REFLECTIONS STIMULATED BY OUR EDINBURGH VISIT

Just a few weeks ago I had the privilege of walking through the gates of the Medical College of the University of Edinburgh. This great historic place of medicine and surgical tradition was educating physicians a hundred years or more before the Revolutionary War and the University of Glasgow actually preceded it.

Ephraim McDowell attended the Edinburgh Medical School from 1792-94. There he must have heard about the great operation of Robert Houston in 1701 who operated upon a woman with a huge ovarian cyst, draining the cyst and saving her life. He was there at the time of the "Resurrectionists", medical students and their teachers who became expert in removing bodies by night from their new graves, especially those who exhibited interesting pathology.

Among names famous in early American Medicine who attended Edinburgh in the late 1700's or early 1800's were Doctors Shippin, Morgan, Bard, Benjamin Rugh and Philip Syng Physick. Dr. McDowell was 21 when he went to Edinburgh. Prior to going to Edinburgh Dr. McDowell served as an apprentice to a Dr. Humphreys of Staunton, Virginia. Returning to America without graduating from Edinburgh, Dr. McDowell moved west into Kentucky locating at Danville. It was there that he operated upon Mrs. Crawford whom he diagnosed as having a huge ovarian cyst. He excised the cyst without anesthesia, preceding his first American celiotomy with a beautiful prayer. Dr. McDowell learned about ovariotomy at Edinburgh. Doubtless he learned about Jesus and the power of His Holy Spirit on the American frontier.

Sitting in the beautiful library of the University of Edinburgh Medical School there was the feeling of being surrounded by tradition similar to the way I felt as a freshman at the University of Michigan. Some of our lectures were given in the West Medical Building in two amphitheaters where the Mayo Brothers once took notes even as we did. Tradition is a wonderful thing and should never be lost in the training of the medical student and intern and resident.

The tradition of Ephraim McDowell in the history of Surgery in America has a particular significance. Here the great first medical pioneer in our land began his operations with devout and meaningful prayer. Tradition also records that before the initial sessions of the United States House of Representatives and Senate there was prayer. This continues today in our national and in our state governments. One wonders why the tradition has persisted in the political area and not the surgical.

Perhaps the politician realizes, or at least one should hope that this is so; that his efforts will be in vain unless God helps him and his nation. We surgeons often come to the belief that we can do just about anything and in those situations in which we can do little or nothing - it is therein that we must call upon God if at all.

With the great advances on every hand in the field of bio-engineering the surgeon-technician finds that he can do amazing things as he is allowed to open the heart and repair its defects, or transplant the kidney, or replace an artery or a segment of aorta. These wonderful things deserve applause and approbation. However, Americans must remember that unless God builds the edifice they labor in vain that build it. (Psalms 127:1)

WSR
MONTHLY HAPPENINGS NOTICE

NOVEMBER 1978
4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla. 33614
Phone 813/884-7559
CANADIAN ADDRESS: P.O. Box 102, R.R. 5, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3B 4X6

DAILY PRAYERS AT 8 PM IN THE CMF CHAPEL !!! EVERYONE IS WELCOME !!!

EVERY TUESDAY - 10 AM Ladies' Bible Study and Sandwich Luncheon. Kay Lectures each week on a selected subject. (PLEASE BRING A SANDWICH IF YOU PLAN TO STAY FOR LUNCH. Only beverages are served.) "The Clinical Correlation of The Gospel" by Dr. Reed at 1PM. Healing service at 2 PM.

NOVEMBER 10-12 Dr. Reed & Kay at First Presbyterian Church, 1101 Hamilton Blvd. Peoria, Ill. 61606. Contact Rev. Henry G. Hein (309) 685-5248.

NOVEMBER 17 - 12:00 Noon - Dr. Reed, Rotary Club, Carrollwood Golf & Tennis Club, 13903 Clubhouse Dr., Tampa, Fla. Contact Rev. DeRuLon 886-9569.

NOVEMBER 17 - 8 PM St. Petersburg CMF Station Meeting at St. Petersburg Federal Savings and Loan, 83, Avenue at Ninth Street, North, St. Petersburg, Fla., Dr. Reed speaking.

NOVEMBER 18 - 7:30 PM Tampa CMF Station Meeting at CMF House, 4821 Memorial Highway, Tampa, Fla.

NOVEMBER 25 7:30 PM - Daytona CMF Station Meeting at Holy Trinity By-The-Sea, North Grandview at Ora, Daytona Beach, Fla. Call Father David Dillon, Jr. 904/252-8997

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICIANS

"I am a Spirit-filled Physician's Assistant in Family Practice desiring association with interested physician or group." J. Bradley Stevens, PA-C, 24 Floral Ave., Cortland, N.Y. 13045

"Seeking practice association in Southeast with Christian family physician who integrates his faith with practice on Jay Adams model." Hilton Terrell, PhD, M.D., 61 Raysor St., St. George, S.C. 29477

MEDICAL MISSIONARY-FAMILY PRACTITIONER: In south Texas on Rio Grande River (small town of Roma, Texas & area - Total area population 35,000) great need for full time family practice physicians. New equipped clinic almost ready to go. Optometrist, nurses, clinic administrator now available. Christian school also part of this independent local ministry since 1951. Call or write Rev. Richard Peel, Bethel Mission, Inc., P.O. Box #609, Roma, TX. 78584 Phone 512/849-1701.

"I am the medical coordinator for an overseas mission project, Pacific Mission Aviation. Looking for qualified, experienced, Christian physicians of otolaryngology, urology & orthopedic surgery. This would be serving as a medical missionary in the area of the trust territory of Micronesia. Six weeks per year would be the maximum asked of any one person." James R. Friend, M.D., 1921 18th St., Bakersfield, CA. 93301

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.
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Tampa, Fla. 33614

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