OBITUARY

MR. NANGAPURAM VENKATESA IYENGAR, B.A.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Nangapuram Venkatesa Iyengar, B.A., retired Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Mysore, on Wednesday, the 11th February 1942, at his residence in Malleswaram, Bangalore City.

Mr. N. Venkatesa Iyengar graduated from the Central College, Bangalore, in 1887 as the best student of his year in Physical Science in the Madras University, winning the Arni Gold Medal, and was the first in Mysore to secure this coveted prize. In the same year he was appointed as Assistant Master in the Central College, later on becoming Lecturer in Physiology in the F.A. classes and in Chemistry in the B.A. classes, and continued to teach these subjects till the end of 1894. He was then transferred to the newly-started Meteorological Department, of which he became the head in 1908 and continued to hold that office till he retired in 1922.

Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar was very much interested in the advancement of Kannada language and literature. He was an elected honorary Secretary of the *Karnataka Sahitya Parishat* for a number of years. He translated into elegant Kannada an English translation of Flammarion's *Astronomy for Women* and this was published by the *Parishat* from H. H. The Mysore Yuvaraja's Fund for the encouragement of scientific publications in Kannada.

During the Dewanship of Sir M. Visvesvaraya in Mysore, when a comprehensive plan for spreading modern scientific knowledge among the masses was launched in 1917, Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar helped to organise the publication of a popular scientific magazine in Kannada, known as *Vijnana*, almost the first of its kind to be published in any vernacular of India, and took up wholeheartedly the joint-editorship of that Journal. It is the country's great misfortune that soon after Sir M. Visvesvaraya laid down his office in 1918, this model of a scientific journal ceased publication. Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar also took a prominent part in arranging for a series of popular science lectures in Kannada under the auspices of the *Mysore Economic Conference* brought into existence by Sir M. Visvesvaraya. He was for sometime placed on special duty under the Inspector-General of Education to write science books for students.

Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar was a student of religion, philosophy and literature as well, and was an independent thinker. He was a great admirer of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and Swamy Vivekananda, whose works he read devoutedly and translated into Kannada what seemed to him the best in them, for the edification of his countrymen.

With regard to his personal qualities Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar possessed a good many virtues: He was straigtforward, thoroughly honest in word and deed, very scrupulous in keeping time and appointments, and intolerant of injustice in any form. He was a keen observer of men and things, was rather reserved and disliked personal advertisement. Though over seventy he looked much younger for his age and was very active.

He was 75 when he died. We are the poorer for the loss of such an exceptionally admirable person.

B. V.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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SYNTHESIS OF N¹-SUBSTITUTED SULPHANILAMIDES

WITH the object of ascertaining the relative antibacterial merits of sulphanilamides derived, among a few others, chiefly from heterocyclic ring-systems, the N¹-substituted derivatives listed in the table have been prepared.

No.	Name	M.P./°C.
1	4 Sulphanilamido acetophenone, *[a]	189-90
2	ω-Sulphanilamido acetophenone[a]	176–7 d.
3	ω-Sulphanilamido α-acetonaphthone[b]	169
4	N⁴-Acetyl sulphanilamido guanidine[a]	117–18
5	5-Sulphanilamido indazole[a]	243–44d.
6	7-Sulphanilamido indazole[a]	249–50 d
7	5-Sulphanilamido benzotriazole[a]	135–37
8	3, N⁴-Acetyl sulphanilamido 1:2:4 triazole[a]	204
9	3-Sulphanilamido indotriazine[c]	d. at 200–1

* Literature[1] gives the m.p. 208°; (*a*) colourless needles; (*b*) pale needles; (*c*) yellow needles.

The requisite starting amines were obtained by the methods reported in literature with few modifications; the only exception was 3-amino indotriazine, necessary for the preparation of the corresponding sulphanilamide (No. 9) which was synthesised by adopting the procedure of De and Dutta.[2] Isatin condensed with aminoguanidine carbonate in glacial HAc to give a good yield of 3-amino indotriazine: yellow needles, m.p. 195–6°d. The amino bodies were condensed severally with crystallised acetyl sulphanilyl chloride in pyridine medium and the resulting N⁴-acetyl derivatives subjected to the hydrolytic action of hot dil. HCl or NaOH. Except in the case of the N⁴-acetyl derivatives of guanidine (No. 4) and triazole (No. 8), where the attempts to isolate the final compounds were not met with success, hydrolysis to the respective sulphanilamides proceeded smoothly.

The compounds are being investigated as to their usefulness in experimental bacterial infections with particular reference to plague in mice at this Institute and the results will be communicated in due course.

S. RAJAGOPALAN.

Haffkine Institute,
Bombay,
April 1, 1942.

[1] E. Merck, Fr. 847, 244 (1939); C. A., 1941, **35**, 5513.

[2] De and Dutta, *Ber.*, 1931, **64**, 2604.