

PENZA STATE UNIVERSITY DENTISTRY DEPARTMENT HISTORY PROJECT



Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910)

The First Women Doctor

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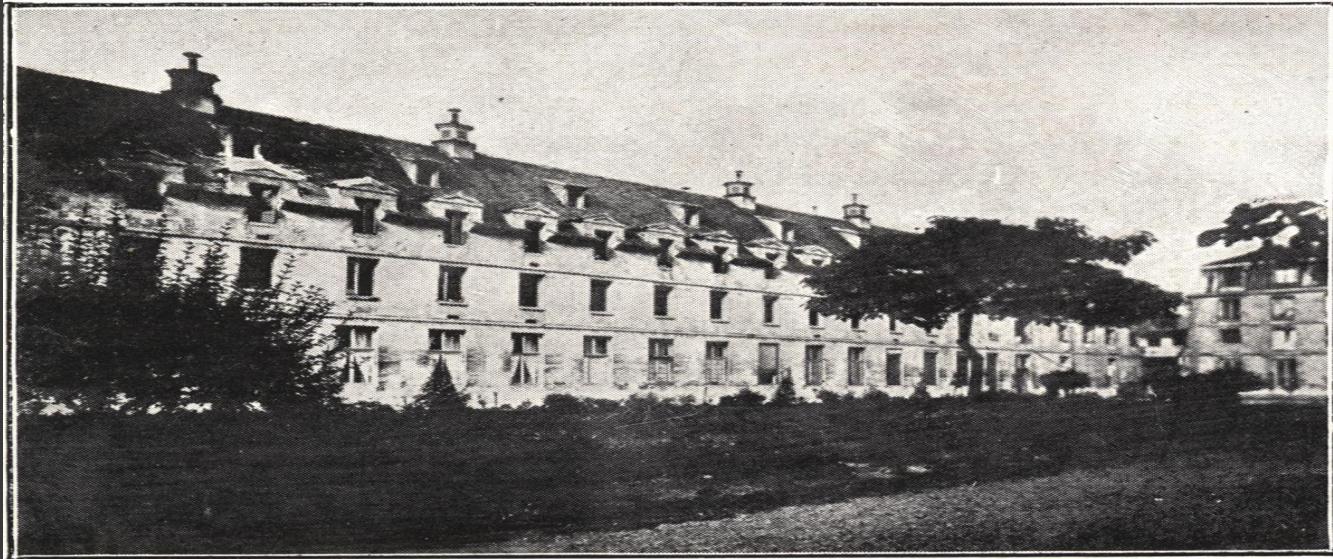
3-Biography:

- ◎ **Year Of Birth/Death** : 1821-1910
- ◎ **Born Place:** Bristol England
- ◎ **Medical School:** Geneva Medical College
- ◎ **Geography, location:** New York
- ◎ **Career Path:** Obstetrics and gynecology



For financial reasons and her father wanted to help abolish slavery, the family moved to America when Elizabeth was 11 years old. Her father died in 1838.

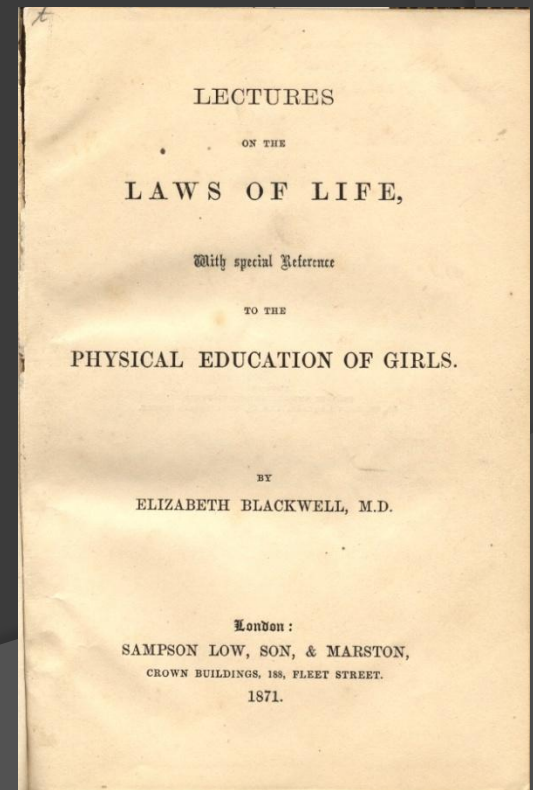
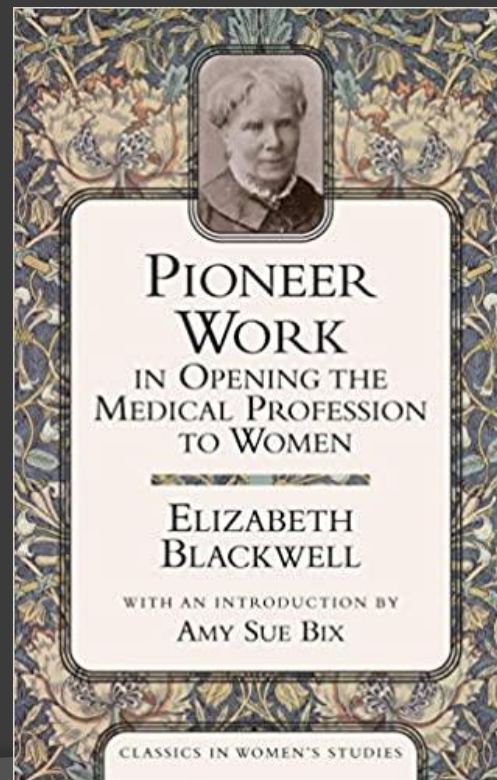
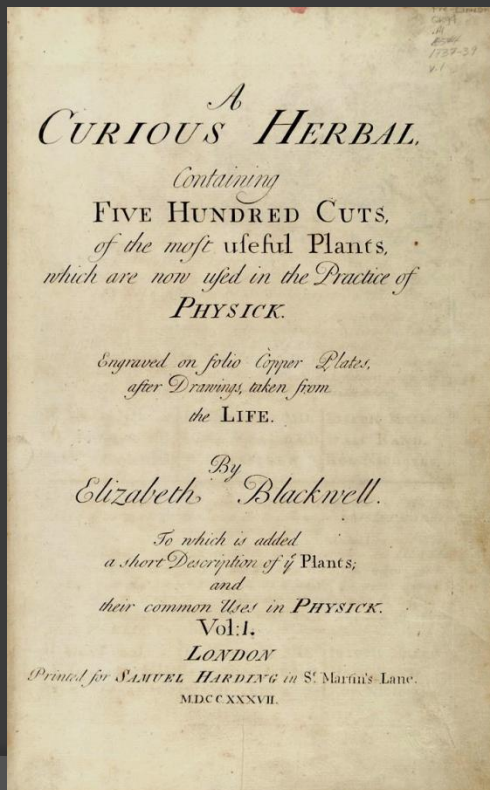
- In 1849 she graduated from New York's Geneva Medical College.
- Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in America to earn the M.D. degree.



- She supported medical education for women and helped many other women's careers
- In 1857 she offered a practical solution to one of the problems facing women who were rejected from internships.



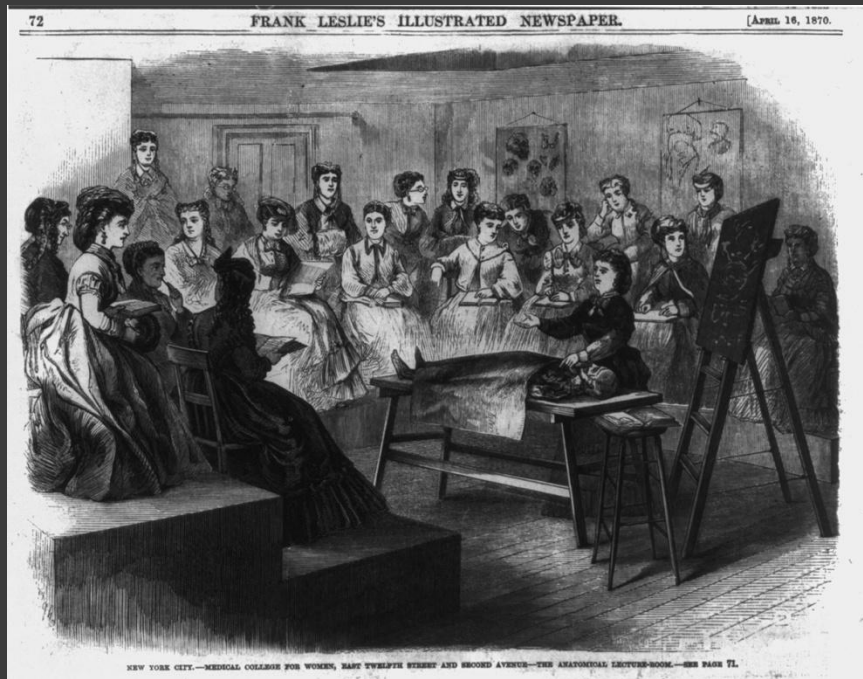
- She published books on the issue of women in medicine
- Examples: *Medicine as a Profession For Women* in 1860 and *Address on the Medical Education of Women* in 1864.



- The faculty, assuming that the all-male student body would never agree to a woman joining their ranks, allowed them to vote on her admission. As a joke, they voted "yes," and she gained admittance, despite the reluctance of most students and faculty.



- ◉ She worked in clinics in London and Paris for two years
- ◉ Studied midwifery at La Maternité where she contracted "purulent ophthalmia" from a young patient.



- ◉ When Blackwell lost sight in one eye, she returned to New York City in 1851, giving up her dream of becoming a surgeon.
- ◉ Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell established a practice in New York City, but had few patients and few opportunities for intellectual exchange with other physicians

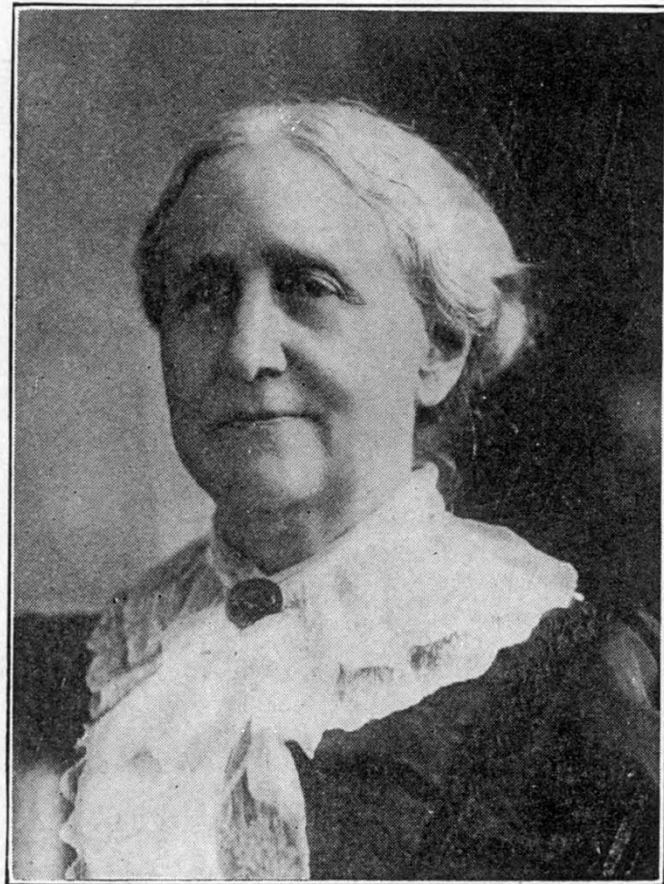


Photo by Brown Bros.

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Who Suggested the Hospital Social Service Idea in the Development of Her New York Infirmary in 1859.

- Her sister, Dr. Emily Blackwell, joined her in 1856 and, together with Dr. Marie Zakrzewska.
- They opened the New York Infirmary for Women and Children at 64 Bleecker Street in 1857. This institution and its medical college for women (opened 1867) provided training and experience for women doctors and medical care for the poor.

