

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).