

Mr. D. N. Wadia.

MR. D. N. WADIA retires in the last week of October, as Officiating Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, which organisation he served with conspicuous ability and distinction for a period of 17½ years.

He belongs to the band of pioneer Indian scientists who were self-made in the sense that they taught themselves the intricacies of the science they professed and rose to eminence through devotion to work. Hailing from Gujarat, Mr. Wadia graduated from the Bombay University and joined the teaching staff of the Prince of Wales College, Jammu, where he was Professor of Geology (and latterly Principal) for a period of 13 years. After the War, in 1921, he left the placid academic atmosphere of the College and joined the Geological Survey at the request of Sir Thomas Holland who was then the Member in charge of Industries in the Governor-General's Executive Council.

Indian geology is the richer for his joining the official Survey of the country, for his work has brought to light the structure and tectonics of the North-West Himalaya in Kashmir, Gilgit and Hazara. The elucidation of the geology of a large part of Kashmir including Poonch, of the Nanga Parbat area and of the remarkable syntaxis of the North-West Himalaya—to mention only the high lights of his work—will ever stand to the credit of this scientist. In these pioneering studies, Mr. Wadia has covered an area well nigh 12,000 sq. miles in extent of difficult mountainous country between the Potwar Plateau of the Punjab and the snow-clad Zaskar Range of the Central Himalaya.

In 1919 appeared the first edition of his *Geology of India for Students*. In spite of the technical jargon that is inevitable in a work of this nature, this well-known manual is an eminently readable and fine piece of scientific writing with abiding literary qualities. It has trained a whole generation of Indian students in the complicated stratigraphy of this country and has worthily taken the place of the official

'Manual' by R. D. Oldham. A completely revised third edition of this work is now in the press and is expected to be published within the next few weeks.

While in Jammu, Mr. Wadia suffered a bereavement in the loss of his only child. But he found solace in the company of his wife, a lady of great charm, simplicity and generous impulses. She used always to accompany him in the field and share the difficulties of camp life. But, four years ago, he was denied even this solace when Mrs. Wadia suddenly took ill and died in camp, far away from the reach of friends and of medical help. He has borne this irreparable loss bravely and maintained his characteristic calm; none but his more intimate friends know of the suffering which these bereavements have inflicted on him.

Mr. Wadia is so well known in the scientific circles not only of this country but also abroad, that it is superfluous to dilate on his personal qualities. His great devotion to science, his wide cultural interests, his simplicity, helpful disposition and quiet dignity have won him high regard from all who have come into contact with him. He is retiring from service full of academic honours. He is a founder member of the National Institute of Sciences and the Indian Academy of Sciences; a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and of the Geological and Geographical Societies of London. He was President of the Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India for the years 1936 to 1938. His services to Indian Geology have been recognised fully by his scientific colleagues who elected him President of the Geology Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1921 and again for the Jubilee session in 1938.

It is with great pleasure that we have heard that the Government of Ceylon has invited him to be their Government Geologist after he retires from service in India. We wish him godspeed in his new work and offer him the best wishes of the scientific world in India for a long life of activity in his retirement.