Dr. Harriet B. Jones – *Business, Industry and Professions*

Dr. Harriet Jones was born in Ebensburg, PA, on June 5, 1856. Her family later moved to West Virginia, and she grew up in Terra Alta, Preston County. She graduated from Wheeling Female College in 1875 and then the Women's Medical College in Baltimore where she specialized in gynecology and abdominal surgery. After graduating in 1884, Dr. Jones pursued further training in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

In 1886, Dr. Jones opened a practice in Wheeling as the first woman in West Virginia licensed to practice medicine. She then was called to serve as the assistant superintendent at the West Virginia Hospital for the Insane, the first of many roles at leading medical institutions throughout West Virginia.

In 1892, she returned to Wheeling, identified a specific need in the community, and set up a clinic for women only. Two years later, she led the construction of a new building at the corner of 15th and Jacob Streets. This revolutionary women's hospital served the Wheeling community for more than 20 years.

Dr. Jones was regarded as one of Wheeling's leading doctors throughout this time. She was a member of the West Virginia State Medical Association, the Ohio County Medical Society, and the American Medical Association at a time where there were few to no other female physicians. The June 12, 1896, edition of "The Intelligencer" in Wheeling reported the proceedings of the West Virginia Medical Society in which Dr. Jones delivered a lecture on the roadblocks women physicians faced as they pursued their careers.

Dr. Jones was especially known for her work to combat tuberculosis. In 1909, Dr. Philip Jacobs, a leader in the top national anti-tuberculosis organization, came to speak in Wheeling. Jacobs praised the work of Dr. Jones, to "whom the local medical fraternity was indebted, and whom he called the most useful woman in West Virginia." Just a year later, in 1910, Dr. Jones and Rabbi Levi of the Eoff Street Temple led the charge to open the first tuberculosis clinic in Wheeling. She was the first president of the Ohio County Anti-Tuberculosis League and also served 10 years as the executive secretary of the West Virginia Tuberculosis Association.

According to a story in the "Morgantown Post," the West Virginia Legislature approved a large sum of money for an education campaign addressing the prevention of tuberculosis in 1912, in large part because of Dr. Jones' lobbying efforts. She answered the call, traveling throughout the state by rail and automobile. During that single tour, Dr. Jones visited 164 towns, spoke 624 times in schools, gave 102 lectures before adult audiences, and addressed 16 county school teachers' institutes.

Dr. Jones' efforts in her public health career led to the founding of the West Virginia Industrial Home for Girls in Salem, the West Virginia Children's Home in Elkins, the West Virginia Tuberculosis Sanitarium in her hometown of Terra Alta, and the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium for the Colored. As noted, she also was named assistant superintendent of the West Virginia Hospital for the Insane (later known as Weston State Hospital and as the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum.) Notably, as part of her public health work during this time, Dr. Jones also was one of the first supporters of the school playground movement in Wheeling. In addition, she was active in the administration of the Florence Crittenton Home in Wheeling, a residence that served the needs of unwed mothers.

Along with her medical work, Dr. Jones was an active suffragist in West Virginia, and a member of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs and the West Virginia Equal Suffrage Association. She advocated for women to gain admission to West Virginia University and other state colleges, which finally came to fruition in 1889. After the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, she became active in the League of Women Voters.

Dr. Jones moved to Glen Dale in the early 1920s and was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1924, serving two terms. She continued her political and public health activism until the end of her life. She died on June 28, 1943, in Glen Dale, WV.