MARY MARTIN SLOOP, American Mother of the Year, 1951, born in

Davidson, North Carolina, educated at Davidson, at the University

of Tennessee, and at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania,

graduating with the degree of M. D. in 1906. Immediately attracted
to the plight of mountain people, she founded at Crossnore, North

Carolina a school and home for mountain children which, under her
guidance, has grown to an institution of twenty buildings occupying

250 acres of land. More than 3,000 mountain children have been

helped to an education by "The Grand Lady of the Blue Ridge." With

her husband and children she established and is administrator of

Garrett Memorial Hospital at Crossnore, where the mountain people receive

medical and dental care at a cost which they can afford. For almost

half a century she has worked unceasingly for the betterment of her

people, bringing to her community good roads, schools and churches,
a hospital and dental clinic, vocational training, and modern farming
methods. In her biography, she lists as her hobby, "opportunity for

mountaineers, giving them an equal chance." The University, in

bestowing on her this mark of our esteem, recognizes the worth of
such a hobby, as exemplified by the accomplishments of her long life devoted to the service of the mountain people of North Carolina.

MARY MARTIN SLOOP, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the President and the Board of Trustees and by virtue of the vote of the Faculty, I confer on you the degree of Doctor of Laws, with all its rights and privileges.

from the 1952 citation file:

Memorandum: Dr. Mary Martin Sloop, Crossnore, N. C. was voted the honorary degree Doctor of Laws by the Board of Trustees and the Faculty of the University of North Carolina; but because of severe illness was unable to be present for its award. The matter is to be taken up by the Committee on Honorary Degrees, at the beginning of its deliberations in the fall, 1952, for the 1953 Commencement.