

## **Pandit G.P. Wickramarachchi**

### **The Founder of Gampaha Siddhayurvedic Medical College**

Ayurveda Cakrawarti Pandit G.P. Wickramarachchi, the 20th century distinguished eminent Ayurvedic Physician, the Founder of Gampaha Siddhayurveda Vidyalaya (Present Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute of University of Kelaniya), was born on 26th September 1889 in a reputed family of great physician.

He obtained the Degree of Pandit from Vidyodaya Pirivena at Maligakanda under the guidance of Venarable Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Maha Nayaka Thero, one of the greatest scholars of the country during the period of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further, he continued his medical training under his father, the distinguished Ayurvedic Physician of the country.

In 1917 he entered to the Ashtanga Ayurveda College of Calcutta, continued his medical education under the great Kaviraj Jamini Bhusana Roy, the renowned scholar of Ayurveda in India. He obtained his degree of LAMS (Hons) from Ashtanga Ayurveda College of Calcutta in 1920 and the degree of Kaviranjana from Kaliya Ayurveda Bavan in 1921.

He started his professional career at Gampaha and became the most brilliant Ayurvedic Physician of the country. He was the consultant physician for Tuberculosis at the time and also extended his clinical studies on Skin Diseases. His inestimable contribution for the development of Ayurveda was the establishment of Gampaha Siddhayurvedic Medical College in 1929. Pandit G.P. Wickramarachchi, Father of the Revived Ayurveda, granted excellent service to the society by training medical students.

He, one of the best writers of the day, was the Editor of Singhala Baudhdhaya and his contribution for Journals, Magazines and Newspapers was enormous. He published critical explanations on certain skin diseases in his "Raktaroga Samgraha". He was the Editor of Samacara, the Journal of Sri Lanka Siddhayurvedic Medical College.

The Government of Ceylon in 1957 nominated him as a member of the Council of Senate, in appreciating his services. Considering his professional career, the Vidyodaya University of Ceylon granted him the Degree of Ayurveda Cakravarti in 1960 and later on he was the Dean of the Faculty of Science of Vidyodaya University. He extended his service for 46 years in the Gampaha Siddhayurvedic Medical College until 1975.