

THE PAUL HARRISON AWARD

Ernest Lall was one of the few Pakistani students who joined C. M. C. in the early years after independence. He, and Pramila Moses from Nagpur, belongs to the batch of 1949 which graduated in 1954. Soon after their marriage in 1956, they took over the Christian Hospital in Taxilla in Pakistan, on the verge of closing down.

They have built it up into a stable, large general hospital which, at peak season, serves as many as 1000 inpatients. Last year, their total annual turnover of patients reached was 1,40,000. Under Pramila Lall's dexterous care, their eye work has become one of the largest voluntary eye services any where in the world. Of the 17,000 eye operations they performed last year, 13,000 were for cataract, including 200 intra-ocular lens replacement. This is an average of over 50 cataract operations for every working day, which begins in the Taxilla hospital at 4 O'clock in the morning. A total of over 2,30,000 cataract patients have had their sight restored in that hospital. They have also established a very versatile lens workshop which is now working on the production of intra-ocular lenses at a cost of only Rs.100 each.

In fact, low cost effective care of as large a number as possible is the foremost characteristic of their work. Employing no more than 100 staff members and utilizing a judicious combination of high technology and common sense barefoot approach, they have evolved a unique hospital where the standard charge is only Rs.120 for eye operations or Rs.200 for general surgery. The rich and poor stand side by side in the queue which forms overnight for getting a place within the limit of 560 registrations each day.

While carrying out most varieties of general surgery from the skull to the prostrate and rectum, Ernest Lall has developed this exceptional organization, where every employee is well paid, helped to acquire their own houses and is given free education for their children up to the University level. He has also taken the leadership in sustaining the Christian Hospitals Association of Pakistan under difficult conditions.

For their challenging demonstration of life long, and effective Christian medical service to the poor in Pakistan, the Paul Harrison award of 1984 goes to

DRS.ERNEST AND PRAMILA LALL