

of scientific liaison and will provide museum, publication and publicity facilities.

There are hardly any new lands which India can hope to exploit. Science may discover new sources of wealth in the lands we hold and grow new raw materials in them. The only new lands on which we may have our eyes must lie in the domain of the mind and have

to be created in the research laboratory. It is on these sources which will emerge from the national laboratories that we have to depend now and in the future for the means to maintain and raise our standard of living and to keep abreast amongst the best nations of the world.

SIR K. S. KRISHNAN

THE announcement recently made by the Hon'ble C. Rajagopalachariar, Member for Industries and Supplies, that Sir K. S. Krishnan, D.Sc., F.R.S., has accepted the Directorship of the National Physical Laboratory will be warmly welcomed by readers of *Current Science*.

Professor Krishnan has had a remarkably brilliant career. After completing his University education, Krishnan joined the staff of the Madras Christian College. But his thirst for higher studies and research did not keep him long there. In 1923 he joined the band of research students working under the inspiring guidance of Professor Raman at Calcutta. Placed in the proper environment, Krishnan soon shone as an enthusiastic and brilliant investigator and was foremost among Professor Raman's collaborators. In 1928, he was appointed as Reader in Physics at the Dacca University. This post he occupied only for five years, for, when Prof. Raman left Calcutta in 1933, he unhesitatingly chose Dr. Krishnan to occupy the newly created Mahendralal Sircar Professorship of Physics at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. With characteristic ability, Prof. Krishnan successfully kept up the great traditions acquired during the leadership of Prof. Raman by the Indian Association for Research in Physics. In 1942, the Allahabad University invited him to occupy the Chair of Physics which he accepted. He now relinquishes this post to take up his new appointment.

The research activities of Prof. Krishnan and his associates extend over diverse branches of physics. During the years 1923-1928 he carried out a series of important investigations both theoretical and experimental on the scattering of light, molecular optics and Raman effect in collaboration with Prof. Raman. While at Dacca and later at the Indian Association, Prof. Krishnan initiated and conducted with conspicuous success numerous investigations on the magnetic properties of crystals the results of which were published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society* as Memoirs. Outstanding investigations on the optical properties of crystals and X-ray crystallography have also been carried out by Krishnan and his collaborators. In recognition of his distinguished researches in optics and especially for his study of the influence of magnetism on crystals, the Royal Society of London elected Prof. Krishnan to its Fellowship in 1940. He thus became the sixth Indian and first pupil of Sir Raman to achieve this unique distinction. At Allahabad Prof. Krishnan has built up an active school of research carrying

out investigations on the thermal and electrical properties of metals and alloys.

No sketch of Prof. Krishnan's career would be complete without a reference to his extensive travels abroad, which gave him many an opportunity to visit important centres of research in Europe and America and to cultivate personal relations with eminent men of Science. He first visited Europe when he was invited to take part in the International Conference on Photoluminescence held at Warsaw in 1936. He widely toured throughout Europe and delivered a series of lectures at various important centres including the Royal Institution in London and the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge and in many of the Continental Universities. The Liege University honoured him with the award of the University Medal. He again visited Europe in 1939 to attend the International Conference on Magnetism held at Strasbourg under the auspices of the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation and of the Service Central de Recherche Scientifique de France. In the summer of 1946 he went to England as one of the Indian delegates to the Empire Scientific Conference organised by the Royal Society. He also took part in the third annual conference on the X-ray analysis group of the Institute of Physics held in July 1946. At the request of the Government of India he visited Europe and America to survey the modern trends of research in the prominent physical laboratories.

Besides being a Fellow of the Royal Society, Prof. Krishnan is a member of many Scientific Societies in India and abroad. He was the President of the Physics Section at the Madras Session of the Indian Science Congress. He has served in a number of Committees sponsored by the Government of India for the scientific and technical development of the country. In recognition of his services to the cause of Indian science he was knighted in 1946.

It is a matter of national pride that Prof. Krishnan who has had his entire research training in India should have been chosen to be the first Director of the National Physical Laboratory. Simple and unostentatious as he is, Prof. Krishnan is a gifted lecturer, noted for the profundity of his ideas and clarity of expression. With a man of his eminence and experience at the helm, the National Physical Laboratory can be expected with confidence to fulfil the tasks that it is intended to do.

R. S. KRISHNAN,