

THE D. N. WADIA JUBILEE NUMBER

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THIS Number is being published to honour Dr. D. N. Wadia, doyen of Indian geologists, whose work constitutes a landmark in the progress of geology in this country.

It is but in the fitness of things that in this issue, coming immediately in the wake of our Inaugural Number, as many as sixteen countries are represented, which is not only a measure of appreciation of the Indian savant but also an encouraging sign of international cooperation.

Nearer home, with the recent advance in our projects for oil and coal exploration, accurate and detailed knowledge of palaeontological and palaeobotanical data has become more than ever indispensable. For this we need cooperation between different institutions and universities, and a comprehensive team of properly trained palaeontologists and palaeobotanists in the several branches of the science. The Palaeontological Society of India only recently gave the necessary lead in this respect, and considerable advance has been made in organising palaeontological research on a high level, wherever these sciences are taught in India, or where advanced work is in progress. In less than a year since the publication of the Inaugural Number, numerous investigations have been carried out and their results are being published here, while several others could not be included for want of space. Furthermore, steps have already been taken to start intensive exploration for the remains of Early Man in India in cooperation with certain institutions interested in prehistoric archaeology. The Society hopes to receive suitable grants from the Government and other sources for carrying out this long-delayed programme of work.

The Journal and the Society have, therefore, fulfilled expectations and have created for themselves a place in international science. The Society had in 1956 on its

rolls 36 Honorary Fellows, 156 Ordinary Fellows and 8 Institutional Members (Libraries). Since the publication of the Inaugural Number over 50 new Ordinary Fellows and a considerable number of Institutional Members, representing many different countries, have been added. The Society's library is growing rapidly and as soon as space is available for exhibits, a Museum will be organised at Lucknow, not only for advanced research but also from the layman's point of view. The ultimate aim of organising the Palaeontological Society of India into an *International Research Centre* and its Journal into a broad based forum for scientific discussion is being gradually realised.

As President of the Palaeontological Society of India and on its behalf, I take this opportunity of congratulating Dr. D. N. Wadia on his achievements. The Society also wishes to record its deep appreciation of the keen interest he has taken in the cause of its advancement. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation of the support received from Dr. M. S. Thacker, Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Secretary, Ministry of Education, distinguished patron of the Palaeontological Society of India, and to all other scientists, foreign and Indian, for their continued support. Not the least, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to office bearers and Fellows of the Palaeontological Society of India who have given whole-hearted cooperation in the arduous task of placing the Society on sound foundations.

Lastly, I wish to convey the Society's gratitude to Mr. G. D. Birla, Messrs Tata Iron and Steel Co., Sir Jehangir Gandhi, The Assam Oil Co., Messrs Christien Mica Industries for their generous donations towards publication of this issue.

We commence this issue with a sketch of Dr. D. N. Wadia's life.