

PERSONAL DETAILS

IN MEMORY OF JOHANNA DE HAAN-VAN MAARSEVEEN. - In the early morning of Monday 25 March 1946, at the age of 73, JOHANNA DE HAAN-VAN MAARSEVEEN, one of the first female doctors, died in Amsterdam. This end certainly did not come unexpectedly; she was already bedridden for more than 5 years and lately the anxiousness of heart was increasing. She spent her life, which was rich but difficult, proudly and courageously. Her great interest in social, medical and hereditary problems, and especially her interest in literature, stayed with her to the last days of her life. Her mind remained completely untouched, as did her willingness to help those who needed help. Those among her many friends and acquaintances living outside Amsterdam who had to be "in town" could rely on her hospitality, even in the most difficult period of the war years.

At the turn of the last century, the municipality of Amsterdam decided to appoint doctors to monitor its staff, from high to low, in the event of illness. To this end, colleagues VAN RIEMSDIJK and JOHANNA VAN MAARSEVEEN were appointed for the female part. This work was often very difficult at first; they faced mistrust and were often treated very unkindly by patients and relatives. This was even more true for the female doctor than for her male colleagues.

She performed this work excellently, always keeping the interests of the community in mind, never hesitating for a moment to grant, or to extend, leave in the event of illness, even if the patient did not ask for it. The Municipality of Amsterdam has recognized the earnings of its first three medical doctors by giving them its large silver medal.

When the constant climbing of stairs, which was necessary to reach the control department, started to be difficult for her, she exchanged this position for that of a school doctor and in this position she also did useful work for many years, although her militant nature was less satisfied with it.

Her attitude to life was a good example for younger people. A friend to be missed by her contemporaries.

She will rest peacefully after much labor and will be missed with great sorrow.

Amsterdam, 29 March 1946

CORNELIA DE LANGE