

only. Contracted titles are as a rule intelligible to the general reader only by reference to an explanatory list appearing at the beginning or the end of a book. When a work is written consecutively, such an abbreviation can be looked up on its first occurrence, and as it is usually met with again at short intervals its explanation will be remembered. But in a book arranged in dictionary form, the occurrence of abridged titles becomes irksome to the reader because he meets them at any part of the book he opens, and often many at the same time; he will probably therefore be continually consulting the explanatory list. Hence I have only admitted the contractions 'Rv.' for Rigveda and 'Av.' for Atharvaveda, as these texts are constantly referred to, often several times in the same article. In some works, such as the *Encyclopædia of Indo-Aryan Research*, excessively contracted titles, frequently assuming the appearance of algebraic symbols, become necessary owing to the great mass of bibliographical references required. In the present work such economy of space was in no way called for. If, however, the book had been intended for the use of Sanskrit scholars only, I should certainly have shortened many titles here given in full, for there are numerous formulaic abbreviations that are familiar to all specialists.

**Transliteration.**—The system here followed is that which has been adopted by the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and is generally employed elsewhere also. The chief difficulties caused to the non-scholar by this method of reproducing Sanskrit words are due, on the one hand, to the inadequacy of the Roman alphabet, which necessitates the use of diacritical marks, and, on the other, to the conventional use of two consonants in English, in certain cases, to represent a single sound, as *ch*, *sh*, *ph*, and *th*. The letter *ṣ* here is the equivalent of *sh* in 'shun'; *ś* is somewhat thinner in pronunciation, like the *ss* in 'session'; *m* resembles the *n* in the French 'bon'; and *h* the German *ch* in 'ach.' The palatal *c* is to be sounded like the initial *ch* in Churchill; *ch* has an