Science and Industry in India: The Late Lord Rutherford of Nelson

During the past fifty years, the British Association for the Advancement of Science has been invited on many occasions to hold its meetings overseas. Four times it has journeyed to Canada (Montreal, 1884; Toronto, 1897; Winnipeg, 1909; Toronto, 1924), twice to South Africa (1905, 1929), once to Australia (1914). This policy of the association of arranging occasional meetings in our dominions has proved an unqualified success. These overseas visits have had a marked influence on the progress of science throughout our commonwealth and by personal contacts have helped much to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between our peoples.

The visit of a representative group of scientific men to our most distant dominions in 1914, in itself an outstanding event in the history of the association, was rendered even more notable by the dramatic circumstances under which the meetings were held, for the arrival of the party in Australia coincided with the news of the outbreak of the great war. Any one who like myself took part in the meetings in Australia and New Zealand in those troubled but stirring times can ever forget the warmth of our reception. We were privileged to witness that wonderful response of the peoples of these lands to the call of danger—a response which we know grew ever greater with the need.

It has long been the wish of the British Association to hold a meeting in India, and difficulties of time and climate alone have stood in the way of its realization. It has been found most convenient for the overseas...