

Experimentation Dealing With Humans Given Scrutiny at Duke

By Yvonne Baskin
In 1796 Edward Jenner took a small boy and vaccinated his arm with cowpox, then exposed the boy to smallpox to see if he would catch the dreaded disease.

The boy did not, and Jenner's vaccination experiments laid the foundation for the future of preventive medicine.

A researcher today would find it almost impossible to get approval for such an experiment on a healthy child, and yet Jenner's research led to the saving of millions of lives.

The history of human experimentation in medical research embodies all the best and all the worst in the human character, from the horrors of Nazi experiments to the self-sacrifice and dedication of Ignatz Semmelweis and P.C.A. Louis.

It was Semmelweis who showed that the dirty hands of doctors were carrying disease to pregnant women and causing thousands of deaths from "childbed fever."

But he could not talk his fellow doctors into taking part in controlled studies—washing their hands for some patients and not for others—so that he could prove his point. His zeal for handwashing so offended and estranged his colleagues that Semmelweis died in an insane asylum.

In the mid-Nineteenth Century, when bloodletting was popular and the leech trade was booming in Europe, Louis used statistics and careful clinical examination to show that his long-accepted practice was not useless but probably harmful to patients. His experiments required that he be allowed to deny a normal and accepted treatment to certain patients in order to prove that they did as well or better without it.

The progress of medicine throughout history has come because researchers were able to question and test the value of standard therapies and put them against more effective

new treatments. The catch is that all treatments intended for use in humans must eventually be tested in humans. And this involves moral questions of how much risk a person can be exposed to for what potential benefit.

The fine line between what is morally acceptable in the way of human experimentation and what is not has never received more public attention than it is getting today.

As a result, the government and institutions which carry out medical research are setting up tighter controls over human experimentation and providing more safeguards for the patients taking part in experiments.

Duke University Medical Center has had since the mid-1960's a formal review committee on human investigation which must approve all proposed research involving human subjects—from psychiatric questionnaires to new experimental surgical techniques. Before this it was the responsibility of each department chairman to oversee the research in his area and insure that it was both scientifically and morally sound.

The review group, called the Committee for Clinical Investigations, has been in its present form since July, 1972. Its 17 members include a lawyer, minister, medical student, community representative, a member of the medical center administration and representatives of the departments of anesthesiology, medicine, nursing, obstetrics-gynecology, ophthalmology, pathology, pediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, radiology, sociology and surgery.

Dr. Jerome S. Harris, professor of pediatrics and chairman of the committee, said that the group has never approved a project on anything but a unanimous vote. If a single member expresses reservations about a project,



EARLY BIRDS—Bright smiling faces were the scene at the 8 a.m. breakfast preceding the opening session of the National Association of Media Women's Convention held recently in Kansas City, Mo. Women in media from chapters across the country met for their Annual Convention. A get-together prior to the opening sessions offered a few moments for chatting and getting acquainted. Lois Alexander, N.Y., national president; Louise Meadows, Youngstown, Ohio, national financial secretary and Catherine Godbolte, Philadelphia, chat with Violet B. Johnson, hostess for Proctor-Silex who sponsored the breakfast through Mark Hyman Associates. The New Orleans, Louisiana Chapter will host the Convention in 1974.

Professor Finds Many Teachers 'Unrealistic'

Remember your secondary school days, those dear old golden rule days when you learned 'riting, 'rithmetic and most likely how not to read? As well as you might have, that is. Chances are, if you're over 30, you learned reading skills from a teacher who wasn't qualified to help you master an indispensable tool of modern life. And your children may be getting a smaller dose of the same thing.

Reading instruction has come a long way in the last few years, but too many students in 1973 are still being handicapped by "unrealistic" teachers, says Duke University education professor R. Baird Shuman.

Shuman is an outspoken advocate of letting secondary school students learn to read by giving them what they want to read. If that means second-rate mystery novels instead of Charles Dickens, Reading teachers, Shuman

approval is withheld. All committee sessions are tape recorded.

argues in an article for the Peabody Journal of Education, often "make too strenuous an effort to direct students' literary tastes, forgetting that their basic job with deficient readers is to get them to read by the most suitable means available."

In most cases, according to Shuman, the teacher who stops to assess how most adults actually use their reading skills will discover they generally read newspapers, magazines, letters, billboards, labels, advertisements, traffic signs and similar media.

"Perhaps," says Shuman, "it is with this sort of material that reading instruction must begin."

Shuman's list of adult reading materials includes just about everything except books. He says the average college graduate reads only three books a year.

A mere "handful" of students will develop a lasting appreciation for the giants of literature, Shuman says, so teachers should try to make other students "more critical readers" of what they prefer.

Shuman believes teachers should give students considerable freedom to choose what they want to read, rather than pre-select materials for them before they ever enter the classroom.

"Once a student is reading for himself rather than for his teacher, he will begin to develop his reading skills with little conscious awareness that he is doing so," Shuman maintains.

The Duke educator takes vigorous exception in most instances to allowing English teachers to handle exclusively the additional responsibility of teaching reading skills.

English teachers, Shuman said in an interview, can provide only one part of the reading spectrum. Usually this segment deals with grammar and literature, two subjects hardly dear to the hearts of many students not interested in going to college.

Shuman believes every secondary school teacher should be prepared to furnish reading instruction, including math and chemistry teachers.

"There are different reading problems in different subject areas," he said.

Too many high school students today, he added, are deficient in reading skills, partly because reading specialists remain fairly uncommon.

Another reason, Shuman said, lies in the "broad base" of high school students, who span a wide range of intellectual achievement.

Shuman criticized educators who give up entirely on students who fail to grasp the basics of reading by age 16, saying these students can still enjoy intellectual experiences through television and audio-visual aids, especially tape cassettes.

Shuman also has some view on a vexing problem that faces reading teachers, that of dialect.

"Black English" is a case in point, he explained, and it is one that requires a reading teacher to suspend middle-class judgments in exchange for learning the ways of the ghetto. Shuman himself did this in Philadelphia.

Reading teachers "must understand the various facets of the community" from which their students are drawn, Shuman said, and must try to learn the language of subgroups

Ernest Boyce New Chrm. of the Board Of Colonial Stores

ATLANTA — Ernest F. Boyce was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Colonial Stores Incorporated at the regular quarterly meeting of the Board here recently.

Mr. Boyce will continue to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the 431-store supermarket chain which is based principally in the southeast.

The Board also authorized the purchase of up to 500,000 shares of the corporation's common stock. A spokesman said details have not been determined.

The regular quarterly cash dividends of 26 cents a share on common stock and 50 cents a share on 4% preferred were declared payable December 1 to holders of record on November 16.

Mr. Boyce has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Colonial since 1967. The Company, which has headquarters in Atlanta has operations in nine states and sales at the \$800 million level.

Mr. Boyce recently completed a two-year term as Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Food Chains. In August, he was appointed a member of the Cost of Living Council's

Sat., Dec. 8, 1973

THE CAROLINA TIMES—7B

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director of the Fulton National Bank of Atlanta, a trustee of St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta and a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Atlanta.

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