

## OBITUARY



**Dr. (Mrs.) Juliet Desa Souza**

Dr. (Mrs.) Juliet Desa Souza, an eminent Obstetrician & Gynaecologist of Bombay passed away peacefully on 8th May 1987. She was born on 25-12-1913. After a scholarly carrier in school and college she obtained her medical degree from Bombay University in 1935, bagging not less than six prizes at the final examination. After doing resident post under Dr. Herculano Desa, her illustrious father, she was appointed Hon. Lady Doctor to the out patients at the Bai Motlibai & Petit Hospitals of the J.J. Group of Hospitals in 1937. Next year she proceeded to U.K. on study leave and quickly obtained F.R.C.S. (Edin). Due to the breaking out of the World War she had to return without appearing for M.R.C.O.G. In 1940 she obtained the M.D. (Obstet & Gynec.) from Bombay University.

At the Bai Motlibai & Petit Hospitals and the Grant Medical College she successively held the teaching assignments of Assistant Honorary from 1943, Honorary in-charge of a full unit from 1948 and Professor and Head of the Department

from 1958. She was the first woman to occupy this prestigious chair. She was also a consulting obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital from 1954 where she was subsequently appointed an Emeritus Professor.

She was an excellent clinician completely dedicated to the care and welfare of her patients. Almost till her very end she was attending to the patients. A devoted and conscientious teacher she had a keen scientific outlook and a deep academic interest. She published many scientific papers and attended a number of national and international conferences at which she presented her work. She travelled very widely and visited many countries and innumerable institutions in search of knowledge.

She was President of the Bombay Obstetric & Gynaecological Society, President of the Association of Medical Women of India, Vice-President of the Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies

of India and a Founder Fellow of the Indian College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists.

In spite of her achievements she was modest to the core, Great as obstetrician & gynaecologist, she was greater as a human being. She gave motherly care,

love and affection to her students and residents. Human suffering moved her deeply and she proved an honest, sincere and devoted social worker. All these qualities of head and heart had as their basis her deep rooted faith in religion. In fact, religion was her way of life. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

THE (1950) JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY OF INDIA

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