

Jennette Evans, M.D.

January 1, 1892 — August 23, 1981

Jennette Evans was born in Canaseraga, New York. The daughter of a minister, she spent her early years in rural communities of upstate New York. She attended Cornell University, graduating with the Bachelor of Science degree in 1914. She taught at the Greigsville Consolidated School for a year, then moved to the High School of Commerce, Springfield, Massachusetts, where she taught general science and home economics for three years. She then attended Cornell University Medical College and received the Doctor of Medicine degree in 1922, at a time when it required unusual determination for a woman to complete such studies. This was followed by a rotating internship at the Syracuse Memorial Hospital. She was licensed to practice medicine in New York State in 1923.

In 1923 Dr. Evans returned to her alma mater in Ithaca as assistant professor of hygiene and medical adviser of women, a post she held until 1943. During this period she taught courses in hygiene and Physical and Mental School Health Problems. Though she held an academic position, her advice was often sought on matters of a more clinical nature. She kept up her interest and proficiency in patient care by taking postgraduate courses at the Trudeau School of Tuberculosis, the Mayo Clinic, the Phipps Clinic of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and other institutions.

In 1943, following organization of the newly created health service by Dr. Norman Moore, with its orientation toward student medicine, Dr. Evans's responsibilities changed and she became assistant professor of clinical and preventive medicine; in 1948 she was promoted to associate professor. In accordance with her new responsibilities in clinical medicine she spent several summers at the Cornell University Medical College studying the newly developing field of vaginal cytology, first under the direction of Dr. Ephraim Schorr, then with Dr. George Papanicolaou, for whom the Pap test was named. She applied the techniques of this field to the study of variant menstrual cycles and their hormonal treatment. She personally carried out most of the technical procedures, as evidenced by the staining jars and slides in a corner of her office. She maintained an interest in general medicine and was valued as a consultant to the Women's Physical Education Division. She was a member of the American Medical Association and the New York State Medical Society.

Throughout her academic and clinical career, Dr. Evans was known for her deep concern and caring attitude toward her students and patients. She retired in 1962, returning briefly in 1966 to help during a period of staff depletion. Following retirement she was awarded the title of associate professor emerita.

She enjoyed choral music and during her earlier years on the campus was a member of the Sage Chapel Choir. After retirement she followed her artistic interests by the study and practice of drawing. She appreciated flower gardens and took particular delight in the Minns Garden on campus. She continued to live at her house on Wait Avenue until declining health would no longer permit the independence she enjoyed.

Dr. Evans is remembered for her empathy with students and her bright smile, friendliness, and helpfulness to students and colleagues.

Dr. Evans was the widow of James S. Webb, who died in 1959. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Virginia Richmond, of Oneida, New York; a twin brother, Paul Evans, of Burlington, Vermont; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Paul H. Darsie, M.D., Marjorie F. Doris, M.D., Raymond Haringa, M.D.