

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Planned Parenthood Federation of America on October 25, special honors for outstanding work in the cause of planned parenthood went to two women, co-recipients of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation Awards for 1950.

Sharing honors with the famous Margaret Sanger, was DR. BESSIE L. MOSES, Baltimore physician and teacher of physicians. The citation recognized her "brilliant record" during twenty-three years of service in organizing contraceptive clinics, lecturing and teaching, and told gratefully of how her work has raised the standards of clinic practice.

Born in Baltimore in 1893, Dr. Moses was educated in the Baltimore public schools, and won her B.A. from Goucher College in 1915. Her father, although not against careers for his daughters, discouraged her early leanings toward medicine because he thought it too hard work for a woman, but tenacity finally won him over after three years. In the meantime, Bessie Moses did some graduate study at Johns Hopkins University and taught biology at Tulane University and Wellesley College. In

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1922 she emerged from the Johns Hopkins Medical School with her M.D., a Phi Beta Kappa key and membership in Alpha Omega Alpha, the School's honorary medical society.

Internship in obstetrics under the tutelage of Dr. Whitridge Williams at Johns Hopkins Hospital led to her be-



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**Dr. Bessie L. Moses**

ing chosen to direct Baltimore's first bureau for contraceptive advice, which was opened in 1927. Ever since then she has been the medical director of this enterprise, now known as the Planned Parenthood Clinic of Baltimore.

Over the years she has watched its staff grow from herself and one nurse-secretary to a group of nine clinicians conducting 5 two-hour sessions a week. In 1936 she published an analysis of the first five years experience of the clinic under the title, "Contraception as a Therapeutic Measure."

Dr. Moses has conducted a private practice of obstetrics and gynecology since 1924, in addition to her teaching, lecturing and writing for the planned parenthood movement. She organized and established three additional clinics in Maryland, and was a prime mover in the organizing of the Maternal Health Clinic in Johns Hopkins Hospital. Not only has she trained the clinicians for the Baltimore clinics, besides teaching obstetrics at Johns Hopkins, but through the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, she has trained doctors from all parts of the world who later established contraceptive services in their own countries.

A soft-spoken person, with a lively sense of humor, Dr. Moses is extremely fond of young people, starting with her nephews and nieces, whom she encourages to advise her on her lectures to their contemporaries. They love to tease her about her work and a twelve-

year-old nephew once gave her for Christmas a box of book matches, accompanied by a card reading, "Don't enlighten your parents until you are sure they have struck up a match."

Baltimoreans know "Dr. Bessie" as a charming and handsome woman who loves people, is a perfectionist in her work, collects old pewter and antique silver and furniture, and uses for a personal and professional guide the quote from Booker T. Washington which hangs on the wall of her office. It reads, "I resolved that I would permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

