

Fifty
Years'
Reminiscence
on
Record

OUR EDITORS

Er. J. C. GANGULI	(1925—1927)
Er. Dr. J. N. BASU	(1928—1932)
Er. N. N. RUDRA	(1933—1936)
Er. SAROJAKSHA BASU	(1937—1965)
Er. A. DEB	(1966—1969)
Er. A. K. BHUNIA	(1970—1973)
Er. Dr. M. BHATTACHARYYA	(1974—1975)

ON RECORDS

Fifty Years Ago

Even now our general public looks with contempt upon the men of engineering profession. Time is ripe now for shaking off the old prejudice and making the future generation fit for a better struggle in the life battle—time is ripe now to have technical classes in every school in the towns and villages so that our future youngmen may not be burdens on their respective families and on the society. Time is ripe now to make up our deficiency in technical knowledge with as much vigour and determination as possible ; and towards this end we intend to do our bit.

—Vol. 1, No. 1 (April 1925)

The Brotherhood of Engineering, Freemasonry, recognises no sect, caste, creed or colour, and eminence attained by many of its members is recognised by all and the tribute due to merit is ungrudgingly given by all.”

—B. C. Gupta, President, 1928.

“At the second annual general meeting of the North West Indian Association of the Institution of Engineers (India). Col. Kirkhope, in his presidential address, remarked that the Indian Engineers generally fail on the practical side and that a thorough grounding in practice does not appeal to them as much as it does to others. For some time past it has become a fashion with British engineers, holding privileged position in

India, to make such remarks and the Indian engineers are gradually becoming accustomed to pay the scant attention which such remarks deserve. Failure is not a monopoly of the Indian engineer, nor is success of the British engineers. Indeed it would be a very interesting finding if it were possible to investigate how much of the success claimed by big British engineers in India is at bottom an achievement of the Indian subordinates.

—Comments in Vol. IV No. 12
(December 1928)

.....Mr. Triguna Sen, a graduate of the College of Engineering and Technology, Bengal, has been selected for the fellowship in Engineering by Deutsche Akademie. Mr. Sen is attached to the Engineering College at Jadavpur as an Instructor of Mechanical Engineering and is also an Associate Member of this Association. We congratulate him on his success.

—Editorial, Vol. No. 3 (October 1929)

“To reduce Calcutta’s smoke nuisance, there should be a vast increase in the number of smokeless electric and gas appliances in use. The high prices of electricity and gas prevents this. The station of the Electric and Gas Corporations are not far apart and in this respect are suited for the introduction of low temperature

carbonisation. If the Electric Supply Corporation were to process the raw coal, burn the semi-coke in the boilers, dispose of the oils and deliver cheap gas in bulk to the gas company for distribution to Calcutta, there should be a large reduction in fuel charges and consequently cheaper electricity and gas for Calcutta."

—Prof H. C. Guha, Vol. VI No. 1
(March, 1930)

To meet Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the Mayor of Calcutta, an 'At Home' was given by the Association of Engineers on the 16th of December, 1930. Prof. B. C Gupta (B. E. College) our past President on behalf of the Association informally proposed whether Mr. Bose can be the Patron of our Association. The Mayor in a nice little speech thanked the Association for honouring him and spoke about the importance of Engineers in modern civilisation. He said, he was always willing and ready to serve the Association in any capacity either as Patron or something else."

—Vol. VI No. 4 (December, 1930)

The editor and his board will spare no opportunity to make the journal more widely useful and definitely valuable, and its service more effective. In your co-operation is our strength, and in your appreciation is our reward.

—Editor, Vol. IX No. 1 (March 1933)

Anion—প্রতিভিত্তি	Anode—প্রমুখদ্বার
Antena—আকাশতার	Arc (Electric)—ধনুক্ষুর
Arc lamp—ক্ষুরবর্তি	Arrester (lightning)—
Asbestos—অভক্ষ্ম শীল	বজ্রবারক

—Vol. IX No. 2 (June 1933)

My earnest desire is to do all in my power to maintain the dignity of the office I hold and I can assure you that you will not find me lacking in endeavour or in loyalty to the cause

which the Association has at heart and which it exists to further.There is one point however, in the Annual Report, to which I regret to refer, that is in connection with the building for the Association. But I venture to say that with your support and earnest zeal, the item will materialise before long.

—President (Rai Bahadur Amarnath De)
Vol. X No. 2 (June 1934)

To cope with the increasing activities and growing requirements, this Association stands in need of a suitable building of its own. An application has recently been made to the Corporation of Calcutta for the lease of a plot of land, so that the Association may build a house thereon with necessary equipments, including a suitable laboratory for industrial research works.

—Secretary's report (Saileswar Sanyal)
Vol XI No. I (March Q. 35)

We should be proud of our Association which from its humble start has carried on for nearly two decades through all obstacles and vicissitudes. We who meet today should pay a silent homage to those before us whose hard work and perseverance have made this possible and the best homage that I can suggest is for all our members to strive with eagerness and mutual goodwill for the improvement and growth of the Association and make fruitful thereby the work of those pioneers ahead of us.

—Secretary's report (Sachin Bandopadhyaya)
Vol. XII No. I (March 1936)

Brother Member, I, who am an incurable optimist look for the dawn of a more glorious day for our Association—a day which will see the fruition of the true spirit that this Association stands for.

—Secretary's report (Sachin Bandopadhyaya)
Vol. XIV No. I (March 1938)

Representation on Public Bodies.

(1) Rai G. C. Das Bahadur was co-opted as an additional member of the committee of the Bengal National Chambers of Commerce.

(2) Rai G. C. Das Bahadur was elected a member of the Bengal Engineering College.

(3) A. K. Sen was nominated to serve the Governing Body of the Calcutta Engineering College.

(4) Mr. A. K. Dutta was nominated as a representative of this Association to attend the Indian Science Congress.

(5) Mr. N. N. Rudia was nominated as a representative in the Bengal Library Association.

In conclusion, I have to say that we should be proud of our Association which from its humble start has carried on for nearly two decades through all obstacles and vicissitudes and grown into its present strength both in number and quality.

—Secretary (S. Bandopadhyaya)
Vol. XII No. 1 (March 1936)


The Tennis Club was started last year at Cossipore—Chitpur. Rai Bahadur Amarnath Das served the first ball. The standard of tennis notwithstanding the faded youths of most of our members except Mr. Takurdas Roy, S. K. Roy and J. N. Dasputa who by grace of God possess eternal youth, is fairly good and we have amongst its members who were players of standing in their days.

—Vol. XII No. 2 (June 1936)

The progress made in the past and during last year should encourage us to enlarge our activities and mould the Association in such a manner as to compel recognition at home and abroad. To this end we have made a good beginning this year. I refer to the first

paper of the year read before the Association by no less a person than Dr. Howe of Glasgow University. I hope the secretary will follow up the good beginning and arrange for more of such original dissertations during the year.

—Presidential Address (Dr. B. N. Dey)
Vol. XIV No. 1 (March 1938)

Our symbol  is a monogrammatic symbol formed by the combination of two syllables *sutti*=*suti* of Pali which is the *Sutya* of Gujrat and the *Swasti* of Sanskrit. *Swasti* is a compound of *Su* meaning well and *Asti* meaning it is. The Greeks adopted the Indian Symbol of *Swastika*. The Buddhists also regard this symbol. The Indian *swastika* is different from German symbol in design and in spirit.

—Editorial (S. Basu) Vol. XIV No. 4
(Dec. 1938)

It is a common place talk that the war has unsettled everything and that one must wait until peace is restored in this world of ours. Let us quit being “copy-cats”. Let us stop playing the fool of a “*burra-sahib* or *chota-sahib*” a “covenanted hand” or a “gazetted officer”. Let us put our houses in order. If we do not do it in our own way, no one else would. Let us develop our resources from within profited by the experience, failure and success of the foreigner. Let us build in the only practical way, Bengal by Bengalees and India by us all Indians. We engineers can only do it.

—Presidential Address (Dr. B. N. Dey)
Vol. XVII No. 1 (March 1941)

This is a war of Engineers. They have harnessed Science and Engineering for the destruction and devastation of human life and property instead of putting them in the service and comforts of mankind. They are now engaged in mad frenzy in how best and how

quickest a manner one can out-wit the other in producing the armaments and equipping the forces, for destruction, which some people call, changes for "New order".

—G. S. Mitter, Vol. XIX no. 1 (March 1943)

Efforts have, from time to time, been made to enable the Association to have a house of its own. An application was made in 1932 to the Corporation of Calcutta for the lease of a plot of land measuring about 13 cottas, suitable for housing the Association but unfortunately it has not materialised yet.

Though the Association offers no inducement of any form of personal benefit or professional advantage to its members and though no form of compulsion or pressure is brought to bear on applicants for appointment to positions in public service to persuade them to become members of this Association, its membership has steadily grown and spread throughout the provinces of India.

Sarojakshya Basu Vol. XXI no 1.
March 1945.

It was about the year 1920, when I was employed under Messrs Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd. that a friend of ours Mr. N. C. Bhattacharyee, the inventor of India Fans and one of the founder members of the Association of Engineers, had been to Jamshedpur and talked round at a social function with the engineers and urged them to become members of the Association of Engineers, started in Calcutta by some of the ex-students of the Shibpur College, at 10, Rammohan Roy Road, the residence of Mr. C. K. Ghosh and then shifted at 63, Mirzapur Street in a rented house. Mr. J. N. Banerjee brought the office at 20, Strand Road. It was the untiring energy of the J. C. Ganguli of Braithwaite &

Co. that instilled the life blood to the Association.

—N. N. Sen Vol. XXIV No. 2
(June 1948)

We have amongst us Civil, Mechanical and Electrical engineers of experience and repute. We have amongst us men in all walks of this profession who by their long standing experience are capable of contributing substantially to the growth and development of the State.

Our Association is nearly of thirty years standing but we are not yet recognised by the State as a body of professional engineers. We demand of the State to recognise us an Association of Engineers of long standing. We demand that we should have some say in the future development of our country.

We further demand that we should have representatives both at the Centre and in the provinces in all development schemes as non-official advisers. I consider our Association has earned a right for such representation and our demand is just and reasonable.

Let us all unite and work so that our dreams may come true.

—Presidential Address (P. C. Bose
Vol. XXIV No. 2 (June 1948)

Members of the Association of Engineers arranged a day-long function in the steamer 'Bhagirathi' with their families.

—Vol. XXV No. 1 (March 1949)

It is not an anomaly that engineering projects in the country are being controlled by men other than engineers? It is not also strange that when 90% of the capital expenditure of governments and public bodies are in

respect of engineering undertakings, the Governments or Public bodies are not represented by Engineers? For this, the Engineers are also to be blamed. They never made any attempt in the past to have their voice heard by getting into administration of governments and public bodies.

J. C. Ganguli Vol. XXIV No 4
(Dec. 1948)

The introduction of foreign technicians for the purpose of carrying on Indian industries where it is felt that suitably qualified Indians are not available has become so common a practice now that it is becoming positively dangerous to Indian control and a note of warning must be sounded, as the practice is being increasingly exploited by trained foreign advisers in Indian industries and services.

Editorial (S. Bose) Vol. XXVI No. I
(March 1950)

The members of the Association had the benefit of a visit to the new locomotive manufacturing works under construction on 22 March, 1950.

Vol. XXVI No. I (March 1950)

Good Friday morning dawned and member of the Association reached Dhanbad. A member of local engineers came to receive us. Shri A. K. Mitra, inspecting officers of the Coal Mines Stowing Board, Govt. of India had made every arrangement for our comforts during our 2 days stay at Dhanbad.

—Vol. XXV No. 4 (Dec. 1949)

The patriotic feeling that induces one to buy the produce of one's own countrymen in preference to that of foreign goods is being sadly exploited in this country in two ways.

(1) by raising prices abnormally high for profiteering ;

(2) by local indifference and complete lack of effort to improve the quality of goods produced for use in this country.

—Editorial (S. Basu) Vol XXVI
No. 2 (June 1950)

Due to lack of encouragement and facilities for higher technical education by the then Govt. of India and also due to indifference shown by the industrialists of the country we find today the shortage of technical personnel and still worse this country of ours remained backward inspite of our enormous resources.

—D. S. Desai Vol XXVI No. 2
(June 1950)

It is a common complaint against Engineers that they do not share their responsibilities in conducting affairs of the larger social, educational and political organisations of the country. It is a fact that an Engineer is so much absorbed in his specialised job that he scarcely finds time to direct his energy for other work. But still I hold the view that Engineers should come out of their assigned field of work and play their part in better administration of different organisations, social, political, economical, etc.

—Dr. Eng. J. N. Basu Vol. XXVI
No. 3 (Sept. 1950)

As one of the treach-diggers and concrete layers in its foundation, I believe it will not be out of place if I say a few words on the origin of this Association. Thirty three years ago a batch of young engineers with limited knowledge and still more limited experience felt the need of a engineering reference library and of a meeting place. The lawyers had their bar libraries, the medical men had their

clubs but engineers had nothing. These young engineers decided to form an Association and held the first meeting at 10 Rammohan Roy Road. Just after a year when the talk of birth of the Institution of Engineers (India) was in progress, a deputation from this Association waited on Sir R. N. Mookerjee with a request to take the helm of this Association instead of forming a separate one. Sir R. N. regretted his inability as they had already advanced too far and as this new Institution had the backing of many of the engineers in service—in Railways and Public Works—both European and Indians. He however, advised for merging the Association into the Institution. Probably, for their pride that they were the pioneers in this respect in India or because of Royal charter instead of Indian charter, the Association did not agree to Sir R. N's advice.....'I feel that members of the Association and the Institutions of Engineers have great responsibility in shaping the future progress of the country. We can form a body of consultants and offer our services. We can thus make our existence felt by Govt. and others. I shall give you an example. A few years ago we offered our services to the Railway Board for designing the Ganga Bridge in Bihar free of cost. We requested the Board for data but as usual we did not get any response even after reminders. Then we had to point out that it was not possible to gain experience without mistake and wrote with a sting at the end that it could not matter much if due to an experiment by our Engineers the Ganga Bridge had failed and few hundred lives had been lost and a few crores of rupees had been wasted, when due to experiment by our political leaders—by the partition of Bengal and the Punjab—thousands of men lost their lives and several crores were wasted. This brought the data we submitted the design of the main

spans which was considered creditable. But we were advised not to proceed with detail as the project had to be kept in abeyance due to difference of opinion about the site.

—President address (J. C. Ganguli
Vol XXVIII No. I (March 1952)

During the last World War, when stock of petrol was rapidly exhausting, the Germans were trying to utilise all possible resources in their country to substitute petrol. Amongst other things, they had been utilising city sewage to produce gas. In Calcutta, there had been no such more until the environmental hygiene Committee in the year 1948 suggested the use of the sewage at the city of Calcutta for Production of gas. We may now examine the possibilities as described below.

K. B. Banerjee Vol. XXXII No. 1
(March 1956)

I am pained to see that an intensive propaganda has been let loose to claim that by building the Ganga barrage at Farracca and injecting fresh head water into the Bhagirathi the navigability of the Lower Hooghly can be improved. I cannot reconcile my humble knowledge of laws of river hydraulics with this claim.

Kapil Bhattacharya Vol. XXXII
No. 1 (March 1957)

In our Government, we have noticed that ministers of law are professional lawyers. Ministers for other ministers seldom possess any training for the fields they have to govern. Ministers are selected on political consideration. Engineers professional ability is unaffected by politics. Indian Engineers who served under British Government are equally serving under the Indian Government. They might have only changed the necktie for the coat (prince) and the hat for the cap. When

we are trying to introduce a socialistic pattern of society, the existences of classes as I and II for the same responsibility seen incongruous. Let there be some boldness to abolish class distinction in services.

A. Deb Vol. XXXIII No. 2 (June 1957)

From the endowment fund of late Mr. P. Bruhl, Professor, Bengal Engineering College, two prizes will be awarded for essay competition. The subject of the essay is "Engineer as a National asset".

Vol. XXXIV No. 1 (March 1958)

The All-India Power Engineers' Conference held at Bangalore in January 1957, recognised the fact that the exploitation of natural resources for power generation and the scope of its utilisation should not conform to artificial barrier or the political divisions of the country into the various states.

Dr. M. Datta Vol. XXXV No. 1
(January 1959)

We offer Sir M. Visvesvaraya, an engineer and statesman on this unique day, the 15th September, 1960, our felicitations and pray for his happiness. We dedicate this issue of the Journal in his name.

Editorial Vol. XXXV No. 3 (Sept 1960)

Dr. Radhakrishnan in his report of the University Education commission recorded "The engineer tends to carry out other men's purposes rather than to be a determiner of purpose". Only introduction of new pattern of the profession can prove this compliment (!) out-moded.

(Paper read before the 48th session of Indian Science Congress, Roorkee by A. Deb)

Vol. XXXVI No. 4 (Dec. 1961)

Year before last a representation waited on the Chief Minister, W. B. and he gave a patient hearing to our case. He felt that the State Government should have no objection to recognise the Association of Engineers as a body of national importance for the benefit of technical advancement of the country.

Presidential Address (A. C. Sen) Vol. XL
No. 1 (March 1965)

An Afro-Asian Housing Congress was held at Cairo from the 7th December to 12th December, 1963. An invitation to attend the Congress was forwarded to the Association of Engineers by the Government of India and the Association was represented by Sri K. C. Roy, MAE.

—Vol XXXIX No. 4 (Dec. 1964)

Does anybody take notice of what we engineers say? Do the Government take notice of Engineering press just like the political or party paper? We think the answer is 'NO'. This country is administered and engineering activities steered by civilians. Engineers are executors but not administrators. The thought of engineers, all over the world, has been focussed on this crucial point. If more number of engineers become people representatives, automatically they will constitute the technocracy. If appealing to Government is the negative aspect, forming the Government is the positive aspect and engineers may think of returning capable members of their profession to form the Government.

Editorial (A. Deb) Vol. XLII No. 1
(March 1967)

Founded in 1962 E. I. J. C. (Engineering Institution Joint Council) in England, aims to provide the whole engineering profession with a fully representative body, entitled to speak for all qualified eng

Could we, in India, aim at similar achievements. In developed countries like England and America, the professional bodies have formed joint council. The Universities in India should admit external candidates for degree examination. In England engineering engineers are external graduates. 50% of the

Editor (A. Deb) Vol. XLII No. 3
(July 1967)

In his speech, before the First All-India Engineers Conference held in Dec. 1968, by the Association of Engineers, Mr. J. M. Parsons, President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry suggested that dialogue should be established between Engineers and the Industry so that technical education in the country become more job-oriented than now.

—Vol. XLIV No. (March 1969)

‘Fifty years is not a long period. Those who nursed it from the embryo stage are no more with us but on this happy occasion. We recall their sacrifice and service and pay out homage. Let the light kindled by them burn unabated.

With the Golden Jubilee, the Association has tured round the corner and opened up more scope to pursue activities for improvement of the journal, for recognition of AMAE examination as comparable to university degree.

A. Deb Vol XLIV No. 4 (Dec. 1969)

An evening seminar was arranged on the subject ‘Introduction of Regional language (mother tongue) in the field of Applied Sciences in which national Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose presided.

—Vol. XLV No. (March 1970)

In order to establish our position as a high ranking technical Association, concerted efforts and active participation of members of all

grades are necessary in the line suggest below :

- i) To get the recognition of the Association by the Govt. of India.
- ii) To construct a building for the Headquarters of the Association.
- iii) Recognition of the graduate engineers of the Association by the Public Service Commission as equivalent to university graduates.

—Presidential Address (S. Chatterjee)
Vol. XLV No. 1 (March 1970)

The Annual get together was celebrated on 17 April 1970 in the Conference room of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Shri Ashoke Sarker, Editor Anand Bazar Patrika, was present as Chief Guest.

—Vol. XLV No. 2 (June 1970)

I am glad that the Association of Engineers have taken a very imaginative step towards tackling the problems of urban development and growth. Material and Equipment can alone bring about the transformations and I trust the deliberations of the conference will be fruitful.

—R. K. Khadilker (Minister)
Vol. XLV No. 3 (Dec. 1970)

We are anxious to ensure that during every monsoon roads do not crack up. Most of the road repair is done manually but should we use more machines? Is there any quick method of laying pipes? We often see the spectacle of a road being dug up to put pipe in and left in that condition for a year or two causing enormous difficulties. Must garbage clearance continue to be a duty task as a present? There are many more things which you will certainly consider.

—B. B. Ghosh (Chairman CMDA)
Vol. XLV No. 3 (Dec. 1970)

Bengal is proud of itself being in the forefront of advancement in science and engineering. It is really heartening to see that Engineers, the members of the Association of Engineers, India, have thought of their importance and urgency of the problem of electrification, the importance of roads, the extraction of water so that we may not need to depend on the whims of nature. I have much confidence on you. Just now you have heard the hymns of vedas. It has urged people to work. I wish that you rest on hard works and solve our problems.

—National Professor Satyen Bose,
Vol XLVI No 4 (Dec. 1971)

To harness the upsurge of all round growth for purposeful ends the corresponding preparedness of the country need be assessed and with this objective in mind, the Association of Engineers, India has sponsored the 1st Engineering Materials and Equipments conference.

—Editorial (A. K. Bhumić) Vol. XLVII,
No. 4 (Dec. 1972)

I am very much happy to be here among so many distinguished engineers. I hope the conference of this nature will stimulate us so that we can take up the problems of the city in right earnest.

—Sankar Ghosh (Minister) Vol. XLVI
No. 4 (Dec. 1972)

The research is not meant for attending so called conferences, is not meant to be used as one's career making tool, is not meant for creating highly paid covenanted research post to accommodate man of so-called choice but is meant to do something positive towards our country's benefit.

—Dr. M. Bhattacharyya Vol. XLVI
No. 2 (June 1972)

Engineers in their official orbit are faced with complexities of relation with non-technical administration in technical department. It is rightly argued why the specialists are denied the responsibility to run their show in matters technical. We have H. S. Mahumantiya commission here; Foulton report in U. K. We only hope better sense will prevail and everyone would be given their due.

—Editorial (A. K. Bhumić) Vol. XLVIII
No. 4 (March 1973)

We are engineers and we must deliver the goods. This, I have ever remembered during my working life of 49 years. Progress of the country depends to a very large extent on engineers. I am pained to see engineers not given the freehand of working by the so-called administrators. Engineers are being suppressed and oppressed for the last 27 years of independence. I am always with the technocrats and support their movement launched for their just cause.

—M. Ganapati (Karmavirattom)
Vol. XLVIV, No. 1 (March 1974)

Technocrats all over India, are exhibiting anxious concern against bureaucratic control they are subjected to. It is felt that should this have taken place just after independence, the face of India would have been for better than what it is today.

—Editorial (Dr. M. Bhattacharyya)
Vol. XLVIV No. 1 (March 1974)

The Engineers life in India is not very easy, specially these days, when materials are scarce, labour problem is difficult and opportunities are not available. Engineers find their hands tied up and politics rules decisions. If we are to build a new India we must think of the country as a whole and forget about politics.

—B. C. Ganguli (Karmavirattom) Vol. XLV
No. 1 (March 1975)

THE ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS COUNCIL 1933



Sitting from left :—

Mr. A. K. Sen, Mr. K.C. Biswas, Rai G. C. Das Bahadur (Vice-President), Rai A. N. Das Bahadur (President),
Dr. B. N. Dey (Vice-President), Mr. J. N. Das Gupta, Mr. R. K. Ganguli (Hony. Secretary).

Standing from left :—

Mr. R. M. Ghosh, Mr. S. Basu (Hony. Asstt. Secretary), Mr. C. C. Sinha, Mr. K. M. Mukherjee, Mr. N. N. Sen,
Mr. Q. A. Rahaman, Mr. J. C. Ganguli, Mr. K. M. Chowdhury (Hony. Librarian).

THE ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS COUNCIL 1930



Sitting from left :—

Mr. R. M. Ghosh (Asstt. Secretary), Mr. J. N. Basu (Editor), Rai G. C. Das Bahadur (Vice-President), Rai A. N. Das Bahadur (President), Mr. H. K. Banerjee (Secretary), Mr. C. C. Sinha (Asstt. Secretary Mr. K. M. Choudhury (Librarian).

Standing from left :—

Mr. R. K. Ganguli, Mr. A. K. Sen, Mr. J. N. Chakraverty, Mr. M. N. Ghosh, Mr. K. M. Mukherjee, Mr. N. N. Sen, Mr. Q. A. Rahaman, Mr. H. N. Mukherjee.

Journal of The Association of Engineers, India.

FIFTY YEARS

The Continued existence and spread of this Journal for over FIFTY YEARS is a marvel achievement for a technical publication, which is the first of its kind in India, and indeed, a miracle of Journalism under the adverse conditions which it had to face through out its life.

Being a non-commercial and non-political publication, it had neither finance nor patronage nor a press of its own to assist it.

As its main purpose was only "to promote the general advancement of the science of Engineering and allied subjects and facilities for the exchange of information and ideas on these subjects amongst the members of the Association" by publishing "**the proceedings and reports of the Association or any papers, communications, works, or treatises of Engineering or Allied subjects in English or other language or any abstracts thereof or extract herefrom**", it could not attract very many advertisements that would cover the cost of publication. Nor could it charge a high rate for its issue. Its distribution had to be free of charge to its members ; and so, its cost has been met entirely by the subscription fee for the Membership of the Association.

The type of work that Engineers and Scientists have to do prevents them from

practice in literary expression, since the need to save time compels them to deal with most of their work and reports in abbreviated symbols and mathematical expressions that are not appealing to the majority of readers. Yet it has been found that several articles published in this journal have been reproduced in magazines intended for general, non-technical readers, and many editorial notes, which contained comments of public affairs in the course of introducing the articles inserted in the Journal, have attracted the notice of even foreign journals.

It is noted with satisfaction that many requirements pointed to, in this Journal have been provided for by Governmental action in the public sector and the words of the Writers have borne fruit. Among the subjects dealt with, the following are striking.

1. Apprenticeship training facilities,
2. Sea-training for Marine-Engineering apprentices,
3. Research Stations Establishment,
4. National Planning,
5. Use of Hydraulic resources, D. V. C. Mayurakshi, Hirakud, etc.,
6. Inland Waterways transport improvement,
7. Hooghly River deepening and training,

8. Experimental Tanks for Ship Model Testing,
9. Shipbuilding yard establishment,
10. Study of Naval Architecture,
11. Defence Craft Construction,
12. Wartime-Airraid precautions,
13. Locomotive manufacture,
14. Steel Production and economy of Steel,
15. Tool Steel manufacture,
16. Heavy Machine Manufacture,
17. Community Development,
18. Calcutta's Water Supply, Stormwater, Sewrage disposal,
19. Calcutta's Slum Clearance and town-planning improvement,
20. Kalyani's Drainage,
21. Automatic Telephone,
22. Electric Supply,
23. Railway electrification,
24. Nuclear Power for peaceful purposes,
25. Road and Highway Development

It is tempting to give a list of the names of the Writers on the subjects listed above. But the task correctly indexing the same is too great and the space allotted for this write up (500 words, too small, as a reference to the board volumes in the Associations library will show.

The progress of the Journal during the present decade from 1965 is too well known to all present members to meet a write up. It has uplifted the Association from a position of deep despair to one of high hope and made possible the Celebration of a Golden Jubilee and several Conferences that have, through their Souvenirs attracted the lucrative advertisement and membership subscriptions, gained for the Association the financial necessary to keep it going, on a higher standard than ever before.

Er. Sarojaksha Basu
Editor (1937-1965)

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Calcutta-1.

Phone : 22-6714

Looking Back

The Golden Jubilee number of our Journal affords a look-back to our past through the gleanings or rather gems collected by our editor. The running of a technical journal with limited circulation, without any aid from State or Industry, in a country where politics is the first thing and politics is the last thing, is a really difficult task. The success depends to the extent of dedicated service only and our predecessors did not lack in giving their best for the Journal and for the Association. It is an occasion to recall their toil and tribulations to keep the light burning.

The Association has not yet been recognised by an Act of Lok Sabha nor by a state notification. Previous efforts were not fruitful due to some plea or other by the Government. We should not however lose heart at this but hope that some day, good sense may prevail. In other countries, an organisation living for sixty years would certainly earn state recognition. At one time (1962) the question of recognition came up in the Lok Sabha through interpellation by a member who did not belong to the ruling party. Mr. Humayun Kabir was the Education Minister who replied to many supplementaries but did not turn down the question of recognition. His replies were non-committal. When Mr. Kabir was in Calcutta, an engineer friend raised this topic with him. Mr. Kabir chided him for our foolishness in sponsoring this question through an M. P. who was not in the ruling party. He mentioned had this been tabled by a congress stalwart like Atulya Ghosh (then

M.P) there would not have been any difficulty to grant recognition. At the state level, this scribe (then Secretary) with Sri A.C. Sen (then President) saw the chief minister Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, in 1963, who gave a patient hearing. He assured of state recognition and said that he would be passing instruction to Haren Babu (then Education Minister). We were hopeful but Haren Babu died, the United front came to power and hopes were lost. Nevertheless, the state asked us for compiling vocabulary of technical terms in Bengali. We did it and received thanks !

The journal devoted attention for the engineering education. W. B. was the last state to appoint a Director of Technical Education and that under constant pressure from Sir Jehangir Ghandy, chairman of the Eastern Region. Sir Ghandy accepted many suggestions adduced in the articles of the journal and confirmed this in writing. We have yet to go a long way for an integrated effort in advancement of technical education in this state. What is the distance between Calcutta Technical School and central Calcutta Polytechnic ? What is the difference in curriculum ? Yet the two are nursed by by two mothers—Industry and Education. Why ? You can't find a parallel in other states.

Our consultancy cell is an addition for service to the Industry. Our journal was exchanged with other journals all over the world. Funds did not permit the Association

to send delegates to overseas conferences, though Mr. K. C. Roy (Irrigation Dept W.B) represented us in the Cairo conference, (Mr. B. N. Majumber, (D. G. S. D) represented us in the Water pollution conference Mr S. P. Nandi represented us in London Fair, Mr. H. Kothari (Kothari Organisation) represented us in Indian Students Conference at London etc.

C.S.I.R (Mr. Chandrakant) in a statement mentioned that Institution of Engineers is the only body of Engineers. A strong protest was sent from the Association. CSIR then published a brochure containing names of all Scientific and Engineering societies in the country with membership number, name of secretary etc. Union Govt desired a Federation of all engineering societies like the Joint Council in England or Federation in U. S. A. Shri T. R. Gupta, then President, Institution of Engineers, started dialogue with Shri Sarojaksha Basu, our President, but it did not mature.

Calcutta Corporation was very sympathetic with the Association from the very inception.

It used to give a grant of Rs. 200/- in the hoary past days but this grant gradually dwindled to nil. On enquiry, to the disbursing officer, we got the reply that our Library does not possess Novels & Dramas like other Libraries. We could not think of adding one more library with novels and dramas and Association's name was struck off from the list of their munificence. This is technology in the eyes of our present day Corporation !

It is very pleasant to be reminiscent of the past. What efforts, what enthusiasm, what ideal brought the ace engineers of the past under the banner of the Association! How much we could perform to be their worthy successors! As one stowing away, I have faith that our shortcoming would be amply made good by the younger engineers and the Association will grow richer and richer with their valued contribution to the causes for which the Association was founded.

A. Deb

(Editor 1966-69)

1979 WILL BE OBSERVED AS
DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR.

Task Ahead

The Golden Jubilee of our journal affords us an opportunity for introspection. Any organisation enjoying about sixty years of existence without any aid from the State or the Centre has admittedly some life spirit in it and our veteran Engineers and Technologists who founded this professional society and nourished it during its infancy provided this life spirit. There was no Engineer worth the name who was not associated with the Association of Engineers. It is true that some of them left its fold after independence but during British rule all Indian Engineers were under the flag of the Association of Engineers with lofty aims much of which still remain unfulfilled. One of them is to house the Association in a building of its own. In 1932, an application was made to the Calcutta Corporation for lease of 13 kattah of land but nothing tangible could yet be done principally due to paucity of funds. In our new venture we are diverting all our savings to the Building Fund.

The holding of annual All India Conference is a new facet of the Association. We are having it in Calcutta for the sixth time with the object of making a stock taking of our indigenous resources in terms of technical know-how, scarce materials and sophisticated equipment, assessment of the production gap and directing the entrepreneurship to grow in a field whatever shortfall is evaluated.

By this the Association has taken upon itself the onus of treading new spheres of development and suggest ways and means for implementation of various nation building projects. In this effort, we crave for the blessings of our veteran engineers, who have seen life through struggle.

Er. A. K. Bhunia
Editor (1970-1973)

**CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
BUILDING FUND.**