Scientist of the Month

April 2025

Elizabeth Blackwell

1982 - 1910

Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman to become a doctor in the United States.

Elizabeth applied to many medical colleges, but none of them would allow a woman to study there. Finally, in 1847, Elizabeth was accepted by Geneva Medical College in New York. She graduated two years later at the top of her class. Elizabeth travelled to Paris, France, where she worked at a hospital for women. She continued her medical studies in England. In 1851 Elizabeth travelled back to the United States, but no hospital would hire her. She started a small clinic for the poor in New York City. In 1857 the clinic became the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. In 1868 she opened the Woman's Medical College at the New York Infirmary.

In 1869 Elizabeth moved to England. She helped to set up the National Health Society. She also served as a professor at the London School of Medicine for Women from 1875 to 1907. Elizabeth died in England on May 31, 1910.







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