ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is very difficult to acknowledge the assistance and constant stimulation given to me by Dr. A. G. Javadekar under whom I worked for Ph.D. Discussions with him have been extremely valuable in giving a tone to my thoughts.

I am equally thankful to my colleagues in the Fergusson College, especially Shri A. P. Dani and Shri S. B. Gokhale, both of the English Department, and Shri V. G. Dandage of the Physics Department for reading the various parts of the manuscript and making valuable suggestions.

My thanks are due also to Shri V. N. Inamdar of the Gokhale Institute, Poona, who typed the thesis with characteristic accuracy.

Poona.

(M. S. Athavale)

March 1975.