Dr. Paras Nath Sinha
(15.1.1904 -- 11.11.1980)

Dr. Paras Nath Sinha, alias Paras, has been a person of an era. He is identifiable from a modest beginning of life from childhood spent at village Mangalpur of Palamu district. By sheer personal efforts and fired by sustaining enthusiasm he acquired the degree of M.B.B.S. from Patna University in 1929. The fire inside was clearly visible in his quick and firm long steps that he was identifiable with. The same spirit and the adventure of his three friends who went round the world in 90 days. Dr. Sinha ventured to England on his own in 1937. He obtained D.O.M.S. (Lond.) in 1938 and D.L.O. (Lond.) in 1939 and had his further training in Vienna.

On his return to India he was appointed Honorary Surgeon in the Eye and ENT Department of Patna Medical College in 1940. Subsequently his merit and devotion to work soon saw him as Lecturer and then Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology in 1948. On the retirement of Dr. Dukhan Ram, he was appointed as Professor and Head of E.N.T. in 1957 till he retired from government service in January 1960. He enjoyed a good professional practice till his demise on 11th November, 1980 at the age of 76 years. He left behind two sons, two daughters and a large number of grand and great grand children in India and abroad.

During his tenure at Patna Medical College he had identified the need of development and progress of E.N.T. as a speciality separate from Eye. To this end he divided the

work at House-staff level and brought in latest advances in E.N.T. available at Patna Medical College.

He was responsible for acquiring the first Arphi Audiometer, the Zeiss Operating Microscope and electric drill which contributed to development of ear surgery. The E.N.T. work at Patna Medical College Hospital during the 1950's was more advanced than neighbouring states of Bengal, Orissa and U.P.

The progress and status of Ear, Nose and Throat speciality owes a great deal to his sincere efforts and desire. This has facilitated further development of this speciality in Bihar and would continue to remind the future generation of Dr. P.N. Sinha's contribution and inspire them to aspire and work for achieving still greater height in the future.

Amongst his academic activities one can mention his being an active member of Patna University Senate and Syndicate between years 1952 and 1960.

He was President of the All India Association of Oto-laryngologists and presided over the Gwalior Conference in 1959. He had the privilege of presiding over the Silver Jubilee Session of All India Ophthalmological Conference held in Madras in 1965. As an Indian delegate he attended the International Eye Conference in Montreal, New York (1954) and New Delhi (1962) and International Ear, Nose & Throat Congress in Paris (1961) and Tokyo (1965).

Back home he has been President of the Bihar Ophthalmological Conference for a number of years and saw that the Society gets through its teething trouble. He has been founder Secretary of Rajendra Memorial Research Society; a society which runs the Rajendra Memorial Research Institute (R.M.R.I.) in Patna to promote research in medical disciplines.

In 1959, he was elected Senior Vice-President of Indian Medical Association and continued to be a member of the Central Working Committee of the I.M.A. for a number of years both before and after. As a lion he has been its Zonal Chairman.

Dr. Sinha, the surgeon, the academician, the teacher, a strict disciplinarian, a dedicated social worker, the humanist, the lovable colleague he was a true gentleman. The founding of RMRI and status of ENT will be permanent reminders of life and work of Dr. P. N. Sinha.

Dr. A. Sinha
Patna