

= María Teresa Ferrari =

María Teresa Ferrari ( 11 October 1887 ? 30 October 1956 ) was an Argentine educator , medical doctor , and women 's rights activist . She was the first female university professor in Latin America and one of the first women allowed to teach medicine . She was a pioneering researcher in women 's health , studying the use of radiation therapy rather than surgery for uterine tumors and developing a vaginoscope which revolutionized women 's health care in Brazil . She established the first maternity ward and gynecological services at the Hospital Militar Central of Buenos Aires in 1925 , which provided the first incubation services in the country .

Born into a wealthy family , whose forebears had been involved in ensuring Argentina 's independence from Spain , she was not expected to work outside the home . Yet Ferrari not only chose to have a career , she insisted on participating in the male @-@ dominated medical profession . She first earned a teaching diploma and became a school teacher , then graduated in medicine in 1911 . After completing her residency , she applied to teach at the university level , but instead was offered a teaching post at the School of Midwifery . Outraged , she fought for 13 years against the prejudices which prevented her advancing in her career . In 1927 , Ferrari won her fight and was granted a professorship as an alternate . Finally in 1939 , she was awarded a full professorship .

Ferrari undertook additional medical study in Europe and the United States , learning pioneering techniques that she brought back to Argentina . She studied urinary tract monitoring at the Medical Faculty of Paris , earning the first diploma ever given to a woman . She designed a vaginoscope , studied radiation therapy at the Curie Institute , and performed a Caesarean section at Columbia University . She was responsible for bringing these innovations back with her to Argentina and implementing them at the maternity and gynecological unit she established at the Military Hospital . An ardent feminist , she established the Argentina Federation of University Women in 1936 , and pushed for recognition of both civil and political rights for women . When the government of Argentina took a conservative turn in the late 1930s , she was pushed out of the hospital and later , in the early 1950s , out of teaching . She died in 1956 .

= = Early life and education = =

María Teresa Ferrari Alvarado was born on 11 October 1887 in Buenos Aires , Argentina to David Ferrari White and Catalina Alvarado . Her family were among the founding citizens of Argentina : her paternal great @-@ grandfather , Guillermo Pío White had provided money to assist the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata in defeating the Spanish and her maternal great @-@ grandfather Rudesindo Alvarado had served in the Army of the Andes .

Ferrari enrolled at the Normal School Nº 1 of Buenos Aires , receiving her teaching certificate in 1903 . For a woman of Ferrari 's social class , paid work was unusual at the time . It was understood that in cases of financial necessity poor women might nurse or teach , because both were considered charitable , but upper class women were expected to be no more than wives and mothers . Ignoring convention , she embarked on a career in medicine , but also began teaching . Ferrari taught at the Colegio William Morris and the Escuela Nº 3 Bernardino Rivadavia . She had studied psychology in a cutting @-@ edge field known as " experimental psychology " and applied it to her classes , which caused the authorities to launch an investigation into her teaching methods . She was allowed to continue teaching , as her techniques of motivating students and encouraging them to learn proved effective .

In 1904 , Ferrari enrolled in medical school at the National University of Buenos Aires while continuing to teach . There had been five other women in the history of Argentina who had earned medical degrees , and though her enrollment was not desired , there was no legal precedent to bar her admittance . In her first year , she was assigned to work as an assistant to Joaquín Llambías in his pathology research , which inspired her continued participation in medical research . Ferrari graduated in 1911 , and that same year , she married another graduating doctor , Nicolás M. Gaudino . In 1918 the couple had their only child , Mauricio Nicolás Gaudino . Ferrari was

sometimes known as María Teresa Ferrari de Gaudino or simply María Teresa de Gaudino .

= = Career = =

= = = Struggle for a university professorship = = =

In 1914 , Ferrari started work at the obstetrics clinic of the Hospital Ramos Mejía of Buenos Aires . She applied to teach obstetrics at the university but was turned down . In the proceedings of the Honorable Consejo Directivo ( HCD ) on 23 June 1915 , it was stated : " Despite their qualifications , for physiological and psychological reasons people of the feminine sex do not meet the required conditions to be engaged as professors in the Faculty [ of Medicine ] " . The following year , she was permitted to teach at the School of Midwifery , but this lacked the prestige and credentials of a professorship at the university . When an opening for an alternate professorship appeared in 1919 , Ferrari reapplied to the university but was met with resistance . The members of the HCD delayed calling together the jurors to fill the vacancy until 1925 , altering evidence , ignoring recommendations , and evading a decision . In 1926 , she sent a detailed outline of her accomplishments to the committee , stating that she had taught in secondary schools for 20 years and had dedicated 15 years to her field of medicine , and had enrolled in university courses for nine years . One adviser , Dr. Speroni , having read her qualifications , sent a message to the dean imploring that they admit her , on the grounds that she was qualified , had shown dedication and the school was understaffed . It was not until 1927 , that the jurors met and her application for an alternate professorship was approved by a vote of thirteen to two . The news of the first female university professor in Latin America made headlines throughout Spanish @-@ speaking countries . Newspapers in Argentina including La Prensa , La Nación , La Razón and others of the capital , El Censor in Gualeguaychú , Los Andes in Mendoza , Buenos Aires Sud in Florencio Varela , and the Italian La Patria degli Italiani and Spanish El Diario Español carried stories of her triumph .

In the interim , rather than await a decision , Ferrari continued her studies . Between 1921 and 1923 she visited many clinics in Europe , including facilities in Austria , Belgium , England , France , Germany and Italy . She assisted in the clinic of Marie Curie in Paris as well as in the Columbia Hospital for Women and Lying @-@ In Asylum in Washington , DC . The Faculty of Medicine of Paris awarded her the first diploma ever given to a woman for studies in urinary tract monitoring . In 1924 , she designed a vaginoscope , which was much easier to sterilize and was more adaptable to multiple specula than previous models . The device significantly improved services which were available to women in Brazil , and was featured in the articles of the Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Rio de Janeiro . The innovation won the Grand Prize at the 1924 Congreso Hispano Lusitano Americano de Ciencias Médicas held in Seville , Spain .

Ferrari was particularly interested in investigating alternatives to surgery and her studies on radiation therapy at the Curie Institute became the basis for a 1928 thesis on " Treating Uterine tumors with radiation " . In 1925 , she was appointed as the Argentine governmental delegate to the First Child Welfare Congress in Geneva . One of the major topics of the conference was the training of midwives in labor and hygiene practices . When her professorship was finally approved and she returned to Argentina , a celebration was held on 11 August 1927 at the Jockey Club of Buenos Aires , attended by the Minister of the Interior , José P. Tamborini ; the Director of the Hospital Militar , Alberto Levenne ; her research mentor , Joaquín Llambías ; and many colleagues , peers , family members and friends . Ferrari was appointed head of gynecology and maternity at Hospital Militar in Buenos Aires , a post which she held until 1939 .

= = = Mid @-@ career development = = =

Ferrari traveled to Mexico , the United States , and Canada in 1929 , studying for eight months and attending conferences . In the United States , she participated in a Caesarean section at Columbia University , becoming the first Argentine to have performed a surgery in Washington , D.C .. The

baby born as a result of the surgery was named " Argentina " . In 1930 , she served as the Argentine delegate for the VII Medical Congress of Latin America held in Mexico and presided over the first general session . She presented three papers ; one addressed uterine tumors and the other two were about syphilis . She was also the delegate for the 2nd Congress of the Pan @-@ American Medical Association in Panama . Between 1930 and 1932 she returned to the United States for additional studies which focused on colibacillosis , septicemia , puerperal infections , investigating whether vaccines could be developed to prevent the development of conditions resulting from childbirth or miscarriage .

In 1936 , Ferrari founded the Argentina Federation of University Women ( FAMU ) with the goal of improving the social and legal standing of women and specifically opening educational doors . She recruited professional women , including doctors , dentists and lawyers and organized scientific and cultural discussions and seminars . FAMU had regular courses in French , German , physical education and mathematics , which it offered to its nearly 100 members . The political and civic limitations that threatened these women 's careers was clearly a concern and the organization 's official statement supported enfranchisement as " not a mere political aspiration for women , but a real right acquired by suffering , work and deprivation experienced by women ... " In 1938 , the Argentine organization joined the International Federation of University Women , which had served as Ferrari 's inspiration .

= = = Military hospital and later career = = =

In 1925 , Ferrari was called to assist a military wife during childbirth at the Hospital Militar Central of Buenos Aires , which had no gynecological unit . After she proposed that one be developed , Ferrari started the facility with one bed and donated equipment and supplies . The military gazette began advertizing from June of that year that gynecological services were available from Mondays to Fridays at the hospital . As military wives became aware of the services , the growth was exponential and within five years Ferrari had expanded the service to two floors that housed a maternity unit with two delivery rooms , their own sterilization facility , a recovery unit , and forty beds in private rooms . She also developed a small sealed room with purified air and an incubator , the first of its kind in Argentina . Ferrari brought the techniques she had learned abroad to Argentina . Though radiology had been performed in other parts of the world for decades , there was resistance to implementing it by professionals who had no experience with it . Ferrari insisted it should be introduced and fought against the previous practice of surgical solutions for all cases , advocating that surgery only be used when absolutely necessary . A commemoration for the 10th anniversary of the maternity unit was attended by the Minister of War , the Director General of Health , the Hospital Director and other senior officials , as well as by children born over the past 10 years together with their families . A commission of the Marine wives who had received service from Ferrari 's unit made a substantial donation . Despite her success , the atmosphere at the hospital remained hostile . Following the 1930 coup d 'état of José Félix Uriburu with the country 's shift to a more conservative stance during the Infamous Decade , Ferrari ultimately was forced to leave the hospital in 1939 .

Ferrari 's disappointment at having to leave the hospital was offset in 1939 , when she was finally made a full professor , receiving the title " Profesor Extraordinario " of the Obstetrics Faculty . Throughout the 1940s she continued her education , traveling to Cuba , New York , Pennsylvania , Peru , and Puerto Rico , publishing her research in a variety of journals . In 1946 she resigned as president of the Argentina Federation of University Women , but continued to represent the organization at conferences , like the Primer Congreso Interamericano de Mujeres , which she attended in Guatemala City in 1947 .

After 43 years of teaching at Normal School Nº 3 , Ferrari was forced into retirement by the Ministry of Education because she refused to participate in a political contribution fund . She was also asked to resign from her position as Professor of Psychology at Colegio William Morris . In 1952 , rather than join the Peronista supporters and betray her ideals , she took full retirement . When elected , Perón had instituted a massive overhaul of the health system of Argentina . He appointed Ramón

Carrillo as his health minister , and in the beginning , hospital beds were added , vaccination programs were instituted , a campaign against malaria was launched , and other improvements were made . However , by the early 1950s it was clear that policies were unevenly applied , implementation was erratic , and political cronyism was working against the provision of health services for those most in need . Two years after Ferrari resigned , Carrillo also resigned , disillusioned with the Perón administration .

Ferrari was a full member of the Argentine Association of Surgery , the Argentine Medical Association and the Argentine Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Buenos Aires . She also was a correspondent member of the Society of Medicine and Surgery of Rio de Janeiro .

Ferrari died on 30 October 1956 in Buenos Aires .

= = Selected works = =

Ferrari 's works were all in French or Spanish and outlined her research on various scientific and gynecological topics . They included the following :

" Contribución al estudio de la medicación hipofisiaria en Obstetricia " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : Facultad de Ciencias Médicas . 1912 .

" Infecciones puerperales . Tratadas por vacunas Coli " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : Anales de Sociedad de Obstetricia y Ginecología . 1914 .

" Vagido Uterino " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : Revista Argentina Obstetricia y Ginecología . 1917 .

" Tumores del ovario complicando el embarazo , el parto y el puerperio " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : La Semana Médica . 1921 .

" Siphilis et Mortalité " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : La Semana Médica . 1922 .

" Traitement de la sténose du col de l ? uterus par Tige Iribarbe " ( in French ) . Paris : Boletín de la Société de Gynecologie et d ? Obstetrique de París . 1923 .

" Vaginoscopio " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : La Semana Médica . 1924 .

" Tratamiento de los Fibromas Uterinos por Radio " . Las Ciencias Buenos Aires ( in Spanish ) ( Buenos Aires : AG Bufarrini ) . 1928 .

" El Radio en la Fibromatosis Uterina " ( in Spanish ) . Buenos Aires : La Semana Médica . 1932 .

" El Radio frente a la cirugía en el Tratamiento de los Fibromas uterinos " . Acción Médica ( in Spanish ) ( Buenos Aires ) 22 . 1939 .

" Mme. Curie , la Radioactividad y sus proyecciones en a Física y la Terapéutica " . Vox Médica ( in Spanish ) ( Buenos Aires ) 10 . 1941 .

" 570 casos de Fibromas Uterins traités avec succès par la Curietherapie " ( in French ) . Paris : Revue Gynecologie et Ostetrique . 1947 .

" Fibromas Uterins traits avec success par la Curietherapie " ( in French ) . Praxis : Journal Suisse de Medicine . 1948 .

" Tratamiento de la Fibromatosis Uterina por el Radio " ( in Spanish ) 7 . Madrid : Toco Ginecología Práctica . 1948 .