

From Charles S. Johnson, 12/28/36

SCHOLARSHIP

Easterling, Ruth M., M. D.

~~U. S. Veteran's Hospital~~  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Dr. Easterling graduated from Tufts Medical College in 1921, and was licensed by the Massachusetts State Board of Medical Examiners, by examination, in that same year. She served one year of general internship at the Metropolitan Hospital, New York City, and practiced medicine in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1922 to 1928. During that time she became interested in the laboratory manifestations of disease, and was associated with Dr. William A. Hinton, Director of Wassermann Laboratories in the State of Massachusetts. For a period of two years she worked in the Boston Dispensary and Wassermann Laboratories in Boston. Here her interest was particularly drawn to the serological reactions of tuberculosis, with the ultimate aim of striking upon some means of making a serological diagnosis of this disease before the appearance of clinical or Roentgenological findings.

In October 1931 Dr. Easterling took up employment in the laboratories of the Veterans' Administration Facility at Tuskegee, Alabama. For a period of approximately two years she continued her experimentation on serological reactions of tuberculosis, in collaboration with Dr. John B. West (now District Health Officer in Central Harlem, New York City) through permission from the Veterans' Administration. The tuberculosis service at Tuskegee was terminated, by executive order, on July 24, 1934, and their investigations had to be suspended due to lack of clinical cases and serum.

Dr. Easterling is very anxious to continue her experimentation, and is requesting a grant in order to continue the work unhampered by routine examinations. She can get laboratory facilities at Harvard University; Dr. Zinsser will offer unlimited assistance; Sea View Hospital in New York can furnish sufficient blood for the purpose; and it is her hope to obtain a better grade of tuberculin than has yet been produced.

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