

Society's Members Concerned with Treatment of Whole Man

The Christian Medical Society is, as its name implies, an organization which works on the premise that Christianity should be an integral part of the lives of its members—all of whom are in the medical profession.

Membership in this national organization is non-denominational and is open to physicians, dentists, medical students, dental students and others in the medical profession.

The society's purpose is to "present a positive witness" of the Trinity to its members' professional associates and to "gain mutual strength and encouragement to be attained in meeting together."

At the society's meetings members discuss their own experiences as Christian physicians in an attempt to clarify and make more relevant the spiritual principles that are brought out through prayer and Bible study. "We try to transmit something of vital importance to our colleagues," said Dr. James Mallory, president of the Duke chapter of the society and third-year resident in Psychiatry.

Christian physicians are invited several times during the year to deliver lectures on issues of concern to the Christian medic. "Often," said Dr. Mallory, "these lecturers discuss problems that all doctors have to face, but which the Christian can deal with more effectively. The lectures do not, however, present perfect solutions for everybody . . . for it must be a personal resolve of issues." All interested persons are invited to attend the lectures.

This past year early morning prayer breakfasts were held each

month and included a fellowship period and a devotional. "At these fellowship meetings," said Dr. Mallory, "the Christian physicians themselves challenge each other; it is a time for the challenging of viewpoints."

During the summer months, only informal meetings will be held, and notices of these meetings will be posted. All who are interested in attending are invited to do so. The formal meetings of the society will be resumed in the early fall.



For the pursuit of knowledge in treating the whole man . . .

The treatment of the "whole man" is of concern to the members of the society. One of the society's information pieces states that the society exists for the "pursuit of knowledge in treating the whole man." "I believe that we have a Christian obligation to be not only competent physicians, but to also try not to have just an austere relationship with our patients . . . but to look on the patient as a spiritual being," Dr. Mallory continued.

With the close interplay of physical health with mental and spiritual concerns, the society feels that "ready grasp" of the patient's needs in these areas is mandatory. "It is important that the Christian physician be sensitive to certain spiritual needs of his patient, and that he not ignore these needs," said Dr. Mallory. "Even in getting the patient's history, often this sensitivity to the patient's spiritual state is important," he said.

"The Christian physician does

not evangelize his patients . . . but because he has taken a stand as a Christian he can listen to the problems of the patient and can often give counsel if the patient opens the door," said Dr. Mallory. Is the Christian physician going beyond his professional role when he does counsel? Dr. Mallory does not think so. "In my experience, if any error is made by Christian physicians it is on the side of being excessively timid in this area," he said.

The society's national program, with headquarters in Chicago, includes arranging for qualified physicians and dentists to do short term medical mission work, and last year spent over three million dollars in the wholesale purchasing of medical supplies to overseas hospitals and clinics. CMS also publishes one quarterly and two monthly publications. Other activities include national and local conferences on themes such as the meaning of suffering, the implication of medical ethics, and the relationship of psychiatry to Christianity.

When Midnight Was A Beginning

For Cinderella, midnight was the end; but, for Mrs. Julia B. Suitt, it marked the beginning.

Mrs. Suitt, was the main attraction at a surprise party the night of June 8 that was unusual in this respect: It began at the stroke of midnight.

The scene was here at Duke Hospital, where Mrs. Suitt was night nursing supervisor.

She came on duty at midnight with other "night people." Ahead of her lay eight hours of work.

Mrs. Suitt had no sooner settled down to the hospital routine than her colleagues rolled out the punch, a three-tiered cake and other party tidbits.

For two hours, nurses, orderlies, interns, maids, secretaries and others dropped by to pay a special salute to Mrs. Suitt.

A few tears also were shed. "It won't be the same without her," commented one of the nurses with a nod toward Mrs. Suitt's way.

Mrs. Suitt, a member of the Duke staff for 30 years, retired July 1. She is an alumnus of the second graduating class of the Duke University School of Nursing.

A party in her honor could easily have been arranged at a different hour, but Mrs. Suitt's colleagues would have none of it.

"We're night people," said one of the prime movers behind the event. No other explanation was given or offered.

As the assembled gathering looked on, Mrs. Suitt was given a piece of pewter that carried the Duke emblem.

The inscription, a classic of simplicity, read:

"From your night people."



Mrs. Julia Suitt, night nursing supervisor . . . retired after thirty years



Christianity Is an Integral Part of Their Lives

Newly elected officers of the Christian Medical Society discuss the society's summer calendar: June Pfautz, secretary-treasurer, Dr. Alan Whanger, programs chairman, and Dr. James Mallory, president. Not pictured is Dr. Jesse McNiel, vice president.