

THE RUPA BOOK OF GEOLOGY QUIZ by S.M. Mathur,
Rupa & Co., New Delhi, 128 p., Price Rs.95.

Science Olympiads in various subjects are becoming increasingly popular all over the world to attract youngsters to science and scientific research. Shri S.M. Mathur, formerly of the Geological Survey of India has done yeoman service in bringing out this quiz-book in geology for the student as well as for the layman. 748 questions with a choice of four answers each to choose from, have been framed and classified into various subdisciplines of geology like General Geology, Physical Geology, Economic Geology, Crystallography etc.

The entire effort reflects the rich experience of the author as a professional geologist in the Geological Survey of India.

The get-up and printing of the book is of high quality making it attractive to youngsters. Occasional typographic/spelling errors should be attended to in the next edition (like "kometeite" for komatiite and "palingesis" for palingenesis on p.56).

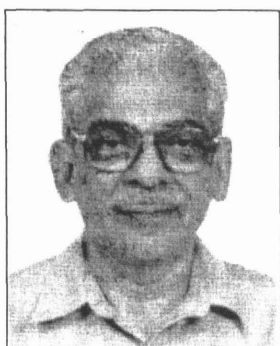
It is hoped that many more such publications will come out in our country to prepare the basis for holding Geology Olympiads for our school children to enthuse them in learning more about the planet Earth, which is our home.

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OBITUARY



Prof. B. Bhaskara Rao
(1937-2005)

Prof. B. Bhaskara Rao, a devoted igneous and metamorphic petrologist passed away on 30th May, 2005 due to abdominal cancer after a very fruitful service as a teacher and researcher at the Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Bombay. Prof. Rao had his school education at P.S. High School, Mylapore, Chennai. He joined the Presidency College for his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Geology and later pursued his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the Department of Geology, University of Madras situated at Guindy. His doctoral thesis on the Nepheline Syenites of Sivamalai, Tamil Nadu under the able guidance of Prof. N. Leelananda Rao was a beacon light for later workers on the Archaean complex of Tamil Nadu.

Prof. Rao joined the faculty of the Department of Earth Sciences of the Indian Institute of Technology, Powai after a brief stint at the IIT Madras. I knew him as my student at Presidency College and later as my colleague at IIT Powai. We very often used to consult each other and discuss our research projects and personally I was much benefited by his constructive criticism.

Prof. Rao guided a large number of M.Sc., M.Tech. and Ph.D. dissertations. His lectures and research papers were applauded for clarity, lucidity and simplicity. He was the first to set up an Experimental Petrology laboratory at IIT Bombay after his training in Germany on Humboldt Fellowship. As a Fellow of the Geological Society of India, he was invited to lecture on the intricacies of the experimental petrological work at the Society's venue at Bangalore. He was extremely popular with the students who loved him for his erudite scholarship and endearing manners. His book on "Metamorphic Petrology" is very popular among students of geology in the country.

Prof. Rao's untimely demise is a great loss to the geologic community. I have lost a good and close friend. Prof. Rao leaves behind his wife Mrs. Uma, his sons Vikram and Gautam and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his loss. May his soul rest in peace.

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