



**MANGALORE GORPAL KINI**

**1893-1952**

Dr Kini died on August 22, 1952, at his residence in Bombay. His sudden death at the age of fifty-nine years, while still in the full swing of work, came as a stunning blow to his large circle of friends and to the medical profession in Bombay.

Dr Kini was born at Mangalore in the South of India in 1893. Receiving his early education in Mangalore, he graduated in medicine with distinction in 1919 from the Madras Medical College. Circumstances forced him to accept an appointment in the Provincial Medical Service of Madras. He saw action in the Afghan War of 1919 and was awarded the Afghan War Military Cross for distinguished service. He subsequently worked as a teacher in surgery at the Madras Medical College till 1928. The same year he left India for purposes of higher study in the United Kingdom. He studied orthopaedics under Sir Robert Jones in the famous Liverpool School and visited the well known orthopaedic institutions on the Continent.

On his return to Madras in 1930 he organised the first orthopaedic department in the Madras General Hospital. In 1932 he was transferred to the Andhra University at Vizagapatam as professor of surgery, where he continued to develop his speciality. In 1941 he was brought back to Madras and appointed superintendent of the newly established Stanley Medical College, acting also as professor of surgery and orthopaedics. He held these posts till his retirement from service in 1948. Retirement having been forced on him at the age of fifty-five years, when he was really mature and capable of giving his best, he began to look around

for an opportunity to employ his talents in a suitable direction. He was offered high military rank and salary by the newly established Military Medical School in Poona, but he refused this post as his heart was set on orthopaedics. Instead, he accepted the invitation from Bombay to take charge of the institution started by Mrs Ismail and known as the Society for the Rehabilitation of Crippled Children. He soon became the moving spirit of the institution. His loss to Madras was a gain to Bombay. When the Society built a Children's Orthopaedic Hospital he was appointed its Director. He held this post with distinction until his death.

One particular feature of Dr Kini's work deserves special mention. He never accepted busy private practice and was thus able to devote sufficient time to the minute study of every case that came under his care. He kept detailed records of all his patients with photographs, photomicrographs and prints of radiographs upon which his numerous publications were based. In consideration of his published works he was awarded the Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons.

In 1947 he was president of the Association of the Surgeons of India of which he was a founder member. He was also president-elect for the current year for the Indian Chapter of the International College of Surgeons.

Dr Kini's work and worth cannot be judged by a mere enumeration of his academic attainments. Lack of funds is a great handicap to almost all surgeons in India who are attached to public hospitals, in their attempts to do research and original work. Dr Kini rose above these difficulties. He was indeed one of those rare individuals of whom it can be said in the words of Kipling that he did the work which lay under his nose with tools that lay under his hands.

R. N. C.