

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL

THE sad and unexpected demise of Sir Ardeshir Dalal on the 8th of last month removes from the Indian scene of science and industry an enlightened, patriotic and farsighted industrialist and a distinguished administrator.

Born on April 24, 1884, Sir Ardeshir Dalal received his early education in the Elphinston College, and studied later at St. John's College, Cambridge. Entering the Indian Civil Service in 1908, he distinguished himself in various capacities before he became Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Finance Department. He was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council in 1926. In the following year he was called to officiate as Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands. In 1928, he returned to Bombay as Collector and Municipal Commissioner.

On retiring from the Commissionership and the I.C.S. in 1931, Sir Ardeshir joined Tatas as a Director. Under his able guidance the Tata Iron and Steel Company grew from strength to strength. Besides being Director of various other Tata concerns, he was also a Director of the Central Bank of India and the Associated Cement Companies.

During the war in 1941, he was invited to act as Liaison Officer in India for the Ministry of Supply and in August 1944, he became a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and was placed in charge of the

newly created Department for Planning and Development. Sir Ardeshir was one of the leading sponsors and signatories of the well-known Bombay plan for India's Industrial regeneration. In May 1945, he visited the United Kingdom to discuss problems connected with post-war economic development of India, particularly in the industrial field, and acquainted himself with the situation regarding the availability of capital goods and the training of expert students and technicians. He also visited the U.S.A. to study the possibility of obtaining necessary industrial machinery for factories and mills. In January 1946, he tendered his resignation from the Viceroy's Executive Council for personal reasons. During this short period of his connection with the Government of India, he formulated a plan for the overseas training of technical personnel; it was in pursuance of this plan, that the Government of India deputed several batches of students for higher training in research and technology in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. He was knighted in 1946.

Sir Ardeshir was deeply interested in the progress of science in all its aspects; he was to a large extent responsible for inspiring the creation of the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research under the distinguished Directorship of Professor Bhabha. He was closely connected with the progress of the Indian Institute of Science and was elected Chairman of the Court in June 1947.

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FIAT REVIEWS OF GERMAN SCIENCE

A FEW months back this office received for distribution one dozen copies each of six titles of the *Fiat Reviews* of German Science for 1939-1946 and offered them to some selected institutions of India and the neighbouring countries of South Asia on the basis of the specialised subjects of their research activities.

It was the intention of the awarding authorities that these volumes should be sent to those who are actually engaged in research on the specialised subjects. Of the remaining titles of these Reviews a recent consignment of 31 titles has just been received at this office. The titles are broadly divided under headings of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology and Sciences of the Earth. The number of copies available for distribution is again limited but as there are more of the specialised branches of studies, there may be

opportunities for a wider distribution of the individual titles like Nuclear Physics, Hydro and Aerodynamics, Analytical Chemistry, Chemotherapy, Surgery, Pathology, etc. Interested institutions will kindly help this office by sending their subjects of research mentioning at the same time the directors of research on those special fields. This latter information will be helpful to the office in future for locating the active centres for contact with outside world. It is likely that some institutions have already got all *Fiat* volumes from governmental source and such institutions may kindly inform this office in order to keep a list of sources of the availability of *Fiat Reviews* and eventually to direct the enquirers nearer those sources.—[By courtesy of UNESCO Office of South East Asia, Delhi.]