

Insignia of O.M. to Dr. Williams

His Excellency the Governor-General, the Most Hon. Florizel Glasspole, on Friday presented the insignia of Order of Merit, to the Rt. Hon. Dr. Cecily Williams at King's House.

Dr. Williams was named to the Order in the 1975 Jamaican Honours List because of her "outstanding service in the field of medicine."

There are three recipients of the Order of Merit. The other two being the Hon. Rex Nettleford Director of Extramural Studies, UWI, who was present at Friday's ceremony, and the Hon. M. G. Smith a special adviser to the Prime Minister.

After the citation was read by the Governor-General's Secretary, Mr. Neville Smith, and the Insignia presented, His Excellency congratulated Dr. Williams who, he said, came from a very distinguished Jamaican family which had a great record of contribution to agriculture and the law.

Sister to Mr. Richard Williams and the late T. R. Williams, Dr. Williams graduated in 1923 and after taking a degree in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, she joined the Colonial Service. She served in the Gold Coast, now Ghana, then in Malaya and was a prisoner of war. She returned to Jamaica in 1946 but recovering from the strain of prison she returned to Malaysia and served there until her retirement in 1948.

Pride

The Governor-General referred to Dr. Williams' "extremely distinguished career in the field of Medicine" and said "Jamaica has every right to be proud of her."

She had made important discoveries in the field of medicine affecting child care and after her retirement she became Head of the Department of Maternal and Child Health, of W.H.O. in Geneva, and was Regional Director for the W.H.O. in Asia. She was also Adviser to the Family Planning Association of Jamaica.

The Governor-General quoted the long list of Awards that Dr. Williams had received over the years for her work in maternal and child health; culminating in the Jamaican Honour. "We have every right to be proud of you because you have brought fame not only to yourself but to Jamaica," he told Dr. Williams.

Expressing her pride in the Jamaican award, Dr. Williams said in spite of the recognition she had received all over the world it was most gratifying "to come home and find an honour of this sort that has given pleasure not only to my family but to the people in my district. (Bethel Town in Westmoreland). They had a special service in the church to return thanks for this honour. It makes me very proud."

'Colleague'

The distinguished octogenarian drew applause and laughter from the company in the King's House drawing room when she said she was "proud to have a young, active man like Mr. Nettleford as my colleague."

Attending the ceremony also were Senator the Hon. Carl Rattray, Minister of Justice, who deputised for the Prime Minister who was unable to be present; Dr. Joyce Isaacs Saward, Miss Beryl Fletcher, Miss Olive Ennavor and Prof. Kenneth Standard, Head of the U.W.I. Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in which Dr. Williams has also served.