

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Encyclopedia Article

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1836-1917

English physician whose efforts to obtain professional medical education and a license to practice paved the way for British women to receive accredited training and to work as doctors. When refused admission to medical schools in England, Anderson studied privately and became a doctor by passing the Apothecaries exam in 1865. In 1866 she set up a clinic for women in London which became a small hospital—the first in England to have women doctors. She also founded the London Medical School for women in 1883, and was elected mayor of Aldeburgh in 1908, becoming the first woman mayor in England.