



We certainly do have a lot to learn from Nobel prize winners. S S KSHATRIY, however, tells you about one such laureate who believed that 'children are our real strength'.

How kids changed Raman's life

Raman surrounded by kids, and (extreme right) as a college student. Inset: Raman the great scientist.

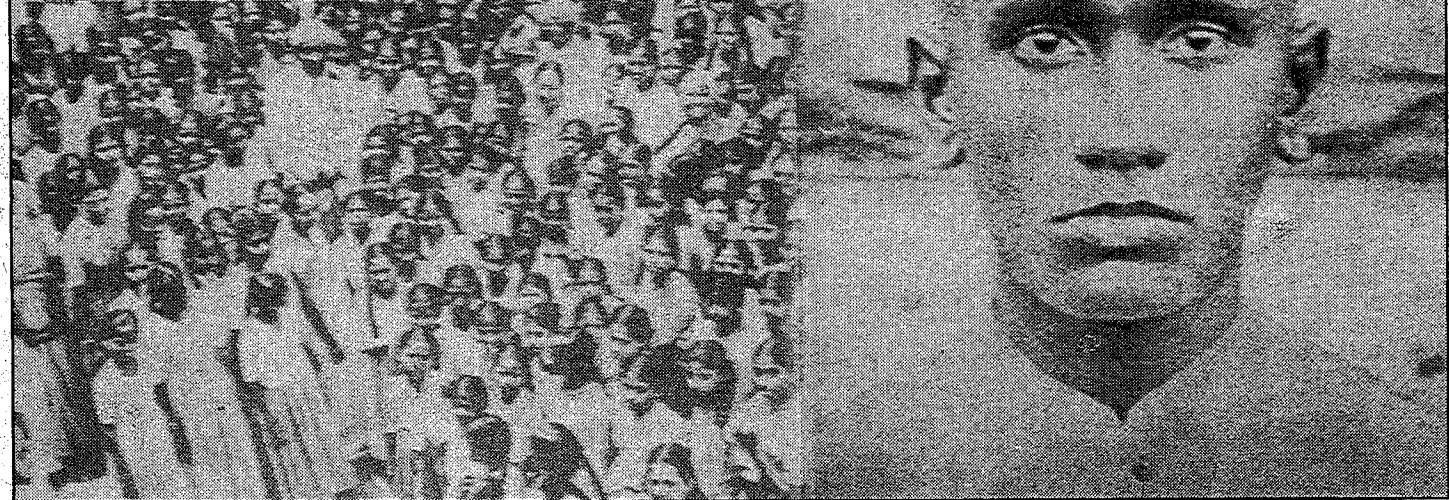
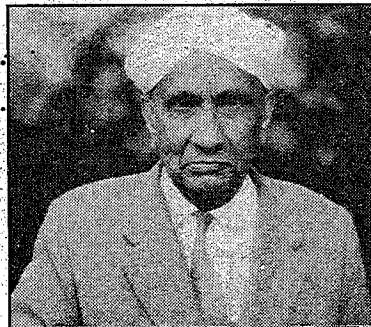
YOU must have heard about Sir C V Raman, one of the most illustrious sons of our country. His major discovery has come to be known as 'Raman Effect'. He was awarded the Noble Prize for it — the only Indian to get this award for research in his own country. He also discovered why the ocean was blue in colour.

Sir Raman did his initial research work in Calcutta. He came to Bangalore in 1933 as Director of Indian Institute of Science. After retirement from the IISc, Sir Raman started his own Institute — Raman Research Institute — and continued his research work till his death in 1970.

There are a lot for young people like you who can learn from his life as a young boy. He was born in 1888 in a village in Tanjore district of Tamil Nadu. When he was 3 years old, he went to Visakhapatnam by bullock cart, where his father got a teaching job in a college.

As a student, Sir Raman took great interest in science. He once said that 'a good home and a good school may be judged by the kind of books they put in the way of the growing young person for him to feed his mind and emotions upon.'

Sir Raman used to borrow and read books on science of higher



classes. He used to perform science experiments at home and in the school.

When he was in middle school, he had designed a prototype of a dynamo. When he was once bed-ridden due to illness, he got so interested in the Leyden jar electric experiment that his father had to bring the apparatus to his bedside. In school, besides Tamil and Sanskrit he gained command over Telugu and English languages. A Government Inspector was examining the proficiency in English and Sir Raman's essay won first prize. Inspector regarded the essay as a 'production of high merit'.

Sir Raman rapidly advanced from class to class and completed his matriculation examination in first class at the age of 11. He soon passed the First Arts Examination (Intermediate) in 1902 in first class and obtained a high rank in the University. He got scholarship to

study B. A. in Presidency College Madras, a premier college of the South then. Sir Raman's entrance as a young boy of thirteen into the English class created a mild sensation.

'Professor E. H. Elliot came into the class to teach English poetry. He observed among his new students a bright-eyed little lad who could not possibly belong to that class. 'Do you belong to this class?' asked the professor. A loud and boisterous laugh greeted the question from the galleries.

'Yes Sir, I do,' was the reply.

'What is your age?'

'Thirteen.'

The bold and ready replies went home to the heart of the Professor and afterwards, Sir Raman became Prof. Elliot's pet student.

For some time Sir Raman was drawn to religion and reforms too. Message of Dr. Besant made a pro-

found impression on the mind of 12 year old Sir Raman. He fell heart and soul into the study of religious literature. He dwelt deeply into Ramayana, Mahabharata and other books. When in his B. A. he was to write an essay on Epic Poetry, he chose Indian Epics and won first prize.

Sir Raman passed B. A. Examination in 1904 obtaining first rank in the University and gold medals in Physics and English. Some of the certificates his teachers gave him stated:

'The best student I had in thirty years... Possessing great alertness of mind and a strong intellectual grasp ... A young man of independence and strength of character.'

As a M. A. Student of physics, Sir Raman did experiments in college laboratory and published research paper in Philosophical Magazine on sound. Another research paper in Nature magazine

on Optics followed. These publications clearly marked out the future Sir Raman.

Young people like you have a special place in Sir Raman's life. In later years, there was a period when Sir Raman lapsed into despondent mood and lost all interest in science. One morning, while still in bed, he heard some sound. To him it appeared to be the most beautiful music in the world. Looking out of his window he saw a wonderful sight. Children had crept into his garden and were everywhere playing. Discovering the happy world of children, he came out of his mood and saw the future of India in them. 'This is our real strength,' he declared.

Thereafter, almost every day, Sir Raman invited school children to his Institute, regaling them with stories and showing them experiments. Sir Raman was his old self again.