

IN MEMORIAM



1889-1967

Dr. Grace Sawyer Gable - a native of Adair County, graduated from the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery. She was in general practice in Iowa and Wyoming before coming to Woodward State Hospital - School as a ward physician on January 1, 1923. She went into private practice in Woodward in 1935 and in 1938 returned to the institution as assistant superintendent, a position she filled until appointed Acting Superintendent in 1951. On July 15, 1953, she was appointed Superintendent, a position she held until her retirement in 1961.

For those who knew her and worked with her she was held in great respect. We knew her as one who was understanding, one who appreciated those who were doing a good job and though she didn't express herself at the moment, in a short time you learned of her praise in other ways. She was stern when the need came but always had a ready smile and a special look and word for a retarded child. She laughed with them but never at them and would not forgive anyone else who did.

Sleep well, Dr. Sawyer. Even though your particular battle is over, there are other people who will carry on the work for you and make known to every community, that a retarded person can make a worthy contribution to the community and that each and every one are God's "Special Child" and not one to be shunned by society and their fellow man.

Dr. Sawyer's efforts in behalf of the mentally retarded did not go unnoticed. In 1958 at a meeting of the American Medical Women's Association in New York City, she was honored as the "Medical Women of the Year" in Iowa