

Book Review

***CV Raman's Laboratory and Discovery of the Raman Effect* by Rajinder Singh, Shaker Verlag, Aachen 2018, Pages XVI + 153**

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This book provides many hither-to-unknown information on Professor CV Raman. This book focuses on some aspects of the instruments used by Raman and many controversies involving him. Out of 153 pages of the book about 50 pages are notes and references. In the 100 odd pages there are many photographs, quotations, excerpts of senate meeting of Calcutta University and tables.

Personally, I would have been happier if the author discussed more about the works of CV Raman and P Krishnamurthi on the discovery of small angle X-ray scattering. Their first paper was published in *Nature* in early 1929 a few months after the discovery of Raman Effect. Further work on small angle X-ray and neutron scattering came 30 years later after the advent of synchrotron. Considering the huge impact of these techniques on structure of soft matter (micelles, and bio-molecules) this would be an important topic to explore.

The main problem is this book gives only what is not stressed in other books and hence, one gets a fragmented picture. This book cannot be read as stand-alone book. One has to consult other biographies of Raman (written earlier by G Venkatraman and by the author himself). Nevertheless, there is some new information on Raman.

The frictions of Raman with Saha, Shyamaprasad Mukherjee (father of Asutosh) or UN Brahmachari are presented hurriedly. The relations of these great men fluctuated. For

example Saha started working with Raman on certain experiments. But Raman was not apparently impressed by Saha's experimental skill. Raman wrote a foreword for the first edition of Saha-Srivastava book '*A Treatise on Heat*' and mentioned that the principal author (Saha) has made fundamental contribution to the subject. Then many things happened and their relations soured and this foreword was removed from subsequent editions of the book. With Shyamaprasad also initially the relation was good and one can see in this book how Shyamaprasad pleaded for a hike in salary of Raman at Calcutta University. Later Saha and Shyamaprasad campaigned for ouster of Raman from the Secretary, of IACS. Still I recommend this book for historians of Indian Science for getting a new insight.

The authors should improve the quality of the photocopies (first paper of Raman and Krishnan in *Nature* on Raman effect) and preferably, type it out for easy reading. This was done in the First issue of the *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy*.

The historic building in which Raman worked at 210 Bowbazar Street (now Goenka College) was partially restored in 2013 and a replica was inaugurated by Hon'ble Sri Jaipal Reddy, Union Minister of Science & Technology. IACS also created an archive in 2010 and a Hall of Fame of Indian Science in 2012. Different international bodies (American Chemical Society and IEE) gave plaques to IACS in honor of Raman. These could have been mentioned.

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