

OBITUARY

PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA

MALVIYAJI'S passing away on November 12, at the ripe old age of 85 amid unprecedented scenes of an almost worshipful homage in which over a hundred thousand joined, dropped the curtain over a long and remarkable career consecrated to the Nation's service. Born in a pious Brahmin family with no advantage to start, Malviyaji began life as a teacher with a very early foreshadowing of his gifts for a sustained and inspiring utterance in any cause with a constructive and humanitarian appeal; then a distinguished journalist and leading figure, first in the U.P. (1902-12), and in the Imperial Legislature, Delhi, until 1920; a legal luminary, giving up a lucrative practice for 'whole time' public work; an almost single-handed leader in the campaign to secure for the *Nagari* character its rightful status; Founder-President of the All-India Hindu *Mahasabha*, the *Seva Samiti* and a whole group of organisations designed to harness forces of an awakened religion for the country's service along political, social, cultural and economic channels; called four times to the Presidency of the Indian National Congress, in a way the very greatest gift in the hands of his people, Malviyaji will rank high amongst the illustrious builders of the Indian Nation.

The rich tributes paid by first rank leaders in diverse fields, especially the political, in this country and (some) outside, make it unnecessary to appraise here the latter, the most dominating aspect of Malviyaji's life-work. Ever steeped in the idealism and traditions of the Indian past and an unshakable faith in the greatness of its future, Malviyaji was not unaware of the chief weaknesses of the national

position due, e.g., to certain social evils and the extreme backwardness of the economic development. Characteristically enough, he strove to combat the former rather by mass appeal to reason and social conscience, than through legislation; for the latter, he appealed for popular enterprise and initiative and a broad-based State policy. His work on the Industrial Commission (1916-18) and his famous minute of dissent to its Report reveal markedly Malviyaji's ever-active spirit of constructive criticism and realistic outlook.

While any of these lines of work would have sufficed for "a life's reputation", Malviyaji's claim for a permanent place in the recollection of his country is his monumental work as the Founder, for twenty-one years the Vice-Chancellor, and last seven years the Rector (in the late Dr. Besant's words, "the very heart and soul") of the Benares Hindu University, spread over a campus of 1,300 acres, and adjacent to the holy *Kashi* of immemorial and hoary traditions; this was the first teaching and the residential University in the country, with Rs. 105 lakhs collected from Princes and public—a unique tribute to Malviyaji's indomitable will and the people's trust. The University was "established to preserve and popularise all that was good and great in the ancient civilisation of India and, at the same time, to impart instruction along lines of the best of modern Universities". Here, more than anywhere else in the motherland, will abide for ever in imperishable memory, the spirit of this *Rishi* and a maker of modern India.

S. S. JOSHI.

SIR JAMES HOPWOOD JEANS, O.M.

IT is with deep regret that we record the death, on 16th September, of SIR JAMES HOPWOOD JEANS, O.M., F.R.S., at the age of 69. Jeans was known throughout the world not only for his many original contributions to mathematical physics but also for his lucid expositions of science in books and articles intended for the general public. His academic career was a brilliant one, and among the positions he successively held were those of Professor of Applied Mathematics at Princeton (1905-9), Stokes Lecturer in Applied Mathematics at Cambridge (1910-12), and Professor of Astronomy in the Royal Institution. He held also many important offices and was at various times Secretary of the Royal Society (1919-29), President of the Royal Astronomical Society (1925-27), and President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (1934). He was honoured by universities and societies throughout the world, and received among other awards, the Royal Medal of the Royal Society, the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, and the Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute.

One of Jeans' first major contributions to

science was his confirmation of Lord Rayleigh's law for black-body radiation. In this field he quickly recognized the significance of Planck's quantum theory and used it skilfully to develop his own theories. He gave too, in 1903, the first rigorous proof of Maxwell's law for the distribution of velocities among the molecules of a gas. Although his work materially advanced many branches of physics, Jeans is most generally known for his cosmogonic work. His brilliant theories of the origins of the planets and their satellites and of the source of stellar radiation have gained wide, if not universal, acceptance. He will be remembered too for his philosophical interpretation of modern science. Though his philosophical theories have excited much controversy, they represent a courageous and carefully considered attempt to answer problems whose manifest difficulties have deterred most of his contemporaries. His death is a severe loss to British science, the more so as it comes at a time when the rapid advancement of science is creating so many urgent philosophical problems.

—(Courtesy of "Endeavour", Oct. 1946, p. 154.)