OBITUARY

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Born November 14, 1889

Died May 27, 1964

"I was attracted, because both, if I may say so, practically and emotionally I am attracted to children. Practically, because the child does seem to me for the beginning of the new India we are trying to build—what is the good of our putting up all kinds of factories and things if the human beings are not properly allowed to grow up," said the late Prime Minister when he inaugurated the Institute of Child Health founded by us on January 16, 1957.

This statement epitomises his intense affection for children. In his death children have lost a friend, a guide, and a philosopher. Those of us who deal with child life were always inspired by his affection for children. He was always willing to help the meanest citizen of the country as long as he was honest and sincere in his endeavour for the welfare of India's millions of children. I was overwhelmed when he extended his helping hand at the time of the construction of the Institute of Child Health in Calcutta. In spite of multifarious activities he could find time to visit our Institute and to formally inaugurate it. It was a red letter day in our life. His appreciation of our humble work was always a source of joy, and an impetus for further effort.

Elsewhere we are reproducing the speeches of the late Prime Minister and of the Hon. Founder-Director of the Institute of Child Health, as also some photographs showing the great interest PANDIT NEHRU took to understand the manifold functions of a small but 'unique' institution as he described it.

When the Institute of Child Health ran into rough weather a few years ago and he heard about it, he did not remain unmoved, and expressed his sentiments in the following words in a letter dated December 30, 1961 :

"This is about the Institute of Child Health in Calcutta. I have read with much surprise the letter from....."

"Sri.....who was until recently a judge of the High Court was not a good man to choose for the Presidentship of the Institute of Child Health..... I am writing to DR. ROY....."

In him our motherland had not only a leader but a humanist who guided millions of simple folk for the good of humanity and for the world, in the midst of turmoil, trouble and disturbance. He was moved by the sufferings and miseries of all, especially of children and the down-trodden. We deeply mourn his demise and pray for the peace of his soul.

K. C. CHAUDHURI.