

Fungi his interests were wide and varied and his publications cover not only his study of some individual genera of fungi like *Meliola*, *Verticillium*, *Collectotrichum*, *Rhizosporidium*, *Paradiplodia*, *Haplosporella*, etc., but also his observation on the coralline roots of *Cycas* and *Zamia*, the haustorium in *Cuscuta*, mycorrhiza of forest trees and the endophytic fungi in Indian liverworts. He studied the phenomenon of Saltation in *Colletotrichum biologium* sp. nov. He published a number of papers in the "Molds of the Punjab" and was recently engaged in a study of the Smuts of the Punjab. His report on the "Citrus diseases of the Punjab" embodies the results of a five years' scheme sponsored and financed by the I.C.A.R. He has recorded in this report his observations of the various aspects of the diseases like wither-tip, chlorosis, sooty moulds, etc., and suggested remedial measures. According to him the wither-tip disease of the fruit is caused by the fungus *Collectotrichum glæosporioides* and the 'sooty mould' covering the leaves and fruits brought about by a number of saprophytic fungi like *Acrothecium lunatum* Wak., *Capnodium citri* Berk. et Desm., *Alternaria citri* Pierce, *Cladosporium herbarum*, *Pleospora herbarum* Rab., *Chaetomium* sp., and *Aspergillus* sp. Chlorosis of the leaves on the other hand, is supposed to be more due to physiological causes than due to fungal attacks. In 1936 he suggested a scheme for enlightening the people of the country on the nature and causes of plant diseases and the methods of controlling and eradicating them. He and his collaborators have in several publications enhanced our knowledge of soil, fungi, mycorrhiza, bacterial and fungal diseases of plants and the physiology and ecology of fungi. As director of the Kashyap Research Laboratory he guided research in various branches of Botany, like Cytology, Bryology, Bacteriology and Morphology. In collaboration with Sir John Farmer he published for use in Indian Universities a book entitled *A Practical Introduction to the Study of Indian Botany*!

Professor Chaudhuri was a familiar figure at almost all the sessions of the Indian Science Congress which he regularly attended—often with his contingent of students. He presided over the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1932 and was the President of the Indian Botanical Society in 1941. He was a foundation member of the National Institute of Sciences of India. He represented India at the Twelfth International Horticultural Congress at Berlin in 1938 and presided over the Tropical Section at the same Congress.

A man of active habits and a lover of outdoor life, Professor Chaudhuri was immensely fond of field botany and organised long excursions into the Himalayan regions and conducted regular classes there during the summer months.

He was free and outspoken in his expression and was genial by temperament. He was popular amongst his friends, colleagues and students. He was married in 1919 and was fifty at the time of his death. His premature

demise has deprived India of one of her leading Mycologists and an able professor.

A. R. R.

SATYENDRA NATH CHAKRAVARTI

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THE news of the sudden death of Dr. S. N. Chakravarti at the age of forty-five under tragic circumstances has come as a shock to his students, colleagues and friends. It is indeed a cruel irony of fate that this sincere and honest scientist with high ideals and full of ambition should be pitted against circumstances from which he could think of escaping only by nipping his thin-spun life. "The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

After a brilliant school and college record, Dr. Chakravarti went to Oxford to work in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory under the late Professor W. H. Perkin Jr. as his only Indian student. After working there for two years, he took his D.Phil. degree and returned to India in 1929 as the Reader in Chemistry and the Head of the Chemistry Department of the newly started Annamalai University at Annamalai-nagar. After serving this University for about seven years, he left this, much to the regret of his students and colleagues, to accept the post of the Chemical Examiner to the Government of C.P. and U.P., which he held till the time of his death.

Dr. Chakravarti was indeed an ideal teacher and his lectures, which were prepared with meticulous care and unusual sincerity, were the highlights of the Department. He had high ideals and believed that education does not consist in telling the pupils what they do not know but in making them what they were not. Since he was a born teacher, everybody who knew him regretted when he took up the post of the Chemical Examiner wherein he had to deal more with files and red tape than with flasks and chemicals and science journals.

Dr. Chakravarti was very keenly interested in research but he could not execute his plans to his full satisfaction at the University. His work includes the synthesis of a number of derivatives of tetrahydroprotoberberine, paraberine, pseudo-opiatic acid, hydroxy derivatives of naphthalene, etc., and the chemical investigation of Indian Medicinal Plants. From Agra came forth papers which dealt with the methods used in the medico-legal and forensic work.

Dr. Chakravarti was a perfect gentleman in every sense of the term. He was an extremely kind and sincere man. India is badly in need of inspiring teachers like Dr. Chakravarti; yet because of strange circumstances which which are special to this country, he was driven to seek a job which had little to do with teaching and which never suited his genius.

We offer our sympathies to his wife and children whom he leaves behind.

K. G.