

consists in making a detailed photographic survey and chart of the stellar universe. Regular observations of the variable stars is also part of the programme of the Nizamiah Observatory. The reports of the International Astronomical Union bear testimony to the speed and thoroughness with which the undertaking has been carried forward. The twelve volumes of the *Hyderabad Astrographic Catalogue* published by the Observatory form an impressive record of its work. Numerous short papers arising out of the variable star observations have also appeared in the scientific periodicals.

Though not actually "made in India", the work of S. Chandrasekhar, now Professor of Astrophysics at Chicago University, has a claim to notice in an article on astronomical research in India, if only as an indication of what could be accomplished in this country under favourable conditions. It would require an entire number of *Current Science* and not a paragraph or two to sketch the many fields of astronomical and astrophysical research traversed by Chandrasekhar and the results obtained by him during the last fifteen years. The *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society during the years Chandrasekhar was at Cambridge, and the last ten volumes of the

*Astrophysical Journal* since he went to the United States bear witness to his energy, the strength and range of his scientific interests and his powers of investigation and exposition. His two treatises on "Stellar Structure" and "Dynamics of Stellar Systems" published by the Chicago University Press make his work in the respective fields conveniently accessible to specialist and non-specialist alike. A memoir on "Stochastic Problems in Physics and Astronomy" which appeared as the January 1943 issue of the *Reviews of Modern Physics* establishes links between the problems of stellar astronomy and those arising in colloid chemistry, and is a very remarkable effort in scientific synthesis.

In concluding this series of articles, the writer ventures to express the hope that they will not altogether fail to accomplish their purpose, namely that of impressing on all those interested in the scientific and cultural progress of India, the need for making generous provision for the promotion of astronomical study and research in our country, of encouraging those who are interested in the subject, and of making it possible for Indians working in their own country to contribute to its progress.

C. V. RAMAN.

## SRI JAYACHAMARAJENDRA INSTITUTE OF INDIAN MEDICINE, BANGALORE

ON the occasion of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of Sri Jayachamarajendra Institute of Indian Medicine at Bangalore held on December 11, 1943, His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore declared:—

"I have watched with interest the researches made in this country from time to time in the indigenous systems of medicine. For want of facilities or due to other circumstances, they do not seem to have been conducted on modern recognised lines. It is only exhaustive investigation based on scientific methods in a well-equipped laboratory that will help the achievement of definite results of permanent value.

The rapid spread of education and the introduction of the more scientific and systematic methods of allopathy have led to the neglect of our ancient Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine. No one can deny that many indigenous drugs and medicinal preparations are potent and valuable. But the days of blind belief in the authority of the written word are gone and any system of medicine must stand scrutiny by the searching eye of accurate observation and experiment. A careful and assiduous application of modern scientific methods of chemical and biochemical research into the actions and uses of our indigenous drugs can alone convince a thinking public. I am, therefore, glad to note that the aim and object of this Institution is not merely to train

pupils in the art of preparing and modes of using the medicinal preparations for which Ayurveda and Unani are noted. It will be a centre for organized research, on modern scientific lines, into the actions and uses of our indigenous drugs and herbs.

The advent of allopathy has made it imperative to import from foreign countries large quantities of drugs and medicines, many of which are expensive. I hope that every attempt will be made, by diligent research in this Institution, to find out simple and inexpensive substitutes which will be within the reach of even the poorest class of patients.

It has been said that no two practitioners of Ayurvedic or Unani prepare their medicines according to the same formula. There is great scope for improvement in this respect; and the standardization of indigenous medicines may very well be another object deserving of consideration in this Institute.

I should like to see greater mutual understanding, a spirit of give and take, and more co-operation between the practitioners of indigenous systems and allopathy. After all, where a patient's ailment is concerned, it is his speedy recovery and restoration to good health that counts, and not the particular method of treatment adopted, and faith plays no small part in the process of healing. This Institution, I expect, will be a meeting place for all practitioners—indigenous and allopathic alike."