

## OBITUARY

W. B. METRE

(1906—1970)

By the death on 21st November 1970 of Waman Bapuji Metre, a former Vice-President of the Society, the Indian Oil Industry has lost one of its most distinguished professional geologists.

Born on 14th February 1906, Metre had his early education in Yeotmal and Nagpur. After obtaining a diploma from the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in 1930, he joined the Burmah Oil Group in Digboi, Assam.

Over the next two decades, Metre's oilfield exploration, development and review assignments were confined mostly to the Assam Valley and foothills, but they also took him to places as diverse as Arakan, Sind, Punjab and the U.K. In 1953, he was appointed Senior Geologist of the Assam Oil Co. Ltd., and, in 1959, a Director of Oil India Limited. He was also a part-time member of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission between 1967 and 1969. Although he retired from the active service of the Burmah Group in 1965, his technical consultancy/advisory services were still enlisted by both Oil India Limited and Assam Oil Company Ltd. almost till the time of his death.

He maintained contacts with the geological and related disciplines through personal relationships, popular writings and lecture assignments. He was at various times President of the Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India, of the Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Society and of the Geology Section of the Indian Science Congress. He was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of India in 1958 and later became a Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences of India. He attended the first four ECAFE symposia on oil and natural gas, and was leader of the Indian delegation to the ECAFE symposium held in Teheran in 1962.

National recognition of this combination of wide experience and dedicated talent was given to him in the form of a Padma Bhushan award in 1967.

In April 1970, while delivering the Presidential address to the Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Institute in India, he had a stroke from which he was making a remarkable recovery when a second stroke felled him in mid-November. He leaves behind a widow and a large family—and a host of friends and admirers to whom he was 'Dada'.

A.B.D.