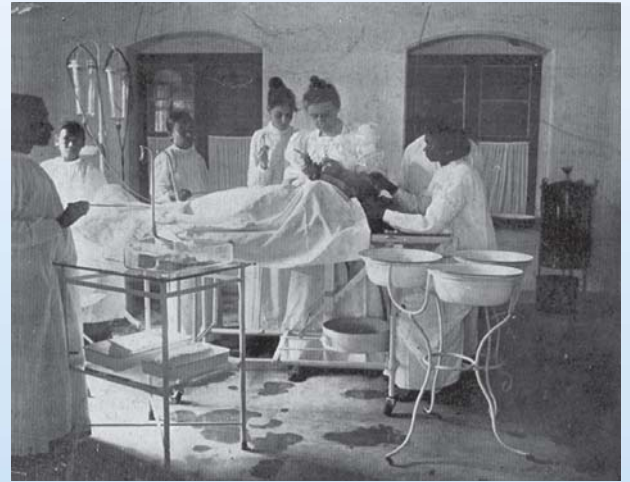


# Special Issue

Reflection on the Calendar 2020

March 02, 2020

Huddled heads steeped in concentration with skilled hands performing life-saving procedures- this historic photograph of Dr. Ida Scudder and team at the operating table has captured a typical working day. In 1902, when Dr. Ida began surgeries at the Mary Taber Schell Hospital, the first seeds for surgeries in CMC were sown.



Shown below are the list of surgeries performed by Dr. Ida in 1902.

Operations performed--In-patients.	Number of Operations.	Cured.	Relieved.	Otherwise.	Died.	Operations performed--In-patients.	Number of Operations.	Cured.	Relieved.	Otherwise.	Died.
Amputation of cervix .. .. .	5	3	2	..	..	Removal of Tumour .. .. .	2	2	..	..	..
"   of finger .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	"   of Goitre .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..
"   of thumb .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	"   of Nasal polypus .. .. .	4	3	1	..	..
Anterior Colporrhaphy .. .. .	2	2	..	..	..	"   of Urethral .. .. .	3	1	2	..	..
Circumcision .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	"   of Inferior Maxilla for cancer .. .. .	5	1	2	..	2
Curettement of bone .. .. .	4	..	2	1	1	"   of Superior Maxilla .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..
"   of cervix .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	"   of Vesical Calculus .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..
"   of eyelid .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	Repair of Vagina .. .. .	1	2	..	..	..
"   of uterus .. .. .	20	20	..	..	..	Scraping of Vagina .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..
"   or incomplete abortion .. .. .	13	13	..	..	..	Repair of Vesico vaginal fistula .. .. .	10	..	10	..	..
"   of vagina .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	Tonsillotomy .. .. .	3	3	..	..	..
Dilatation of cervix .. .. .	3	2	1	..	..	Trachelorrhaphy .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..
"   of Rectum .. .. .	3	..	3	..	..	Plaster splints .. .. .	7	..	7	..	..
"   of urethra .. .. .	5	..	5	..	..	Plastic for Penis and Scrotum .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..
"   of uterus and curettement .. .. .	30	30	..	..	..	Stretching of ankylosed limbs .. .. .	14	..	13	1	..
Enucleation of eye-ball .. .. .	2	..	1	..	1	Skin grafting .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..
Excision of external Hæmorrhoids .. .. .	2	1	1	..	..	Injection into broad ligament .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..
Extraction of teeth .. .. .	3	3	..	..	..	<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
Evacuation of Pelvic abscess .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Maternity cases 151 In. } 180	..	..	..	..	..
Imperforate Hymen .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	29 Out. } ..	..	..	..	..	..
Incision of abscess .. .. .	47	25	20	..	2	Normal cases 54 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
"   of heel .. .. .	2	1	1	..	..	Amputation of arm and podalic version .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
"   "   vulvo vaginal abscess .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..	Caesarian section .. .. .	1	..	..	..	1
"   "   cellulites .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	Craniotomy .. .. .	1	..	1	..	..
"   "   pelvic inflammation .. .. .	11	4	7	..	..	Decapitation and amputation of arm .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..
"   for Tongue tie .. .. .	5	5	..	..	..	Evisceration .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Laparotomy for extra uterine pregnancy .. .. .	2	1	1	..	..	High forceps .. .. .	18	18	..	..	..
Explorating Laparotomy .. .. .	6	2	2	..	2	Low .. .. .	34	30	..	..	4
Ovariotomy .. .. .	3	1	1	..	1	Manual extract of Membranes .. .. .	2	2	..	..	..
Paracentesis Abdominalis .. .. .	7	2	5	..	..	"   of Placenti .. .. .	25	25	..	..	4
Perincorrhaphy .. .. .	3	3	..	..	..	"   Rupture of membranes .. .. .	15	15	..	..	..
Reduction of old colles fracture .. .. .	3	2	..	..	..	Perforation and decapitation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
"   of old Fracture of Humerus .. .. .	1	..	..	..	1	"   and extraction .. .. .	4	..	..	..	..
Removal of adenoid tissue out of throat .. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	Podalic Version .. .. .	6	4	..	..	2
"   of Carcinoma of breast .. .. .	5	1	4	..	..	Vesion and decapitation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..
"   of Elephantiasis of breast .. .. .	2	1	1	..	..	Dilatation .. .. .	7	..	..	..	..
"   of Elephantiasis of Vulva .. .. .	8	2	6	..	..	Curettements .. .. .	12	..	..	..	..

List of surgeries, 1906: An admirably equipped and excellently administered hospital.  
The Surgeon General, Madras Presidency, Visitors' Book, 17 November 1910.

The expansion and growth ever since has been colossal which culminated in the evolution of surgical services. Thus a historic milestone came forth with Dr. Ida as the head and the first lecturer. She was assisted by Dr. Jessie Findlay, assistant professor in surgery. As the medical college began expanding, more facilities were required and male staff had to be appointed to cater to the needs of the male patients. The doors were then opened to Dr. Norman S. Macpherson (1944), Dr. John S. Carman (1945), Dr. Paul W. Brand (1946) and Dr. T. Howard Somervell (1948).

**The timeline given below is a brief glimpse of the major spurts of development in this area :**

1924: Department of General Surgery moved to the newly built hospital (Cole Dispensary) at Thottapalayam, Vellore.

1928: Weyerhaeuser Surgical block (with operation theatre complex and in- patient wards)

1944: Surgical outpatient and inpatient facilities for men

1947: Surgical Wards A, B & H established

1948: Department of General Surgery divided into three units, each with a specialty (Urology / Orthopedics / Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)

1948: Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery under the umbrella of Department of Surgery

1949: Department of Neurosurgery and Neurology

1950: Independent Departments of Cardiothoracic surgery and Neurosurgery

1950: Postgraduate training in General Surgery

1957: Department of Orthopedics and Hand and Leprosy Reconstructive Surgery.

1960: The specialty of Paediatric Surgery identified within the Department of General Surgery

1963: Department of Urology.

1967: Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

1970: The specialty of Peripheral Vascular Surgery identified within the Department of General Surgery.

1971: First Renal Transplant

1974: New Operation Theatre Complex.

1977: Department of Paediatric Surgery.

1988: Peripheral Vascular Laboratory

1989: Surgical Intensive Care Unit. (SICU)

1992: Laparoscopic Surgery.

1999: Esophageal motility laboratory

1999: Liver transplantation. (Cadaver donor)

2005: Live donor liver transplant.



Many more complications have been resolved and lives changed owing to advancements in technology. With renewed and upgraded skills, the scalpels continue to be wielded with the same fervour and commitment which began with Dr. Ida.

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