

HONOR DR. MEITNER FOR WORK ON ATOM

Members of Women's Press Club Also Give Citations to Ten Others

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—In the presence of President and Mrs. Truman and a distinguished company of more than 600 men and women Dr. Lise Meitner, atom scientist, was acciaimed the “woman of the year,” and ten other women who had won distinction in varied fields were cited for their achievements at the annual dinner tonight of the Women's National Press Club.

To Dr. Meitner was presented the club's first Achievement Award, a Paul Revere silver bowl, and to the other “women of achievement,” engraved citations were presented by Bess Furman of the Washington Bureau of THE NEW YORK TIMES, president of the club.

The only speech of the evening, brief, informal and “off the record” was made by President Truman.

A Pioneer of the Atomic Age

In her presentation of the award to Dr. Meitner, Miss Furman said: “We all stand awed on the threshold of the Atomic Age. Its very vocabulary astounds us. Yet here is a woman who grasped the terrific significance of her own experiments in atom-cracking; who knew that energy greater than ever known on earth was thus released.

“On the basis of her faith and findings, backed up by the work of other experimenters, President Roosevelt launched the project which brought forth the atom bomb and ended the war.

“We contend that a cooperative world will control the awful destruction made possible through atomic energy and will make possible the freeing humanity of its vast constructive might.”

Cited for achievement in the fields of government, of science, education, journalism, art, literature, music and the ballet, the drama, radio and business were Representative Mary T. Norton of New Jersey, chairman of the House Committee on Labor; Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard, Dr. Esther Loring Richards, psychiatrist, of Johns Hopkins; Anne O'Hare McCormick of THE NEW YORK TIMES, Georgia O'Keeffe, artist; Ida A. R. Wylie, novelist; Agnes de Mille, creator of the ballets in “Oklahoma!” and “Carousel”; Margaret Webster, authority on Shakespeare; Margaret Cuthbert, director of the National Broadcasting Company's programs for women and children, and Miss Ruth M. Leach, vice president of International Business Machines.

Citations Relate Achievement

Of the citations, all brief and a few, as presented by Miss Furman, follow:

“To Anne O'Hare McCormick, whose premier position as a newspaper woman was enhanced this year by her beautiful prose and outstanding reporting as a war correspondent.”

“To Georgia O'Keeffe, who can make a landscape live and who this year continued her record of one-woman New York exhibitions which have been annual art events since 1921.”

“To Agnes de Mille, who went on, and on, with the dance, adding to it comedy and satire, and strength, until she revolutionized musical comedy.”

In place of the “skits and



Outstanding women of 1945 after they received their awards last night. Front, left to right: Dr. Esther Loring Richards, psychiatrist, of Johns Hopkins University, science; Agnes de Mille, ballet and music; Dr. Lise Meitner, Austrian-born atom scientist whom the club named “woman of the year”; Ida A. R. Wylie, novelist, literature, and Anne O'Hare McCormick, editorial writer for The New York Times, journalism. Rear, left to right: Margaret Webster, Shakespearean authority, drama; Georgia O'Keeffe, landscape painter, art; Ruth M. Leach, vice president International Business Machines, business, and Margaret Cuthbert, National Broadcasting Company program director, radio.

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sketches” formerly staged by members of the club for after-dinner amusement, a program of entertainment was presented tonight by Cornelia Otis Skinner, monologist; Eugene List, pianist, and the Marine Band orchestra.

Truman Renews Food Plea

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)—President Truman tonight again called on the American people to cooperate in his food-conservation program designed to prevent starvation abroad. He told the Women's National Press Club that a good many Americans were too fat, anyway, and could afford to

lose a little weight if it meant sustaining lives of others.

The President took a serious vein after a humorous off-the-record speech. After he had spoken at some length on what he called America's duty to prevent starvation in war-torn countries, he told

his audience that this part of his speech was “on the record.”

He referred to the banquet which he had just enjoyed and said that what had been served to him would be sufficient to keep one family in Greece from starving to death for three weeks.