CLASS OF 1893

FANNIE QUAIN, M.D.

Fannie Almara Dunn Quain, M.D., the first North Dakotan woman to earn a doctor of medicine degree, is best remembered for championing a state campaign to eradicate tuberculosis and helping to establish baby clinics and a state sanitarium. Dr. Quain also was a founder and president of the North Dakota Tuberculosis Association, and helped improve standards for nurses' training in the state.

Fannie was born in Bismarck in 1874. She graduated from Bismarck High School in 1893 and pursued teacher training at St. Cloud Normal School in Minnesota. When she graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1898, she was first North Dakotan woman to hold a doctor of medicine degree.

For several years, she worked across the state, often traveling long distances and braving brutal weather to attend to her patients. In one incident, she operated a railroad handcar for six miles, crossing the Missouri River on the Northern Pacific railroad bridge to meet a train carrying a man critically ill with appendicitis. She arrived in time and escorted the patient to the local hospital, saving his life.

She joined the battle to eradicate tuberculosis, and in 1909, was instrumental in establishing the North Dakota Tuberculosis Association, now the American Lung Association of North Dakota.

During her long tenure with the association, Dr. Quain served as secretary, treasurer, vice-president, and president. She helped found the state's first baby clinic and the North Dakota State Tuberculosis Sanitarium at San Haven.

Dr. Quain also served on the North Dakota State Board of Health. To help raise the standard of nurses' training in the state, she chaired the Nurses Training School Committee in Bismarck.

Dr. Quain was acutely aware of the challenges faced by women physicians. She served as regional director of the Medical Women's National Association (American Medical Women's Association) for the states of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

After a long and successful career as a physician and public health advocate, Dr. Fannie Dunn Quain died on February 2, 1950, at the age of 75, in Bismarck, North Dakota.