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Integration, Adaptation And Modernization: Jiang Ivceng with the Earliest Design of Medical University in Modern China

By analyzing the design plan of Jiang Ivceng (蔣履曾?-?) and his medical university, this paper intends to present the reform prospect of medical education under the influence of social and medical modernization in China and even the whole east Asian world. In the discussion of this paper, we will not only see the familiar „China’s response to the west“ narrative, but also realize the diversification and long-term transformation of medical education in modern China, as well as its deep integration with political change, medical tradition and social network.

Jiang studied surgery at Kyoto medical university for seven years. Like other Chinese medical students studying abroad in the late Qing dynasty, Jiang was soon recognized by the government for his outstanding professional qualifications and status as an overseas student, and directly participated in the core work of the transformation of modern Chinese medical system. In 1907, Jiang was appointed as the health officer of the Jingshi university(京師大學堂), the earliest university in China and the highest institution in China at that time, which inspired him to reform medical education in China.

But passion alone is not enough to build a successful medical university. Jiang was fortunate enough to meet sheng Xuanhuai (盛宣懷1844—1916), one of modern China’s most prominent commercial bureaucrats. Sheng Xuanhuai trusted Jiang very much, and they exchanged views on setting up charity hospitals and developing medical education frequently.

In 1910, Jiang submitted to Sheng Xuanhuai a 80-page document entitled „measures for the establishment of a medical university in China“ (《謹擬醫科大學辦法》), which systematically elaborated his plan for the establishment of the first medical university in China based on years of accumulation of medical studies in Japan and observation of the progress of medical education in various countries. Methods for the preparation of medical university is a manuscript of Jiang, which is only one copy in existence. It is in the personal archives of Sheng Xuanhuai in Shanghai library. Previous scholars, unable to see the precious manuscript, knew nothing about Jiang and his medical university design. But in fact it is a can not be ignored important Medical education program: it is not only the earliest offered to give up the relatively low levels of “Medical College” and to build a high level „Medical

University”, as well as from its purpose, to personnel training, equipment management, and other aspects completed for the Medical University of comprehensive construction.

After reading Jiang’s method of constructing a medical university, we can clearly see that Jiang’s medical education experience and his medical ideas have deeply influenced the educational orientation of this medical university.

In conclusion, there are three key words in the design of this medical university: integration, adaptation and modernization. This paper will focus on these three key words and observe the history of medical education transformation in China from Jiang’s case.

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