SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in Hong Kong: Its Past and Its Future

Lam SF

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Colleagues, Ladies, and Gentlemen—

I must first of all thank my good friend Dr SY Chun, the Chairman of the Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Subspecialty Board, for his kind invitation, which has given me the privilege to address you all this evening. Before doing so, may I congratulate all the First Fellows of this subspecialty who are to be confirmed shortly.

In time, the Association changed its name to The Society for the Relief of Disabled Children, and when the Duchess of Kent visited Hong Kong, she laid the corner stone of the building. Eventually, the Children's Convalescent Home also changed its name, and is now called the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital. Not being satisfied with having taken care of the problems associated with disabled children, this amazing ‘rehabilitation trio’ later founded the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, their aim being to care for the disabled adults in the community.

The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled had as its first Chairman Dr Hodgson, with Mrs Trench as the Honorary Secretary. Here, I would like to say something about this amazing lady: Mrs Trench, or Margaret as she was known to her friends, was a trained nurse from America who was dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of disabled children. She was married to David Trench, a career officer in the British Colonial Service.

In the 1950s, Mr Trench was in the Hong Kong Government Service as the Political Adviser to the (then) Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham. With Dr Hodgson...