

# Harold W. K. Dargeon

*May 7, 1897 — October 29, 1970*

The loss of Dr. Harold Dargeon, a highly respected and beloved pediatrician and authority in the field of cancer in children, is deeply felt by all. A native New Yorker, Dr. Dargeon was graduated from Fordham University in 1919 and from Albany Medical College in 1922. He completed his internship at the 4th Division Bellevue Hospital, became an assistant attending physician at Willard Parker Hospital, then an assistant attending pediatrician at St. Luke's Hospital and subsequently at New York Foundling Hospital.

Dr. Dargeon's interest in juvenile cancer began in 1933, and with the establishment of the first children's cancer ward in this country he was appointed to the attending staff of the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, where he later served as the chairman of the Department of Pediatrics. He also established the first training program in cancer for Pediatric residents.

In the early 1930s, with the cooperation of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Dargeon established the first pediatric tumor registry in this country. These records together with his own experiences constitute the basis for the descriptions of the clinical aspects of 1,418 malignant tumors and 1,800 benign tumors in children, described in his second book, *Tumors of Childhood*, published in 1960. In 1940 he edited *Cancer in Childhood*, the first book written in English dealing exclusively with juvenile neoplasms. In 1966 he published a monograph on reticuloendotheliosis and he has authored sixty-three scientific articles and books. Dr. Dargeon also participated in local, regional, national, and international meetings and prepared eleven exhibits on various aspects of children's tumors.

In 1950 Dr. Dargeon was elected to the Theta Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha. He was a member of the American Medical Association, a former member of the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a fellow in the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a member of the New York Academy of Medicine, the James Ewing Society, the American Radium Society, the Irish and American Pediatric Society, and the New York Celtic Medical Society. Prior to his death he was chairman of the Committee on Neoplastic Diseases of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which was writing a manual on cancer for pediatricians; he was chairman emeritus of the Department of Pediatrics at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, clinical professor of pediatrics emeritus, Cornell University Medical College, and a consulting pediatrician in eight metropolitan hospitals.

Dr. Dargeon was the recipient of several awards including the Alumni Award of Albany Medical College, 1969, and the James Ewing Society Medal, 1963; he was the Henry Harrington Janeway Medalist and Lecturer of the American Radium Society, 1964, and the Otto A. Faust Lecturer at Albany Medical College, 1961. He was also appointed as a special consultant of the United States Public Health Service. Recognition of Dr. Dargeon's work came not only from professional groups but also from political leaders. In 1948, when he pointed out that cancer ranked third among causes of death in children, support grew for expansion of his children's ward at Memorial Hospital. The ward was expanded from eighteen to thirty-five beds in 1950, and Governor Thomas E. Dewey and Mayor Vincent Impellitter were on hand for the ceremony.

Dr. Dargeon served in both World War I and World War II, retiring a captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve. He participated in the Kwajalein, New Britain, Guam, Leyte, Morotai, and Lingayen Gulf invasions and was awarded six Bronze Stars.

To the people who knew him Harold Dargeon was a respected doctor and warm friend. But to the children with whom he worked he was the tall, kind man who was doing all that he possibly could to help them. In the History of the Department of Pediatrics at Memorial Hospital, which Dr. Dargeon prepared in 1967, he wrote, "The concept of the child as a person suffering from a grave illness rather than the primary approach of that of a disease being attached to an individual was the decisive factor in placing the children in Memorial Hospital under the direction of a pediatrician in 1933."

Dr. Dargeon is survived by his wife, the former Muriel Mosher, of Sea Girt, New Jersey, and a daughter Jill of New York City.

*M. Lois Murphy, M.D.*