Dr. Alice Ettinger, "First Lady of Radiology" at Tufts, Resigns

The "first lady" of radiology at Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Alice Ettinger, has resigned at the age of 86 from her position of Professor Emeritus of Radiology.

Dr. Ettinger, first chairman of the x-ray department at Tufts and New England Medical Center, resigned recently at the age of 86.

She remembers Dr. Joseph Pratt bringing her over to America from Germany in July of 1932 because she knew how to do what was then a very advanced technique: spot films during fluoroscopy. She had planned to go back to Germany at the end of six months — and she told Dr. Pratt so — but between the time she told him and the time she was scheduled to leave, she came to an awareness about what was happening politically in Germany.

Her career as radiologist, as teacher, and as chairman of the department was distinguished. One of the many highlights was the award in 1982 of the Gold Medal of the Radiological Society of North America.

Dr. Ettinger an alumna of the universities of Berlin and Freiburg, receiving her M.D. degree at the latter in 1926. Before coming to the United States, she served as a graduate assistant in internal medicine and an assistant in radiology at the Second University Clinic in Charite, Berlin.

In 1965, she was elected president of the New England Roentgen Ray Society. Earlier, as chairman of the society's Committee on Technical Affairs, she had introduced the x-ray technicians training program at Northeastern University.

At the time of her 1965 retirement, Dr. Ettinger's work as a clinician and teacher was hailed by her colleagues. NEMC Physician-in-Chief Samuel Proger said of her "No single individual has contributed to a greater extent to the quality standards of this hospital." Dr. Robert E. Paul, Jr., her successor as radiologist-in-chief, said that "Dr. Ettinger bridged the gap between frontier medical knowledge and patient care. She set an example in teaching people how to care for patients."