

BANGABASI COLLEGE MAGAZINE.



প্রণিপাতেন পরিপ্রশ্নেন সেবয়া

By Reverence : By Questioning : By Service

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IN MEMORIAM.

I.

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We have to record with great sorrow and regret the untimely death of Sj. Harendranath Mitra, Senior Professor of Botany, Bangabasi College, on the 29th September, 1925. Born on the 19th April, 1887, he was under 39 years of age at the time of his death. He graduated as M. A. in Botany from Bangabasi College in 1907 and was appointed Professor of Botany in the College in 1912. Since then this department of the College has been developed and has attained its present position mainly by his endeavours in collaboration with the lecturers and demonstrators who were appointed after him. Devotion to work and growing capacity for teaching soon won him the golden opinion of his pupils who were greatly attached to him. The greatest difficulty in his way of teaching was the want of suitable text-books on the subject adapted to the necessities of Indian students, to meet which he brought out two books "Structural Botany" and "Elementary Botany" which to a great extent have served the purpose which he had in view. Both the books, specially the latter, are now in the hands of most of the students of Elementary Botany.

He was not only an ideal of his pupils, he was loved and respected by all his colleagues. The College has lost in him a

whole hearted, sincere and loyal worker whose place it will be difficult to fill up. The Principal had always a warm corner in his heart for him both as his pupil and as his colleague and looked upon him as his right-hand man in the management of his department.

As he died during the Puja holidays, the date of reopening of the College after the vacation, namely 21st October, was observed as a close holiday out of respect to his memory, and the teachers and the students of the College met at a meeting on the 22nd October in which they recorded their sense of deep sorrow and great loss at his premature death and a vote of condolence to the bereaved family. A small committee of teachers and students was formed at the meeting to raise subscriptions and donations with a view to perpetuate his memory. But the form which the memorial will take will depend on the amount collected.

This issue of the Magazine is practically an obituary issue. We have already recorded a death in our home circle. Outside this circle but not far from it, death has cast its shadow over the Metropolitan Institution now called Vidyasagar College. Babu Sarada Ranjan Ray, the veteran Principal of Vidyasagar College breathed his last on November 1, at Deoghar where he had gone for a change during the Puja holidays. The sad news reached Calcutta in the morning of the 2nd and most of the Colleges in Calcutta were closed on that date or on a subsequent date, out of respect to the memory of the widely respected dead. Even some of the Colleges in the mofussil were closed when the news reached them. At Mymensing where Principal Roy had his schooling and from which town he passed the Entrance Examination now known as Matriculation, people showed respect to his memory by closing the College and the school where a meeting of condolence was held attended largely by students, teachers and residents of the town.

Principal Ray was a brilliant graduate of Calcutta University, who after serving a period of apprenticeship as a lecturer

in certain mofussil colleges, was sought out by that great patron of learning Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and appointed Professor of Mathematics of Metropolitan Institution for his out-standing attainments in the subject of Mathematics. Here he made his mark as a teacher of Mathematics and on the demise of the then Principal Mr. N. N. Ghose, the wellknown English scholar and writer, was appointed to the vacancy. He made an ideal Principal of the College, guided its affairs during many stormy weathers and left it at his death in financially and academically efficient condition. In addition to his scholarship in Mathematics he had latterly turned his attention to the study of Sanskrit in which his attainments were not of mean order as testified by his scholarly editions of some classical epics and dramas. His activities however were not confined to academic matters. He was wellknown in the sporting circle of Calcutta as the best Indian sportsman and was a specially conspicuous figure in the cricket field with a strong physique, imposing height, flowing beard and strictly sportsmanly demeanour and spirit. In the fitness of things, it is natural to suggest that as a veteran educationist, a classical scholar and a man of varied activities, Principal Ray should have a suitable memorial raised by his old and new pupils as well as the appreciative public. The academic and the sporting world of Calcutta has lost in him a person whose place it will be difficult to fill up. We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.
