The Society's Conversazione.

THERE was a gratifyingly large attendance of members and guests at the Conversazione of the Society which was held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday the 29th January last. The preliminary arrangements for this function were in charge of a small sub-committee of the Council, and thanks to the hearty co-operation which the efforts of the sub-committee received from the exhibitors and others, matters progressed in a very satisfactory manner. The Conversazione opened at 4-30 P.M., and well before this appointed hour the exhibits had been received and put up in the Hall suitably arranged and numbered, so that they could readily be found by reference to the list of exhibits which had been printed and distributed. The Council also arranged for refreshments, both for European and Indian members and guests.

Members of the Society wore a special monogram in blue and silver designed by C. T. Letton, Esq., and the officers and Council of the Society wore a similar distinguishing monogram in white and gold.

Their Excellencies the Governor of Bengal and Lady Carmichael arrived at the Town Hall punctually at 5-30 P.M. and were received at the gate by a deputation from the Council consisting of Mr. W. J. Simmons, Col. S. G. Burrard, Mr. Saroda Charan Mitter, Mr. Tomkins, Mr. D. N. Dutt, Mr. C.V. Raman and Mr. U. L. Banerji. Their Excellencies were then conducted to the hall and the exhibits were explained to them. At 6-30 P.M. a very large screen near one end of the hall extending right up to its ceiling was let down, and a large variety of astronomical slides were then projected upon it in succession, with the aid of a powerful electric lantern. This exhibition was kindly arranged for by J. F. Madan, Esq., of the Elphinstone Bioscope Company, and Their Excellencies remained till after it was over.

The Conversazione evidently proved a gratifying success. Practically everyone present was interested in the exhibits, in some of them very greatly so. The transparencies in particular, which had been received from Kodaikanal and Greenwich and were put up suitably mounted on ground glass with electric lights behind, proved a special attraction. The spectroscopic exhibition (item 29 in the list printed below) also drew many of those who attended. But it would really seem invidious to mention these two alone, as practically everything exhibited had features of value and special interest and contributed to the success of the Conversazione.

List of Exhibits.

SURVEY OF INDIA.

By the kindness of Col. BURRARD, R.E., C.S.I., F.R.S., *Surveyor General of India.*

1. Theodolite 36 inches.
2. Do. 14 inches with double arc.
3. Repsolds circle d. 1866.
4. Educational Telescope.
5. Sextant with stand and artificial horizon.
6. Transit instrument.
7. Micrometer theodolite 8″ modern.
8. Theodolite transit (small) with solar attachment.
9. A divided circle and vernier mounted on wood.
10. Micrometer opened out showing webs and slow motion under glass cover.
11. Two chronometers sidereal, one open, the other closed.
12. Drawings of micrometer theodolites.
13. Drawings of Astronomical clocks, etc.
14. German representation of the Alps.
15. Survey of India (Captain M. O. C. Tandy's) model of part of the Himalayas, with map of the same country.
16. Standard Foot.
17. Compensation Microscope of Colby Base Apparatus with explanatory diagram.
18. Cyclograph with specimens of circles drawn by it.
19. Three Seismograms.
20. Four Sun-photos.
21. Three Eclipse photos.
22. Arithmometers.
23. Photo of a relief map of Switzerland.
24. Sheets showing how a standard map is prepared.
25. Argand Lamp.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

By the kindness of Raja PEARY MOHAN MUKHERJEE, C.S.I., *President.*

26. Two Sun-dials.
27. Small transit instrument.
28. Spectroscope with diffraction grating.
29. Spectroscope with prisms fitted up to show spectra from vacuum tubes.
30. Stand telescope with spectroscopic attachment.
31. Orrery (to be worked by electric motor).

32. Skeleton pendulum clock (to show mechanism of escapement).
33. Apparatus for showing cause of direct and retrograde motion of Planets.
34. Apparatus for firing gun at noon (curiosity).
35. Gyrostatic apparatus (3 pieces).

PRESIDENCY COLLEGE.

By the kindness of H. R. JAMES, ESQ., *Principal.*

36. Chronosphere.
37. Clock-work Orrery.
38. Astronomical globe.

SANSKRIT COLLEGE.

By the kindness of Dr. SATISH CHANDRA VIDYABHUSHAN, M.A., Ph.D., *Principal.*

39. An indigenous celestial globe.

KODAIKANAL OBSERVATORY.

By the kindness of J. EVERSHED, ESQ., F.R.A.S., *Director.*

40. 11 Transparencies.

N. N. DHAR, ESQ., M.A., B.L.

41. Reflecting telescope on Altazimuth Stands.
42. Mirrors and lenses showing stages of construction.
43. Sperometers for measuring curvatures of Spherical surfaces.
44. Dynamometers for measuring magnifying powers of Telescopes, etc.

ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.

By the kindness of Dr. F. W. DYSON, *Astronomer Royal.*

44(*a*). 6 Transparencies.

ALIPORE OBSERVATORY.

By the kindness of C. W. PEAKE, ESQ., M.A., *Meteorologist.*

44(*b*). 3 Seismograms.

44(*c*). Temperature, Pressure and Wind-velocity records during a Norwester.

J. N. BANERJEE, ESQ.

45. Drawings (3 sheets).

H. G. TOMKINS, Esq., C.I.E., F.R.A.S.

46. Photos and samples of alkalies and map of India.
47. Map of the Moon—Goodacre.

The Rev. J. MITCHELL, M.A., F.R.A.S.

48. Drawings of Sun-spots.
49. Transit instrument.
50. Driving clock for Equatorial.
51. Map of Moon.

C. K. SARKAR, Esq., C.E., M.S.A., M.S.E. (Lond.)

52. Drawings of Mars.

SURENDRA NATH CHAKRAVARTI, Esq.

53. Apparatus for showing relative motions of the Sun, the Earth, the Moon, etc.

H. HART, Esq.

54. Map of the Moon.
55. Chart of the movements of the Planets in 1913.
56. Chart of the Wandering Pole.

H. G. TOMKINS, Esq., and S. WOODHOUSE, Esq.

57. Reflecting Telescope showing the arrangement of mirrors.

Extracts from Publications.

The Sun's Magnetic Field.—The question of the Sun possessing a magnetic field, similar to the terrestrial magnetic field, is discussed, especially with regard to the phenomena of the Sun's upper atmosphere, by M. Deslandres, in No. 27 of the *Comptes rendus* (December 30, 1912). He first discusses the matter theoretically, and, supposing the magnetic field to be produced by the rotation of the sun's electric charge, shows that a solar ion expelled vertically from the Sun should be so deviated by the field as to describe a helix having its axis parallel to the field; if many luminous ions are expelled in the form of a prominence the helical motion at the base of a prominence, as seen from the Earth, will depend upon the position of a prominence in the solar magnetic field. From a number of observations, M. Deslandres shows that the recorded