PREFACE

The story of Medicine and its Education so ancient and enormous in its implications embracing a span of many centuries and to present it within the few pages is truly a herculean task. It deals with a multitude of men, ideas, situations and events, apparently unrelated and yet independent. Medical Profession is one of the oldest and the most respected one in our country. Medical Education is concerned with the teaching of Medicine for the restoration and preservation of health and cure, alleviation and prevention of diseases. Such knowledge of treatment is based on many systems of Medicine both Indigenous and Western viz., Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Allopathy, Homoeopathy etc. The art of healing is therefore rightly considered by many as the oldest profession in the world, a profession born out of dire necessity.

The subject of Medical Education is one of increasing and dynamic interest not only to the practitioners of the healing art but also to those, even remotely interested in the subject. However, the History of Medical Education in India and more particularly History of Medical Education in Tamil Nadu has remained an almost neglected subject of study.

As a student of History, I have made an earnest and humble attempt in this thesis to trace the growth of the Medical Education in Tamil Nadu from 1835-1990. The object of this thesis is to present quite simply and without any pretence at exhaustiveness, a short history or story of Medical Education as it grew, developed and survived in India and more particularly in Tamil Nadu.
I have very great pleasure in registering my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. C.E. Ramachandran, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D., Professor and Head (Retd), Department of Indian History, University of Madras, for his most inspiring guidance and invaluable advice. In fact without his most willing co-operation and active involvement, it would not have been possible for me to complete the humble task. Any words of formal acknowledgement for all his help on my part would hardly be adequate.

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I am much beholden to the authorities of the University of Madras for giving me the opportunity to work in Department of Indian History on the subject of my choice.
I am grateful to the Commissioner and Secretary, Tamil Nadu Archives, the Librarian, Madras University Library and the Librarian, Connemara Public Library, for permitting me to consult the records and books in their institutions.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not acknowledge the encouragement, I received at home and from my friends while working on the theme. I am highly grateful to God Almighty for having given me strength to withstand all hardships and complete the thesis.