

member of the medical profession and allied sciences, Dr. Subba Row might well have qualified as a repository of universal knowledge. But that would not

have satisfied him. He yearned to know more."

Surviving are his mother, a sister and a brother, all residing in India.

SIR K. RAMUNNI MENON

DIWAN Bahadur Sir K. Ramunni Menon, M.A. (Cantab.), LL.D. (Madras), passed away on 14-1-1949. He was born at Trichur on 14-9-1872. He was educated in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam and later in the Presidency College, Madras. He went to England for higher studies in Zoology and joined Christs College, Cambridge. When he returned to India, he was appointed to the Madras Educational Department in 1898. He became Professor of Zoology in the same College in 1910 and continued in that capacity till 1927 when he retired. In a College which was noted for discipline in those days Prof. Ramunni Menon's Department held the field. His lectures on the most difficult subjects in Zoology were characterised by lucidity of expression. He loved to see his students do their practical work with cleanliness and accuracy. He was keen on research and for several years interested himself in the study of certain forms of coelenterates. He was cautious to a degree with the result that he was not able to produce that amount of research work that one might have expected. His administrative duties also weighed him down and he could not devote enough time to his research work. He himself felt this and this in a way made him anxious to create conditions for others which would enable them to make substantial contribution to Zoology in South India. This idea took firm possession of him about the year 1927 when he began to think seriously of establishing University research laboratories not only for Zoology but also for Botany and Biochemistry. He planned out the three laboratories and as Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University during 1928-34, he was

able to put through the scheme and had the satisfaction of seeing its completion before he laid down office. It is to his great exertion and forethought that we have these three research laboratories. Zoology in South India owes a great debt of gratitude to him.

The new University buildings were also completed during his term of Vice-Chancellorship. It has been said with justice that this fine pile of buildings has been due to a great extent to the way in which he husbanded the resources of the University before and during the construction of the buildings. He was nominated life-member of the Senate of the Madras University. He was also nominated member of the Madras Legislative Council on two occasions. He represented the Madras University at the Congress of the Universities of the Empire at Edinburgh, in 1931. He was Chairman of the Inter-University Board, 1932-33, and member, Council of State, India, from 1934 till the Council was dissolved.

Sir K. Ramunni Menon was not one of those people who courted lime-light. His field rather lay more particularly in honest unostentatious work. He believed in hard work and expected others to put forth their very best endeavour. He was conservative in his views and believed in the orderly development of society.

After retirement he interested himself in music and the study of Samskrit. He loved his native tongue, Malayalam. He lived a very useful and strenuous life and those who know him well, his students and others, will always remember him with respect and hold him in great esteem.

R. G.