

Sun, 26 March 1965

# DR. BESSIE MOSES DIES AT AGE 71

## Was Birth Control Pioneer And Hopkins Staffer

Dr. Bessie L. Moses, a Baltimore birth control movement leader since 1927 and co-recipient in 1950 with Mrs. Margaret Sanger of the Lasker Award of Planned Parenthood-World Population, died yesterday at the home of her sister, Mrs. Walter Hollander.

Dr. Moses, an obstetrician and gynecologist who was on the staff of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and also maintained a private practice, was 71. She had been living at her sister's home at 2604 Queen Anne road since last March.

### Continued Her Work

Her death came after a long struggle with cancer. Dr. Moses was hospitalized for ten weeks last spring and underwent an operation in January. She still continued her private practice at her office in the Medical Arts Building, however, and had kept appointments with patients through Wednesday morning.

Dr. Moses began her work with  
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# Pioneer In Birth Control, Dr. Bessie L. Moses, Dies

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birth control in 1927, when at the instigation of Dr. J. Whitridge Williams, head of the Hopkins obstetrics department, she opened a birth control clinic in a three-story house on North Broadway opposite the hospital.

## Visited Mrs. Sanger

While planning the clinic, she went to New York to confer with Mrs. Sanger, birth control's pioneer in America, and began the long friendship which culminated in their being the first women to receive the Lasker award.

The clinic she opened, now called the Planned Parenthood Clinic, remained at its Broadway location until 1963 and is now at 517 North Charles street. Dr. Moses remained its medical director until her retirement in 1956.

At the time of her death, she was still serving on the medical and lay boards of the Baltimore Planned Parenthood Association and was active as medical director emeritus of the clinic.

## Parents Opposed

Dr. Moses came to medicine by a long route and only after overcoming parental misgivings.

She had degrees from both Goucher College and the Johns Hopkins University and had been a teacher of both biology and zoology at Wellesley College in



DR. BESSIE L. MOSES

Massachusetts before entering the Hopkins Medical School, from which she graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1922.

She served her internship in obstetrics at the Hopkins, and in gynecology at the Women's Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dr. Moses served as an instructor of obstetrics at Hopkins and as an associate surgeon in gynecology at Sinai Hospital. She had also served as president of the Johns Hopkins Women's Medical Alumnae Association.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Hollander, and Mrs. W. Rayner Straus.