

# 'Brilliant Record' Wins Dr. Bessie Moses Award

Mrs. Sanger proposes sterilization of unfit. [Page 4.]

To be a woman first and a doctor afterward is the prime tenet of Dr. Bessie L. Moses's life.

But whether she likes it or not—and she likes it—this Baltimore gynecologist is being a doctor first today. She is in New York receiving the 1950 Lasker Award "in recognition of her brilliant record," the citation reads.

"Recognition of this sort is very gratifying; let's admit it," Dr. Moses says in her bright, well-modulated voice.

Early in her professional career, while interning in gynecology at the Woman's Hospital in Philadelphia in 1923, Dr. Moses decided that what ever else happened she'd always be thoroughly feminine.

## Dress Was Severe

"The women doctors there wore high collars and mannish shoes," Dr. Moses remembers, "and I was appalled. I swore then and there I'd never look so severe."

Dr. Moses does not stress femininity because she is apologetic for being a doctor. She feels that women should be women first and doctors afterward, just as men should be men first and doctors afterward. There are just some characteristics that are feminine and some that are masculine, Dr. Moses says, and she has been careful to cultivate her feminine inclinations.

These run to pretty, nontailored clothes, antique furniture, silver and copper. She loves to garden, although she now lives in the city, and when she retires she wants a place in the country. Her dark hair, only slightly graying, is pushed back softly from her face.

## Full Life Required

"In treating patients, especially young women with whom I come into contact a great deal," says Dr. Moses, "you must have as full a life as possible outside of medicine, so as to impress yourself upon them as a woman like themselves, and not as a gowned medic. Above all, you must never be prudish."

Dr. Moses enjoys the theater and concerts, particularly. Most of her friends, she says, are outside the medical profession. She "works like a dog during the day" but when she gets home she tries to forget her job and relax completely with outside activities.

A member of the Baltimore City

Medical Society, the American Medical Association and president of the Johns Hopkins Women's Alumnae Association, Dr. Moses is also greatly in demand as a marriage counselor.

## Girls Adore Her

She lectures and holds seminars in marriage relations at Goucher, Hood and Randolph Macon colleges, where she is adored by the girls. She has been so popular, in fact, that she has received offers from women's colleges all over the country.



DR. BESSIE L. MOSES

A cousin of Judge Jacob Moses and a granddaughter of a horse importer who furnished riding horses and therefore knew Presidents from Grant to Wilson, Dr. Moses did not have to struggle for an education. Her father, the late Bernard Moses, although self-made was a successful business man.

Dr. Moses graduated from Goucher and then did graduate work in biology at the Johns Hopkins University and taught these subjects at Wellesley and Sophie Newcomb College.