PREFACE

or for a limited class of ideas. Take, for instance, the word णिजन्त. This word literally means ending in णिच्. According to the quibbles of Pāṇini, Sanskrit causal verbs are णिजन्त and are therefore called णिजन्त. But the word will never be applied to causal verbs of other languages, and I consider it wrong to apply the term as causal. In such cases, I have taken the greatest care to find out and give the real equivalents and to explain the meaning and usage of the accidental equivalents.

- 7. It must also be remembered that distinctions observed in Sanskrit are not always observed in English and vice versa. Words, which are only allied to each other in one language, are sometimes represented by one and the same word in another language, the shades of difference being subordinated to the prominent idea conveyed by them all. In such cases, I have always tried to explain the broad distinctions observed in Sanskrit. I have also tried to note the distinctions observed in English, when such distinctions are not hostile to the spirit of the former language. The object of this work is to explain the niceties of Sanskrit and not of English and I have thought it improper to enter into a field which would involve the invention of unnecessary words or modes of expression.
- 8. In the case of the second class of words, I have not coined words to murder the idiom of the language, but have illustrated their use by citations from classical writers. Take, for instance, the word scenery. There is no equivalent in Sanskrit for this word, but the idea was known to our ancestors and there are numerous instances of its use. I have given some examples and I hope my readers will feel no difficulty in understanding how the idea is expressed in Sanskrit and how to handle the mode of expression in other combinations.
- 9. With reference to the third class of words, my views almost coincide with those expressed not long ago by our distinguished countryman Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra. To coin new equivalents, expressive of the prominent ideas conveyed by new scientific and philosophical terms, is not only in harmony with the genius of the Sanskrit language, whose pliancy and malleability are unsurpassed but is likely to facilitate the study of science and philosophy among our countrymen, who are not acquainted with foreign tongues. It not only eliminates the repulsive character of hard uncouth foreign terms, but at the same time impresses the memory with certain ideas or attributes which must necessarily be associated with those terms. When this object cannot be attained, it is better to retain them in Sanskrit garb and in such cases, I have either done this or explained the sense in Sanskrit. In the case of some new words, I am indebted to the labours of my predecessors, but in many cases, I have taken on myself the responsibility of their introduction, when I have found that the force of the English words are not well expressed by their words. But I have marked all new words with asterisks to shew my readers that they are not sanctioned by classical usage and to enable them to use other words should these inventions be found fault with.
- 10. Besides simple words, there are many compound words and phrases which must necessarily be taken cognizance of in a work of this kind. But in such cases, my object has been to give idiomatic, but not necessarily, literal equivalents. For instance, I give दिनमणि as the equivalent of "day-star" not because मणि corresponds with star, but because the compound fully expresses the idea of the English expression and has been used in the same sense by Sanskrit writers.
- 11. With these preliminary remarks, I may say that I have prominently marked the different senses of English words, specially when they are represented by different Sanskrit equivalents. I have used much care to find out the nearest and most common equivalents in each sense and taken great pains to arrange them according to their usefulness and frequency. I have attempted to note their construction briefly, when peculiar or different from the construction of the corresponding English words. I have tried to illustrate their use by citations from classical writers,