

OBITUARY.

Sir Jagadis Chunder Bose, F.R.S.

SIR JAGADIS CHUNDER BOSE died at Giridih, of heart failure, on the 23rd of November 1937. He was born on the 30th of November 1858. He graduated in the University of Calcutta from St. Xavier's College, Calcutta (1880) and then took the Tripos from Christ's College, Cambridge, and B.Sc., London (1883-84). On returning to India in 1884-85 he was appointed Professor of Physical Science in the Presidency College, Calcutta. This connection he held to the last with the unique distinction of Professor Emeritus after his retirement from service in 1915. Most successful as professor, he was indefatigable as an investigator from the very beginning of his career. His first original contribution was communicated to the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1st May 1895: "On Polarisation of Electro-Magnetic Waves". In 1895 Prof. Bose was awarded the D.Sc. of London for his original researches.

For the next seven years, his papers were published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London* and many of the Scientific journals all over the world. He was the discoverer of Crystal Receivers and his work on self-recovering receivers and allied phenomena upset the coherer theory then in vogue. His observations on the *fatigue* of receivers led him to investigate the similarity in the response curves of muscular tissues and inorganic matter. His investigations led him to ask himself the following question: "If there was so much of similarity in the responsive curves of the non-living and the living matter, then how much more than mere similarity was to be expected in the animal and the plant life? Might not there be the underlying identity in the animal and plant mechanism, and would it not be possible to unravel many of the intricacies of the more complex life phenomena in the

animal by studying the simpler and more easily controllable phenomena in plant life?"

Sir Jagadis felt the necessity of a well-equipped laboratory to investigate these phenomena and with this in view, he established the Bose Research Institute, of which he was the Founder-Director. The Temple of Science he dedicated to God for the good of the world and to the glory of India (November 30th, 1917).

For study in the new line of work, Sir Jagadis had to devise and construct his own instruments. His Resonant Recorder, High Magnification Crescograph, Magnetic Crescograph, Balanced Crescograph, Plant Sphygograph and Photosynthetic Recorder are only

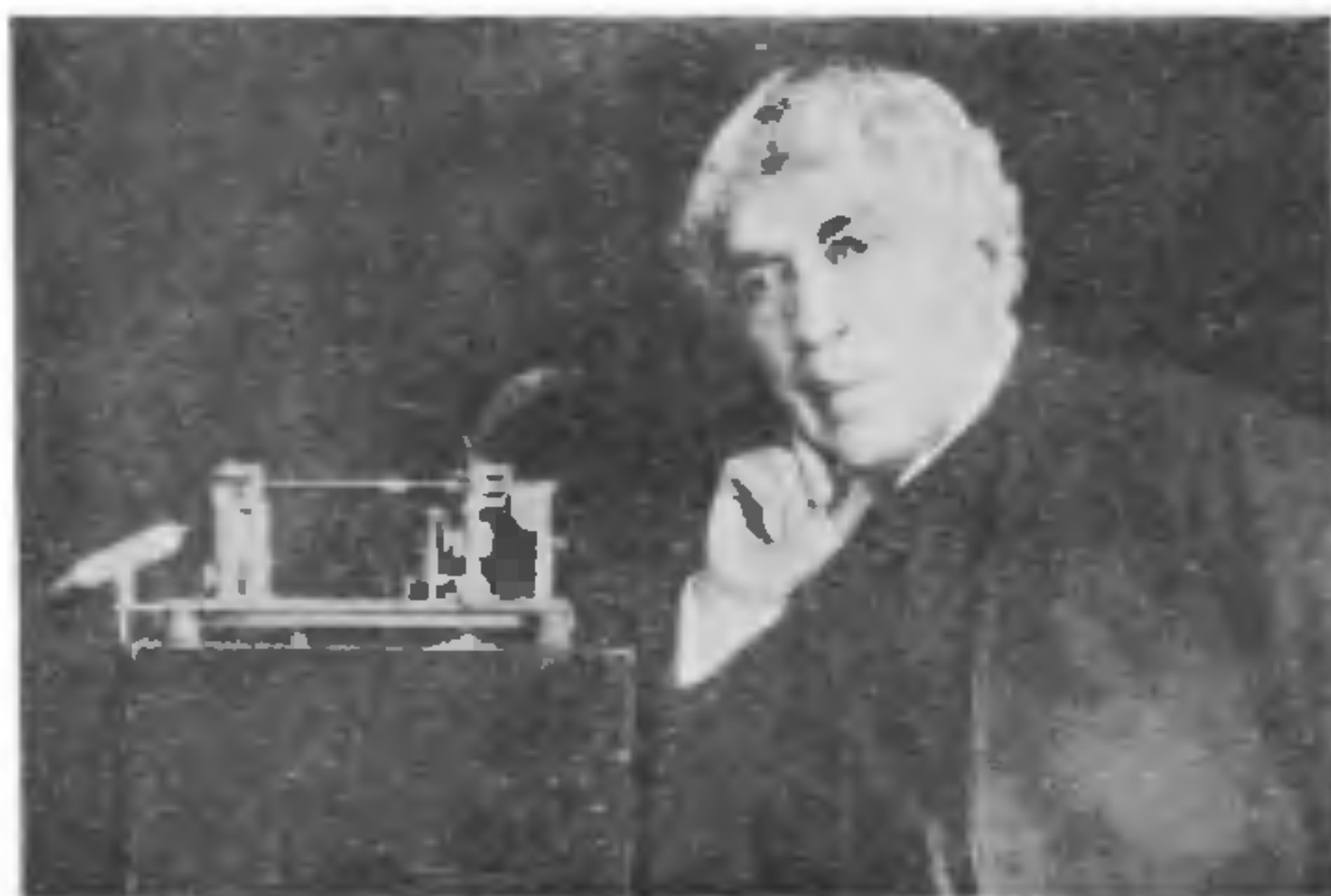
a few of his numerous inventions embodying new principles and surpassing in magnification and precision all previous instruments for similar research.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1920. Of academic honours bestowed on him both in India and abroad there are so many; it may almost be said that he had

them all. He was the recipient of fellowships and memberships from scientific societies from all over the world. They are too numerous to enumerate. The Government of India bestowed on him the C.I.E., C.S.I., Kt., and other distinctions. Sir Jagadis was also appointed a Member of the International Society of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations. His Majesty the late King of the Belgians honoured him by awarding the Legion of Honour. He was a past President of the Indian Science Congress.

He leaves behind him his widow Lady Bose, second daughter of the late Mr. D. M. Das of Calcutta High Court, and Sister of the late Mr. S. R. Das and of Mr. Justice Das of Rangoon.

N. C. N.



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