



Dr. Marie N. Bercea

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ON DECEMBER 23, 1942, Dr. Marie N. Bercea died at her home in Hollywood, California.

For years Dr. Bercea had been an active member of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists and was closely affiliated with the Southern California Component of this Society which she served, competently and well, in all of its official positions.

Her passing, at the height of a notable professional career, is not only a deep sorrow to her many friends in and outside of the profession, but a grievous loss to the lay circle in which she moved.

A Rumanian by birth, reared and sheltered in a cultured home, and highly educated in her own country and in Paris, Dr. Bercea came to America, young and alone, following her father's death, to complete the study of medicine which she had begun at the University of Jassi. She entered the Woman's Medical College at Philadelphia, but finding herself unable to continue there, the following year she entered the New York College of Dentistry where she graduated in 1919.

This was just at the close of the first World War and, learning of an American Woman's Medical Unit which was about to leave for Serbia to do reconstruction work amongst the Serbian war orphans, she joined the unit, soon attained the rank of captain, and had charge of the dental service of the unit for three years. Then, the work in Serbia being finished, she joined Dr. Etta Gray, the head of the unit, who was returning to her home and practice in Los Angeles, and in due time established herself in a short-lived dental practice in that city. But, through association with Dr. A. Oppenheim in Europe, and with Dr. Genette W. Harbour and Dr. Edward H. Angle, after coming here, her interest had turned from dentistry to orthodontia which, after a course at the Angle School, she practiced for the remaining years allotted her.

She had success and pleasure in her orthodontic practice, and found in it compensation for her disappointment in a medical career. And she enjoyed, also, the admiration and highest respect of her patients and her confreres.

Dr. Bercea was a brave, friendly, generous woman of brilliant mind, gentle spirit and noble character. She was deeply loved and is deeply mourned.

She is survived by her husband, Mr. E. G. Barbul.

A. H. A.