

# The "Ins" and "Outs" of Tonsils

One of the major problems facing general practitioners is what to do about tonsils, Dr. William DeMaria, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, told the physicians attending the session on pediatrics during the 17th Annual Meeting of the N. C. Academy of General Practice.

Over 400 family physicians from across North Carolina gathered in Durham for the annual meeting, which was held October 31-November 2 at the Jack Tar Hotel.



Dr. DeMaria

Dr. DeMaria said "there is no uniformity on how and when tonsils should be removed." He said the way in which tonsil cases are handled varies from one community to another.

"In one community, there is a doctor who likes to take them out, while in another community, there is one who doesn't," Dr. DeMaria said. Removal may be 27 times higher in one community than in a neighboring one, he added.

More tonsils are removed among professional and managerial families than among blue collar laboring classes, he said.

The general public opinion that tonsil removals among children are on the decrease is false, Dr. DeMaria declared.

Tonsils are removed due to problems encountered with snoring, hearing, rheumatic fever, sinuses, asthma, speech, nightmares, retardation and the largeness of the tonsils, a survey among physicians in northern states shows, he said.

One of the major reasons for tonsil removals is parental pressure, he stated.

"Mothers have been brought up that it is a health measure," he said. The use of health insurance, to list deductions on income tax is another major pressure, he added.

Tonsils normally are removed between ages of five and six in order to avoid frequent respiratory infections which will result during later childhood years.

Dr. DeMaria warned doctors that "you cannot differentiate bad tonsils from good ones by superficial examination alone." He said histological examination should be made.

In addition to the session on pediatrics, special scientific sessions were held in psychiatry, pulmonary diseases, and chronic illness.

Other physicians from Duke speaking at the scientific sessions were: Dr. Morton Bogdonoff, Professor of Medicine; Dr. Herb Sieker, Professor of Medicine; and Dr. George Baylin, Professor of Radiology.

Guest speakers at the sessions included Dr. McCloud Riggins of the Columbia University School of Medicine; Dr. Doris Howell of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania; Dr. Alexis Shelakoff of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland; Dr. Beverly T. Mead of the Creighton University Department of Psychiatry, Omaha, Nebraska; Dr. Edward M. Litin of the University of Minnesota Section of Psychiatry; and Dr. Granger E. Westberg of the Texas Medical Center Institute of Religion.

## Program Accredited

Duke University Medical Center's Chaplaincy Program recently received accreditation and affiliation with the Institute of Pastoral Care at the annual meeting of the national organization in Miami Beach, Florida, October 15-22.

In attendance at the meeting was Duke Hospital Chaplain, The Reverend P. Wesley Aitken.

The Duke Medical Center's Chaplaincy Program was one of approximately 50 applying for accreditation in 1965. Only one half of that number received accreditation.

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## PROFESSIONAL NEWS

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DR. BAYARD CARTER, Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was elected president of the American Gynecological Club at a meeting of the Club in Boston, November 11-13. DR. ROY T. PARKER, Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was elected to membership in the club, which is presently composed of 35 members.

DR. GEORGE D. WILBANKS, JR., presented papers at three meetings held during November. One, entitled "The Postpartum Cervix and Its Relations to Cervical Neoplasia: A Colposcopic Study," was given at the American Society of Colposcopy and Colpomicroscopy in New York City, November 6. Another, entitled "Rh Problems, Past, Present and Future," was given during the Postgraduate Course on Problems of the Perinatal Period, sponsored by Duke Medical Center and held here November 10. The third paper, entitled "Interaction of Intraepithelial Neoplasia, Normal Epithelium and Fibroblasts from the Adult Uterine Cervix," was presented at a meeting of the American Society of Cytology, held in New York City on November 5.

RAY E. BROWN, Director of the Graduate Program in Hospital Administration, and DONALD S. SMITH, Program Coordinator, participated in a Hospital Trustees Institute, held in Fairmont, West Virginia, November 8-9. Both gave a series of lectures during the institute.

DR. PHILIP HANDLER, James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, participated in the Annual Flexner Award Dinner, sponsored by the American Association of Medical Colleges and held in Philadelphia on November 1. Dr. Handler, who was chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the Annual Flexner Award to Dr. Joseph T. Wearn of Western Reserve University. Also in attendance at the meeting was Dr. E. Croft Long, Assistant Dean in Charge of Medical Student Affairs.

DR. KENNETH L. DUKE, Associate Professor of Anatomy, and ALBERT KLEIN, a graduate student in Anatomy, presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Society of Anatomists, held in Baltimore, Maryland, November 19-21. Also in attendance from the Department of Anatomy were Dr. R. F. Becker, Dr. J. E. King, Emy Villanueva, Carolyn Boyd and Beth Dougherty.

ELON H. CLARK, Chief of the Division of Medical Art and Illustration and Director of the Facial Prosthesis Laboratory, was invited to attend a two-day conference on "Research Needs in the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities Resulting from Cancer." The conference was held at New York University Medical Center, November 22-23. Mr. Clark met with the sessions dealing with facial disfigurement. Only about 45 persons concerned with research in the rehabilitation of persons with disability resulting from cancer were invited to participate in the conference.

MRS. CHARLOTTE CONELY, Therapeutic Dietitian, represented Duke at the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress, which was sponsored by the Council of Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Association and held in Chicago, Illinois, November 8-11.

Two members of the Department of Dietetics were selected for offices recently. DOROTHY E. TATE, Director of Dietetics, was appointed to serve for two years on the joint committee of the American Dietetic Association—American Hospital Association. MARY HELEN McLACHLAN, Educational Director of Dietetics, was elected president of the North Carolina Council of Foods and Nutrition at the fall meeting of the organization.

Two officials from Duke were among distinguished speakers at the White House Conference on Health, November 3-4, in Washington, D.C. DR. EUGENE A. STEAD, Professor and Chairman of the

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