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### Co-operation in scientific research

It seems to us that a federation of research centres under the moral countenance of the Indian Science Congress, directed on the principle of effective and cheerful co-operation, will produce results in the future in an increased measure and quite as brilliant as those that already stand to the credit of most Indian universities. The main idea is that a professor working on a problem should have the means of assuring himself that it is not also simultaneously engaging the attention of another professor in some other Indian university and that the schools of research into which the universities have already become differentiated should be more widely and practically recognized. Moreover, every research worker should have the

fullest possibility of receiving information and assistance whenever he requires them. Under existing conditions, in which investigation is conducted in almost water-tight compartments, progress must necessarily be slow though a few have succeeded in accomplishing international distinction. But this is not enough to build up an Indian scientific reputation and tradition quite as honourable and enduring as those of any of the European countries. The intent of co-operative research must be to mobilize the intellectual resources of the country for the achievement of common ends. Apart from the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Bombay Natural History Society, there are no institutes of science and learned societies such as occur in European countries, on an all-India basis and there are no all-India scientific journals for the publication of original papers in different branches of science. The existence of such national institutions is calculated to provide additional stimulus to greater endeavour than now and the possibilities of founding them would be a fit subject of examination by the Indian Science Congress.

The ideal of co-operative research is selflessness and self-sacrifice, without limiting opportunities of adding to one's individual reputation. If we assume that

the tradition of a country is the history of its achievements made possible by common endeavour, then we are still a long way from establishing one for India. Suppose that it becomes feasible to establish a federation of research centres in India, the scientists concurring in a coordinate effort to lay the foundation of a new tradition, the furtherance of this object can only be secured by the institution of more than one all-India scientific journal for recording the total output of work produced in different branches of science within her boundaries and by preservation of them in her archives. The question of international publicity and priority of announcement of discoveries, so essential for Indian science, need not necessarily present insuperable difficulties. The former is secured by the determination on the part of all the scientists working in the country to publish all their best results in India and the latter is most effectively secured through the facilities already available for them through *Current Science*. We have not the slightest hesitation in thinking that the greatest ideal of all the leading men of science in India is not so much to achieve personal triumphs as to dedicate their services for common interests, ideals and traditions.