

the Nuffield Foundation has made a grant of £12,000. The Sir Halley Stewart Trust has given generously in respect of the director's salary and expenses.

An advisory committee of general practitioners has helped with the detailed planning, and will continue to advise when necessary. A house committee will look after the general management of the centre, and will include members of the L.C.C., general practitioners, and representatives of all the organizations named above which have helped to establish this centre, as well as of the College of General Practitioners.

General practitioners will not be charged for using the centre, which will be open from Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8.30 a.m. till midday.

Construction

The adaptation of the rooms in the existing building which were available for the new centre was not easy. The building was one of the first in the United Kingdom to be built entirely in reinforced concrete, and the alterations had to take into account the immovable nature of the structural walls and the reinforced columns and beams and plan round them. To simplify

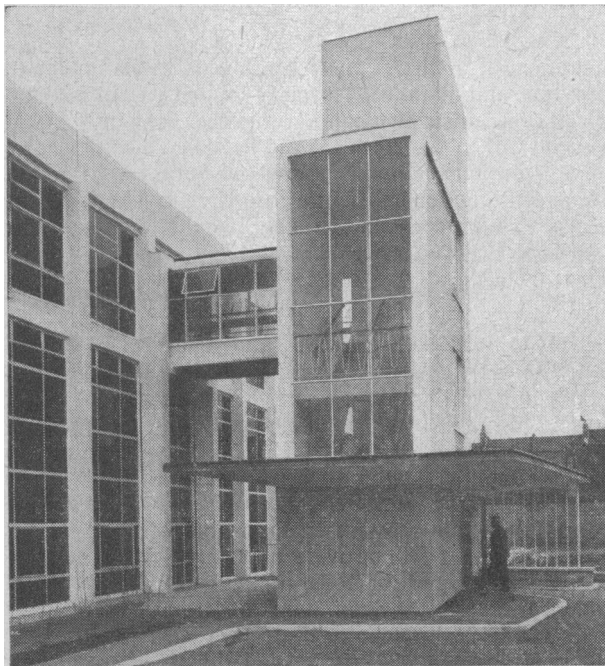


FIG. 2.—The new entrance block and bridge.

the layout a separate entrance tower was built out at the side of the building, housing staircase and lifts, and connected to the centre's suite of rooms on the second floor by a bridge (Fig. 2). The entrance is so designed that stretcher patients may be lifted from the ambulance into the lift under cover. There will be a car park with turning space for ambulances surrounded by garden areas. (Photographs by courtesy of Central Press Photos, Ltd. (Fig. 1) and the Architects Department, Photographic Unit, L.C.C. (Fig. 2).)

Correction.—Dr. B. B. Hosford is President-elect of the Kent Branch and not Chairman-elect of the Tunbridge Wells Division, as was recorded in the list of Branch and Division officers elected (January 14, p. 10).

129TH ANNUAL MEETING OF B.M.A.

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

About 150 people attended the Christian Medical Fellowship Breakfast in the dining-room of the Grand Hotel, Auckland, on Tuesday, February 7. Sir DOUGLAS ROBB, President of the Association, was in the chair.

Medicine, Faith, and the Individual

Dr. RONALD WINTON, Editor of *The Medical Journal of Australia*, spoke on "Medicine, Faith, and the Individual." Pointing out the urge that most people had to express themselves as individuals, he said that the individuality of every man, woman, and child had to be acknowledged. Biologically no two persons were the same; the average or normal man was a convenient myth. On the personal level the thought "I am I and no other" succumbed only to loss of sanity or of consciousness.

In education, medical or otherwise, every individual had to be considered; the talented individual must be given scope, but his less talented brother must also have his chance. In the social and political sphere the rights and essential dignity of the individual must not be lost in meeting the common need or be subordinated to the claims of the State.

In medical practice every patient was a person, distinctive in body, intellect, personality, and background. It was bad medicine to overlook this, or to do violence to the rights of individuality whether from laziness, from lack of interest, from excess of zeal, or from scientific detachment. From the spiritual point of view every man was an individual creation of God, who dealt with each one as an individual.

God had stooped low in the person of Christ to meet men as individuals and to restore their lost relationship with Himself. The theme of God's concern for the individual constantly recurred in the teachings of Christ: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the wayward son were sought and rejoiced over as individuals, and the angels of heaven rejoiced over the one repentant sinner.

At the same time there was a kind of individualism which went beyond the rights of the individual because it was expressed at the expense of the individuality of others. Doctors tended to be individualists, and perhaps it was inevitable that they should be so, but the onus was on them to keep their individualism within fair bounds.

Moreover, it was necessary for everyone to remember John Donne's words: "No man is an island." There was interdependence within the group, the family, the race, and mankind, and everyone had a responsibility to his fellow. Medically it was necessary to see the patient in his place in society and within his own group. Most important of all, men were, as Abigail had said to David, "bound in the bundle of life with the Lord thy God."

It was vain for man to attempt to go his own way for ever—no matter how courageous or noble his assertion of independence might seem. The attainment of true individuality came only by the paradoxical way of surrender of the self to God in Christ the Redeemer. Only in that way could God restore His own defaced image in a human being and make him the perfect individual he was intended to be.