

OBITUARY

Dr. Balai Krishna Mitra. OSWB Membership No: M - 259

Born on: 5th July 1921

Expired on: 31st December 2008

"Dikay dikay sei baarta rati galo kromay". Thanks to the SMS alert facility that has been introduced by the new Executive Committee of OSWB, the news of the sad demise of the father figure of the ophthalmic fraternity of West Bengal spread like wildfire on the morning of the last day of the year. His affectionate student, Dr. Amarnath De walked down the memory lane to pen the following lines.....

The bestowed son of undivided India, Sri Balai Krishna was born in the district of Khulna as the second son of Sri Amritalal and Smt. Binapani Mitra. 'Binapani', being the mythological deity of education, aptly gifted a talented 'Baraputra' (bestowed son) to the mother earth. He completed matriculation from his village school and I Sc. from Khulna Sadar College.

He entered Medical College, Bengal (presently Calcutta Medical College) in 1938 in the last batch of the 6 year course of MB. After the successful completion of the bachelor degree, he gained experience as Houseman in the departments of Surgery, Medicine and Ophthalmology. As an active member of the Students' Union, during this period, he led the movement of demand for stipend for the housemen and succeeded in a historical start.

Capt. Kiran Sen, the principal of Lake Medical College offered him to work there in 1947 and he accepted. Lake Medical College, situated on the banks of present Rabindra Sarobar was the usual structure of army-barrack along Southern Avenue. It was a glamorous teaching school for the army doctors of that time. Capt. Sen made him prudent under his affectionate guidance and encouraged to complete the DOMS course of two years at Calcutta Medical College. "Teaching is one of the best ways of learning" and Dr. Mitra sharpened his knowledge in Ophthalmology participating in the teaching programmes at the Lake Medical College.

After passing DOMS in 1952, he joined Calcutta Medical College as Hony. Junior Visiting Surgeon. Except for a short spell of 6 months when he was transferred to N R S Medical College, he spent a period of 30 years in Calcutta Medical College and was promoted from Hony. Junior Visiting Surgeon to Hony. Senior Visiting Surgeon and retired as Hony. Reader. He was a teacher as well as examiner for both the under graduate and post graduate courses in the University. As an established academician he has many publications and lectures in various conferences abroad.

Honours and responsibilities flowed into his charismatic persona and in 1977 he became the president of OSWB and that of AIOS in 1980. However the dedicated *Vaishnabite* man believed in devotion to work and faith in the divinity of Lord *Srikrishna Chaitanya* and said "*Iha Bajhya*" (This is meaningless).

Well known for his punctuality in class as well as the academic sessions of conferences, he also had a popular image for his sense of wit. The life long bachelor did love his students as his sons and daughters so much that they started an award in OSWB during his lifetime.

Soul is immortal. So the immortal soul of this magnanimous personality will live in our hearts forever. Sir! You will remain here eternally and continue to love and bless us. We will miss you during the academic meets and conferences but we know very well that your blessings will continue to shower upon us the same way for ever. May your soul rest in eternal peace.



Picture taken by the editor, Dr. J. Bhunia only three weeks before the demise

We deeply mourn their sad demise and pray for the eternal peace of their souls. We express our heartfelt sympathies for the members of the bereaved families.