



Development of Medical Education in Lucknow From 1854-1947

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Medical science was the most noble of all sciences. It was concerned with preserving and developing humanity and was practiced in every country in the past in a spontaneous and elementary manner.

From the days of Asaf-Ud-Daula, when Lucknow became the cultural center of India, many Delhi families, whose profession was medicine became domicile here. As a result, Lucknow produced eminent and celebrated physicians such as Hakim Masih-Ud- Daula, Hakim Shafee-Ud-Daula and Hakim Mirza Mohammad Jaffar, all of whom were renowned experts. As time went by, the science progressed to such a degree that there were few quarters in Lucknow which did not contain a celebrated family of professional physicians. Apart from those existing in the hundreds of quarters of the city itself, thousands of clinics had been set up in Awadh. All the famous physicians practicing at the different parts of India generally had come from Lucknow or its neighborhood. In short, Lucknow produced such eminent men of medicine that their achievements were remarkable. In the later 19th century, one famous Hakim of Lucknow was Hakim Muhammad Yaqub, who established his own clinic and it was greatly renowned, his family and descendants continued the tradition and they were, without exaggeration, unrivalled. Among the distinguished members of this family were Hakim Muhammad Ibrahim, Hakim Hafiz Mohammad Abdul Aziz and Hakim Hafiz Mohammad Abdul Wali, Hakim Abdul Hafiz, Hakim Abdur Rashid and Hakim Abdul Moid, who contributed in the field of Unani medicine.

Hakim Abdul Aziz had set up a college in Lucknow called Takmil-Ul-Tib, from which scores of 'Hakims' graduated every year, went to different parts of the country and demonstrated that Lucknow was the 'centre of medicine'. The Unani medical system was ignored after the advent of British in India but this tradition continued in Lucknow until the 1940s. In Lucknow, although there were many such practitioners as well, there were also many from old families who continued and improved the age-old science. All the families of Lucknow, particularly that of the Hakim Yaqub, and the Takmil-Ul-Tib college made every endeavor to preserve and improved upon the principles of Unani Medical Science. Their medical system did not diverge in the least from the original science. However, after the introduction of English Education System, under medicine, included so many European medical practices that the original science of Unani medicine instead of advancing started declining. In 1826, classes in medicine were started in Banaras Sanskrit College and Calcutta Madarsa. These institutions provided education in Ayurvedic, Unani and European Medical System. But after 1885, education in Ayurveda and Unani systems were discontinued. The modern medical science was introduced in India for the first time in Bengal, Bombay and

Madras. The purpose of the introduction of medical education was that the East India Company stood in need of doctors for the army and company's employees.

The British rulers, keeping their entire educational policy in view, introduced European Medical System which could be learned only through the medium of English. As a matter of fact, a controversy had emerged about Oriental and Occidental system in the medical field as well. But the policy of westernization enunciated by Lord Macaulay and the announcement of Lord Bentinck considerably influenced medical education in the country. In the beginning, Indians were not interested in medical education, but with the passage of time, they realized the importance of medical education. In 1844, four Indian students were sent to England for acquiring knowledge in the western system of medicine. In the United Provinces and Awadh, western medical education was introduced very late. The provinces of Bengal, Bombay and Madras were comparatively advanced in western medical education. In the year 1826, the Native Medical School was founded at Bombay and in 1845, people collected subscriptions in order to establish Grant Medical College at Bombay in the sacred memory of Roberts, the Governor of Bombay. The Grant Medical College had been recognized by the Royal College of surgeons in England in the year 1855. In 1851, it was raised to the status of a medical college and was finally merged with the University of Madras. In 1860, a medical college was established at Lahore. Medical science was gaining popularity among the Indians. By the year 1902, there were a total number of four government medical colleges in India established at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Lahore. Besides these colleges, there were eleven government medical schools.

Medical science showed a marked progress. The subject of medical education was one in which Government of India was deeply interested. With the development in general education, the Indian people began to realize the immense scope for medical science in the country. During Lord Harding's administration, a fifth medical college was opened at Lucknow. Way back in 1870, the illustrious Maharaja of Vizianagaram offered to donate rupees three lakhs to start a medical college at Lucknow. However, then the Government did not accept this philanthropic offer. In 1905, when it was mooted to establish a medical college in commemoration to the visit of Prince of Wales to India, the Raja of Jahagirabad, TassaduqRasul Khan and Raja of Ayodhya were able to persuade the then Lieutenant Governor of United Provinces, Sir James La Touche, to concede to this request. A fundraising committee was formed. The province was divided into 6 zones for fund collection. The public cooperation was so immense that within a few months Rs. 7,85,000 were collected. The Prince of Wales was moved by this public participation and agreed to lay the foundation stone of the college. On December 26, 1906, on the land donated by the Government of United Provinces on the banks of River Gomti, where once stood the beautiful MuchiBhawan. The Indo-Saracenic architectural styles of the building was planned and designed in 1911 by the famous architect Sir Swinton Jacob.

The building was divided into three groups. First the college group comprised the college main building, the anatomical block, the physiological block and the medico-legal mortuary. Secondly, the residential group consisted of two hostels with accommodation for 200 students. There were bungalows for the Principal and professors, quarters for the subordinate medical officers and a block of 24 nurse quarters. Thirdly, the hospital group contained the main hospital block with two wards on the wings on out-patient dispensary, two cottage wards and 9 separation wards. Altogether it provided 232 beds for patients. The college was formally opened by Sir John Hewett on January 20, 1913. On that occasion, he made the announcement that the title of the institution by the gracious permission of His Imperial

Majesty would hence forth be King George's Medical College and Queen Mary's Hospital. Colonel W. Selby was appointed as its first Principal and professor of surgery. He headed the teaching staff of 5 professors and 21 lecturers. The academic year of the college started on October 10, 1911 with the first batch of 33 students, 31 men and 2 women including one M.Sc., two B.Sc. and seventeen who had passed the Intermediate Examination in Science. Biology and Science graduates were first preferred for admission. This provision lasted till 1913, when on the advice of General Medical Council of Great Britain, the rules for admission and the course of study were reorganized. In the beginning, the degree of M.B.B.S. was awarded by Allahabad University, but in 1921, it was transferred to the newly created University of Lucknow.

Viceroy Lord Harding, on January 10, 1914, inaugurated the King George's Medical College and Hospital. In his inaugural speech the viceroy mentioned that, "the confident hope expressed by our present King Emperor that the college and its appurtenances will be the best in the East," must be fulfilled. Colonel Selby visited England to procure the latest equipment and apparatus for equipping the medical college. During the year 1913-14, departments for the teaching of pathology and medicine were opened under the headship of Lt. Colonel C.N. Rawson. It consisted of a professor of medicine, a lecturer and two demonstrators of pathology. The teaching staff received further addition by the appointment of a professor of obstetrics and gynecologist. By August 10, 1930, the number of professors and readers in King George's Medical University, Lucknow had increased to 17, besides Principal Dr. Saiduz Zafar Khan. Other important members of staff were Dr. Prasad Das Mukerji, Dr. D.D. Panday, Lt. Colonel H. Stott, Dr. Abdul Hamid, Dr. J.P. Mod, Dr. Captain J.G. Mukerji, Dr. Raghunandan Lal, Dr. K.S. Nigam and Hargovind Dayal Mathur. The number of students on 31st March, 1914 were 35 in first year, 29 in second year and 17 in third year. Thus, making a total of 84 students. Of these, 74 were residents in the hostels. There were 108 students on the rolls of college on 31st March, 1915. Out of 108 students, 99 were boarders and 39 students appeared. In the final year of M.B.B.S., 16 students passed out of 19.

In 1913, two hostels for men were opened and in the year 1913-14 and a hostel for female students was built at the expense of a part of the Prince of Wales Memorial Fund, set aside by the generosity of Tassaduq Rasul Khan, Raja of Jahangirabad, for the advancement of medical education of women. It was completed during that year and was completely furnished. In 1913, a citizen of Lucknow, Raja of Bhinga donated some money to Medical College, Lucknow and established an endowment fund, the income from which was expended on the provision of three scholarships tenable at K.G.M.U. Lucknow. K.G.M.U. became popular among the people in these provinces. In the Medical College, there were 10 departments and a staff of 8 professors, 4 readers, 9 lecturers and 6 demonstrators. In this faculty the number of students had increased from 632 in 1921-22 to 1,419 in 1926-27. There was a great demand for admission for the study of medicine, but the classrooms and laboratories accommodation did not permit the admission of more than 50% of the applicants. Post graduate courses were introduced in the college 7 years after the inception. Major expansion of the college and hospital occurred first in the 1920s and then in the 1940s. Separate buildings were provided for all the major departments and as the work improved super specialities developed and a number of departments were upgraded. From 1946 onwards, there has been an all-round expansion of the K.G.M.U., Lucknow.

The facilities for medical education in the United Provinces paid adequate attention to medical education. The Government also tried to encourage the people of these provinces to avail medical facilities. With the objective to create health consciousness among the people, the Health Education Bureau was set up in Lucknow in the year 1920. It was a pioneering

institute aware of the health services available in the state and to encourage them to take full advantage of these services. The government of these provinces also paid some attention towards the improvement of Ayurveda and Unani system of medicine. In the year 1926, the Indian Medical Council, U.P., was set up in the United Provinces. Since then, it was governed by the provisions of the Indian Medicine Act, 1939. The council conducted paramedical courses of studies and also registered the 'Vaidis' and 'Hakims' for the purpose of allowing them to practice in the indigenous system of medicine. After 1935, medical education came to receive great attention from the provincial government. In some states like Assam, West Bengal, United Provinces and Bombay, there were officers to supervise the medical activities of the state aided institutions.

The provincial government paid adequate attention to medical education. However, shortage of finance was a major problem in the field of medical education and, due to this reason, these provinces could not make the required progress in this field till 1947.

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