
SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

The Indian Academy of Sciences

The 15th annual meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences will be held at the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, from 29th to 31st December 1949. Professor Sir C. V. Raman will deliver the presidential address, while among the distinguished foreign scientists taking part in sectional meetings may be mentioned: Professors J. D. Bernal (England), O. E. H. Rydbeck (Sweden), Madame Joliot-Curie (France), Jean Frederic Joliot-Curie (France), A. H. Compton (U.S.A.), Hermann Mark (U.S.A.). There will be a public lecture by Sir C. V. Raman on the "Luminescence of Solids" as well as another one by Sir Robert Robinson later. Excursions have also been arranged for the participants.

The Indian Mathematical Society

The 16th Conference of the Indian Mathematical Society will be held at the Senate House, Chepauk, Madras, from the 26th to 29th December 1949, on the invitation of the University of Madras. This Society founded in 1907 is one of the oldest Mathematical institutions of the world and has been conducting biennial conferences at different centres of India. Madras has been chosen as the venue for the Conference this year after a lapse of over thirty years.

This Conference will be inaugurated by Sir C. V. Raman on Monday, the 26th December 1949, at 10-30 a.m. Among the delegates attending the Conference are Prof. M. H. Stone, former President of the American Mathematical Society, and Prof. Herman Wold, prominent statistician from Sweden. An exhibition of mathematical and scientific interest will be held at the Senate House during the first three days of the Conference.

The programme for the Session includes interesting symposia on "The Time-Series Analysis," "Fluid Dynamics", and "The Teaching of Mathematics". Popular lectures and film shows on topics of scientific interest are also arranged during the days of the Conference.

Bose Research Institute 32nd Anniversary

The 32nd Anniversary Meeting of the Bose Institute was celebrated on 30th November, 1949, when Dr. K. C. Mehta, Principal and Professor of Botany, Agra College, delivered the Eleventh Bose Memorial Lecture on "Control of Rust Epidemics of Wheat in India—a National Emergency", illustrated by lantern slides and maps. In the course of his lecture, Prof. Mehta observed that the best method of controlling rust in the long run is to cultivate resistant varieties.

In reviewing the research work of the Institute, the Director, Dr. D. M. Bose, mentioned that special importance is being given to the training of research workers in modern technical methods, like the use of high frequency techniques of powerful source of ultrasonic vibration, paper chromatography and radioactive tracers.

London's 1951 Exhibition

A tower from which radio messages can be sent to the moon will be a novel feature of the 1951 Exhibition to be staged on the banks of the Thames as the centre-piece of the Festival of Britain. It will embody a huge radar telescope with a revolving parabola which will gather in sounds from the sun, stars and meteors.

The largest dome in the world is also being built in Britain for the Exhibition. Made in aluminium, it will measure 365 feet across and 97 feet high and will form the central feature of the Exhibition.

The new dome, which will be built without any interior supports, will be named the "Dome of Discovery".

Another innovation will be a telecinema designed on entirely new principles and staging both film and television programmes. The audience will be placed both above and below the projection beam because television waves must travel horizontally.

Prof. Dr. Edward Condon

Dr. Edward Condon, Director of the United States National Bureau of Standards, is expected to arrive in this country by the end of this month, at the invitation of the Government of

India. He is attending the Indian Science Congress in Poona and thereafter will tour the country, visiting some of the research laboratories. It is learnt that he may be invited to accept the Directorship of the Indian Institute of Science, which has been vacant for some time.

Rajasthan Academy of Sciences

The Rajasthan Academy of Sciences, which was inaugurated in Pilani on 27th November 1949, seeks to uphold the cause and progress of science, both pure and applied, in Rajasthan. It is also proposed to start a Journal for the publication of articles of original research.

At a meeting of the "Foundation Fellows" of the Academy, Shri M. L. Schreff, B.A. Hons. (Cornell), M.S. (M.I.T.), was unanimously elected President of the Academy for 1949-50, Dr. B. N. Mulay, Ph.D. (Bombay) Vice-President, and Shri K. R. Ramachandran, M.Sc. (Wales), of the Department of Botany, Birla College, Pilani, Secretary.

Expert Committee's Recommendation on Medicinal Plants

At a recent meeting of the Medicinal Plants Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the cultivation of 50 important plants has been recommended on an experimental basis in different climatic regions of India. Six regions have been selected and in each, one centre in the plains and another on a higher altitude are proposed. The centres suggested are: the Simla Hills in Himachal Pradesh, Gurdaspur and Manali in East Punjab, Coimbatore and Nilgiris in Madras, Poona and Panchgani in Bombay, Darjeeling in Bengal and Jorhat and Shillong in Assam.

Another recommendation made by the Committee is to test samples of indigenous drugs to ensure that the manufactured goods maintain a high standard of quality. Apart from being used internally in the country, some of these drugs are also exported. It has been suggested that certificates on behalf of the Export Control Organisation of the Commerce Ministry should be issued testifying to the quality of the stuff manufactured.

Specific for Black-Water Fever

The discovery of a medicinal plant, which is a reputed specific for black-water fever, in the

Rampa Agency tracts of the Madras Province was one of the important results of botanical investigations undertaken by the Botanical Survey of India, according to its annual report for the year 1947-48, just published. The plant, scientifically called, *Vitex peduncularis* var. *Roxburghiana*, was formerly known to exist only in Assam. Examination of other collections brought from the Rampa Agency has also revealed the existence of a number of plants, originally growing in distant regions like the Himalayas, Assam, Burma and the Andaman Islands.

Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation

The Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation as reconstituted by the Government of India will consist of:—

Chairman: The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Government of India;

Members: Secretary (or Joint Secretary) to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture; Inspector-General of Forests; The President, Forest Research Institute; The Director of Research, Forest Research Institute; one representative each of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry; two representatives of forest products industries, nominated by the Central Minister of Agriculture; (of these, one should represent the plywood industry); one representative of the Ministry of Industry and supply; the Director, Scientific and Industrial Research; One representative each of the Defence Ministry, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Inter-University Board; two Chief Conservators of Forests from the Provinces (by alphabetical order of rotation); and two representatives of consumers nominated by the Central Government.

Secretary (Ex-Officio): Publicity and Liaison Officer of the Forest Research Institute.

The functions of the Board will be: (i) to advise on the assignment of priority to various items of research conducted at the Institute; (ii) to co-ordinate research with the needs of industry, agriculture and the general public; and (iii) to link research with the needs of the producer and the consumer.