ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The work presented in this thesis entitled "Studies on dehydration-rehydration behaviour of vermiculite in relation to exchangeable cations" was carried out under the guidance of Dr. N.K. Mitra, Reader, Department of Applied Chemistry, Calcutta University, to whom the author is greatly indebted.

Grateful thanks are due to Dr. M.K. Chatterjee and Dr. K.L. Roy of the Department of Applied Chemistry, for their keen interest and valuable counsel.

The author also takes the opportunity to express his heartfelt gratitude to Dr. P.K. Das Poddar, Dr. R. Mazumder, Sri S. Chatak, Dr. S. Mitra, Dr. D. Ghosh, Sri C. Samanta, Dr. A.K. Mitra, Dr. M. Banerjee, Sri S. Chatterjee, Sri R.P. Koley, Sri S. De, Sri A. Bhattacharyya, Sri P. Sengupta, Sri T. Dan, Dr. R.K. Mandal and all friends and Research Fellows of the Department of Applied Chemistry for their kind help and co-operation in this work.

Asok Kumar Chakrabarti