

## •Editorial

**Engineering and Science.**—It is peculiar that at the last Jubilee session of the Indian Science Congress Association held jointly with the British Association for the advancement of Science in Calcutta this January there was no section representing Engineering. This seems to show that there is a feeling that in India Engineering is not carried out on a scientific basis and is not regarded as a science.

It is said sometimes that much of the engineering that is seen here has more in it of art than of science. But it should be observed that that art really depends on a confidence in the behaviour of materials of construction and the occurrence of particular phenomena of nature; and that confidence is derived only by a scientific line of thought from a knowledge of the results of practice and the results of the experiments and researches of scientists. The interest of Engineers in the meetings of the Indian Science Congress Association was therefore quite considerable, and it was well that a few engineers were invited as delegates.

A special point of interest to us in this is that among those delegates two were from our Association—Dr. B. N. Dey, our President, and Mr. S. N. Bandopadhyaya, our Secretary. Another of those delegates, Dr. G. W. O. Howe, James Watt professor of electrical Engineering at the University of Glasgow, has recently become an Honorary Member of our Association.

Dr. Howe's presence in Calcutta in this connection was fortunate for us as it gave us the opportunity to meet him and to obtain from him the paper, "The Concepts and Language of Electrical Engineering," which he read before the Association of engineers on the 6th January 1938. It is published in full as the opening article of this issue.

The Secretary's report (published in this issue) refers to the activities of the last session. The number of papers read was rather disappointing but the few visits to places of Engineering interest were very instructive and much appreciated. There is a probability that more visits will be held this year with better arrangements for conveyance.

**• Indian Engineering.**—Those who have attended such visits often have been greatly impressed by the amount of Engineering done in India and the number of things for engineers to see that are not given any publicity. The few publications that do touch on Indian Engineering contain a wealth of information derived from major works carried out in India in connection with Railways, Bridge building, River training

Irrigation, Hydro electric schemes etc. The work of the Cotton mills, Jute mills, Rolling mills and Flour mills, in India is seldom written about but it is competing quite successfully with that of the better known mills in other parts of the world. Rubber Factories, Soap Factories, Match Factories are being established in increasing numbers and it is now possible to obtain in India much of that knowledge which in the past could not be obtained without a costly voyage over the oceans and across the seas.

Experience gained in India forms the subject of many valuable papers presented to Engineering Societies in foreign countries. It is a pity that we have to wait for detailed particulars of the most important works carried out in India till such papers are published abroad, and more of a pity that those who are chiefly connected with these works should feel a greater pride in publishing them elsewhere earlier than in India where they gained the experience. We say, "It is a pity," because there can be no compulsion on anybody to publish his experience in any particular organ of our choice, and it is but natural that at the end of his labours one should prefer to spread his knowledge and gain the esteem of his own folk in his own home country rather than in one he considers foreign though he may have spent a good part of his life in it and gained much of his experience there.

• And natural as it is, it is all the more a pity that even at the end of all his labours one cannot get away from the truth of that early christian teaching that "No man is recognised as a prophet in his own country and in his own home and among his own kith and among his own kin."—That it is true is a pity; "and pity 'tis 'tis true!"