

DR. MARION OLIVER

Actuated by these high resolves and lofty motives, she offered her services to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and being accepted for work in Central India, she was invited by the newly-organized Woman's Foreign Missionary Society to attend Queen's University, which had comparatively lately opened its doors to Women Medical Students, that she might there fit herself for medical work in India.

She entered upon a four year's course of study in the autumn of 1882 and soon afterwards organized and taught a Bible class for the lady students, few in number in those days and acquiring their medical knowledge in the teeth of not a little opposition; for many there were who felt that *only* with a view to doing the work of a foreign missionary was a woman justified in qualifying as a medical practitioner. Marion Oliver was the type of woman whose womanliness and gentleness disarmed the critics of those women who were thus seeking to blaze a new trail, and adopt a profession new to women. In due time she was graduated with honors and was chosen valedictorian for her year.

The favorite name by which she was known in her own immediate family circle, and which was supposed by friends of later years to be a Scottish pet name, was given her in her student days. On one occasion, when returning from College to her home at Avonbank, she took with her several bright new pennies to give to the nephews and nieces whom she knew she would find holidaying at the old home. One young nephew, when his shining penny was given him, said teasingly: "Oh, you are a *penny* doctor, aren't you?" The name caught the fancy of the others and henceforward and always she was to all these growing young people their dearly-beloved "Aunt Penny."

Her medical course completed, Doctor Oliver was dedicated at the home church at Avonbank—a place ever dear to her heart—and the little monthly *Letter Leaflet*, the first organ of the W.F.M.S., of November, 1886, contains the notice:—

"Dr. Marion Oliver, our medical missionary sailed for India on Thursday, 7th October, by steamship 'Polynesian.' "