



Milton Helpern, M.D.
1902-1977

Milton Helpern had a world-wide reputation for his work in forensic medicine. He was chief medical examiner of New York City for 20 years, had helped found the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the National Association of Medical Examiners, and had served as president of these and several other organizations.

Dr. Helpern 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; he became deputy chief medical examiner in 1943 and chief medical examiner in 1954. He retired in 1974.

The New York University School of Medicine named Dr. Helpern as Emeritus Professor when he retired after having served as professor and chairman of the Department of Forensic Medicine for 20 years. He also served on the faculty of Cornell University Medical College and was named Emeritus Professor of Pathology 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 more than 100 articles on medicolegal subjects and co-author of a classic text in his field.

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. The American Medical Association presented him with the Distinguished Physician's Service Award. He held honorary membership in professional societies in several countries and was appointed Officer of the Order of Leopold II of Belgium. (Photograph courtesy of Bill McGarry.)