

Farewell

Thirty-five years ago, a small group of geologists gathered in an attic room at Malleswaram in Bangalore and conceived the idea of forming a Society for promoting the cause of advanced research in all branches of Indian Geology. Soon thereafter, the idea took a concrete shape and the Geological Society of India was formed in 1958 with fifty Foundation Fellows drawn from different parts of India and with Dr. D. N. Wadia, the doyen among Indian geologists as its first President. I became the first Secretary of this new-born Society.

One of the main objectives of the Society was to bring out a Journal containing papers representing outstanding work done in this country in geology and closely allied fields. Prof. L. Rama Rao, volunteered to organize this Journal and during the first fifteen years, he strove hard to give it a shape and form which have remained largely unchanged even to this day. His death in 1974 created a void and in order to see that there was no break in the regularity of the issue of the Journal, I took over as Editor. It has been my lot since then to nurse the Journal. Funds available for publication in the early years were very meagre and I had to see that the publication activities of the Society did not suffer in any way due to lack of funds. Initially the Journal was issued once a year. Later, with improvement in our resources and the increase in the number of original papers, it became necessary to enlarge the scope of the journal and make it a monthly publication. Besides the Journal, the Society also undertook publications of Memoirs, Lecture Notes, Guide Books and Booklets on the Mineral Resources of India. These publications, I am glad to say, have exercised a beneficial influence on the growth of earth science studies in this country.

The credit for the good name earned by the Journal should largely go to the contributors of quality scientific

papers and the select group of referees who have helped in the review process. Some have complimented that the journal has attained an international status. I have no illusions in this regard. It is true there are a few institutions from outside India, who are subscribing to the Journal but the number is disappointingly small. There is little perceptible interest shown by scientists outside India in our country or in its geology. The reason is not far to seek. We appear to be too much preoccupied with local geology. Most of the activity being largely government-sponsored, there has been a lack of freedom in presenting results and sharing knowledge with others. In spite of these shortcomings it must be admitted that the Journal has been able to project a better image of Indian Geology to the outside world. It has set certain standards and helped mould the growth of earth science studies in this country.

Having served the Society as its Secretary during the first fifteen years and as Editor of the Journal over the subsequent period, I have grown old in its service. I am now 75 and my faculties have started failing one after another. My eye-sight has deteriorated, memory has started playing tricks. These are warning signals and it is time that I take note of these signals and reduce my activities. Commencing from this month, therefore, I will be handing over my duties as editor to my successor. I do sincerely trust that you will show the same consideration as you have shown me all these years to the new Editor and help him in securing for the Journal a growing reputation in the years to come. And so, Farewell.

*“ I here have hopes my latest hours to crown
Amid these peaceful shades to lay me down
To husband out lifes taper at the close
And keep the flame from wasting by repose ”.*

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA