

# 17 WOMEN HONORED FOR MEDICAL WORK

Occasion Is 100th Anniversary of Graduation of America's First Woman Doctor

The 100th anniversary of the graduation of the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, was observed yesterday in ceremonies at the New York Infirmary, 321 East Fifteenth Street, and at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N. Y.

Here, five outstanding women doctors received the Elizabeth Blackwell citations for their contributions to medicine. In Geneva similar citations were awarded to twelve of the world's foremost women physicians in a colorful academic ceremony.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in a transcribed broadcast opened the up-state program.

"I am sure," she said, "that a great many of us can just imagine what it must have been for that first woman to make her way into the classroom and through the years of work to her final graduation, paving the way for all the great women doctors who have followed in her footsteps. It seems to me that the way in which this anniversary is being celebrated is particularly fitting."

## The International Group

Mrs. Roosevelt announced the names of some of the women to receive awards and spoke briefly about some of them. The twelve honored were: Dr. Priscilla White of Boston, for work in the field of treating diabetes; Dr. Florence R. Sabin of Denver, for medical research; Dr. Alice Hamilton of Hadlyme, Conn., for industrial medicine; Dr. Helen B. Taussig of Baltimore, for clinical medical research;

Dr. Martha May Eliot of Washington, for public health; Dr. Gerty T. Cori of Webster Groves, Mo., for work in biochemistry and pharmacology; Dr. Helen V. McLean of Chicago, psychiatry; Dr. Margaret D. Craighill of Topeka, Kan., for military medicine; Dr. Helen MacMurchy, C. B. E., of Toronto, child welfare and public health;

Dr. Elise S. L'Esperance of New York, pathology and cancer prevention work; Dr. Helen M. M. Mackay, F. R. C. P., of London, pediatrician; and Dr. Therese Bertrand Fontaine of Paris, first French woman *medecin des hopitaux*.

At the local observance Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the board of trustees of New York Infirmary, presented the citations to four of the physicians chosen. Dr. Ada Chree Reid, a member of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's medical staff and chief of the cardiac clinic of the New York Infirmary, was absent because of the death of her mother.

The four who were present were: Dr. Lauretta Dender, senior psychologist-in-charge at the children's service of Bellevue Hospital and associate professor of psychology at New York University Medical School, for her achievements in child psychiatry; Dr. Connie Myers Guion, chief of the medical clinic, out-patient department, New York Hospital, and associate professor of clinical medicine at Cornell Medical School, for her work in internal medicine.

Dr. Anna Hubert, director of the department of surgery and gynecology of the New York Infirmary, for surgery, and Dr. May Wilson, chief of the pediatric cardiac clinic of New York Hospital and associate professor of clinical pediatrics at Cornell University Medical College, for pediatric cardiology.

In Geneva the award was made by Dr. Alan W. Brown, president of the colleges, who praised the recipients for their contributions to medicine "in a multitude of ways."

Dr. White, the only recipient present at the up-state ceremony, responded on behalf of the doctors. They were indebted, she said, to the "first college to train to graduation a woman medical student." Today there are more than 7,500 women doctors in the United States alone.

## The General Citation

The general citation read at Geneva said in part:

"Dr. Blackwell, who graduated on Jan. 23, 1849, was the first woman in the world to receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Overcoming seemingly insuperable obstacles, she earned the right to practice medicine not only for herself but for the thousands of women who have followed in her footsteps.

"Founder of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, she also brought her knowledge and experience to the clinical work of hospitals in London and Paris and pressed ever more forcefully for the right of women to obtain the best in professional education and training.

"In spite of past prejudice and their many continuing difficulties in attaining professional independence, these women have brought victory to their sex and we are indeed proud to celebrate this triumph. In the home, in the hospital, in the laboratory, in the classroom, and in government service, these women have brought glory to their profession and inestimable benefits to mankind."