

B. Dayananda Rao.
1916-1997

President, Neurological Society of India, 1968.

Born at Masulipatnam, Dr. Dayananda Rao studied at the Andhra Medical College, Vsakhapatnam from 1936-1941, obtaining a First class in Ist and final MBBS examinations and capturing the -sold medais. Excellence in medical studies notwithstanding, he obtained the B' A. degree in English Literature whilst studying for the Ist MBBS and represented his college for four successive years in university debates, bagging the trophy each year. He also enjoyed his hours on the sports field, the tennis courts claiming priority. He edited his college magazine as well.

Neurosurgery did not exist as a separate discipline during his student days. A few intrepid surgeons did venture into this field from time to time but did not continue for long. Dr. Rao recalls successful section of the trigeminal nerve root by his chief Dr. M. V. Ramanamurti. The latter's attempt at excision of an acoustic nerve tumour, however, ended in the patient's death. Head injuries were ne-9lected, their consequences being poorly understood.

After an unavoidable spell in the non-teaching district cadre, Dr. Rao seized the opportunity offered by the erstwhile Government of Hyderabad for training in neurosurgery Dr. Rao offers a revealing insight into existing attitudes towards this speciality. Aretired professor of surgery in Birmingham, an Englishman, , wrote to Dr. Rao's father (who was professor of E. N. T. surgery): "I cannot understand the wisdom of your son. He is going to a branch of surgery where hours and hours of patient and most painstaking surgery is rewarded more often than not with the death of the patient. It requires great courage to be a neurosurgeon. You yourself had shown greater wisdom in your choice". Dr. Rao has been each and every meeting of our Society and his comments, full of the fruits of experience, almost for granted.

Working under difficult circumstances, Dr. Rao has been able to mould a department that has passed the crucial test with merit-it continues to function and develop even after he retired from its staff. His philosophy endures: "Man is more important than the machine. Lack of sophisticated equipment should never discourage the young surgeon. Good neurosurgery was performed by many surgeons long before the arrival of these gadgets. Why should you bemoan their lack?".

His son Dr.Muralidhar has followed his father's speciality and is now Professor of Neurosurgery at lthe Warangal Medical College, Andhra Pradesh.

BIODATA OFTHE DR. BODAPATTI DAYANANDA RAO

B. A, M. B. B. S, M. S (Gen. Surg), F. A. M. S.

Born on 25th une l916 at Masulipatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

general Surgeon from 1944-55.

Postgraduate training in Neurosurgery 1955-57.

Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurosurgeon.

Osmania Medical College and General Hospital, Hyderabad, 1957-1974.

Was also Principal, Osmania medical College.

Currently, Chief Medical Officer, Vivekananda Health Centre, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad.

Research projects include:

- i) Circle of Willis-a study of incidence of aneurysms, congenital defects and atherosclerosis. A comparative study.
- ii) Anatomical considerations in the incidence of "lumbar canal stenosis" in Indians and
- iii) Acrylic "stellon" as material for cranioplasty.

Published more than a hundred papers both in Indian and foreign journals.

Delivered the first Ramanamurthi Memorial Oration (Andhra University) in 1976 and

Dr. Yellapragada Subba Rao Memorial Oration (Indian Medical Association) 1978.

TEN IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS BY DR. B. DAYANANDA RAO

1. The spinal epidural space and its lesions with particular reference to radiology; .Granulomatous lesions of the spinal epidural space; Neurology India, 13,81-88 and 89-92, 1965.
2. Mortality in acute head injuries, Neurology India, 15, 1-5, 1967.
3. The Physiological basis of unconsciousness and aphasia in acute head injuries, Neurology India, 15, 15-9,1967.
4. Skeletal defects in the floor of the anterior cranial fossa. (A rationale for their surgical management). (Presidential address of NSI 1968) Neurology India, 17, 1-10,1969.
5. On the incidence of craniocervical injuries. Neurology India, 17, 73-75,1969.
6. Stellon cranioplasty, Neurology India, 22, 160-162, 1974.
7. Extradural Hematoma. Neurology India, 25, 83-94, 1977.
8. Giant intradiploic epidermoids. Neurology India, 16,93-98, 1968.
9. Adenoid cystic epithelioma of the lacrymal gland presenting as an intracranial tumour. Neurology India,23, 213-214 ,1975.
10. cerebral tuberculoma simulating cystic glioma, Journal of Neurosurgery, 20, 172-173,1963.

Editor's note :

I could get some more information about prof. Dayananda Rao recently from Dr. Raja Reddy of Hyderabad. Prof. Rao was active till about 1995 or 1996. Prof. Rao's son, Dr. Murali, who was a neurosurgeon died in April 1996. Since then Prof. Rao was quite withdrawn and was not seen by his colleagues for some time. Then he left for New Delhi. He died on 3 March 1997. His colleagues in Hyderabad came to know about his sad demise only many weeks later. Dr. Raja Reddy could get the date of death of Prof. Rao only with great difficulty.

K.R. Nair