

## **A LIFE SKETCH OF DR. SANAT KUMAR GHOSH**

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Son of the late Surendra Krishna Ghosh, Sub-Judge, the late Dr. Sanat Kumar Ghosh was born at Bhowanipur, Calcutta in the year 1899. Even as a child he had displayed a restless inquisitive spirit often finding expression in his naughtiness, which for a time remained a headache to his superiors. Rearing pets was a great childhood hobby with him at this stage.

The late Dr. Ghosh matriculated in the first division in 1917, a year rendered memorable and unique in the history of the Calcutta University on account of three successive examination due to leakage of question papers. He duly passed the Inter Science examination from the St. Xaviers College in 1919 with great credit and got himself admitted in the Carmichael Medical College (now known as R. G. Kar Medical College) to embark on an overall brilliant academic, athletic and dramatic career. He graduated in medicine in 1925, obtaining the University medal in Midwifery. That he was a regular playing member of the College football and cricket teams, having actually played in the Elliot Shield matches clearly show the versatility of Dr. Ghosh as a student. This is magnified manifold when we consider his histrionic talents in the dramatic sphere, where he ruled as the undisputed leader of the college dramatic club. His directional abilities reached such startling heights that for more than two decades the Doctors' Amusement Club, the best amateur dramatic organization in Bengal for a long period, had to seek the help of his services on this score. Indeed he may very easily be considered the best director amongst doctors that Bengal has produced after late Dr. Naren Bose.

After graduation, Dr. Ghosh joined the Carmichael Medical College Hospital as a junior House Surgeon to the late Sir Kedarnath Das and in due time became his senior House Surgeon. While in this office, he had a difference of opinion with Dr. Das, and resigned forthwith which was in conformity with

his independent and self respecting nature. This was actually a great stroke of luck for Homœopathy, because it was at this juncture that Dr. Ghosh decided taking to Homœopathy. This momentous decision was largely influenced by the fact that his father was an erudite scholar in homœopathy and enjoyed a great reputation as an extremely successful prescriber and commanded a vast practice as an amateur homœopath even during his service days as a sub-judge. He had built up a library of Homœopathic books, which would, even now, be an envy of any professional Homœopath in the metropolis.

Dr. S. K. Nag, one of the brightest luminaries in the Homœopathic firmament at the time was able to persuade Dr. Ghosh's father to allow him to join the Calcutta Homœopathic College where he was actively associated along with the celebrated Dr. Younan, Dr. Barid Baran Mukherjee and others. Soon after, Dr. Ghosh lost his father and at the age of 28, he found himself alone to fight the battle of life with a big family to support and a number of younger brothers to impart education to. How successfully he had borne this burden on his broad shoulders may be known from the fact that everyone amongst his brothers as also his first two sons are now well placed in society with lucrative incomes.

The state of Homœopathic practice and education in Bengal, in the thirties left much room for improvement which was a constant source of pain to Dr. Ghosh. For a long time he had visions of a thorough reorganization of the system of Homœopathic education and establishment of an uptodate Homœopathic hospital, where effects of remedies prescribed would be confirmed by laboratory and instrumental findings. He felt that there was little scope at the Calcutta Homœo. College to give shape to his ideal. It was at this juncture that the late Dr. D. N. De, who had great admiration for Dr. Ghosh requested him to join his institution, to which Dr. Ghosh readily agreed and joined in 1936. Dr. Ghosh spoke of his ideals to Dr. De and impressed upon him the need for making the institution public as a first step towards achieving these ideals. The Indian Homœopathic Medical Association the controlling body of the Dunham Homœopathic Medical College (now

known as D. N. De Homœopathic Medical College was formed and registered in 1937 with Dr. Ghosh as its General Secretary, and on the following year in August, a modestly equipped hospital was given a start to. Here actually began my long association with Dr. Ghosh as his chief lieutenant in the earlier stages of the work of rebuilding the institution.

Without wasting any time, Dr. Ghosh started his work of reorientation right away and abolished the Morning and Night Departments. Both of these sections existed for offering facilities for medical education to those who were otherwise engaged elsewhere in day time. Dr. Ghosh never believed that medical education was anything but a whole time job. Introduction of the study of Biology and Pharmacology in the junior course was another sharp yet profitable departure from the usual practice prevailing in colleges.

In 1944, Dr. Ghosh became the Principal of the College and finally became the president in 1952, to be re-elected in 1957, which office he held till his death on 28th February 1962.

As a physician, his dexterity in making quick selections of eventually effective remedies had commanded the admiration of a large circle of physicians. Of the factors which he took into consideration for prescribing, causation seemed to play the most important role. I have seen him successfully prescribing Selenium for a violent and refractory case of acute bacillary dysentery basing on the intolerable summer heat as causation. The great possibilities of the endocrines, nosodes and alkloids when prescribed in potencies had engaged his attention for a long time and he had given an extensive therapeutic trial to a good many of them on his large circle of patients. Out of this has emerged a number of remedies like Thyroidinum, Diphtherinum, Atropin Sulph, Bowel Nosodes and others which will go down as priceless gifts made by Dr. Ghosh to those physician who consulted him and had opportunities to observe the remarkable utility of these drugs. He had collected a vast amount of data and observations on them and had been able to draw workable references on their therapeutic indications and efficacy, which he got published in his now famous work, "Some Experiments with Rare Nosodes." He was still engaged

in his trials and observations with endocrines specially the gonads (testes and ovary) with a view to publishing a second volume when the end came. That these remedies, with their prompt and penetrating effectiveness and comparatively less torturous ways of prescribing, considerably cut short the work of a physician, will remain unchallengeable. Dr. Ghosh had remarked to me on more than one occasion that his fondness for prescribing such remedies in many cases, kept away a large number of physicians, mostly conservatives, from consulting him.

A devoted and skilful Homœopath, a thoughtful organiser with progressive ideology, a brilliant teacher and a pious man to the core, Dr. Ghosh had set before himself a programme of work for lifting Homœopathy out of its present rut to inspire a renewed public confidence in this system comparable to what it was during the halcyon days of Mahendra Lal Sirkar, Beharilal Bhaduri, R. L. Dutta and others. It is upto the generation of coming Homœopaths to take up this mantle of work and see it through so that the ideals of Dr. Ghosh are realised truly and fully.

#### MERC. SOL. VS. MERC. VIVUS

*(Contd. from page 385)*

Merc. viv. it would be as well for us to do so." (Dr. Willard Ide Pierce).

It is clear that those authors, who derived their knowledge from the earlier writings of Hahnemann, used the term Mercurius to mean Merc. sol., while others, who based their knowledge on his later writings, were definitely convinced that Mercurius meant Merc. vivus.

"Mercury in its fluid state has little dynamic action on man's health, it is only its chemical compounds that can cause great effects." (Hahnemann). But the same liquid Mercury, when it is triturated in the process devised by Hahnemann with milk-sugar "up to the million-fold powder-attenuation," loses its liquid quality, becomes soluble in dilute alcohol and being raised to higher and higher alcoholic potencies through dilution and succussion (dynamisation) renders the best services in healing diseases, when indicated and used in suitable minimum doses.