

in round figures is estimated to contain about 100,000 volumes. It is one of the finest libraries in the East, and is particularly rich in several serial publications from all parts of the world. Financial considerations have unfortunately prevented the Council of the Society from keeping this library up-to-date within recent years, but it is hoped that funds would soon be available to fill up the lacunæ.

In connection with the work of the "Bibliotheca Indica" and in fulfilment of its special rôle in the domain of Oriental literature and its development, the Society has accumulated a very large number of manuscripts in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Chinese xylographs, and manuscripts in Burmese, Siamese, and other languages. The total number of these manuscripts is roughly about 25,000 and descriptive catalogues of various classes of manuscripts are being prepared by expert scholars at the expense of the Society. The acquisition of fresh manuscripts never ceases and thanks to the generosity of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India, the Society is able to keep its collections more or less up-to-date.

The Indian Museum of Calcutta which may aptly be described as the National Museum of the country, is a grown-up child of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The Society started its own museum in 1814, but the collections grew so rapidly that within less than 50 years it was not found possible with its resources either to properly preserve or display the large collections in the space available in the Society's rooms. The Society persistently memorialised the Government to subsidise the establishment of a National Museum and offered to hand over its collections as a nucleus of the proposed museum. It was not till 1866 that the Society succeeded in its efforts and the Indian Museum Act was passed. The collections of the Society were handed over to the Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum and are now exhibited along with those of Government

research departments—the Archæological, Botanical, Geological and Zoological Surveys most of which were also initiated through the efforts of the Society. A great part of the work of the members of these departments, and also the results of the research by various Universities and unofficial workers all over India, are still published in the publications of the Society.

The Asiatic Society is also the parent institution of similar societies in India and elsewhere. The Royal Asiatic Society of London was founded in 1823 by H. T. Colebrooke, an eminent mathematician, astronomer and Sanskrit scholar, who prior to his retirement was the President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for 10 years and after his retirement acted as the agent of the Society in London until his death. The Bombay and Ceylon branches of the Society, founded in 1827 and 1845 respectively, were also inspired by the successful pioneer work of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Another activity of the Society to which special reference may be made is the Indian Science Congress which was started in 1914. This Congress, which holds its annual sessions for about a week every year in different places in India, is similar to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Its administrative and publication work is carried on by the Asiatic Society of Bengal and it may justly be claimed that but for this *liaison* the Indian Science Congress would not have found it possible to develop at the rate at which it has done.

The Asiatic Society of Bengal has during the past 150 years done marvellous work for the development of human knowledge in Asia and has exercised an influence which may be described as second to none in any part of the world. In offering our congratulations to the Society on its Sesquicentenary celebrations we hope that its activities will continue and that it will go on flourishing and doing still more valuable work for the cause of Letters and Science in this country.

### Presentation of Honorary Degrees.

AT the Sixteenth Convocation of the Hindu University, Benares, Sir P. S. Sivaswami Iyer, Sir J. C. Bose and Sir P. C. Ray were the recipients of Doctorate Degrees in Law and Science. Sir Sivaswami Iyer is a distinguished student of Constitutional Law and

for his eminent service to the country deserves the high honour conferred on him. The Scientific achievements of Sir J. C. Bose and Sir P. C. Ray are too well known to be recapitulated and the degree conferred on them is an honour to the University which



can include them in its roll of distinguished degree-holders. We have pleasure in offering our felicitations to all these eminent scholars.

The Punjab University celebrated its Jubilee Convocation last month at which delegates from other Universities and Learned Societies were represented. The occasion was utilised for conferring honorary degrees on literary men and distinguished Scientists, mostly residents of the Punjab. Sir Shadilal who is an eminent Jurist and Sir Fazli-i-Hussain, the distinguished Education Member of the Viceroy's Council, received the LL.D. degree. The Degree of Doctorate of Oriental Learning was conferred on Sir

Sikander Hayat Khan and Sir Sundarsingh, and the Degree of Doctorate of Literature, on Sir Mahomed Iqbal and Mr. S. C. Woolner. Rai Bahadur Professor Shiva Ram Kashyap received the D.Sc. Degree. Dr. Kashyap is a leading Botanist whose explorations of the Western Himalayan regions have added greatly to our knowledge of the flora of the ice-covered higher altitudes and the honour now conferred on him is a fitting recognition of his long and honourable service as an Educationist and Scientist. We take this opportunity of felicitating all the recipients of the Jubilee honours of the Punjab University.

### Recent Advances in Anthropology, Ethnology and Ethnography in India.

By Rao Bahadur L. K. Ananthakrishna Iyer, B.A., L.T.

**D**URING the latter part of the nineteenth century, materials for the study of Anthropology, Ethnology and Ethnography were collected mostly by officials in the course of their official duties, by scholars like Dr. T. A. Wise and others, and by missionaries. Their researches were published as articles in the volumes of the *Indian Antiquary*, *Asiatic Researches*, *Calcutta Review*, *Madras Journal of Literature and Science*, *Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta and Bombay* and in the District Manuals. Historians like Mountstuart Elphinstone, Sir H. H. Elliot and others working on the borderland of the subject preserved incidentally much material for those who would follow them. In 1872, appeared the monumental work of E. T. Dalton on the "Descriptive Ethnology of Bengal". To these were added the volumes of "The Tribes and Castes of the Provinces of India and the Indian States", all subsidised by the Government of India and the States in accordance with the comprehensive scheme of Ethnographic Survey inaugurated by the late Sir Herbert Risley. The materials thus collected belong mainly to the domain of Cultural Anthropology.

Sir Herbert Risley's "Anthropometric Statistics for Bengal", North-West Provinces (the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh), and Bombay opened new enquiries. Dr. Thurston and others in similar fields did excellent work. But Dr. John Short was the first to make systematic observations in Physical Anthropology. His methods were unsatisfactory

and his achievement small. He was a pioneer, and therefore, his name should not be forgotten. The late Rai Bahadur Gupte, an assistant of the late Sir Herbert Risley, and subsequently a lecturer in the Calcutta University, did excellent work both in Physical and Cultural Anthropology. His volume on "Fasts and Festivals" along with numerous other monographs is very popular.

It is only during the last fifteen years that the enormous and invaluable mass of Anthropological materials which India offers to the student has begun to be systematically utilised. In the Calcutta University, was established, in 1921, a school of Anthropology on the model of this department in the London University with the same syllabus of study. It has been equipped with a fine library of Anthropological literature, and an excellent laboratory of up-to-date Anthropometric instruments. In this respect the University enjoys the unique distinction of being the only one, where Anthropology with all its allied subjects has been prescribed for the M.A. and M.Sc. Degree Examinations. In this connection some observations are called for as to the progress of work done by this department. On the Cultural side the present writer was the senior lecturer and Chairman of the Board of Higher Studies in Anthropology. Since its introduction in 1921-1932, apart from the lectures on the major branches of the subject, special training on research has been given by taking the students annually to the various parts of Bengal and Chota