

BENEVOLENT WORK

Founding of Missionary Society of Canton

HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Canton Medical Missionary Society, originally known as the Medical Missionary Society in China, has now been in existence for one hundred years. The Society was organised in 1838.

The organisation of this Society was a stupendous, an amazing conception, the grandest scheme of benevolence the world has seen attempted by man; a scheme animated by the great heart of Christendom and embracing the whole pagan East.

Three years earlier, in 1835, the Canton Hospital was founded by Peter Parker, the doctor who "opened China at the point of the lancet when foreign cannon could not heave a single bar." In 1935 the centennial of the Canton Hospital was commemorated. The Chinese Medical Association met at the Canton Hospital for this event. The new Canton Hospital was opened, and the cornerstone of the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Medical College was laid.

Object of Society

Dr. Peter Parker, Dr. T. R. Colledge, and Rev. E. C. Bridgman jointly prepared the prospectus of the Society. The object was to conduct the Canton Hospital and to establish and maintain other hospitals and dispensaries throughout the whole of the Celestial Empire; for to them "it was affecting to contemplate this Empire where almost all the light of true science is unknown, and where Christianity has scarcely shed one genial ray—to see the multitudes who are here suffering under maladies from which the hand of charity is able to relieve them."

So in 1838 a public meeting called by Colledge, Bridgman and Parker, was held in the rooms of the General Chamber of Commerce in Canton. Dr. William Jardine, founder of the "princely house" was called upon to take the chair. He explained the purpose, which was to organise a

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