

# ALICE DOWLING, 70, LED ADOPTION UNIT

## President of Spence-Chapin Dies—Aided Charities

Mrs. Alice Bevier Hall Dowling, a prominent figure in New York society and a founder and former president of the Spence-Chapin Adoption Service here, died Monday at the Lenox Hill Hospital, which she entered last August. She was 70 years old.

Mrs. Dowling was almost ceaselessly active in sponsoring and organizing dinners and balls and other fetes on behalf of a wide range of charitable causes, but her first allegiance went to the adoption service, of which she was president from 1950 to 1953 and from 1968 to 1970.

A lifelong resident of Manhattan, she lived on East End Avenue and also had a home in Sterling Forest, near Tuxedo, N. Y. Before attending the Art Students League of New York, she graduated from the Spence School, and it was with the Spence Alumnae Society that she began her long service in the cause of finding homes for children.

It was when the society was merged in 1943 with the Alice Chapin Nursery, which engaged in the same work, that Mrs. Dowling became a founder of the combined institutions.

### Started Thrift Shop

She organized the Spence-Chapin Corner Shop, now at 1065 Lexington Avenue, in 1951 as a volunteer-staffed thrift shop to sell "old and new everything."

She was instrumental last year in the formation of the Harlem-Dowling Children's Service at 2090 Seventh Avenue, a satellite of the adoption service named in her honor.

Mrs. Dowling was the former wife of Robert W. Dowling, the realty investment executive, member of the board of overseers of Harvard College, and the inventor of all-glass doors. They were wed in 1934 and had a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Dowling Newman, a physician, who survives. The Dowlings were divorced in 1968.

Previously, Mrs. Dowling had been married to William A. Bartle Jr., and she had three sons by that marriage, William A. Bartle 3d, Stewart Hall Bartle, a physician, who survive, and the late Thomas Reynolds Bartle. That marriage ended in divorce in 1930.

In World War II, Mrs. Dowling drove an ambulance for the American Red Cross here.

### Chairman of Ball

In 1957, she held the chairmanship of the Post-Debutante Tiara Ball in the Waldorf-Astoria, for the Spence-Chapin service, which by then was helping more than 500 babies and young mothers a year. The service occupies a five-story town house at 6 East 94th Street.

Surviving, in addition to her 4 children, are a sister, Mrs. Chetwood Elliott; a half-brother, John Hughes Hall; and 11 grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held in the Unitarian Church of All Souls, Lexington Avenue and 80th Street, at 10:30 A.M. tomorrow.

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