The history of the Academy has been reflected on pages of the journal *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* (*Physics–Uspekhi* in English translation now) from the very beginning of the publication of *UFN* in 1918, which was associated with the founder and the first editor-in-chief of *UFN*, academician Petr Petrovich Lazarev. It was P P Lazarev who had the honor to give the talk, “Historical outline of the development of exact sciences in Russia over 200 years,” at the solemn jubilee meeting of the Academy dedicated to the 200th anniversary of its foundation. This very interesting essay was first published as a separate print and soon became a bibliographic rarity. Only 75 years later, in 1999, by the decision of the editorial board of *UFN*, was this essay [2]
reproduced in a special *UFN* issue dedicated to the 275th anniversary of the RAS, where the current stage of development of the physical sciences was also covered in detail in a paper by two academician secretaries of the Division of Physical Sciences of the RAS [3]. Previously, *UFN* published a large editorial for the 250th anniversary of the Academy [4].

Along with historical facts, these papers contain thoughts that are still relevant today. The admonition addressed to our contemporaries was clearly formulated 100 years ago at the end of the paper by the *UFN* editor-in-chief P P Lazarev: “If we wish technology to flourish in the third century of the existence of science in Russia, so that a strong and permanent connection is established between the results obtained by science and its application to technology, it is necessary that conditions be provided to science that are worthy of it, and then we may hope that we will be able to follow our great predecessors. This path should make our country technically strong and economically rich.” These words are also topical for the coming fourth century of the Russian Academy of Sciences, for it is prosperity of sciences that may serve as a solid basis for the well-being and prosperity of the Fatherland.

Several *UFN* papers concerning the history of the Russian Academy of Sciences: