

Anatomical Society of India

इतिहास:::HISTORY:::इतिहास

FIRST CONGRESS

Pre-Inauguration Meeting

A preliminary meeting of the sponsors and prospective members of the Society was held on **19-5-51** at 4 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre of the **Anatomy department, Calcutta Medical College**. About fifty gentlemen attended the meeting. Preliminaries regarding the formation of the society, the draft Constitution and Rules were informally discussed before being placed formally in the open session of the society.



Inauguration Ceremony

The inauguration ceremony of the Anatomical Society of India was held on **20-5-51** at 9:30 a.m. in the General lecture Theatre of the Calcutta Medical College. More than 160 delegates and guests including eminent anatomists from Madras, Bombay, Assam, Rangoon and Bengal attended the

function. In addition, a galaxy of eminent surgeons, physicians, radiologist, anthropologists, psychologists, biologists and veterinary scientists also graced the occasion.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE:

Chairman	Prof. Panchanan Chatterjee
Organising Secretary	Prof. S. K. Basu
Joint Secretaries	Prof. P. Bose & Prof. M. L. Pan
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Hiren Chatterji
Treasurer	Prof. B. N. Basu
In-charge of Accommodation & Transport	Dr. Saral Bagchi, Dr. Probodh Roy and Dr. K. Banerji.
In-charge of Reception	Prof. D. P. Banerji, Dr. S. K. Chatterjee, Dr. Saral Bagchi, Dr. Bholanath Mukherjee, Dr. S. Biswas, Major H. Chakraavarti, Dr. S. Lata and Dr. P. Roy.
Members of Reception Committee:	169 members

Dr. Panchanon Chatterjee, Professor of Surgery, Medical College, Calcutta and Chairman Reception Committee welcomed the delegates and guests in his illuminating address and formally invited **Principal M.N. Bose**, the Doyen of anatomists in India, to preside over the inauguration function. The proposal was duly seconded by Dr. R. Sen.

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Address by

Dr. Panchanan Chatterjee, M.B. (CAL), F.R.C.S. (EDIN.)
(Professor of Surgery, Medical College, Calcutta)
Chairman, Reception Committee

Dr. Chatterjee in welcoming the delegates and guests by a neat speech traced the history of the foundation of the city of Calcutta, its growth and importance as a centre of education. "It was in Calcutta that the teaching of the western system of medicine was inaugurated on the **20th of February, 1835**" said he. "Prior to this, indigenous systems of medicine- Ayurvedic and Unani- were practiced. Conservative methods, narrow outlook and want of proper amount of state impetus

stagnated their progress. The Department Anatomy in the Medical College, Calcutta dates from 1835 when a museum was established in the department with a curator in charge and museum specimens and preparation were procured from England. The then prevalent deep rooted prejudice and the then existing repugnance against touching of dead bodies were no small obstacles to the proper study of Anatomy. When the liberal minded**Pandit Madhusudan Gupta assisted by four courageous pupils began dissection of human body on 10th January, 1836, guns were fired from the ramparts of Fort William.**..... Dr. Chatterjee symbolized this gun fire with "the success of the British in transforming the psychology of the Indian mind and with the revival of ancient practices

which lay stagnant for centuries and thus making the commencement of a new era.” With these remarks Dr. Chatterjee justified the selection of the Medical College, Calcutta as the venue for the inauguration of the Anatomical Society of India.

Dr. Chatterjee said, “The medical profession owes a great debt to the Anatomists. They unfold to us the intricacies of the human structures. Their findings of the Anatomists are taken up by the Physiologists who by their researches enable us to understand their implications to the vital processes. **Anatomy and Physiology in their various aspects form the basic subjects on which the super-structure of the whole medical science is built up.** Eager to correlate the knowledge gained by the teachings of anatomy and physiology with the phenomena of diseases that ail humanity, the pathologists, physicians and surgeons are at all times trying to establish where the bounds of normality is transgressed and abnormality creeps in. The study of morbid anatomy and physiology has been the domain of the pathologists and the clinicians. The pathologist enriches the knowledge of the clinicians by handing over to them their findings in the post mortem room and by various other means. The clinicians apply their knowledge to a clear understanding of the symptomatology of diseases and in their prevention and treatment. They further have the unique opportunity to study the anatomy and pathology of the living. Anatomy is the backbone of surgery.

A student entering the portals of his shrine dwells with the anatomy of the dead and gains knowledge of the functions in the living. As he progress in life, equipped with the knowledge thus gained, he engages himself throughout life with an enquiring mind to correlate between anatomy and pathology of the dead with the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the living. Without in any way belittling the importance of any other branches of medical science referred to, his place in the progressive medical science is the foremost.

The need for the formation of an Anatomical Society of India cannot be overemphasized. In my opinion it is overdue. It fills me with joy to find that delegates from different parts of India have come over at great sacrifice to join the anatomists of Calcutta to merge themselves in to membership of one fraternity. I wish more did come.

It is undoubtedly true that the anatomists in different parts of this great country are striving their best to develop and improve upon their science. It must naturally be so in a vast sub-continent like India covering over 1139 thousand square miles with a population of 35.69 crores. Though they belong to the same country, the people living in different parts are diverse in their language, custom, ways of living and in many other ways. They are however the sons and daughters of the one **Mother India**, have one ideal to follow and one goal to reach and one destiny awaits them. They must not therefore segregate themselves within their own provincial boundaries but come out and unite for a common goal. They must not only work and talk individually but must do so collectively.

It has been aptly said that there is no thinker so profound that cannot improve through the stimulus of other minds: no genius so luminous that cannot gather radiance by borrowing new gems of thoughts and ideas. No doubt we can communicate with each other in spirit and through our

writings in books and journals. But there can be no better communion than to come in personal contact with each other, and know each other, such personal contacts enable us to unfold our ideas and view points and benefit by the experiences of others. By doing so we see, we hear, we feel and we live with them, grasp their thoughts, enthusiasms, ideas and ideals which can hardly be achieved otherwise. Beside these interchange of minds, thoughts and aspirations materially help to bring the great country and its diverse people together.

It gives me **much pain** friends to have to confess that though we live in the same country, we scarcely know of one another and we keep so little information of what is happening in other parts

of India. Circumstances make our young aspirants go across the seas to gather advanced knowledge and inspiration. We scarcely try to look round as to what our country could give us, what our country could teach us. How long do we wish to perpetuate this? Political emancipation of India has saddled us with more onerous obligations. In the past we have from various platforms complained in no uncertain terms how foreign domination subdued our talents and stifled our progress. The world is eagerly watching us to-day how, bereft of extraneous influences, we acquit ourselves, regulate our house and stand by ourselves. We should therefore be serious in building up a more intimate inter provincial amity and understanding for our benefit and benefit of our future generations of medical men. We should turn our attention seriously and consider what facilities are available within the bounds of our own country and how best and how quickly we can replenish our deficiencies. If we want to be self-sufficient we must utilize all the resources that are available in the various provinces in India and pool them for our mutual benefit. We should develop ourselves with a broader outlook and on an all India basis.”

In concluding, Dr. Chatterjee expressed high hopes for the future of the society, particularly when he found such a galaxy of eminent anatomists from far and near taking so keen an interest in the society and with the sponsors, exerting their best in bringing about success in the attainment of their objective.

Dr. Chatterjee then paid glowing tributes to Dr. M.N. Bose, the President elect, who had spent nearly half a century of his life to the cause and teaching of Anatomy and had been one of the pioneers in the foundation of the first non-official Medical College in India.

Dr. Chatterjee finished his speech by invoking the blessings of the Almighty in bringing success to the maiden venture.

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Principal M.N. Bose then took the chair and invited Prof. S.K. Basu , the organizing secretary to address the meeting.

Prof. S. K. Basu in his speech traced the **genesis of the Society** and gave an outline of the endeavours made in order to establish the Anatomical Society of India and the spontaneous and hearty response he received from anatomists all over India – but for which it would not have been possible to establish the society within six months from the date when the organizing secretary started his maiden venture.

Prof. Basu then read out messages from illustrious anatomists abroad and from distinguished personalities in India as well.

Messages

From Great Britain

1. Sir Arthur Keith:

As nester of British Anatomists I send the founders of the Anatomical Society of India my congratulations and my best wishes for a long and prosperous life to the society to be **inaugurated**

on May 20, 1951. An inexhaustible field of research lies in front of the Anatomists of India, for the more we see there is to be known. Don't forget that human Anatomy should be the handmaid of medicine. As long as life is given me I shall watch the progress of your society.

2. Prof. F. Wood Jones:

Being now the oldest member (with the single exception of Sir Arthur Keith) of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland and past president of the society, I send you my greetings. The inauguration of the Anatomical Society of India is a great and welcome event. It is the forerunner of what we all hope will be a great and good era in the advancement of human knowledge that will be for the benefit of mankind and assist in the alleviation of the human suffering.

More than even that, it will help to make stronger that bond that must exist between the scientific workers of all races and all lands. I send all my good wishes for the success of the venture and my prayers for the prosperity and the long-continued usefulness of the Anatomical Society of India.

3. Prof. W. E. Le Gross Clark:

The inauguration of an Anatomical Society of India, gives me great pleasure. It has been my privilege to work with a number of Indian Anatomists and I am also acquainted with the excellent work of others. It is my opinion that the science of Anatomy has profited greatly from the work of Indian Anatomists in the past and without doubt it will make even more significant advances in the future.

The Science of Anatomy is now entering on a rigorous phase in which the need for more attention to detail and to experimental methods is being increasingly recognized. Indian scientists have in recent years demonstrated that they have special abilities in this field of work and I look forward with eagerness to new and progressive developments of Anatomy in their hands. I send my best wishes to the Anatomists of India in this new venture. May this Anatomical Society of India flourish and enrich the world with the results of their contributions and deliberations.

4. Prof. J.C. Brash:

My most sincere personal congratulations in this most significant and important step in this progress of Anatomical science in India. I am sure that the society will flourish exceedingly and will be a permanent stimulus to the further development of Anatomical research and sound Anatomical teaching in India. My cordial good wishes are with you for the success of your inauguration ceremony.

5. Prof. Mary, F. Lucas Keene:

President, Anatomical Society of Great Britain & Ireland and Prof. of Anatomy, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, London.

On behalf of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain & Ireland ... our most sincere congratulations and good wishes to this new Anatomical Society.

Many of us in England have cordial relationship with Indian Anatomists as individuals and we shall look forward now to equally cordial relationship between our two societies. In India the opportunities for advancing Anatomical science in all its different branches are very great and we are sure that the formation of the Anatomical Society of India will help your members to use these opportunities, not only to their own advantage but to the advantage of Anatomists throughout the world. Best wishes for a long and fruitful life to the Anatomical Society of India.

6. Dr. E.B. Jamieson:

(As Dr. Jamieson was confined to bed and could not write, he sent a message conveyed in a letter by Prof. J. C. Brash). The letter says, " He does send you his blessings in your enterprise. Convey the message of goodwill from him to the society."

7. Lord Geddes:

I welcome the inauguration of the Anatomical Society of India and send heartiest good wishes feeling sure that it will add much knowledge to anatomy-the foundations supporting all medical science. I regret my inability to attend. Good luck. (by telegram).

From U. S. A.

1. Prof. G. W. Corner:

Past President, American Association of Anatomists: Director, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington at Baltimore, U.S.A.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Anatomical Society of India on May 20, 1951 all members of the Department of Embryology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington located at Baltimore, Maryland join in felicitating our Indian colleagues upon the organization of their society and in best wishes for long and useful service not only to their own nation but to the science of whole world.

2. Prof. Normand L. Hoerr:

Secretary-Treasurer, American Association of Anatomists.

It is most gratifying to learn of the advancement of Anatomical Science in India. I can speak for every one of our members in wishing you the best success in your new organization. I know from experience how valuable our association has been to our members in maintaining high standards of teaching, research and in training of young scientists. I would hope also that the formation of your society will mean that there will be greater interchange of anatomists between our two countries in the future.... Will you convey to Dr. M.N. Bose and Hon'ble Dr. B.C. Roy our sincerest expression of best wishes.

3. Dr. Sam L. Clark:

President, American Association of Anatomists.

Extend my greeting and felicitations.... I trust that the Society will have success in its endeavours and that the inspiration of thoughtful scientific research and good teaching will be constantly about its members.

4. Prof. William Walter Greulich:

Dept. of Anatomy, Stanford University, California.

My sincere felicitations and my very best wishes for its (society's) success...my warmest greetings to colleagues, our fellow anatomists of India, who know better than most that structurally all men are brothers. I join you (Dr.Basu) and them in the hope that we shall live to see the day when all men throughout the world will accept that fact and treat each other accordingly.

5. Dr. Edmund J. Farris:

Director, Wistar Institute of Anatomy & Biology, Philadelphia.

Rest assured we are with you in spirits and wish you a very successful meeting with many more to come.

From Sweden

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Prof. C.H. Hjortsjo:

Director, Anatomiska Institutioneu, Lund University, Sweden.

Through Prof. Basu I am quite aware of the extra-ordinary work you have laid down on your medical colleges in order to get an anatomical science of high quality...I Send you blessings and messages of good will and I hope even in the future to act as your contact-men with Scandinavian Anatomical Science.

From France

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1. Dr. H.Rouviere:

Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, University of Paris: Formerly President, Association of Anatomists, France.

It is with a real joy that I learn about the inauguration of the Anatomical Society of India at Calcutta. I communicate to all members of the society my cordial felicitations and the best wishes that I express with all my heart for long and glorious life of this new learned society in your noble Motherland which presents to its Anatomists and Anthropologists so much of attractive and charming subjects for researches.

2. Dr. A. Giround:

Professor of Embryology, University of Paris.

...I learn with the greatest pleasure the foundation of your Anatomical Society of India. In it I find the proof of your scientific activity.

Please communicate to your colleagues all my best wishes which I myself and my French colleagues express for the success of your society...

3. Prof. R. Collin:

General Secretary, Association of Anatomists (France).

..On the occasion of the foundation of the Anatomical Society of India, members of the Association of anatomists offer, with real pleasure, their most hearty greetings to their colleagues in India.

The members of the Association of Anatomists rejoice at the creation of the Anatomical Society of India with which they would be eager to collaborate and for which they wish a long and prosperous life.

From ITALY

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Prof. G. Levi:

Institute di Umana, Torino, Italy.

I send herewith my best wishes expecting that your society would give expression to the latent energies of the young men of your country, and that in future they would be able to collaborate with all other civilized countries for the progress of the morphological sciences. In my opinion the noblest task that rest on the learned men all over the world is to develop an universal spirit, that is to say, to do away with all barriers between nation and nation. It is only by the development of this universal spirit that humanity can be saved.

(Translated from the original letter in French)

From CANADA

Message

Prof. Boileau Grant:

University of Toronto,

Please convey to the president and members of the Anatomical Society of India my best wishes for the future of your newly inaugurated society. May it foster friendship, encourage friendly discussion and lead to the spread of the truth both in India and beyond.

This is the hope and the wish.

From MALAYA (now Malaysia)

Prof. A.R. Ethis:

Department of Anatomy, faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya.

On behalf of the Department of Anatomy, University of Malaya, I wish the new Anatomical Society a stimulating, profitable and vigorous existence.

From BURMA (now Myanmar)

Prof. D.R. Lewis, Medical College, Rangoon:

.....sincere good wishes for the success of the Anatomical Society of India...

IN INDIA

संदेश Message संदेश

Messages received from different parts of India include those from:-

1. Justice S. N. Banerjee

Vice Chancellor, Calcutta University

2. Dr. M. Mukherjee

President, Indian Radiological Association

3. Principal K. L. Sen

Lake Medical College, Calcutta

4. Dr. A. K. Datta Gupta

Principal, Nilratan Sarkar Medical College, Calcutta

5. Dr. R. B. Lal

Director, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health

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6. Dewan Bahadur Dr. H. L. Basu

Past Prof. of Anatomy, Medical College, Calcutta

7. Dr. C. C. Basu

Ex-Professor of Pathology, R.G. Kar Medical College.

8. Prof. Subodh Mitra

Director, Cancer Institute, Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, Calcutta

9. Dr. U. P. Basu

Ex-Principal, Calcutta Medical College

10. Dr. S. Achaya

Department of Anatomy, Lady Harding Medical College

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11. Prof. N. S. Sahasrabudde

Medical College, Nagpur

12. Prof. P. S. Dastur

Grant Medical College, Bombay

13. Dr. B. B. Sethna

Grant Medical College, Bombay

14. Dr. A. Wahid

Professor of Anatomy, Dow Medical College, Karachi

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[15. Prof. Dharam Narayan, Lucknow](#)

[16. Dr. B. N. Bal Krishna Rao](#)

Professor of Surgery, G.R. Medical College, Gwalior

[17. Dr. S. N. Majumder](#)

Ex-Divisional M.O., E.I.Ry., Asansol

[18. Dr. Hari Dass](#)

Ophthalmic Surgeon, Rajendra Hospital, Patiala, Pepsu

[19. Prof. S. C. Guha, Gwalior](#)

[20. Prof. R. Mahanti](#)

Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, Cuttack

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[21. Dr. A. C. Ukil](#)

[22. Prof. T. D. Warma](#)

Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh

[23. Dr. P. K. Ghosh](#)

Visiting Physician Chest, Department., R.G.Kar Medical College

[24. Dr. A. Ganguly](#)

Dental Surgeon, R.G.Kar Medical College

[25. Dr. B. N. Mukherjee](#)

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[26. Dr. K. L. Mukherjee](#)

[27. Dr. A. C. Majumder](#)

Dept. of Anatomy, R.G.Kar Medical College

[28. Dr. K. L. Basu Mallick](#)

Chengail

[29. Dr. H. K. Das Biswas](#)

[30. Dr. S. Roy](#)

Dibrugarh

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31. Dr. J. C. Banerjee

President, I.M.A. (Calcutta branch)

32. Dr. Ananth Ray

Teacher of Surgery, Bankura Medical School, Bengal

33. Dr. S. G. Veng Sarkar

Dean, Topiwala National Medical College, Bombay

34. Prof. Sen

Secretary, Physiological Society of India

35. Dr. Pasupati Mitra

Formerly Teacher of Anatomy, Calcutta Medical Institute

சண்டேஷ் Message சண்டேஷ்

36. Dr. Dabiruddin Ahmed

Formerly Principal Medical College, Calcutta

37. Dr. T. D. Warma

Professor of Anatomy, Assam Medical College

38. Dr. S. P. Jain

Professor of Anatomy, Medical College Agra

39. Dr. Gopal Ghosh

Principal, Darbhanga Medical College

40. Dr. A. C. Ukil

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41. Dr. B. B. Sarkar

Head of the Department of Physiology, Calcutta University

42. Dr. P. S. Dastur

Prof. of Anatomy, Grant Medical College, Bombay

The President, Principal M.N. Bose then delivered his address (Appendix C) and invited **Dr. B.C. Das Gupta**, Director of Health Services, West Bengal, to **inaugurate the society**.

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ADDRESS by

DR. M.N. BOSE, M.B.C.M. (EDIN.), F.S.M.F. (BENG.)
(Principal, R.G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta)
President, Inauguration Ceremony

Dr. Das Gupta, Mr. Chairman, Sister and Brother Anatomists, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I deem it a great and significant honor that you have conferred on me today by inviting me to preside over a function which marks the creation of an institution that spells the realization of a dream we anatomists have been cherishing for long years.

I must thank the enthusiastic sponsors of the society that is destined to be born today. I also thank the devotees of anatomy in sister states, some of whom are present here in person, whose ready response and active encouragement have contributed in no small measure towards the fulfilment of that dream.

It is true that India has got her political independence represents only a fractional claim. Economic freedom and above all intellectual independence are factors of no lesser concern.

The thrill of a new life is becoming evident in every sphere of our national body corporate. The foundation of the Anatomical Society of India is but a logical manifestation of our Motherland struggling in her intellectual labour.

Similar societies in the realm of other medical subjects have already been formed in our country of late. But who cares for the cold cadavers? Let us not forget however that, like Dadhichi, it is the dead bones of the cadaver that infuse knowledge and ensure buoyant life in the living.

That Anatomy forms the very basis of medical science was realized in this country of ours as early as the Rigveda (2000 B.C.). Mention of anatomical and physiological studies is also found in the Mahabharata. Susruta (3rd century B.C.) categorically declared that "individuals practicing medicine without studying the structures of the body by dissection should be punished by the state." Thomas Vicary, to whom goes the credit of publishing the first book on Anatomy in English (1577 A.D.) wrote "The surgeon must know the anatomie, for all authors write against those surgeons that work in Man's body not knowing the anatomie; for they be likened to a blind man that cutteth in a vine-tree for he taketh away more or less than he ought to do."

A celebrated French Doctor, while addressing an assembly of his colleagues said, "Doctors, to be really successful in their profession, should try to be quadrupeds; because if they depend on a pair of legs for their physical stand, they badly need them success in their professional stand and activities. This pair consists of Anatomy and Physiology'. The statement can hardly be improved upon.

If self realization is the highest philosophical attainment, to know thoroughly the machinery of that "self" – the different parts and details of that wonderful machine- should certainly be a source of real ecstasy and how much more interesting and entertaining it is to know not only our own machineries but those of all living creatures from the minutest living unit to the full-fledged human being!

Luther Holden, sometime President, Royal College of Surgeons of England, while speaking of the importance of Anatomy, stressed on the habit of looking at the living body with "anatomical eyes" and with eyes, too, "at their fingers' ends". "Should he (the doctor) not try at least" said he "to see

them (structures) with the same clearness and accuracy as if they were perfectly transparent". Herein lies the objective of a doctor in acquiring a sound knowledge of Anatomy.

But apart from this narrow concept of Anatomy restricted to human being, the scope of this subject in recent years has grown to alarming proportions- human Anatomy in its various aspects, human Embryology, Anthropology, comparative Anatomy and a host of others-each one by itself is too vast to be considered a single subject that can be easily tackled (and as time moves on it becomes vaster still) – each one presenting problems that require a life-time of devoted study. This naturally necessitates different workers taking up different subjects or even different aspects of the same subjects and a thus a team or a family of workers taking up the responsibility appears to be the only solution. From this point of view the formation of an Anatomical Society in India appears to be a move in the right direction.

Besides this highly academic side of the study of Anatomy, the practical or applied aspect of it that directly concerns the medical practitioners in their routine professional encounters is surely to be benefited by the activities of the Society.

If Anatomy has got to be studied primarily on the dead body, it has got to be studied even with greater emphasis in the living. The introduction of X-rays in anatomical studies has enlarged our conception about the relations, behaviours and positions of different organs. Physiology, on the other hand, has offered a rational explanation that correlates the structure and functions of the different units of the body and has virtually come to take the position of a twin sister to Anatomy, may, the two are like Siamese twins, one inseparable from the other.

To build an edifice of Anatomy, therefore the task devolves on anthropologists and biologists, on embryologists and gross anatomists, on histologists and physiologists, on crystallographers and geneticists and on workers in the experimental and applied branches of medical science. One can add many more and the schedule of studies becomes expansive. The task promises to be heavy but is one worth trying with all devotion and earnestness.

So far as teaching of anatomy in the medical curriculum is concerned, a volume of controversy has been created regarding the advisability of allotting the present prescribed minimum period of two years to the study of this very essential subjects. Comments have been made on the poverty of anatomical knowledge of students during the clinical period in hospitals, even after so much time devoted for anatomy in the pre-clinical course.

I think the remedy suggested in certain quarters advocating a reduction in the period of teaching of anatomy has been in the result of not assessing the real situation. The curriculum in most of the institutions puts forth a lot of didactic teaching. In my opinion, lectures in anatomy, if there is to be any, must be lecture-demonstrations mostly. More stress should be placed on studies of dissected specimens than of actual dissections, and representation by sectional and spatial diagrams and rough models should be insisted upon from both teachers and students. The system of examination is also faulty. It takes little cognizance of a practical applications of anatomy. Recently the I.M.A. has sponsored a four year medical course with anatomy given one year only. As a teacher of anatomy for nearly half a century I cannot conscientiously appreciate the wisdom of the suggestion and I feel emphatically that the course of studies in Anatomy should not be reduced, specially in view of the fact that the entrants to the medical course are very ill-equipped with the basic knowledge of zoology and have to study Anatomy in a foreign language riddled with complicated terminology. We have noticed with regret the markedly wide gap that exists between the standard of knowledge of animal anatomy as imparted in pre-medical courses and of human anatomy that these students are expected to take up successfully. They do find themselves as square pegs in round holes. Under the existing tragic conditions, no greater success can be expected in the teaching of anatomy in the medical course. This is a vital problem to which, I think, the Anatomical Society of India should focus

their attention and suggest a proper solution. A standardization of the teaching of and examination in anatomy in the different universities of our country, a project of interchange of teachers between different institutions to bring in welcome change and to infuse new spirit both in the teachers and the taught, initiation and co-ordination of post-graduate work, building up of good museums and reference libraries, determination of Indian anatomical data and standards, and co-operation with sister organizations in other countries are some of the problems that need immediate and serious attention of the society.

Friends, the teachers and workers of preclinical departments are really poor and Anatomists are perhaps the worst sufferers, because they are expected not to take up any professional work. As such, the Anatomical Society would badly lack in funds. But, the task before it is vast and for the realization of its objects adequate resources should be forthcoming to implement the onerous duties that the society is going to shoulder with purposeful devotion. If the running of administration is the commitment of the state, harnessing and exploiting the potentialities for scientific work and mobilizing the intellectual aptitude of a scientific society like this one, by extending the much needed financial help, is no less a moral commitment and obligation of the state as well. In addition, would it be too much to expect that scientific industrialists and benefactors of a charitable disposition should come forward to help the society and consider such act as one of their almost religious duties towards the Motherland? **Jai Hind**

Inaugurating, the Society Dr. Das Gupta Director of Health Services, West Bengal, stated that a society like the one founded to-day by the delegates, would go a great way to help investigation , research of and teaching in anatomy . Perhaps, the anatomists had up till now occupied a back – bench position. But if they considered it as the basic science in medical studies, they could not afford

to give it a scant attention. Although the importance was realized late , he said , he was sure they were to-day sowing a seed that was sure destined to grow up in course of time in to a big tree with all the benefits that such an institution could offer.

Dr. Das Gupta's address was followed by speeches by Principal A.A. Ayer (Madras), Dr. S.C. Sinha (Calcutta), A.N. Mukherjee (Calcutta), L. Chacko (Vellore), S.R. Nair (Bombay) and D.R. Lewis (Rangoon).

The organizing secretary then proposed a hearty **vote of thanks** to the chair and to all delegates and visitors who had taken great pains and made considerable sacrifice in attending the function to bring success to the newly born society.

The ceremony terminated at 10:45 A.M.

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Preliminary General Meeting

A preliminary general **meeting of the prospective members** of the society was held at 11:30 A.M. at the General Lecture Theatre, **Medical College, Calcutta** with Dr. Miss L. Chacko in the chair.

The **draft constitution** and **rules and regulations** were discussed at length and necessary changes and modifications effected to meet the view points of the members so that an unanimously agreed constitution and rules and regulations could be placed formally in the open session of the society the same afternoon.

The preliminary general meeting terminated at 1 P.M.

The members of the society and of the Reception Committee were then **entertained** by Messrs Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Ltd. at a lunch at the **Bristol Hotel, Calcutta**.

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Open Session of the Society

The open session of the Society was **held** at the General Lecture Theatre in **Calcutta Medical College** at 3 P.M. on 20-5-51 with Dr. Rajat Chandra Sen in the chair. About sixty members were present.

1. Dr. H.K. Chatterjee proposed that the draft constitution, rules and regulation as circulated previously and ammended at the informal meeting be adopted. Prof. P. Bose seconded the proposal which was unanimously adopted.

2. On the proposal of Prof. S. K. Basu it was resolved that thirty-seven members who had applied for membership and paid their subscription in full and forty members who had signified their intention to be enrolled as members at the time of the foundation of the society, be declared as **Foundation Members** (Vide appendix F). The latter were requested to pay off their dues within a month from the inauguration of the society.

The following were unanimously elected **office-bearers** and **members of the Executive Committee** of the society :-

Office Bearers:-

Designation	Name	Place
President	Principal A .A. Ayer	Madras
Vice-President	Prof. S. R. Nair	Bombay
	Prof. B. N. Basu	Calcutta
General Secretary	Prof. S. K. Basu	Calcutta
Jt. Secretary	Prof. L. Chacko	Vellore
Treasurer	Prof. D. P. Banerjee	Calcutta

Members of Executive Committee:-

Name	Place
Prof. M. Pan	Calcutta
Prof. S. C. Sinha	Calcutta
Prof. S. Bagchi	Calcutta
Prof. J. D. Warma	Assam
Prof. Dharam Narayan	Lucknow
Prof. T. P. Sinha	Patna
Prof. N. S. Sahasrabudhde	Nagpur
Prof. Y. Appajee	Mysore
Dr. G. M. Kurulkar	Bombay
Dr. P. C. Patel	Jaipur
Prof. R. Mahanti	Cuttack
Prof. V. Sitarama Rao	Guntur

3. The **Journal Committee** was formed with the following gentlemen :-

Name	
Prof. A. A. Ayar (Ex.officio)	Prof. P. Bose
Prof. S. K. Basu (Ex.officio)	Prof. S. C. Sinha
Prof. L. Chacko	Dr. T.P. Sinha
Dr. D.P. Banerjee	
Prof. S. R. Nair	
Prof. A. K. Basu	
Dr. H. K. Chatterjee	

It was further resolved that the **Editorial Board** would be formed by the executive committee.

4. It was resolved to have the **head quarters** of the society at **Calcutta** for the present.
5. It was resolved that the Secretary should sound different states to decide the venue of the next annual general meeting in a subsequent meeting of the executive committee.
6. The **Treasurer** was empowered to sanction up to rupees 300/- to meet incidental expenses pending the holding of the first meeting of the executive committee.
7. The **executive committee** was authorized to draw up the budget of the society for the current session till the next annual general meeting.
8. It was resolved to have Messrs Lloyds Bank Ltd. as **bankers** of the society.
9. It was resolved to authorize the General Secretary to have the **society registered** and to incur necessary expenses.
10. It was resolved to request Dr. Rajat C. Sen to select and appoint an **auditor** of the society and report to the executive committee.
11. It was resolved (from the chair) that **hearty thanks** be sent to Messrs Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Ltd. and Bengal Immunity Co. Ltd. for their generous help to the society.
12. It was resolved to send a **hearty thanks** to principal M.N. Bose for the kindness and generosity shown by him for the success of the society.

With a hearty vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting terminated.

After the open session, the members of the society **were entertained** at a sumptuous tea given by Principal M.N. Bose in the spacious lawn adjoining the principal's quarters of the Calcutta Medical College.

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Symposia and Scientific Session

On 21-5-1951 at 10 A.M. two symposia were held in the R.G. Kar Medical College with Principal A.A. Ayer – President of the society in the chair.

The **first symposium** was on “Methods of teaching of Anatomy”. Prof. P. Bose (Calcutta) opened the discussion. Drs. P.C. Rakshit, A.N. Mukherjee, S. Mukherjee and H.K. Chatterjee (Calcutta), Dr. L.

Chacko (Vellore) and Prof. S.R. Nair (Bombay) took part in the discussions. The President summed up the discussion and gave his own views on the subject.

The **second symposium** was on “Co-ordination of anatomical research”. The subject was introduced by Principal Ayer. He was followed by Dr. L. Chacko and Prof. S.K. Basu. The session was followed by a society **lunch** at Bristol Hotel at 1:30 P.M.

In the afternoon, the **scientific session** was held at the R.G. Kar Medical College. The following papers were presented and read before the members of the society:-

1. “Intrapelvic branch of the obturator nerve and its contribution to the hip joint”- by Dr. T. Narayanswami.
2. “Blood supply of the lateral geniculate body” – by Dr. L. Chacko.
3. “Persistent arteria poplitea” – by Ayer and Verma.
4. “A historical note on an embryological concept of ancient Indian medical men” –by Principal A. A. Ayer.
5. “Pancreatic heterotopia” – by Dr. Grace Swamidas (presented by Principal Ayer).
6. “Mediastinal emphysema” – by Dr. K.N. De.
7. “Ontogenetic development of the human foot” (demonstration of photographs and sections) – by Prof. A.K. Basu.
8. “Discoid lateral semi lunar cartilage of the knee joint (demonstration of specimen removed at operation.) – By Dr. A. K. Saha.
9. “Extensor digitorum brevis in the hand” (demonstration of the specimen) –by Prof. S.K. Basu and Dr. N. Goswami.
10. “Intrathoracic distribution of the vagus” – by Dr. B.R. Mukherjee.
11. “Newer findings re-the foundation of lacrimal sac and canaliculi” – by Dr. H.K. Chatterjee. The papers evoked great interest and lively discussions.

A group photograph of the members of the society was taken at 4:30 P.M. and this was followed by society tea at the Department of Anatomy, R. G. Kar Medical College.

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[Evening session- popular Lecture & Demonstration](#)

The **evening session** was held at the Bengal Immunity Hall of the Calcutta Medical club. Dr. Bireswar Mitra took the chair.

Prof. Bishnu Ghosh delivered an interesting lecture on the principles underlying the system of physical culture by “Yogic Asanas “. His lecture was followed by demonstration of these “Asanas” by

Sri Gouri Sankar Mukherjee, a medical student and Srimati Reba Rakshit a school girl – both of them disciples of Prof. Ghosh.

Sri Manatosh Roy – other disciples of Prof. Ghosh and who later became a world champion for his superb physique, gave a demonstration of different muscles of the body.

At 7:30 P.M. Principal Ayer delivered a most interesting popular lecture on “The pedigree of man and human dignity”. The lecture was highly appreciated.

At the close of the session Prof. S.K. Basu thanked the members of the society, particularly those who undertook long and strenuous journey to come to Calcutta from distant states, for the great interest they had taken to see the foundation of the society and the unstinted help and support they had extended to make the function a success. Principal Ayer in a suitable reply, thanked the reception committee for the warm hospitality they extended to the members from other states and appealed for all out help and co-operation on behalf of the newly born society.

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Abstracts of the proceedings of the meeting of the executive committee held during 1951

First meeting 5-6-1951: Principal Ayer President of the Society was in the chair.

1. Prof. S. K. Basu placed before the meeting letters from Drs. P. C. Patel, N. S. Sahasrabudhi, S. R. Nair and V. Sitarama Rao intimating their acceptance of office bearership of the society.
2. Drs. Premnath Kataria, Hari Das, Y. Appajee, Y. G. Rao, U. C. Chakravarty and V. Sitarama Rao were admitted as Foundation Members of the Society. The following subcommittees were formed with names of members as noted below:-
 - a. **Budget subcommittee:** Drs. B. N. Basu, M. L. Pan, P. Bose, D. P. Banerji, A. C. Mukherjee, L. Chacko and S. K. Basu.
 - b. **Curriculum subcommittee:** Drs.B.N.Basu, M.L.Pan, H.K.Chatterjee, P.Bose, L.Chacko and S.K.Basu.
3. It was resolved to have a “**Journal of the Anatomical Society of India**” with two issues per year at present.

The following were to form the **Editorial Board**:-

Principal A. A .Ayer,
Prof. S. K. Basu,
Prof. L. Chacko and
Dr. H. K . Chatterjee.

Dr. H.K.Chatterjee was appointed the **Editor** of the journal.

The Editorial Board was to be assisted by an **Advisory Board** consisting of the following:-

Drs. S. P. Jain,
Dr. N. S. Chowdhury (Agra),
Dr. G. V. Barve (Ahmedabad),
Dr. V. G. Kale,
Dr. P. Dastur,
Dr. R. P. Koppikar ,
Dr. U. Chakravarty (Calcutta),
Dr. G. K. Ghosh (Darbhanga),
Dr. S. C. Guha (Gwalior),
Dr. A. Mohiuddin (Hyderabad),
Dr. R. P. Sing (Indore),
Dr. B. M. Lal (Jaipur),
Dr. L. S. Cooke (Ludhian),
Dr. S. Achaya (New Delhi),
Dr. B. M. Desai (Puna),
Dr. T. V. Mathew (Trivandrum),
Dr. K. G. Menon (Vishakhapatnam).

5. It was resolved to negotiate with the Indian Science Congress Association for affiliation of the society so that the agenda of the meetings of the latter might be included in the programme of the former and thus the venue of the Indian Science Congress might also be the venue of the society.

6. An outline of the planning work of the society was also formulated.

7. It was decided that the question of publication of an Indian text book of Anatomy should be left till the next general meeting of the society.

8. It was also resolved that the subjects of the two symposia held during the inaugural session would be again discussed at the next general meeting.

9. It was resolved to open a current account with Lloyds Bank, Calcutta in the name of the society.

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Abstract of the proceedings of the executive committee meeting held on 11-7-51. Members present :- Dr. B.N. Basu (Vice President), D.P. Banerjee (Treasurer), S. Bagchi and S.K. Basu (General Secretary).

Drs. H.K. Chatterjee and A.C. Mukherjee were present by special invitation.

1. A letter from Dr. S.C. Seal, convener of the curriculum sub-committee (for Anatomy and physiology for M.B.B.S. courses) of the Bengal branch of the I.M.A. was placed before the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the opinions of Principal Ayer, Prof. Sahasrabuddhi and P. Bose re- the subject. After prolonged discussion a note was prepared to be submitted before the sub- committee of the I.M.A. and touching on the following points:-

- a) Initial qualification of entrants to the medical course.
- b) Limitation of the number of subjects for the first M.B.B.S. course.
- c) Periods of the study.
- d) Practical work.
- e) Inclusion of Histology as a part of anatomy.
- f) Teaching of Anatomy.
- g) Examination methods.
- h) Selection of teachers.

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Abstract of proceedings of the executive committee held on 2-12-51. – Members present: -

Drs. B.N. Basu, D.P. Banerjee, M. Pan and S.K. Basu.

1. Proceedings of the executive meetings held on 5-6-51 and 11-7-51 were read and confirmed.

2. The General Secretary placed before the meeting the correspondence that passed between him and the authorities of the Indian Science Congress Association regarding the holding of the annual congress of the Anatomical Society of India along with the annual session of the Indian Science Congress.

3. The executive committee resolved that in view of the shortness of time resulting from the delay in receiving replies from the authorities of the Indian Science Congress Association, it was not possible to observe all the formalities as laid down in the rules of the society regarding the holding of the Annual General meeting and the Annual Congress of the society at the same time.

It was further resolved that as a special case this year the Annual Congress be held at Calcutta under the auspices of the Indian Science Congress and that the Annual General meeting be held subsequently at a place and time to be decided in the Annual Congress of the Society.

4. Resolved that a **sub-committee** be formed with the following gentlemen to device ways and means for holding the Annual Congress :-

1. Dr. B. N. Basu
2. Dr. S. Bagchi
3. Dr. S. K. Basu
4. A representative from the local authorities of the Indian Science Congress.

5. It was resolved that the preparation of a list of patrons and honorary members of the society be postponed till the next Annual General meeting.

6. The secretary reported that preliminary work regarding publication of the journal of the society was well in hand but the editor regretted that difficulty in procuring paper for the journal might cause some delay in its publications.