

EDITORIAL

It is with great hope and some trepidation that we launch with this issue a new Journal of Physics. The scientific world is already suffering from a surfeit of publications, and the starting of yet another journal clearly requires some justification.

Serious research in the Physical Sciences may be said to have started in India at the turn of the century. It was during the twenties and thirties, the most remarkable years for the *quality* of research done in the country, that a number of Indian scientific journals came into being through the efforts of the great names that dominated Indian science at that time. Since then there has been an enormous increase in the *quantity* of research work done in India. However, the fashionable notion that it is more prestigious to publish in foreign journals, and the consequent lowering of the quality of papers sent to and published in the existing Indian journals formed a vicious circle leading to the present unsatisfactory situation.

The publication in foreign journals of the major part of the work done in India today is having a deleterious effect on Indian science. Relegating the refereeing of our best scientific work leads to loss of judgement and self-confidence. This process has sapped the inner resources of Indian scientists and, among other things, has led them to follow blindly fashions set elsewhere in choosing fields of work.

All this has caused much unrest among active scientists in India and led quite recently to a united attempt to find a solution. PRAMĀṆA (which in Sanskrit means a source of valid knowledge, a standard, etc.) is the outcome of a nationwide effort by Indian physicists to create a vehicle for their best efforts in Physics. The publication in it of good papers received from abroad can only add to its strength, and is most heartily welcomed.

In aiming at the highest standards in printing and get up, it was decided to use Times new Roman type with 4-line mathematics. However, there will be a delay of some months before this is possible during which time Baskerville type will be used, as in this issue. For the time being PRAMĀṆA will publish papers in all branches of Physics, but with increasing numbers of publish-worthy papers, it is hoped to branch out into theme journals devoted to Cosmic Physics, Solid State Physics, Molecular Physics, Biophysics, etc.

In the difficult task of organizing a new journal, the encouragement that has been received on all sides so far has been truly gratifying. However, the ultimate success of the journal will depend entirely on the quality of the scientific material that it carries. It is only through maintenance of the highest standards, by authors and publisher alike, that the promise of PRAMĀṆA can be realised.

S. Ramaseshan