

Things You Ought to Know

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PRESENT AND FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF MEDICINE

Today, medicine stands at the crossroads. Physicians have and will continue to hold the sole right and duty to decide what shall be practiced in respect to the giving of medical care and attention.

However, the physician is a product of the times and reflects the customs of the period.

In primitive times, the physician was a priest, magician and curer of all ills. In classical times, he was at times slave, at times craftsman and honored citizen. Finally, spec-



ialization came and each doctor worked at a special phase of disease and their cure.

Between 1850 and 1930, the Industrial Revolution changed the world at a pace that has defied understanding or analysis. Modern medicine came in with a bang. Specialization attained such a state of development as to constitute a new phenomenon in the history of science. Medical art and medical practice has grown beyond the competence of any individual.

Industrialization and urbanization brought colossal forces to play upon medical practice. Competition has developed. What will be the answer to the paradox? Fifty years ago Germany began an experiment with sickness insurance. Twenty-four foreign countries now have compulsory health insurance while eighteen have voluntary health insurance.

In the United States medical care is already 14 percent socialized. This means that exclusive of commercial companies, the various governments have taken over 14 per cent of the administration of health facilities. It is now proposed that doctors form groups to practice medicine and to distribute the costs in advance by a pre-payment plan.

This is much more economical than by using commercial sick-

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business policies issued by companies doing a sickness and accident business. We still hold that insurance companies can do a legitimate business by selling life insurance but sickness insurance belongs to the medical profession.

There is a demand for adequate medical care. The average American is laid up from illness or accident once a year, with an average cost of \$25 per year per person. Two out of every hundred are incapacitated from injuries at any one time in the United States. In the South venereal disease and tuberculosis are running wild among Negroes.

Is the present system adequate? How could it be if the above facts are true, and they are. Why don't the intelligent citizens get together and demand that something be done? One answer is that in the cities particularly, those of us who are able to pay doctor bills pay such meager amounts of money to Negro physicians for medical care. The poor people go to Grady for free service where they don't feel the pinch of the cost of medical care.

The Negro physician with his small fees is not able to finance a course in specialization. His patients keep his nose to the grindstone all of the time. Occasionally, they will pay a white specialist a big fee to come in and take the glory while the Negro doctor has done the work. Then the patient will tell you that he is doing well to retain your services for nothing.

Finally, the Negro physician has only the bag to hold and disease and high death rates merrily swing along. Grady hospital bars the doors of a public institution to the Negro physicians for systematic work or research. I can conceive that socialized medicine will be a blessing in disguise to the Negro physician and patient. The effort to row against the stream requires superhuman strength. If the government would take the initiative and turn the stream around, we could better row down again.

The Negro colleges, which, by the way, had to seek asylum during the early days in the first convenient box-car promoted by Yankee pioneers when the state and city politicians suppressed higher education for Negroes, are now in better physical condition to promote a community health program. They refuse to do so because they cannot do it in a big way. Because the northern boards will not write a three million dollar check for a hospital, they fold up their hands and say it is not our business. This is my own opinion of the situation.



20, 1937

on BEALE

D. Williams

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people free,
up Zion's walls;
y the righteous marching.
—Swilly.

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...but last Friday, February 12, was
One would expect all present-day
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position to Northern control by bat-
am.

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.....the Deep South included. But
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the field of freeing black folks. He
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For cullud folk it appears that to worship similar to worshipping the memory of them into the world. They say they worship since that's what the doctor says under the circumstances.

Whether that's a healthy attitude or wrong to tell people the whole truth is another matter, have your little laugh; but I don't think it's wise (and not at all times). I think it's wrong to young'uns the whole truth about what the man who signed the Proclamation ought not to cut so much ice.

As the old, need the ideal of a great hero as long as the race as a whole thought it was easy for them to look for an example to feel that all white men of inferior to lowly black folk. I suspect cullud folk voted for President Roosevelt as a big-shot 'quality' white man to take his places.

There are a lot of younger cullud folk who can get along without such a hero and who have been the first to find fault with him though many of them voted for Roosevelt as a business proposition. They evidently believe that to the victor belongs the spoils and among the victors some of the spoils

of cullud folk.....the ones more than ever there's a kind of regret over this deed that rode the elephant to his last rest and urged the young folks to their cause by example and others who lived in his day. His efforts were in vain. Lincoln's birthday is like the birthday of Christ...the folks concerned used it to observe some-

Manufacturers Carry Weight Of Reports By Newspapers

more than two dozen students.
Mrs. Annie M. Turnbo Malone, founder and President of the Poro organization, said in an interview the other day that Poro like all her business institutions has had many problems to overcome during the depression years, but with business on the upgrade she is looking forward to increased results during 1937. She suggests to the girls of America to go into beauty business as it may prove very beneficial to them in the future.
In the prosperous days of this