

## REVIVAL OF THE ANCIENT UJJAIN OBSERVATORY.

The Standing Advisory Board for Astronomy at its meeting held at Kodaikanal in April 1949 recommended that steps should be taken to re-establish the ancient Ujjain Observatory which in olden times, as the Time Observatory in India, determined the Prime meridian. Preliminary investigations have shown that the region around Ujjain offers excellent night "seeing" conditions, suggesting that the ancient Indian Sages had located their principal Observatory at perhaps the best possible site in the plains. At present, Ujjain itself is not very suitable for astronomical observations on account of the pollution of the air from a number of factories, but the Vijasain Hill near Indore, which is on very nearly the same meridian as Ujjain, offers an excellent site. In accordance with the suggestion of the Standing Advisory Board for Astronomy, Government of India has been asked to request the Government of Madhya Bharat Union to donate the Vijasain Hill with the Government bungalow on it for the establishment of the Observatory. Considering that most of the notable astronomical observatories in other countries were originally established under private or municipal donations, the donation of the Vijasain Hill will be a great stimulus for the revival of the famous ancient Indian Observatory.