

TRIBUTE

GULLI LINDH MULLER, '21

A pioneer has left us. The College of Physicians and Surgeons is changed because of her persistence. Women have been admitted to the medical school since 1917.

Gulli Lindh was born in Sweden and had her early education there. She finished her college requirements at Barnard in three years and graduated in 1917.

She had always wanted to be a doctor. It was during her last year at Barnard that she began putting gentle but constant pressure on Dean Lambert. She was a friend of Dean Virginia Gildersleeve who joined the attack at the side of her student.

In her memoirs, "Many a Good Crusade", in 1954 Dean Gildersleeve wrote, "I had the perfect candidate for admission, a charming, sensible and brilliantly able, young Swedish woman, Gulli Lindh, who was to graduate in June 1917. I took up negotiations with the Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Samuel Lambert".

He was adamant and advanced all kinds of objections: no suitable rooms; need for changes in plumbing, etc., etc. However, if \$50,000 could be raised to make the improvements in the physical plant he might consider accepting women. Gulli contacted everyone she knew and collected a few hundred dollars. Dean Gildersleeve, a few thousand, but they were far from the goal.

Gulli had been accepted at Johns Hopkins and had to decide before July 1st.

Again, a visit to Dean Lambert. She explained that

it seemed impossible to raise the money in such a short time and would he trust us to fulfill our side of the bargain and accept me at P&S. He hesitated and said that we should forget about it.

After several more meetings of the three, suddenly Gulli and nine other young women were admitted. Soon afterward a telegram came saying that an old gentleman in Texas would give the \$50,000.

Once the women students were admitted, absolutely no academic restrictions were placed upon them. They attended lectures and demonstrations and did the home deliveries when in Obstetrics. Gulli was the number one student. Five of the women dropped out early. Five of the original group received their M.D. degrees in 1921.

In the summer of 1919, Gulli took a trip to the Orient. On the return voyage she met James Muller, a professor of Theology. Later that year they were married.

Another first, Gulli and Jean Corwin were the first two women to intern at the famous Presbyterian Hospital, then located on 70th Street.

After her internship she was appointed an instructor at P&S, resigning when her husband accepted a full professorship in Church History at Cambridge, Mass.

Then the struggle began again to break down prejudice! For ten years she was engaged in research at the Thorndike Memorial, in the Boston City Hospital and while there, published about 30 papers in various journals.

During the depression of the early 30's research funds were scarce and she worked in the Rutland State Sanatorium, Mass., where she followed the blood changes of a thousand tubercular patients. The results were published.

In 1940, the New England Hospital for Women and Children decided to establish a real laboratory and Gulli became the Chief. She instructed interns, residents and staff. Soon, she was asked by Colby Junior College to take some of their pupils and teach them medical technology for a year, equivalent to their last year in college for a B.S. degree.

Dr. James Muller died in 1945 after a long illness.

The publishers of medical books, Saunders and Company, arranged for the Head of Instruction for nurses and Gulli to collaborate in writing a book to be an introduction to Medical Sciences. The first edition came out in 1953 and was a great success. They revised the book three times to include the great advances in medicine during the 40's and 50's. This involved almost a year's work each time. The strain of editing as well as the strenuous days at the hospital proved too much and she resigned from the hospital in 1953.



Gulli Lindh Muller, '21

(Continued on page 30)

GULLI LINDH MULLER

(Continued from page 29)

She enjoyed her home and garden in Newtonville, Mass. Only after her second stroke did she move to smaller quarters in Amherst, Mass. to be near one of her favorite students.

Gulli died on October 28, 1972 at the good age of 85 years.

I have been privileged to have known this unusual woman in Barnard and the four years in P&S. Now, I am the only one left of the original group entering in 1917 and I look back with gratitude to Gulli and her special gift of "persistence".

DOROTHEA E. CURNOW '21

Editor's Note: May R. Mayers, who also graduated with the Class of 1921, was not one of the initial group which entered P&S in 1917.