

Inaugural Meeting

The Inaugural Meeting of the National Institute of Sciences of India was held in the Senatè Hall of the University of Calcutta at 5-30 P.M. on Monday the 7th January, 1935. Dr. J. H. Hutton, President of the Indian Science Congress, was in the chair, supported by Dr. L. L. Fermor, President of the National Institute of Sciences of India, and the meeting was honoured by His Excellency Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal, who was present for the purpose of inaugurating the National Institute.

At this meeting there was a large gathering of scientists from all parts of India, with many of the eminent public men of Calcutta including Judges of the High Court, Members of the Government of Bengal, the Mayor of Calcutta, the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, representatives of the educational and scientific institutions, the learned societies, and the Chambers of Commerce of Calcutta, University teachers and many others ; among those present mention may be made of :

Sir Harold Darbyshire ; Hon. Mr. R. N. Reid ; Hon. Sir B. L. Mitter ; Hon. Nawab Bahadur Sir K. G. M. Faroqui ; Hon. Khan Bahadur Abdul Aziz ; Mr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee ; Hon. Kunwar Jagadish Prasad ; Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar ; and the following Foundation Fellows :—

Prof. S. P. Agharkar, Prof. P. R. Awati, Rao Bahadur G. N. Rangaswami Ayyangar, Dr. K. D. Bagchi, Prof. K. N. Bahl, Prof. A. C. Banerji, Dr. S. K. Banerji, Lt.-Col. O. A. R. Berkeley-Hill, Mr. T. P. Bhaskara Shastri, Prof. S. S. Bhatnagar, Prof. D. M. Bose, Dr. G. S. Bose, Sir U. N. Brahmachari, Mr. B. C. Burt, Mr. C. C. Calder, Dr. Haraprasad Chaudhuri, Lt.-Col. R. N. Chopra, Brigadier H. J. Couchman, Sir Kedarnath Das, Prof. B. B. Dey, Prof. N. R. Dhar, Prof. H. B. Dunncliff, Mr. P. Evans, Dr. L. L. Fermor, Dr. C. S. Fox, Prof. J. C. Ghosh, Prof. P. N. Ghosh, Dr. S. L. Hora, Dr. J. H. Hutton, Prof. M. O. P. Iyengar, R. B. L. K. Ananthakrishna Iyer, Lt.-Col. R. Knowles, Dr. K. S. Krishnan, Dr. K. V. A. Krishnan, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Prof. K. C. Mehta, Prof. S. K. Mitra, Prof. P. C. Mitter, Prof. J. N. Mukherji, Col. A. Olver, Prof. Ganesh Prasad, Dr. Bains Prashad, Dr. H. S. Pruthi, Prof. Muzaffaruddin Qureshi, Mr. P. R. Ray, Rai Bahadur S. C. Roy, Prof. M. N. Saha, Prof. B. Sahni, Principal B. M. Sen, Prof. H. K. Sen, Prof. N. R. Sen, Dr. F. J. F. Shaw, Prof. B. K. Singh, Dr. E. Spencer, Lt.-Col. A. D. Stewart, Prof. T. S. Tirumurti, Rao Bahadur Prof. B. Venkatesachar, Rao Bahadur B. Vishwanath, Mr. D. N. Wadia, Mr. W. D. West.

Dr. J. H. Hutton, President, Indian Science Congress, and Chairman of the meeting, in inviting His Excellency Sir John Anderson, Governor of Bengal, to inaugurate the Institute, said :

Your Excellency,

A year ago under the guidance of Professor Saha the Indian Science Congress appointed a committee to draft a constitution for, and to take the necessary steps to bring into being, a national scientific body which should perform for India some of those functions which the Royal Society performs for Great Britain. That committee, not without meeting difficulties, has carried out the work for which it was appointed, and the constitution drafted has been accepted by the Indian Science Congress. It remains to call the body into existence, and I have the honour, as representing the Indian Science Congress in 1935, of asking Your Excellency to inaugurate the National Institute of Sciences of India.

His Excellency then inaugurated the National Institute. His address is printed on pages 6-9.

Thereafter Dr. L. L. Fermor, President of the National Institute of Sciences of India delivered his Inaugural Address, which is printed on pages 10-26.

On the termination of the President's address, Professor S. P. Agharkar, one of the Secretaries of the National Institute, read out the following list of names of the learned bodies that had sent representatives and messages of congratulation to the National Institute at its inaugural meeting :—

1. Asiatic Society of Bengal.
2. United Provinces Academy of Sciences.
3. Indian Academy of Sciences.
4. Indian Botanical Society.
5. Indian Chemical Society.
6. Calcutta Mathematical Society.
7. Benares Mathematical Society.
8. South Indian Science Association.
9. Association of Engineers.
10. Institute of Engineers (India).
11. The Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society of India.
12. Indian Psychological Association.
13. Society of Biological Chemists, India.
14. Indian Physical Society.
15. Mining and Geological Institute.

In addition, expressions of good wishes for the success of the National Institute had been received personally by the President from the following members of the Governor-General's Council: the Hon'ble Sir James Grigg, the Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain, and the Hon'ble Sir Frank Noyce; and also from three of the senior scientists of India, Sir J. C. Bose, Sir Martin O. Forster, and Sir P. C. Ray.

Prof. S. P. Agharkar then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency Sir John Anderson for having consented to inaugurate the National Institute of Sciences of India, which was carried with acclamation.