

# Helene Eliasberg

*December 4, 1890 — December 16, 1957*

The Department of Pediatrics and The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center share with her family, friends and patients a deep sense of loss in the death of Dr. Helene Eliasberg on December 16, 1957.

She was born in Riga, Latvia in 1890. After receiving her medical degree from the University of Berlin in 1919, she taught post-graduate courses for physicians and nurses at the Leningrad Institute in Russia and at the Kaiserin Friedrich Haus fur Arztlche Fortbildung and the Charlottenburger Zuglinge— und Kinder Klinik in Germany, attaining the rank of Head Physician at that institution before she was obliged to leave Germany in 1936. When she arrived in this country in 1937, she had already reached great distinction in the field of pediatrics.

The broad scope of Helene Eliasberg's scientific interests is reflected in her medical writings. They covered, to mention only a few, tumors of the spinal cord, infantile diarrhea, jaundice, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, burns, and anemia. Her greatest contributions were in the field of childhood tuberculosis. In 1920 she discovered a childhood form of the disease to which she gave the name, epituberculosis. Her description of this condition remains a classic in medical literature to this day. She was recognized as an outstanding clinician and diagnostician in tuberculosis and in blood disorders.

For the last twenty years of her life, she led a distinguished career at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. At her death, she was an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Cornell Medical College and Consultant to The New York Hospital. She was a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a member of the New York County and State Medical Societies. Her distinction in research and her clinical contributions were equalled by her endowments as a teacher of medical students and house staff. She possessed a basic knowledge of medical history; a trained and systematic mind for organizing this material for presentation; a moral integrity; a scrupulous honesty; a personal dignity; a great humility; and above all, an abiding interest in young people. These qualities made her a much sought after teacher. Her dedication to work, her unswerving loyalty and capacity for friendship endeared her to all her colleagues within the college walls as well as to her patients. Helene Eliasberg was an inspiring teacher and an outstanding pediatrician.

Above and beyond this, she was first and foremost a fine human being; kindly and courteous, dignified and sensitive, modest but disciplined, without malice or subterfuge. She was a woman of quiet courage and high character.

All of Dr. Eliasberg's friends, students and professional colleagues honor her, and extend to her family their heartfelt sympathy in this tragic loss.

*Samuel Z. Levine*