

= Rosalie Slaughter Morton =

Rosalie Slaughter Morton , M.D. (October 28 , 1876 ? May 5 , 1968) , born Rosalie Slaughter , was an American physician and surgeon . Besides running her own medical practices , she co @-@ founded the American Women 's Hospitals Service , worked as a medic during the First World War , and was the first chairperson of the Public Health Education Committee . Morton was one of the first female members of faculty at the Polyclinic Hospital of New York , and the first at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University .

Born in Lynchburg , Virginia , Morton studied at the Woman 's Medical College of Pennsylvania despite her family 's expectation that she would only aim to find a husband who could provide for her . She went on to further study and research across Europe and Asia before returning to the United States to open her own medical practices .

Morton received a number of awards during her career , including the Joan of Arc medal , and a park in Belgrade is named in her honor . In 1937 she published an autobiography - A Woman Surgeon : The Life and Work of Rosalie Slaughter Morton - to positive reception , and in 1940 released a second book titled A Doctor 's Holiday in Iran .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Rosalie Slaughter was born in 1876 in Lynchburg , Virginia to Mary Harker and John Favel Slaughter . She had five brothers and one sister (three other siblings died in childhood) , and was educated in Lynchburg before travelling to a finishing school in Baltimore . From here she chose to follow in the steps of her grandfather and two older brothers by becoming a doctor , joining the Woman 's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1893 . In her autobiography Morton remarked that her upbringing and education had " been designed ... to make me a capable wife ? not to imbue me with a desire for a career , " noting that her father had left her no money ? expecting her to find a husband who could provide for her ? and that many in her family did not want her to pursue a career in medicine .

= = = Later life = = =

Slaughter married George B. Morton Jr . , an attorney who had previously studied medicine , in 1905 at St. Paul 's Church , Lynchburg . In 1910 it was reported that she was filing for divorce , and he died in 1912 of an aneurism . In the early 1930s Morton suffered a bout of pneumonia , prompting her to move to Winter Park , Florida , where she died in 1968 .

= = Career = =

After graduating from college in Pennsylvania with two of the three honors available to her , Morton was appointed as resident physician at the Alumnae Hospital and Dispensary , where she worked until 1899 . She then began further studies in Europe , travelling to Berlin , Vienna , Paris , and London . During this time Morton took courses , observed surgeries , and wrote a number of scientific papers including several comparing the health of women and men . Following the advice of her instructor in London , Victor Horsley , she then travelled to the British Government Laboratory in Mumbai for six months to work on prophylactics against the bubonic plague as well as a period in Sri Lanka .

Having finished her studies , Morton returned to the United States in 1902 and opened a medical practice specialising in gynecology in Washington D.C. After marrying George Morton Jr . , she opened a new medical practice in New York , where he was an attorney . In 1909 the American Medical Association created a Public Health Education Committee with the aim of educating the

public on subjects including health , hygiene , child care , and other medical topics ; they made Morton its first chairperson . Morton was appointed as a clinical assistant and instructor at the Polyclinic Hospital of New York (where she was one of the first female faculty members) , and later became a professor of gynecology . During this time she lectured at a number of other universities including a summer at the University of Vermont .

After the breakout of the First World War , Morton travelled to Labrador to work in the Mission Hospitals there , before being made a special commissioner of the Red Cross to take supplies from Paris to the Macedonian Front and work at the field hospitals in Macedonia . After returning to New York Morton , alongside Mary M. Crawford , led the American Women 's Hospitals Service from 1917 after it was founded by the Medical Women 's National Association with the aim of establishing American hospitals in Europe . After her request to send one thousand medical women who had volunteered for foreign service was opposed by the General Medical Board in Washington , she raised over \$ 300 @, @ 000 in 10 days through a national fundraising drive to send them . At the recommendation of William C. Gorgas , Morton was made chairman of the committee of women physicians on the United States Council of National Defense , where she represented over 7000 female doctors .

Morton continued running her New York practice while attempting to aid young people in Yugoslavia and Serbia who had been disrupted during the war into education . In March 1919 she established the international Serbian Committee , through which she facilitated the placing of dozens of young Serbian people in American places of education .

After moving to Florida in the early 1930s Morton established a small clinical practice where she carried out research into arthritis and endocrinology .

= = = Awards = = =

By 1937 Morton had been awarded 9 decorations by home and foreign Governments . During her career Morton 's awards included the Cross of Czar Nicholas II , the Joan of Arc medal , and the Conspicuous Service Cross , and in 1934 she was presented a special award by the American Medical Association for her work establishing the American Women 's Hospitals . A tree was planted in Central Park in her honor , commemorating her " distinguished patriotic service " , and both a street and park in Belgrade are named after her .

= = Books = =

Morton wrote an autobiography titled A Woman Surgeon : The Life and Work of Rosalie Slaughter Morton which was published in 1937 by Frederick A. Stokes . The book was reviewed well , with praise given to both the writing and the breadth of experiences chronicled in it .

Writing for The Pittsburgh Press , Harry Hansen described Morton 's autobiography as an " excellent book on a woman 's accomplishments " commending both the descriptions of medical topics as well as political ones . In The Brooklyn Daily Eagle , George Currie wrote that " at no time is her book boring " , calling it an important book for documenting the contributions of " a woman crusader " . The Salt Lake Tribune described the book as " informative , thrilling and colorful " , and The Sydney Morning Herald called it " particularly interesting " . In their review , the Indiana Gazette rated the book as one of the best medical autobiographies of recent times .

After finishing her autobiography , Morton travelled to Iran , and in 1940 published a book on the country and her time there titled A Doctor 's Holiday in Iran .