

Hailing from Cuddappah (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. Iyer pursued his medical studies in Bombay at the Seth G. S. Medical College and K. E. M. Hospital between 1933 and 1946, obtaining prizes in medicine and public health. He completed his M. D. in medicine in 1947. He also became a Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the same year.

During his years as a student, neither neurology nor neurosurgery had any status as specialities. Whilst the physicians did teach some neurology, Dr. Iyer does not recall any training in neurosurgery whatsoever.

The Indian Council of Medical Research established a Neuropathology Unit in 1948 and Dr. Iyer was selected for training in this subject with Dr. L. Krainer, a Viennese neuropathologist refugee in India at that time. On completion of his training Dr. Iyer was asked to investigate the polio epidemic in Bombay in 1949. After a year of this work he was awarded a Rockefeller foundation fellowship for study of Neurology and Neuropathology at Harvard with Professors Raymond D. Adams and Derek Denny-Brown. He returned to India in 1951.

His reponse to our query on the state of neuro-sciences in India on' his return is informative. "There is no point my complaining about the glaring deficiencies in neuro-science in India at the time of my return. Those who had sponsored my training apparently had no clear idea as to how best a person with such training was to be utilised. It was with great difficulty and thanks to my friends like Dr. Ginde and Dr. Ramamurthy that I was able to procure materials for study and keep my knowledge and interest alive". Dr. E. P. Bharucha, he recalls, provided considerable moral support during this trying period.

All along Dr. Iyer kept impressing upon the ICMR the need for establishing the neuropathology unit in an institution where there was an active autopsy service and where neurology and neuropathology were being developed so that problems in clinical neurology could be used for basic studies. This sage advice was not followed and Dr. Iyer was forced to continue at the Tata Memorial Hospital (principally intended for cancer without departments of neurology or neurosurgery and lacking an autopsy service). Despite these formidable handicaps Dr. Iyer was able to enlist Dr' Darab K. Dastur as assistant, establish a registry of neuropathology by collecting material from the different hospitals in Bombay and undertake studies on Japanese encephalitis, Kyasanur forest disorders, lathyrism, nutritional neuropathy and neurological disorders secondary to altered metabolism. These studies, of course, were in addition to providing accurate histological diagnoses on tumors, brain biopsies, muscle biopsies and other specimens. postgraduates of the Bombay university were taught through lectures and clinico-pathology meetings. In 1961. Dr. Iyer was sent out by the Government of India to establish the laboratories of the central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute at chingleput where he continues as Emeritus Medical scientist. Dr. Iyer looks with justifiable pride, at the evolution of Dr. Darab K. Dastur and his departments at the J. J. Hospital and the Bombay Hospital.

Dr. Iyer also speaks, with pride, of the current scene. ..The specialities connected with neuro-sciences in India have developed considerably during the course of the last 10-15 years and I feel will continue to develop. our neurologists, neurosurgeons and other basic neuro-scientists are, in my opinion, second to none in the world and given the proper encouragement and technical assistance are capable of making valuable contributions to the science of neurology',.

BIO DATA OF DR. CHOKKANATHAPURANT GANAPATHY SUBRANIANI IYER

Born on 7th October 1921 at Cuddappah, Andhra pradesh.

M. D. (Bombay) 1947

F. C. P. S. (Bombay) - 1947

M. R. C. Path. (Lond) - 1966

Research Officer, Neuropathology Unit ICMR 1949_61

Head of Division of Laboratories, central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute 1961-66.

Director, Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute 1966-79

Emeritus Medical Scientist, ICMR (since 1971)

Played an important role in developing the department of neuropathology at Bombay and the Central Leprosy Institute at Chingleput.

TEN IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS BY DR. C. G. S. TYER

1. Subramani Iyer C. G: Case report of an adamantinoma present at birth J. Neurosurg. 9, 22 I -228, 1952.
2. Subramani Iyer C. G. Philip R, Dodge, Adams R. D: Two cases of Aspergillus infection of the central nervous system. J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiat, 15, 152, 1952.
3. Ginde R. C. Iyer C. C. S: Glioma of the hypophysis. Neurology,2, I,1954.
4. Iyer C. G. S, Monteiro L : Spontaneous infiltration of dura and base of the skull by ependymoma. Neurology, 3, 15-18, 1955.
5. Iyer C. G. S, Ghose T : Intracerebral chordoblastomas - A report of two cases. Ind. J. Med. Sci. II , 983 - 990, 1957 .
6. Ramamurthi B, Anguli V. C, Iyer C. G. S : A case of intramedullary neurinoma, J. Neurol Neurosurg Psychiat.21,92,1958.
7. Iyer C. G. S, Dastur H. M, Desai A. D : Some patho-anatomical-findings in infants. Neurology, 8, 100 - 104, 1960.
8. Iyer C. G. S, Bharucha E. B Mondkar V. P, Dastur D. K : Polymyosities, A histopathological and retrospective clinical study. Neurology. 9. 108 - I 18, 1961.
9. Ramamurthi B, Iyer C. G. S, Vedachalam S. P. Intracranial meningeal chondroma, J. Neurosurg. 18,826 - 828, 1961.
10. Iyer C. G. S: "Lathyrism" in Symposiurn on 'Metabolic and Toxic Diseases of the Nervous System' - proceedings of the First Asian and Oceanian Congress of Neurology, Tokyo, 1962.

Editor's note :

I could not get any further details about Dr. C. G. S. Iyer.

K. R. Nair