MINERALS' SHARE IN THE WAR

By D. N. WADIA

The Indian Science Congress meets to-day for the fourth time since the beginning of the war. This meeting, only a few hundred miles remote from one potentially active war theater, is an event which bears significant testimony to the place science has won in India. The attendance of so many members drawn from many fields of scientific activities and Government institutions from almost all parts of the country, provides gratifying proof of their devotion to the cause of science and of their subscribing to its exacting ideals. Calcutta has once again made its contribution to the spread of science in India by inviting the congress for the sixth time. We keenly appreciate the warm hospitality it has accorded us under conditions of difficulty we all realize, and it is no mere formal expression of thanks that in your name and on your behalf, I tender to the organizers of this session. A distinguished citizen of India was to have presided at this meeting and no one here shares, more keenly than I, in the disappointment at his absence to-day. I seek your forbearance at my having to address you because of an existing rule which requires your president of the foregoing year to continue in office until its assumption by his successor. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's contributions to science in India have not been in the limelight, but they have been a leavening influence in the organization and working of the National Planning Committee, which, since 1939, is engaged in the great task of coordinating applied science with productive industry in every field, industrial, educational, cultural and organizational. Ladies and gentlemen, please believe me, I sympathize with you for having missed his rousing address.

Death has removed from our midst during the year several distinguished workers in different fields of science. The Indian Science Congress mourns the deaths of Rai Bahadur Ramprasad Chanda, anthropologist, archeologist and student of Indian art; Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Ray, Tibetan scholar, archeologist and founder-editor of Man in India; Mr. Gauripati Chat-