

The establishment and development of the Forest Service was one of the great achievements of British Rule in India. When the final break came that sub-continent had a sound forest policy enshrined in legislation and implemented by a personnel of the highest standing. Partition and the formation of the new state of Pakistan gave rise to many problems not the least of which was the organisation of a forest service under the most difficult circumstances. The far-famed Training and Research Institute at Dehra Dun went to India and Pakistan was left with no training centre, no place for research no decent library and, perhaps the most severe hardship of all, a service sadly depleted in senior staff and specialists. In view of this combination of adverse conditions, we must congratulate Pakistan on the establishment so soon of a technical journal and we must also record our pleasure at the progress in organisation recorded therein.

The first number runs to 94 pages and contains ten original articles besides abstracts, reviews and letters—a very creditable achievement. The article of most general interest is contributed by the Editor, S. A. A. Anvery and treats of Forest and Forestry Problems of Pakistan. The two wings of Pakistan are 1,500 miles apart and there is a corresponding divergence in climate, vegetation and forest problems, conditions varying from the arid, practically rainless expanses of Baluchistan to the extremely wet areas of East Pakistan with a rainfall of over 200 inches. The nominal forest area of over 83 million acres represents 5.33% of the land surface but many areas designated as forest are in fact treeless. This small proportion of forest is largely due to incidence of population. Due to the almost complete lack of alternative fuels, firewood is of even greater importance than commercial timber and fetches a price in excess of that of wheat in pre-1942 years. Partition has left the country without a paper industry and it is planned to start two big mills in either wing. To make for closer utilisation of all the products of the forests it is proposed to establish an integrated industry or 'combinat' to produce timber, paper, matches, plywood, fibre board, gums, resins, oils, chemicals, etc. Courses for the training of professional and sub-professional ranks have been instituted at Upper Topa in the Punjab.

Altogether this Journal gives the impression of a service severely handicapped, but undismayed by political events, facing the future with initiative and enthusiasm. We wish it good luck and God speed.