

SIR JNAN CHANDRA GHOSH, Kt., D.Sc., F.N.I.

WE are glad to announce to our readers that Sir J. C. Ghosh, President of the Current Science Association, and Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has been appointed as Director-General of Industries and Supply to the Government of India. He took charge of his new office on the 17th of this month.

The choice of Sir J. C. Ghosh, one of the foremost men of science in this country, to this responsible position will be received with much enthusiasm and approbation throughout India.

The eminence of Sir J. C. Ghosh as a leader of scientific thought and research, and his gifts at once rich and varied, were recognised both by the Governments of the country and the general public, because of his active co-operation with them in high responsible capacities too numerous to enumerate. His appointment in August 1939, as the Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, marked the beginning of an era of rising prosperity and prestige for the Institution and also of providing an opportunity to him for developing his rich endowments for research and industrial planning. Industrial research schemes of immense importance to the development of the resources of the country and fundamental researches of high standard were initiated by him, and the income of the Institute rose steadily from about 5 lakhs of rupees in 1940 to about 18 lakhs in 1946, as a result of his prestige and influence. In recognition of his high attainments, he was Knighted in 1943 and twice invited by His Majesty's Government in England, once as a member of the Scientific Delegation to visit the U.K. and U.S.A., and second time as a representative of the Government of India to attend the Empire Scientific Conference in London.

His untiring labours and remarkable foresight were responsible in securing for the Institute, funds over a crore of rupees for opening up new departments such as Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Metallurgy, Internal Combustion Engineering and Power Engineering, which are the very foundations for any major industrial development of the country. The call of the nation has removed him from the Institute just at a time when his cherished dreams of scientific expansion are taking shape. His genial and unassuming temperament, his grace, nobility and charm have won for him the affection and esteem of one and all in the Institute. His ready access to students, colleagues and the

public (a rare quality in people highly placed!), his benevolent kindness to all that went to him for help and guidance will be missed by all that knew him. But all these great qualities in addition to his wide range of scientific and technological knowledge and high administrative experience, are needed by the country at this critical juncture of her history. We offer him our best wishes for conspicuous success in his endeavour to serve the country.

The appointment of Sir J. C. Ghosh by the National Government is of more than ordinary significance. It is a happy sign of the resurgence of a new India fired with the earnest ambition of attaining great objectives. The time was when the Civilian was the all-purpose officer—planner, organiser and administrator of all projects. But times are changing, and so are the circumstances. It is fortunate for India that our statesmen have recognised that an all-out effort at rapid industrialization of the land requires specialists who have an intimate knowledge of the subject rather than the non-specialist politicians, however eminent. Given the scope and freedom of action, the scientist and the technical expert can, unlike the non-specialist who has to struggle through endless trials and errors, deliver the goods in the shortest possible period. We should therefore, like to believe that



this appointment marks the beginning of a conscious policy of enlisting the active co-operation of experts in the field. We should, however, not rest content until ministerial responsibility in Central and Provincial Governments is directly entrusted to them in the domain of industrial, agricultural, health and scientific developments, even as law and order is entrusted to the Legal Expert and diplomatic relations to the Political Expert. It would indeed be the better fulfilment of true democratic spirit, as eminent constitutionalists have pointed out, to offer the electorate a choice from a panel of qualified experts in each branch of administration rather than call in the politician to serve in every field. Such a procedure would save some of the best brains in the country from taking to non-scientific professions owing to lack of scope for material advancement in technical and scientific professions. We have every hope that the services of a scientist, of the calibre of Sir J. C. Ghosh, will convince the Government and the public of the soundness of the policy of entrusting the planning and execution of programmes of national development to qualified experts in the respective fields.