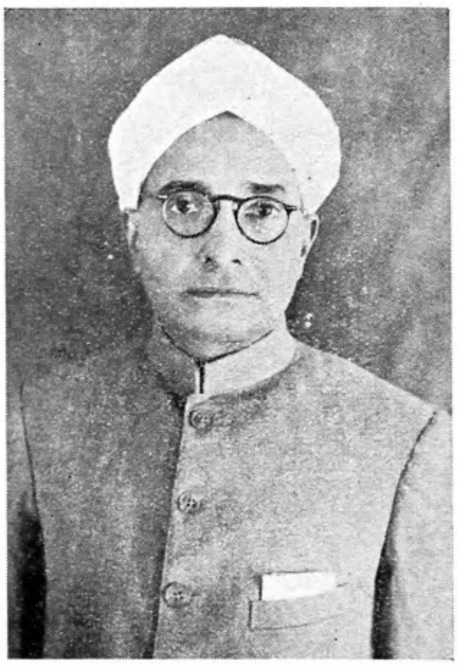
Prof. K. S. KRISHNAN, D.Sc., F.R.S.

KARIAMANIKKAM SRINIVASA KRISHNAN who has recently been elected by the Royal Society of London to its Fellowship was born at Watrap in South India on the 4th of December 1898. His early education was at the Hindu High School, Srivilliputtur and the American College, Madura. Later, he was at the Christian College, Madras and the University College of Science, Calcutta. He started his career as a demonstrator in chemistry at the Christian College, Madras, but did not continue long in this comparatively unproductive occupation. His search for a suitable place which offered sufficient scope for research work led him to the *Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science at Calcutta* where he came into contact with Prof. Raman. The latter was then leading an active school of research at Calcutta, and Krishnan enlisted himself as a research scholar under his guidance in November 1923. After staying there for a period of about five years, during which time he exhibited an extraordinary capacity for original work in several branches of physics, Krishnan was appointed Reader in Physics at the *Dacca University*. He held this post from the end of 1928 to the middle of 1933. During this period, he initiated independent lines of work and consequently a number of enthusiastic students gathered round him. In 1933, when Prof. Raman had to leave Calcutta to take up his duties at Bangalore, Krishnan was called upon by Prof. Raman who was then the Honorary Secretary of the *Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science*, to take up the newly founded Mahendra Lal Sircar Research Professorship in Physics at the Association. Krishnan accepted the offer and has since then been occupying this chair. His election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society is a well-deserved distinction and constitutes an expected landmark in the career of so distinguished a researcher as Krishnan. This is not only a fitting tribute to the memory of the late Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar but also speaks volumes for the foresight of Prof. Raman who was responsible for creating the Mahendra Lal Sircar Professorship and inviting Krishnan to accept the same.



Krishnan is the author of numerous original papers dealing with a variety of subjects such as magnetism, optics and crystallography. During the period of his stay as a Research Associate at the *Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science*, he collaborated with Prof. Raman in extensive theoretical and experimental investigations on the scattering of light, molecular optics and particularly in the researches leading to the discovery of the Raman Effect. While at Dacca, he started work on magnecrystallic action and made important contributions dealing with the significance of magnetic anisotropy to crystal structure. His more recent publications include papers dealing with pleochroism and fluorescence in crystals, properties of free electrons in solids, thermo-magnetic behaviour of crystals at low temperatures and other allied topics.

In 1936, he was invited to attend the International Conference on Photoluminescence held at Warsaw. In 1937, he toured in Europe and delivered lectures by invitation at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, at the Royal Institution in London and at other places. During that year, he was also awarded the Liege University medal. Last year, he again visited Europe as he was invited to participate in a conference on magnetism arranged at Strasbourg by the *International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation* which is one of the organisations of the League of Nations. On this occasion as well, he delivered lectures at various universities in England and in the Continent. He presided over the Physics Section of the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the *Indian Science Congress* held early this year at Madras. As the Mahendra Lal Sircar Professor of Physics at the *Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science*, Calcutta, Krishnan guides with conspicuous success the activities of a productive school of research.

S. BHAGAVANTAM.