



Dr Sarah Gray 1860 – 1941

First woman GP, Suffragist

First president of Medico-Chirurgical Society

Sarah was born in Tipperary and from an early age was determined on a medical career at a time when this was seen as eccentric if not improper for a woman. She studied in London but took a qualification in Scotland as London did not award degrees to women.

She moved to Nottingham and became the City's **first** woman GP facing bitter opposition and hostility. In 1899 she was appointed to the Women's Hospital and became assistant surgeon in charge of outpatients. Her male colleagues viewed her with mistrust and for a year insisted that a male colleague be present whenever she administered an anesthetic. She applied to be in charge of inpatients but was refused the position being told that her qualifications, while being the highest open to women, were not high enough.

At 40 she took her FRCSI and in 1902 was appointed surgeon to Nottingham and Notts Convalescent home, medical examiner to the Board of Education and the Education Committee and surgeon to the Girl's evening Homes. In 1921 – 2 she was elected the **first** president of Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society. She was a pioneer among medical women, and against the prevailing times was nonetheless finally recognised for her outstanding abilities.

She was involved in NUWSS and the NUWW. On 1 June 1910 she presided over the NUWSS AGM at the Mikardo café. She lived at 21 Regent Street.