

**DR. LORENZO R. NELSON,
FIRST PRESIDENT OF A COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY (AMA)**

DR. LORENZO RAYMOND NELSON (M.D., Meharry, '29) of Baldwin, Michigan, was the first Negro to become president of a constituent society of the American Medical Association. He was chosen president-elect of the Mecosta-Osceola-Lake (Tri-County) Medical Society of Michigan in 1951 and installed as president in November 1952, serving for the year 1952-53. Dr. Nelson was born in Greenville, Texas, August 1, 1902. He received his elementary education in Greenville and his secondary training in Wendell Phillips High School, Chicago. Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee, awarded him the A.B. in 1925. Following graduation from Meharry in 1929, he served an internship at Kansas City General Hospital No. 2 and entered the practice of medicine in Chicago, Illinois. He served on the Urology Staff at Provident Hospital for four and one half years and was senior clinical urologist at Provident during his service there.

In 1941 he joined the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army and saw service at Fort Devens, Mass. and with the 366th Infantry in the campaigns in North Africa and Italy. He was Regimental Surgeon for the 366th and rose in rank during his five years Active Duty in the service from First Lieutenant to Major, Medical Corps, USA.

On leaving the Armed Forces Dr. Nelson moved to Baldwin, Michigan, where he was and is the only colored physician in a community of approximately 10,000, of whom between 600 and 800 are Negroes. His large practice is not confined to any particular group. Baldwin is in a resort area of Michigan adjacent to the well known colony of Idlewild. It was through visits to Idlewild that Dr. Nelson became familiar with the area and bought a piece of property in Baldwin. He was influenced to enter practice there by cordial invitations from white physicians in the vicinity, one of whom wrote him while he was in the Army.

Dr. Nelson joined the Tri-County (Lake-Osceola-Mecosta County) Society in 1946 and he served on many of its committees in different capacities. Currently he is a member of the Committee on Tuberculosis of the Michigan State Medical Society. He is also chairman of the Cancer Committee of the Tri-County Society and chairman of its Civil Defense Committee. He has been a member of the Staff of the Reed City Hospital, Reed City, Michigan, since 1946. He enjoys courtesy privileges at all the hospitals in his area.

Dr. Nelson married Miss Blanche Crawford of Wichita, Kansas, in Wichita, Kansas on July 6, 1930. They have one daughter, America E. Nelson, who received (VOL. 49, No. 5 Briefs341) a B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1952 and the M.S. in Zoology in 1954. After spending two years in the teaching of Biology in Hyde Park High School, Chicago, Illinois, Miss Nelson entered Howard Medical School in the Fall of 1957.