

GLIMPSES OF SCIENCE WRITINGS OF SUKUMAR RAY

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Sukumār Rāy's contributions to the field of science popularization through popular science writings for children have been overshadowed by his fame as a writer par excellence of Bengali nonsense prose and verses. Born in a prominent Brahmo family to an illustrious father Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury, Sukumār Rāy was educated in Kolkata's Presidency College and then moved to England to be trained in Photography and Printing Technology. From the early nineteenth century, magazines and periodicals in Bengali started publishing news and articles on science. By 1880s, large numbers of children's magazines started appearing which regularly published science articles for children. Upendrakishore brought out Sandeś in 1913. After his death in 1915, Sukumār Rāy took over as editor and wrote more than 100 popular science articles till his untimely death in 1923. They were written in uniquely simple and interesting style, introducing the world of science to the children. The empowerment of Indians through Science was one of the nationalist agendas of that time and Sukumār Rāy accomplished it through his writings. However, it is strongly felt that Sukumār Rāy's contribution to the science popularization movement in India has not been properly evaluated.
