



H. H. READ
(1889—1970)

Prof. Herbert Herald Read, Emeritus Professor of Geology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, and Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of India passed away on 29th March 1970 in his 81st year.

Prof. Read started his career in His Majesty's Geological Survey and worked in the Scottish Highlands and published many classic papers on stratigraphy, regional metamorphism, dislocation metamorphism and granitisation. He became the Professor of Geology at the University of Liverpool in 1931; and later occupied the distinguished chair at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. One of his early contributions to igneous petrology dealt with the reaction between aluminous sediments with basaltic magma giving rise to hypersthene bearing rocks. His meditations on granites during the war years published in the Proceedings of the Geologists Association, London are quite well known.

He was the author of many books on geology dealing both with general aspects of the subject and specialised fields such as metamorphism and granitisation. He was also the editor of the familiar book entitled 'Rutley's Elements of Mineralogy' which has been used by generations of students as a handbook. His writings are known for their style and language and are eminently readable.

Distinction came to Prof. Read during his life time. In 1939, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was awarded the Bigsby medal of the Geological Society, London in 1935; and later, the Wollaston medal, the Geological Society of London's highest award, in 1952. He was elected as the President of the Geological Society of London in 1947; and he was also the President of the London Session of the International Geological Congress which he piloted with great ability and distinction. In 1963, he was awarded the Royal Medal of the Royal Society.

He trained a number of students and built up a strong team of field geologists

in the Imperial College. Prof. Read was an eminent scientist and a very humane and modest person. He always welcomed his students with a pleasant smile and gave them all encouragement. He trained a large number of Indian students to whom he always very willingly extended all facilities. He was a Professor in the best sense of the term and inspired many generations of young geologists, who in turn developed a personal affection for him.

In his death the geological world has lost an eminent scientist and a humane individual. The void created by his death is very difficult to fill.

S. V. P. IYENGAR.

N. RAJAGOPALAN

(1924—1969)

In the death of Professor Natesayyar Rajagopalan on October 5, 1969 at the very young age of 45 years, a great loss has occurred to the Geological Society of India in particular, and the scientific community in general. He died of a heart attack on the way to the hospital in Madras. A very promising centre of research in the Department of Geology at the Annamalai University was coming up under his devoted and dedicated guidance.

It was in Annamalai University that he started his active career as a teacher after completing his education at the Presidency College, Madras (1945) and at the Banaras Hindu University (1947). Although he started his career in the Faculty of Engineering of the Annamalai University, he was able to start very successfully a separate department there in the Faculty of Science. He was made Professor and Head in the same department after serving as Lecturer and Reader with heavy responsibilities for most of the time. After his return from U.S.A. where he obtained his Ph.D. degree, he published the results of his studies on the Pondicherry succession of Cretaceous-Tertiary sediments through several valuable papers which have added much to the geological knowledge of the area, in addition to refining the earlier classification and correlation of those rocks. In quite a short time he established himself as an able research worker and an adorable personality. Such were the qualities of his personality that he was acceptable to everyone who came in contact with him either as a colleague or as a student or as an administrator.

He was a member of many scientific and learned bodies to support research and professional improvement. To mention only a few: he was an active member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists since 1962, and a Fellow of the Geological Society of India since 1964. He was also one of the prime movers of the idea of starting an Institute for the cause of geological education in India.

His death was very premature, and brought sorrow and grief to friends and family members, including the Fellows of the Society. He is survived by his wife and four children, all of very young age, to whom must go our very sincere condolences and sympathies.

S. SAMBE GOWDA.