

Helen Harrington

February 25, 1891 — May 19, 1967

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Emeritus, of Cornell University Medical College, Attending Pediatrician of The New York Hospital, Pediatrician in Charge at the Hospital for Special Surgery, died on May 19, 1967, at the age of seventy-six. She was born in Denver, Colorado. Her father was Judge Harrington of Denver. In 1916, she received the M.A. degree from the University of Denver and the M.D. degree in 1920 from Johns Hopkins Medical School. After completing an internship at New Haven Hospital and a residency at Cincinnati General Hospital, she came to New York Nursery and Child's Hospital in 1924 as Assistant Pediatrician. Her dedicated and devoted service continued without interruption for forty-one years as a member of the Pediatric Department until 1965.

Before coming to Cornell, she served as an instructor in pediatrics at Cincinnati Medical School. From the time she was appointed in 1924 as instructor in pediatrics at Cornell University Medical College until she retired, she always participated enthusiastically and regularly in the outpatient teaching program. In 1944 she was promoted to Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, in 1956 to Associate Professor, and in 1959 to Emeritus Professor. Besides The New York Hospital, she was affiliated with Gaylord Farm Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Cincinnati General Hospital, Floating Hospital, Bellevue Hospital and Willard Parker. As Attending Pediatrician in charge at the Hospital for Special Surgery from 1952 to 1965, she provided pediatric supervision to thousands of children who were admitted for surgery.

Her compassion for children was also revealed by her long-term service for the New York State Charities Aid Association. She was a member of the Medical Society for the County of New York, the American Medical Association, and the New York Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Harrington was not only a competent clinician, she was quite active in medical investigation, together with Dr. Oscar M. Schloss and Dr. Nathan Chandler Foot. She published quite a few papers in infectious diseases, especially the epidemiology of encephalitis and poliomyelitis. In 1950, she presented a very helpful and interesting paper on the role of the pediatrician in adoption. Her interests also included malignant thymoma and standard metabolism of adolescence. Collaborating with Dr. Josephine B. Neal, she wrote the chapter on neurological complication following acute infections and vaccination in the book, *Encephalitis —A Clinical Study*, by Josephine B. Neal (1942).

In spite of poor health and discouraging circumstances, Dr. Harrington was always very independent and courageous. Her devotion to and sincere interest in her patients, as well as young physicians, was beyond mere professional duty.

Her students, colleagues, friends, and patients will always remember her as a kind and capable physician.

Wan Ngo Lim, M.D.