followed; and his retirement at the end of last year from the editorship of *Nature* is an appropriate occasion on which to review his services to science, in India and elsewhere. As his successors on *Nature*, we welcome the invitation of the editor of *Current Science* to attempt such a survey.

To a large extent, the story of Sir Richard Gregory's work for science is

bound up with the history of *Nature* during the past forty-five years. He joined the journal in 1893 as sub-editor to Sir Norman Lockyer; but before that he had been a contributor of occasional notes, while he was working at the Royal College of Science as a research assistant to Sir Norman Lockyer. In those early days, as he himself has said, his interests were divided roughly in the ratio of three parts astronomy and one part general science. He was associated at the Royal College of Science with men like T. H. Holland, better known as Sir Thomas Holland, formerly Director of the Geological Survey of India and at present Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, and H. G. Wells, whose reputation as a writer of scientific romances—many of which have proved almost prophetic—and of sociological works, is world-wide. . . .

Sir Richard joined *Nature* at a time when a new era was opening up in science. Lord Rayleigh had recently completed his work on the density of nitrogen, and in association with Sir William Ramsay, traced the discrepancies he observed to the presence in the atmosphere of a hitherto unknown gas, argon. This discovery led to the examination of other sources of nitrogen, with the result that Sir William Ramsay, by means of the spectroscope, found in the mineral clèveite a gas which proved to be identical with an element discovered by Sir Norman Lockyer in the sun twenty-six years earlier and named by him "helium". In 1896, came the discovery of X-rays,

by Röntgen, radium was discovered by Pierre and Mme. Curie in 1898, and shortly afterwards the work of Sir J. J. Thomson on the cathode rays, which showed that they consisted of a stream of swiftly moving units of negative charge which were christened "electrons". . . .

Scientific workers in India owe a particular debt of gratitude to Sir Richard Gregory. Their work has always been given careful, if critical, consideration, as indexes of *Nature* will quickly show. In this connection it is worth while recalling that the effect now known by Sir C. V. Raman's name was first announced to the scientific world in a communication from him and Prof. K. S. Krishnan which appeared in the columns of *Nature* in 1928, while the original researches of Prof. M. N. Saha and the Allahabad school have also received due notice. For many years, too, the late Sir J. C. Bose used the columns of *Nature* in bringing his many investigations, first in electro-physics and later in plant physiology, to the notice of his scientific colleagues. Support has also been given to such projects as broadcasting in India and to proposals which led to the inauguration of the National Institute of Sciences, while the activities of the Indian Science Congress Association have been followed sympathetically. Sir Richard's personal interest in Indian affairs was much enhanced by his brief but intensive tour of the country in 1933. The knowledge that he thus obtained at first hand of Indian conditions has made a deep and lasting impression on him. . . .

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## MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

### The First Asian Meeting on Bioinorganic Chemistry School and Symposium

Date: 7–10 March 2003  
Place: Okazaki, Japan

The above meeting is being organized by Professor Teizo Kitagawa at the Institute for Molecular Sciences, Okazaki. Young scientists working as research scholars or those with Ph D working in the area of Bioinorganic Chemistry are welcome to attend this school-cum-symposium provided they will be able to raise enough resources towards their airfare to Japan and back. For more information see the website: <http://bioinorg.chem.nagoya-u.ac.jp/ASBIC/>

or  
Contact: Teizo Kitagawa (asibc@ims.ac.jp)  
P. T. Manoharan (ptm@rsic.iitm.ernet.in)

### A contact course on Shear Zones – Mapping and Analysis

Date: 20–29 December 2002  
Place: Sambalpur

The course will include lectures, laboratory work and field study. It is open to research students, teachers and professional geologists below 40 years. There is no course fee and TA/DA will be paid according to the university norms.

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