

Preceding considerations of the significance of chromosome size and number are of importance from a practical point of view. It might be suggested that polyploids (especially autopolyploids) when produced for practical purposes should be better derived (when possible) from plants with smaller chromosomes (in size) and with smaller chromosome numbers.

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THE news of the appointment of Professor J. C. Ghosh as Director of the Indian Institute of Science will, we are confident, be received with generous enthusiasm both in India and abroad, and we have pleasure in offering him our warmest felicitations on his elevation to what we regard as the Pontifical Chair in the realm of Indian Science. It will be recalled that as the Head of the Department of Chemistry in the

Dacca University, his strenuous labours have established a flourishing school of chemical research, whose contributions have as much significance in the field of theoretical knowledge as they have important practical applications in industry. Professor Ghosh's achievements have brought him blushing honours, thickly and surely. He was one of the organising members of the Indian Chemical Society of which he became

President in 1924. He was one of an aggregate of a hundred eminent scientists who assisted at the birth of the National Institute of Sciences. The coveted distinction of President of the Indian Science Congress came to him in 1938. As a member of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and of the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association he rendered conspicuous service. His eminence as a research worker in the field of pure and applied branches of chemistry and soil science was recognised by his appointment as a member of the National Planning Committee. Such gifts, at once rich and varied, he now proposes to dedicate to the service of the Institute, whose resources and facilities ought to furnish him with opportunities for inaugurating new lines of scientific and industrial research, which would bring credit to him and enrich the



traditions of this great foundation. Professor Ghosh has an arduous task before him, and on the eve of initiating it, we offer him our best wishes for unmixed success.

Rao Bahadur Professor B. Venkatesachar, M.A., F.Inst.P., F.N.I.

ON the eve of relinquishing his office as Officiating Director of the Indian Institute of Science, we have great pleasure in



offering Rao Bahadur Professor B. Venkatesachar our warmest wishes for a happy and contented life in his retirement. He was summoned to occupy the Director's post under the stress of circumstances prevailing in 1937, which he accepted purely in a sense of disinterestedness and in a spirit of patriotic service. During the two years in which he administered the affairs of the Institute, his efforts were generously understood and greatly appreciated. In a way he felt called upon to play the rôle of John the Baptist, making things smooth and easy for his successor to continue the work which Professor Venkatesachar had laboured hard to stabilise. We wish him many long years of happiness and usefulness,