

ever, space here to refer to them in detail, and the interested reader will no doubt, consult the original paper.

6. SOME CONCLUDING REMARKS

The spectroscopic behaviour of diamond as observed in light-scattering which has been described and discussed above, and the behaviour of crystalline magnesium oxide as observed in infra-red absorption, described and discussed in *Current Science* for December 1947, clearly demonstrate that the complete vibration spectrum of a crystal in the higher ranges of frequency is a discrete *line-spectrum*. In view of the thoroughness with which these two cases have been investigated, and the simplicity of the structure and composition of both the crystals, the experimental facts which

have been observed with them are acid tests for any theory which concerns itself with the atomic vibrations in crystals and claims to be able to explain the physical phenomena resulting from such vibrations; any theory which cannot account for the facts noticed with these two crystals or leads to results different from those observed must necessarily stand discredited. *Per contra*, a theoretical approach to the subject which leads to a simple and natural explanation of the facts observed with diamond and magnesium oxide must at least be on the right lines. This is the claim made on behalf of the theory of the eigenvibrations of crystal structures set out and discussed in the introductory paper of the symposium.

C. V. RAMAN.

THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

THE first Annual Meeting of the Society was held at New Delhi from the 11th to the 14th December 1947. The meeting opened on the 11th with the Presidential Address by the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Minister for Food and Agriculture, and President of the Society. The President referred to the poor quality of the published agricultural statistics and stressed the urgent need of improving it both as regards completion and accuracy, as, without reliable statistics, no planning of any kind was possible. Although food was the greatest problem facing the country, no policy for food could be formulated for want of reliable data. Emphasising the need for building up of an adequate statistical organisation, he urged statisticians to develop scientific methods like those of random sampling and air photography for reducing the cost and time in collecting data.

On the 12th December, a symposium on 'Statistical Organisation for India with special reference to Agriculture' was held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Minister for Finance. Opening the symposium, he said that the building up of a statistical organisation must really be given top priority, for, the Government cannot plan in a rational manner its food policy without reliable statistics. He said that the Government was just considering proposals for strengthening the central statistical organisation and was examining as to how far individual departments should be engaged in the collection of statistics and to what extent the central organisation should control the collection in individual departments and in what manner it should co-ordinate it, and added that the Society's

guidance in these matters would be most valuable. The main speakers were Dr. V. G. Panse (Indore) and Mr. W. R. Natu (New Delhi). They emphasised the need for decentralisation not only in regard to the collection of statistics but also for the training of statistical personnel and research in statistical methods, as, in their view, a close contact with the field to which Statistics is applied is absolutely essential for the growth of efficient statistical service. Others participating in the symposium were Prof. K. B. Madhava, Mr. K. Kishen (Lucknow), Mr. R. S. Koshal and N. S. R. Sastry (Bombay) and Dr. P. V. Sukhatme (New Delhi).

On the 13th December, a second symposium on the contribution of 'Statistical Science to the Development of Indian Agriculture' was held under the chairmanship of Prof. J. N. Warner of the Allahabad Agricultural Institute. Dr. N. S. R. Sastry, opening the symposium, dwelt on the role of statistical science in agricultural economics. He was followed by Messrs, V. D. Thawani, M. A. R. Roy, Mr. V. R. Rao, Mr. S. S. Iyer, Mr. S. D. Bokil, Mr. K. Kishen, Mr. R. S. Koshal and Mr. M. V. N. Rao, who described the varied applications of statistics in different branches of agriculture including plant breeding, design of experiments, animal husbandry, fisheries, etc. On the 14th December, papers were read with Prof. K. B. Madhava in the chair.

It was announced at the meeting that arrangements for the publication of the Society's Journal were nearly ready. A special feature of the Journal would be a Hindi supplement giving summaries of the articles published.

P. V. SUKHATME.