

for assessing the status of science in the country, and initiate better programmes to link with the society.

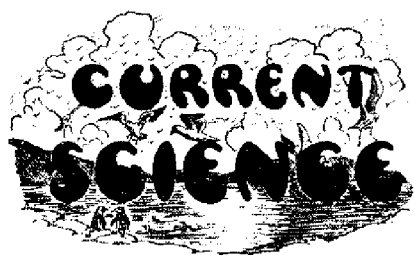
The academy is conscious that several issues such as the need for better undergraduate institutions in science, poor quality of teaching problems with teacher recruitment and evaluation, absence of an instrumentation culture, inadequate interest and expertise in areas such as engineering design, absence of a sufficient scientific component in medical education and poor managerial practices

have to be taken into account while addressing the problems related to science and higher education sectors. However, the attempt here has been to draw attention of all concerned to the seriousness of the situation through this brief statement, hoping that this will arouse interest and bring out remedial and promotive actions.

In closing, it is important to reiterate the pressing need for the academies of science, the entire scientific community, the Government of India and indeed the

citizens of this country, to reaffirm their commitment to science and technology as well as higher education as an integral part of developmental strategies. A concerted, collective effort will dramatically raise the level of science in India, so that this country can become economically strong, ensure its security in all aspects and confidently meet the challenges posed by the increasing technological sophistication of the developed world.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Vol. V] MARCH 1937 [NO. 9

The Silver Jubilee of the Indian Science Congress

Just over 23 years ago, in January 1914, there met in Calcutta a Congress of scientists presided over by Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee. The meeting lasted three days, one Presidential Address and thirty-five papers were read, and the published proceedings extended to eight pages. The seed thus sown has now grown into the Indian Science Congress Association that we know at the present day, with a total membership of nearly 1,000, and a published proceedings of over 600 pages.

The holding of the first meeting was mainly due to the initiative of Professors J. L. Simonsen and P. S. MacMahon, who found, on coming out to India, that there existed in this country little opportunity for scientific discussion, or for scientific workers coming into contact with one another. From the beginning the practice was adopted of meeting at different scientific centres each year, and up to now the Congress has met at Calcutta, Madras, Lucknow, Bangalore, Lahore, Bombay, Nagpur, Benares, Allahabad, Patna, Indore and Hyderabad. The Con-

gress can thus claim to be truly national body, representative of the whole of India. In fact, the annual meeting can best be described as the great scientific *mela* of the year, and all who are able to attend look forward to the event.

Next January the Congress will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee, and to commemorate the occasion, a delegation of about 75 scientists from the British Association and elsewhere, under the leadership of Lord Rutherford, will be coming out to take part in the meeting. The session itself will be held in Calcutta, but for a fortnight before, the delegation will be touring in India, and visiting the more important scientific centres, thus emphasizing the All-India nature of the celebration. This fine manner of celebrating the occasion is one that should appeal to all, and we are glad to be able to take this opportunity of supporting the feature.

The cost of inviting out such a large delegation will necessarily be large. The British Association, however, have agreed to meet half the cost of the expenses of the delegation. The Indian Science Congress Association have, therefore, to raise not only the other half of this amount, but also the local expenses of the meeting, and the cost of producing four commemorative volumes on science in India. In all about Rs 75,000 will have to be raised by the Association, for it has no permanent fund of its own upon which to draw. Already a sum of Rs 28,500 has been given or promised, of which the Government of India have generously contributed Rs 20,000. About Rs 46,500 therefore remain to be raised, and it is hoped that

with the help of the Government of Bengal, with donations from Indian and British firms, from learned Societies, and from members of the public, it will be possible to raise the greater part of this sum. It is necessary, moreover, to appeal to individual scientists in India to contribute to the Jubilee fund, and it is this aspect that we particularly wish to stress in this place.

The benefits that will be obtained by the younger generation of research workers and students in this country, who will be able to meet the delegation and take part in the sectional meetings, can hardly be overestimated. Not only are all members of the delegation being asked to contribute papers, but special emphasis is being laid on the holding of discussions on subjects that are of mutual interest to both the members of the delegation and to scientists in India. The occasion will in fact be a unique one, and we believe that scientists in this country will be proud to feel that they can materially help towards its success. An increasing number of Indian scientists proceed every year to Europe to sit at the feet of eminent savants, or to collaborate with them in research work; and in drawing up the list of names of those scientists whose presence in India would be most appreciated, particular call was taken to include those who had come into contact with students from India. These members of the delegation in particular will be specially welcome in India, and we have no doubt that their coming will be an additional incentive to scientists in India to contribute generously to their expenses.