

Happiness Through Health
by Otto McClarrin



IMPROVEMENTS IN HEART SURGERY: A pioneer researcher in the use of artificial organs says the outlook is bright for the development of a totally artificial heart for humans. "Remarkable progress has been made in the past few years with the artificial heart," Dr. William Kolff reported recently to an international heart surgery symposium at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital. Kolff, inventor of the artificial kidney, is professor of surgery at the University of Utah.

"We believe the future for the artificial heart is bright," he said. "In an affluent society, most people do not want to die, yet heart disease is the greatest killer." Kolff said an artificial heart already has been developed that is able to sustain animals of adult human size for up to three months.

"We can expect that these artificial organs will be improved gradually and we can therefore make the unavoidable prediction that the American citizen, when faced with the alternative of death, will not be refused an artificial heart if he and his family want it," Dr. Kolff said. But he warned the 450 surgeons attending the symposium that "Before a patient's chances are reduced to a choice between heart transplantation or an artificial heart, every effort should be made to salvage his own heart."

FAULTY VAPOR LAMPS SAID TO CAUSE SKIN EYE INJURIES: Radiological health experts at the Food and Drug Administration cautioned doctors to watch for patients with skin and eye burns caused by faulty high-intensity mercury vapor lamps. The lamps are widely used in school gymnasiums, arenas, parking lots, commercial establishments and industrial facilities because they produce relatively low-cost light over wide areas.

The FDA scientists said they had gathered reports of 10 incidents in which more than 60 persons were injured by the mercury lamps. The injuries occurred when the outer glass bulb of the lamp was broken, permitting exposure to intense skin-burning ultraviolet radiation from the inner bulb of the lamps.

The burns caused "considerable pain and discomfort" in the eyes, and sunburn-like reddening and peeling of the skin of people exposed to several hours of the ultraviolet radiation, the FDA said. An FDA spokesman said the agency was working with industry to develop means of solving the mercury lamp problem, perhaps by designing into them a fuse that would turn off the entire lamp if the outside bulb was damaged.

MEDICAL CARE LACKING FOR CHILDREN OF POOR: Nearly half of the children of poor families need medical care but most are denied even the free physical exams provided by law, according to a congressional staff report prepared for a House investigations subcommittee. The report said the states provided the required examinations for only 1.9 out of the 12.8 million needy children in the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Even among those found to need treatment, the report said 39.6 per cent or 340,000 children were not treated. Of 1.9 million children examined in fiscal 1975, 45.1 per cent needed medical treatment of some kind.

From this finding, it estimated that about 5.8 million of the eligible 12.8 million children need medical aid. It is estimated that 12 per cent (1.5 million) of the 5.8 million have vision problems, 5.1 per cent (650,000) have hearing problems and four per cent (510,000) have iron-deficiency anemia. (NNPA).

Church Women's Organization Launches New Project At Women's Meet

NEW YORK - A number of inventive projects, which in the long run could substantially change the traditional role of women in churches, were started by almost 60 women who are clergy, seminarians or professional church workers.

They were planned during a recent meeting of the Commission on Women in Ministry, held at the Marriotsville Spiritual Center, Maryland. The commission is a fledgling unit lodged in the National Council of Churches' Division of Education and Ministry.

If the projects get carried out, "they will open doors for numbers of isolated women professionals in churches and in the end could alter the nature of church life at all levels," says staff person Burnice Fjellman, associated executive of DE&M's Professional Church Leadership unit.

One of the upcoming squeezes seen by women seminarians is the rise in their enrollment in seminaries, taking place at the same time as membership in churches shows a decline. "It's clear we aren't about to back down or give up," says Ms. Fjellman.

Underlying much of the discussion was the vague and troublesome question: will congregations hire women clergy, and if not, why not? The women decided to tackle that one by planning workshops to help women examine their relationships to each other, raising questions on congregational attitudes toward women in leadership and what kinds of leadership styles could be changed in both men and women.

One group within the commission, meanwhile, plans to catalogue inventive new forms of women's ministry, by gathering as much information on the several creative models that clergymen have already set in motion. They'll seek a list of the numbers, kinds and accomplishments of these new models to share with other clergymen.

Another group plans to contact seminary placement personnel and urge them to make stronger efforts to place women in church-related jobs.

The commission will help the placement people by drawing up a list of individuals and agencies that women can contact on their own, as well as routine employment opportunity lists, newsletters and other resources.

What about feelings of isolation and frustration in the male dominated church? Perhaps those who suffer most from this are the ethnic clergymen - which this time made up 30 percent of commission delegates. The full group set up a planning committee to launch a special consultation for ethnic women in ministry. And for those women already working in local churches, who find their numbers few within their denominational structures, the group decided to publish an ecumenical directory of clergymen, organized geographically, so the sisters can find each other for fellowship and support.

Delegates also heard a report from a group of New York City-based women seminary teachers and scholars who are hoping to develop a year's seminary training by and for women, for credit in accepted institutions. That idea was applauded by COWIM, which promised encouragement and support in what ways it could.

COWIM will also co-sponsor another seminary quarter at Grailville, a Catholic laywomen's retreat center, in Loveland, Ohio. This will be the second time the group co-sponsors this event.

The commission also received an information packet on gay issues and ministries from members and decided to make it available to member denominations at a nominal cost.

Finally, looking toward denominations in which women's struggle for ordination seems precarious, the commission passed resolutions that -

reaffirmed its belief...in the validity of the ordination of Episcopal women priests and expressed support and appreciation for the bishops

who ordained these 15 women - suggested to Church Women United (a national ecumenical women's movement primarily of the laity) that it adopt the issue of justice regarding employment practices toward women and minorities in local churches

expressed concern that the Highlands Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. approved the ordination of a male candidate for ministry who said he would not participate in the ordination of women officers; while the Atlanta Presbytery of the same church received into membership a man who said he would participate in the ordination of women only upon specific instruction of presbytery, and

committed itself to work for and call upon churches to provide financial support for Project Equality, an organization that works for equal employment.

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