

She Doctored: The Female Physician In Times Past

Introduction

Women have made significant contributions to the field of medicine throughout history, despite facing numerous obstacles and challenges. From the early days of female physicians who struggled for recognition and acceptance to the modern era where women are increasingly taking on leadership roles, the story of women in medicine is one of resilience, determination, and progress.

In this book, we will explore the fascinating history of women in medicine in America, from the mid-19th century to the present day. We will learn about the pioneering women who paved the way for future generations, the challenges they faced, and the impact

they have had on the profession and on the health of women and children.

One of the most significant barriers that women physicians faced in the early days was the lack of access to medical education. In the 19th century, most medical schools were closed to women, and those that did admit women often subjected them to discrimination and harassment. Despite these challenges, a small number of women were able to obtain medical degrees and begin practicing medicine.

These early women physicians faced an uphill battle. They were often denied hospital privileges, excluded from professional organizations, and subjected to ridicule and criticism from their male colleagues. However, they persevered, and their dedication and skill gradually began to win over skeptics.

By the early 20th century, women had made significant strides in the medical profession. They had founded their own medical schools and hospitals, and they were

increasingly being accepted by their male colleagues. However, they still faced many challenges, including discrimination in hiring, promotion, and pay.

In the second half of the 20th century, the feminist movement helped to accelerate progress for women in medicine. Women physicians began to speak out against discrimination and demand equal opportunities. They also made significant contributions to the development of new medical treatments and technologies.

Today, women make up over half of all medical students in the United States. They are also well-represented in all specialties of medicine, and many have achieved leadership positions. However, there is still work to be done to achieve gender equality in medicine. Women physicians continue to face discrimination and bias, and they are still underrepresented in some specialties.

The story of women in medicine is a story of progress and resilience. It is a story of women who have overcome adversity to make a difference in the lives of others. It is a story that deserves to be told and celebrated.

Book Description

She Doctored: The Female Physician In Times Past is a comprehensive and engaging history of women in medicine in America, from the mid-19th century to the present day. Drawing on extensive research and interviews with women physicians, this book tells the story of the pioneering women who paved the way for future generations, the challenges they faced, and the impact they have had on the profession and on the health of women and children.

In the early days of female physicians, women faced numerous obstacles. They were denied access to medical education, excluded from professional organizations, and subjected to ridicule and discrimination from their male colleagues. Despite these challenges, a small number of women were able to obtain medical degrees and begin practicing medicine.

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She Doctored is a fascinating and inspiring story of the women who have made a difference in the lives of others. It is a story that deserves to be told and celebrated.

Chapter 1: A Foot in the Door

Women's motivations for pursuing medicine

In the 19th century, a time when women were largely confined to the domestic sphere, a small but determined group of women dared to pursue a career in medicine. What motivated these women to break down barriers and enter a field that was overwhelmingly dominated by men?

For some women, the desire to become a physician was born out of personal experience. They had witnessed firsthand the suffering of women and children, and they were determined to make a difference. Others were inspired by the example of female pioneers who had already made their mark in the medical field. Still others were simply drawn to the intellectual challenge of medicine, and they saw it as a way to use their knowledge and skills to help others.

Whatever their motivations, these women faced significant challenges in their quest to become physicians. They were often denied admission to medical schools, and those that did admit them often subjected them to discrimination and harassment. Once they graduated from medical school, they faced an uphill battle to find employment. Hospitals and clinics were often reluctant to hire women physicians, and those that did often paid them less than their male colleagues.

Despite these challenges, these women persevered. They established their own medical schools and hospitals, and they gradually began to win the respect of their male colleagues. By the early 20th century, women had made significant strides in the medical profession, and they were playing an increasingly important role in the health of women and children.

The motivations of women who pursue a career in medicine today are just as varied as those of the

women who came before them. Some women are drawn to the field because they want to make a difference in the lives of others. Others are inspired by the intellectual challenge of medicine, and they see it as a way to use their knowledge and skills to help people. Still others are simply passionate about science and healthcare, and they see medicine as the perfect way to combine their interests.

No matter what their motivations, women who pursue a career in medicine today are following in the footsteps of a long line of pioneering women who have paved the way for them. They are women who are dedicated to making a difference in the world, and they are sure to make their mark on the medical profession.

Chapter 1: A Foot in the Door

Obstacles faced by early female physicians

In the early days of female physicians, they faced numerous obstacles and challenges. One of the biggest hurdles was the lack of access to medical education. In the 19th century, most medical schools were closed to women, and those that did admit women often subjected them to discrimination and harassment.

Even if a woman was able to obtain a medical degree, she would then face an uphill battle to find a job. Hospitals and clinics were often reluctant to hire female physicians, and those that did often paid them less than their male counterparts. Female physicians were also often denied hospital privileges, which made it difficult for them to practice medicine.

In addition to these institutional barriers, female physicians also faced social and cultural biases. Many people believed that women were not capable of being

doctors, and some even went so far as to say that it was unnatural for a woman to practice medicine.

Despite these challenges, a small number of women were able to overcome the obstacles and become successful physicians. These women were often pioneers in their field, and they helped to pave the way for future generations of female physicians.

Some of the obstacles faced by early female physicians included:

- Lack of access to medical education
- Discrimination and harassment in medical schools and hospitals
- Lower pay than male colleagues
- Denial of hospital privileges
- Social and cultural biases against women in medicine

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Chapter 1: A Foot in the Door

The establishment of women's medical schools and societies

In the early days of the women's rights movement, one of the most important goals was to open up access to medical education for women. In the 19th century, most medical schools were closed to women, and those that did admit women often subjected them to discrimination and harassment. As a result, many women who wanted to become doctors had to travel to other countries, such as France or Switzerland, to obtain a medical degree.

In the United States, the first medical school for women was founded in 1848 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The school was called the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, and it was founded by a group of women who were determined to provide women with the same opportunities for medical education as men. The school

faced many challenges in its early years, including opposition from the male-dominated medical establishment. However, the school persevered, and it eventually became one of the most respected medical schools in the country.

The Female Medical College of Pennsylvania was not the only medical school for women that was founded in the 19th century. Other schools were founded in Boston, New York, and Chicago. These schools played a vital role in training women doctors, and they helped to pave the way for women to enter the medical profession.

In addition to medical schools, women also founded their own medical societies. The first medical society for women was founded in 1856 in Boston, Massachusetts. The society was called the Boston Female Medical Society, and it was founded by a group of women doctors who wanted to provide support and networking opportunities for other women in the

profession. The society also worked to promote the interests of women doctors and to advocate for their rights.

The establishment of women's medical schools and societies was a major step forward for women in medicine. These institutions provided women with the opportunity to obtain a medical education and to enter the medical profession. They also helped to create a community of women doctors who could support and encourage each other.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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