

Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar

M.D., F.R.C.O.G., F.A.C.S.

Date of Birth 14-10-1887

Date of Demise 15-04-1974



Dr A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar

Sir Laxmanswamy Mudaliar was born on 14th October 1887 at Kurnool, where he had his schooling, and went to Madras for higher education.

After graduating in medicine from Madras he joined the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore (Madras), which he served in different capacities for over 35 years to make it one of the best institutions in the East. He raised the standard of teaching and students from all over India. Burma, Malaya, Ceylon and Middle East came to him for training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He was a great clinician and a teacher with great judgement and powerful oratory.

In 1934 he became Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Madras Medical College and 5 years later, the first Indian to be the Principal of the same college and Superintendent of Government Hospital for Women and Children, Madras.

In 1923, he was elected to the senate of the Madras University and the following year to its syndicate where he took a very active part. He was Vice Chancellor of Madras University for a record period of 27 years. Under his stewardship, this University expanded enormously in all directions and earned a high reputation as a seat of learning.

As an educationist he was connected with a large number of Universities and was Chairman of the Executive Committee of UNESCO. He became the President of All India Educational Conference (1946), the Chairman of University Board of Education (1948-49),

and the Chairman, Education Commission (1953). In 1959, he was the President of Indian Science Congress. He was closely associated with the Government bodies of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, All India Council for Technical Education, All India Institute of Medical Education and Research, and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He was a founder member of the Indian Medical Council where he served for four decades. In 1942, he was appointed as member of the Bhor Committee on Medical Relief and Education and Chairman of its Medical Education sub-committee and his experience here was useful to him when he later (1959-61) headed the Health Survey and Planning Committee which brought out the monumental report on the state of health in our country and on its future planning. From 1948, he was delegate to the W.H.O. and was the Chairman of the W.H.O. Executive Board in 1949-56 and President of W.H.O. Assembly in 1961.

He was largely responsible for organising the first All India Congress at Madras in 1936 and was elected the President for the 5th All India Conference on Obstetrics and Gynaecology held at Bombay in 1947. His book "Clinical Obstetrics" was first published in 1938 and has gone through eight editions.

He was a member of Madras Legislative Council for over 25 years. Many honours were conferred on him from all over the world. He became the founder fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (1930) and Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (1940). He was awarded a Knighthood in 1945. Honorary Doctorate degrees were conferred on him by numerous Universities all over the world. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1965 in recognition of his services to the nation.

He passed away after a brief illness at Madras on 15th April 1974.