Women in Medicine Are Proving the Exception

By Dr. Myra Logan

(Practicing Physician and Staff Member of Harlem Hospital)

According to a recent publication of the Hospital Council of Greater New York, there were, on January 1, 1948, 18 Negro women registered to practice medicine in New York City. This figure obviously does not include the number of young physicians being trained in the city's hospitals. Being one of the world's great medical centers, many women are training as Interns and Residents — Some of them will remain in New York City, and some will take this training to other parts of the country.

This is not a new development. The first Negro woman doctor in N.Y.C. was licensed in 1867, more than 80 years before she moved to South Carolina. Her name was Rebecca Cole, and she was closely associated with Elizabeth Blackwell, who was the leading doctor in the effort to open the profession to women. Further, interest historically, in the fact that in the States Ala, Miss, Va, and N.Y.C. was licensed in 1867, and she practiced here for 30 years. The 1860 census listed 30 Negro women doctors. A large percentage of these are listed here in N.Y.C. Study of hospital appointments shows that over half of the men doctors hold positions, and that 2% of the women hold positions. A small number of men, more than half of these, come from two schools — Howard and Meharry. The remainder come from other schools in the country. Almost all of the practicing ones received at least part of their grad training at Harlem Hospital.

One of the stock arguments against providing medical education for women is that they do not use it; but rather devote their time exclusively to family-making. However, this has not been true of Negro women in the profession who have made great gains during the past few years.

In Many Fields

The variety of interests is as great as in any other area of science.

Dr. May E. Chin is working at the Strang Clinic of the Memorial Hospital. She is interested in Cancer detection.

Dr. Vera Josephs is assistant director of the large medical clinic which is maintained by the Independent Ladies Garment Workers Union. She has done work in the hospitals in Puerto Rico.

Dr. Hilda Straker is a diplomat of the Amor Society of Dermatology and Syphilology, and a practicing dermatologist. She is an assistant in Dermatology and Syphilology at the New York University Bellevue Medical center, University Hospi-

tal Staff — Skin and Cancer Unit.

Dr. Sara Blake is a very busy nonmedical, working in several of the local hospitals.

Dr. Catherine Middleton is particularly interested in the problems of emotional instability in the very young. She practices medicine in the winter and in the summer vacation directs a camp, for children between 3 and 12 years of age.

Dr. Zona Warren is Physician in charge of Nurses at Harlem Hospital.

Dr. Daphne McSwain has offices both in Manhattan and Queens.

Dr. Louise Carter has practiced here in Manhattan for three years, where she has an appointment at the staff at Harlem Hospital.

Dr. Pauline Edwards, also practicing in Manhattan and in working now at the Roosevelt Stone Center. She gave up a promising musical career for medicine.

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Brooklyn School in Fight Against Youth Delinquency

As part of a city-wide attack on eleven "high delinquency areas," a specially designed recreation program has been established at Stephen Decatur Junior High School (P.S. 35, Bklyn.) to serve the children of the Decatur Community Center.

Under the direction of James Conwell, the Director of the Community Center is a cooperative undertaking between the New York City Youth Board and the Board of Education where
in guidance, psychiatric and recreational services as well as an all-day recreational program are part of the program of therapy to help maladjusted youngsters.

According to Director Conwell, the Decatur Community Center will make every effort to meet community needs. "I'm going to find out what those needs are from the community itself," asserted Conwell, "and if I have to get a doctor, I'm going to ask the neighbors to provide a lay board of directors through which those needs can be made more widely known. We need the cooperation of every public spirited citizen and agency in the community to make our service known. We have room for every group, no matter how small."

The 3:00 p.m. gong signals the start of afternoon activities. The children have a kindergarten, arts and crafts, general sports competitions, chess, gym, dancing, forums, civil service study, sewing, cooking, clay modeling, photography, wood-working, bridge, and more.

"Come in and look around," concluded Conwell. "If there's anything you want but don't see please talk up."

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