

OBITUARY



Prof. B. N. Banerjee

Prof. B. N. Banerjee was born in 1908 in Baghati, in Hooghly District. He graduated in medicine in 1936 from R. G. Kar Medical College (then Carmichael) of Calcutta University, then he proceeded to England and in 1939, he obtained the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians. On his return, he joined R. G. Kar Medical College as a Visiting Dermatologist and served as a teacher in that speciality till 1952 when he joined the Calcutta Medical College as Professor of Medicine (Dermatology). Under the new set-up introduced by Late Dr. B. C. Roy during the centenary year of Calcutta University in 1957 when he founded the University College of Medicine, he was chosen as the Head of the Department of Dermatology to organise and conduct the post-graduate studies in the subject. Under his enthusiastic leadership, dermatology developed and the M. D. course was introduced for the first time in Calcutta University in 1969. He acted as Head of the department till 1977.

An array of post-graduate students of the discipline having diploma and degree under his guidance are now serving in the country and manning the medical institutions. Research was not lagging behind and he guided a number of students to obtain Ph. D. degrees.

Prof. Banerjee acted as an examiner in almost all the universities in India. He was chairman and member of the Board of Studies in Dermatology in a number of other universities besides Calcutta University. He served as a member of Senate, Academic Council and Post-graduate Council in Medicine of Calcutta University for more than 15 years.

He published more than 150 scientific papers in various Indian and foreign journals. He was also a contributor to some books. He was invited to deliver special orations on many occasions. He was the first President of the unified Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists during the Udairpur Conference held in 1972. He was editor of the Indian Journal of Dermatology for 20 years.

His contribution as an inspired teacher in the field of Dermatology & Leprology and his wide recognition as an academician in India and abroad made him the Doyen of Dermatology in our country. He attended several international conferences and acted as a chairman on many scientific congresses. He was a fellow of the International Academy of Medical Sciences. He acted on the Editorial Board of *Excerpta Medica*. As recently as September, 1984, he presided over the National Symposium on Pigment Metabolism in Relation to Vitiligo, held at Bose Institute, Calcutta.

He was highly regarded in the academic circles of India and abroad and was deeply loved by his students and associations.

His death on 23rd November, 1984 has indeed caused a great vacuum and a great loss to the medical profession and education.

He has left behind a son and a daughter besides his mournful wife.

Dr. A. Chakraborty,
Secretary, IADVL
(Calcutta Branch)