

Dr. J. Jhirad

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

Date of Birth : 21-03-1891

Date of Demise : 02-06-1984



Dr J. Jhirad

Dr. Jhirad was born in 1891 in Mysore State. She had a chequered career in her early years.

From the age of eleven she educated herself on merit scholarships at school and right through her college career at Grant Medical College, Bombay. She graduated in 1912 and set up general practice. She proceeded to U.K. for higher studies. Within less than six months of her departure to U.K., the Government not only paid for those six months but also her fare and expenses towards equipment.

The First World War broke out in 1914 soon after her arrival in London. This proved a boon to her. One of the conditions for admission to M.D. (Obst. and Gyn.) University of London was at least a six months' residential post. An Indian could hardly get this facility. However, with the outbreak of War, men had to be enlisted. This gave her the longed-for opportunity. She was taken on at Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson Hospital, founded by the first medical woman in U.K. She actually served there for nearly two years, obtaining good practical experience with opportunity for operative work. This entitled her to appear for the M.D. which she took in 1919. On her return to Bombay, she found no opening at the Cama Hospital. There were no honorary posts at the Cama at that time. After a short consulting practice in Bombay, she took up a locum at the Lady Hardinge Hospital, New Delhi, and then went over to Bangalore at the invitation of the Senior Surgeon. She returned to Bombay in 1925 and was appointed honorary surgeon at the Cama Hospital; she was finally selected as Medical Officer of the Hospital at the end of 1928 - a real fulfilment of her childhood day-

dream.

Dr. Jhirad presided over the 6th All India Conference of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies held at Madras in 1950, in which it was decided to form All India Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies, as also to start an Obstetric and Gynaecological Journal. Dr. Jhirad was elected President of the Federation and was, at the same time, requested to be the Editor of the Journal. She retired as Editor in 1968. In appreciation of her services as Editor, the Federation decided to make her Founder Editor.

Dr. Jhirad is a Founder Member of the Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society and was its President for two years. Throughout her active days she co-operated with her colleagues in the Bombay Society as also at the All India Federation to develop and keep up its academic standard.

Much of Dr. Jhirad's interest, in her active days, was concentrated on Maternal and Child Welfare. One may say, her life work fructified when she took charge of the Cama Hospital, Bombay. Ante-natal, and child Welfare Clinics were well organised, and the investigation of cases of Sterility systematised. Honorary posts, with full responsibility for practical work were increased as also the number of resident posts. Postgraduate teaching was organised to give practical experience in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. To fulfil this a hostel for post-graduates, the first one in Bombay at the time, was opened. This encouraged women postgraduates from all parts of India to partake of the facility.

She was Chairman of the Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare I.R.F.A. now I.C.M.R. for some years. She carried out a statistical inquiry into Maternal Mortality in Bombay in 1937-38, under I.R.F.A. and had also been invited to deliver Orations at Bombay, Baroda and Calcutta, the last of these being Dr. Dossibai Dadabhoy Memorial Oration. She expired on 2-6-1984.