

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Milton Helpern

Milton Helpern, M. D., the internationally-known forensic pathologist and Chief Medical Examiner of New York City for 20 years and member of the Editorial Board of this journal, died on April 22nd following a long illness.

Dr. Helpern was born in New York City on April 17, 1902. He received his B. S. degree from the College of the City of New York and his M. D. from Cornell University Medical College. He joined the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York in 1931, and became Deputy Chief Medical Examiner in 1943 and Chief Medical Examiner in 1954 and retired in 1974.

In addition to his activities as Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Helpern was noted as a teacher, lecturer, consultant, author and officer and/or founder of various organizations in medicine and related fields.

He was for 20 years Professor and Chairman of the Department of Forensic Medicine at New York University School of Medicine and was named Emeritus Professor on his retirement. He had also served on the faculty of Cornell University Medical College, rising to the position of Visiting Professor of Pathology. He was named Emeritus Professor of Pathology at that institution on his retirement.

For several years before his death, he had also served as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Pathology at the Center for Biomedical Education, City College, City University of New York.

He was the author of over 100 articles on medico-legal subjects and co-author of a classic text in his field — „Legal Medicine, Pathology and Toxicology.“

In addition to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and National Association of Medical Examiners, Dr. Helpern served as president of a large number of societies.

Among his numerous honors and awards were Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Ghent, Belgium; City College, City University of New York; and New York Law School, and the Distinguished Physician's Service Award of the American Medical Association.

He was also the recipient of many foreign honors, including appointment as Officer of the Order of Leopold II of Belgium, and honorary membership in professional societies in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, West Germany, France, Spain, Italy and other countries.