

Although simplicity and beauty are the principal marks of Einstein's fundamental ideas, the detailed treatment of complex problems often demands the use of abstract mathematical methods like non-Euclidean geometry. As often before, it has here been most fortunate that such tools were ready as the fruit of the work of older mathematicians.

The names of Gauss, Lobachevsky, Bolyai, Riemann, Ricci and Minkowski here again remind us of the fertility of international co-operation in all fields of science. And the same may be said of Einstein's other outstanding work.

For example, his explanation of the irregular motion of small bodies in liquids, based on the ideas of Maxwell, Boltzmann, Smoluchowski and Gibbs, made it possible for Jean Perrin accurately to count the atoms of which substances are built.

We find ourselves to-day in a new epoch in physical science, in which experimental discoveries and theoretical methods have led to a rapidity and fecundity of progress made possible only by international co-operation of an unprecedented activity and extent.

It is not possible in this occasion to disentangle the contributions of individual workers, but mention must be made of the guidance, at almost every step, which Einstein has given us by his Relativity

theory and by his analysis of elementary quantum phenomena.

Altogether, this short exposition of Einstein's scientific achievements aims at giving an impression of the extent to which his originality of outlook has made him an innovator in science. At the same time, I have attempted to remind you that all scientific endeavours are parts of a great common human enterprise.

The gifts of Einstein to humanity are in no way confined to the sphere of science. Indeed, his recognition of hitherto unheeded assumptions in even our most elementary and accustomed concepts means to all people a new encouragement in tracing and combating the deep-rooted prejudices and complacencies inherent in every national culture.

With his human and noble personality, characterized equally by wisdom and humour, Einstein himself has through all his life, and not least in these latter years, worked for the promotion of international understanding. On his seventieth birthday evidence of the veneration and gratitude our whole generation owes to him will reach Einstein from many sides, and we all want to express the wish that the hopes for which he has lived and worked may be fulfilled to the benefit of all mankind.

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INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

A NEW organisation, the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, has been formed. The Society is devoted to the 'Study of and research on, Statistics and applications thereof to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Agricultural Economics'. The Society is open to all persons and institutions interested in Statistics and its application. Membership fee per annum is Rs. 18/ in India and Rs. 20/ outside.

The first Journal of the Society published in Jan. 1948 contains many useful contributions, technical and non-technical, with brief summaries in Hindi language. The Minister for Food and Agriculture and the Minister for Finance, Government of India, have in their addresses expressed great anxiety of the Government of India to improve the statistical organisation in India. Dr. Sukhatme's article on crop-

surveys should convince the Governments about the utility of modern statistical methods in crop-estimation work. The fact that the duty of collection and interpretation of data should be entrusted to the technically trained is obvious from the several articles appearing in the Journal.

Contributions on the statistical theory by Messrs. R. D. Narain, Panse and Bokil and Kishen show that this Journal is in no way inferior from the technical point of view to the best of the American and British Journals. The Editors of the Journal, Dr. P. V. Sukhatme and Dr. V. G. Panse, deserve to be congratulated.

We sincerely welcome the Journal and join the Editors in appealing to Government, Universities, Research Institutes and the public to extend their fullest co-operation and generous support,