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**Editorial Notes**

*Centenary:* **Acharya P. C. Ray.**

The 2nd of August 1961 brings to mind the Centenary of the birth of a great scientist and industrial reformer who was born in India, Acharya P. C. Ray.

Born at a time when his native land was industrially backward and *politically handicapped by being subject to foreign rule*, he gained proficiency in the language of his foreign rulers, English, won their appreciation, became the recipient of scholarships, degrees, and a knighthood but remained a patriot eager to improve conditions in his own country and lived a simple, disciplined, devoted life of self abnegation dedicated to chemical research its development by his pupils, and its application to Industry—a life of “plain living and high thinking” to be emulated by all.

He was the founder of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, which has become one of the Premier Chemical and Pharmaceuti-

cal concerns in the East, that produces much for the countries needs and provides employment for its citizens.

We publish elsewhere in this issue a brief biography of this great savant and a list of papers published by him.

*Soil Mechanics:* The importance of the subject of soil mechanics for reliability of structures is appreciated by all who are responsible for the foundations of structures and since massive structures of great renown have been existing from time immemorial it may be thought that all that needs to be known about it is already known. But as knowledge is acquired it is found that more knowledge is required; and recent failures of some important hydraulic structures have shown that our knowledge is sadly lacking.

It is imperative therefore that proper study be made of each and every failure and that sound conclusions be drawn therefrom and recorded in a properly classified manner for use of future designers.

The adoption of secrecy and treatment of data of public structures as confidential for the purpose of avoiding public discussion, for fear that blame may be cast on some department or personnel, should be discarded in favour of free and frank discussion without fear of consequences. So that the knowledge derived thereby may be of future use to the public for safeguard of their structures. The technically qualified staff of a department does not need to be sheltered from discussion or blame by secrecy. They are well qualified to meet with discussion on their own merit and ward off blame where none exists. If any blame be justified it would be criminal to shelter it by secrecy.

We are happy to have for publication a paper on this subject in as non-committal terms as possible, to avoid acrimony, presented before the Association of Engineers on the 28th August 1961, by Sri K. B. Banerjee, who has had wide experience of construction of hydraulic structures on silt covered soil.