

A BRIEF SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CARRIED OUT IN INDIA*

IN response to a circular issued by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, accounts of technical investigations completed and pursued in the various laboratories in the country were received. Based on this information, the Board has compiled a useful and revealing summary of the present position with regard to industrial research.

The survey has confirmed "the view generally held that really very little new has been accomplished by teaching institutions in the way of practical applications of science". Barring a few, the universities have not concentrated on the practical applications of science to industry and in spite of the brave efforts, some of the universities have put up to make science a living reality, the finances and the preoccupation of the teachers and the researchers in matters academic, have prevented them from contributing their best to the field of industry.

During the last twelve months, however, the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, under the inspiring and energetic

leadership of Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, has sought to encourage industrial research in the universities by providing the necessary funds and personnel.

The survey has brought into prominent relief another fact which deserves careful scrutiny. In the matter of selecting problems for industrial research, no plan appears to have determined the choice. This has resulted in an unnecessary duplication of effort. Now that a central Board of Scientific and Industrial Research has been constituted, it should be possible to reorganise and promote industrial research in the country with a view to avoid any duplication of work. The Board will no doubt soon take up this task of reorganisation not only to prevent wasteful duplication but also to secure allocation and distribution of work with a view to obtain results in the shortest possible period. The availability of competent personnel and material facilities and the proximity of a related industry should constitute the principal factors in determining the most suitable centre for promoting a particular piece of research.

It would be advisable to issue periodical (half yearly) reports of the progress of these researches.

* With grateful acknowledgments to the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.

SIR P. C. RAY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

AN appeal for funds to commemorate the 80th Birthday of Sir P. C. Ray has been issued under the signature of 72 prominent Indians and Europeans all over India. The appeal states, "On the occasion of the completion of the 80th year of Sir Prafulla Chandra Ray (August 7, 1941), it has been proposed by his friends, admirers and ex-pupils to raise a fund with which his name will be associated. The income of the fund will be devoted to the furtherance of scientific and industrial research in India, a cause which Sir P. C. Ray has advocated all his life". Considering the position which Sir P. C. Ray occupies in the scientific life of India, we have no doubt that the response for this appeal will be both generous and extensive.

The Commercial Museum of the Corporation of Calcutta, has decided to celebrate the Birthday of Sir P. C. Ray by organising an

exhibition of chemical and pharmaceutical industries in India. An influential Advisory Board with Dr. B. C. Guha as Chairman has been formed to organise the exhibition. A special feature of the exhibition will be the practical demonstration of industrial processes worked out in various Universities and in Technological and Scientific institutions of India.

The exhibition will be opened on the 21st March, and will be kept open for a fortnight. The organisers cordially invite the co-operation of the scientists and will be glad to allot the required space for exhibits and provide all facilities for demonstrating the processes worked out by them. Communications relating to this exhibition should be addressed to Jnananjan Niyogi, Esq., Officer-in-charge, Commercial Museum, Corporation of Calcutta, College Street, Calcutta.