

THE ORAL MEMOIR OF MAIDA HERMAN SOLOMON, ON HER CAREER, PART I*



I was employed at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital in 1916.¹ I was oriented at the time to the syphilis movement, with an interest in neurosyphilis because my husband, whom I married in 1916, was the head of therapeutic research at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital. When he suggested and Mary Jarrett suggested that I come there to work, I couldn't come for several months because I was finishing my first book, which I wrote on the field of social service with Mr. Philip Davis.** When that was completed I moved over to the Boston Psychopathic Hospital. Socially, at that time, "syphilis" was a word you didn't use***; and this whole thing was newish in a sense, because the organism of syphilis had only been discovered in 1906.

Ehrlich in 1910 discovered "606" [Salvarsan], which was supposed to be a cure, and in 1912 Noguchi and Moore came along [and established the link between syphilis and the symptoms of general paresis]; and it was used for paresis and tabes. The mental hospitals then had a great many people who had tertiary syphilis...