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Conversazione on the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary of Foundation of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

THE *Conversazione* on the 15th January, 1934, in connection with the 150th Anniversary of Foundation of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was a brilliant function. It was held in the spacious upper verandahs of the Indian Museum which were divided into compartments to hold exhibits, and were illuminated by means of strong lights. Arrangements were also made for an *At Home* with Indian Music for about 500 guests on the lawn of the Museum. The guests were received by the President, Dr. L. L. Fermor, and Dr. S. L. Hora, the Secretary of the Jubilee Celebration Committee. A 'List of Exhibits' and a small pamphlet by Dr. A. M. Heron of the Asiatic Society of Bengal were handed to each guest. The exhibits were tastefully laid out and comprised all branches of Letters and Science. Through the courtesy of the Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, some fine paintings were on view and added a great charm to the other exhibits. The

Imperial Records Department put up a series of old documents of great public interest. The Archæological Section of the Indian Museum and Dr. S. K. Chatterji exhibited a series of archæological finds, some of which constituted recent discoveries and were exhibited to the public for the first time. A numismatic exhibit was provided in the form of a show-case containing specimens of coins, medals and decorations struck at His Majesty's Mint, Calcutta. The Departments of Chemistry and Physics of the University of Calcutta gave some interesting demonstrations of certain chemical and physical phenomena, such as Brownian Movement, Active Charcoal, Wireless Echos, Dyes, etc. The Geological Survey of India exhibited palæontological specimens and of these the fossilised remains of Dinosaurian Reptiles deserve special mention. Mineral and Rock exhibits were also shown by the department. The Botanical Survey of India showed original paintings of plants by William Roxburgh, Wallich's Catalogue, coloured sketches of some plants under cultivation at the Royal Botanical Garden, Calcutta, and Narayanswami's manuscript of a comprehensive catalogue of references to all works dealing with Indian Botany. Dr. S. C. Law exhibited Habitat Groups of bird-life in Bengal, drawings of some Indian Birds and photographs of his wonderful aviaries at Agarpara. The Zoological Survey of India put up ethnographical and zoological exhibits of great interest, and the School of Tropical Medicine had some very instructive exhibits dealing with Protozoology, Helminthology, Entomology, Rabies, Bacteriology, Indigenous Drugs, Filariasis, Kala-Azar, Leprosy and Public Health. A most useful feature of the *Conversazione* was the presence of qualified demonstrators in each section enabling the guests to take an intelligent interest in the exhibits and to elicit more information, if desired, than what had been supplied to them in the 'List of Exhibits'.

The exhibits were thrown open to the general public for two days and were greatly appreciated.