

# Special Issue

Reflection on the Calendar 2020

February 03, 2020

The year 1902, was a historic milestone in the evolution of CMC. It was a major leap from the one-bed clinic in 1900 to a forty-bed Mary Taber Schell Hospital in 1902. The journey from then to the present multi-campus hospital, has been tremendous.



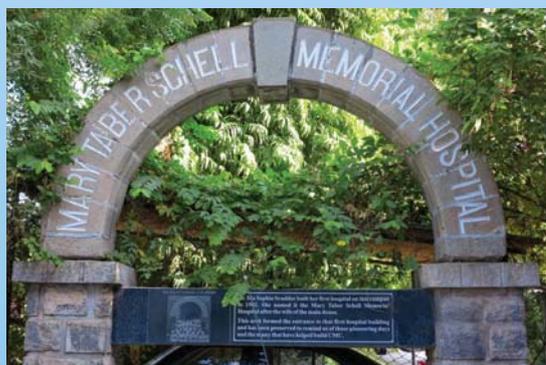
(Fourth from left - Dr. Ida's mother, Sophia Scudder seated along with Dr. Ida S. Scudder)

The photo chosen for this month's calendar is a power-packed picture of Dr. Ida's band of women who efficiently ran the Mary Taber Schell Memorial Hospital. When she began services in the Schell Hospital, she had very few, but highly efficient and like-minded assistants; her mother, Annie Hancock, Gnanammal, Dr. Louisa Hart, Lillian Hart, Mary Isaac Henry, Delia Houghton and others. Most of them are featured in the picture along with Dr. Ida and her mother Sophia Scudder. With no place to administer proper health care, alongside the growing diseases juxtaposed with ignorant and harmful practices, it became a pressing need for Dr. Ida to open a hospital in Vellore. It was

indeed Dr. Louisa Hart who pushed her to raise money for the hospital. The ten thousand dollars along with equipments which she received as donation from Mr. Schell was her 'Road to Damascus' at this point. True to her word, she named the hospital after Mr. Schell's wife, keeping her memory alive to this day.

Seated below the women, on the floor are three beautiful children; all abandoned at the hospital but cared for by Dr. Ida. The girl in the centre was rescued by Dr. Ida, just in time from infanticide. Dr. Ida's mother, Mrs. John stood by her and took a bold step of adopting this child into the Scudder fold.

*Mrs. John considered. "Hmm! Her own mother doesn't want her – or can't have her. So the hospital is in a sense her mother," she mused. "We'll call her Mary Taber!"* (Wilson 104).



Quite similar to this is the foster care system of the CMC community; a beautiful and meaningful gesture, which often goes unnoticed without special mention.

The students who enter CMC are in fact stepping into a new home. The foster system allows the residents to 'adopt' the first years into respective families. They, then become a part of that family, forming a warm and unbreakable bond which lives on till the end.

Few of the common phrases, one often hears in the campuses are, 'I'm going for my foster dinner', or 'she is my foster mum', and during Graduation or College Day, it's heart-warming to see the two families (the real and the foster) meet and share anecdotes.



Where else can such blessings be sought? The students have all the rights to walk in to their homes; be it anxiety of exams or want of good home food. The foster parents are ever ready with open arms and sumptuous food to welcome the students.

The uniqueness of this institution stems from many facets. It is not just in providing health care and charity that the institution stands tall; it is also through the small gestures which have gone miles ahead.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
THE OPENING  
OF THE  
MARY TABER SCHELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
*which will take place on Tuesday afternoon  
September the Sixteenth at four o'clock  
Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn have kindly consented to be present  
and open the building*

Vellore  
No. Arcot District

I. S. Scudder, M.D.

*Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be. Job 8:7*

Sunitha Serena  
P.I.O  
Promotion & PTP

Bibliography :

George, Reena. *One Step at a Time*. Showcase Roli Books Pvt. Ltd., 2018.

Wilson, Dorothy Clarke. *Dr. Ida The Torch of Life*. Vellore Christian Medical College Board (USA) Inc., 1959.