

Foreword

Mr. Shaukat Ali Jawaid has been variously described as conscience of the medical Profession; He has written many books, including collections of his incisive articles on health affairs including medical professionals writing nothing but truth. He can be named as Thucydides of medical profession His contribution to medical journalism are enormous; his other laurals include, scientific writing, medical ethics and promotion of orphan drugs.

His earlier collections of articles on Medical Men and Women of Pakistan has been followed up by further collections of articles on eminent medical professionals who dared to write their autobiography beside updating his earlier articles on General Wajid Ali Burki for formation of College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan which has resulted in meeting the needs of quality specialists with FCPS equivalent to other international postgraduate degrees. Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim for his contribution to diabetic care in Pakistan and subsequent migration to Bangladesh for creating BIRDEM (Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders) of international repute.

The autobiographies though subjective in nature still offer a panoramic view of development of medical care including subspecialties where some of them have been rightly described as pioneers. An endeavor in private medical education led to numerous such institutions in the country despite raising controversy. Some of the autobiographies sketches have described major national events in our country including vicissitude at the dawn of freedom and tragedy of separation of East Pakistan. These autobiographies are really inspiration for those in an early stage of their career how to overcome frustrations and crisis. Another autobiography describes the trials and tribulations for better future of young doctors. It

was fascinating to read the family traditions and descriptions of local culture. Some of them have also described intrigues and jealousy of colleagues and administrative problems with bureaucracy and politics.

Many of those covered in this book can be deservedly described as father of their chosen specialty. A good number of them belong to Army Medical Corps; it is a tribute to excellence of service and working conditions. In contrast doctors in civil institutions lack facilities and are financially dependent on private practice. It strengthens the view that whole time professors are needed with adequate compensation for medical education and care of the patients.

It was also a pleasant surprise to observe interest of the medical professionals in the humanities which is the basis of our caring and humanistic profession and it was a great pleasure as some of them were notable poets.

Inclusion of a solitary woman medical professional is heartening but underlies the fact that we need to not only increase their number but also in higher academic positions. The number of women medical professionals even in advanced countries is much less compared to men.

I commend the efforts of the author to bring this history of medical professionals both personal and their part in the progress of the profession. It is a pleasant reading, instructive, historical and strongly recommended for medical professionals to read them.

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