

## OBITUARY

PROF. S. L. GHOSE

(1893-1945)

A STRANGE fate attends the chair of Botany at Government College, Lahore. The late Professor S. R. Kashyap, who enjoyed robust health and had only the previous year returned from a long trek in the Inner Himalayas and Tibet, died suddenly in 1934, of heart failure, at the early age of 52. Dr. S. L. Ghose, who succeeded him, has now passed away at the same age. Although it was known that he had been keeping indifferent health for some years, none expected that the end would come so soon. The news of his premature death has come as a great shock to his numerous friends, colleagues and pupils.

Dr. S. L. Ghose, born on 13th of December 1893, was the youngest son of Mr. N. C. Ghose, who served for many years in the Education Department of the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province as Headmaster of several high schools. After a brilliant academic career as a student of the Forman Christian College and the Government College in Lahore, S. L. Ghose took the M.Sc. Degree in Botany of the University of Panjab in 1914, and started life as Demonstrator in Botany in the Allahabad University. He served here for one year. Next year he returned to his *alma mater* as Lecturer in Botany, to work under his own teacher, the late Professor Dr. S. R. Kashyap. He went to Cambridge in 1921 and studied under the guidance of Prof. Seward and Dr. Borradaile. He was awarded the Doctorate in Philosophy in 1923. On his return to India after an extensive tour of continental universities, he was offered the Chairmanship of the newly established Department of Biology at the University of Rangoon. In 1928, however, he returned to the Government College, Lahore. On the death of Dr. Kashyap, he was appointed Professor of Botany. He held this post with distinction until his death on March 24, 1945.

Professor Ghose took keen interest in botanical investigations throughout his life. Some of his earlier papers dealt with the morphology of *Selaginella*, conifers and flowering plants, but his later years were devoted entirely to the study of algology. His investigations on the Myxophyceæ of Northern India and Burma are of an outstanding nature, and by his pioneer work he mapped out for fellow botanists in his country a field hitherto practically unexplored. But more than an investigator, he was a teacher. By his genial temperament and sympathetic approach he had endeared himself to all his pupils. He was always ready to help them even at considerable personal inconvenience, but like a true scientific worker, kept an open mind on the subject under discussion and would never try to enforce his own ideas even on his own pupils.

He was elected Vice-President of the Indian Botanical Society for 1931, 1932 and 1938, and was President of the Society for 1941. He presided over the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress at Patna in 1933. He was one of the Foundation Fellows of the National Institute of Sciences of India.

By his death, Indian algology loses one of its foremost workers and the University of Panjab an inspiring Professor of Botany.

M. S. RANDHAWA.