

**"To Save Life and Spread the True Light":
The Hackett Medical College for Women in China (1899-1936)**

PANG Suk Man

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ABSTRACT

Protestant missionaries who came to evangelize China during the early nineteenth century faced many difficulties. Nevertheless, their revolutionary influence and contributions included the introduction of western education as well as medical training programs. American medical missionaries advanced medical training programs to China in the early decades of the century. This was at first undertaken in the Ophthalmic Hospital, the first Christian hospital founded in Guangzhou, by Dr. Peter Parker (1803-1888). Parker's medical training program was followed by one instituted by Dr. John Glasgow Kerr (1824-1901) during the mid-nineteenth century.

However, during the early twentieth century, the training of women physicians in China was almost entirely dependent on overseas studies under the sponsorship of Protestant missionaries. Similarly, the first women's medical college in China was also a medical institution established by American missionaries. In 1899, Dr. Mary Hannah Fulton (1854-1927) established the Kwangtung Medical School for Women in Guangzhou under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (North). With the generosity of Mr. E. A. K. Hackett, an American living in Indiana, the medical school was expanded to be the Hackett Medical College for Women in 1905.

Struggling with the tides of Chinese nationalism in the early decades of the twentieth century, the Hackett Medical Center was registered and put under the control of the Chinese government by the end of 1932. Finally, the medical center affiliated with the Canton Hospital and Lingnan University to form the Sun Yat-sen Medical College on 1 July 1936.

Together with the establishment of the David Gregg Hospital for Women and Children and the Julia Mather Turner Training School for Nurses in 1902, the Hackett Medical College for Women started the training of Chinese women in the field of western medicine. Thus, the medical college aimed at training the women to heal their own people, both physically and spiritually.

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