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### Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836–1917), physician, feminist and champion of women’s medical education, played a key role in advancing the position of women in British professional life. Elizabeth’s determination to qualify as a doctor, despite the many obstacles put in her way by the all-male medical establishment, was characteristic of her strong sense of purpose. Eventually joining the medical register in 1865, she established the St Mary’s Dispensary for Women and Children in 1866, adding ten beds five years later as it became the New Hospital for Women. Staffed only by women, the hospital later moved to a purpose-built site on Euston Road and offered clinical experience to students at the London School of Medicine for Women. Through her tireless efforts, her chosen profession was opened to women. This 1939 biography by her daughter Louisa (1873–1943), herself a distinguished physician, is presented largely through Elizabeth’s own letters.

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1836–1917



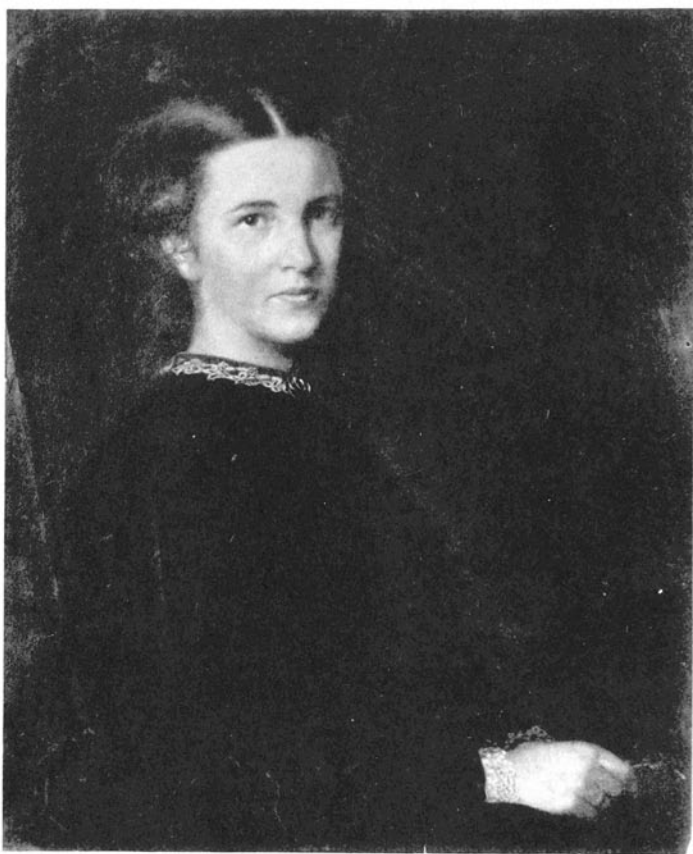
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ELIZABETH GARRETT, AGED 30  
*from the portrait by Laura Herford, 1866*

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ELIZABETH  
GARRETT ANDERSON

1836–1917

by her daughter

LOUISA  
GARRETT ANDERSON

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This record of their grandmother  
has been written for  
Colin and Donald, Diana and Hermione  
and for the  
Heirs of her Spirit,  
for those who follow where she led,  
that they may know her better

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## PREFACE



Without the help of my brother, Alan, this *Life* would not have been written. He remembered what I forgot and improved what I wrote. He and Colin have made this ‘our’ book and I shall not thank them in print.

Letters written by Elizabeth Garrett to Miss Emily Davies were given to me by her niece, Miss Margaret Llewelyn Davies, and they provide the account of Elizabeth’s struggle for medical training. Miss Llewelyn Davies also read the manuscript through, identifying many references in the letters. She could not have been more encouraging or kind.

To Lady Stephen I owe most generous help. Her accurate study of Miss Davies in *Emily Davies and Girton College* is a text-book of the early years of the women’s movement, and by her permission it has been used constantly in the preparation of this book. Some of the letters to Miss Davies from Elizabeth Garrett and others written by Miss Davies have been printed already in Lady Stephen’s book. Her suggestions, those of an ex-

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### *Preface*

perienced and successful biographer, have been extremely useful. By permission of Mrs. Oliver Strachey, extracts from Florence Nightingale's *Cassandra*, published in full in *The Cause*, 1928, have been included. Mr. William Hern, who was a medical student at the Middlesex Hospital in the eighteen-sixties, contributed information about the medical staff and the surgical technique at that time; and from Dr. H. Campbell Thomson's excellent account in *The Story of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School* more information of the same kind was obtained. Sir Edward Penton, K.B.E., searched the minutes of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell (renamed Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children) for references to my parents who met in the hospital in 1869. Lady Stewart-Wilson, daughter of Professor Tulloch of St. Andrews, and Professor R. K. Hannay, Historiographer Royal of Scotland, have been most kind in collecting information about the University of St. Andrews in 1864.

Among the early friends of medical women, few were as courageous and sympathetic as Viscountess Amberley, and I am indebted to the Earl and Countess Russell and the Hogarth Press for permission to quote from *The Amberley Papers*. Thanks are due to the Editors of the *British Medical Journal*, the *Lancet*, *The Times*, and the *Spectator*, also to the Proprietors of *Punch* to quote from these papers.

At the London School of Medicine for Women and

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### *Preface*

the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for Women no trouble has been too great in helping to collect material. Miss Elizabeth Bolton, C.B.E., M.D., Dean of the School and Senior Surgeon at the Hospital, and Lady Robertson, Chairman of the Hospital Committee, read the chapters dealing with both institutions and made helpful suggestions. Miss Burt, Librarian at the School, supplied minute books and reports. To the relatives of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake I owe much. Miss Jex-Blake and her sisters and Dr. Arthur Jex-Blake, F.R.C.P., read in typescript the section dealing with their aunt and the foundation by her of the London School of Medicine for Women, and they gave permission for the inclusion of an unpublished letter by Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, whose portrait by Samuel Lawrence has been reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine. Sir St. Clair Thomson has supplied vivid memories of his master, Lord Lister, to whom more than fifty years ago he acted as house-surgeon.

The list of acknowledgements, long as it is, would be altogether incomplete without adding my appreciation of the help received throughout from Miss F. C. Johnson, M.A. and Miss L. M. Brooks, O.B.E., who have spent much time over the manuscript, and to Miss Mona Wilson, who read the last chapter under circumstances which made this service difficult to give.

The proofs have been corrected by Miss F. C. Johnson and Dr. H. Campbell Thomson.

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### *Preface*

Two appendices have been added.

Appendix I includes press extracts, and four verses from Rudyard Kipling's poem, *The Song of the Women*, are reprinted by permission of Mrs. Rudyard Kipling and of Messrs. Methuen & Co.

Appendix II consists of short biographical notes on people mentioned in the text. Mrs. Douglas Carter (Alice Le Mesurier), professional researcher, whose investigations have been most helpful, is responsible for most of them. In many I have used her notes without alteration; the information was collected from the *Dictionary of National Biography*, by permission of the Oxford University Press, and from other sources which as far as possible have been indicated.

LOUISA GARRETT ANDERSON  
Penn, Bucks  
January 1939

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