

## KADAMBINI GANGULY – AN ILLUSTRIOUS LADY

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*Kadambini Ganguly (née Bose) is one of the first two female graduates of the British Empire. She also seems to be the first native female practitioner of western medicine in India. Kadambini was born on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1861 in Bhagalpore (Bihar, India) in a Brahmo family. She had her school education in Dacca and Calcutta and graduated from the University of Calcutta in 1882. In 1883 she married her teacher and mentor, Dwarakanath Ganguly, a 39-year old widower with three children. Kadambini got admission in Calcutta Medical College in 1884. Unfortunately she could not get through the MB examination in 1888 as she was failed in one paper. However, the Principal of the College awarded her the diploma called Graduate of Medical College of Bengal (GMCB) which enabled her to do private practice. During 1888-1893, despite a good job in a hospital she realized that she was being looked down upon by the British lady doctors as she was not having the MB degree. In 1893 she headed for England and completed her triple diplomas (LRCP, LRCS, LEPS) . Her professional life of more than 30 years in a conservative Hindu Society at times met with dishonor and contempt. Still she went ahead keeping her head high as a completely dedicated professional till the last day of her life ( 3rd October 1923).*

**Keywords** - Kadambini Ganguly; Women medical practitioner, India -19th century; Medical practice - India- 19th century; Dwarakanath Ganguly; Women's empowerment - 19th century, Bengal. Women's emancipation movement - 19th century, Bengal.

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