

## OBITUARY

*K. M. Chowdhury* Passed away on the 3rd December 1961, at the age 67, leaving behind his widow, two sons, one married daughter and a number of grand children to mourn his loss. He had been connected with the Association of Engineers since 1926, being elected as an Associate Member on the 18th June of that year when the Late Rai Bahadur A. N. Das was President and our present President Sri A. K. Sen was the Hon. Secretary, and helped considerably to build up our Library.

*K. M. Chowdhury* was born on the 5th July 1894. He obtained the Civil Engineering degree from the Bengal Engineering College in 1914 and had a long, varied, service career of 33 years of which 13 years (from 1915 to 1931) were with M/s. Martin & Co. 2 years with M/s. K. S. Roy & Brothers, 2 years with M/s. N. B. Ganguly & Sons, and 13 years (from December 1941 to May 1953) with M/s. Mackintosh Burn & Co. Ltd. In addition to his work he had large unselfish intellectual and social interests. He was elected a member of the Bengal Library Association in 1935 and had been for sometime a member Executive Committee of the Ballygunge Bank Calcutta (now under liquidation.)

His devoted interest in the library of the Association and his quiet, unobtrusive but untiring efforts, which were very effective for its enlargement, endeared him to all who came into touch with him; and his loss is felt as much by the members of the Association as by those of his bereaved family to whom their heartfelt sympathy and condolence are extended in a resolution of the meeting of the Council.

*N. N. Sen* died suddenly of heart attack at the age of 70 while still in full vigour visiting his friends at Durgapur on the 15th December 1961. He leaves a son and two daughters to mourn his loss.

*N. N. Sen* had been a great well wisher of the Association. The growth of the Association had been one of his main interests in life. He had done much to improve its status, enlarge its function and increase its membership. To the last moment of his life he had been engaged in talk about its welfare.

*N. N. Sen* was born in 1891. He was educated at the Assanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, and built up a good practice as a Civil Engineer with many sound constructions to his name. Two of his papers presented to the Association were published in this Journal. He keenly



K. M. CHOWDHURY

Born 1894

Died 1961



N. N. SEN

Born 1891

Died 1961

felt the lack of proper recognition of the standard of education of his school by the foreign officials of those days and did everything in his power to gain recognition both for his school and this Association.

By his death the Association has lost one of its most earnest workers and cannot but deeply mourn his loss. The Council has passed resolution conveying their condolence and sympathy to the bereaved members of his family.

*Shri Binoy Krishna Rohatgi*, whose name had become synonymous with the renowned "India Fan", passed away in Calcutta on the 27th September, 1961. He is survived by his mother, wife, brother, six sons and five daughters. His departure has created a wide gap in Industrial and social circles of Calcutta.

Shri Rohatgi came from an old established family of Zamindars and banders, whose interest lay in Bengal, Bihar and Utter Pradesh. He was born in Calcutta in January 1900 and received his education in the City Collegiate School, St. Xavier's College and studied for his Master's Degree in Science under the great doyen of science and industry, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy.

Having lost his father at an early age and saddled with the responsibilities of managing the family estate, his interest was drawn towards the Engineering industry. In the year 1924 he pioneered and was the architect of the premier fan making industry, The India Electric Works Ltd., The factory, started as a small unit one room tenement, was faced with bitter competition from imported fans. It was due to the ceaseless efforts, planning and wisdom of this young budding industrialist that the firm achieved its present form, and figured as the largest wholly Indian Swadeshi' fan manufacturing concern in the country with divisions producing signalling and other equipment, generators and transformers etc. The firm has gained an unique reputation for its products in Government Circles and with the Public alike.

A true nationalist at heart and a staunch supporter of the struggle for freedom, he was always looking for new avenues in the industrial field and manufacture of items not produced in the country hitherto. In the year 1945 he laid the foundation of the Pradip Lamp Works in Patna for producing electric Lamps. He was also director of a number of engineering and other industries, as well as of banking firms, such as The Jay Engineering Works Ltd., Hind Chemicals Ltd., Bank of Behar Ltd., etc. His association with the Jay Engineering Works, which company was

named after his father, Late Shri Krishna Rohatgi, and which ranks today as the premier sewing machine manufacturers in the country and later started producing the famous Usha Fan, had been since its inception. He was the Managing Director of this concern at one time.

He was the architect and President for several years, of the Engineering Association of India. He took an active interest in the formation of the Fan Workers association, Indian Society for quality control, Illuminating Engineering Society, and served as President of the above societies at various times. He was at one time the member of the Executive Council of Indian Chamber of Commerce, Engineering Export Promotion Council, Organisation of Industrial Employers and Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association. He was member of the Import Advisory Council, Light Engineering Industry Panel, Eastern Regional Advisory Committee and Railway Equipment Advisory Committee and many other Government appointed and official committees. During the war, he was the Vice Chairman of the Engineering Stores Advisory Committee attached to D.G.M.P. and a member of the General Advisory Committee of the same Directorate. In 1952 he attended the L.L.C. Conference at Geneva as a member of the Indian Delegation.

The activities of Shri Rohatgi were not confined to Industries alone. He was keenly interested in educational, cultural and social activities. He was a member of the academic Council of the University of Jadavpur, the governing body of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and Eastern Regional Technical Education Committee, to mention a few of them. He established a Girls school at Patna, and was the chairman of the Trust of Adarsh Hindi High School, Calcutta. Equally well-versed in Hindi, Bengali and English, he was also a scholar in Sanskrit and Persian. Amongst the various academic societies with which he was associated, he was the member of the Asiatic Society, Sanskrit Sahitya Parishad, Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Indian Science Congress and a fellow of the Indian Chemical Society. He was a prominent member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, of which he was at one time the president. He has been the President of Hindustani Mitra Sangha and The Upper India Association and had a long association with the Mahabodhi Society and Ram Krishna Mission.

His love for education was so great that many students lived and studied at his residence supported by him. He extended financial aid whenever required for any national cause or Social Welfare. Before the enactment of Zamindari Abolition Bill, he constantly strived to introduce modern methods of agriculture in his estate for which he is still loved by the villagers.

Clad in simple clothes of Khadi in Indian Style, Shri Rohatgi impressed whoever came in touch with him and was struck by his extreme politeness, friendliness, geniality and simplicity of living. He always held out a helping hand to those in need. He was a living embodiment of all that is noble and truly representative of Indian Culture. His death will be Mourned throughout the country by a large member of friends and acquaintances who had the privilege of knowing him.

On Monday, the 9th October, 1961, the Shradh Ceremony of Shri Binoy Krishna Rohatgi was performed by his sons. Many prominent businessman and friends attended the Gita Path meeting which was conducted at his residence, 45, Armenian Street, Calcutta, by Pandit Gaurinath Shastri and Pandit Ramakant Shukla. His admirers came in thousands to pay their last tribute to the departed soul. In the afternoon Holy Quoran recitations were arranged by his Mohammedan friends.



B. K. ROHATGI

Born 1900

Died 1961