

I had the privilege to get acquainted with Prof. Ghosh almost at the fag end of his career. Whenever we met at different Conferences, he was always kind and courteous towards all the juniors. he had talked to me extensively about himself particularly about the initial days of neuro-sciences in West Bengal and how Dr. B. C. Roy encouraged a lot of people to take up different specialities. Since I did not find a suitable obituary written by any one, I thought that it would include his memoirs published in the Souvenir of the Patna NSI Conference and his bio-graphical details published by Prof. Kalyanaraman, Sunil Pandya et al in 1983. He died in April 1996. It was surprising that no obituary was published in our journal on the death of this great neurologist. As a great exponent of our subject in west Bengal he will be remembered for years to come.

The Eastern India neuro-scientists are more or less a very cohesive group with erudite clinicians like Prof. Asok Bagchi and others. Many like Prof. Bagchi, (the late) Prof. R. N. Chatterjee, Prof. Shyamal Sen have become Presidents of NSI The Association of Neuroscientists of Eastern India has its own nicely edited journal and it has two orations annually named after Prof. T. K. Ghosh and Prof. R. N. Chatterjee. A neurosurgeon is invited to do the neurologist Prof. T. K. Ghosh oration and a neurologist is invited for Prof. R. N. Chatterjee oration. This year (1998) Prof. P. N. Tandon and I were the orators. We consider that this a very commendable way to conduct a combined Neurology – Neurosurgery session.

K. R. Nair

T. K. Ghosh.

President, Neurological Society of India, 1953

Travelling through various parts of the erstwhile Bengal Presidency with his father-an auditor in the office of the Accountant General-young Tarit Kumar was struck by the respect and authority commanded by the civil surgeons in contrast to the fear evoked by the district magistrates. "I was always attracted by the kind eyes of the I. M. S. civil surgeon than by the sharp ones of the I. C. S. district magistrates", he recalls. Thus, it came to pass that after brilliant performances at the matriculation (1929) and the intermediate science (1931) examinations, he joined the Carmichael Medical College. it is of interest that the first step in the selection of students was a dictation test in English introduced by Sir Kedarnath Das (gynaecologist and principal). These who failed at this were not called up for the interview. Dr. Ghosh's interviewers included Sir Nilratan Sircar, Sir Kedarnath Das, Dr. B. C. Roy and Sir U. N. Brahmachari and the topics discussed ranged from biology to David Copperfield. Dr. Ghosh was placed first among the successful candidates.

At the competitive examination in physiology he was selected class assistant by Professor S. C. Mahalanabis. When the students went on strike as a protest against British oppression, Dr. Ghosh went up to Prof. Mahalanabis and asked. "Has Sir Kedarnath Das (principal) declared a holiday?", he was asked. When Professor answered in the negative Ghosh was told to proceed with the roll call though the class was empty. Professor Mahalanabis waited in the hall with him for ten minutes. Then, turning to Dr. Ghosh, the Professor said, "You have done your duty as a class assistant and may now leave to do your duty for the country".

There was no specialised teaching of the neurosciences then. The general surgeons taught the management of head injuries and the physicians taught the elements of neurology. The only teacher of note in neurology was Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. His powerful voice, searching

eyes and masterly presentations compelled attention. Dr. Ghosh found these lectures fascinating and is sure that they turned his attention towards neurology. The fact that neurology was based on the solid foundations of anatomy and physiology further stimulated him. When, later, Dr. Ghosh had the good fortune of serving as house officer to Dr. Roy, the intellectual appeal of this speciality became almost irresistible. There were, however, some hitches. Tests to confirm clinical diagnosis were conspicuous by

their absence. Therapy too was almost non-existent. Neurosurgery, as a speciality, did not exist. Some general surgeons showed interest but were fatalistic in their outlook, believing that patients would, invariably die after neurosurgery. A particular general surgeon had, in his office, several specimens of brains from patients he had operated upon. A visiting neurosurgeon remarked after meeting this individual: "Is he a surgeon or a pathologist?" So Dr. Ghosh chose general medicine and cardiology initially.

In 1940-41, Dr. B. C. Roy appointed Dr. Ghosh as research scholar, paying him Rs. 25 per month from his own funds. In 1944, he gave Dr. Ghosh Rs. 1000/- for a study of epidemic dropsy.

In 1938, Dr. Charu Chandra Saha returned from England after Obtaining the MRCP and training in neurology. Dr. B. C. Roy immediately asked his residents to show all neurological cases to Dr. Saha, requesting the latter to teach neurology to the students. This, however, did not work out and Dr. Saha concentrated on building up his private practice in psychological medicine and neurology.

In 1947, whilst in New York, Dr. B. C. Roy met Dr. I. S. Wechsler, chief of neurology and neurosurgery at Mount Sinai Hospital. He discussed with Dr. Wechsler the possibility for training an interested young doctor from Calcutta and finalised arrangements for doing so. Soon after his return and appointment as Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Roy called Dr. Ghosh and asked him to proceed to New York. In early 1948, Dr. Ghosh sailed on a cargo ship (as no bookings were available on passenger liners) from Calcutta to Boston and then by train, travelled to New York. Dr. Wechsler welcomed him and arranged for his training in neuropathology under Dr. Joseph Globus, E E G under Dr. Hans Strauss, neurophysiology under Dr. Brickner, psychology under Drs. Weinstein and Khan, neuroradiology under Dr. Schlesinger, neurosurgery under Dr. Ira Cohen and experimental neurology under Dr. Morris Bender. Dr. Wechsler, himself, taught clinical neurology and supervised the total programme. Dr. Ghosh was introduced to the librarian so that books, journals and reprints could be made available to him without difficulty. In addition, Dr. Ghosh visited other departments in the city, seminars and conferences and later departments at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital and the Philadelphia Medical College Hospital.

Dr. Ghosh recalls with joy the once a month seminars at Mount Sinai hospital which ended in a dinner (sponsored by Dr. Wechsler) that extended upto 2 A.M. As Dr. Wechsler left around midnight, he'd ask the residents: "Are you all right, fellows? Can I leave you? Will you go back to your hospital or will you lose yourself elsewhere?"

At the end of his training programme Dr. Ghosh was called to a meeting in Dr. Wechsler's office. Also present there were Dr. John Fulton and Dr. Joseph Globus. The trio invited Dr. Ghosh to stay on and promised him a bright future in New York. Dr. Ghosh was deeply moved but realising the needs of his own country, declined this handsome offer. Whilst in New York, Dr. Ghosh had already written to Dr. Roy about the utility of an E E G machine. At Dr. Roy's request he obtained a letter from Dr. Wechsler, recommending purchase of an E E G unit in order to facilitate neurological diagnosis. "Dr. Ghosh has made very good progress", wrote Dr. Wechsler certifying that he would make good use of the unit.

The Carmichael Medical College authorities however, refused to purchase an E E G. unit even though it was recommended by Dr. B. C. Roy. Dr. Ghosh learnt this on his return to Calcutta and on scouting around found a similar attitude at the other three medical colleges as well. It appeared that there was no desire to develop the neurological sciences.

Dr. Ghosh therefore chose the Presidency General Hospital in Calcutta for the development of neurology. He stimulated interest in the setting up of a Postgraduate Medical Institute there and had the satisfaction of seeing both the department of neuro-sciences and the institute blossom. Dr. Ghosh had envisaged a centre where competent professors not overburdened by undergraduate teaching, could function optimally. It is to his credit that he succeeded against odds. One example of the latter: "At Dr. Roy's suggestion, in 1949, I went to Col. N. C. Chatterjee, Surgeon Superintendent..., with a scheme for the EEG department, a sketch plan and Dr. Frederick Gibbs' book on electroencephalography - my personal copy. These languished in the Writers' Buildings till 1951..." On July 1951, the EEG department was sanctioned. In 1953, Dr. Ghosh submitted a scheme for the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, requesting the creation of posts of a senior neurosurgeon, two junior neurosurgeons, a neurologist, a

psychiatrist, a physician etc. These were sanctioned on 2Dec. 1954. The need for skilled neurosurgeons became increasingly obvious. Dr. Ghosh especially recalls P. C., a building contractor who walked by a crane and later developed weakness of his left limbs. Hysteria was diagnosed, Dr. Ghosh saw him and noted an extension planter response on the left. E. E" G. showed delta activity in the right temporal and frontal regions. He persuaded Col. Chatterjee, Senior Surgeon at the Postgraduate Hospital and Dr. M. M. Mukherjee to open. At surgery, they failed to locate the tumour and a few hours later the patient died. Ghosh was able to obtain an autopsy Dr. R. Dutta Dr. R. Dutta Choudhary demonstrated a parietotemporal spongioblastoma. From then onwards, for his private patients, Dr. Ghosh called Dr. B. Ramamurthi from Madras to perform neurosurgery.

Dr. Ghosh recalls a meeting with B. C. Roy: "Dr. Roy asked me why I was waiting. I told him that as he he was going to Vienna, could he find a senior neurosurgeon there for department. Dr. Roy was furious and shouted. "You are mad. I sent you to learn neurology and not neurosurgery..." I simply said to the patients were suffering for want of trained neurosurgeon"

Although he chastised me, the first thing he did at Vienna was to search for a willing neurosurgeon and found Dr. Herbert Kraus who agreed to come to India. This eminent and most lovable neurosurgeon came to Calcutta in February 1955 to fill the post I had created. My former student, Dr. Asoke Bagchi helped him".

One of the patients Dr. Ghosh referred to Dr. Kraus for surgery on a brain tumor was a leading industrialist of Calcutta. Following successful surgery, his family donated Rs. 3,00,000/- and this was used by Dr. Ghosh to create the 'Bangur Institute of Neurology' at the Postgraduate Hospital. Although Dr. Ghosh made his proposal and forwarded the sum in 1956, the institute actually came into being only in 1961. Swami Shankaranand Maharaj of the Belur Math suggested the emblem for the Institute – a pradip with the motto "Nothing is superior to knowledge" in Sanskrit. Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the institute.

Dr. Ghosh has fond memories of Dr. Wilder Penfield's visit to Calcutta and the dialogues between Drs. Penfield and B. C. Roy. It is not surprising that on learning of Dr. Roy's death, Dr. Penfield wrote "... what a magnificent physician... he was...".

At Dr. Ramamurthi invitation. Dr. Ghosh joined the Neurological Society of India, then composed of only four members (Drs. Chandy, Baldev Singh, Ramamurthi and S. T. Narasimhan). At the meeting of the executive council, Dr. Ghosh proposed the name of Dr. Ram Ginde for membership but this was strongly objected to by Dr. Jacob Chandy on the ground that he did general surgery as well. "Dr. Chandy always took a critical, negative and sometimes aggressive attitude". Dr. Ghosh represented the Society at the annual conferences of the American Neuropathological Society, American EEG. Society, and the League Against Epilepsy. Dr. Ghosh was the second president of our Society. It is noteworthy that from 1950- 1955, Dr. Ghosh was unable to find anyone from Calcutta he could nominate for full membership.

Of present trends, Dr. Ghosh is full of dismay. "I had to fight and suffer in my persistent effort at creating facilities and providing a 70 bedded neuro-science institute. The progress, however, has been slow. Things have worsened since my retirement in 1971 and will continue to do so unless the present incumbents are energetic and devoted. The separation of the departments of neurology and neurosurgery is a retrograde step. It is not pleasant to witness one's life work being dismantled... but such is the world... The current status of neurology, neurosurgery and the neuro-sciences in general remains undefined, exposed to continuous onslaught from various quarters. Lure of financial gain and higher administrative positions induce some promising neuro- scientists into joining the stream for power. Attempts are also noted to submerge the neurosciences into a secondary position. We need institutes of neurology in the different regions of India and the performances of our neuroscientists must be re-evaluated..." Speaking of neurologists in particular, Dr. Ghosh points out: "Neurologists are facing competition not only from specialists in general medicine but also from neurosurgeons who are usurping patients who do not have surgical problems. The co operation between neurologist and neuro-surgeon that we dreamed off has disappeared, There is senseless competition between them...".

BIODATA OF DR. TARTT KUMAR GHOSH

M. D., F. I. M. S. A., F. A. M. S., F. N. A.

Born on 23rd January 1922 at Howrah.

Consultant Neurologist - in private practice and Consultant Neurologist to.

(i) Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences.

(ii) Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan, Calcutta.

(iii) Calcutta Hospital and Medical Research Institute, Calcutta.

Professional posts held:

House Physician, Medical Registrar, Resident physician, Carmichael Medical College (R. G. Kar Medical College), Calcutta 1931-46.

Visiting physician, Associate Professor and then Professor of Medicine R.G. K. Medical College 1949-55.

Consultant Neurologist, S. S. K. M. Hospital and Bangur Institute of Neurology 1951-80.

Consultant Neurologist, University College of Medicine, 1961-80.

Professor, Director-Professor, Honorary Professor. Honorary Consultant in Neurology at Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research and Bangur Institute of Neurology, Calcutta 1951-80.

University Professor of Neurology and Head of the Department of Neurology, University College of Medicine, University of Calcutta 1961-80.

Deceased : April, 1996.

Research Projects

Arteriolar dilatation in epidemic dropsy, anaemia and compensatory vasoconstriction in Congestive cardiac failure 1941-42

Methodology and assessment of haemodynamics of cardiovascular disorder in epidemic dropsy 1944-45

Psychometric tests in mental retardation. Developed new tests for assessment in mental subnormality (CSIR) 1958-59

Collaborative studies on clinical autonomic and psychological function in diseases of frontal lobe (ICMR) 1961-62

A collaborative epidemiological study on epilepsy in India 1969-78. Follow-up studies on epilepsy cases 1978-80.

**Looking back with satisfaction'..'
the decades of dedication were not
in vain**

Renniniscences

DR. TARIT KUMAR GHOSH.

"Visibility Unlimited"

When Charles Lindbergh was making his solo flight from Africa to South America, he received a crisp message from the weather Bureau of U. S. A.- "Visibility Unlimited".

It was a fascinating message-stimulating and refreshing-"It calls up picture of whispering wind of soft, wide cloudless sky, the morning of endless summer day, a smooth rippleless sea spread silken in the unending horizon".

We, who were directed by destiny to be fore-runners of the discipline are ever willing to relay this heartening message to the new entrants in the arena of Neurology-"Visibility Unlimited".

We had faced initial hostility, considerable obstruction but quietened the misgivings and made the Medical Professions and the people receptive of the need of the speciality with the hope that the coming generation of Neuro Scientists shall have all the welcome and privilege benefit of hardship.

Our initial venture had its hazard as well as thrills--an adventure and a challenge.

It took me 31 days to reach Boston Harbour from Kidderpore Dock, Calcutta on my way to Mount Sinai Hospital, New York in February, 1948 in an unwelcome British cargo ship with no amenities for passenger comfort. Permissions to travel in the ship and occupy the Second mate's

vacant cabin were allowed as the said officer was on leave and choicest wines were collected for my use from the Calcutta Office of British Company which the Captain drank with manifest pleasure while I poured over my books on Neurology at the same table in the sunny deck on glass of cold water. The ship passed through placid Suez Canal to the turbulent Mediterranean sea where I had my first lesson of sea sickness and then to the limitless Atlantic Ocean with no sight of land for days through fog and storm and envelopes of pitch dark nights.

In my cabin I had and re-read thoughtful and provoking statement of Harvey Cushing while inaugurating the Society of Endocrinology in 1921.

"We find ourselves embarked on the fogbound and poorly chartered sea of Endocrinology. It is easy to lose our bearings for we have, most of us little knowledge of sea fairs and a vague idea of our destination. Our motives are varied. Some unquestionably follow the lure of discovery, some are earnest colonizers, some have the spirit of missionaries and would spread the gospel, some are attracted merely by prospect of gain and are running full sail before the trade wind."

How true it is, for the speciality of Neurology.

In the post-independence era, we were accorded special attention and training abroad to equip us not only as a specialist but as an organiser as well. I can never forget the kindness and interest shown to me by Dr. I. S. Wechsler (Neurology), Dr. Hans Strauss (EEG.), Dr. Josef Globus (Neuro pathology), Dr. Ina Cohen (Neuro Surgery), Dr. Morris Bender (Experimental Neurology), and Dr. Edw Edweinstein (Neuro Psychology) for training me in their specialised areas so that I may be useful on my return to India.

Neurology that I learnt from internationally famous exponents of Neuro Sciences was something that I could not get in the Text Books.

Neurology concerns itself to the study of Nervous System in health and disease. In Neurology, we have an arena where many meet to form this dynamic speciality. Here is a merger of men of ideas from Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, Radiology, Ophthalmology, Anatomy, Physiology, Physics and Chemistry, with their roots in the basic subjects.

Narrowness of outlook or atrophy of inbreeding which besets many a speciality, does not concern Neurology. For, it draws inspiration from many fields and functions as a team. There is no boredom but considerable joy of exploring uncharted regions.

Here is something new and fascinating in the speciality, where we integrate the differing aspects. Here is unity in diversity that our sages have taught us"

While in U. S. A. I heard Dr. Wilder Penfield, the famous neurosurgeon who in his address in 1948 to the American Academy of Neurosurgeons made this illuminating statement which continues to reverberate in my mind till this day:

"I believed that a new day will dawn tomorrow and that in its light Will be found an understanding of the Nervous System. Mental as well as Physical activity will then be recognised as a function of the Brain and Neurosurgery and Psychiatry will lose the separate authority conferred upon them by ignorance until there remains only Neurology. Neurology will then stand forth as single discipline to which Internists, Psychologists, Surgeons, Chemists and Physiologists will contribute."

Most of us on the initial stages had to face obstruction and difficulties to establish the speciality of Neurology firmly on the soil of India.

Authorities of Four Medical Colleges at Calcutta were apathetic and unwilling to accommodate Neurology Unit and EEG Laboratory due to inbuilt opposition of Senior Medical staff of the Hospitals.

I, therefore chose the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta a non-teaching hospital not recognised by the University-but a beautiful and clean Hospital with flowers and gardens and efficiently managed with a medley of Visiting Officers. Visiting Physicians of Children's ward was also an E. N. T. Specialist. A very able surgeon Superintendent felt disturbed by my intrusion and showed me the basement of the Woodburn building full of junks and broken furniture as the only place that I can get and I immediately agreed.

With kind interest of Dr. B. C. Roy-Pioneer promoter of Neurology in India-the Chief Minister of West Bengal, all the schemes submitted by me were accepted by the government of W. B. with usual delay due to bureaucratic apathy and persistent antagonism of Senior Professors of Medical Colleges.

Department of Electroencephalography was inaugurated on 2nd October, 1951 by Dr. B. C. Roy, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery (with Dr. Herbert Kraus as the first director) in May, 1955. The Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research was inaugurated by Pandit Jawharlal Nehru on January, 1956 (it took some time to convince Dr. B. C. Roy that it is possible to have a Post Graduate Medical Institute without Under-graduate Medical College). Foundation stone of Bangur Institute of Neurology was laid on 16th June, 1962 by Dr. B. C. Roy who took to task the Officers as I had obtained the donations from my patient in 1957. Dr. Roy passed away on 1st July, 1962 bringing to an end the rapid advancement of Neurology at Calcutta.

Things became difficult after Dr. B. C. Roy's demise. I was mooted for transfer to Medical College at Calcutta without completing my proposed Institute of Neurology.

I discussed with my wife and sent in my resignation from the post of Director-Professor of Neurology and thereby lost my back pay, pension and other facilities.

However, I was reappointed as an Honorary Professor with all the previous administrative facilities that made it possible for me to complete the building of the Bangur Institute of Neurology which I promised to my Chief Dr. B. C. Roy before his death. I had sometimes to wait for years to allow the obstructing Directors of Health Services to retire.

It needed more than dedication to sustain the desire to develop Neurology, perhaps dullness of mind on financial matters and ability to absorb shocks and insults and patience to wait for opportune moments.

Medieval poets pretended to fall asleep and dream their poems. People in ancient times, deliberated on important matters there, first drunk and then sober or first sober and then drunk.

Balzac advised smoking enchanted cigars which may not only turn paper into smoke but at times may also turn smoke into paper. Dryden pictured of confused mass of thoughts tumbling over one another in the

darkness of night and slowly moving the sleeping images towards meaningful pattern as light appears at dawn. The eccentric Duchess of New Castle kept a harassed servant ready to take nocturnal inspirations. 'John' she would cry 'I conceive'. Lucas suggested wise passiveness of dogs method to catch the ideas that cropped in stillness.

One reminiscence, I can recall as the episode continues firing undiminished in the neuronal circuitry in my brain and it relates to Patna's undying and unrecognised pioneer contribution to the development and popularisation of neurosurgery in India.

The year was 1952. I received a frantic message from Dr' Samaddar of Patna to come for consultation for illness of his brother who who was gradually drifting to deeping unconsciousness with insidious onset of vague headache and some difficulty in use of the gear of his car' Consultation by eminent Medical men had been non-contributory.

I wrote to him back that his brother possibly had a Glioma of Right Parietal lobe and my clinical examination at Patna and opinion would not be taken seriously because of my age and newness of the speciality, unless proved factually. I wanted his permission to bring Dr' B' Ramamurthi, Neurosurgeon of Madras along with me to which Dr' Samaddar readily agreed.

I had met Dr. Ramamurthi once before and I was deeply impressed by his personality and charming manner. I was definite that Dr' Ramamurthi had the making of Neuro Surgeon of World Order, as I had met eminent Neuro surgeons while at U. S. A. In spite of my many erroneous diagnosis, I have a quite delight that I made a correct diagnosis of the merit of Dr. Ramamurthi. Dr. Ramamurthi readily agreed over the phone. We came to Patna by train. Dr. Ramamurthi examined the patient and concurred with my diagnosis made on the basis of Dr. Samaddar's letter. He advised immediate Neurological intervention. The patient was shifted to the Operation Theatre of Patna Medical College hospital. There was such an anticipatory confusion that the question of sanctity and asepsis of Operation Theatre was forgotten. We, including venerable Dr. T. N. Banerjee trooped to the Operation Theatre. Dr. Ramamurthi was ready, confident with his cap, gown and instruments, General Anesthesia could not be administered by the anaesthetist for reasons that should not be disclosed. Under local anaesthesia and Burr Hole at the right place.

Dr. Ramamurthi put his magic needle and outgushed yellow fluid material. Dr. Ramamurthi was evidently happy as he signalled giving me credit for localisation and more so for the relief to the suffering wife with whom the patient immediately talked after lapse of weeks of unconsciousness. There was subdued excitement inside the O. T, and loud outbursts in the campus of Patna Medical College. A Neurosurgeon has done a miracle making an unconscious patient talk immediately after operation.

We were in the house and loving care of the Professor-Head of the Department of Surgery, a father figure to the surgeons of Patna Medical College. Our journey back was tumultuous, by an Aeroplane with people milling all round the plane to have a glimpse of Dr. Ramamurthi, the hero who had a magic scalpel and needle.

I told Dr. Ramamurthi that this is a rare occasion and unique. You have brought Neurosurgery to the home of the people whose faith and ultimate support will sustain Neurosurgery and Neurology in the country. Babu Rajendra Prasad, President of India a well wisher of Dr. Samaddar's family took considerable interest in the matter. Neurosurgery at that moment gained all India recognition by the people and the Government- State and Centre.

Neurosurgery as a speciality made its debut at Patna due to willingness of relatives of the patient, co-operation of surgical fraternity of Patna Medical College, widespread public interest and readiness to help the patient at the spot by the exquisite skill and commendable compassion of Dr. Ramamurthi to perform Neurological operation outside the cloister of well protected equipped, insulated cold operation theatre of dehumanised Hospitals.

I do not want to lose myself in further reminiscences.

We have brought Neurological service to the people which was not available before.

We have trained younger generations who are better than us in knowledge and skill.

Soviet Physicist I. A. Artsimovitch remarked, "Scientific Research is a method where private curiosity is satisfied at public expense." I have not taken financial assistance for my long term follow up of my 10,423 epileptic patients of 1952-52 out of total 11,075 of 1952-72 with regular check-up to final follow up to 1972-73, providing 6-21 years of follow up with electronic data processing of 1,92,000 information, on 180 tables with X3 analysis, that provided abundant useful information clinical Socio- Economic psychological to be of help to the patient, family and the family physician. As for example, in this long term Follow up of 186 epileptic couples (115 epileptic husbands and 71 epileptic wives), relationship was cordial in 80% of cases with one divorce. Epileptic mothers gave birth to 181 children of which 3 were epileptic and epileptic fathers got 221 children and none had epilepsy. We have played our part at the appointed and appropriate time. We had handed over the charge to the generations that are coming. Our task is over.

Now the dreams of wild and improbable success have become meaningless to me. I am not worried about what people will think about me. I raced with time with one foot at the future-full of expectancy. Now I do not walk normally in the present, sure and relaxed.

I want to read books that I collected, meet friends that I neglected, visit my old school that I forgot and my life at home that I have missed so long.

I want to read with Walter Pater one of his finest passages in English literature on 'Mona Lisa' (which I have watched magnetised at Louvre, Paris). "Here is the head upon which all the ends of the world are come and eyelids are little weary. It is a beauty wrought out from within upon the flesh, the deposit, little cell by cell, of strange thoughts and fantastic reveries and exquisite passions".

Dr. William Osler while an impoverished medical student at Canada had collected a copy of Sir Thomas Brown's 'Urn Burial' (a rare and rich treatise of unsurpassed excellence in English language) and the very copy was placed at the Coffin of Sir William Osler (by then World famous and Regius Professor at Oxford) at his request.

In "Urn Burial" there are passages and sentiments as relevant and valid for us when he wrote in 1640 as in 1985.