combination with the always necessary ground survey of representative areas, it can often give a large proportion of the information required more quickly and more cheaply than the usual ground work, and even on occasion[8] reveal features which may easily be overlooked on the ground.

It remains to mention a few other aspects of such work. Air survey may be of great value in detecting epidemic outbreaks of injurious insects, in determining their extent and spread, and in combating them—for this also has been done from the air in Europe and America. It may also be of the greatest value in recording gradual changes in density and nature of vegetation occurring naturally and though the influence of such agencies as fellings, grazing or burning, air photographs being incomparably superior to ground photographs for this purpose.[4]

In the less accessible tracts such as the Chittagong Hills where shifting cultivation is liable to encroach on reserved forests, rapid periodical reconnaissance from the air can save months of travelling.

Finally, the distribution of trees and forests is closely related to that of soil and underlying rock and work in other countries has shewn that air survey is a great help in mapping their distribution also.[9]

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[8] "Air Reconnaissance of the Forests of S. Tenasserim," W. A. Robertson, *Indian Forester*, 1926, 131.

[9] "Air Survey in relation to Soil Survey," R. Bourne, *Imperial Bureau of Soil Science, Technical Communication*, 1931, **19**.

Obituary.

M. P. Venkatarama Iyer, M.Sc. (1902—1936)

IT is with feelings of deep sorrow that we have to record the death, from typhoid fever, of Mr. M. P. Venkatarama Iyer, Lecturer in Chemistry, Central College, University of Mysore, on 27th April.

Mr. Venkatarama Iyer had a distinguished career as a student of the University of Mysore and took the first rank in the B.Sc. degree examination, 1924. Later, he secured the M.Sc. degree of the Calcutta University, with distinction. He carried out post-graduate research in the General and Organic Chemistry Department of the Indian Institute of Science and was appointed Lecturer in Chemistry at the Central College, Bangalore, in 1927. He was recently elected a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Besides being a very capable teacher, Mr. Iyer was an enthusiastic research worker, his special field of study being colloid chemistry, having been initiated into research first by Prof. F. L. Usher and later by Prof. J. N. Mukherjee. As a teacher he was loved by his students both for his learning and for the charm of his personality. He utilised all his spare time for research and published a number of papers and at the time of his last illness, he was busy preparing his thesis for the Doctorate in Science. His recent work in electrometric studies on the formation and stability of colloids which is awaiting publication throws considerable light on the vexed question of the formation of basic salts. Mr. Iyer was an enthusiast of a rare order, and there was hardly any scientific meeting at Bangalore which he missed. Most unassuming in his bearing, and possessing a critical faculty, his presence was courted by his colleagues at all discussions He was responsible for organising a *study circle* composed of his colleagues in the Central College and in the Indian Institute of Science, for informal and intimate discussion of problems in physical chemistry. Mr. Venkatarama Iyer was keenly interested in *Current Science* and was a regular contributor to the Reviews and Research Notes sections of the Journal. In his untimely death at the very early age of 34, India, in general, and the University of Mysore, in particular, has lost a devoted research worker of great promise.

We regret to record the following deaths:—

SIR RAJENDRA NATH MOOKERJEE, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., one of India's foremost industrial magnates, on May 15, at the age of 82.

Mr. CHARLES A. KING, B.SC., M.I.M.E., M.I.E., Principal, Engineering College, and Jodhpur Hardinge Professor of Technology, Benares Hindu University, on May 19.