

OBITUARY



Dr. Chamanlal M. Mehta

M.B.,B.S., F.R.F.P.S. (Glas), F.C.P.S. (Bom.)

He was doyen of the Medical profession for a period of more than 30 years from 1933 to 1960.

Born at Wadi, a village in Panchmahals, Gujarat, on the 26th Feb. 1893 and educated at Godhra and Bombay he started Medical studies at Grant Medical College and J.J. Hospital, Bombay and got the degree of M.B.,B.S. from Bombay University in 1919. After serving for a year as a House Surgeon in the Obstetric and Gynaecological Department of J.J. Hospital, he proceeded to U.K. He took training at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin and Germany in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He returned to Bombay in November 1923 with F.R.F.P.S. (Glas) in General Surgery with Obstetrics and Gynaecology as Special Subject. He commenced practice as Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and started a Nursing Home on 1st April 1924. He practised as such for 39 years.

He was an examiner in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Bombay University and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bombay. He was a member of the

Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Bombay, Bombay Medical Council, Bombay Nursing Council, All India Nursing Council and Medical Faculty and Board of Studies of M.S. University of Baroda. He was the member of the first Board of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and of its standing Committee.

He was a true nationalist in character and behaved as a true spirited medical person when atmosphere was charged with nationalist's ideology and hence got himself involved against all activities which aimed to help the medical profession against Imperialistic behaviour by the then Government.

He was one of the promoters of the Bombay Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society and also of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India, and its Journal. He was a joint Secretary of Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society and of the Federation. He was President of the Bombay Society. He Presided over the 4th All India Obstetric and Gynae-

ological Conference. He worked as a Secretary of the Bombay Branch of the Indian Medical Association and as a Vice President of the Indian Medical Association for 1949-50 and Presided over the All India Medical Conference in 1949. He was a member of the Board of Management of Bombay Mothers and Child Welfare Society. He was elected as a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the Kasturba National Memorial Trust and Chairman of its Examination Committee. He was chiefly instrumental in institution of the Diploma of Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife. He served as Hon. Gynaecologist and Obstetrician at Seth G. R. Bhagat Maternity Hospital for a period of more than 25 years.

He wrote a Text Book for Midwives in Gujarati which was translated in Hindi. He was Justice of Peace in Bombay. Vice President of the Bombay Scouts and Guides Association, Western Division. He was a Representative of the Bombay Medical Profession on the Bombay Telephone Advisory Committee. He retired from practice and from Bombay on 1st

April 1963 at the age of 70, and settled at Baroda, handing over the practice and the Nursing Home to his son Dr. Ajit C. Mehta. After retiring he was given a great reception by Bombay Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society and Indian Medical Association by friends and admirers. In 1965 he was elected Honorary Member of the Bombay Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society. During 10 years of his retirement, he took up the management of Sir Purshottamdas Takurdas Arts and Science College at Godhra, 50 miles from Baroda, and of a Maternity Home run by Bhaginisamaj at a small town, Kalol 35 miles from Baroda. The former institution is developed upto a Post Graduate level and the latter into a General Hospital. He used to operate at the Hospital once a week till 1972.

Since last 10 years he spent life in isolation as he was not keeping well. He expired on 21st October 1986 at Bombay. Leaving a large family and great circle of friends and admirers.

He was the true son of the Soil with devotion to duty, service to medical profession and people as large.

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