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## Dr. William G. Anlyan Reflects on His China Trip

# Observations behind the Bamboo Curtain

By Charles Young

Before the cultural revolution in the People's Republic of China—1966 to 1969—it took six years of medical training and clinical experience to become a doctor.

Now, as the result of a different approach to education and professional preparation, it takes just three years.

The argument on the part of the new leaders of China was that they could not afford the additional training time if they were to achieve an adequate level of health care for the 800 million people within their mainland borders.

### 1,000 Years

To continue with the six-year program, they contended, would have meant that they could not expect to establish a manageable doctor-patient ratio for another thousand years.

Therefore, to speed things up they began turning out doctors in half the time.

In addition, they started a program which was designed to further ease the burden of medical practitioners and specialists.

It is a program in which certain selected individuals are given a four-month indoctrination and training course, and then sent out into the field as first-level health practitioners.

The training consists of two months of theoretical lectures followed by two months of clinical

experience. After that, the graduates are assigned to either a factory or a commune where they become the first line of defense in the treatment of disease and injury.

### Barefoot Doctors

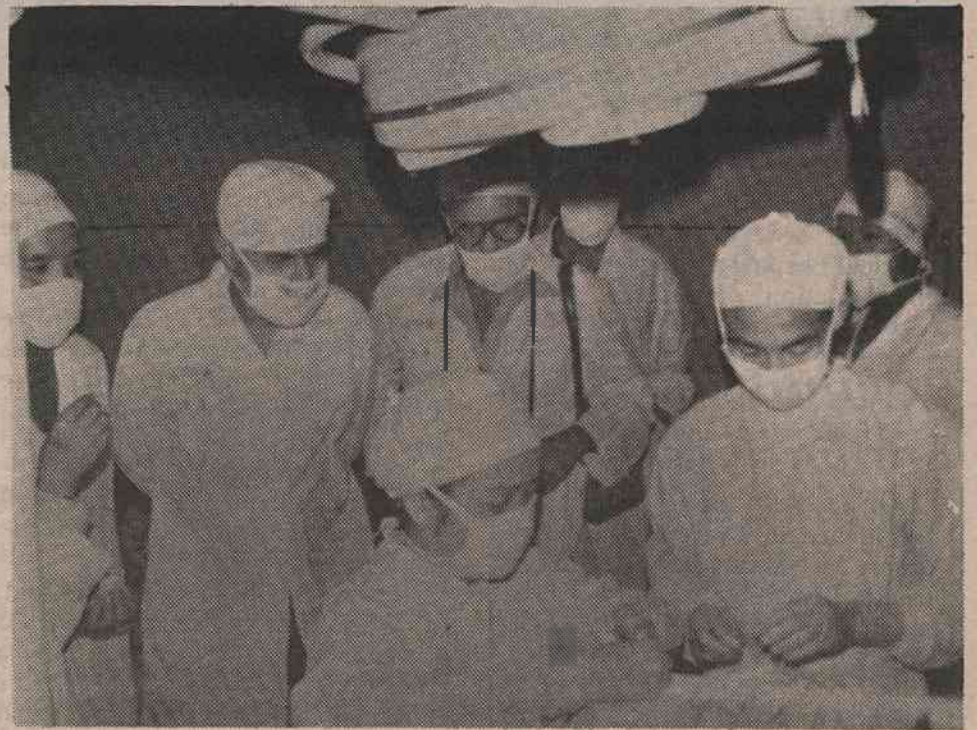
In the factories they are called health aides, in the communes they are known as "barefoot doctors."

These and other innovations and changes in Chinese culture were among the major areas of interest for a delegation from Duke which recently completed an 18-day visit to China.

Dr. William G. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, headed the delegation.

"I think that one has to look at the health care system in the People's Republic in the light of what the total country is doing, and where it's been and where it's headed rather than take isolated specialty areas and try to compare them with the state of the science or the art in the United States or elsewhere," Anlyan said in an interview.

He also cautioned that any assessment of China must take into account the turbulence of its recent



**SURGERY IN CHINA**—Dr. William G. Anlyan (second from left) and University Trustee Edwin C. Whitehead (on Anlyan's left) observe as Chinese doctors prepare for cataract surgery. Anlyan, vice president for health affairs, led a Duke group on an 18-day visit to China which included tours of several medical facilities.

### 18-Day Expert

"It's very tempting to become an 18-day expert on China," he said, "which is a pitfall I want to avoid. For such a vast country, with 800 million people, it would be impossible to have an appreciation of how the total machinery really works, judging only by what we were shown.

"We have to depend a lot on the objectivity and honesty of the background material supplied to us," he said, pointing out that he saw only  
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## Doctors To Attend Conference Here

Sexuality, depression and drug use among the elderly are among the topics to be discussed at an all-day conference for practicing physicians here on Dec. 13.

Plans for the conference grew out of a series of discussions with physicians actively engaged in family practice, and reflect a growing awareness of the complexity of medical problems of the elderly.

Other areas of study will include evaluation of the disoriented and demented patient, counseling the family, office management, and the role of the physician in the long-term care institution.

The conference, "Geriatric Medicine for the Practicing Physician," is being co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, the Family Medicine Program, both at Duke, and the American Geriatrics Society.

The program will feature speakers from the fields of psychiatry, psychiatric social work, community health sciences, sociology and family practice. It will be held in the Hospital Amphitheater.



## Don't Forget Your Party!

Tie a string around your finger, or mark your calendar, or have a friend remind you.

But don't miss the annual Duke Hospital Christmas Party.

It will be next Wednesday, Dec. 17, in the Courtyard Cafeteria.

The hours will be from 2-4 p.m. for people who work in the daytime, and from 10 p.m.-midnight for the night people.

Twenty-five turkeys will be given away as door prizes.

Food Service is working out the menu, and it will include such things as punch, cookies, butternut squares, brownies, nuts and other diet-defying delicacies.

There'll be entertainment and, of course, Santa Claus.

But the most important item is you. So don't forget.

## University Ends Giving Drive

The 1975 United Fund Drive at Duke officially closed last week, and according to Campaign Director William Jennings, the annual giving program was "very successful."

The university, including the medical center, raised \$93,983, Jennings said.

The money represents an all-time high for contributions at Duke. Most of the money was designated by contributors for use in Durham and Durham County. Of the total, \$3,869 will be applied to outlying counties.

"Considering that there were slightly fewer employees at Duke this year and that on a national level it wasn't a very good year for the economy, I'd say those who contributed did a great job," the associate director of alumni affairs said.

"On behalf of the university and the United Fund, I'd like to thank everyone who worked on the campaign here and especially everyone who contributed," Jennings added.