

LADY TATA MEMORIAL TRUST

IN 1932 the late Sir Dorab J. Tata created a Trust to perpetuate the memory of the late Lady Tata and set apart a sum of Rs. 25,00,000 from whose income four-fifths was earmarked for promoting investigation of blood diseases with special reference to leukæmia to which the late Lady Tata fell a victim in 1931. This amount was to be devoted for international awards made by a Scientific Advisory Committee operating in London. The remainder one-fifth was reserved for the benefit of the Indian workers engaged in investigations of problems connected with the relief of human suffering caused by diseases. The value of each international scholarship was fixed at £400 per annum, and the corresponding emolument for the Indian scholars was Rs. 150 per month.

During the eight years in which the endowment has been operating, about 50 scholarships were awarded, and, including renewals, about 28 scholars have been working at different scientific institutions. Roughly India has benefited to the extent of Rs. 78,000 and has produced about 148 papers. This gives an average of 18.5 papers per year and 5.2 per scholar. It has cost the Trust about Rs. 527, an amount equivalent to scholarships for 3½ months to enable an Indian scholar to produce a paper. Virtually this amount represents the scholarship drawn each month by an international beneficiary. We have no idea of the amount expended towards maintaining the international scholars, the institutions where investigations have been conducted and the total output of papers.

The endowment is a magnificent one. India is deeply indebted to the Tata family for the creation of numerous trusts for the benefit of her young men, who, after a brilliant career in the universities, seek for opportunities to prosecute post-graduate work. With the limited funds at the disposal of the universities, they manage to maintain a certain number of scholars in their departments, and as the Lady Tata Memorial Trust has recently reduced the number of admissions, the overflow from the universities now runs into waste. The asset of a country is measured by its output of work, and where young men's energy is diverted into unproductive professions, which might offer the most glittering prizes of life, without being utilized for the enrichment of the people, the country must remain backward and poor. The material resources of India are proverbially rich, and it is the hand of science that can gather the harvest. If under any circumstances science is permitted to be neglected and starved, the country will take a long time to recover from the consequences of such an unwise and imprudent policy. The universities and the existing scientific institutions have to be expanded and provided with adequate funds, and science, as a career for young men of promise, should be made to offer them sufficient attraction. Among the post-war problems which will soon confront the statesmen of India, none will be more serious and urgent than the problem of young men, able and willing to do work but finding none. Science and industries may offer a solution.