

The industry had been handed down to the present day, especially in the Cambay area where this industry was flourishing still adopting ancient practices.

This was followed by the marketing aspects of ornamental stones by **Mr. N. Ranganatha Rao**. A video presentation was given of the cutting and polishing of ornamental stones, mainly granite and marble.

As a fitting finale to the training programme, a tasty and sumptuous feast was spread out on the roof of the Society's premises. All too soon the programme drew to a close. The last practical of the course consisted of a visit to a tiny gem-cutting unit owned by one **Mr. Basha** in the busy Jeweller's Street of Bangalore. The actual process of cutting gemstones was witnessed by all of us and proved fascinating.

Altogether it was a hectic but interesting course. A judicious mixture of lectures cum practicals sustained our interest throughout, and whetted our appetite for more. We felt that such courses should be held more frequently and in different parts of India to bring increasing awareness of this most important ancient industry of India.

At the conclusion of the course all the trainees individually expressed their grateful thanks to the organisers of the training course and especially to **Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna**, **Dr. Karanth** and the other faculty members.

JAYASHREE VENUGOPAL

A new journal, "THE HOLOCENE" under the editorship of **John A. Matthews** has been announced by the publishers, Edward Arnold. The new journal will include papers on the following subjects:

- \* the geological, biological and archaeological evidence for recent environmental change
- \* palaeoclimatic and related environmental changes on timescales of decades, centuries and millennia, including directly observed changes
- \* interdisciplinary studies of environmental history and prehistory
- \* the use of modern analogues to elucidate the palaeoenvironmental record
- \* techniques for reconstructing, dating, monitoring and modelling environmental change
- \* the nature, processes, mechanisms and causes of natural and human-induced environmental change
- \* the development of natural and cultural landscapes and ecosystems
- \* palaeoenvironmental and historical perspectives on global environmental changes and their effects
- \* the prediction of future changes in the environment from the record of the past

The first issue has been released in March, 1991. Institutional subscription rate is £ 85 and for personal subscription £ 35.