

in thinking and feeling and working for the public. Of the personal side of his life and experience, of his trials and struggles and disappointments with men, we get no revelation. He is a generous friend and a delightful host. A convinced supporter of clubs and corporations as nurseries of personal friendships and social felicities and disseminators of new enlightenment and new social and economic programmes, he yet has the art of keeping his soul untouched, "like a star", and "dwelling apart".

Alert in body as in mind, charming in manner, with a lively sparkle in the eyes and a friendly smile always playing round the lips, keenly interested in the affairs of the world, with faith still undiminished in the value of human striving, quick in understanding and stimulating in talk, this veteran patriot embodies in himself the generous dreams and manful aspirations of modern India. Flawless in dress, punctual

in keeping engagements, a stickler for method and system in all things, uncompromising in matters of principle, but scrupulously particular not to say or do a thing likely to harm a reputation or wound a susceptibility, he is the very soul of honour and gentlemanliness. It is impossible for any one who has spent a few minutes with him not to come away infected by his enthusiasm for what he considers to be the three basic needs of India—Education, Science and Industry. He who preaches such a gospel and promotes it in all ways open to him is surely entitled to the gratitude of the scientist; and we sincerely tender our cordial and respectful felicitations to Sir M. Visvesvaraya and wish him many many years of strength and happiness for the continued service of science, and through it, of India and humanity.

(Contributed)

## PALÆOBOTANY IN INDIA

WE have recently received a copy of the Second Annual Report for the year 1940 on the progress of palæobotanical research in India published in Lucknow under the editorship of Prof. Birbal Sahni, and a perusal of its contents reveals the increasingly large volume of work being done in different parts of India in the field of palæobotany. As one would expect, most of this work is carried out in Lucknow, where an enthusiastic band of workers under the inspiring leadership of Prof. Sahni have been making most valuable contributions to our knowledge of Indian fossil floras. Of these special mention may be made of the paper by Mrs. Jacob (formerly Miss C. Virkki) on the "Spores from the Lower Gondwanas of India and Australia" which is a comprehensive work throwing light not only on the climatic relations of the early Glossopteris flora, but also on the possible use of these spores in Gondwana strati-

graphy. Among the other subjects investigated in Lucknow may be noted (i) the Triassic flora from the Salt Range, and the Jurassic plants from Afghan-Turkistan by Mr. R. V. Sitholey, (ii) the Rajamaharaj flora by Dr. K. Jacob and Dr. A. R. Rao, (iii) the flora of the Deccan inter-trappean series in the Nagpur-Chhindwara area by Professor Sahni and Dr. H. S. Rao, and (iv) the fossil plants from the upper Karewas (Pleistocene) of Kashmir, by Mr. G. S. Puri.

The study of fossil algae from the Cretaceous and Eocene rocks of India is being pursued in Bangalore where Messrs. S. R. Narayana Rao and K. Sripada Rao have been making important contributions to our knowledge of the algal flora in these beds from Rajahmundry, N.-W. Frontier Province, Sind and Surat.

Annual reports of the kind now under review are sure to be of great value in directing and stimulating further research.