



# Plague Fighter: The Autobiography of a Modern Chinese Physician

By Wu Lien-Teh

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## Plague Fighter: The Autobiography of a Modern Chinese Physician By Wu Lien-Teh

Known as the Plague Fighter and the man who beat the Black Death, Dr. Wu Lien-Teh (1879-1960) laid the foundations of the modern medical service in China. The son of a Taishan migrant from China, he was born in Penang and attended the Penang Free School. Winning a Queen's scholarship, he became the first medical student of Chinese descent to be educated at Cambridge, where he graduated from Emmanuel College with a string of prizes. Returning to Malaya, he undertook research into the debilitating beriberi disease and engaged in social reforms, founding the Anti-Opium Society. It was in northern China that he cemented his global fame, working to curtail the spread of Manchurian Plague which claimed over 60,000 lives in 1910-1911. He became the first president of the Chinese Medical Association and served as physician extraordinary to successive presidents of China. He established some twenty medical institutions in China including Harbin Medical College, Peking Central Hospital and the National Quarantine Service, Shanghai. He co-authored the acclaimed History of Chinese Medicine (1932) and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1935. He spent his later life in his native Malaya first in Ipoh, and then in Penang and his death made headlines around the world. First published in 1959, this edition of Wu Lien-Teh's autobiography, reprinted for the Dr. Wu Lien-Teh Society, Penang, will acquaint a new generation of readers with this great man's life and work.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Known as the 'Plague Fighter' and 'the man who beat the Black Death', Dr. Wu Lien-Teh (1879-1960) laid the foundations of the modern medical service in China. The son of a Taishan migrant from China, he was born in Penang and attended the Penang Free School. Winning a Queen's scholarship, he became the first medical student of Cambridge, where he graduated from Emmanuel College with a string of prizes. Returning to Malaya, he undertook research into debilitating beriberi disease and engaged in social reforms, founding the Anti-Opium Society. It was in northern China that he cemented his global fame, working to curtail the spread of the Machurian Plague which claimed over 60,000 lives in 1910-1911. He became the first president of Chinese Medical Association and served as physician extraordinary to successive presidents of China. He established some twenty medical institutions in China including Harbin Medical College, Peking Central Hospital and National Quarantine Service, Shanghai. He co-authored the acclaimed History of Chinese Medicine (1932) and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1935. He spent his later life in native Malaya first in Ipoh, and then in Penang and his death made headlines around the world. By his death, the world of medicine has lost a heroic and almost legendary figure and the world at large one to whom it is far more indebted than it knows. 'Obituary', The Times 1960

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