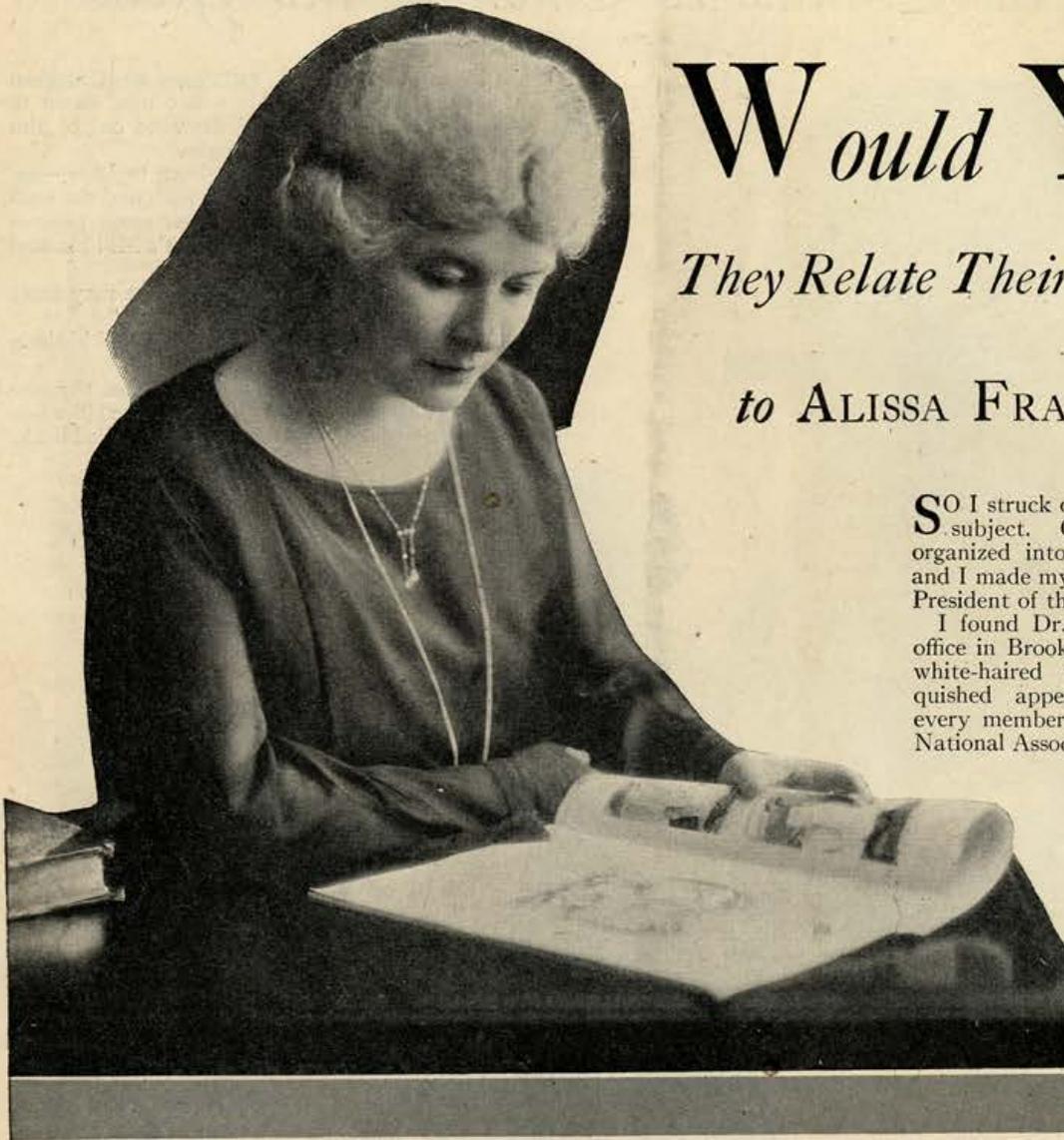


What Chance Has a Woman Physician?

Would YOU

They Relate Their Experiences

to ALISSA FRANC KEIR



DR. ESTHER LOVEJOY—Chairman in Entire Charge of All American Women's Hospitals—Both at Home and Abroad

SO I struck directly at the heart of the subject. Our women doctors are organized into a national association—and I made my first call on the Honorary President of this organization.

I found Dr. Eliza M. Mosher in her office in Brooklyn, New York; a kindly white-haired woman, of most distinguished appearance and beloved by every member of the Medical Women's National Association.

"Women today are practicing medicine on the same basis as men," she informed me. "Against great obstacles and deep-seated prejudice, they have proved themselves to be physicians—natural physicians—great and kind physicians."

"It has been a hard, bitter fight—but we have won out. Even the men acknowledge it today.

They are our best friends.

"What the first women doctors were forced to face in opposition is almost



o women make good physicians? Is the prejudice against women doctors dying out? What chance has a woman in the medical profession?

Having cross-examined the women lawyers for SUCCESS readers, I was ordered to quarantine the women doctors, lead them into a clinic and put them under the x-ray.

"Let's find out just what's in the heart of a woman physician—where and how did she acquire it—and what it is doing to her. Make a complete diagnosis of her case—and report the results as you find them," my instructions read.

I took my hypodermic pen and started out. And I have been going ever since—day and night. There are 161,000 physicians in the United States, and more than 6,000 of them are women. It would take a life time to call upon them all. Back of them there are more women, 200,000 women nurses also giving their lives to the healing of the sick but that is another story.

THE FIRST WOMAN IN THE UNITED STATES to study medicine was Elizabeth Blackwell (left) who won her diploma just 75 years ago—Emily Blackwell (right) followed her sister into the profession and together they founded the First Women's Hospital



Call a WOMAN DOCTOR?

beyond belief. Many of them—practically all of these pioneers—have been my warm personal friends. They have told me their experiences. What wonderful women they are—true soldiers on the battleground of woman's progress.

WHO was the first woman to receive a medical education in the United States? It was Elizabeth Blackwell. How well I remember her. It was just seventy-five years ago that she received her diploma. She had a sister, Emily Blackwell, who became a physician a few years later.

"Elizabeth Blackwell wrote to several physicians, friends of her family, asking if it would be possible for a woman to obtain a medical education in this country. Their replies were almost identical: It was a fine idea, but impossible of accomplishment. *Medical institutions did not want women students!* It was unheard of; it was 'unwomanly,' and women were not considered sufficiently intelligent to be doctors.

"Finally she found a small medical college in Geneva, New York, willing to receive a woman student, but she was engulfed by prejudice, not only on the part of the faculty and students, but of the townspeople as well. By her scholarship, her innate womanliness and modesty she won the respect of all of these, and an honorable place at graduation."

Dr. Mosher paused. No doubt her mind was going forward over the years that had followed.

Today there are more than 6,000 women doctors, many holding high places in every branch of the medical profession in this country.

With fifty years of successful practice to her own credit, I wonder if Dr. Mosher would confess to the seventy-eight years which hardly show in the firm, yet kindly face, and the energetic body still so splendidly capable of weathering a doctor's hard existence. She quoted from Lowell:

"Count me o'er life's chosen heroes.—
they were souls that stood alone,
Stood serene, and down the future
saw the golden beam incline
To the side of perfect justice, mastered
by their faith divine."

"Do you know?" said Dr. Mosher, "that when Elizabeth Blackwell began practice it was impossible for her to find a boarding house in New York City in

which to live, a woman M.D. being considered an 'immoral' character. Think of it! None of them would take her!

"She finally obtained a small room in a poor quarter near Tompkins Square, where she and her sister opened their dispensary.

THEN she rented a house at 64 Bleecker Street, which was fitted up as a hospital. This institution, opened in May, 1857, was the very modest beginning of the 'New York Infirmary for Women and Children,' which is doing such important work today.

"To it belongs the lasting honor of being the first hospital in the country dedicated to the service of women and children by physicians of their own sex, the first to form a center of work for women physicians, and give proper instruction to women medical students. This hospital has to this day weathered



DR. KATHERINE MANION—She has recently been elected President of the National Medical Women's Association

male invasion, and has resisted all temptation to take men on its staff.

ALL the heads of the departments are women, although the hospital has a consulting staff of important medical men who have the privilege of sending their patients to private rooms. The Infirmary is a great boon to the poor of the East Side of New York, having not only a free internal service, but an external service for those unable to afford medical care.

"It is under the direction of Dr. Annie S. Daniels, who for forty years has given her entire time and strength to Tenement House work.

"I must not forget to mention Marie Zakrzewska," Dr. Mosher went on. Her life story, *A Woman's Quest*, has just recently been published—a fascinating volume. "She was a young German girl who wished to study medicine in this country. Dr. Blackwell became interested in her story, and she assisted in the opening of the Infirmary for Women, of which she was made a resident physician. Later with a few friends she

SHE KEEPS HER CITY CLEAN—Dr. Eliza Mosher, a Pioneer Woman Physician with Fifty Years' Practice



Would You Call a Woman Doctor?

opened a hospital of ten beds, which became the New England Hospital for Women and Children. This hospital, so modestly begun, *established the first training school for Nurses in the United States* and is now a great foundation, where hundreds of young women graduates in medicine have received their bedside training.

THEN there was Dr. Ann Preston. When she was thirty-seven years old, she heard of the proposed opening of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was on hand for the opening and was one of forty students who graduated at its first annual commencement. Later she was made Dean of the College. She helped establish a hospital for women and children and was behind every advance it made.

"I remember," laughed Dr. Mosher, "that the opposition on the part of men in the medical profession was specially bitter in Philadelphia, the medical center of America, and they fought aggressively what they believed to be the lowering of standards which women's entrance into the profession would entail.

"Women were distinguishing themselves in almost every field of mental endeavor, yet all the Curies, the Bonheurs, the Hetty Greens—representing science, art and finance—could not persuade reactionaries that a woman had the brains to be a physician or surgeon.

"It is too bad that Dr. Preston was not alive to see, only four years after her death, Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, the



CALORIES ARE AN OPEN SECRET to Dr. Lulu Hunt Peters—Who Tells the World in Simple Style all about Diet

A LARGE PRACTICE—A HUSBAND AND A HOUSE are not too big a job for this able woman Dr. Wilhelmina Ragland who has studied in Vienna



first woman physician to be sent as a delegate by the Medical Society of the State of Illinois to the Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association in Philadelphia. It has always seemed a bit of poetic justice that a woman should have been sent there.

ONE of the first, if not *the* first, woman resident physicians in a hospital, was Mary Thompson, one of our pioneer medical women. The Mary Thompson Hospital in Chicago was named after her. It stands as a monument to her name.

"I was one of those privileged to attend the lectures of Mary Putnam Jacobi, one of the most able and versatile of women physicians. In addition to her professorship at the Col-

lege, and her large and successful practice she wielded a pen that made known to the medical world the fact that women are competent to study, practice, and teach medicine.

"It seems hard to believe that so many prejudices could have existed, and in some quarters still exist, against the woman in medicine.

"Dr. Cleora A. Seaman, grandmother of Dr. William Bainbridge, distinguished surgeon and commander in the Navy, told of a minister of the Gospel saying to her, 'I refuse to see any woman who has so far unsexed herself as to study medicine.' It was immodest, unfeminine, unwomanly, quite distasteful! These were the arguments of the 'Age of Innocence,' the prudish Victorian era. These scruples were abandoned by the abandoned generation that followed, and to show you how things change, today there are women who will not go to a *man* doctor for the same 'modest' reasons.

"Strangely enough I have never had to struggle." At last I had persuaded Dr. Mosher to talk of herself! "I was born in New York State in the country. My father was a prosperous farmer. I early made up my mind to be a doctor and was graduated in medicine from the University of Michigan in 1875.

"During my college days I was appointed Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy to the women's class, and quiz master for the freshman class. I studied one year at the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, in addition to which I spent three months in the clinics of New York, and later a year of study in London and Paris.



DR. RUTH PARMALEE HOLDS Some of the 962 Babies Born during Two Years at the Salonica Hospital

"I have been resident physician of Vassar College and of the New England Hospital for Women and Children. I have given lectures on Hygiene at Wellesley, Mt. Holyoke and Adelphi Colleges, and I have been in practice for fifty years. It does not seem so long.

"My work has always come to me without my even asking for it. Two years after graduation, I was appointed physician to the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women. I did all the work for the 500 inmates there, down to pulling teeth, and my assistant succeeded me

DR. OLGA STASNY Governed a Bare Island of over 12,000 Plague-Stricken Refugees at the time of the World War



when I went to Europe to study. Immediately on my return the Governor of Massachusetts insisted on my going back to the Reformatory to reorganize it as Superintendent.

"I am very proud of the fact that later for six years I was Dean of Women, Superintendent of Physical Education of Women, and Professor of Hygiene in the University of Michigan, which had never before had a woman professor.

"My whole heart is in my latest job,

DR. SARAH FOULKS heads Hospitals in Greece—Here she is photographed on the ruins at the Aesculapius Temple

to which I have been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of Brooklyn, namely that of keeping the city clean. 'Keep Brooklyn clean by not making it dirty' is our slogan. I decided that this was a job for women, and I have divided the city into zones, each under the direct supervision of a woman who is responsible for that particular district in person, having the authority to persuade each offending householder to mend his or her untidy ways. *Already 20,000 children in public schools have become members of the Cleaner Brooklyn Club. They are all enthusiasts.*

"No, I have never married. I am married to my profession only. But some of our very best women doctors are married, a great many of them to physicians. A number of these were able to take up their husbands' practice during the war.

"**T**HERE is no sex question about medicine. And no reason why women should specialize in obstetrics and pediatrics. There are a great number of women, such as Dr. Sarah McNutt, Dr. Emily Coolidge, Dr. Josephine Baker, and Dr. Laura Riegelman, doing especially fine work for children, but the fact that they are women is no special ground for having taken up this work.

"Do women make good surgeons? Comparatively few devote themselves to surgery, but those who are surgeons are exceedingly good ones. For instance: Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen, of Chicago, is able to perform several major operations a day, and she puts into the most difficult piece of surgery the same grace, delicacy and skill as the lady of leisure puts into intricate embroidery.

"Dr. Van Hoosen was the first President of the Women's National Association when it was organized in 1915. We decided it was time for medical women to band together and stand shoulder to shoulder.



DR. MARY CRAWFORD, Chief Physician for a Bank of 2500 employees, also has a Home, a Family, and a Practice

"People still ask me whether I consider that women have the physical endurance to practice medicine. I tell them if women have the strength to bear and rear nine children, they certainly have.

"The prejudice against women doctors is dying out entirely. Most of the big hospitals now take women doctors. Bellevue, New York, one of the biggest hospitals in the world, I believe, has twenty women internes. As a matter of fact, I personally think that women get into practice quicker than men, for there are



Would You Call a Woman Doctor?

comparatively few of them, and a great many people are beginning to choose women as doctors.

"It is a pity that the cost for the study of medicine is so high that it makes it almost prohibitive for women dependent on their own efforts. There are constant demands from colleges, hospitals, laboratories, state institutions, industrial plants, mission fields, cities and country districts, so that a great number of women could easily be placed annually in successful and valuable careers.

"**M**EDICAL women run an important magazine in *The Medical Woman's Journal*, a monthly record of the work of medical women throughout the world. It was through the unflinching faith of Margaret Hackedorn Rockhill that this journal was founded twenty years ago. For many years Mrs. Rockhill paid every cent of its expenses, and it would not exist today but for her sacrifices."

My quest of women physicians led me into many fields after I left Dr. Mosher. It is impossible to tell you all my experiences. One of the most interesting women I found is Dr. Katherine C. Manion of Port Huron, Michigan, President of the Medical Women's National Association, who is doing important work in the field of preventive medicine.

After years of a large private practice



DR. MARTH TRACY—Dean of the Oldest Medical College for Women in This Country—established in Philadelphia

in Portland, Oregon, she accepted the position of medical examiner for the great "Woman's Benefit Association" with a membership of over 270,000, and headquarters in their million-dollar building in Port Huron, Michigan.

After leaving Dr. Manion I went down to Middletown, Conn., to see Dr. Kate Campbell Mead, last year's President of the Medical Women's National Association. Dr. Mead has some extremely interesting views on the qualities peculiarly necessary to the work of women doctors.

"Personally, I have always liked the work of women doctors, surgeons, and obstetricians," she said thoughtfully. "I like the thoroughness with which women investigate and diagnose disease. I like their discrimination in choosing palatable medicines, and their care in the little details of diet and creature comforts. I like the gentle touch of a woman, and her manipulations of a patient, and I admire the skill of the women anaesthetists and operators. They seldom descend to routine measures. If they lecture, they do not as a rule talk down to their hearers after the manner of some men.

"Therefore, I hope to see women doctors and physicians

as superintendents in hospitals, positions now often held by nurses, because women have often been recognized as natural heads of institutions. I hope the supply of medical women will soon equal the demand for their services on boards of health. There should be no difference in the status of women in any part of our country. In my little state of Connecticut, medical women have held all the important offices in the state and county medical societies except that of President, and they are invariably treated like good fellows by the men doctors whose society was founded more than one hundred years ago. Whatever we ask is granted us, though so far we have been modest in our demands."

ON the seemingly still existing question of men versus women in medicine, Dr. Mead says:

"It cannot be denied that the problems of peace are as great as those of war, and though medical women had an important place in war work, it was only because *they made the place for themselves*, not because the men in the army and navy instinctively recognized their ability or fitness for heroic deeds. In the same way, we are showing ourselves capable of great deeds in days of peace. Take the problems of the Committee of Public Health, of the League of Nations, for example. They are problems of medical women the world over: also the White Slave traffic, the opium question, the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, the maternity bills, legislation for the welfare of women and children, and all questions relating to the protection of the unthinking public from quack doctors, fake healers, and imposters of all sorts.

"Men take up these reforms in one way, and women in another. Neither is perhaps wholly capable of completing the business alone; and therefore *what is offered by medical women in large and competent groups will be accepted*, although



DR. ELIZABETH BASS (Left) is Professor at Tulane University — **DR. MARY MACLACHLAN** (Right) is Senior Assistant, Women's Service, at the Manhattan State Hospital in New York



perhaps with as much surprise as was shown when medical women opened hospitals, and did hard medical work during the War."

I MET many great medical women, held in high regard by their colleagues: There is Dr. Elizabeth B. Thelberg, Resident Physician and Professor of Physiology and Hygiene at Vassar, and a member of the Advisory Board of the U. S. A. Public Health service. Dr. Martha Tracy, Dean of the Pennsylvania Women's Medical College, one of the oldest existing medical colleges for women in the country, is another.

One of the women chosen by ballot as the "twelve greatest" in a well-known magazine is Dr. Florence Rena Sabin, of Johns Hopkins University, born in Central City, Colorado. Dr. Sabin has become famous through her extraordinary knowledge about the lymph and blood vessels of the body.



SHE HELPED THE SOVIET Government in its Mother and Child Departments—Dr. Elfie Graff, in Russia

It would be difficult to surpass the high standard achieved in New York City by Dr. Josephine Baker during her long administration of child hygiene.

Another woman physician who has an extensive practice in New York City, as well as a long war record, is Dr. Rosalie Slaughter Morton. Dr. Morton was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, educated in private schools, graduated from the Woman's Medical College in Pennsylvania, winning two out of the three honors open to the graduating class. She afterwards studied tropical diseases and native hospitals in India, Ceylon, China and Japan and South America.

She founded the International Serbian Educational Committee, under which sixty Serbian students are being educated in American colleges from Vermont to Texas, from Massachusetts to California.

There are women doctors who manage to attend successfully to several more duties than a man in the same position would have to shoulder. Dr. Wilhelmina Ragland is one of these. Besides care for



WOMEN'S WARD AT LUZANCY, France—Showing Dr. M. Louise Hurrell and Dr. Inez C. Bentley in Charge

husband, house, extensive private practice, and her hospital work at the New York Infirmary, Dr. Ragland has an industrial medical job with one of our biggest department stores, and its 1700 employees. She is one of the most beautiful women I have known, and so serenely unconscious of her beauty! She specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, is a graduate of several celebrated colleges, besides studying a year in Vienna.

"Many people can only be approached in terms of money," Dr. Ragland told me once, "and I think that modern industrial medicine will be especially beneficial to those parents, who should realize that their children ought to have fine physiques in order to hold a good job."

We were talking of her obstetrical work at the New York Infirmary: "My practice there is among a very distinctive class of foreign-born women, who would receive little or no care at the birth of their children, if it were not for the women doctors. They are accustomed to midwives in their own country, and would neither go to a man doctor of their own accord, nor be allowed to do so by their husbands."

PURSUING still further the woman in medicine, I spent a pleasant afternoon with Dr. Esther Lovejoy, a petite person who is executive chairman of American Women's Hospitals, with all its foreign branches, and one of the busiest people in New York. Dr. Lovejoy's young, smiling face is encircled with snow-white hair. Her personal history has been unusual and romantic, crowded with service.

She was born in the state of Washington, in the wildest part of the woods, in a district where no roads had been built, and was educated at home. However, she was easily

DR. ETTA GRAY, SURGEON in Charge of the Women's Serbian Hospital Work for more than two years

able to gain admittance to medical colleges. Her parents were English, her father a journalist. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 1894 and was the second woman to graduate from the Medical Department of that University. She married a physician and with her young husband and brother, modern pioneers all, went to Alaska during the
(Continued on page 126)



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BRIAN M. CASEY, Greenville, Illinois

Would You Call a Woman Doctor?

(Continued from page 85)

Klondike rush. An epidemic of meningitis broke out on the Klondike trail and practically her first work in medicine was running a hospital for the care of young men stricken with this disease. Her husband and brother both lost their lives in Alaska.

After a post-graduate course in Vienna, she was appointed head of the Health Department of the city of Portland, Oregon, with full charge of the different branches of that service. Later she joined a group of physicians and practised in Portland until the United States entered the World War.

During the War she served with the Red Cross at home and abroad, and in 1919 she was appointed Head of the American Women's Hospitals service. She was President of the Medical Women's International Association for five years, being succeeded by Lady Florence Barrett, of London, and has been given the Legion of Honor by France, and the War Cross and Gold Cross of St. George by Greece, as well as its highest order, the Gold Cross of the Redeemer. She is the author of "The House of the Good Neighbor"—a story of the effect of warfare on women and children, and is one of the most gifted speakers among women of the present day.

She told me of some of the humanitarian work done by the American Women's Hospitals all over the world. "This is the first war in which women doctors have served and for almost seven years it has been the duty of this organization to follow the wake of the war, relieving suffering. In France, three hospitals with central and outlying dispensaries, ambulance and dental service, were conducted in the war zone for two years. This includes medical work for the Wellesley and Smith college units, and the entire medical and hospital service for the American Committee of Devastated France.

"The first work of the American Women's Hospitals at Serbia was at Monister," she went on, "where a hospital conducted in cooperation with the Red Cross, was known far and wide as the 'styleless hospital of the Balkans.' Oh yes, women doctors played as large a part in the war as did Florence Nightingale with her nursing in the Crimean War. A large hospital and medical service was started in southern Serbia in 1919 and was developed to a most important post under the leadership of Dr. Etta Gray of Los Angeles, Cal.

"In Russia, our work is done in cooperation with the American Friends' Service Committee.

"Nine women physicians were equipped by the American Women's Hospitals for service with the Near East Relief in Turkey and Armenia in 1919. Two of these women, Dr. Elsie Mitchell, and Dr. Clara Williams, started the American medical work at Erivan under the shadow of Mt. Ararat. We did wonderful work in Asia Minor, in cooperation with the Near East Relief, and when the city of Ismed was taken by Mustapha Kemal in 1921,

we were running a hospital for eighty beds, where the sick and injured were cared for, regardless of nationality. This hospital was conducted for a year after the Turkish occupation.

"The entire medical work for the Caucasus was financed and directed by the American Women's Hospital. There were general hospitals for children, isolation pavilions for typhus, smallpox, and other contagious diseases, also camps for tuberculosis, and special hospitals for eye diseases, including the Trachoma Hospital for 2,600 beds in the city of Alexandarapol. In September, that year, all our plans in the Near East were suddenly changed by the burning of Smyrna and the flight of the Christian population from Anatolia. Over a million unfortunate people were sent to Greece. Most of the American medical work done by Americans for the relief of these refugees has been carried on by our organization. We have conducted thirty-three hospitals in Greek territory (including hospitals for the American orphans brought to Greece by the Near East Relief). In addition to these hospitals, we have conducted central and outlying dispensaries, eye clinics, medical service refugee camps, and a large central pharmacy in Athens, from which all our hospitals and dispensaries have been furnished with medical supplies. Today we are running a motor medical service in Greece and helping to support the largest hospital in Constantinople, where refugees, Russian, Greek, and Armenian, are received. During the coldest months of this winter, we expect to distribute food and clothing in Macedonia. Our organization serves the sick, naked, and hungry, regardless of age, creed or nationality. Most of the patients are women and children.

"Do let me tell you of some of our wonderful women." Dr. Lovejoy was enthusiastic. "For six months last year we conducted a quarantine station and hospital for pestilential diseases on Marconissi Island, where pest ships from the Black Sea ports discharge their human cargoes. This service was nothing less than heroic. In complete charge of this island was Dr. Olga Stasny. Dr. Stasny gave up a large practice in Omaha, Nebraska, to serve with the American Women's Hospitals in France. Called to Greece, she remained on this entirely barren island of Marconissi without a tree, looking after 12,000 terror-stricken refugees, some victims of typhus and smallpox. She was the only American, and her staff consisted of native doctors and nurses, and other personnel, in addition to 250 Greek soldiers assigned to her by the government to keep order.

"Dr. Stasny reigned supreme night and day, 'monarch of all she surveyed.' She is a handsome woman six feet tall, and it needed her imposing personality to govern and organize her tragic community.

"Dr. Sarah Foulks is at the head of our work in southeastern Europe. She comes from Davenport, Iowa. She was equipped by the American Women's Hospitals, served with the Red Cross for two years, returning to her home town

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A Woman Doctor

in a hospital position. Later there came a call to help the Anatolian refugees. She went to Greece, where she has served for the last two years.

"Dr. Ruth Parmalee is head of the American Women's Hospital in Salonica, Greece. Dr. Parmalee was born at Trebizond, Turkey, of missionary parents. She spoke all the dialects of Southern Europe. She was educated in this country, and returned to Turkey to carry on the work. Dr. Parmalee is connected with the American Board of Foreign Missions, but we finance the entire medical service, of which she is the head, including the large hospital at Salonica, where 962 babies have been born, during the last two years. Dr. Parmalee is herself a refugee, although an American citizen, and was deported from Turkey by order of the Turkish government. Her presence in Salonica has been a special blessing to expectant refugee mothers. She has taken them in and cared for them, and was oftimes the only person to give them food at the time of their greatest need.

"Dr. Elfie Graff is head of the American Women's Hospital Service in Russia, where she cooperates with the Quaker mission, working with the Russian doctor who is at the head of the Department of Motherhood and Childhood of the Soviet Government, three days east of Moscow. She is a small figure, slight, blue-eyed, and blond, with a mouth expressive of sweetness, but also of infinite determination. She assisted Dr. Thelberg at Vassar, giving up her happy, successful job there to answer the call of the destitute and suffering.

"Dr. Etta Gray is a woman of great executive ability, and a very able surgeon. She hails from Los Angeles, where she gave up an important private practice, to which she has since returned, to accept a position as head of the American Women's Hospitals work in Serbia. There she operated from early morning to afternoon. She was the only surgeon in a large district, and all kinds of major surgery was brought to her. She adopted a little Serbian orphan left on her doorstep.

"In all our hospitals, we have American doctors at the head, but we use the services of native doctors as much as possible as assistants. It keeps these men who almost find it impossible to make a living, out of the bread line; and costs a very small sum in American money to support them and their families, in comparison to what it would cost an American family."

Dr. Lovejoy has entire charge of the organization of American Women's Hospitals and her duties are many. "My main duty is to be chief beggar. We have already collected about \$2,000,000 in the last six years," she concluded.

I recalled the work of Dr. Mabel Elliott, who went through four terrible sieges in the Near-East as representative of the American Women's Hospitals, in charge of the medical work successively at Marsh, Ismid, Armenia and Smyrna.

Dr. Grace N. Kimball, President of the
 (Continued on page 128)



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Would You Call a Woman Doctor?

(Continued from page 127)

Medical Women's Association in 1922, called Dr. Elliott "a second Florence Nightingale, an honor to the Association, and a woman with an unequalled record of humanitarian work."

When the Greek occupation at Ismid, south of Constantinople, yielded to the Turks, under fire she calmly carried on with the hospital and general medical relief, sending her young Christian nurses out to safety as quietly and rapidly as possible, while continuing the work of mercy under the Moslems.

Impressed with the record of the American woman doctor in world service, I turned my steps towards another field for her efforts. "The Woman Doctor in Industry?"

"Dr. Mary Crawford, of New York City, one of the most popular women in the profession, "and head of the medical department of one of New York's biggest banks," was my answer.

I found Dr. Crawford at home in a roomy and really home-like apartment, her daughter leaning over her shoulder as we talked.

"After my strenuous war service," Dr. Crawford said, "I was called to the bank, and at first their only doctor, but now I have five other doctors to assist me, two of whom are men and three women, and six nurses. There are 2,500 employes, you see, who have to be looked after and kept up to par all the time. A stitch in time during the work day often saves a week of sickness. Of course, we in no way aim to supplant the family physician. When an employe requires extended care, we send him at once to his own doctor."

In addition to having the housekeeping cares that fall to the average woman and holding down an important position, Dr. Crawford still keeps up her clinical work.

In fact, I could not help but be struck with the extent of the activities of women doctors who have made good.

One of the most interesting stories that I came across in this survey of "materia medica femina" is that of Dr. Cecile Greil. Dr. Greil by her own unaided

efforts worked her way to a medical degree—a rare thing—and at a time when the oldest of her three children was only fourteen.

"I was born in New York City of poor parents," she told me, "received a common school education, and was married at seventeen. My first baby arrived a year after. It had always been my ambition to become a doctor, and I obstinately held on to the idea during all the early childhood of my little family. In the meantime I made the necessary studies for my entrance to New York Medical College. I was unable to secure financial assistance of any kind for my medical education. I earned it by doing almost anything from sewing to newspaper and magazine work.

"However, owing to the care of my household and none too plentiful funds, the four years' course took seven years, but I did graduate in 1910. My first position was with the Manhattan Trade School for Girls as Medical Director; I then went into medical mission work with the white girls of China Town, New York. Later I gave medical lectures all over the country and today I am specializing in social hygiene with emphasis on the psychology of young girls."

After leaving Dr. Greil it seemed to me that the case for women doctors was far from closed.

But the list of able women M.D.'s who have succeeded eminently, grew so long I could not even follow it. Here are a few examples.

Dr. Ellen Potter, Commissioner of Public Welfare in Pennsylvania, is a member of Governor Pinchot's cabinet, and has proved a very profitable investment to her State.

Dr. Lulu Hunt Peters, a well-known writer on diet and health, teaches public health through a newspaper syndicate. Her book, "Diet and Health, and the Key to the Calories," is intensely practical.

And so on through an ever-lengthening roll-call, as the medical colleges continue to turn out their annual crop—which yearly increases—of clear-eyed, deft-fingered, young women, who are writing M.D. after their names.

SOME men are by nature beavers, and some are rats. Yet all belong to the human race. The people who came to this country in the early days were of the beaver type. They built up America because it was in their nature to build. Then the rat-people began coming here to house under the roof that others had built. And they try to undermine and destroy it because it is in their nature to destroy.

A civilization rises when the beaver-men outnumber the rat-men. When the rat-men get the upper hand, the civilization falls. Then the rats turn and eat one another, and that is the end. Beware of breeding rats in America!

JAMES J. DAVIS, Secretary of Labor