

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Kathleen Smith Jordan

Class of 1923

Ohio Wesleyan honors Dr. Kathleen Jordan for the part she played in eradicating a major threat to the world's health.

Fifty years ago, tuberculosis was the top cause of death, and was feared and misunderstood. The wide misconception that "TB runs in the family" blinded the public to the necessity of isolation for those afflicted and preventive measures for those who had been exposed.

Dr. Jordan's vigorous efforts to educate the public to the true nature of the disease and her impassioned campaign to promote testing have earned her national recognition and deserve the gratitude of a healthier citizenry.

Born in England, Dr. Jordan was raised in Algeria by missionary parents. After graduation from Ohio Wesleyan, she earned a M.D. at Western Reserve University.

With her late husband, Dr. Lewis Jordan, she worked energetically toward reducing the danger of tuberculosis—by treating the ill, and she by working to halt the disease's spread.

To any audience who would listen, she spoke of TB's contagious nature, efforts to overcome widespread ignorance about the disease, and pleaded with parents to consent to have their children tested.

Dr. Jordan personally tested as many as 600 schoolchildren in a day, and tirelessly questioned those with positive reactions to identify the contact which had infected them.

It has been said that she probably administered more tuberculin tests than any other living person, her last one performed in 1968. Dr. Jordan has been described as a "woman who worked herself out of a job."

Dr. Jordan's life work has extended life expectancy for countless persons, and generates blessed assurance that present pioneers of her caliber are working with similar dedication to eradicate current menaces.

It is a privilege to salute this outstanding graduate of Ohio Wesleyan for her profound contribution to humankind.

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