



## ALTAPETE

The saga of the great flight of King Edward Medical College starts with the establishment of a medical school in the Artillery Barracks in 1860 attached to a hospital located in a foreign stable about a mile away. Dr. J. B. Seriven was the first principal of the school, then named Lahore Medical School. This was second of its kind in the subcontinent. In 1864 the school and hospital shifted to Shah Alam Gate that was close to Civil Hospital. Introduction of western medicine in the subcontinent was not easy. School started two classes simultaneously Hindustani class to produce native doctors and English class to train Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

In 1870 the present building of Mayo Hospital was completed. It was named after the Victory, Earl of Mayo. It started functioning in May 1871. The Punjab University College was Commissioned in 1870 and the school was attached to it for the conduction of examination and award of diplomas. In 1870 Hakim class was also started and the school moved closer to Mayo Hospital in Railway Hostel. The large stables and coach houses were converted to dissection rooms, lecture theaters and laboratories. Dr. T.E. Burton brown took over the charge of the Principal to work for the next 19 years. He put in lots of sincere efforts to build this institution "great". The number of muslim students in various classes and courses remained very low until the end of the last century.

The first block of the school campus was built in 1883. In 1884 women students were allowed to register for various courses. In 1887 the new dissection Hall was built. In 1886 the institution was made college. The 1st Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine degree was conferred in 1891. Lt. Col. S.A. Browne was the third principal, many new departments were started and the standard of education improved. In 1895 postmortem theatre and two room pathology laboratory was built. Same year minimum entrance requirement

was raised to intermediate. In the first half of this century, the institution followed the usual pattern of expansion and recession, ebb and flow, challenge and response ending up in this 'La Grande Institution, the Tajmahal of my dreams, the pride of several generations passed and to come. In 1914, the research block comprised of the new Pathology, physiology and Hygiene departments was started. The medical school was separated from the college and shifted to Amritsar in 1920. During the second decade of this century large contribution of King Edward Memorial Fund helped in the expansion of the college and its attached hospitals. On March 11, 1933 Lady willingdon Hospital was opened and started providing training of gynaecology and obstetrics. The College was recognised by the General Medical Council in 1936. During the second world war the Alumni, the staff and students K.E.M.C. proved their worth on all fronts. Then came the independence in 1947. It bore the mixed smell of blood and roses. The students and the staff again worked day and night with fresh spirit of serving their own free country.

Lt. Col. Ilahi Bux became the first Pakistani Principal who served upto 1959 and Dr. MAH Saddiqui was the first M.S. of Mayo Hospital. Prof. Riaz-i-Qadeer was the second Principal after independence. He served upto 1966. This was a very eventful period. Several new specialities of medicine and surgery were started. The centenary of this great institution was also celebrated during his tenure in 1960. Numerous Ex-Principals from U.K. and India came to join these week long celebrations.

Then came Prof. A. Hameed Sheikh for more than 3 years. He was Professor of Pathology. He added the institute of Experimental Medicine and an animal house. this was later on handed over to Postgraduate Institute temporarily. A tubewell and a lending library were also installed in his time. the two new

specialities Neurosurgery and Experimental Medicine were added. Prof. Sardar Ali Sheikh, the humble soldier of Surgery as he used to call himself, became the 4th Principal after the independence in July 1969 for a very short term and remained in the office until April 1973.

Prof. Noor Ahmad Seyal served as Principal between 1960-1971 and 1979 to 1981. He was Professor of gynaecology and obstetrics. Prof. N. A. Seyal did lot of work for the welfare of students. Hostels were renovated and constructed to accommodate more students. Mosque was built. An Auditorium was constructed in 1972-73. In April 1973 Prof. M. Akhtar Khan became the Principal. His name will be remembered as an Architect of the Academic Units. The education standard of the College touched a new height due to his extra efforts in producing better doctors. The college convocation was held in 1987.

Prof. Khawaja Saadiq Husain took over the office of Principal in 1981. This

space is short to write his contributions. Briefly he lifted the college to where we find it today.

The others who worked as Principals include Prof. Iftikhar Ahmad, Prof. Shaukat Raza Khan, Prof. Bashir Ahmad and Prof. Ijaz Ahsan who all did their best to maintain the KEMC. Recent history is in front of us.

If today KEMC claims to be the mother institution, no one denies. "Be not afraid of greatness" says Shakespeare and I added, "Be afraid of loosing it", and it happens when we sleep over it. It sure needs a never ending skyward flight -- Altapete.

May Lord help us in this flight to catch the wave of enthusiasm on the rise and to be lifted to an undreamed heights, close very close to the Heavens.

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