

Native convert  
1836  
DOCTOR  
MARY STONE



THE "LITTLE DOCTOR"

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
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# DOCTOR MARY STONE

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Born in a Methodist parsonage! How many prominent workers in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society can lay claim to the honor of having been born in an American parsonage! But Mary Stone, the "Little Doctor" of Kiu-kiang, has the honor of having been born in a Chinese Methodist parsonage. Her father was the first convert to Christianity in the Yangste Valley. In the small Chinese house which stands in the compound of one of the Methodist churches in Kiukiang, she was born in 1873.

It is most interesting for the visitor of today to stand beside this tiny house and think of the large hospital just a short distance away, over which presides one of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of China—the little girl whose birthplace the tourist is visiting. So happy were her parents when the little girl was born, that they called her Maiyu, which means—"Beautiful Gem."

Dr. Ida Kahn, a life-long friend of Dr. Stone, writes thus: "With a faith that was strong and clear, Maiyu's parents brought her up with natural feet, thus giving her the distinction of being the first native girl, not a slave, in Central and West China, to have her feet left as God had made them.

"She began her Chinese studies

early and proved an apt student. When she was seven years old, two missionary doctors opened a hospital in Kiukiang. Seeing the good accomplished by these ladies, Maiyu's father thought he would like to have his daughter help her country women in the same way, so he took her to one of the physicians, asking her to teach Maiyu to be a doctor. This she kindly consented to do, after Miss Gertrude Howe agreed first to teach her English.

"Her life was a very quiet and happy one. Meanwhile the two physicians had gone away from Kiukiang, one to her Heavenly Father and the other to America. As there were then no means of obtaining a thorough training in medicine in China, Miss Howe resolved to bring Maiyu to America for a medical education."

When Maiyu was nineteen years of age, Miss Howe brought her to America and with Ida Kahn, the adopted daughter of Miss Howe, she matriculated as a medical student in the University of Michigan. While she was in college she realized that it was as difficult for Americans to pronounce her Chinese name, Shih Maiyu, as it was for her to master some American names. It has always been necessary for an American staying in China for a time to have a Chinese name as well as an American one; so she thought it would be better if she had an American name while she

was in America. She became known as Mary Stone. Even in China, among foreigners, she is called by that name and her family has adopted the same surname for use in their associations with foreigners.

In 1896 Mary Stone completed her medical course with highest honors, and, having been accepted as a regular missionary by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, went back under the Des Moines Branch to begin medical work for women in her native city—Kiukiang. For several years she worked in a little hospital only 21x28 feet in size, containing only 20 beds. However, in 1900, a well-known physician in Chicago, the late Dr. I. N. Danforth, who was very much interested in Foreign Missionary work in China, especially in its relation to the introduction of modern medicine into that country, offered to build for Dr. Stone a hospital in memory of his wife. Since that time a modern hospital has been built. Inspired by her love and sympathy for suffering Chinese women, with this splendid plant in which to work, Dr. Stone has spread the fame of the Elizabeth Skelton Danforth Memorial Hospital throughout the Yangste Valley. She has become a very skillful surgeon as well as physician. Most remarkable are the operations which she has performed. A Chinese physician and surgeon

meets a wider range of cases than the physician in ordinary practice in America.

Unhappy Chinese women very often seek relief from the burdens of life by suicide. Their favorite method is to take an overdose of opium. Often five and six times a night the "little doctor" is called from her rest to go in haste to women who have tried to commit suicide. The Chinese do not call the doctor as a rule until the case is desperate, if not hopeless. Often she cannot stay the ebbing life of the Chinese woman. She has been summoned too late!

Several times Dr. Stone has returned to America for rest and further study. She is a forceful speaker, being winsome, witty and inspiring. One of the best after-dinner speeches that was ever made in this country was made by the "little doctor" at a great banquet in Los Angeles. Notwithstanding her prominence she is simple and unassuming. Her work absorbs her very life.

Dr. Stone has adopted four Chinese lads whom she is bringing up. Two are relatives, one is the son of a widowed Bible woman, and the fourth is a famine orphan. She is in charge of a home for cripples near the hospital in Kiukiang. An account of this interesting work can be obtained in the leaflet, "A Girl's Beautiful Thought," by Mary Ninde Gamewell.

Dr. Stone is a leader in reform

movements in China. She is a member of the China Continuation Committee and has recently been president of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union of China. Her life is full to overflowing as will be seen from the latest report of the work of the hospital. She is assisted by two native doctors and a corps of Chinese nurses whom she has trained in her hospital.

She has been seriously ill twice within the last few years, but her life has been spared. That she might have help so that the burdens will not be too great for her, her sister, Phoebe Stone, came to America to take a medical course. She graduates this year from Johns Hopkins University. She will return next year to share the work of her sister in Kiukiang. For a number of years Dr. Stone's saintly mother has acted as one of the Bible women in the hospital.

The statistics of the hospital as given in Dr. Stone's last report are as follows:

Dispensary new visits.....	8,617
Dispensary old visits .....	11,814
Hospital In-patients .....	1,243
Operations .....	494
Obstetric cases (difficult) .....	70
Out visits .....	385
Surgical dressings .....	10,379
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Grand Total .....	33,002
Receipts from fees and board	
of patients .....	\$6,117.73

Of work on the district Dr. Stone writes in this report: "Where there are no doctors within reach people have gone blind for life or lost their lives entirely in an attempt to reach us. With Dr. Kathleen Hwang in charge going from city to city with her big traveling medicine chest and outfit, we have been able this year to form the three-fold cord of the Gospel in some places. That is, medical work side by side with the evangelistic and the educational. The nurses are trying to reproduce in a miniature form all the phases of medical work in our Danforth Hospital, dispensing, visiting, lecturing, evangelizing, yes, and even operating.

"They wrote from Hwangmei that a child had an accident. The abdomen was cut open about two inches, the intestines came out. The nurses themselves prayed with the family and operated. The child is all healed and they are of course jubilant over their success. At Tai Hu they had to set a compound fracture. They see fifty to sixty patients daily. The city authorities at both places have called mass meetings and asked our nurses to give health lectures. The Lord surely gave them utterance before all those hundreds of officials, gentry, and merchants. The magistrate at each place responded and promised financial aid as well as moral support.

"Finally—the best and most

encouraging fact is that 230 souls have been won to the Lord. Out of these our two young doctors have taken definite stand for the Lord. It was a touching sight when Dr. Alice Hwang was baptized—side by side with an old convert from the hospital—a dear, poor soul who has come to the Lord at the end of her life. A well dressed official lady stood by her and on the other side several ‘precious jewels’ of our cripples from the Ida Gracey Home that had been carried to the church that morning for baptism.”

To Dr. Stone the evangelistic work of the hospital is most important of all. Bodies may be healed but the “little doctor” is not satisfied unless the souls of the patients are healed by the touch of the Great Physician. She has been offered splendid positions with the Government, but it is *missionary* medical work that holds her heart and allegiance. May the “little doctor” be given strength to carry on her great work.

She closes her report with these words:

“Saviour thy dying love, Thou gavest  
me,  
Nor should I aught withhold, dear  
Lord, from Thee,  
In love my soul would bow, my heart  
fulfil its vow,  
Some offering bring Thee now, some-  
thing for Thee.”

Yours in His glad service,

MARY STONE.