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| **Harvey N. Middleton, M.D.** |
| Dr. Middleton (1895-1978) was born in Denmark, S.C. As a child, he became acutely aware of the inferior medical treatment given to blacks, and decided to become a doctor. He took first a high-school course, and then a bachelor's degree (1919), at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. He served in the U.S. Army during the last year of World War I, and then briefly as a Pullman Car porter. In 1920-1922 he attended the School of Medicine at Boston University; from 1923 to 1926 he attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, receiving his M.D. degree in 1926.In 1928 Dr. Middleton joined the staff of St. Joseph Hospital in Anderson, Indiana. After eight years there, he came to Indianapolis seeking a position at City Hospital. At first allowed only to serve as a volunteer in the outpatient clinic, he set up his own practice as a cardiologist, with a specialty in electrocardiograms and heart irregularities. He strengthened his professional preparation by taking short postgraduate courses at Harvard, University of Michigan, Indiana University, and the University of London.After eight years he was admitted as the first black staff member of both City Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital. He also joined the staffs at Methodist and Community Hospitals. He was an assistant professor at Indiana University Medical School. He published a number of articles in the field of cardiology, and continued his practice until his death. From 1953 to 1958 he served as general secretary of the Hoosier State Medical Society; he was a member of numerous other medical societies, and received several awards.Once established in his medical practice, Dr. Middleton became active in several civic organizations. In the late 1940s, he was involved in setting up the Herman G. Morgan Health Center at Flanner House. He was active in the Zeta Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. In 1950-1951 he was co-chairman of the state campaign for United Negro College Fund.A major interest of Dr. Middleton's for many years was the YMCA. He was elected to the board of the Metropolitan YMCA in 1952, and served on various committees thereafter. In the same year he became president of the Senate Avenue YMCA. He took a leading part in raising funds for a new facility for this branch, which opened on Fall Creek Parkway in 1959.Dr. Middleton retained his interest in Meharry Medical College; he was class agent for five years, and organized a fiftieth reunion for his class in 1976. He was a member of Mt. Paran Baptist Church. A Republican in politics, he was a member of the NAACP from 1929.*Indiana Lives, pp 530-531 (1955) p.565* Sources: Materials in collectionHawkins and McClarren,Indiana Biographical Series. Vol. 86 p.47 col.2; Vol. 86 p.61 col.2 Who's Who in the Midwest |