

After having completed my interscience examination my father decided to send me to England to University college Hospital (UCH), London to do my M. B. B. S. and later M. D. (London). Neurologist at the UCH was Dr. F. M. R Walsh later to become Sir Francis Walsh. He had been a contemporary with my father at UCH. I was fascinated by Dr. Walsh's clinical approach to neurology and as an undergraduate also attended whenever possible the weekly neurological demonstration given by world famous neurologist attached to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London. In 1940 as a result of the outbreak of second world war, I returned to India having completed my necessary terms but not taken the M. B. B. S. (London) examination. I was allowed to take my M.B. B. S. (Bombay) and subsequently numerous house jobs and registrarship in medicine at the K. E. M. hospital and ultimately did my MD(Bombay). I was appointed in 1945 as honorary to the medical outpatient's department (OPD) at the K. E. M. hospital and G. S. medical college. In the subsequent four years, I took a brief leave of absence to complete my M.B. B. S. (London) examination and then continued with my OPD appointment. About this time Dr. Ginde was sent to the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI) to train in neurosurgery under Dr. Penfield with a view to head the neurosurgical component of a new department to be set up at the K. E. M. hospital. I was asked to take charge of the neurological component after further training in neurology abroad.

There was no neurological specialization in Bombay, except for 2 beds reserved for neurology in Dr. Menino D'Souza's medical ward at the J. J. hospital and Grant medical college(GMC). Dr. Menino had been sent for 1 year to the National Hospital Queen Square to specialize in Neurology and on his return started neurology as a specialty at the J. J. hospital.

Between 1949 and 1952 having completed my MD (London) examination I did a further two and a half years of training which included post graduate work at the National hospital, Queen Square and the Hospital for nervous diseases, Maide Baile. I did a further nine months of neurology as resident house physician in neurology at the latter hospital. I then proceeded to America where I did three months under Dr. Houston Merritt, Columbia University and a further three months at the Boston City Hospital with Dr. Denny Brown. I returned to India in 1952. Our department was inaugurated in Jan 1953 with 12 beds under me and 12 beds under the neurosurgeon.

In the meantime neurology society of India (NSI) had been established by Dr. Ramamoorthy, Dr. Jacob Chandy, and Dr. Baldev Singh, and Dr. Naradimhan Dr. T. K. Ghosh also became the member of the society in its very early formative stage. I joined in late 1952 and attended the meeting held in 1952 Dec.

At that time psychiatrists did not have a society of their own and could become members of the NSI as also neuropathologists and neurochemists. The psychiatrist, Dr. Grillmeyer who was practicing and had settled in Ceylon after Second World War was made president of the NSI. He was extremely charming and knowledgeable person and had described a disease in Ceylon which he called "the island disease" which has raised much controversy in that country. Dr. Grillmeyer was an Austrian medical student and by the time he qualified Germany had over run Austria Second World War had started and Germany had invaded Russia. On qualification he was immediately drafted into a tank regiment of the German army and sent to the Russian front.

Dr. T. K. Ghosh from Calcutta was another close friend of mine.

We used to meet as examiners at the annual meetings of the NSI and also during the D. M. examinations of different Universities. At the annual meetings of NSI measures were taken to improve neurological education and neurological facilities all over India and for the formation of a subspecialty of epilepsy within the NSI. I was appointed as secretary. The Indian epilepsy association (IEA) was founded in 1972 and it has now chapters in every state and union territories of India with a membership of over one thousand. It has a large social service commitment to reduce social handicap of the patient with epilepsy.

The difficulties of the epileptics include educational problems in children, job finding in adults. Women suffering from epilepsy have their own handicaps when comes to marriage. The Hindu marriage act epileptic women null and void and caused considerable social disturbances. After a prolonged struggle the IEA with the help from the Bangalore chapter has managed to make this act untenable when it was before the supreme court.

In the pre-CT and pre-MRI era neurologists would holding the medical audience totally spell bound by their history taking and physical examination. The neurologists would then discuss at length the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of the disease. World famous neurologist of this era had to be a combination of stage actor and detective with profound background of neurological expertise. Alas ! the introduction of the scan has pushed aside all the stage activity and has replaced this by spectators huddled around the viewing box with scan pictures with radiologist describing areas of "enhancement" etc. Still to my mind neurology is probably the most fascinating speciality among all medical diseases.