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## OBITUARY

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### Dr A. S. GANESAN

(1900–1986)

We record with deep sorrow the death of Dr A. S. Ganesan, former Editor of *Current Science* (1958–1973) on January 2, 1986.

In 1958, the then President of the Current Science Association, Sir C. V. Raman persuaded Dr Ganesan to take up the Editorship of *Current Science*. It was during his editorship that in 1964 *Current Science*, which was a monthly was converted into a fortnightly.

A man of strong principles and a strict disciplinarian, he was known for his impartiality as an editor. With the cooperation of the meagre but devoted staff of the Journal, he was able to build up this fortnightly into one of the best publications in the country.

Dr Ganesan was deeply involved in bringing out a special issue of *Current Science* on Prof. Sir C. V. Raman after his death in November 1970.

Angarai Seshiah Ganesan was born on 27th May 1900 at Vadankacheri and had his school and college education at Tiruchirapalli. He continued his post graduate study in physics at St. Joseph's College and secured the M. A. degree from the Madras University in 1922. He started his research work under the guidance of Prof. C. V. Raman at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta. He worked on oblique scattering of light in liquids and gases (*Phys. Rev.*, 1924) and coauthored papers with Prof. Raman on spectral studies of helium (*Astro Phys. J.*, 1923, 1924) and on polarisation of light scattering by organic vapours (*Phil. Mag.*, 1928).

In 1924, Dr Ganesan received the Dominion Science Scholarship tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London and worked with Prof. A. Fowler, F.R.S. in the Department of Spectroscopy. His thesis was on the second spectrum of neon, for which he was awarded the Ph.D. Degree of London University in 1926 and also the Diploma of the Imperial College, London.

After two years of teaching at the University of Rangoon (1926–28), Dr Ganesan joined Prof. Raman again at Calcutta (1928–29) and published 'A

Bibliography on the Raman Effect' (*Ind. J. Phys.*, 1929); with Dr S. Venkateswaran as the co-author he published 'A memoir of the Raman Effect in Liquids' (*Ind. J. Phys.*, 1929) and 'Raman Effect in Carbon disulphide' (*Nature*, 1929).

In 1929, Dr Ganesan joined the College of Science, Nagpur and started a flourishing research school on 'Raman Spectroscopy'. With Dr V. N. Thatte alone as the co-author he published nearly half a dozen papers on various aspects of Raman Effect. From 1945–56 he worked at the Robertson College, Jabalpur, where he set up the post-graduate laboratories and was responsible for beginning research work there. He retired from the Educational service in 1956 and was the Principal of Hindu College, Moradabad, for two years (1956–58) after which he became the Editor of *Current Science*, a position he held for fifteen years.

Prof. Ganesan was a Founder Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and he is remembered as a devoted teacher of physics, and a source of inspiration to many of his students. The lecture he gave when Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930, is still remembered by many. 'This left an indelible impression indicating what could be achieved in India in scientific research' (Prof. B. V. Thosar, 1981). Outstanding as a teacher, he was known for his gentle and quiet manners and subtle sense of humour.

In 1974, Prof. Ganesan went back to Nagpur to live with his son. Till the last, he was keenly interested in Science. He was the President of the Indian Physics Association, Nagpur Chapter (1977–1979). It was because of his keen association and involvement, that the Raman Museum and the Raman Science Park at Nagpur were established.

In his death we have lost a teacher in the finest old tradition, an able research worker, an editor of merit and a truly warm hearted person.

M. R. A. RAO

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