

gineers that resist mythification and leave them, as it were, out of history? And how might we read the cultural status of engineers?

Of course, this supposed invisibility of engineers – compared to pure scientists – is not strictly true historically and globally. One can point to Edison (a folk hero adulated in children's literature in USA), or the heroes of the early industrial revolution in England, or, coming to more recent times, Babbage, and, of course, in our own country, Visvesvaraya.

Nevertheless, one must agree with RBN when she claims: '... this "silence of the engineers" has a long-standing cultural tradition behind it, involving all kinds of complex social attitudes, both "Indian" and "Western"'. (How many of us have heard of Brunel, for example, who has a university named after him in England?)

I shall end this brief review with RBN's own summing up of the book: 'To ascertain just how fragile, how dangerous, and how necessary a place technology

holds within our cultures, perhaps we need first to humanize it. In *Technocrat*, we have attempted a preliminary step in that direction by holding the mirror up, not so much to nature, as to the nature of engineers.'

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MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

IV CME in Haematology and Haemato-Oncology

Date: 2–5 May 1998
Place: Mumbai

IV Continuous Medical Education is oriented towards PG students and senior staff members from pathology, paediatrics and medicine. It would cover both diagnostic and therapeutic aspects.

Contact: Dr M. B. Agarwal
Programme Director – IV CME in Haematology
Haematology Centre, Vijay Sadan
168B, Dr B. Ambedkar Road, Dadar TT
Mumbai 400 014
Tel: 022-4144453; Fax: 022-4140058

National Seminar on Integrated Management of Plant Resources

Date: 23–24 January 1998
Place: Chhindwara

Topics include: Strategies for integrated management of plant resources; Cultivation, marketing, trade and utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants; Biofertilizers; Biological control of pests and weeds; Microbes in medicine; Mushroom production technology, marketing and trade; Plant-based anti-microbials; Extension strategies.

Contact: Organizing Secretary
National Seminar IMPR
Department of Botany
Danielson College
Chhindwara 480 001
Tel: 07162-2210, 2610; Fax: 07162-43237

National Seminar on Pharmaceutical Biotechnology: Current Status and Future Prospects

Date: 31 Jan. and 1 Feb. 1998
Place: Ahmedabad

Distinguished scientists from academia and industry will give lectures on therapeutic, diagnostic, pharmaceutical and commercial aspects of biotechnology.

Contact: Dr Anisha Pargal
Convener, National Seminar on Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
C/o B.V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education and Research Development Centre
Thaltej, Ahmedabad 380 054
Tel: 079-490375; Fax: 079-7450449

National Conference on Biomedical Engineering (NCBME 98)

Date: 9–11 April 1998
Place: Manipal

Topics include: Medical instrumentation and measurements; Biomedical signal processing; Medical imaging and image processing; Physiological systems and modelling; Neural networks and fuzzy systems; Medical informatics; Rehabilitation engineering; Biomechanics; Biomaterials; Biomedical engineering education.

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