

KHWAJA ABDUL HAMIED (1898-1972) – PIONEER SCIENTIST INDUSTRIALIST

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Khwaja Abdul Hamied (1898-1972) was a pioneer pharmaceutical industrialist in India. He was a patriot and true nationalist. He responded to the call for civil disobedience by Mahatma Gandhi during his studies at the Muir Central College of the Allahabad University where he was a master level student in chemistry. After teaching for a few years at the newly created Jamia Millia Islamia, he proceeded to Germany for higher studies. He obtained doctorate from the University of Berlin and spent a year more in Germany acquainting himself with the emerging industrial technologies. He toyed with the idea of establishing a Technical Research Institute which did not materialise. He very much desired to be a university teacher but that too did not come through. He had no other option but to engage in sales business. After a struggle of six years, he got to have enough resources to establish himself as a technical industrial chemist, the vocation for which he was really trained. In 1935 Dr Hamied founded the Chemical, Industrial & Pharmaceutical Laboratories (CIPLA) which has continued to progress and is today a leading drug company of the country. He had a significant role in the establishment and working of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. He remained associated with several official and professional bodies. He left a lasting impact on scientific and technological development of the country.

Key words: Chemical, Industrial & Pharmaceutical Laboratories (CIPLA), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association, Indian Pharmaceutical Association, Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association, Zakir Husain.

INTRODUCTION

For this write up, a careful survey was made of the available literature; the information obtained has been appropriately cited. The Royal Institute of Chemistry

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file on Hamied made available by the Royal Society of Chemistry,¹ souvenirs published on the occasion of his 70th birthday celebration,^{2,3} his autobiography,⁴ and certain other publications⁵⁻⁷ supplied by the CIPLA proved to be of particular interest.

During the earlier part of life, his name stood as Abdul Hamied Khwaja (A. H. Khwaja), which he later changed to Khwaja Abdul Hamied (K. A. Hamied).

EARLY LIFE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

Abdul Hamied was born on 31 October 1898 at Aligarh, U.P. He was the fourth child of Khwaja Abdul Ali, descendent of the reputed Sufi Khwaja Sayed Abdulla Ahrar of Iran. His mother Masud Jehan Begum was a direct descendent of Shah Shuja-ul-Mulkh Durrani, Amir of Afghanistan.



Khwaja Abdul Hamied
1898-1972

Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan, his father's uncle, was the founder of the Mohamadan Anglo Oriental College, which later developed into the Aligarh Muslim University. Hamied's father was one of the first students who graduated from M.A.O. College, later he qualified in Law and practised as an advocate at the Allahabad High Court, before his joining the U.P. Provincial Service.

Hamied passed his matriculation from Islamia High School, Etawah, with distinction in mathematics. For the intermediate studies he was at the Agra College (1915-17); the subject of chemistry fascinated him. At the time leather industry

was extremely prosperous and this made Hamied to join the leather trade school at Madras where he spent a year to complete his studies. Now he decided to go in for graduation in science and enrolled himself at the Muir Central College of the Allahabad University and qualified for B.Sc. degree in 1920. His special liking for chemistry brought him close to Professor N. R. Dhar, of whom he became a pet student. He joined the M.Sc. chemistry class to continue his studies under Professor Dhar.

It was about the time that after the Jallianwalla Bagh tragedy the Mahatma Gandhi's Civil Disobedience and Non-co-operation Movement spread like wild fire. The call stirred the nation. The countrymen responded to it with elan. Young Abdul Hamied exhorted the students to leave Muir Central College; with him about 200 students left the College with a pledge to fight for freedom of the country.

Hamied returned to Aligarh where his father after retirement from Government service had settled down. At Aligarh the student agitation was at its peak. Zakir Husain was then an M.A. student at the University and vice-president of the Aligarh Muslim Union, with whom about 1,000 students also left the University. These students who had left the University clamoured for continuing their studies. The All India Khilafat Committee established a university under the name 'Jamia Millia Islamia' (National Muslim University) at Aligarh.⁸ Among the faculty appointed were Zakir Husain and Abdul Hamied as readers to teach economics and chemistry, respectively; that is where a lifelong personal relationship between the two started in 1920.

Hamied's father had an interest in medicines. When he retired as a judicial officer in 1920, with the money he got from his Provident Fund, he started a shop Alison Chemists and Druggists, which both father and son managed.^{9,10} Hamied combined teaching at the Jamia Millia with running of the chemists shop.¹¹ In Hamied's own words it is stated, 'This was how I acquired a liking for drugs and medicines and perhaps it is due to this that when I established myself in business in Bombay, I started the chemical and pharmaceutical laboratories for the manufacture of drugs and medicines.'⁹

It was in connection with spreading the Non-co-operation Movement that Mahatma Gandhi, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal and other leaders were on a visit to Aligarh and staying at the residence of Hamied's uncle A. M. Khwaja. Hamied records that 'It was during this stay of Mahatma Gandhi at my uncle's residence

that I had the privilege of serving Gandhiji and remaining in his company for over a week. I thus came to know Gandhiji intimately',¹² Later in December 1921 when Hamied went to Ahmedabad for the Congress session he stayed at Sabarmati Ashram with Mahatma Gandhi.¹³

Gradually Hamied got to know well the stalwarts of the freedom movement.

STUDIES IN GERMANY

After the Non-Co-operation Movement had been suspended by Mahatma Gandhi, Zakir Husain at the insistence of Abdul Hamied left for Germany for higher studies in 1923. Hamied himself wanted to go abroad but his father had no money to provide him the support. His mother had some property at Delhi and Aligarh which she had inherited from her father. She sold her property to enable Hamied to go overseas for studies. He sailed for Europe in September 1924 and reached Berlin where Zakir Husain was studying for his doctorate in economics.

Hamied had to make necessary efforts to learn German language. His professional interest was in chemical technology. He got admitted to the research laboratory of Professor A. Rosenheim of the Friedrich Wilhelm University at Berlin; in the writings on Zakir Husain and Hamied the name of the institution appears as Berlin University. He worked on a technical problem, 'The Technology of Barium Compounds' (1924-26), which he contributed for doctoral thesis, qualifying the oral examination with the remarks *cum Laude*, meaning 'with praise.' Another student who appeared with him was N. N. Godbole who later became professor of industrial chemistry at the Banaras Hindu University.

While on a short vacation during the 1925 Easter holidays, Hamied met a young girl Luba of Polish origin whose intelligence and beauty touched him, little realising then that she would later become his life partner.

While working at the Berlin University, Hamied attended classes of various professors. He was particularly impressed by the teachings of chemistry Nobel Laureates Professor Fritz Haber and Professor Walther Hermann Nernst. During the vacations of 1925/26, he worked in the laboratory of Dr W. Kohen and engaged in chemical and technical analysis of food stuffs, drugs and medicines.

After getting his doctorate Hamied stayed on in Germany for another year. For two months he worked at a factory at Rathenau, near Berlin, and learnt the modern techniques of soap and perfume manufacture. He was employed as

voluntary assistant in the Institute of Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry where he worked with Professor M. Volmer. The other experiences Dr Hamied gained while in Germany were in factories producing hydrogenated edible oils, making glass-lined and enamel vessels, and preparation of analytical chemicals. He also joined for some months school of pharmacy in Dahlem. By now Hamied felt well equipped with practical knowledge of different industrial technologies.

Dr Hamied left for India in October 1927. He had decided to marry Luba but could not do it till he got settled in life.

In September 1927, Hamied made an application for election to Associateship of the Institute of Chemistry, London; the election materialised in April 1928.¹

STRUGGLE AND TURNING THE CORNER

For his homeward journey, Hamied sailed from Marseilles for Colombo, from where he was to travel by train for Bombay. During the travel by ship of nearly twenty days he had ample time to think about his future career. He felt that India needed an organisation for chemical and industrial research and experimentation to give practical training to the young graduates, in various processes of chemical industry so that they could learn to establish small industrial units. He conceived of establishing a Technical Research Institute. He completed writing his plan for the institute by the time the steamer reached Colombo.

Back home Hamied had an offer for a post at the Banaras Hindu University which he declined. He was very enthusiastic about his own scheme of a technical research institute. He went from place to place, meeting people who could give funds for starting the institute. Everywhere he met with disappointment. He was advised to approach the fabulously rich Raja of Nanpara who lived in Lucknow. He met the Raja who listened to him patiently but showed no inclination for the educational institution of Hamied's conception. Instead, the Raja asked Hamied if he could accompany him as his private secretary on a trip to Europe he was to undertake in April 1928. The terms offered were attractive. Hamied accepted to work as Raja's private secretary.

Hamied with the Raja and his party left for Europe. He considered this return to the continent so soon nothing but providential. They visited different places. He started disliking the job with the Raja and left the position while in

Europe. He then went to Berlin where Luba was still studying at a polytechnic. He informed parents and then married Luba at a mosque in Berlin. They lived there for some months. Hamied did not have much money. He made up his mind to go back to India to take a suitable job as a teacher in a university or failing which to establish a business. He left Luba in London with one of his cousins to study English.

Possibly he was not sure of an appropriate job placement on return. He went to Leipzig to see an international exhibition and happened to visit there the stall of Seidel & Naumann, Dresden, a huge company manufacturing sewing machines, typewriters and several other items. He worked out for himself agency of the company for typewriters at Bombay. Travelling as deck passenger he arrived in Bombay in April 1929. Seeing his successful promotion of sale of typewriters at Bombay, the parent company in Germany appointed him their agent for whole of India.

His heart was still set for a teaching assignment. He unsuccessfully tried for the post of a reader in chemistry at the Aligarh University. The family at Aligarh was unhappy at his coming back alone leaving the bride behind. His mother and sister gave him the money to travel and he returned to Europe after a stay of only a few months in India. From London via Berlin the couple went to Wilna in Poland to meet Luba's parents, before leaving for India in October 1929.

While in Germany, Hamied made a fresh agreement with Homo Pharma, Berlin, the firm with which during an earlier visit he had obtained the agency for 'Okasa' which was a fast selling drug in Europe as an outstanding restorative tonic.

The agency of Okasa and of typewriters were not doing well. Hamied could retain the Okasa agency with the monetary help from his mother. In the meantime the Seidel & Naumann enquired if he could be their agent in India for their well known Naumann sewing machines. He personally travelled to Dresden, Germany, and negotiated with the company for establishing an office at Bombay and a provision of salary for himself and office expenses. At his instance the company prepared typewriter with chemical keyboard.

It looked a little odd that a promising youngman with a doctorate from the Berlin University and experience in different industrial technologies was struggling selling typewriters, sewing machines and Okasa. He did not lose heart. Hamied

records in his autobiography, “. . . , he had read a book by some American author entitled ‘He who thinks he can, he can.’ “ He quoted a sentence from this book: ‘It is better to be a small wheel, no matter how tiny than to be a cog in a big wheel.’¹⁴ He did not want to be a cog but to be a wheel himself; his mental attitude was attuned to that objective.

With his persistence the business in Okasa, typewriters and sewing machines started doing well and began to flourish. He now felt that he had turned the corner. He could live more comfortably and travel overseas with luxury.¹⁵ He obtained distribution rights to sell Okasa in the East; the Okasa agency was converted into a Private Limited Company and there were set up agencies in Singapore, Bangkok and Rangoon.¹⁶



Luba and Abdul Hamied with their son Yusuf

The first child of Hamied and Luba was a daughter Sophie (born in 1934). They had two sons Yusuf and Muku.

SCIENTIST INDUSTRIALIST DR HAMIED

All the six years of hard life, Hamied had remained conscious of his being a Technical Industrial Chemist and longed to establish an industry. By 1935 he was in a position to realise his dream of founding a chemical and pharmaceutical laboratory. For the firm he envisioned, he coined the name, “The Chemical, Industrial and Pharmaceutical Laboratories” which he called CIPLA for short.

The firm was registered as a Public Limited Company on 17 August 1935 with an authorised capital of Rs 6,00,000/-. There was difficulty in obtaining

signatures to the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The selling of shares of the company was also a problem. The hurdles were somehow come over and the company started. Generally everyone who floats a company allots to himself quite a good number of promotion shares, which Hamied did not. He gave the company all his patent and proprietary formulae for several drugs and medicines for which he did not charge any royalty. For several years, he did not take any remuneration to which he was entitled as per the agreement. The Directors did not take any fees.

Dr Hamied left for a visit to Europe in April 1936 and there interviewed Dr Rothenheim from Berlin, who had been contacted through a friend, found him suitable for Cipla and appointed him as a pharmaceutical chemist.¹⁷

Hamied and Rothenheim contacted manufacturers of pharmaceutical machinery in Berlin and also in London and ordered some machinery for Cipla. At Bombay they opted for a small bungalow at 289 Bellasis Road, Byculla, and took it on lease. Necessary alterations and remodelling work took several months and by this time the machinery ordered had arrived. There were teething troubles. The opening ceremony of Cipla was held on 22 September 1937 when the first products of the company were ready to be put on the market. Among those who



The premises occupied by Cipla in 1936

were present at the function were Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Sir Mohamed Yusuf and many leading industrialists and elites of Bombay.¹⁸

For a new pharmaceutical company it takes time to establish its name and prestige among medical profession for quality and standard of its products. In the first five years the company made losses. In 1938, even closing of Cipla was contemplated. The huge losses which the company incurred made it impossible to appoint qualified people on high salaries. Hamied, therefore, took upon himself the entire work of running Cipla, controlling manufacture, developing and producing new products, writing medical literature for every product and looking after the training of medical representatives.

It was through loans at high rates at Hamied's own personal risk and guarantee that Cipla was kept running. By the end of 1939, the Second World War started and supplies of drugs and medicines from abroad were suddenly cut off. To meet the civil and defence requirements, orders started pouring in. 'In 1941, the company made sufficient profits to wipe off the losses and it now turned the corner and from a dying concern emerged as a progressive organization, which soon became well known all over India and abroad.'¹⁹

In 1944, the Bellasis Road property was purchased which till then was on lease; there followed subsequent remodelling and renovation and addition of a second storey. The capital of the company was increased from Rs six lakhs to thirty lakhs. The company acquired land and buildings at Vikhroli. In 1951 there came up a new building adjacent to the old one at Bellasis Road.

Before proceeding further a mention may be made of Hamied's election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry in early 1945.^{1,20}

Hamied had contemplated to start a chemical factory as a separate concern or as an extension of the existing pharmaceutical company. His aim was realised when in 1960, the chemical division was started for the manufacture of an important substance, diosgenin the precursor to sex hormones, etc. The division was put under the charge of his son Dr Yusuf Hamied who returned from Cambridge in 1960 with a Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry. The Chemical Division of the Cipla developed into one of the leading concerns manufacturing steroids and hormones.

By 1972 the Cipla had two manufacturing units, one for Pharmaceuticals and the other for Fine Chemicals, Drug Intermediates and Steroids.²² This progress

was made in K. A. Hamied's lifetime. In 1972 a Cipla Agricultural Division was started at Bangalore for cultivation of medicinal plants. The total capital employed as on January 1972 in the company was Rs 1.10 crores. Cipla is today among the leading drug companies of the country.



**Gandhiji's visit to Cipla on 4 July 1939
From left: Sushila Nayyar, Mahatma Gandhi,
K. A. Hamied, and Sardar Patel**



**Visit to Cipla in 1939 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
(in the middle) with Asaf Ali to his right
and K. A. Hamied**

At times there originated research papers from the Cipla with K. A. Hamied as the senior author.²³⁻²⁶

Dr Hamied was awarded the H. K. Sen Memorial Lecture and Medal (1957) by the Institution of Chemists (India) and later he became president of the Institution (1960-61).²⁷

Dr K. A. Hamied, Technical Director and Managing Director of the Cipla since 1935, was greatly satisfied at the growth of the firm and the image it had built in the industrial and scientific circles and the general public. It was all due to his hard work.

Dignitaries from India and abroad – scientists, industrialists and statesman visited Cipla while in Bombay. On the top of the list of such luminaries who came, stands Mahatma Gandhi, who with Sardar Patel and Dr Sushila Nayyar visited the company on 4 July 1939.

Soon afterwards Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Asaf Ali came on a visit to the Cipla. Among other political figures visiting the Cipla were Rafi Ahmed Kidwai and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. A reference has been made earlier about Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir S. S. Bhatnagar being present on opening ceremony of the Cipla on 22 September 1937. On other occasions there were visits by Nobel Laureates Sir C. V. Raman and Lord Alexander Todd (Cambridge).



Sir C. V. Raman and K. A. Hamied

Dr K. A. Hamied had become a leading industrialist. The Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association elected him its president in 1944.²⁸ In early 1945, the Association decided to send abroad a delegation of Indian Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry. This was agreed to by the Government of India. The semi-official delegation with Dr Hamied as the leader left India in October 1945 for U. K. and U.S.A.; arrangements for visits to factories and institutions in the countries were made by the Government.²⁹ In December 1950, Hamied presided over the eleventh general session of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association at Delhi; on his request Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the session.³⁰



Indian Chemical Delegation to U.K. and U.S.A. 1945-1946.
 From left (seated): L. Gupta, K. A. Hamied (Leader) and S. P. Sen;
 (standing): M. D. Hanif, K. K. Raman and R. B. Amin



Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru being received by Dr K. A. Hamied for the Eleventh Session of the Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association, Delhi, on 26 December 1950

Hamied reviewed the position of the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry of the country; he was critical of nationalisation and state control of industries.

Dr Hamied continued to express his views on all topical issues regarding the pharmaceutical industry in India. He criticised the Drugs (Price Control) Order.³¹ He said that the scheme of price reduction was based on the findings of people who had no actual experience of the intricacies of running a pharmaceutical concern.

He appeared before the Patents Enquiry Committee in February 1969. He gave evidence in support of the Patent Bill, requesting the Committee to make some alterations in the Bill which would give more freedom to Indian scientists and research workers and also to manufacturers to utilize and use the patents file in India.³² This inquiry was preparatory to the formalization of the statute the Patent Act 1970, which abolished product patents and detained only process patents for 7 years.

A note needs to be taken of Dr Hamied's association with several official bodies. He was a member of the Panel on Fine Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals which the Government of India appointed in 1945 immediately after World War II with Sir Ram Nath Chopra as the Chairman. The Panel (1947) recommended that the country must produce all essential drugs and make them available for use of the masses at economical prices.³³ When the final Draft Report was placed before the Panel in May 1946, Dr Hamied was abroad. He had a difference of views on the minuted particulars; on return he got his note of dissent recorded in the final report.³⁴ The Panel Report was taken note of by the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee (1954). Hamied was among those who were interviewed by the Committee.

For several years, Dr Hamied remained on the Development Council for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals established as per section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.³⁵⁻³⁸ His name appeared as a member of the Council in a notification of April 1974 after he had already expired.³⁹ There is a mention of his having been a member of the Council for Drugs, Dyes and Intermediates.⁴⁰

Dr Hamied was nominated as a member of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board as per provision of the Drugs Act, 1940.⁴¹ He was on the Indian Pharmacopoeia Committee as an *ex-officio* member in the capacity of his being

the Chairman of the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Research Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (1959-61).⁴²

The contributions of Dr K. A. Hamied in the formation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its working are covered in the next section.

DR HAMIED AND COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

A reference has been made above about a Technical Research Institute which Hamied conceived in 1927 but could not find any support for establishing it.^{43,44} He felt that it was of the highest importance for the industrial development of a country that technical research institutes be established. Drawing on the experiences of the laboratories in the western countries he stated that 'It was here that all discoveries of the world are made, discoveries which lead to the wealth and prosperity of a nation and give just pride and real enthusiasm to the discoverers.' Hamied himself was an industrial chemist and he elaborated on the Technical Research Institute which he himself wanted to start with industrial chemistry as the principal feature.⁴⁴

Before proceeding further, a mention may be made regarding the creation of a Board of Scientific and Industrial Research with Professor S. S. Bhatnagar as the Director in 1940.^{46,47} The Board constituted Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Committee in July 1940, with Dr Jivraj N. Mehta as the Chairman; Dr K. A. Hamied was one of the members.^{47,48}

On 14 November 1941, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly to recommend the constitution of an Industrial Research Fund for the purpose of fostering Industrial Development in the country.⁴⁶ The resolution of the Legislative Assembly was accepted by the Government of India and it was decided to set up a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as an autonomous body. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was formed in 1942.

In connection with the formation of the CSIR what Dr Hamied recorded⁴⁹ is of interest: "During the war years, I believe in November 1942, while I was in Delhi I happened to call on Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who was then Member for industries in Viceroy's Executive Council. He received me very nicely and I had a long talk with him about the plan I had prepared for Technical Industrial Research Institute. He was very much impressed by my scheme and told me that he would give it immediate consideration.'

‘..... soon after received a telegram from Sir Robert Target, Director General of Supplies, directly under Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, asking me to come immediately to Delhi. I went to Delhi next day, and saw Sir Robert whom I knew very well. He told me that the Honourable Member, Sir Ramaswami had accepted my plan of a Scientific Research Institute about which I had discussion with him a few days ago. Sir Robert said this would be on the pattern as in the U.K., under the name ‘Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.’ This was how the ‘Council of Scientific and Industrial Research’ came into existence which today has become a very important body controlling national laboratories. In fact the scheme of starting Industrial Technical Institute was prepared by me in 1927 on my return from Germany. My suggestions to Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar were based on this scheme. In 1928, no one gave any attention to it and it was nearly after fourteen years that my ideas were taken up by the Government and the ‘Council of Scientific and Industrial Research’ with its chain of laboratories came into existence. The credit for the idea to establish such a Scientific Research Council must in all fairness go to me.” He further stated, “Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar was appointed the first Director General of the C.S.I.R. I was offered the post of Deputy Director General, which I refused owing to my full time occupation with Cipla which had just started developing and expanding.”

As a part of India’s post-war reconstruction plan, on expert advice from Professor A. V. Hill, who on invitation from the Government of India visited India in 1943, there was appointed Industrial Research Planning Committee in early 1944. The Committee consisted of well known scientists and industrialists.^{50,51} It included Sir R. K. Shammukham Chetty as the Chairman and among the members were Sir J. C. Ghosh, Lt. Col. S. S. Sokhey, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir J. J. Ghandy, K. A. Hamied and Sir S. S. Bhatnagar. It was on the recommendation of the Committee establishment of more research laboratories under C.S.I.R. was taken in hand.

The 1948 review records that activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research were guided by the two standing advisory bodies viz. the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Industrial Liaison Committee.⁵² Dr Hamied was a member of Governing Body of the Council and also of the Board.⁵³

Dr Hamied remained closely associated with the C.S.I.R. He was on the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for about two decades; he in particular contributed to advancing the course of industrial research

in the country.⁵⁴ He chaired the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Research Committee of the C.S.I.R. He was on the Executive Councils of the Central Drug Research Institute⁵⁵ and the National Chemical Laboratory,⁵⁶ and Chairman of the Executive Council of the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre.⁵⁷

INTEREST IN PEDAGOGY

Hamied had an academic bent of mind. He was fond of purchasing books on industrial chemistry and collected a good library of his own while in Germany. He wished to make teaching as his career. He himself recorded that 'People know me as an industrialist, but very few except my close friends know that by education, training and experience I belong to the profession of pedagogy.'⁵⁸

In 1932, Hamied was elected a member of the Court of the Aligarh University and also a member of the Syndicate of the University, where only three years earlier he had not been able to secure the post of a reader, which he so much desired. In later years he became a member of the Senate of the Bombay University. Education remained his abiding passion all through. He was an Honorary Professor at the Aligarh Muslim University.

Dr Hamied was invited to give evidence before the University Enquiry Commission which Government of India appointed with Dr S. Radhakrishnan as the Chairman.^{59,60} He submitted a written memorandum on the University Education in India. He opined that unless a large number of students after passing the high school examination are diverted to vocational schools and technical training centres, university education would remain of a low standard. Another factor which he thought was responsible for the low standard of education in universities was that those who impart knowledge, with a few exceptions, did not themselves possess that degree of knowledge which should enable them to function as a fountain of learning. He elaborated on appointment of staff and basis of promotion. He was for abolishing time-scale salary system. He was critical of customary use of word 'Professor' in a very loose and undignified manner. It was his view that the word 'Professor' should be made a title to be conferred by the university or the Ministry of Education on the recommendation of a competent board appointed for the purpose and persons so appointed should possess the highest academic qualification who by their research have acquired an All-India and International recognition. A vice-chancellor of a university should be of recognized academic fame. He argued for English as the medium of instructions at the universities.

Later, there is taken note of Dr Hamied's involvement in the conduct of educational activities by the Indian Pharmaceutical Association.

ASSOCIATION WITH PHARMACEUTICAL ORGANISATIONS

Dr K. A. Hamied was a participant in the activities of the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association, Calcutta, and the Indian Pharmaceutical Association, Bombay State Branch (later Maharashtra State Branch).

Dr Hamied presided over the Second Indian Pharmaceutical Congress held at Patna in December 1949 under the auspices of the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association.⁶¹ In his elaborate address he dilated upon the problems facing pharmacy in India.⁶² He delved on manufacture and quality of drugs, statutory controls, practice of pharmacy and public health, and several of the related aspects.

He was elected life member of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association.⁶³ He actively involved himself in the activities of the IPA Bombay State Branch. He chaired the reception committees for the first Bombay State Pharmaceutical Conference,⁶⁴ and the Tenth Indian Pharmaceutical Congress, Bombay, 1957.⁶⁵ In the welcome addresses he expressed himself on the topical pharmaceutical issues.

The State Branch formed the Pharmaceutical Education Committee with Dr K. A. Hamied as the Chairman to work out a scheme for the training in pharmacy for persons already in the profession.⁶⁶ The start of the training course was an important step in the developments which followed in later years leading to the creation of the Bombay College of Pharmacy.

Hamied maintained his interest in the pharmacy profession and in the 1967 National Pharmacy Week Celebrations he spoke on the theme, 'Good pharmacist for better medication.'⁶⁷

EPILOGUE

Dr K. A. Hamied believed that '...the most essential for success in life is not wealth nor extraordinary knowledge. It is the will, the stamina, the discipline and qualities of perseverance even in the face of the most adverse circumstances and unshakable faith in Providence for help and guidance that are most necessary for achieving one's aims and objectives.'⁶⁸

Recalling his own past, Hamied stated, 'I have lived as a poor man with almost no means to sustain myself. I have slept on bare ground with a brick as my pillow. I have walked miles and miles for work entrusted to me when I was a volunteer in the Indian National Congress. I have travelled to and from Europe as a deck passenger, rubbing shoulders with labourers and coolies on the deck.'⁵⁸

About his association with the greats of his times, he wrote, 'In my political career I have enjoyed the company of great leaders of the Indian National Congress, Motilal Nehru, C. R. Das, Maulana Mohamed Ali, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr Ansari, Abul Kalam Azad, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, A. M. Khwaja, Sherwani Brothers, Hasrat Mohani, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr Zakir Husain, Sarojini Naidu, Sardar Patel, Pandit Nehru and his illustrious daughter Indira Gandhi, and his well known sister, Vijyalakshmi Pandit.'⁵⁸ 'I had the privilege of the association of Mahatma Gandhi when I lived at Sabarmati Ashram for some days and learned the lesson of truth and *ahimsā* at Mahatma's feet.'⁵⁸

Looking to Dr Hamied's political background he could have made a success in politics. He did get into it, but did not go very far. In 1937, he contested the election for Bombay Legislative Council and won, defeating Muslim League candidates.⁶⁹ B. G. Kher, who formed the government, requested Hamied to be the Muslim Minister in his cabinet.⁷⁰ Hamied declined the offer, as becoming a minister on communal basis was repugnant to him. He continued on the Council up to 1962, nearly for quarter of a century; he did not like to get elected or even nominated again.⁷¹ He held the appointment as Sheriff of Bombay for a year (1952-53).⁷²

J. N. Sahni, a prominent journalist interviewed Hamied in 1946, and highly complimented him for his background, ideas and vision, and did a piece on him.⁷³ Again, an extract from what Sahni wrote about him in 1968 is also of interest, 'As a businessman, as a go-ahead scientist, as a man about town, Hamied has made his name, both in Bombay and the country. But it seems to me that these are too narrow spheres of success of a talent which could have been more usefully harnessed to serve wider and more ambitious avenues of national service. But Hamied is perhaps not alone in being by-passed, and finding that what he may have been more than willing to give to the nation, must perforce be contained within personal spheres. Hamied did have a spell as legislator and corporator and served his constituencies with distinction. But he soon found that politics was not his cup of tea.'⁷⁴ He was discontented not so much because he

was not given the position which he deserved in national life but because others were given positions of power and prestige without deserving them in the least and which they were using to the detriment of the country.⁷⁵

Dr Hamied was a patriot and a true nationalist. He held strong national views, very keen on the integrity of the country and never hesitating to express his point of view as forcibly as possible and having the guts to carry out his ideas as best and possible and also his plans for national developments in various spheres in his line of activities.⁷⁶ He endeared himself to all and particularly to his friends, by his openness of heart, his sincerity and an outlook on life not distorted by any of the isms that are too powerful in politics, public life and personal relations.⁷⁷ He stood like a rock against all narrow and parochial tendencies.⁷⁸ His was a restless soul driven by an urge to go on and on, touched to the quick by injustice or indignity to himself or to any other fellow being, intolerant of foolishness, laziness, sloppiness, superstition, cant and humbug; he had an affectionate disposition and a compassionate nature.⁷⁵ Hamied never traded his Islam, for gaining political objectives, and among the Muslim elite, was a grand example of being a good Indian.⁷⁴

Another feature of Dr Hamied's personality was the warmth of his hospitality. He had the reputation of being an affable host.⁷⁹ He not only entertained lavishly but what is more, he enjoyed playing the host.

Hamied's elegant residence at 25 Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Bombay, was the venue for hosting high dignitaries. A reception was held for Subash Chandra Bose, president of Indian National Congress, in 1938.⁸⁰ Distinguished scientists like Sir C. V. Raman, Sir Alexander Fleming and Lord Todd were entertained. There were many other of celebrities who were feted.

Although Bombay had become Hamied's permanent home since January 1931, he maintained a home in Aligarh, which he refurbished into a modern building called 'Masud Mahal.' High profile visitors to the University stayed there. Among them were Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sir Mirza Ismail, Sir Fazal Ali, Sir Alexander Todd and several others. His Holiness Sayedna Dr Taher Saifuddin, Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University, who often went to Aligarh stayed at Masud Mahal.⁸¹

Hamied earned wealth, but only to be used for good causes, in elegant living and in rich hospitality.⁷⁹ His kindness showed in his putting money in the

hands of each of the beggars collecting outside his house every morning; he used to say 'No one leaves my door with an empty palm.'⁸²

Dr Hamied was a learned man, he was a thinker. It was said about him, "His vast knowledge of various branches of learning, science, religion, politics, human relations, philosophy, and many other spheres of life is indeed staggering. This is known only to those who know him intimately and come frequently in contact with him. Dr Hamied possesses richness of ideas. Nature has given him the most coveted power of thinking. He believes in the motto, 'those who cannot think must sink.'⁸³ He expressed himself knowledgeably in subjects as varied as democracy,⁸⁴ language problem,^{85,86} and religion.⁸⁷ Study of religion was his special hobby.

1968 was the year of Dr Hamied's seventieth birthday. The Cipla staff and workers held a celebration on 31 October. A public reception for the occasion was arranged by his friends and admirers on 6 December to suit the convenience of Dr Zakir Husain, President of India, who had agreed to preside over the function. A souvenir of the reception was published,² followed later by proceedings of the reception.³ The latter included the texts of the speeches by Dr Husain and several other dignitaries. These two publications and the autobiography⁴ constitute



**Dr Zakir Husain, President of India,
felicitating K. A. Hamied on his 70th birthday**

a rich source of material on the life and contributions of Dr Hamied, and the information drawn from these has been used for the present writing.

Dr Zakir Husain in his speech, stated that, 'Dr Hamied's career as you know, has been an outstanding example of imagination, initiative, planned risk and success. There is a kind of drive in him which carries him and others along.'⁸⁸

Lord Todd from Cambridge in a message wrote, 'Dr Hamied's great contributions to the development of the pharmaceutical industry in India is matched only by his lifelong services to his country at large. He is a true son of India and is worthy of all the honour and respect we pay him.'⁸⁹

Dr Atma Ram viewed, 'Some persons symbolize integration of science, technology and enterprise, and have established flourishing industries. One such person is Dr K. A. Hamied His passion for scientific research for industry and industry for scientific research is almost that of a crusader.'⁵⁴

Dr Hamied had completed writing his autobiography and had corrected the proofs. The running of the Cipla was ably done by his son Dr Yusuf K. Hamied. He and his wife Luba planned a well deserved holiday in Europe. He had a firmly deep rooted aversion to air travel.⁹⁰ This time he waived his resolve and started the journey by air on 5 June 1972. On the first lap of the journey they stopped at Tehran to be with their daughter Sophie and her family.^{91,92} There he fell ill and passed away on 23 June 1972. His remains were flown home and buried at Hamiedabad, Vikhroli, on the 29 June, according to his wishes.⁹³

Dr Khwaja Abdul Hamied, left a mark as a patriot, scientist, educationalist, industrialist and as a man of varied activities and ideas. He was an illustrious son of India.

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3. *Souvenir of the Reception to Dr K. A. Hamied on his 70th Birthday*, 1968, pp 37.
4. K. A. Hamied, *An Autobiography, A Life to Remember*, Lalvani Publishing House, Bombay, 1972, pp xxiii + 390.
5. "Thirty Years of CIPLA 1935-1965," *Cipla News*, 2 (15 May 1966), pp 22.
6. *Cipla News*, 8 (April 1973), pp 62. The issue dedicated to Dr K. A. Hamied.
7. Reproductions of writings of Dr K. A. Hamied on varied topics.
8. In later years the Jamia Millia shifted to Delhi.
9. Ref. 4, p 29.
10. Ref. 1, in a letter of 5 October 1927 to the Institute of Chemistry. The shop was closed down in January 1926.
11. Moinuddin Harris, ref. 2, p 36. Harris was a student at the Jamia Millia at Aligarh during early 1920s and later Hamied's friend of good standing at Bombay.
12. Ref. 4, p 23.
13. Ref. 4, p 26.
14. Ref. 4, p 90.
15. The family took an independent flat at 'Hyder Building,' Fazal Road, in 1932, and in 1933 shifted to 'Jasim House' on Cuffe Parade facing the sea. They lived in this palatial house, for first five yeas on the ground floor and thereafter on first floor of this luxurious building.
16. In later years as Hamied was occupied with doing manufacturing, the Okasa business was completely neglected. In late 1960s, Hamied put his younger son Muku in full charge of Okasa Company Pvt. Limited. The Okasa trade mark was purchased from the Berlin company. There was revival of business on the item.
17. During this visit Luba, who was expecting, and their daughter Sophie, accompanied Dr Hamied. It was during this trip that their son Yusuf was born on 25 July 1936 at Wilna, Poland. The sojourn was at Hamied's own expense and not charged to the company. On return journey Rothenheim and his wife were in the same ship sailing for home from Genoa.
18. Ref. 4, pp 133-134.

19. Ref. 2, p 107.
20. Professor A. V. Hill (London), Sir S. S. Bhatnagar and Sir J. C. Ghosh (Bangalore) were the referees who supported his candidature.
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28. Ref. 4, p 156.
29. Ref. 4, pp 162-163. The delegation consisted of Dr K. A. Hamied (leader), S. P. Sen of Bengal Chemicals, R. B. Amin of Alembic, L. Gupta of Shambu Nath & Sons, M. Hanif and R. Rahman.
30. Ref. 4, pp 231-233.
31. *Pharma Times*, 2 (1970), 81-82, 104.
32. Ref. 4, p 355.
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34. Ref. 33, pp 42-50.
35. *Indian Journal of Pharmacy*, 19 (1957) 106.
36. *Indian Journal of Pharmacy*, 28 (1966) 206-207.
37. *Indian Journal of Pharmacy*, 30 (1968) 238-239.
38. Ref. 21, p 3.

39. *Pharma Times*, 6(6) (1974) 31-32.
40. *Indian Journal of Pharmacy*, 21 (1959) 276.
41. *Indian Journal of Pharmacy*, 10 (1948) 51, 52.
42. *Pharmacopoeia of India (The Indian Pharmacopoeia)*, Second Edition, Ministry of Health, Government of India, The Manager of Publications, Delhi, 1966, p ix.
43. Ref. 4, pp 58-61.
44. A. H. Khwaja, *Scheme of the Technical Research Institute*, pp 15. Published in 1928; a print received from the Cipla.
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47. *Indian and Eastern Chemist*, 21 (1940) 193.
48. Ref. 45, p 70.
49. Ref. 4, pp 154-155. It may be noted that Dr Hamied was not definite about the date of his meeting Sir Mudaliar, which he mentioned as 'I believe in November 1942.'
50. Ref. 45, pp 204-208.
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91. Reference 4, p 297. Sophie was married to Anis Ahmed who was an electrical engineer and worked with the Tata-Hydro-electric.
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