Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0088

Mayo, Helen Mary

(1878 - 1967)

Born	18781001, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Died	19671113
Occupation	Doctor

Summary

Dr Helen Mayo was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) on 3 June 1935 for her maternal and child welfare activities. She worked well past retirement age and established several children's health facilities.

Details

Helen Mayo was educated privately and at the Advanced School for Girls; she matriculated in 1895. Mayo began a medical degree at the University of Adelaide in 1898, and became the university's second woman medical graduate. She gained her doctorate in medicine (MD) in 1926. She opened a private practice in Adelaide in 1906 specialising in midwifery and the health of women and children. She lectured at the University of Adelaide 1926-1934. Mayo also founded the Mothers and Babies' Health Association (1927) which grew out of the School for Mothers she established with social worker Harriet Stirling in 1909. The organisation still exists today, as Child and Youth Health. Stirling and Mayo also set up an independent hospital in 1913 to address the special needs of infant patients. In 1917 it was taken over by the Government and became the Mareeba Babies' Hospital, with Mayo as honorary responsible medical officer.

Mayo also worked for the Adelaide Children's Hospital, lectured at the University of Adelaide, established a donor service for the Red Cross Transfusion Service and chaired a committee which aimed to establish a women's university college. In 1935 Dr Helen Mayo was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) for her maternal and child welfare activities. She was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, a foundation Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and President of the Australian Federation of University Women.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Book
Living in South Australia : a social history, Elizabeth Kwan, 1987

A goodly heritage: an appreciation of the life and work of the late Dr Helen Mayo, Horan, Margaret Burton, 1971

The hands of a woman: South Australian Medical Women's Society, 1994

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Newspaper Article
Obituary: Helen Mayo, MacKay, D. G., 1968

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
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S.A.'s greats: the men and women of the North Terrace plaques, Healey, John, 2001

Book Section
The Medicals: Laura Hope, Helen Mayo, Rosamund Benham [and] Phyllis Cliento, Mackinnon, Alison, 1986

Helen Mayo, MacKinnon, Alison, [1988]

Resource Section
Mayo, Helen Mary (1878-1967), Hicks, Neville and Leopold, Elisabeth, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100455b.htm

List of Electoral Divisions Named After Women, Australian Electoral Commission,
https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/division-names/women.html

Journal Article
A very remarkable woman: Dr Helen Mary Mayo, 1978-1967, Denham, D., 1991

Some aspects of the history of infant welfare in South Australia, Mayo, Helen Mary, 1960

Report
Private medicine and public health, Hicks, Neville, 1986

Resource
Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,
http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia
Mayo family : SUMMARY RECORD

The University of Adelaide, Barr Smith Library Rare Books & Special Collections
[Address delivered at the opening of the Dr. Helen Mayo Wing, St. Ann's College, 29th June 1961]

Some observations on biological therapy / Helen Mary Mayo

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