

Planned Parenthood Work Brings Award To Dr. Moses

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Dr. Bessie L. Moses, Baltimore obstetrician and gynecologist, has been named to receive the 1950 Lasker Award for important contributions in the field of planned parenthood.

She is corecipient with Mrs. Margaret Sanger, of New York.

Dr. Moses will receive the \$500 cash prize, a statuette of the Winged Victory of Samothrace and a citation at the annual meeting of the Planned Parenthood Federation in New York on October 25.

Awards Begun In 1944

The Lasker Awards in medicine and public health were started in 1944 under the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, which was established in 1942.

Dr. Moses is the head of a clinic now known as the Planned Parenthood Clinic, a pioneer organization in its field, which she founded in 1927 and which has treated nearly 14,000 different patients.

Its original personnel included Dr. Moses as clinician and a part-time secretary-nurse. There are now nine clinicians.

Now Training Staffs

At the request of nine Baltimore hospitals, the clinic is now training their gynecological and obstetrical staffs.

Because of parental misgivings, Dr. Moses, who was to become a nationally recognized leader in her field, did not find it easy to enter the medical profession.

She was born in Baltimore, one of four girls.

Her maternal grandfather was an importer of fine horses and knew presidents from Grant to Wilson, to whom he sold many of the White House carriage and riding horses.

Father Discouraged Her

Dr. Moses's father discouraged her initial interest in medicine, for he considered the work too hard for a woman and without sufficient chance for advancement and recognition to justify the time and energy required for this profession.

Therefore, Dr. Moses began her career as a teacher of biology. Later she joined the Wellesley College faculty as instructor in zoology.

The qualities of her personality—reflecting an interest in other people and their problems—were such that the girls who were students at the school succeeded in getting special permission from the college for Dr. Moses to act as their chaperone, despite the view of the administration that she was too young to serve in that capacity.

Interlude In Her Studies

Her teaching experience in those days turned out to be only an interlude in her studies, however. Earlier she had received her first degree at Goucher College and completed graduate study in biology at the Johns Hopkins University.

Returning to her medical interest after two years of teaching, she entered the Johns Hopkins Medical School and was graduated in 1922, winning the Phi Beta Kappa key.

Organizes Clinic

She served her internship in obstetrics at the Hopkins Hospital and



DR. BESSIE L. MOSES
Winner of Lasker Award

in gynecology at the Woman's Hospital, Philadelphia.

At the instigation of Dr. J. Whitridge Williams at the Hopkins and other physicians and scientists, Dr. Moses organized the clinic she now heads.

In 1938 she established a Negro clinic staffed by physicians whom she trained.

In 1937 she established clinics at Hagerstown, Ellicott City and in the Johns Hopkins obstetrical dispensary.

She is instructor in obstetrics at the Hopkins University; obstetrician at the Hopkins Hospital; and associate surgeon in gynecology at Sinai Hospital. She is also president of the Johns Hopkins Women's Medical Alumnae Association.

Lectures Extensively

In addition to her professional duties, including the maintenance of her private practice, Dr. Moses lectures extensively to nurses, college students and club groups—civic, fraternal and women's. In addition she has written a book on her clinic work.

As a hobby Dr. Moses collects antique furniture, silver and pewter. For recreation she attends the theater and concerts and takes her nieces, nephews and other children to the circus or on her travels to Europe, Mexico and in the United States.

She keeps pictures of her young relatives in her office.

"Affectionate Informality"

The affectionate informality of her relationship with these children is indicated by their nickname for her—"Dr. Ziloh," after the old cartoon character.

She had framed in her study a saying of Booker T. Washington which she read several years ago and which she likes to consider her own guide.

It reads:

"I resolved that I would permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."