

## Book Review

## An Indian Reference Annual

*The New Year Book—1933*, Edited by P C Sarkar, 12th issue. Published by S C Sarkar & Sons Ltd, 1-C College Square, Calcutta 12. Pp 312; price Rs 3/4.

THE compiler of an year-book has to ask himself, for whom is he compiling? An Indian publication, it may seem, has the course clearly chartered out for it. Either it has to be ambitious and cover the rest of the world as well as India or it may choose to be modest and supplement standard foreign publications concentrating on information relating to India, which they do not cover adequately. The second course would appear to be an obvious one for an India publisher to take. But the choice is not so simple as that, for standard year-books published abroad are expensive and beyond the reach of the ordinary reader. Hence the compromise—a limited coverage of world news and an exhaustive coverage of Indian news. The Indianness of the *New Year Book*, which enters the twelfth year of publication is not in question, since 277 out of its 392 pages are devoted to India. The world coverage is compact and useful, but in Indian coverage, the editor falls between two stools, width and depth. It is at the range of this excellent compilation, perhaps, that some readers may cavil: Why so much of sports and films, for instance, but so little of literature and nothing of art? Indians abroad is another omission that one detects at a cursory glance.


Otherwise, this handy volume of reference containing useful information, on topical matters including general information such as chronology of world events, geographical information about mountains, lakes, islands, etc, developments in the scientific field, award of prizes and titles, the United Nations, sports and games, and facts and figures about world today. A major portion of the book is devoted to India, and contains a wealth of information about India's historical background, physical features, etc, her new constitution, general elections, political parties, industrial development, public finance, foreign trade, etc. The publication contains a lot of Economic statistics relating to India's agricultural resources and production, a detailed description of the development of Indian indus-

tries, banking, currency, industrial finance, and insurance, and a useful section on India's Five-Year Plan and the progress achieved during the first three plan years. Useful information bearing on community development projects and National Extension Service, foreign aid and loans received by India, Indian labour legislation, transport and communications, public health, and the Indian Press also find a place, though understandably they have had to be dealt with briefly. After providing a lot of useful data relating to events in the world of sports and games, the year book ends with a brief section on who's who in India and Pakistan.

One or two suggestions may be offered: in the section relating to India's new Constitution, the amendments that have been effected so far have not been given, though

it is stated that "certain amendments of fundamental rights regarding freedom of speech and expression, freedom of assembly, etc, have been passed in spite of vehement opposition from a section of the Parliament in 1951". It would be useful to have the text of the amendments passed so far. The section dealing with India's neighbours includes Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Nepal, Tibet, China and Pakistan. In view of the growing interest in the affairs of Afro-Asian countries, it would be useful if the year book includes information about other Afro-Asian countries.

On balance one gets the impression that the year book is heavily weighted in favour of economic facts and statistics relating to India, and it could as well be described as the Indian Economic Year-Book—1955.



# THE INDUSTRIAL & PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

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### WHAT THE FIGURES SPEAK

<b>SOUNDNESS AND SECURITY:</b>			
Business in force as at 31st December 1954	over	Rs.	23 crores
Life Fund as at 31st December 1954	... about	„	6.75 crores
Assets	... ..	„	7.80 crores
Business completed in 1954	... ..	over	4.59 crores
<b>ECONOMICAL MANAGEMENT:</b>			
Provision of expenses in Valuation as at 31-12-1951	... ..		18.92%
Expenses (Renewal) during 1951-1953	... ..		14.67%
<b>SERVICE TO POLICY HOLDERS:</b>			
Lapse Ratio to Mean Business in force for the years 1951-1953	... ..		5.1%

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**V. C. SETALVAD**  
*Managing Director*