

Med Center Receives Unrestricted Grant



DR. BUSSE ACCEPTS FOR MEDICAL CENTER—On behalf of the American Medical Association, Durham's Dr. James E. Davis, right, president of the North Carolina Medical Society, recently presented a \$5,048 unrestricted grant to the medical center. (Photo by Thad Sparks)

The American Medical Association (AMA) Education and Research Foundation has awarded a \$5,048 grant to the medical center.

The grant is unrestricted; it may be used for any purpose the center wishes, including scholarships, salaries and building programs.

Dr. James E. Davis of Durham, president of the North Carolina Medical Society, presented the check in the AMA's behalf on July 24 to Dr. Ewald W. Busse, director of medical and allied health education at Duke.

This gift brings to \$143,305 the total amount of unrestricted funds given to Duke by the Education and Research Foundation since 1957. Money for the foundation comes primarily from medical auxiliaries and physicians throughout the nation. This year, the organization earmarked \$1.02 million dollars for grants to medical schools. About 75 per cent of this amount came from the Woman's Auxiliary to the AMA.



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'Out, Out Damned Spot'

The Tattoo: A Vanishing Fad

By Joe Sigler

Dr. John Tindall thinks that tatoos may not be as popular as they once were. At least he doesn't see as many as he used to.

But when he does, the people almost always want the same thing—to get rid of them.

Tindall, a dermatologist, introduced some of his fellow physicians to a short course on "Tattoos, Tattooers and Tattooists" in Atlantic Beach July 18.

A speaker at Duke's annual Medical Post Graduate Course here, Tindall traced the long history of tattooing and illustrated his talk with a collection of slides.

Tattoo comes from the Tahitian word "tatan," to mark, Tindall explained, and it was from South Seas islanders who were taken to Europe in the 18th Century that the custom was introduced on the Continent. But tattooing dates at least back as far as Egyptian mummies, he added.

In the late 1800's, he said, tattooing caught on among Europeans and the English, particularly in the aristocratic set.

"Winston Churchill's mother had one on her wrist," Tindall said. He couldn't recall the design, but he added, "She kept it covered by a bracelet in later life."

Between the turn of the century and World War I, Tindall said, tattooing went out of vogue among the aristocracy and has never regained its popularity among that class.

"In France tattoos were popular among the criminal element, and they were popular among prostitutes in Germany, for reasons obscure to me," the doctor said.

Tindall displayed an early tattooing instrument, a walrus tusk

that had a hole in the end for holding a rat's tooth. The rat's tooth would be dipped into the oxides and sulfides of various metals that give tattoos their coloration and the skin would be pricked with the tooth to implant the color.

The same principle is used today, but the tattooing instruments for pricking the skin are more sophisticated.

Tattoos are made by multiple needle pricks just under the epidermis, the uppermost layer of skin. Over the next three or four years, the pigments migrate deeper and deeper into the skin.

If someone decides to have a tattoo removed within the first week or two after getting it, Tindall said results are usually satisfactory.

"But after about a month," he said, "it's almost impossible to remove them without leaving a scar."

One technique, he explained, is called salabrasion. Table salt is rubbed into the skin with a gauze pad until the surface skin is removed and skin begins to "weep." The technique is repeated over a period of time.

The salt draws fluids up out of the skin, and with the fluids come the tattoo colorations, or at least some of them, Tindall said.

"Old bosun's mates used the technique in the Navy," Tindall explained, "and it took doctors a long time to find out about it."

In the old days people could get a little of everything from warts to tuberculosis to syphilis in tattoo parlors, the doctor said.

"The tattooer used to lick the needle while he was putting on the design," he said, "and if he had TB or syphilis, you could pick it up from him."

Health laws are strict on tattooers (Continued on page 2)



A TOOTH FOR TATTOOING—Dr. John Tindall shows off his antique walrus tooth, which was once used in combination with a rat's tooth for inserting colorful pigments into the skin in the making of tatoos. (Photo by Margaret Howell)