

MODERN MEDICAL DILEMMAS

Dr. Watson, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, who has served with the armed forces in Hong Kong, Nairobi and Kenya and has done research in hospitals in London, England and Washington, D.C., expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share some of the problems of the medical profession with this group of 700 women. "Doctors are often accused of not communicating, but this, for him, was a prime chance to counter that accusation," the speaker said. "Doctors, along with other people find themselves on the horns of a dilemma, or perhaps it should be the horns of a stag, since a stag has fourteen points, because there are so many choices that one can make."

Dr. Watson quoted from the book, "Future Shock" written by Eric Toffler, who said, "the multiplicity of choices leads to mental disintegration."

What are some of these choices that have to be made? Is Health Care a Right or a Privilege? How much Health Care is a Right and when does the Right become a Privilege? When Health Care was introduced in England it became an enormous burden on the taxpayers.

It is well known that obesity, smoking and alcohol are health hazards. Should the government introduce legislation to control these hazards or should it be left to intelligent people to decide for themselves?

How many doctors should there be according to the population of an area? In Uganda they have one doctor for 80,000 people; in Russia about 250 doctors for about 100,000; in Canada the percentage is much higher and we are concerned that there are not enough per capita.

Medical Schools face an enormous decision, said the Doctor, since they usually can select only about 85 students from among 850 applicants. He suggested that perhaps medical students are being overtrained and should not have to spend so long in medical school.

Is all the medical research being carried on really necessary and should priorities for research be set? For instance, the cause of venereal disease is known and the cure is known. It is a moral problem; does it still need funds for research?

Doctors have the problem of decisions regarding treatment for certain accident victims fatally injured and certain old persons for whom there is no future, or the badly brain damaged child.

A doctor may be faced with the knowledge



Dr. W. C. Watson, guest speaker.

that there are incompetent physicians; what should he do?

Concluding, Dr. Watson said, "With our knowledge we must do everything we can to prevent medical tragedies and to relieve suffering. A doctor must be imbued with the principles of preventive medicine but not with such scientific expertise that he forgets to care for the sick. We live in an exciting age and must realize that the young people growing up now are better educated and more critical, so we hope that with their enthusiasm, wisdom and sense of social justice some of the dilemmas will be resolved."

An interesting feature of the closing session of the Conference was musical selections presented by the 100 voice choir trained by Mrs. Maltby.

Mrs. Gordon Mallion of Simcoe Area expressed the thanks of the delegates for the privilege of having a part in the interesting and thought-provoking 24 Officers' Conference.

Mrs. Robert Weber, Conference Secretary Treasurer reported the following: There had been 826 applications to attend the 1972 Officers' Conference, with about 700 delegates actually registering. There were 21 Discussion Group Leaders; 400 women took part in the walking tour of the campus and 454 visited the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead.

Mrs. Weber urged prompt submission of expense accounts.

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THE INTERNATIONAL GARDEN OF PEACE

There's a garden on the border of our Nations
No lovelier spot in the world,
Than the place of our friendly relations
Where our flags fly together unfurled.

Chorus:

Oh come, come, come, come,
Come to the garden on the border
Oh come to the garden of peace.
Oh come all ye friends of good order
To the International Garden of Peace.

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