

## Lillian K. P. Farrar

1871-1962

LILLIAN KETURAH POND FARRAR was born at Newton, Massachusetts, on Dec. 3, 1871. She was of English family background and was a daughter of Jefferson Clinton Farrar, Jr., and Sarah Dean Pond. She had her premedical education in the Newton public schools and at Boston University where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1896. She was graduated from the Cornell University College of Medicine in 1900. After spending two years as an intern at the New York Infirmary and two more years at postgraduate studies in obstetrics and gynecology in Paris and Vienna she returned to the United States and established her practice in New York City in 1904.

During her professional career she served as an Attending Physician at the New York Infirmary 1904 to 1910, Instructor and Chief of Clinics at the New York Postgraduate Hospital 1910 to 1916, Chief of Clinics 1916 to 1920 and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Cornell University College of Medicine 1918 to 1935, and as Junior Attending, Attending, and Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Woman's Hospital in New York 1918 to 1953. She was instrumental in promoting the acceptance of women as interns at the Bellevue Hospital in New York in 1914 and at the Woman's Hospital in 1920.

At the Woman's Hospital she collaborated with Dr. George Gray Ward in the early twenties in efforts to establish efficient irradiation techniques for treatment of gynecological cancer. Her contributions to medical literature dealt essentially with the results obtained with irradiation treatment for pelvic cancer and with the surgical techniques

which she used and taught to students and residents.

She was a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, the American College of Surgeons, and of the American Gynecological Society. She was the first woman to be selected as a Governor of the American College of Surgeons and, in fact, she served for a total of five 3 year terms in this capacity. She was a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of the New England Gynecological Society.

Her nonprofessional affiliations included the Magna Carta Dames, Mayflower Society, Huguenot Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, State of New York, New England Historical Society, Halifax Antiquarian Society, English Speaking Union, Lake Placid Club, and the National Republican Club. She was a staunch Republican and an Episcopalian.

Dr. Farrar died at Lake Placid, New York, on June 22, 1962, in her ninety-first year. She was buried in the family plot at Newton Center, Massachusetts. She was a rather unique person. She managed to get her medical education and specialized training in obstetrics and gynecology in days when it was difficult not only for a woman to find opportunities to qualify as a physician but also to use her training as a successful clinician and teacher. From the record of her professional attainments it is obvious that she could not have gained the recognition which she did without having unusual skill, energy, courage, imagination, and dedication to the career to which she devoted her life.

*Albert H. Aldridge*

## **DR. LILIAN FARRAR, OBSTETRICIAN, DIES**

LAKE PLACID, N. Y., June 23 (UPI) — Dr. Lilian K. P. Farrar, the first woman governor of the American College of Surgeons, died yesterday in Placid Memorial Hospital. She was 90 years old.

Dr. Farrar had lived here since her retirement in 1953. She served five three-year terms as a governor of the professional society between 1925 and 1947.

A specialist who studied gynecology and obstetrics in Paris and Vienna in 1902 and 1904, Dr. Farrar had been credited with establishing internships for women at Bellevue Hospital in New York in 1914 and at Woman's Hospital there in 1920.

Dr. Farrar was born in Boston and received her medical degree at Cornell University in 1900 after having received a bachelor's degree at Boston University. She served as an assistant professor in her specialty at the Cornell Medical School from 1918 to 1935, and was the school's Chief of Clinics from 1916 to 1920.

She had been junior attending surgeon at New York Women's Hospital from 1918 to 1953; attending senior physician at the New York Infirmary from 1904 to 1910 and instructor and chief of clinic of the Post-Graduate Hospital of the Infirmary from 1910 to 1916.