

Editorial

S Ramasubramanian, Editor

Dogmas die hard. A recent instance is the enormous difficulty faced by Barry Marshall and Robin Warren (winners of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine) in convincing the scientific community of the decisive role played by the bacterium *H. pylori* in peptic ulcer. M E Sandeepa and D Chakravorty tell us how Marshall was driven to use himself as a guinea pig.



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The ancient Indian astronomer Aryabhata was perhaps the first to postulate that the Earth rotates around its own axis, and to suggest a heliocentric model. A K Dutta discusses the contribution of Aryabhata in a 3-part article, the first of which appears in this issue. Mercifully Aryabhata was not subjected to any inquisition; but his book was not so lucky as the later Indian astronomers could not get away from the dogma of a stationary Earth.

The debate between Bohr and Einstein arising out of the so-called EPR paper has played a significant role in the development of quantum mechanics. S Chaturvedi, N Mukunda, and R Simon give a critical review of this famous episode in physics.

Bark of trees may not attract as much attention as flowers, foliage or fruits. For those who take bark for granted, the article by D Ghosh should be an eye opener. Diversity, peculiarities, functions and benefits of bark of trees are described with colourful pictures.

According to Feynman, Nature is queerer than we are capable of imagining. Beginning with the 'knotty' behaviour of hagfish, K L Sebastian introduces the fascinating subject of knots and illustrates the links with biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics.

Nowadays, for students in the final year of higher secondary schools/pre-university colleges, summer is synonymous with various entrance tests; these often involve multiple-choice questions and negative marking. The classroom article by R L Karandikar is a critique of such tests and procedures. Hope it makes the options easier for aspiring students.

