

Dr and Mrs Paul Jerome Todd

Paul Jerome Todd was born in 1873 in Ohio, USA. After graduating from Kansas Medical College in 1902, he joined the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to China and began practice in Canton (Guangzhou). He helped to establish the South China Medical College and after its closure worked at the Canton Mission Hospital or Pok Tsai (博濟) Hospital which later became the Lingnan University Medical School. In 1909, he resigned and together with a group of doctors established the Kung Yee (公醫) Medical College with funds from Chinese merchants and gentry to provide medical education for the Chinese and philanthropic work. He was the first dean. Dr Li Shu-fan was a faculty member and its diploma was recognized by the Ministry of Education in 1914. The College expanded and became the Kung Yee University and Medical School but in 1925 it was taken over by government as part of the Chungshan (Zhongshan) University and its Faculty of Medicine. In 1929, he was appointed chairman of a board of directors comprising members from Canton Medical Missionary Society and the Lingnan University to oversee the incorporation of the Canton Hospital and Hackett Medical College for Women (opened by the American Presbyterian Mission in 1908) into the Lingnan University's Faculty of Medicine. Many of the prominent local medical doctors were his students. A leading surgeon in Canton, he resigned in 1931 and founded the very successful Todd Clinic and Hospital (達保羅醫院), a private hospital modeled along the lines of the Mayo Clinic, USA. He died in 1939 from a heart attack during the bombing of Canton by the Japanese. The hospital was subsequently first taken over by the Japanese, followed by the Chinese Communist Government.

Margaret Strathie Todd was born in Scotland and went to the USA when she was seventeen. She was a member of the first graduating class at the School of Nursing, Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, USA and went to China a few years later with the Presbyterian Missionary Society. The first registered nurse to practice in South China, she organized training schools for nurses first at the Hackett Medical College for Women where she was Head of Nursing, and later at the Canton Hospital and the Kung Yee Hospital. She was married to Dr Paul Todd in 1908 and helped him in the founding of the Kung Yee Medical College and later the Todd Clinic and Hospital. She died in Hong Kong in 1949.

They adopted three Chinese children: Lois (deceased), David and Jonathan; all medical doctors.