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EXPENSIVE MEDICINE

By **GEORGE PECK**

As a concerted effort is being made to foist so-called 'Free Medicine' upon this nation, it might be well to explore in this and subsequent articles, what has happened in other countries that have adopted medical care plans similar to that proposed for America. Such a study should reveal whether or not our national health will be improved if we do follow suit.

The term 'Free Medicine' is not used by the proponents of this proposal. They call it 'Compulsory Health Insurance.' What you call it really doesn't alter the fact that under the skin it is socialized, nationalized, state or political medicine.

The scheme of putting a state into the medical business was originated by Adolph Wagner, a German political scientist and economic adviser to Chancellor Bismarck late in the nineteenth century. He saw the political usefulness of social insurance, and sold the idea to Bismarck who established in Germany the world's first system of compulsory insurance.

(It may be pure coincidence that a gentleman of the same name, German-born Senator Wagner of New York, has been one of the chief sponsors of the various bills that have been proposed for compulsory health insurance in the United States—or it may not be.)

Bismarck was not particularly interested in whether or not the people received medical care. His underlying thought was to get money into the treasury; the benefits to be received by the people would come later. To him, political control of the medical care system meant putting considerable money into the hands of the government and a more firm control over the lives of the people. Bismarck was such an extremely shrewd politician that he is still being imitated by small politicians the world over, and, unfortunately, by

some here in the United States.

Germany has had a form of socialized medicine for more than 60 years. Before World War II, the official regulations had progressed to the point of rigid standard prescriptions and fixed dosages for several common ailments. Physicians who ventured beyond the official text did so at their personal and professional peril.

Dr. Edward H. Ochsner, former President of the Illinois State Medical Association, testified before the Senate Labor Committee on May 29, 1946. In response to a question as to whether or not socialized medicine had improved the health of the German people, he stated that in 1885, shortly after the plan was launched, the average number of days lost because of sickness was 14.1 a year for each insured person. By 1890, this average had increased to 16.2; in 1913, 20.6; and in 1932, the last year for which statistics are available, it was 29.3. He stated that under the American system the average loss of days was 6.2 per year for employed workers.

He further stated that while the German doctors were so busy they had no time for discussing personal hygiene or preventive medicine with their patients. Much of their time, however, was taken up with trivial problems. He related the experience of one government physician in Berlin who made 23 house calls in five hours, with 30 minutes out for lunch. Each call that day averaging 12 minutes, including travelling time from house to house. A check of the hospitals disclosed that between 60 and 70% of all cases were hospitalized unnecessarily. His investigation showed that German physicians were seeing as many as 80 to 80 patients in a two-hour consultation period, and the average time for diagnosis was considered to be 3 to 4 minutes.

During postgraduate work studies in Hamburg, Dr. Ochsner was associated with about 50 physicians



SCRIPTURE: Mark 10. DEVOTIONAL READING: Mark 9:37.

Range of Religion

Lesson for April 10, 1949

ONCE THERE WAS a farmer who owned a large farm. Its wide acreage was divided into pastures and fields and a garden and orchards and hog-lots and chicken-yards and so on. But whenever any one would ask the farmer about some particular part of the farm, he would answer, "That's not my business—that's only the orchard, it isn't the Dr. Foreman farm;" or "—That's not the farm, that's a flock of sheep," or a rye field or whatever it might be. Of course such a farmer never lived, or if he did, he should have his head examined.



What Does Religion Cover?

YET THAT FARMER is not a bit more idiotic than a Christian who, when asked about this or that activity or aspect of life, answers, "That's not religion. I have no interest in it." Religion isn't a little fenced-off pasture for lambs, a tiny garden plot behind thick hedges.

Religion covers the whole farm, every bit of life from end to end. Jesus knew this very well. He never once refused to discuss anything on the ground that it was not religious.

He cast light on everything that touched him. He called his followers the "light of the world." Not flashlights, shining in one narrow beam! Not flashlights, but lamps, set on a lampstand and "giving light to all who are in the house."

The Light Of God

A GOOD cross-section of Jesus' methods and ideas can be seen in Mark 10, into which one chapter Mark packs his whole account of a number of weeks which Jesus spent in the region called Perea. Observe the variety of situations which confronted Jesus. First there was a question about divorce. When they brought that question up to Jesus, he did not dodge it. He did not call it a personal matter in which he, as a teacher of religion, had no interest. He did not say it was strictly a matter for the civil courts. You may read what he did say in Mark 10. You will note that first of all he brings God into his answer.

Religion And Little Children

THIS CHAPTER includes the famous story of the little children who were brought to Jesus—evidently quite small children, for Jesus lifted them into his arms. We do not hear Jesus saying, "Children are too small for me to take any interest in them. Wait till they are older. What good can religion do these tiny tots?" On the contrary, Jesus not only blessed them, but held them up as models for older people.

Is your church following Jesus here? Is your church interested in the little children as much as it is in the "paying" members?

Or are the little ones shoved off into some damp corner of the church basement? In your state or province, do the Christian people take an interest in the children? Do children in your section get as good attention as pure-bred cattle do?

As Wide As Life

WHEN THERE WAS a question about eternal life. Of course Jesus answered that one, it was obviously a religious question. (Except that he gave it what some people even today would consider a not very religious answer!) Jesus went on to talk about money and the effect it has on a man's prospect of eternal life. Jesus would be the very last person to imagine that a man's bank account has nothing to do with religion. Some people to this day don't like to hear a preacher mention money in his sermons. Well, such people might have been offended by Jesus, for he often preached about money and property.

Then there was the question of ambition, the audacious request that James and John made of him. He had some strong remarks to make about that.

And finally at Jericho, not long before Palm Sunday, there was the blind beggar Bartimaeus. Jesus did not say to him, "Health is no affair of mine. I cure souls, not bodies."

(Copyright by the International Council of Religious Education on behalf of 30 Protestant denominations. Released by WNU Features.)

who told him that it was not the most conscientious and efficient general physician who had the largest practice, but the one who was the most liberal with sick benefit certificates.

"Free Medicine" would work any better in America than it has in Germany. From the health standpoint, to say nothing of the financial, "Compulsory Health Insurance" would prove to be "Expensive Medicine". As a Nation, we just can't afford it. Let your Congressman and U. S. Senators know that you prefer to do your medical business with an efficient private practitioner rather than with an inefficient public pill-purveyor.

NOTICE OF EXECUTORSHIP

The undersigned, having qualified as the Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of M. E. T. Daugherty, late of Duplin County, and having qualified before the Clerk of Superior Court of Duplin County, this is to notify all persons who have claims against said estate to present their claim to the undersigned Executrix, on or before the 2nd day of March, 1950, or this notice will be plead in bar to their recovery. All persons who are indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned Executrix.

This the 2nd day of March, 1949. ELLEN WHALEY DAUGHERTY, Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of M. E. T. Daugherty, deceased, Magnolia, N. C., Route 2.

H. E. Phillips, Attorney Kenansville, N. C. 4-15-6t.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Mrs. Annie L. Smith, deceased, late of Duplin County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Thomasville, N. C., on or before the 25th day of March, 1950; or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 9th day of March, 1949. Dr. W. G. Smith, Administrator of the Estate of Mrs. Annie L. Smith, Deceased. 4-29-6t. W.G.S.

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust executed by George Ella Stallings, dated the 3rd day of January, 1948, recorded in Book 447, page 161, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Duplin

Dr. H. W. Colwell

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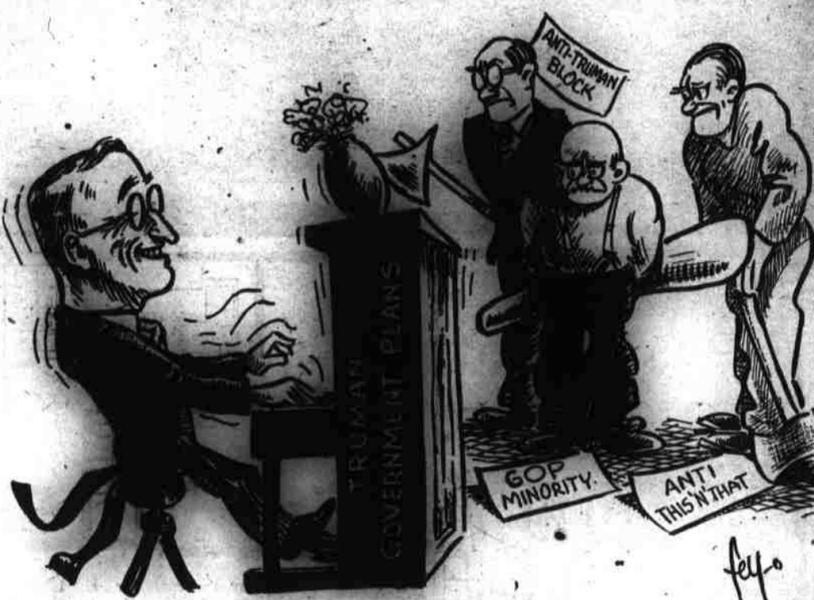
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County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and said Deed of Trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Kenansville, North Carolina, at 12 o'clock Noon, on the 29th day of April, 1949, the property conveyed in said Deed of Trust the same lying and being in Duplin County, Limestone Township, and bounded and described as follows:

All that certain tract or parcel of land containing 4.0 acres more or less which is described in Deed dated the 12th day of January, 1938, from L. R. Hagood, Trustee, to George Ella Stallings, being recorded in the Public Registry of Duplin County in Book 465, page 67.

All that certain tract or parcel of land containing 1.7 acres more or less which is described in quitclaim Deed dated the 31st day of December 1942 from W. E. Hines and wife, Kate M. Hines, being recorded in the Public Registry of Duplin County in Book 426 at page 93 to George Ella Stallings.

But this sale will be made subject to all outstanding and unpaid taxes against said land; and the successful bidder will be required to make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with said Trustee as evidence of good faith, Advertised this March 28, 1949. Vance B. Gavin, Trustee 4-22-4t. VBG

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having this day qualified as Executrix under the last will and testament of William J. Pickett, deceased, late of Duplin County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against his said estate to present them to the undersigned Executrix on or before the 25th day of March, 1950, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 25th day of March, 1949. Ella Q. Pickett Executrix under the last will and testament of William J. Pickett, deceased. 5-6-6t. VBG

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