

Dr. (Mrs.) Dossibai J. R. Dadabhoy

M.D. (Lond), M.R.C.P. (Lond.)

Date of Birth : 16-10-1881

Date of Demise : 04-02-1960



Dr (Mrs.) Dossibai J. R. Dadabhoy

Born on 16th October 1881, she received very liberal education at Miss Moos School for Girls in Bombay. She joined the Grant Medical College and graduated in 1903. In 1907 she joined The Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine for Women in London and signed up for M.D. In 1910, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of England threw open their doors to women students to appear at the examinations conducted by the College. She was the first and only woman candidate to appear for L.R.C.P. & M.R.C.S. examination and passed it creditably in the same year. A couple of years later she was among the first few women to get her M.R.C.P. In 1912, she passed her M.D. of the University of London and returned home as the first Indian Woman Doctor with M.D.

In India she started her practice in Bombay as an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. Greatly interested in subjects of functional haemorrhages and malignancy, she purchased radium on her own and used it very successfully, both on her private patients as well as those in various hospitals in Bombay. She was the first person in Western India to possess radium.

She was the first to be appointed an Honorary Obstetrician at the Cama and Alibless Hospitals for Women which were fully manned by women doctors.

When Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College and King Edward Memorial Hospital were started by the Bombay Municipal Corporation, she was called upon to

be one of the lecturers in her subjects. It was the first time that a woman doctor was appointed to a teaching post. At the same time she was appointed as the Honorary Obstetrician at the B. D. Petit Parsi General Hospital.

When the question of starting a Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society was discussed, she became one of the very enthusiastic organisers and within a year the Society was started. She worked as an Hon. Joint Secretary for a number of years during which time she was instrumental in establishing similar societies in other teaching Centres in India and finally got all of them to form the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India. She was elected President of the Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society and had also the honour of being elected President of the Federation and to preside over the 8th All India Obstetrics and Gynaecological Congress in 1955. The Government of India invited her, as the President of the Association of Medical Women in India, to serve on the Health Survey and Development Committee, commonly known as Bhor Committee. During the war years she worked on the Bombay Branch of the Red Cross Society and earned admiration of public and the government. She was a recipient of M.B.E. It was through her efforts that Blood Transfusion Service was started by the Bombay Branch of the Red Cross Society and it was through her own rooms that Blood and Plasma were supplied to the medical profession in emergency.

Just a few months before her demise in 1960 she joined very actively in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society, which was one of her proud creations, and gave a munificent donation of Rs. 25,000 to commemorate the occasion. She expired on 4-2-1960.