

5. Leakey, L. S. B., *Nature*, 1959, **201**, 967–970.
6. Leakey, L. S. B., *Nat. Geogr.*, 1960, 420–435.
7. Leakey, P., *The Origin of Humankind*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1994.
8. Brown, F. *et al.*, *Nature*, 1985, **316**, 788–792.
9. Walker, A. and Shipman, P., *The Windows of the Bones in Search of Human Origins*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1996.
10. Sonakia, A., *Rec. Geol. Surv. India*, 1984, **113**, 159–172.
11. Sonakia, A., *Curr. Sci.*, 1998, **75**, 391–393.
12. Trinkaus, E. and Shipman, P., *The Neanderthals*, New York, 1992.
13. Trinkaus, E. and Howells, William W., *Sci. Am.*, 1979, 118–133.
14. Hatcher, P. G. *et al.*, *Nature*, 1983, **305**, 498–501.
15. De Leeuw, J. W. and Largeau, C., in *Organic Geochemistry* (eds Engel, M. and Macko, S. A.), Plenum, New York, 1993, pp. 23–72.
16. Knicker, H. *et al.*, *Org. Geochem.*, 1996, **24**, 661–669.
17. Hedges, John I. *et al.*, *Nature*, 2001, **409**, 801–804.
18. Rajendran, P. *et al.*, *Age Determination of the Marine and Floral Fossils Underlying the Ferricretes in Kerala, South India*, 2002 (in press).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We acknowledge the observations and suggestions made by Dr G. Sujathan and Dr V. M. Kurshid, Thiruvananthapuram Medical College and the excavation permission given by the Archaeological Survey of India. Our thanks are due to Dr K. K. Kusuman, History Department, Kerala University; Dr K. S. Mathew, History Department, Pondicherry University, and the Director and Staff, Directorate of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu. We thank Mrs Thomas Kunnikal and George Kutty for successfully conducting the excavation. We also thank the

radiographers M. Sajeey, S. Geetha and Johnson Thundil Varghese.

Received 6 May 2002; revised accepted 6 January 2003

P. RAJENDRAN<sup>†,\*</sup>  
R. BHARATH KUMAR<sup>#</sup>  
B. VIJAYA BHANU<sup>‡</sup>

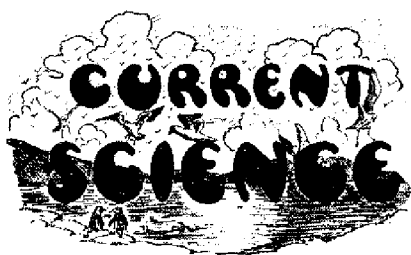
<sup>†</sup>*Department of History,  
University of Kerala,  
Kariavattom 695 581, India*

<sup>#</sup>*Upasana Hospital,  
Kollam 691 001, India*

<sup>‡</sup>*Department of Anthropology,  
University of Pune,  
Pune 411 007, India*

\**For correspondence.  
e-mail: drprajendran@yahoo.co.in*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



Vol. X] FEBRUARY 1941 [NO. 2

### The First All-India Pharmaceutical Conference

The first session of the All-India Pharmaceutical Conference was held in the Benares Hindu University on the 3rd and 4th of January 1941, Mr S. N. Bal, Ph.C., M.S., Curator, Industrial Section Indian Museum, presiding. Prominent scientists and representatives of pharmaceutical concerns from all over India attended the session.

Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, inaugurating the Conference, said that along with the social and political awakening in our country we are passing through a phase of industrial renaissance. He observed that India hitherto used to export

raw materials and import manufactured drugs resulting in a great loss to the country's wealth.

Besides a number of scientific papers read, two symposia were held, the first of which was on the organization of the chemical and pharmaceutical profession in India with Prof. J. C. Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science, as Chairman, and the second was on the manufacture of drugs from indigenous resources with Prof. T. R. Seshadri of the Andhra University as Chairman. In the course of his address Prof. Ghosh remarked, 'The war is an ill wind, but it has blown at least one good thing—the public are now keenly anxious for the proper development of a pharmaceutical industry and the proper organization of pharmaceutical studies in the country. In olden days the apothecary used to make in a shop all the pills, tinctures and extracts which the physicians prescribed, but the base of most of these pharmaceutical operations has now been transferred from the apothecary's stores to the factor of the drug manufacturer; it is here that the chemist and the pharmacist meet'. He then referred to the Drugs Act and the proposed Pharmacy Act and pointed out

how they would create a continual demand for highly trained pharmaceutical chemists.

Introducing the symposium on the manufacture of drugs from indigenous sources, Prof. Seshadri pointed out that though the present time may be said to be the most propitious for the rapid development of a drug industry in India, the response from industrialists including capitalists and technologists has been comparatively poor. A guarantee that the present demand by the Government and the public for drugs manufactured in India will continue and that legitimate protection against outside competition will be given after the war, is needed for providing the necessary stimulus for large-scale drug production in the country. A protected drug supply is as important to the health of a community as a protected water or food supply. No famine in these essential requisites or blockades can be allowed. He then discussed how the Government, the industrialists, the scientists, the universities, the politicians and the public can play their part for the rapid development of the drug industry.