

At Home and Over There: American Women Physicians in World War I

Study Guide and Discussion Questions

MEDICINE AND WAR

1. How does wartime medical work help advance the practice of medicine?
2. How does war help to advance the roles of women in medicine and/or in the military?

IMPACT OF WAR ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

1. How did the war impact women's suffrage, which was not achieved nationally until 1920?
2. How did the war impact employment opportunities for women?

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

1. What do you think motivated the women physicians to participate in the war effort despite the challenges they encountered?
2. What challenges do you think women faced pursuing a medical degree at the turn of the century?
3. What barriers do women physicians face today and how might we overcome those barriers?

EXPLORING HISTORY

1. Who were the first women graduates at your medical school? Share a few words about their stories and experiences.
2. Did any women at your medical school serve during war?
3. Who are women leaders at your medical school (past or present)? Share a few words about their stories and experiences.
4. What barriers have the women leaders at your school faced and how did they overcome them? What advice might they share with a medical student?

This last project may be an especially good project for women's history month and a public screening of the film. Students can research these Exploring History questions and share findings in conjunction with the film screening. They can also help add new information to the AMWA exhibition on Women Physicians in World War I.