

Dr. Jessie Fisher



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Jessie Myers Weston was born in Cherry Hill, Maryland in 1872. Most of her youth was spent in and around Dover, Delaware. In 1893, she graduated from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Jessie's path brought her to Middletown, CT, where she worked for 14 years as a clinical assistant (4 years) and assistant pathologist (10 years) at what was then the CT Hospital for the Insane. In 1897, she married Dr. William Edwin Fisher. In 1904, their son, William Weston Fisher was born.

Dr. Jessie Fisher established the Department of Pathology at Middlesex Memorial Hospital in 1916.

She worked as a pathologist (including a period of study at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital), bacteriologist, and serologist (study of blood serum) until 1918, when (at the age of 45) she requested a leave of absence to volunteer with the American Red Cross. Without her family's approval, she left her home, her husband and her son in Middletown and traveled to France where she worked for the American Red Cross in a hospital at Beauvais in Picardy.

In 1923, she was offered the position of chair of the Department of Pathology at Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia. In 1943, she was assigned by the Governor to the board of trustees of the CT State Hospital. In 1954, upon her retirement, a laboratory at the hospital was named after her.

She published numerous articles in medical journals. Among other noteworthy milestones in her career Jessie interviewed and wrote on the serial killer Amy Archer-Gilligan, whose true-life murderous career was the inspiration for the play and movie "Arsenic and Old Lace."

Jessie lived to be 89 years old, and died in 1962.

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County doctor saw horrors of World War I up close

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