

Editorial

N Mukunda, Chief Editor

Acharya Jagadis Chandra Bose is a crucial figure in the growth of Indian science. He was our first scientist in the modern sense, and achieved an international reputation. He was also very close to Rabindranath Tagore and received much emotional support from him at difficult periods. Very recently there has been welcome news of proper credit being given to Bose for his pioneering work in the area of wireless telegraphy. While Heinrich Hertz had succeeded in 1888 in verifying Maxwell's electromagnetic theory by producing and detecting electromagnetic waves in the 60 cm wavelength range, Bose, working at Presidency College in Calcutta (and independently Lebedew in Moscow) produced much shorter waves in the 5 mm to 1 cm wavelength range. In an article-in-a-box, the George Vergheses (*pere et fils*) tell us about these exciting events from a century ago, and about the slightly later but more dramatic and commercially astute Guglielmo Marconi.

M N Saha in his obituary note on Bose in the Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society says that "Bose was a physicist and a physicist he remained in his outlook to the very end". But his gifts and range of interests were so great that he did truly path-breaking work in plant physiology – and the border land between the living and the non-living – as well. M K Chandrashekar gives us a glimpse of some of this work in "J C Bose's Contributions to Chronobiology".

Each year we present the achievements honoured by the physics and chemistry Nobel Prizes with 'Research News' accounts. This time our authors have done far better and produced full-scale articles in both subjects. Much to learn from in both cases.

And in Book Reviews we have a scholarly commentary on Weinberg's 'Dreams of a final theory', and two views on the brain-mind problem. No resolution yet in sight!



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—M N Saha

