

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 citations 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. ¶