Editorial

N Mukunda, Chief Editor

As we had promised last month, we continue in this issue our coverage of the life, work and seminal ideas of Alan Turing. V Rajaraman describes in some detail Turing's work on thinking machines, expanding on Vijay Chandru's account last time; while Priti Shankar presents a sensitive review of Alan Hodges' sensitive biography of Turing. With this we hope more readers young and old will come to know of this genius, and of his unusual but documented 'Indian connection'!

The discovery of perspective during the Renaissance must have had a great liberating effect on human thinking, in both technical and cultural terms. Classical Indian painting - as for example in Ajanta shows great delicacy of line, but fails to bring out the third dimension that well. Exquisite as they may be, Indian miniature paintings often show human figures seated on carpets which themselves seem to hang vertically down. In our Reflections section, S Ramanan outlines beautifully the development of projective geometry, from its beginnings with Desargues to its high point in the work of Jean-Victor Poncelet and on to recent times. Here it is interesting to recall Delbruck's remark that while infants during early development are first aware of topological relationships, then of projective ones, and last of all metrical and Euclidean geometry, in formal education these subjects are covered (if at all!) in precisely the opposite sequence!

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Attentive readers will see signs of *Resonance* becoming self-sustaining: the only references in Lakhotia's article on genes are to earlier Resonance pieces; J Samuel and Supurna Sinha use Maxwell's equations to show how topology can influence analysis, thus illustrating ideas in V Pati's article some time ago; and M Watve and A Joshi discuss some subtle points arising out of the latter's account of ageing in an earlier issue. All to the good, provided we do not overdo it!