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Session Title : -

Korean women in western (modern) medical history

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Korean women in western(modern)medical history Yeong Hoon Kim It was 122years since Jeom Dong Kim (Esther park) graduated from Baltimore Women's College of medicine and returned to Korea to become the first Korean doctor to take care of patients. From 2020, the 120th anniversary, it is the first year to commemorate the first Korean Women's Day, a national holiday to commemorate the first declaration of women's right to education, suffrage and labor (여권통문, 1898). starting this year, the Gender Equality Week will also be held for a week from September 1 every year, hoping for gender equality. I would like to learn about the activities and achievements of female doctors in modern medicine, which has been almost forgotten until now. In particular, we will focus on Kim Jeom-dong, the first female doctors in Korea, Kim Young-heung, Kim Hae-ji, and Ahn Soo-kyung. Kim Jeom-dong (Esther K. Pak,1876-1910) is believed as the first medical doctor in Korea. Esther's life can be largely reviewed in three parts: school-hood at EwhaHaktang(currently Ewha Womans University), Education in the United States, and medical missionary work after coming back to Korea from the United States . Kim Jeom-dong met modern sciences and Christianity at EwhaHaktang, which was founded by those missionaries. She could dream of being an American-style medical doctor in the future, while she assisted medical missionaries at PoKuNyoKwan in EwhaHaktang. With the support of Dr. Rosetta Sherwood Hall, she went to the United States to study the field in 1894. While learning it, she suffered from academic frustration, economic difficulty, her husband's death and so on, but she eventually got over those adversities and completed the four years of academic courses to become a medical doctor. She came back to Korea in 1900 and began to work earnestly as a medical missionary delegated from Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. At PoKuNyoKwan in Seoul and Woman's Hospital in Pyongyang. On April 13, 1910, she died of illness. She was 34. Although she was born at the turbulent last period of Korea Empire and lived for only 34 years, Esther's medical missionary work was evaluated as the opening of woman's participation in medical science in Korea. Not only in the 'woman's' but also in 'whole' field of medical science, her performance left significant marks in woman's and Christian history in Korea as well. Three women, Ahn Soo-kyung, Kim Young-heung and Kim Hae-ji, who were officially licensed as doctors for the first time in Joseon. After graduating from Kyongsung Medical College they obtained doctors' licenses and continued their medical activities at the

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hospital. Kim Young-heung actively engaged in social activities as a female intellectual by giving public lectures. She worked as a doctor in Kyongsung, Pyongyang, and Incheon. Kim Hae-Ji did medical work and got married in Pyongyang. However, she had a hard time due to her husband's death and medical accident. Ahn Soo-kyung had been working at Dongdaemun Women's Hospital for more than 20 years and was willing to participate in what she could do as a woman, doctor and intellectual. She defended Joseon's students and hospitals in protest of the controversy of nursing school and the move to abolish Dongdaemun Women's Hospital. She quietly participated in the Dong-A Women's Association and 6.10 the Independence Movement if she had anything to help. She faithfully fulfilled her duty as a doctor with a strong professional sense that saving people was her calling. The job of a doctor is one of the representative jobs that Joseon women can enter society in the early modern era. In addition, it was a very urgent existence for the modernization of Joseon society, where internal and external laws existed. Women doctors at that time were fighters who lived a fierce life devoted to social enlightenment, social service, and independence movements as well as patient care.