

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The historic city of Poona, this year's venue for the 37th Session of the Indian Science Congress, provided Indian meteorologists and geophysicists an opportunity to meet and discuss various problems of mutual interest. The opening of the Session on 2nd January was attended by Hon'ble the Prime Minister and a number of distinguished scientists from Overseas. The President, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, chose as his presidential address the subject 'Why Statistics'. He stressed, in the light of statistical considerations, the shortcomings of our national economy and rightly laid emphasis on the tremendous force a large population could, if properly harnessed, be in national reconstruction.

In the days following, meetings were held by 13 different sections of the Congress. Of special interest to meteorology was the symposium on cloud particles held in the Physics Section. The Symposium was opened by Dr. S. K. Banerji, who made a critical review of modern ideas on atmospheric condensation. In the discussion that followed, Dr. D. S. Kothari mentioned that growth by colloidal instability was difficult to estimate in the absence of direct temperature measurements of cloud droplets. Dr. Banerji in reply pointed out the practical difficulties of such an undertaking and said that the wet bulb temperature could be regarded as a good first approximation to the temperature of a drop. A number of questions were also raised by Prof. S. N. Bose and others regarding the electrical charge on a drop and the practical problem of determining drop diameters. To these Dr. Banerji gave suitable replies. Mr. P. K. Das finally drew attention to a theoretical method of determining growth of drops by coalescence along the lines of a similar approach by Taylor and Glauert in England and Langmuir in U. S. A.

Another meeting of meteorological interest was held the same afternoon when Dr. L. S. Mathur spoke on Upper Air exploration by sound waves. Lack of time

prevented a detailed discussion of his results, but slides illustrating different aspects of his extensive out-door investigation were very much appreciated. The results of Dr. Mathur's investigation have now appeared in the first issue of the Indian Journal of Meteorology and Geophysics (January 1950) and brings out a number of interesting facts.

A number of papers in meteorology and geophysics were presented to the Congress in the Physics Section. Papers of interest in theoretical meteorology include a study of the lunar atmospheric tide at Trivandrum and Augustia by Dr. S. K. Pramanik and statistical studies of rainfall and surface wind by K. S. Agarwala. The details of an investigation on the performance of F-Type radiosonde's were sent in by V. Kalyanasundaram. Another investigation on the F-Type radiosonde was a study of the speed of rotation of its fan during ascent by A. Jayarajan. A paper on the "Response characteristics of Electromagnetic Seismographs to an impressed impulse and their dependence on the instrumental constants" was contributed by Dr. S. K. Chakrabarty. Two more papers of interest were by K. S. Raja Rao on "Blacketts' fundamental theory of magnetism by rotation" and the "Geomagnetic equator". The valuable work done by the above could undoubtedly serve as an impetus for further research on these aspects.