

Emily Stowe and her Daughter Augusta Stowe-Gullen



In 1865 Emily Stowe, then 33, applied for admission to the University of Toronto to study medicine. "The doors of this University are not open to women," Rev. John McCaul, the university president, told her, "and I trust never will be."

"I will make it the business of my life that they will be opened," she replied, "that women may have the same opportunities as men."

She trained in New York and returned to prac-

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tice in Toronto. Here (male) doctors said she was practicing illegally, since the law required that doctors be members of the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and she could not join, having never attended a Canadian medical school. She was first fined but then, finally, allowed to attend classes at the University. Her male classmates drew pictures on the walls designed to shock her. The walls had to be whitewashed four times during the year.

In 1880 she was accepted as a practitioner. She helped organize Women's Medical College in 1883, and she established the first women's suffrage club in the city under the protective title of The Women's Literary Club. Her daughter, Augusta Stowe-Gullen, was the first Canadian woman to be granted a degree by the Toronto School of Medicine.

Dr. James Miranda Barry



Dr. James Miranda Barry (a woman in disguise) was appointed the first Inspector General for Hospitals in Upper and Lower Canada in 1857. She died, at the age of 68, eight years later. During a long, tumultuous career she had won fame as a doctor and surgeon (she performed one of the first Caesareans in which both mother and child sur-

vived) and a reputation as a difficult, eccentric person to work with. The fact that she was a woman — and indeed a woman who had at some time given birth to a child — was discovered only after her death.

Lord Albermarle had met her when she was young. "I beheld a beardless lad, apparently of my own age," he wrote many years later, "with an unmistakably Scotch type of countenance — reddish hair, high cheekbones. There was a certain effeminacy in his manner, which he seemed to be always striving to overcome. His style of conversation was greatly superior to that one usually heard at a mess table in those days of non-competitive examination."

Carlotta Hacker, author of *The Indomitable Lady Doctors*, (Clarke, Irwin & Company Ltd., \$8.50), has concluded that "James Barry" was probably the daughter of James Barry, an Irishman who was a member of the Royal Academy, and a Mrs. Bulkeley. Barry, a friend of Mary Wollstonecraft, who wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, believed in the rights of women