

Preface

I have always believed and encouraged those healthcare professionals and medical teachers in particular who have remained involved in administration, headed important medical institutions to write their autobiographies. During their professional career they come across numerous interesting incidents, episodes that is worth documenting. They come across and face so many difficult situations and how they manage it, offer a lesson for others as well who can also benefit from their experience. In fact it provides an excellent opportunity to learn from one's mistakes and help others to avoid those mistakes. As such, I have been extremely lucky that many important distinguished medical personalities who decided to write their autobiographies, I had the honour and privilege to receive a copy with their signature for review, something which I enjoyed the most.

Over the years I received and reviewed quite a few of them besides doing a critical analysis which was appreciated by the authors. It was fascinating to not that these autobiographies contained lot of historical facts which had a great impact on medical education, healthcare and the image of the medical profession itself. Not only that, some of these authors were and are brave enough to document the truth which must have been quite unpalatable for many including those in authority and closer to the power corridors. While I did publish my review and observations in Pulse International from time to time but I later on realized that all this needs to be preserved for future reference which will help the researchers, and healthcare professionals particularly the younger generation will find it extremely useful and informative. It was in this background that I decided to compile and edit all this in a book form and named it "Medical History- Written in Haste" because it contains lot of history not only related to medical profession

and health services but also has some important facts related to our political history.

The criteria for inclusion have been to cover those healthcare professionals who took pains to document and write their autobiographies. It also includes some notes about some distinguished members of the medical profession both from the Army as well as civil side who have been or were in a position to help or harm their professional colleagues and what they eventually did and what have been their accomplishments. Also included are a few who established some state of the art institutions under difficult circumstances and were pioneers in their field. However, I must admit the list is not complete simply because of my limited resources and time constraints. There are lot many other distinguished medical personalities who deserve to be recognized and if time permit, I may continue this task in the form of yet another book sometime later. Some of those with whom I was too close and learnt a great deal from them as they were all very helpful and affectionate towards me have also been included as I could easily get information about them. Here I must also admit that it is not an easy job. Just to quote an example I wanted to include a few other eminent physicians who occupied important position in various institutions and did leave their imprints for which I went to see their family members, talked to some of them who were themselves doctors. I requested them to provide some information. I also contacted some of their very dear and close friends, colleagues to help me but unfortunately despite numerous requests, none of them provided me any information.

I had the opportunity to meet and talk to most of the people covered in the book during my over five decade's professional experience in the field of medical journalism. Friends and family members of quite a few of them were also very kind to help me and without their support, it won't have been possible to accomplish this task. Hence I remain ever grateful to all of them but I would refrain to mention them individually lest I forget some. However, it will be a great injustice if I fail to mention and thank Lt. Gen. (Retd) Prof.

Mahmud Ahmed Akhtar Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) who retired as Surgeon General of Pakistan Army. He has been extremely helpful and personally contributed a great deal in this book which has been acknowledged.

I would also like to mention about one personality covered in this book i.e. Prof. Eice Mohammad. One does not have to agree with him on everything and we all have our own shortcomings and weaknesses, and Prof. Eice Mohammad must have his own. But the remarkable struggle which he made and the movement which he led under the banner of Pakistan Doctors Organization for the improvement of working conditions of doctors deserve special mention. He had to suffer a lot and on my request he was kind enough to share the details of his struggle which is a part of this book.

Two other important medical personalities which I would also like to make a special mention are that of late Lt. Gen. W.A. Burki Federal Health Minister in President Gen. Ayub's Cabinet and late Prof. M. Ibrahim who later migrated to East Pakistan and established the world's biggest diabetic hospital and research center BIRDEM. This medical complex now includes a large number of State of the Art institutions. I had planned to include both of them in one of my earlier books, "Medical Men and Women of Pakistan" published in 1995 but I could not finalize those chapters in time.¹ Later those write-ups were included in one of my other books "Some More Ripples" published in 2010 but I have updated these chapters and decided to make them part of this compilation as well to appreciate and recognize their contributions.²

However, there is an important omission i.e. there are not many women physicians covered in this compilation. The reasons being not many of them occupied important positions, though some of them did contribute a great deal but they were a bit shy, did not bother to document whatever they did nor they were courageous enough to write their autobiographies, Dr. Unaiza Niaz a distinguished psychiatrist of Pakistan being one exception who has recently published her autobiography "I Lived My Life". I sincerely hope that some women physician

will come forward and document the contributions made by the female members of the medical profession to medical education, healthcare and research in Pakistan.

In the end I am extremely grateful to my very dear friend and a distinguished physician of Pakistan Prof. Ejaz Ahmad Vohra for accepting my request to write the Foreword for this book. He served as Consultant Physician at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital from its inception for many years, was later appointed Principal of Karachi Medical & Dental College from where he retired on May 1st, 1996. Currently he is affiliated with Ziauddin Medical University as Dean Clinical Medicine. I sincerely hope that the readers will enjoy the contents of this compilation as much as I have enjoyed compiling it.

REFERENCES

1. Medical Men and Women of Pakistan authored by Shaukat Ali Jawaaid and Dr. Maqbool H. Jafary. Published by Pakistan Medical Journalists Association, Karachi. Pakistan. 1995
2. Some More Ripples authored by Shaukat Ali Jawaaid. Published by Pakistan Medical Journalists Association, Karachi. Pakistan. September 2010. Page No. 331-369.

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