

Eirene May Summerhayes (Mrs Humphrey Cochrane Belk) 1897 - 1994

Eirene was born in Amberley, Gloucestershire. Her father was a Church of England clergyman. She attended Laleham School, Eastbourne and a day school in Hampstead. Eirene spent a year working in a military convalescent home before entering Bergman Österberg Physical Training College (BÖPTC) in 1916. After a very successful college career her first post was at Wycombe Abbey School. She joined Kathleen Bird as a member of the physical education department.

In September 1923 Eirene sailed to New York, en route to Philadelphia, where she went to coach hockey with other former BÖPTC students including Helen Armfield. Eirene spent several subsequent summers coaching hockey in the US. She then joined the staff of Benenden School where, in addition to her teaching responsibilities, she was also a housemistress for ten years. She became a governor of St Michael's School, Limpsfield and of Benenden School.

Eirene married in 1934. She was Chairman of the BÖU for some years and a keen Old Student. When the college was still independent she was a member of the College Committee of Management and worked closely with Kathleen Bird. In 1961 the LCC took over the responsibility for the maintenance of the college and Eirene was appointed a member of the new Governing Body, a post she retained until the college merged with Thames Polytechnic in 1976.

Eirene died in Oxted, Surrey, in 1994.

See obituary by Margaret Chamberlain in the *BÖU Magazine Centenary Edition 1885 - 1995*, pages 48—50.