

Original Work of Art for DUMC Chapel



Recently, Duke Medical Center received the original painting, especially commissioned for the cover of Medical Times to highlight the article in its November issue, "The Right to Live and the Right to Die." The President of Medical Times wrote, "Dr. Stead and I both agree that it would be an honor to have the painting hung in the new Duke Medical Center Chapel. The Right to Die article, I believe, was one of the best we have had in Medical Times in a long time. We, too, are aware of the interest it has created and wish to thank you and all at Duke, who contributed to the symposium. Kind regards, Cordially, Randolph Morando."

It was back on May 11, 1967 that Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr., Editor of Medical Times, selected ten representatives of the community to be members of the symposium to write the article; the following from Duke: Chaplain P. Wesley Aitken, Dr. Leslie B. Hohman, Dr. F.E. Meneff, Dr. William P.J. Peete, Professor Elon H. Clark, and Dr. James T. Cleland who acted as the editor for the article. Since the article was printed last November, it has been reprinted and circulated widely. On May 2nd the Women's Auxiliary of Duke Hospital has invited five of the contributors to speak to its members.



OPD CLINICS CLOSE SATURDAYS

For some time the Outpatient Department has been operating on Saturday morning to accommodate a very low number of patients. In many cases the number and type of patients arriving at the clinics did not justify even the minimum staffing necessary to remain open. In view of this low demand for services and since the Emergency Department is available on Saturdays for any emergency drop-in patients, the decision was made to terminate Saturday operations. This move has allowed the Outpatient Departments to increase their level of staffing during the busier weekday clinic hours, since previously employees who worked on Saturday morning were given a half day off during the week. Although the original intent was to have any acutely ill clinic drop-ins treated in the Emergency Department, the Saturday morning patient load in the Emergency Department has not increased. This factor helps confirm that no real need exists for out-patient services to be provided on Saturday morning.

MR. HOWERTON SPEAKS ON HEALTH CAREERS

On Tuesday, March 5th, Mr. Thomas R. Howerton, Administrator of Wilson Memorial Hospital in Wilson, addressed the annual dinner of the Duke Hospital Women's Auxiliary. The subject of his talk was, "A New Approach to Health Careers Recruitment in North Carolina." Mr. Howerton has been involved for some years in the development of health careers programs in North Carolina. For two years he served as Chairman of the Health Careers Council of N.C. Hospital Education and Research Foundation.

"The two fold purpose of Health Careers", Mr. Howerton said, "is to increase the number of qualified professional and technical personnel available to care for the ever increasing health needs of the people of North Carolina. And, to enlist the cooperation and support of interested groups and individuals to assist in the development and dissemination of information concerning career opportunities in the health field. The officers and directors of the association are pledged to develop objectives that will amplify this two fold purpose."

Then Mr. Howerton noted that Health may employ 6,000,000 people and constitute the nation's biggest industry. In a State Board of Education and Employment Security Commission study it was found that in 1966 there were over 3,000,000 workers employed in all health service occupations, and there is a trend toward developing public and private educational institutions into schools that offer more comprehensive training in health service occupations and related fields. But right now, the Health Service industry is unable to attract a sufficient number of qualified individuals to enter and remain in the field.

"The point is established that we have a problem now, that will grow progressively worse before it can possibly improve", Mr. Howerton continued. "What has the North Carolina Hospital Association through Health Careers for North Carolina done about the problem?"

A mass exposure of health career opportunities for high school students was begun, a specially prepared film strip with commentary written by Kermit Hunter highlighting health career opportunities in western North Carolina was shown. When interest in a specific career was aroused in a student the Health Careers coordinator put the student in touch with a professional who could give information and advise on the appropriate way to get started in preparation for the career of his choice. The Health Careers office also compiled a wealth of information on all Health Careers, and information regarding scholarship aid. Health career clubs were organized in high schools, and at the end of three years when efforts were evaluated they were able to measure tremendous improvement in enrollment in all Health training schools in the area.

Mr. Howerton climaxed his talk with the question: "How can the Women's Auxiliary help?" By appointing a standing committee on Health Careers which could do a year round job, he suggested, sponsor high school Health Career Clubs, plan an open house for students to acquaint students with the program, or form a scholarship fund. "All of us believe as Disraeli did when he wrote, 'The Health of the People is really the foundation upon which all their happiness, and power as a state, depend.'"