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The Life of  
Dr. Cicely Williams

*by*  
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The Life of Dr. Cicely Williams

**B**orn in Jamaica in 1893, and educated in Bath, England, Cicely Williams returned to study medicine in wartime Oxford and was among the first women awarded a degree there. Work in London's East End hospitals in the early 1920s was followed by a year as medical officer in the malarial swamps of Greece. She was inspired by Andrija Stampar's approach to community medicine. Seven years in the White Man's Grave of West Africa taught her that children respond better to clinical and hospital treatment if their mothers are with them; that witch doctors are sometimes right; that protein calorie malnutrition was decimating the infant population. Already famous for identifying this as kwashiorkor, in 1936 Dr. Williams was sent to Malaya. Always a champion of breastfeeding, she shocked Singapore with 'Milk and Murder', a tirade against commercial cupidity among infant food manufacturers.

While she was conducting a survey into health work in the remote Trengganu Sultanate, the Japanese armies invaded from the North. She escaped through uncharted jungle-covered mountains to Singapore, starvation, and internment for three and a half years in notorious Changi Gaol. After being interrogated by the Kempe Tai, the Japanese Secret Police, who kept her in a cage for months, she was a physical and mental wreck. With postwar recuperation in London and America she was back at work and then this remarkable woman became First Head of Mother and Child Health for the World Health Organization at Geneva before moving to South East Asia and thereafter carrying her message of comprehensive care to more than sixty countries.

'Personal and individual medicine must be both preventive and curative and continuity of care is essential,' says this Grande Dame of paediatrics and nutrition – now nearly ninety and still lecturing, a prophet of WHO policy fifty years ago.

This is the first complete biography of Cicely Williams and, apart from describing her remarkable life, also throws light on her aims and philosophy. In addition to a full bibliography her previously unpublished report on health work in Trengganu is reproduced in an abridged form.

The book will appeal not only to all those involved in mother and child health and nutrition but also to all Cicely's innumerable friends and foes.

# ORDER FORM

Publication is scheduled for October 1983, two months before Cicely's 90th birthday. The price will be **£12.50** (or \$25). All orders received before publication will qualify for a special prepublication discount of **20%** (i.e. the book will cost £10 (or \$20, including postage and packing).

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