of Ratnagiri and Goa; the Deccan traps of Linga, Chhindwara District, C.P.; the basaltic lavas obtained by boring at Bhusawal and others. The results have been published in his papers contributed to the Department's publications and elsewhere. He also brought together the information on the mineral resources of the C.P. and of Bihar which were published in separate papers in 1919 and 1921.

During the First World War, Fermor's services were placed at the disposal of the Government of India where he acted as Mineral Adviser to the Ammunitions Board. He was also a representative of the Government of India in several International Meetings such as the International Geological Congress in Sweden in 1910, in Canada in 1913, in Spain in 1925 and in South Africa in 1929.

He played a very prominent part in the advancement of science in India. He was a Founder Member of the Mining and Geological Institute of India and was connected with it in various capacities including the Presidentship of the body in 1922. He was elected General President of the Indian Science Congress Association in 1933 when he delivered an address on problems of ore genesis in the Archæans of India. He was connected with the Himalayan Club as a Founder-Member; he was the Trustee of the Indian Museum between 1930 and 1935; a Member of the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association from 1932 to 1936; President of the Governing Body of the Indian School of Mines from 1930 to 1935; President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal from 1933 to 1936.

He was also connected with scientific institutions abroad. The Geological Society of London, of which he was a Fellow, honoured him with the award of a Bigsby Medal in 1921 and elected him to its Vice-Presidentship in 1945 to 1947. He was President of the Bristol Naturalist Society in 1945 and of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, London, in 1951-52. He was a Member of the Society of Economic Geologists (U.S.A.) and an Associate Editor of the well known Journal, *Economic Geology* for many years. He was also a Member of the Mineralogical Society of London.

Fermor played a very prominent part in the establishment of the National Institute of Sciences of India. He was Chairman of the Committee constituted by the Indian Science Congress for the establishment of that Institute and was its first elected President in 1935. Those who have watched him during the period of work of the Committee would pay tribute to the patience and tact displayed by him in solving the many difficulties which arose.

During the period of his retirement, after 1936, he was living in England, but took active part in the working of the Mineralogical Society, Geological Society and the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in that country. He was also practising as a Consultant Geologist and paid visits to East Africa, South Africa and Malaya. He visited India in 1938 as a Member of the Delegation from the British Association for Advancement of Science to the Silver Jubilee Session of the 25th Indian Science Congress. In 1951 he was invited by the Government of India to the Centenary Celebrations of the Geological Survey of India, and he contributed an article on the history of the Geological Survey during its first 25 years from 1851 to 1876.

During the last few years of his service he began publishing parts of what he intended to be a comprehensive work on the Archæan geology of India. Unfortunately, only some four parts out of the projected 18 have been published. But those parts give an idea of his great and profound knowledge of the subject and it is regrettable that the work will now remain uncompleted.

Fermor was gifted with a capacity for taking enormous pains and going into the details of any problem referred to him for study. He was a hard task-master, but was always considerate and ready to give a patient hearing to even the most inexperienced colleague. It was very instructive to accompany him in the field for he was always ready to discuss and instruct, with his keen powers of observation and deduction. He was responsible for the starting of a departmental scientific club in which the officers explained to their colleagues the work on which they were engaged and which was debated upon. This geological club is still functioning vigorously in the Department.

Fermor is perhaps the last of the generation of geologists who may be called pioneers of Indian geology. He and his contemporaries, namely, C. S. Middlemiss, H. H. Hayden, R. D. Oldham, E. W. Vredenburg, G. E. Pilgrim and T. H. Holland have contributed a great deal to the understanding and solution of geological problems. With the passing of that generation closes the era of study of the broader problems of Indian geology. On the foundation laid by these and other earlier pioneers will the superstructure of Indian geology be built in generations to come.

M. S. KRISHNAN.