

picture corresponds exactly to the landscape painted by the artist even when the position of the artist is left unspecified; in other words, if the view of the picture from any point F other than E be compared with a painting of the original landscape from every conceivable point of observation—their totality having the same cardinal number as the continuum—not even one of these will agree with the picture.

To prove the last statement, let us assume that the view of the picture from E corresponds exactly to the view of the original scenery from O, and also that the view of the picture from F corresponds to the view of the same scenery from some point P. If A, B, C are three points in the original scenery which are coplanar with O, they are represented in the picture by collinear points *a*, *b*, *c*. Now *a*, *b*, *c* will appear collinear from any other point of observation F, and hence according to our assumption, A, B, C must be coplanar with P. Thus every plane ABC through O passes also through P. This is obviously impossible if P is different from O.

The reason why the changes discussed above do not readily attract attention is that the mind thinks of a picture in terms of patterns, each of which has a specific significance rather than in terms of the proportions of the various parts. It is not difficult, however, to draw a diagram consisting of disconnected lines in which the patterns are not already drawn and presented ready-

made to the eye but are left to be formed by the mind. A change in the proportion of the parts may in this case change the pattern itself so that the picture will be subject to a startling change when the position of observation is altered. I give below such a figure (Fig. 1) which, when placed flat on a table and viewed in the direction AA, presents an appearance similar to the pattern¹ in Fig. 2. However, if the same figure be viewed from the direction BB,



FIG. 2.

the effect of foreshortening is to give it the visual appearance of Fig. 3. To obtain



FIG. 3.

satisfactory results, the eye should be at a convenient distance from the picture at a height only slightly higher than that of the table.

¹ That when viewed from a distance a set of disconnected lines may look as if they were joined and formed a continuous pattern has been noticed by the Sanskrit Poet and Dramatist Kalidasa: Vide *Abhigana Sakuntala*, First Canto, Verse 9.

OBITUARY

Mr. N. G. Majumdar, M.A., F.R.A.S.B. (1897-1938)

WE regret to announce the sad and untimely death of Mr. Nani Gopal Majumdar, M.A., Special Officer for Exploration of the Archæological Survey of India, who was murdered under most tragic circumstances on 11th of November 1938, near Johi in the Dadu District of Sind. Mr. Majumdar was deputed from 1st of October 1938 for a period of six months to complete a survey of the prehistoric sites of the Indus Valley Civilization which he had so successfully carried out from 1927-31. Soon after starting work in Upper Manchar Lake area, he was shot dead on the morning of the 11th November by a band of armed dacoits which attacked his camp.

Majumdar was the eldest son of Dr. B. Majumdar of Jessore, and was born on the

1st of December 1897. After a successful scholastic career he passed the B.A. Examination with Honours in Sanskrit in the first division of the Calcutta University and was awarded a Silver Medal and a scholarship. In 1920 he passed the M.A. Examination in Ancient Indian History and Culture in the first division and was awarded a Gold Medal for securing the first rank. His post-graduate studies in the newly organised Ancient History Department of the University were devoted to researches in Sanskrit and Epigraphy, and he derived full benefit from his association with teachers of the calibre of the late Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Shastri, C.I.E., and Professor D. R. Bhandarkar. *En passant* it may be mentioned that it was apparently the

influence of Professor Bhandarkar, the late Mr. R. D. Banerjee and Rai Bahadur Rama Prasad Chanda which was responsible for his developing a keen interest in Indian Archaeology. During 1921-23 he was awarded the Griffith Memorial Prize for an interesting thesis on *Vajra*, the Mount Gold Medal and the Premchand Roychand Scholarship which is the blue ribbon of the Calcutta University awards for a thesis entitled *A List of Kharoshthi Inscriptions*. While carrying on post-graduate studies he was appointed on the staff of the Ancient Indian History and Culture Department of the Calcutta University and continued in this capacity till 1924 when he was selected for the post of Curatorship of the Varendra Research Society, Rajshahi, Bengal. During the period of his curatorship he published a monumental volume entitled "Inscriptions of Bengal," Vol. 3, and as a result of this and other archaeological works he was selected in 1925 for archaeological training by Sir John Marshall, the then Director-General of Archaeology in India. He was later deputed to Mohenjodaro where a Chalcolithic culture of the prehistoric times had recently been discovered. After this

training he was appointed as Assistant Superintendent for Exploration in the Archaeological Survey in June 1927, and the first important work carried out by him was a survey of the centres of the prehistoric civilization of Sind. On the 1st of June 1935 he was appointed Superintendent of the Archaeological Section of the Indian Museum. This post he held till the 1st of October 1938 when he was placed on special duty to complete his survey of the prehistoric sites in Sind. In the Indian Museum he re-organized the archaeological galleries of the Museum on modern lines, and entirely rearranged the prehistoric gallery. He also published two valuable guides to the collections in the Indian Museum, one dealing with the sculptures of the early schools and

the other on the Gandhara sculptures. While stationed at Calcutta, he also carried out excavations at various archaeological sites, such as Lauriya-Nandangah (Champaran Dist.), Kosam (Allahabad Dist.), Durgapur (Burdwan Dist.) and several other sites in Bengal. In addition, he deciphered and edited a large number of *Brahmi* and *Kharoshthi* inscriptions which have thrown considerable light on a number of complicated problems of Indian History.

Mr. Majumdar was one of the most distinguished products of the modern school of Archaeology in India, and was a very versatile scholar. The published results of his work bear ample testimony to his knowledge and the varied nature of his interests in the different branches of Indian Archaeology. He was also a recognized authority on the early history of India, and presided over the History Section of the Prabasi Vanga Sahitya Sammilan held at Patna in December 1937.

Most of his earlier work was published in the *Indian Antiquary* and *Epigraphia Indica*, while his famous memoir "Explorations in Sind" was published in 1934 as Memoir No. 43 of the Archaeological Survey of India. He contributed a valuable paper on the Copper Coins from the Stupa area in *Mohenjo Daro and the Indus Civilization*, and a chapter dealing with the inscriptions of Sanchi is being published in the *Monuments of Sanchi*. In addition, a large number of his papers dealing with *Brahmi*, *Kharoshthi* and later inscriptions have been published in the *Epigraphia Indica*. An interesting contribution of his to the India Society's publication heading *Revealing India's Past* (which is now in the press) deals with prehistoric and protohistoric civilization.

He joined the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal as an Ordinary Member in June 1920 and was elected a Fellow in February 1936. He was probably the youngest Fellow to enjoy this great honour. He also served on



Mr. N. G. Majumdar, M.A., F.P.A.S.R.

the Council of the Society for a number of years. By his early death the Society has lost an active member and an outstanding

scholar in the very prime of his life. Whatever branch of Archæology he touched he left his mark.

Mr. Mahes Prasad Bajpai (1907-1938)

MR. M. P. BAJPAI, who was Lecturer in Geology in the Department of Ceramics, Benares Hindu University, met with a fatal accident near Lachhman Jhula in the Almora District, United Provinces, on the evening of the 15th November 1938. He was out in field on behalf of the Government of the United Provinces to whom his services were lent by the University and was carrying out prospecting work under the newly planned Mineral Survey of the Province. It seems, while climbing a steep escarpment on way to a gypsum quarry he fell deep down into a gully and died instantaneously due to the fracture of the skull. The entire details of the accident are not known.

Mr. Bajpai was born in 1907 in the Etawah District, United Provinces, and had his Secondary education in the Local High School. In 1924 he joined the Benares Hindu University where he studied Geology and eventually passed the M.Sc. Examination in that subject in 1930. After this, he took to research and investigated a number of problems many of which were of economic importance and aimed at the development of the mineral industry of the country. He carried out mineral prospecting in several States and many districts of the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Bihar and Madras Presidency and discovered a large number of new mineral deposits

which included mica, felspars, pottery clays, limestones, talc, glass sands, etc.

In the brief span of six years as a geologist, he published a large number of papers both of academic and economic importance. His work on Gwalior Trap has been of outstanding value and will remain a work of reference for a long time. Much of his work on the Cuddapahas is yet left unpublished. During the last monsoon he, along with



Mr. Mahes Prasad Bajpai

a colleague from the Department of Geology, surveyed the flooded districts of the United Provinces and investigated the causes of these floods in this area. He was busy writing the report suggesting measures for preventing the occurrence of these floods which are so frequent in our country and devastating in their nature. Although very young, his researches on clays brought him on the Editorial Board of the *Indian Ceramics*, a newly started quar-

terly journal.

Mr. Bajpai was a keen sportsman and an excellent field-geologist. Even under the most trying circumstances, he would not hesitate in pursuing arduous work. He felt homely alike in the hot sandy deserts of Cutch, the barren hills of the Salt Range and in the cold hills of the Siwaliks. His enthusiasm and zeal for work was endless. In his premature death at the young age of 31 years, our country has lost a promising geologist.

A. G. J. AND M. L. M.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. A. S. Menon, D.Sc., Lecturer in Physical Chemistry, Annamalai University, Annamalaiagar at the early age of 35.