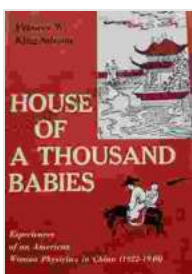


Experiences of an American Woman Physician in China, 1922-1940: A Detailed Historical Account

In the annals of medical history, the experiences of Dr. Mary H. Fulton, an American woman physician, stand as a testament to the challenges and rewards of practicing medicine in a foreign land during a turbulent era. Her journey in China from 1922 to 1940 offers a rich tapestry of cultural encounters, medical advancements, and personal growth.

Arrival in China and Initial Impressions



House of a Thousand Babies: Experiences of an American Woman Physician in China, 1922-1940

by Patrick Tyler

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size	: 6529 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 203 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Hailing from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Dr. Fulton arrived in China in the fall of 1922, eager to contribute her medical expertise to the remote and underserved communities there. Her initial assignment was at the Presbyterian mission hospital in Tengchow (now Penglai), Shandong province. The stark contrast between the bustling urban environment of Carlisle and the rural simplicity of Tengchow was both daunting and invigorating.

Medical Challenges and Innovations

Dr. Fulton's work in China presented a wide range of medical challenges. Access to modern medical facilities and equipment was limited, and she often had to rely on her resourcefulness and ingenuity. Through her dedication and compassion, she introduced new techniques and treatments to the community, including modern surgical procedures and the use of Western medicine.



Dr. Mary H. Fulton performs surgery in China.

One of Dr. Fulton's most significant contributions was her pioneering work in maternal and infant health. She established prenatal clinics and taught local midwives about the importance of hygiene and nutrition. Her efforts led to a significant reduction in infant mortality rates in the region.

Cultural Encounters and Adaptations

Beyond the medical realm, Dr. Fulton's experiences in China were deeply intertwined with the local culture. She immersed herself in the community, studying the Chinese language and customs. She gained the trust and respect of the people she served, who often referred to her as "the foreign doctor with the Chinese heart."



Dr. Fulton's cultural sensitivity allowed her to effectively navigate the social and political complexities of the time. She witnessed firsthand the rise of Chinese nationalism and the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War. Throughout these challenges, she maintained a deep sense of empathy and understanding for the Chinese people.

The Impact of War and Return Home

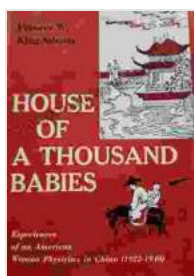
The outbreak of World War II in 1939 brought a sudden and unexpected end to Dr. Fulton's work in China. She was forced to evacuate to the United States, leaving behind a community that had become her second home. The years of hardship and sacrifice had taken a toll on her physically and emotionally.



Dr. Mary H. Fulton after her return to the United States.

Back in her homeland, Dr. Fulton dedicated herself to raising awareness about the plight of the Chinese people during the war. She shared her firsthand account of the human cost of conflict and advocated for international support for China. Her legacy continues to inspire generations of medical students and global health professionals.

Dr. Mary H. Fulton's experiences in China from 1922 to 1940 were a remarkable testament to the transformative power of healthcare, cultural immersion, and human compassion. Her dedication to improving the health and well-being of a foreign community, while navigating cultural and political challenges, serves as a timeless example of the indomitable spirit of a physician. Her story continues to inspire and encourage those who strive to make a difference in the world.



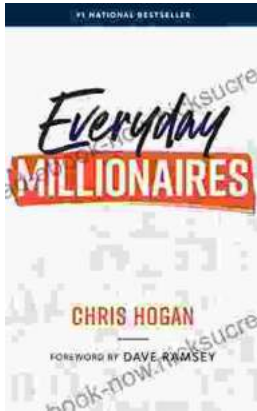
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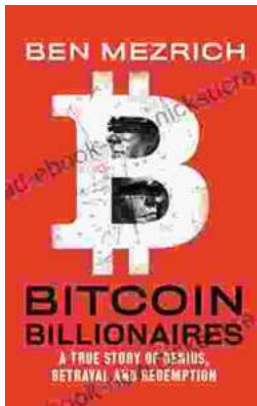
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