

34
9
MARY PENROSE APPLGARTH, 1868-1958

January 9
Mary Penrose Applegarth was born ~~November~~ *January* 22, 1868, the daughter of Eliakim and Susan Russell Penrose, and departed after a few months' illness on June 2, 1958, at The Keswick in Baltimore.

Her early life was spent on a farm at Union Bridge, Maryland, where her father, a Baltimore business man, had moved his family, to protect them from what were then considered the unhealthy conditions in the city.

In 1891 she took her degree in medicine from the Woman's Medical College of Baltimore, becoming one of the earliest woman physicians in this country at a time which was a generation ahead of the actual opening up of the profession to women. She practised medicine until her marriage in 1896 to Albert C. Applegarth, who had just previously received his Ph. D. from Johns Hopkins University.

Albert Applegarth, first a lawyer, then became a Baptist minister, and the years of their life together were spent in two pastorates of twelve years each, in Pennsylvania communities. During this time much of her thought and time was given to the cause of Temperance and the Woman's Suffrage movement.

Upon the death of her husband in 1918, Mary Applegarth returned to Friends. She and her mother had become members of the Eutaw Street Meeting around 1900, and, with her return to Friends in 1918, her Meeting became the center of her life. One of her most fruitful efforts at this time was teaching a class of girls, in which she engaged for many years.

"Grandma," as Mary Applegarth loved to be called by those who loved her, served for fifteen years in the Meetinghouse office, assisting the Secretary with a multitude of details. During this period she gave generously to members and friends of the Meeting that kind of care and personal concern which heals and restores the spirit in times of doubt and sorrow and testing, so that it might be said of her Meeting, as it was said long ago: "Behold how these Christians love one another!" For many years to come, Mary Applegarth will be in our thoughts and on our lips, as we find ourselves "remembering without ceasing" her "work of faith and labour of love and patience of hope"; as we recall the poem she quoted when a Friend was in the hospital, the pamphlet she brought when the new baby came, the word of counsel or comfort in times of trial.

She served ably as a member of the Meeting on Ministry and Counsel, and was active in the missionary interests of Friends. She befriended a young Indian girl in India, encouraging her by letter and by financial help to study medicine. This girl served for years in the Mission Hospital in Chatarpur. ~~W~~

In addition to her concern for visits among the membership of her own Meeting, ~~xxx~~ she visited other Meetings in the Yearly Meeting, and these occasions were always times of inspiration and help among Friends.

Approved by Ministry & Counsel - 1-15-59
Rich H. Parker,
clerk.