Dr Mary Esslemont

(1891–1984)

Mary Esslemont was born in Aberdeen in 1891, and graduated from the University in Science, Arts and finally Medicine in 1923. She was appointed the first woman President of the S.R.C. in 1923. She served on the University General Council for over 40 years and in 1947 became the first woman assessor on the University Court.

She had a keen interest in social welfare and humanitarian issues, travelling the world as a member of the World Medical Association. She was a member of the national council of the British Medical Association for 23 years and was also the first woman to serve on the Scottish Council, becoming its chairperson in 1968.

She worked as a general practitioner in Aberdeen and during that period she was also committed to supporting a number of local organisations and causes, for which she was awarded the Freedom of the City in 1981. In 1954 she received an honorary LL.D. from the University of Aberdeen and in 1955 was awarded a C.B.E.