

## John Kirk FRCSEd 1914, anatomist and missionary (1881 – 1959)

**Reference and contact details:** GB 779 RCSEd GD/63

**Location:** RS L3

**Title:** John Kirk FRCSEd

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Kirk 1914

### **Administrative/Biographical History:**

*Photographs of John Kirk FRCSEd (1914) and his hospital and patients in South China, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Donated by his son, John Kirk FRCSEd (1973), 2008. (Mr Kirk died in May 2011)*

### **John Kirk (1881-1959)**

John Kirk, a son of the Church of Scotland Manse from Edinburgh, was a deeply religious man who spent 20 years working in South China where he was influential in establishing formal medical education. He had been part of a small group of doctors who obtained funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, an initiative that resulted in the founding of three new University Medical Schools in China. He was placed in charge of the new Department of Anatomy in the Canton Medical School. He excelled as a teacher of anatomy and on his return to the United Kingdom he became Professor of Anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School... A tall man with natural dignity and courtesy John Kirk was motivated throughout his life by a deep religious conviction.

[Excerpt from Macintyre & MacLaren 'Surgeons' lives...' 2005.]

See also:

Plarrs Lives of the Fellows (1952-1964) page 229.

Brit. Med. J. 1959; 2: 698; 830 and 1028.

Brit. Med. J. 1960; 1: 433. Lancet 1959; 2: 571.

### **GD 63/1**

#### **Photographs**

1. John Kirk, 1914, wearing academic gown
2. The hospital and nursing school complex at Kong Tsuen near Canton, South China
3. Men's surgical ward, Kong Tsuen. John Kirk in background.
4. Large pile of bladder calculi removed from many suffering patients by John Kirk, 1907 – 1928, in South China
5. Ulcerating parotid tumour (?)
6. Large tumour of the breast (?)
7. John Kirk, 1949



Kirk 1949



Bladder calculi  
removed by Kirk  
1907-1928,  
Canton, China