

of oil-cakes for manuring was stopped, wherever possible, that will release considerable quantity of concentrates for cattle. The role of trace-elements in animal nutrition is a subject that has not been investigated in any great detail, as also the toxicity of plants consumed by the animal, during grazing. It was therefore recommended that these two subjects should be investigated in detail.

The meeting also considered the need for the improvement of cattle in hilly areas and decided to appoint a Special Committee to survey the problem, especially in areas where indigenous breeds fail to thrive.

The Wing suggested steps that should be taken to reduce the mortality amongst young calves, which is a constant drain on some of the potentially best cattle. Apart from the various diseases which are responsible for this heavy loss, it was emphasised that the problem was largely an economic one, and unless breeding of live stock was made profitable, other remedial measures cannot be expected to bring the desired changes in the existing practices. It was therefore recommended that where possible calf farms should be started where calves

may be reared and looked after properly till maturity. Different practices for rearing of calves are followed in different parts of the country. It was therefore decided to survey these methods so that when the experience of all the breeders is pooled together it may be possible to evolve a cheap method for raising calves.

It was recommended that in view of the growing number of centres where various veterinary biological products are manufactured, and also because of the large import of these products, it was necessary to set up an organisation with statutory powers to lay down standards and check the quality of these products. Such an organisation is overdue and it is hoped that early action will be taken on the lines of the existing Drug Acts from which veterinary products are excluded now.

The question of veterinary education was also discussed. It was emphasised that the standard of training should not only be uniform, but as high as possible. The setting up of an Indian Veterinary Council was recommended to safeguard the interests and integrity of the veterinary profession.

IMPROVEMENT IN METHODS OF DATING*

IN the field of architectural history, the Method of Seriation has uniformly been followed for purposes of dating. With the help of buildings, of which the dates are known from independent evidence, an evolutionary series is first built up; and then temples of which the dates are not known, are assigned dates according to their nearness to one or other of the landmarks in the scale. The assumption in Indian Architecture has been that the whole of India can be treated as one unit in evolution, and that evolution itself has been unilateral. Different workers like Furgusson or Rakhaldas Banerji have only differed from one another in their choice of elements used for building up the scale of reference; but the fundamental assumptions have been uniform.

Professor Bose suggests that this method of treating the whole of India as one evolutionary unit, and the dependence on

unilinear evolutionism is not justified. There is evidence to show that in different regions, temples have followed slightly different courses of evolution. Moreover, the structural elements of temples have also changed, not uniformly, but at varying rates.

Professor Bose has tried to apply the Distribution Method for finding the relative age of those elements. He proposes that, in each region of India, the dated temples should be taken up, subjected to a uniform scheme of analysis, and an independent scale of evolution built up with their help. When this work has been accomplished in different provinces of India, the findings arrived at by a reliance upon the Distribution Method should be compared with the above result. Only then shall we be in a position to assess the value of the latter method, as well as check the results arrived at by previous workers in the field, who relied on a belief in the uniformity of evolution.

Research workers in different areas can thus be of help to one another in bringing more precision into methods of dating.

* Summary of the Presidential Address delivered by Professor Nirmal Kumar Bose, to the section of Anthropology and Archaeology during the 36th Session of the Indian Science Congress held at Allahabad, January 1949.