

OBITUARY

ACHARYA SIR PRAFULLA CHANDRA RAY

(Aug. 2, 1861—June 16, 1944)

IT is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Acharya Sir Prafulla Chandra Ray, at the age of 83. He passed away at the University College of Science, Calcutta, which has been both the home in which he lived and the place where he carried on his scientific work.

An eminent chemist, an inspiring teacher, a distinguished educationist, a pioneer industrialist, a great patriot and a noted philanthropist, Acharya Ray occupied an unique position in the scientific, industrial and cultural life of this country. He belonged to that generation of our great men who wrought a great change in the spirit of our age.

His monumental work on the *History of Hindu Chemistry* served to remind his countrymen of the great traditions of chemical research which they had inherited and inspired them to further achievement on modern lines.

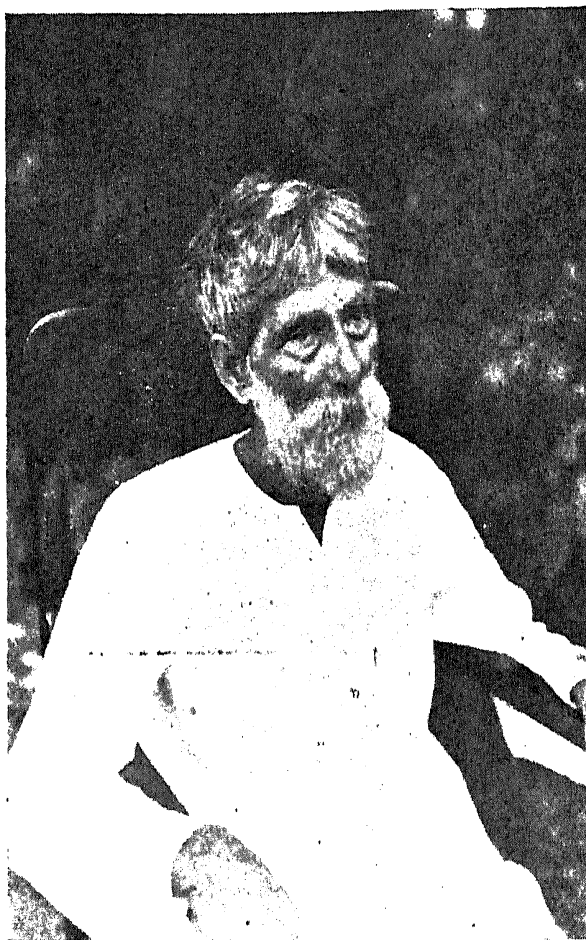
He was a sincere friend of the poor and the destitute. He identified himself with the organisation of several relief measures for the amelioration of the economic distress which followed floods, famines and other disasters. His heart and purse were

freely available to those who sought them. He had bequeathed the entire proceeds from his salary, aggregating to a few lakhs, to the Uni-

versity of Calcutta as an endowment for expanding the laboratories at the University College of Science and for the advancement of research in general.

He responded to the call of Mahatma Gandhi and threw himself heart and soul in spreading the message of *Charka* and *Khaddar* throughout the length and breadth of this country.

The greatest and the most enduring of his contribution to the advancement of science and industry in this country is the founding of a school of research in chemistry. To quote Gandhiji, "In the death of Dr. P. C. Ray the country has lost a very great scientist and an equally great philanthropist. He was also a great patriot and a friend of the poor. His spartan simplicity was a pattern for all, but more especially for the student world."



We are grateful to Sir J. C. Ghosh, Kt., D.Sc., F.N.I., Director, Indian Institute of Science, for permission to reproduce this exclusive and characteristic portrait of Acharya Ray.

INTELLECTUAL WORKERS' UNION

PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN has suggested formation of an "Intellectual Workers' Union" in a statement to the National Wartime Conference. The father of the Relativity Theory said, the Union would be designed "to fight for the establishment of a supernational political force as protection against fresh wars of aggression. Intellectual workers should unite not only in their own interests but also, and no less importantly, in the interest of society as a whole. It is inevitable, in considering the progressive centralisation of production, that the economic and political struggle

should become more closely interwoven. Meantime, the intellectual worker, due to his lack of organisation, is less well protected against arbitrariness than the member of any other calling. The division among intellectuals partly is to blame for the fact that the special experience which is the birthright of those groups so seldom is seen to be available for political aims. Political ambition and desire for profit almost exclusively determine events, instead of professional knowledge and judgment based upon objective thinking."