

efficient topographical assistants, but also willing and always reliable helpers in many other practical tasks. The story of our travels as recorded in these volumes will bear ample testimony to the great value of their services and to the trying physical conditions in which they were cheerfully rendered.

Quite as valuable for my geographical work was the moral support which, in addition to the loan of a number of instruments, the Royal Geographical Society gave me. Those who like myself have to struggle hard for chances of achieving their scientific aims in life, will appreciate the encouragement I derived from the Society's generous recognition of the results of both my Central-Asian explorations. Whether in the course of solitary travel across the desert plains and high mountain ranges of innermost Asia, or struggling with the difficulties of the labours which the results brought back imposed upon me in more commonplace and often less congenial surroundings, I always felt the vivifying touch of the friendly interest and unfailing sympathy of the Society's incomparable secretary, Dr. J. Scott Keltie. I must also record here my special thanks to the Royal Geographical Society for having enabled me to make the results of the surveys effected by my topographical assistants and myself more accessible; in its *Journal* have been published three maps presenting on a reduced scale the main contents of the Atlas prepared at the Indian Trigonometrical Survey Office, Dehra Dun. With the Society's kind permission and the publishers' ready concurrence it has been possible to reproduce these maps here.

Once beyond the Indian political border I knew well that the success of my undertaking would depend very largely upon the view which the local powers would take of my plans and upon their readiness to countenance them. I could not have wished in this respect for a more encouraging sign at the outset than when H.M. Habibullah, King