Dr. Emily Howard Stowe (1831-1903)

Pioneering Canadian physician and suffragette.

About:

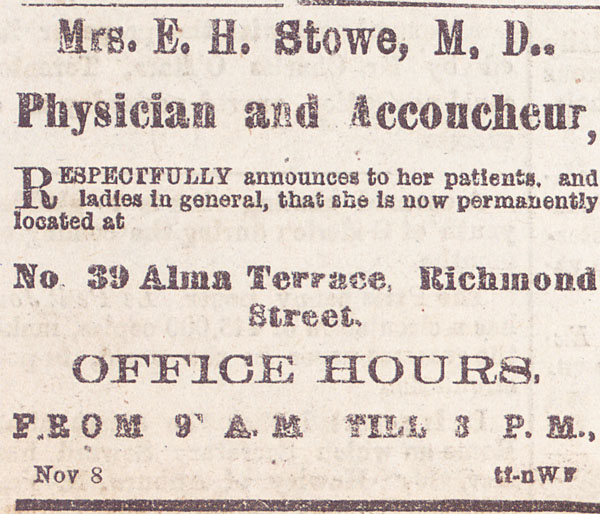
* Born in Ontario (then, Upper Canada)
* One of six daughters, all homeschooled by their dissatisfied mother.

Important ideas:

* Dr. Stowe's experience fighting for acceptance in the medical community motivated her into becoming a passionate feminist
* Believed in equal amounts of education for both males and females, particularly in medicine
* Spoke out on abortion

Accomplishments:

* Became a teacher by age 15, but was always interested in herbal healing and homeopathy, as did her mother
* **First woman school principal** (1852)
* Studied homeopathic medicine in New York, because she could not in Canada.
* Gained her Masters Degree in 1867
* **First woman to practice medicine in Canada**
* To meet licensing requirements, Dr. Stowe and Jenny Trout became the first women to attend lectures at the Toronto School of Medicine (this was not an easy battle).
* They were consistently embarrassed and humiliated by students and faculty.
* Dr. Stowe failed and went back to practicing without a license.
* Organized and was the president of the Dominion Woman Suffrage Association (1893)
* Founded the Women’s Medical College in Toronto.

Legacies:

* Founded one of the earliest female suffrage groups that was crucial in the **Mock Parliament** (1896) – A parliament of woman, using all of the same arguments men had used against them, refused to give men the right to vote.
* Argued for abortion rights
* One of the first doctors to be tried for attempting to procure an abortion in nineteenth-century Canada. Was acquitted, which was a very rare outcome for abortion trials at the time.
* Successfully pushed for women’s right to own property (1894), and eventually the right to vote (1917).

***It would be another 14 years after Dr. Stowe’s death that women would get the right to vote in Canada.***