

As a final check, eggs were hatched in an incubator in which the ordinary nitrogen had been replaced by the stable isotope nitrogen-15. When protein—taken from the embryos was analysed, it was found that there had been a significant increase in the nitrogen-15 content. This nitrogen could have come only from the atmosphere in the incubator.

These experiments seem to show that what used to be regarded as an inert gas and a

diluent of atmospheric oxygen had proved to be a gas which is assimilated, though in small quantities, immediately from the air to become part of proteins forming in animal organisms. If further investigations confirm Valsky's findings, they may amount to a major breakthrough in modern biology. (By Courtesy of the USSR Embassy in India.)

OBITUARY

PROF. C. R. NARAYAN RAO

PROF. C. R. NARAYAN RAO, who died on January 2, 1960, took a prominent part in the development of Biology in the Mysore University over a period of thirty years. He was born in Coimbatore on August 15, 1882, and had his early education in Bellary. He later went to the Madras Christian College where he came under the inspiring influence of Professor Henderson who was the Head of the Zoology Department there. He graduated B.A. and later M.A. of the Madras University and was awarded a Gold Medal for proficiency. He obtained a Diploma in Teaching too. After brief periods of teaching in Coimbatore and Ernakulam, he came to the Central College, Bangalore, to organize its Zoology Department and remained its Head until his retirement in 1937.

Narayan Rao made important contributions to Science in India in two ways: first, by his researches on Indian Zoology and, secondly, by his activities in connection with the advancement of Science in the country. He named and described many new species of frogs and his presidential address to the Zoology Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1938 at Lahore dealt with the wealth of the problems in this rich group. His work on the Archenteric and Segmentation Cavities of Frogs was recognized by Goodrich as a reorientation of our concepts of Amphibian development. And his account of the ovarian ovum of the slender Loris formed part of J. P. Hill's Croonian Lecture to the Royal Society. It was under his inspiring influence that some of us came to recognize scientific research as an integral part of University teach-

ing. If today, the Department of Zoology, Central College, has come to obtain the recognition as a centre of research in the country, it is entirely due to his initiative and inspired guidance.

Prof. Narayan Rao early recognized the need in India for a journal of the type of *Nature* in Britain. The increase in the tempo of scientific research in the Universities and Institutes of Learning demanded a vehicle for the speedy publication of results and with the initiative and support of Sir M. O. Forster and others, *Current Science* was started in 1932. On Prof. Narayan Rao fell the responsibility of being the journal's first editor. He discharged it so thoroughly and successfully that *Current Science* has now come to occupy an important position among the scientific periodicals of the world.

Again, it was in one of the editorials in *Current Science* (1932, 1, 335) that he urged the need for a scientific body in the country to co-ordinate scientific research and to provide a forum for scientific discussions and meetings. The founding of the Indian Academy of Sciences at Bangalore under the Presidentship of Sir C. V. Raman was a result of this appeal. He actively co-operated in the task of organizing the Academy, and the standing and reputation which the Academy now enjoys are due not a little to the sound basis on which it was founded.

Prof. Narayan Rao had a warm personality, intensely human and friendly. His death is a grievous loss to his many friends and past students.

B. R. SESHACHAR.