

LEE KONG CHIAN
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE



Imperial College
London



A life less ordinary: Dr Wu Lien-Teh

Dr Jeeve Kanagalingam, Dr Alice Lo and Dr Lee-Oh Chong Leng

REDEFINING MEDICINE, TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

Special guests

- Ong Lay Hong, Executive Producer at MediaCorp
- Dr Alex Ooi, Wu Lien-Teh Society and President of the Old Frees' Association, Singapore

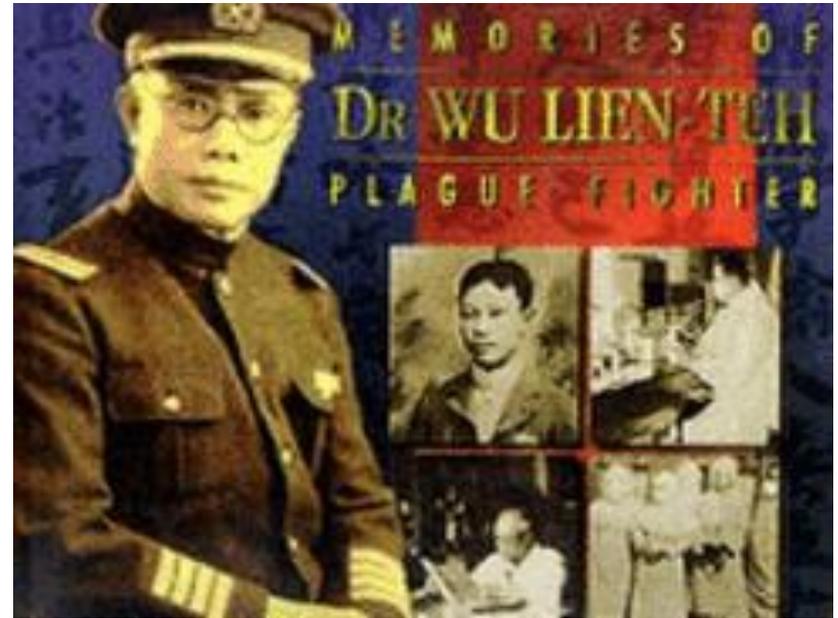
Who was Dr Wu?

- Born Gnoh Lean Tuck
- 1879, Penang
- Born to a Goldsmith – 4th son
- Queen's Scholar, read Medicine at Cambridge and then St Mary's Hospital
- Changed name to Wu Lien-Teh or 伍连德 when he moved to China
- Worked in China for 30 years (1907-1937) making medical, social and political contributions



Outline of this meeting

- A lecture with movies!
- Snippets of a documentary
- A discussion



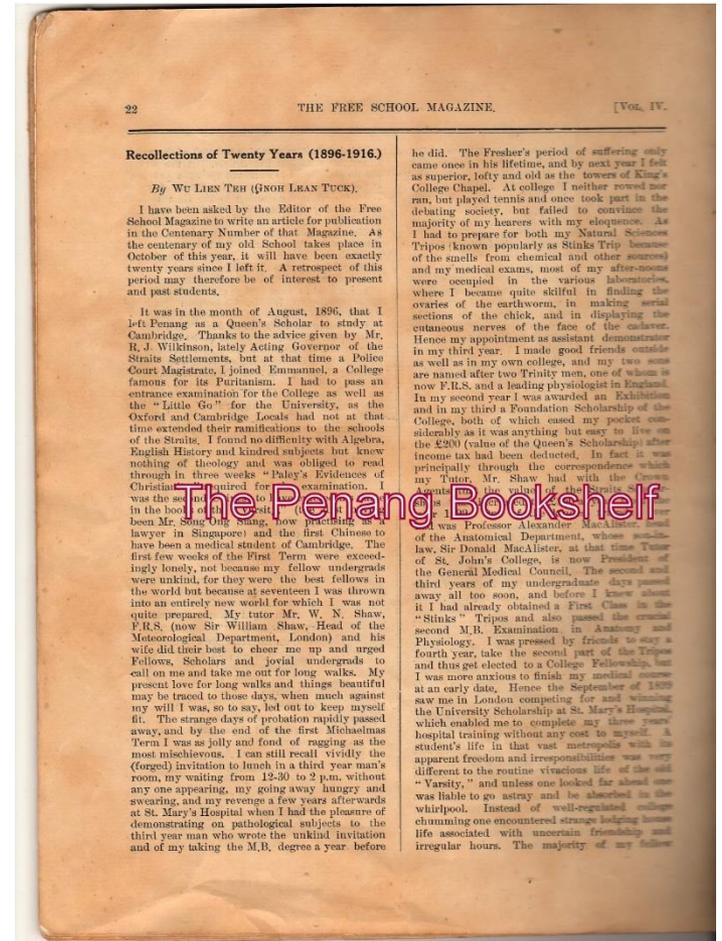
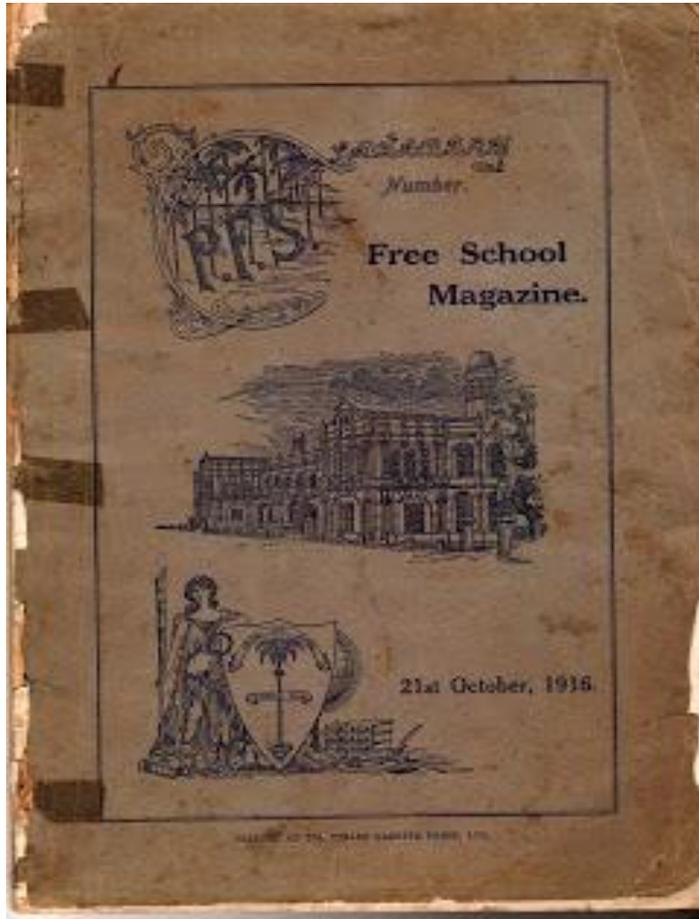
MEDIA CORP

Medical School and Training

- Queen's Scholar
- Read Medicine in Emmanuel College Cambridge (1896-1899)
- First Chinese Medical Student at Cambridge
- Won virtually all the prizes at medical school



Medical School



Medical School

have been a medical student of Cambridge. The first few weeks of the First Term were exceedingly lonely, not because my fellow undergrads were unkind, for they were the best fellows in the world but because at seventeen I was thrown into an entirely new world for which I was not quite prepared. My tutor Mr. W. N. Shaw,

fit. The strange days of probation rapidly passed away, and by the end of the first Michaelmas Term I was as jolly and fond of ragging as the most mischievous. I can still recall vividly the

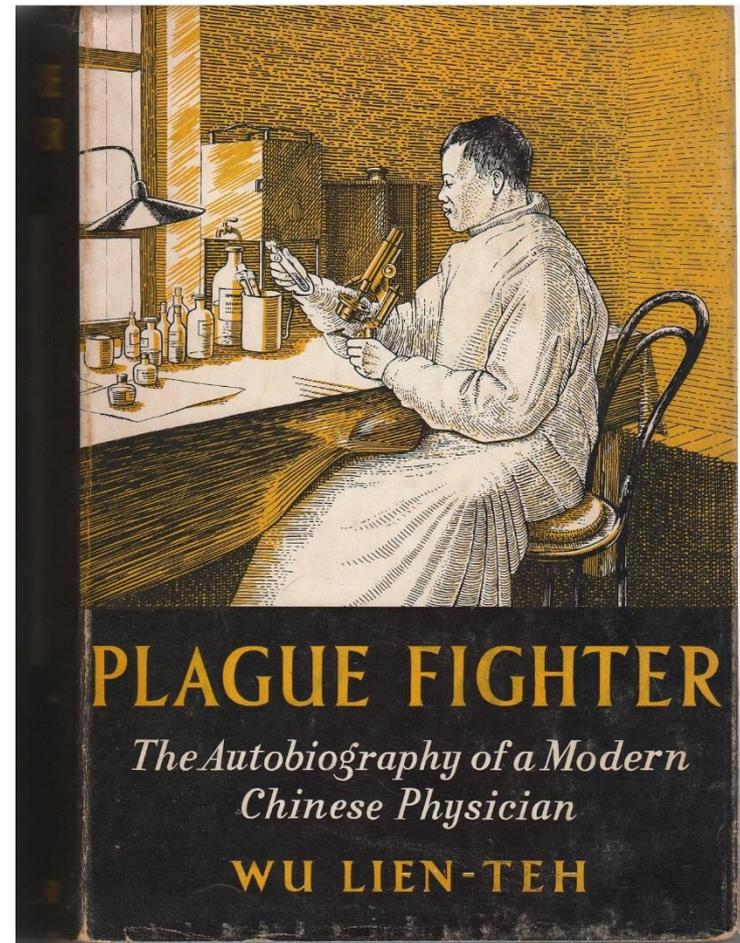
Medical School and Training

- St Mary's Hospital (1899-1902)
- Returned to Cambridge to pursue an MD in Malaria and Beriberi (Thiamine deficiency)
- Returned to Malaya in 1905
- Worked at the Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur
- Private practice in Penang
- Fought opium trade



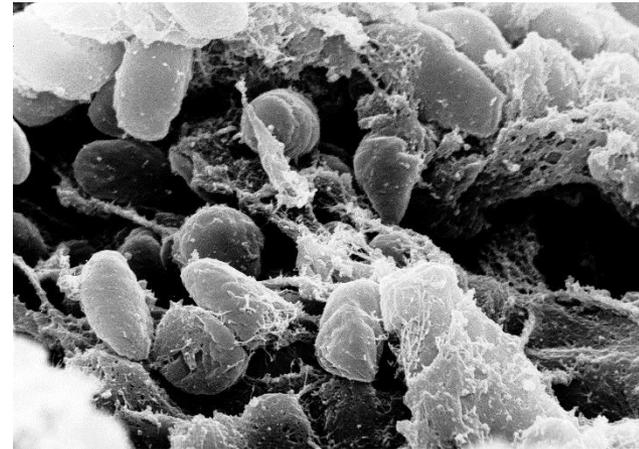
To China

- Meets and impresses Chinese Envoy - Sze Sao-Ke
- Invited to be Vice-Director of Army Medical College in Tientsin in 1907
- Plague broke out in 1910 in Northeast China / Manchuria

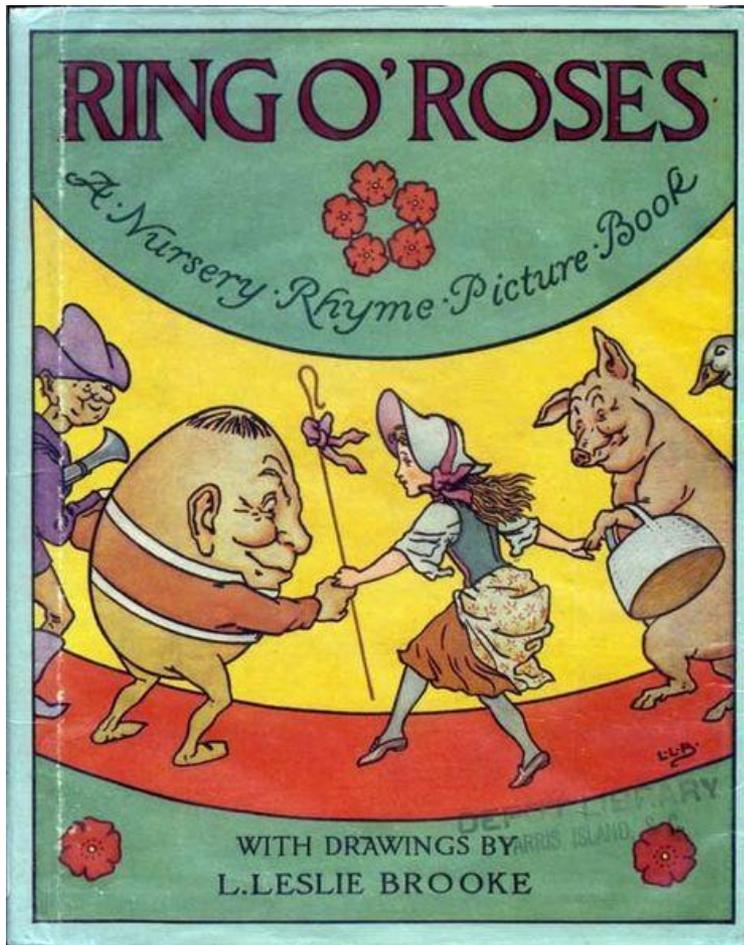


The Plague

- 'Black death'
- Infection by *Yersinia Pestis*, a bacteria carried by fleas
- Fleas lived and infected rodents
- Tarabagans in Northeast China
- Killed millions in Europe and Asia
- Three great pandemics
- Shipping and railways helped spread the disease



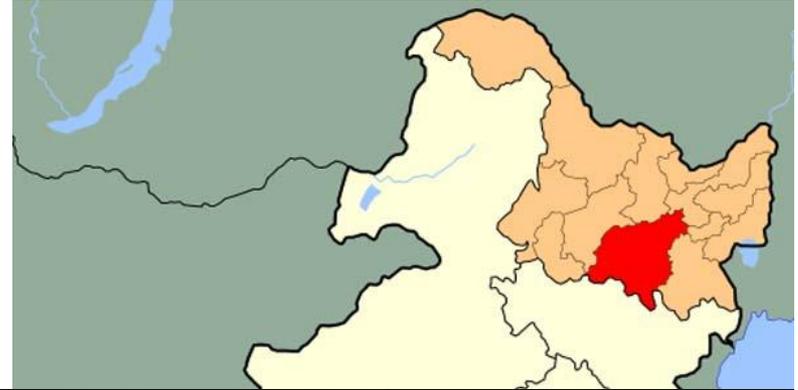
The Plague



*Ring-a-ring o' roses,
A pocket full of posies,
A-tishoo! A-tishoo!
We all fall down*

Harbin 哈尔滨

- Capital of Heilongjiang
- Founded in 1898 during the construction of the Trans-Manchurian (Chinese Eastern Railway)
- Sino-Russian
- Annual Snow and Ice Festival since 1985
- Epicentre of the Great Manchurian Plague of 1910-1911



Video 1: Major Outbreaks

The Plague hits Harbin

Plague done, what next?

- Organised the first International Plague Conference in Mukden in 1911
- Regained China's port quarantine rights
- Fought against subsequent plague and cholera epidemics
- Built over 20 quarantine centres, hospitals and medical colleges

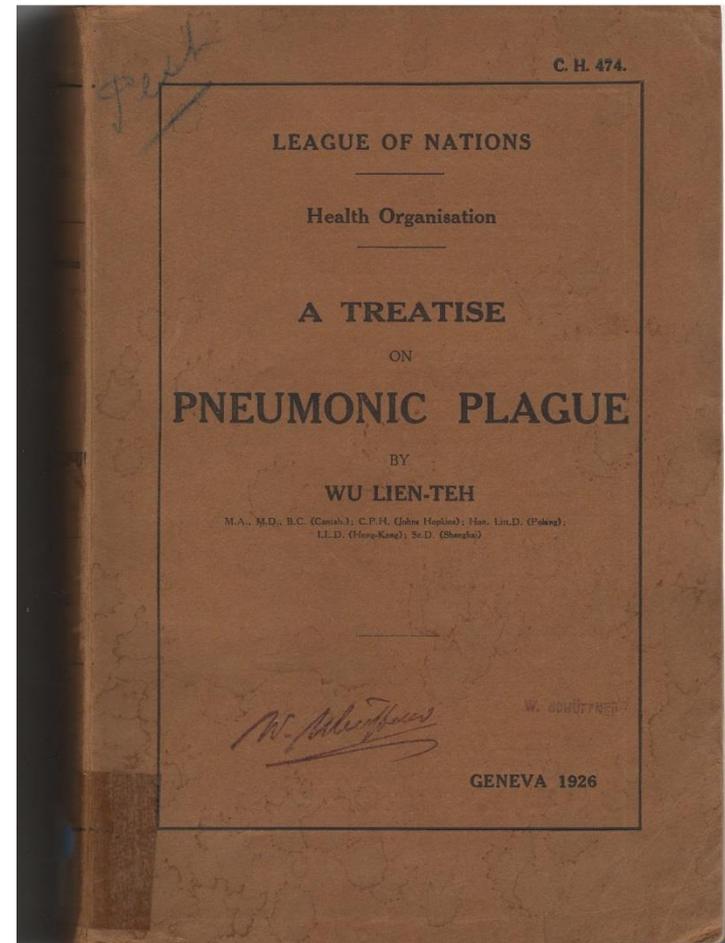


Video 2: Medical Foundations

Building modern hospitals

Not resting on his laurels

- Wrote a treatise on the pneumonic plague
- Went to Johns Hopkins and obtained a Masters in Public Health in 1924
- Obtained a doctorate from Japan
- Co-authored the History of Chinese Medicine
- Helped fund and establish the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge – Science & Civilisation in China



Video 3: Medical Foundations

Academic Medical Achievements

Family and personal life

- Family man
- Came from a large family of 11
- 'Privileged' to receive an English education



Romance and Love – Ruth and Tuck

- Ruth Huang Shu-Chiung – sister-in-law of Lim Boon Keng
- Sought by Tan Boo-Liat
- Married in the American Methodist Church in Singapore – July 1905
- 3 sons – ‘Daven, Tommy and Willy’
- Ruth had TB and died aged 53 in 1937
- All three sons died



A second romance

- Married again to Lee Shu-Chiung
- Had 5 children



Video 4: Legacy

Family life

Thoughts, Questions and Discussion

Your thoughts and questions?

- Tell us one thought you had about Medicine as a profession whilst listening to the Wu Lien-Teh story

Discussion

- Reflecting on Dr Wu Lien-Teh's life, what significance does it have to a medical student in the 21st century?
- Within 10 years of leaving medical school, Dr Wu has made a massive impact on humankind – could you or your TBL group have a similar impact by 2028?
- Have we seen the end of pandemics?

Video 4: Legacy

A finale

THANK YOU!