

KIKUO TASHIRO, J MARION WRIGHT & THE JAPANESE HOSPITAL OF LOS ANGELES

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Troy Kaji MD

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Yoshiye Togasaki MD
JANM Staff

Opening of Japan 1853-54

- ▣ Admiral Matthew Perry led “Black Ships” into Tokyo bay
- ▣ In 1853, Perry gave ultimatum to the Tokugawa Bakufu to open up Japan to outside trade or face the consequences
- ▣ On his return in 1854, Tokugawa signed a treaty opening Japan to the world



Shogun Founds Nagasaki Naval Training Center.

- ▣ Tokugawa hired Dutch naval officers to start the Nagasaki Naval Training Center
- ▣ Western-style military training academy
- ▣ In 1857, Professor J. L. C. Pompe van Meerdervoort, a Dutch naval surgeon, single-handedly began teaching Western medicine to 133 students

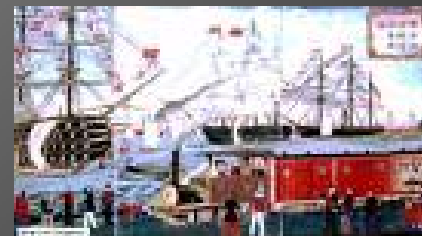
*Johnston, William "The Modern Epidemic: A History of Tuberculosis in Japan,"
Harvard University Press, 1995, p.167*

Nagasaki Medical College

- Nagasaki Medical Training Institute (医学伝習所)
- One of the first western-style medical schools
- In 1861, at Pompe's suggestion, Shogun opened a 124 bed hospital
- Japan's most promising medical students came to study under Pompe
- Pompe's students became leaders of Meiji-era medical community
- In 1923, elevated to Nagasaki Medical College (長崎医科大学)

Meiji Restoration 1867-1868

- ❑ Tokugawa Shogun resigned office in 1867
- ❑ Emperor Meiji ascended to the throne
- ❑ Pro-emperor forces defeated pro-Tokugawa forces in a series of battles in 1868



Guido Herman Fridolin Verbeck

(28 January 1830 – 10 May 1898)

- ▣ Oyatoi Gaikokujin (foreign advisor) in the early years of Emperor Meiji's reign
- ▣ In 1869, Verbeck recommended adopting **German Language** for medical studies, since existing of Dutch-learned medical knowledge was linguistically similar to German.

1871

TOKYO UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

- Meiji Government Appointed 2 German Physicians to teach
- Leopold Muller
- Theodor Hoffman

KUMAMOTO MEDICAL SCHOOL, 1871-76

- Kumamoto government established
- Dutch naval surgeon C. G. Van Mansvelt
- Outstanding students: Ogata Masaki and Kitasato Shibasaburo

Scientific Medicine Introduced Two Distinctive Institutions

HOSPITAL

- ▣ Physicians used stethoscopes, thermometers, and recorded findings in a medical record
- ▣ Sought links between symptoms and signs of disease, and internal changes in the body

LABORATORY

- ▣ Experimental method identifies causes of diseases
- ▣ Microscopes
- ▣ Laboratory animals
- ▣ Bacteriology
- ▣ Pathology

1874 Medical Act

- In 1874, the Office for Medical Affairs issued the “Medical Act” (*Isei*) to establish a national licensing examination for physicians based on Western medicine.

Japanese Encounter Modern Hospital

- ▣ “to most Japanese, physicians and public alike, the modern hospital was new and foreign.
- ▣ In 1879 the leading medical journal explained:
“What sort of thing is a hospital? Broadly speaking, it is a lodge where the ill can stay, identical to those travelers use. But in addition, it is a place where therapy is practiced.”
- ▣ Public hospitals generally provided better care than private

Johnston, William “The Modern Epidemic: A History of Tuberculosis in Japan,”
Harvard University Press, 1995, pp. 172.

Public & Private Hospitals in Japan

- ▣ By 1882, 626 hospitals registered
- ▣ Many individual physicians built small hospitals next to their offices
- ▣ Quality ranged from excellent to deplorable
- ▣ Only the affluent could use them.
- ▣ Most Meiji-era physicians rarely disposed towards philanthropy or community service
- ▣ Johnston, William "The Modern Epidemic: A History of Tuberculosis in Japan," Harvard University Press, 1995, pp. 172-173.

Tayama Katai Portrays Hospital

- Japanese novelist Tayama Katai (1871-1930) portrayed in *Shi no hō e* a working Japanese hospital, its physicians and nurses, and the care they deliver
- Nurses swish up and down corridors wearing straw sandals and white uniforms, flirt with attractive male patients, and take vital signs.
- Doctors round twice daily, examine with stethoscope, prescribe medicine, say nothing about proper care or diet, and avoid offering a candid prognosis.
- Family expected to nurse patient, feed and attend to patient needs, and pay mounting bill.
- Johnston, William "The Modern Epidemic: A History of Tuberculosis in Japan," Harvard University Press, 1995, pp. 139-142.

1894

- ▣ September 1
- ▣ In their second year of marriage, Tashiro Saburo and Mono celebrate the birth of their first child, a son, whom they name Kikuo
- ▣ Japanese naval ship Naniwa, commanded by Captain Togo Heihachiro, sinks the Chinese battleship Kao Shan



1899-1901

- ▣ 1899: Tashiro Saburo assumes guardianship of his elder brother's three children. Why?
- ▣ 1901: Tashiro Kikuo enters elementary school
- ▣ 1901: Kikuo and brother Tanenori both develop TB and are bedridden

TB Stigma in Japan

- In Japan, persons with tuberculosis ostracized
- 1930-1933 Household Survey by Tokyo Metropolitan Police reported that:
 1. 29% of families said they had “done all they could” for a member with TB
 2. 41% said they made “some effort”
 3. 29% “neither comforted nor nursed” their family member before they died.

Johnston, William “The Modern Epidemic: A History of Tuberculosis in Japan,” Harvard University Press, 1995, p. 115.

Kikuo's Sister Okite

- ▣ Every morning, Kikuo performed his morning chore of feeding the horses
- ▣ When returning home from school, Kikuo played in a creek, catching river crabs

and eels

with his bare hands



- ▣ Kikuo's nickname was “hidari-gicho” or lefty

1904-1905 Russo Japanese War

- ▣ May 1905: Admiral Togo Heihachiro leads Japanese Navy to victory over Russian Fleet
- ▣ 1st victory of non-white power over Europeans
- ▣ SF Chronicle reacts: “The Japanese Invasion — the problem of the hour”, “at least 100,000 of the ‘little brown men’ were here already,” and “a torrent” would ensue once the war ended
- ▣ “THE YELLOW PERIL — HOW JAPANESE CROWD OUT THE WHITE RACE”

SF School Segregation

- ▣ On October 11, 1906, the San Francisco, Board of Education ordered children of Japanese descent to attend Oriental school.
- ▣ “BROWN MEN AN EVIL IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS”
- ▣ President Theodore Roosevelt directly intervened, brokering the return of students to regular schools in return for Japan’s agreement to restrict future immigration

Saburo and the Gentleman's Agreement

- ▣ T. Roosevelt's deal with Japan, "The Gentleman's Agreement" restricted labor immigration from Japan effective Feb 1908.
- ▣ Saburo departed for California in 1907, age 41, leaving behind his family and his occupation as a veterinarian, and took up farming
- ▣ Mono stayed behind to support the children through school

Medical School Highlights

- With financial support from his father's farmwork, Kikuo attended Nagasaki Medical School from 1914 to 1918,
- "one of the three geniuses"
- In May 1918, Kikuo became an assistant to Professor Hayashi Ikuhiko at the medical school's department of Pathology.
- Kikuo, age 25, met Mori Moto, age 19, in July 1919. Moto was then working for Asada Shintaro, an internist, who operated the Asada Hospital in the Shinmachi district of Nagasaki.

Year at Kyushu University

- 1919 Kikuo joins the surgery division of Fukuoka Medical School (now Kyushu University), as assistant under Professor Goto Shichiro.
- Performs research for PhD dissertation, which he finally completed in 1934.
- November 1920, takes family medical leave to attend Kaoru, his sister suffering from TB, who died despite his efforts at care.
- Married Moto on December 30, 1920. The couple takes up residence in Fukuoka

Exodus to Los Angeles

- Sept 7, 1921, departed Yokohama for California.
- Younger brother Tanenori, a student at Stanford University, greets him on arrival at SF
- Journeyed by train with Tanenori to parents' residence in Los Angeles' San Gabriel valley.
- Saburo directs Kikuo to stay in Los Angeles and send remittances to support his parents retirement in Japan, rather than pursue a research career.

Iwaoka Masamitsu's First Impression of Kikuo

- ▣ A friend of Tashiro Saburo and Mono, met Kikuo after he arrived at his parents home in the San Gabriel valley
- ▣ “He was tall and thin, but not really too distinguished-looking for a physician!”

California Physician's and Surgeons Licensure Exam

- Exam given in English only
- Failed first attempt
- Studied English medical terminology at a hotel room in San Bernardino
- Passed the June 21-22, 1923 exam



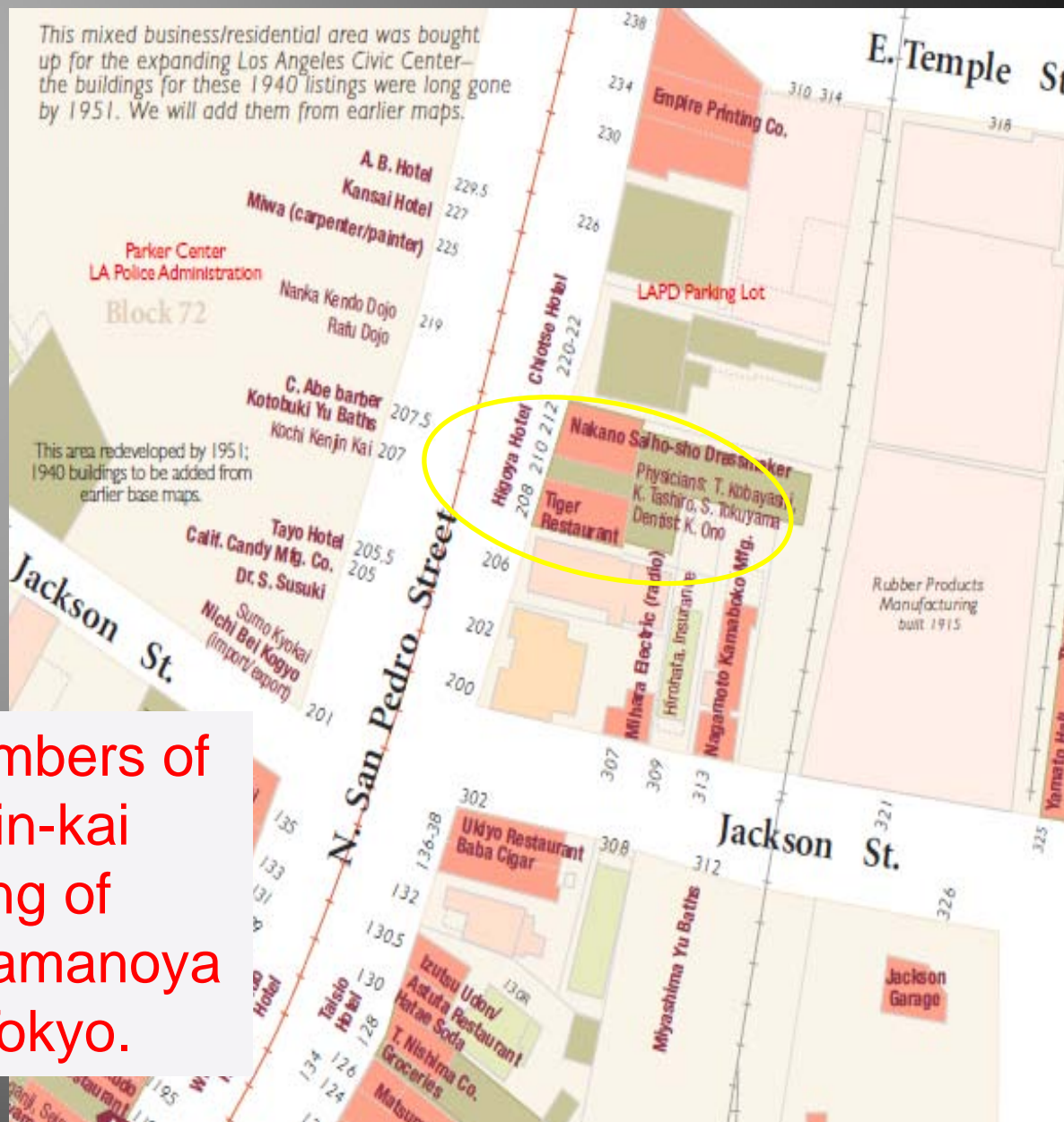
Moto and Akiko Join Kikuo

- Akiko, born Jan 6, 1922 in Fukuoka City
- Oct 18, 1922, Moto and Akiko depart Yokohama for a 2-week passage to SF
- Met by Kikuo and Tanenori in SF
- Moto introduced to Togasaki Shigeko, who helps Moto purchase a western style wardrobe

Arrival in LA

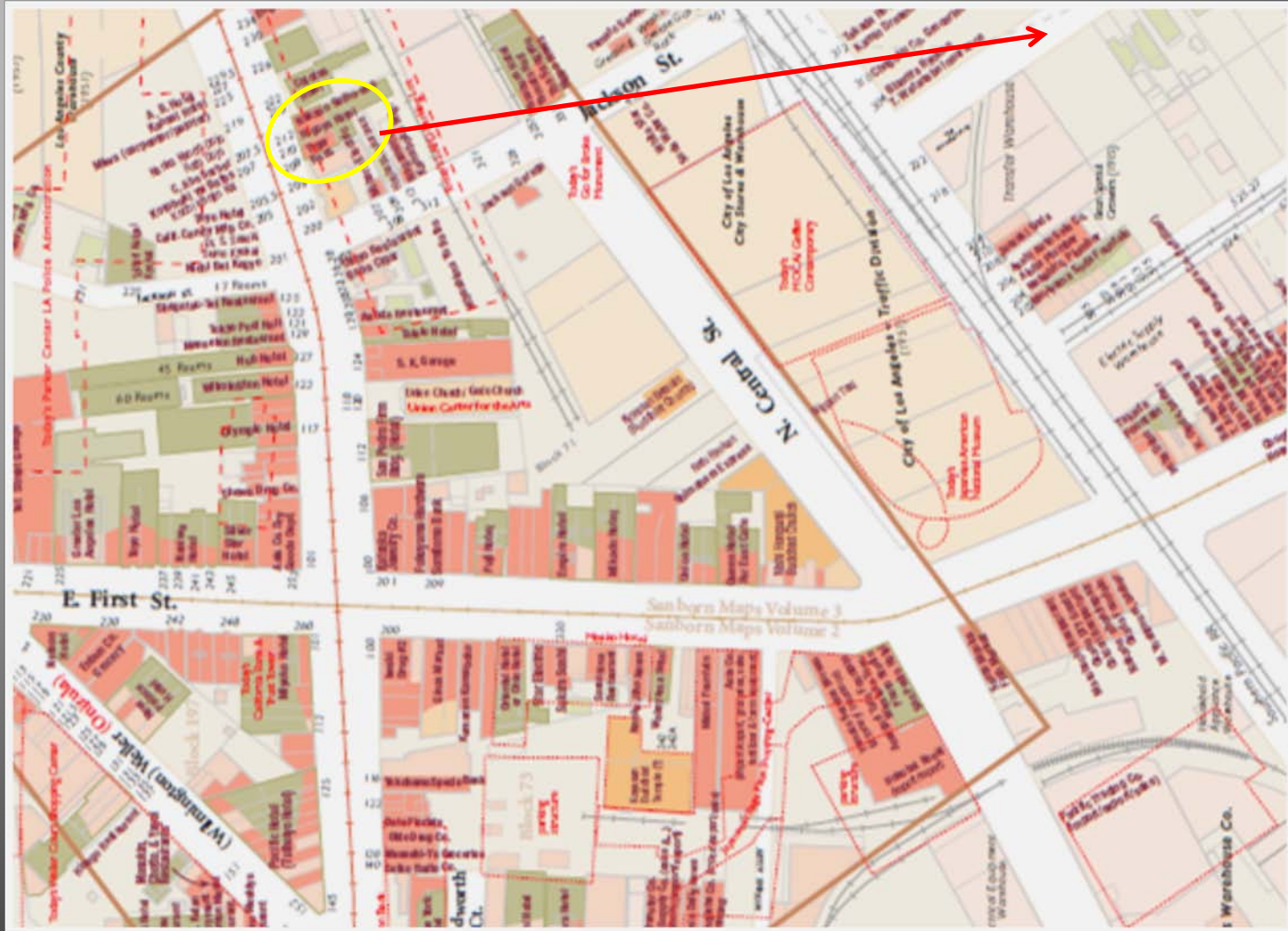
- ▣ Stay one night in Little Tokyo's Higoya Hotel, owned by Miyamoto Tsunezo from Kumamoto
- ▣ Kikuo, Moto and Akiko then ride in Kikuo's new Ford coupe to the Tashiro home in San Gabriel, where they live for a year.
- ▣ In October 1923, after Kikuo gains his medical license, Kikuo, Moto and Akiko move to a house at 921 Lawn Street, Gardena, which has an extra room for a clinic.

In 1923,
Dr. Tashiro
opens a Little
Tokyo office
on the second
floor of the
Higoya Hotel.



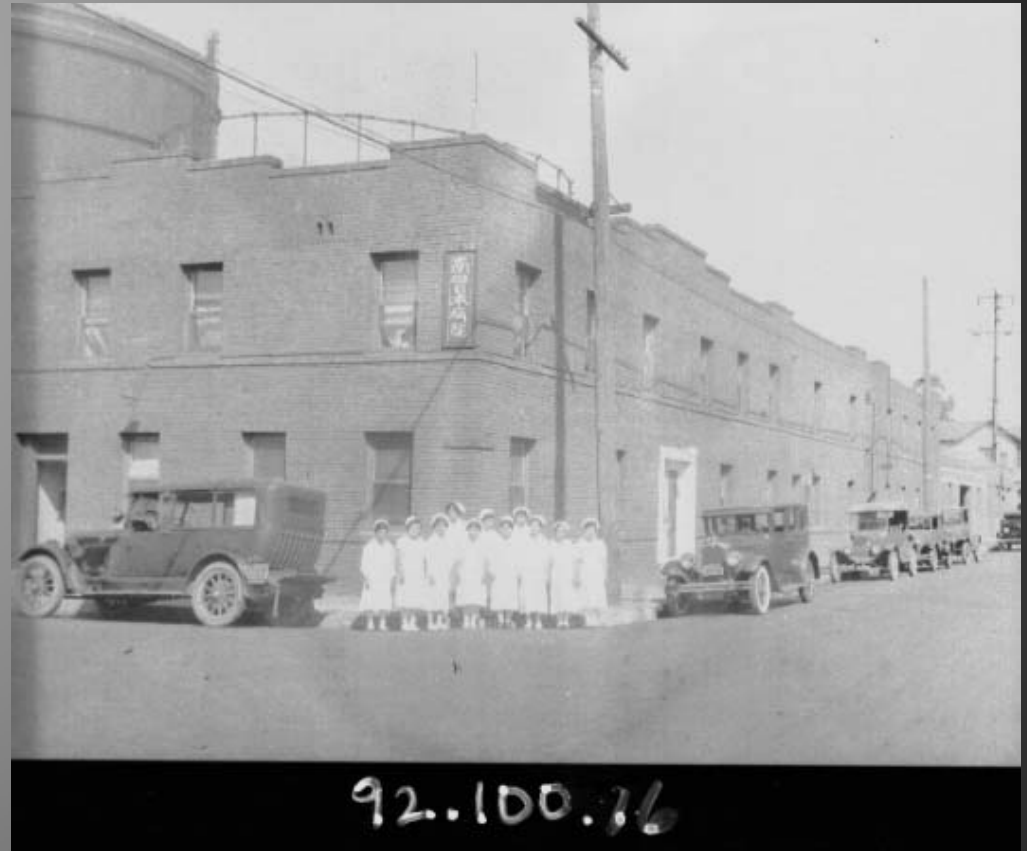
200 friends and members of the Kumamoto-kenjin-kai celebrate the opening of Tashiro's clinic at Hamanoya restaurant in Little Tokyo.

In 1923, Nikkei Physicians Admitted Patients to *Nanka Nihonjin Byoin*, The Japanese Hospital of Southern California, on Turner Street



Tanaka Clinic and the *Nanka Nihonjin Byoin*

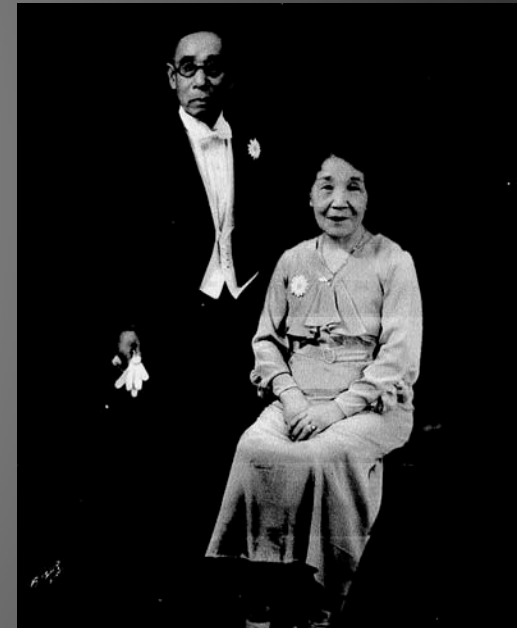
- Dr Jyuhei Tanaka moved from SF in 1905, and helped found the Los Angeles Japanese Council in 1905.
- In 1912, Tanaka opened a well-equipped clinic called *Eisei-In* on Turner Street
- During the 1918 Influenza pandemic, Japanese used it as a makeshift hospital.
- In response to this crisis, the community transformed the *Eisei-In* into the *Nanka Nihonjin Byoin*, or the Japanese Hospital of Southern California



Peak capacity 35 beds
Operational 1915? to 1935

Mr Inose Inosuke

- Native of Ibaragi prefecture, immigrated to US as a student/ laborer
- In 1895, opened the Sunrise Restaurant at 209 East First Street
- By 1902, headed the Japanese section of the Western Agricultural Contracting Company, and subsequently amassed a fortune
- Co-chaired building Japanese Hospital in 1915 with H. T. Komai of *Rafu Shimpō*
- President of the Japanese Hospital of Southern California 1928-1935
- Mason, William M. & John A. McKinstry, *The Japanese of Los Angeles* (1869-1920), p. 35
- Ichioka, Yuji, *The Issei: the world of the first generation Japanese immigrants, 1885-1924*, p. 96



Mrs. Uchio Nari—On Dr Tashiro's Care of her Son

- ▣ I think it was 1923. One day my eldest boy had an accident hitting his stomach . . He had an acute stomach ache and his stomach was swollen badly. We hurried him to Dr Tashiro's Little Tokyo clinic. Dr. Tashiro diagnosed an acute hernia . . immediately hospitalized at Nanka Nihonjin Byoin and the operation was finished in 5 to 10 minutes. My husband was truly surprised with the speed with which Dr Tashiro completed the surgery