

SIR CYRIL S. FOX, Kt., D.Sc., F.G.S.,
M.I.Min.E., F.R.A.S.B., F.N.I.

DR. C. G. PANDIT, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.,
D.P.H., D.T.M., F.N.I., O.B.E.

IT is with real pleasure that we offer our felicitations to Dr. Cyril S. Fox, Director, Geological Survey of India, on the 'Knighthood' that has been recently conferred upon him by His Majesty the King-Emperor. As an officer of the Geological Survey for more than quarter of a century, Sir Cyril Fox has made many outstanding contributions towards a fuller knowledge of the geology and mineral resources of India. There is practically no part of the country with which he is not personally familiar; nor is there any major problem in Indian geology towards the discussion of which he has not made valuable and illuminating contributions. In addition to his numerous and varied activities on the purely geological side, Sir C. S. Fox has always evinced considerable interest in the applied aspects of geology—especially in connection with Mining and Engineering; and his work in this field has secured widespread appreciation and recognition. As Director of the Geological Survey of India he has, within the last few years, reorganised the entire work of the Department, and given it a new orientation altogether, with a view to serve better the needs of the country; and this, together with the recent formation of the Utilisation Branch of the Survey, in the planning and organisation of which he has taken a leading part, will no doubt usher in a new era in the development of the mineral resources of the country, so essential for the future national progress of India.

Sir Cyril Fox has been a sincere friend and well-wisher of *Current Science* ever since its inception, and has contributed not a little towards the growth of the Journal all these years. We are particularly happy to see that his work has been so fittingly recognised by the conferring of this signal honour and we wish to take this opportunity of offering him once again our hearty congratulations, and best wishes for many more years of active and useful service in the cause of India.

"CURRENT SCIENCE" notes with satisfaction that the work done by Scientific Research Institutions is being increasingly recognised by the Government. We record with pleasure the conferment of O.B.E. on Dr. C. G. Pandit. This is as it should be.

Dr. C. G. Pandit is the first permanent Indian Director of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, one of the few recognised leading Indian Medical Research Institutions in this country. After a brilliant academic career, Dr. Pandit proceeded to England for further studies and secured the Ph.D. degree of the London University for research in Bacteriology. He entered service in the Indian Research Fund Association and was posted to Madras. He was the first Professor of Bacteriology in the Madras Medical College where he was extremely popular with students. He held the much coveted Rockefeller fellowship which brought him into touch with the leading American bacteriologists. In 1934 he was selected as the Indian delegate of the Government of India to attend the session of the Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine held at Nanking, China. In 1939 he received the Minto Gold Medal "for distinguished work in tropical medicine by an Indian", for the year. At the outbreak of the present world war he was specially deputed to America by the Government of India to study the problem of yellow fever, as a possible menace on account of the speeding of air transport. In 1942 he delivered the presidential address of the Medical Section of the Indian Science Congress, making his mark as the foremost worker in the profession for the year. He is aged 48 years.

Dr. Pandit has initiated and carried out outstanding researches on Vaccine, Virus, Tissue-Culture, Filariasis, and Fluorosis. A man of singular charm, affable, persuasive and polished in manners, a fluent, impressive and informed speaker, he combines in him the best of the culture of the East and the West. His many friends in India and elsewhere would rejoice at this well-deserved recognition by Government. *Current Science* offers its felicitations to Dr. Pandit and has no doubt that the Institute which he directs would take greater strides under

his able guidance and lead him to still greater distinctions.

DR. J. J. RUDRA, M.A., Ph.D., M.B.E.

WE offer our warmest felicitations to Dr. J. J. Rudra on the conferment of M.B.E. in the recent Birthday Honours. After a brilliant post-graduate career first in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and later in the College of Technology, Manchester, where his work under Prof. Mileswalker brought him the Ph.D. Degree, Dr. Rudra started his career as Lecturer in Electrical Technology, Indian Institute of Science, in 1931. The investigations of Dr. Rudra on different types of alternating current motors have made him an authority on this branch of Electrical Engineering. In 1935 Dr. Rudra went over to Madras to occupy the chair of Electrical Engineering at the College of Engineering, Guindy, and now he is Principal of the above College.

Dr. Rudra has always taken a keen interest in *Current Science*. Our cordial greetings to him and best wishes for a happy and successful career.

DIWAN BAHADUR

DR. K. R. RAMANATHAN, M.A., D.Sc.

READERS of *Current Science* will receive with great satisfaction the happy news that Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, Superintending Meteorologist in charge of the Poona Observatory, has been honoured by the distinction of Diwan Bahadur in the latest

King's Birthday Honours List. He started his career as Demonstrator in Science College, Trivandrum, and was placed in charge of the local Observatory. In 1921 he joined the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science to work under Professor C. V. Raman. In 1922 he was appointed Lecturer in Physics in the Rangoon University, where he remained till 1925. Both during his stay at Calcutta and at Rangoon he published series of important memoirs on the molecular scattering of light, both independently and in association with Prof. Raman. He was awarded the D.Sc. Degree of the Madras University in 1923. In 1925 he entered the Indian Meteorological Service. In his long association with this Department for the past twenty years during which he has served at various centres, he has published several papers, especially on the physics of the upper atmosphere and allied topics. Dr. Ramanathan was selected for one of the three recently created posts as Superintending Meteorologist. He has contributed considerably to the organisation and progress of Meteorological Research in India. With the outbreak of war a heavy responsibility fell on the Meteorological Department of supplying trained technical personnel required for the rapidly expanding Indian Air Force. Dr. Ramanathan has been able to attract to the Department some of the best physicists from the various centres of research in India. Dr. Ramanathan has been a well-wisher for and has enthusiastically co-operated with this Journal from its inception. We offer him our sincere felicitations on the distinction.

DISCOVERIES BY ACCIDENT

IT is instructive, said Sir Oliver Lodge, to realise the state of mind which misses a discovery as well as, what is more commonly attended to, the more admirable state of mind which succeeds. Many experimenters had opportunities as good as Röntgen's to observe the X-rays which were generated in their laboratories.

Sir Oliver Lodge cited the case of Rev. Frederick Smith who, on finding that the plates wrapped in a box near a tube were fogged was—so to speak—annoyed at this disturbance of his experiments, and kept the plates out of the way.

J. C. CHASTON (*Nature*, Jan. 9, 1943).