

# Preface

The Indian Academy of Sciences was founded by C. V. Raman in 1934. Last year an international symposium on Pulsars was organized at the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore to mark the **Diamond Jubilee** of the Academy. This symposium held during 14-17 March 1994 brought together most of the leading experts in the field. The format of the meeting was in the spirit of a relaxed “discussion meeting”, with ample time for discussions. Each talk was followed by a question period of approximately 30 minutes. In addition, one hour was reserved for extended discussion after every group of talks. This plus the fact that most of the speakers concentrated on ‘what is not understood’ led to a very lively and memorable meeting. On behalf of my colleagues at the Raman Research Institute I would like to express our gratitude to the participants. During the symposium there was a public lecture by Joseph Taylor on *Binary Pulsars and Relativistic Gravity* under the auspices of the Indian Academy of Sciences. Instead of transcribing that lecture we have reproduced his *Nobel Lecture* with his kind permission, and with the formal approval of Reviews of Modern Physics (we felt that this is one way of making this magnificent lecture available to our college students who may not have access to RMP).

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to several of my colleagues at the Raman Research Institute, in particular V. Radhakrishnan, for their generous help in organizing this symposium. I also wish to thank Prof. R. Narasimha, the past President of the Academy, for his encouragement and support in planning this meeting. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the untiring efforts of R. Ramachandran, S.R. Ramasubramaniyan and D. Bhattacharya which made the publication of this proceedings possible.

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