

One who spent a great deal of time in doing very much what doctors were doing day in and day out: bringing relief and healing where tension and disease previously obtained . . . Jesus had no medical training such as present day doctors had. He lived in a day of what could only be regarded as appalling ignorance as to the cause and the cure of disease. Superstition reigned, and was to reign for many centuries before the winds of scientific knowledge could blow most of its clouds away. But the evidence was strong that Jesus had very definite healing powers and that, as He moved about, touching one here and speaking to another there, He left in His wake a stream of health and sanity, which made men wonder and praise God.

Personal Relationships

Dr. Coggan gave examples of Christ's healing powers in dealing with a man who was crippled, another who was "demon-possessed," and a third whom He cured of paralysis. He did not need, he said, in the presence of an audience of doctors to apply point by point the lessons which a study of Jesus at work brought home to them. That would be to insult their intelligence. Nor did he need to underline the difficulties inherent in establishing with their patients such relationships as Jesus appeared to have had with those who came to Him in distress.

"We are cumbered about with forms

which have to be filled up, generally in triplicate, and are hedged around with restrictions and conditions which make the achievement of personal relations of any depth very difficult indeed," said the Archbishop. "To a lesser degree, perhaps, this is true in the parson's life as well. But we know that, once we allow this to happen, once we cease to fight for person to person relationships with our patients—and that in depth—then the glory is departed from our work, a calling becomes a profession, and we become hacks."

In an excellent chapter entitled "The Christian Approach to the Disabled, the Incurable and the Dying" in *Ideals in Medicine*, the author had written: "An unashamed but unostentatious Christian conviction, a genuine love finding its outlet in first-class medical care, and a real personal concern for the patient's family, all these may bear fruit in due course." That was well said, and he personally believed there was no short cut. When they obeyed the summons and answered the invitation of Jesus: "Come unto Me . . . take My yoke . . . and learn of Me," then, and only then, did they find that "rest unto our souls" which enabled them in some measure to bring a like healing, a similar rest, to others.

There was something infectious about the life of a man who daily prayed along these lines: "Grant, O Lord, that this day may be lived in the calm of Thy presence, the rest of Thy will, and the peace of Thy governance." He commended it to them.

Vasectomy and the N.H.S.

The operation of vasectomy may be performed within the National Health Service on grounds of the health of either the husband or the wife. The Department of Health and Social Security has agreed with the B.M.A. that the following ruling should apply to the charging of fees for pathological tests:

(1) If vasectomy is performed free in a N.H.S. hospital the subsequent tests should also be free.

(2) If vasectomy is performed as private treatment (under Section 1 or 2 of the Health Service and Public Health Act 1968) in an N.H.S. hospital the subsequent tests should fall under Section 2 of that Act—i.e., as private treatment.

(3) If vasectomy is performed elsewhere (including Family Planning Association clinics) than in an N.H.S. hospital subsequent tests should fall under Category II of the Schedule to paragraph 167 of the Terms and Conditions of Service of Hospital Medical and Dental Staff (England and Wales).

Commonwealth Games

Luncheon facilities are available at B.M.A. House, 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, for B.M.A. members and their families visiting Edinburgh for the Commonwealth Games beginning on 16 July. Lunch is served in B.M.A. House from 12.30-2 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays.

Association Notices

Diary of Central Meetings

JULY

- 14 Tues. Scottish General Medical Services Committee, (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.15 a.m.
- 16 Thurs. General Medical Services Committee, 10 a.m.
- 16 Thurs. Public Health Committee, 11 a.m.
- 23 Thurs. Working Party on the Use of Foetal Material (Board of Science and Education), 10 a.m.
- 28 Tues. Joint Consultants Committee (at Royal College of Physicians of London), 10 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 30 Wed. Scottish Joint Consultants Committee (at 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh), 10.15 a.m.

Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

Members proposing to attend meetings marked ● are asked to notify in advance the honorary secretary concerned.

EAST SUFFOLK BRANCH.—Wednesday, 15 July, visit to East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich, followed by informal dinner. Guests are invited.●

HUDDERSFIELD DIVISION.—At Queen's Hotel, Friday, 17 July, 8.15 p.m., annual general meeting.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE DIVISION.—At Bedford Medical Institute, Thursday, 16 July, 8.15 for 8.30 p.m., general meeting to receive report on Annual Representative Meeting. (Preceded by meeting of British Medical Guild.)

SOUTH MIDDLESEX DIVISION.—At Skindle's Hotel, Maidenhead, Saturday, 18 July, 7.45 for 8.15 p.m., summer ball. Guests are invited.●

SUTTON COLDFIELD, LICHFIELD AND TAMWORTH DIVISION.—At Park House Restaurant, Sutton Coldfield Park, Saturday, 11 July, 7.30 p.m., chairman's summer party. Guests are invited.●

Branch and Division Officers Elected

LANARKSHIRE DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. A. M. Mathewson. Senior Vice-chairman, Dr. J. F. K. Grieve. Junior Vice-chairman, Dr. P. Crawford. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. A. G. Jamieson. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. J. Lumsden.

LEWISHAM DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. P. Freeman. Vice-chairman, Dr. J. S. Staffurth. Honorary Secretary, Dr. P. Meisner. Honorary

Treasurer, Dr. Joan Latham.

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. A. Obertelli. Vice-chairman, Mr. J. C. Watts. Honorary Secretary, Dr. M. A. Cole. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. G. Mortimer. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. D. P. Winter.

OUTER ISLANDS DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. J. C. R. Greig. Vice-chairman, Dr. A. J. Macleod. Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. C. B. Macleod.

PLYMOUTH DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. D. Mercer. Chairman-elect, Dr. A. B. Stratton. Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. P. Grier. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. T. L. R. Hall. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. J. N. Morris.

REIGATE DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. H. E. S. Marshall. Vice-chairman and Chairman-elect, Dr. K. R. Hughes. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. R. G. Hornung. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. A. Whitworth.

ROTHERHAM DIVISION.—Chairman, Mr. D. S. Murray. Vice-chairman, Dr. J. Mulroy. Honorary Secretary, Dr. J. G. Latimer. Assistant Honorary Secretary, Dr. F. W. M. H. Daly. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. P. R. Manson.

SOUTHAMPTON DIVISION.—Chairman, Dr. A. McGregor. Vice-chairman, Dr. A. C. Allin. Chairman-elect, Dr. H. Macdonald. Honorary Secretary, Dr. Catherine Atkins. Honorary Treasurer, Dr. M. Gilbert.

Corrections

The following motion standing in the name of Tyneside was accepted by the Annual Representative Meeting: "That this Representative Body is not satisfied with the letter dated 24 March 1970 from the Secretary of State in connexion with the phasing of the Review Body's award in 1966. The Representative Body now instructs Council to take whatever steps may be necessary to recover the £10 million withheld by phasing."

Owing to a printing error in the report of the Meeting (*Supplement*, 4 July, p. 10) it was wrongly stated that the motion was in the name of Reading and that it was, by leave, withdrawn.

We regret that Dr. J. C. Oakley's remarks at the A.R.M. on patients not registered with a doctor were misreported (4 July, p. 10). They should have read: "People moved into the area and did not bother to register, and they did not qualify to be treated either as emergency cases or as temporary residents. Consequently no payment was received from them."