

domination in the East.' Identification of the highest Himalayan peak and the discovery by Pratt are befitting outcomes of this survey.

I would like to make a suggestion regarding the articles under 'Historical notes'. It will immensely enhance their value if they are accompanied by references to important primary and secondary sources. A general reader will still find them interesting, while a more serious reader will be able to delve deeper into the subject.

1. Radhakrishna, B. P., *Curr. Sci.*, 1990, 59, 333.
2. Markham, C. R., *A Memoir of Indian Surveys*, 2nd edn, London, 1878.

R. K. KOCHHAR

*Indian Institute of Astrophysics
Sarjapur Road, Koramangala
Bangalore 560 034.*

Historical notes

The historical note¹ on John Henry Pratt and the theory of isostasy makes absorbing reading, especially in this, the bicentennial, year of George Everest's birth.

The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India (officially designated Great in 1818) was a monumental work and provided matchless, highly accurate, uniform data over a large land mass. As an early historian of Indian surveys, Clements R. Markham, FRS, wrote² in 1878, 'The story of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, when fitly told, will form one of the proudest pages in the history of English