

Draft - 5-29-59 - Mr. Fogarty  
Association of Former Internes and  
Residents, Freedmen's Hospital  
Annual Luncheon Banquet  
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I am happy to be with you today, as I always am when in the company of physicians and other medical scientists. Usually, the medical people are talking to me, telling of the accomplishments of research in health and medicine and of their hopes and plans for future progress.

Today, the shoe is on the other foot and I have the privilege of talking to physicians and medical scientists. While I shall not presume to talk to this audience about specific details of medical research, I do want to tell you how proud I am of the accomplishments of such research. I am proud, too, that I have been able, through my many years of service in the Congress of the United States, to secure support for research and other programs leading to advancement in health and medicine through appropriations to the Public Health Service in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

I want to tell you, also, of some of my hopes for future progress in health and medicine.

I know that some of the national progress in medical research has been made right here at Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University. Some of you in this audience -- your program chairman, Dr. Spellman, among many others -- have made notable contributions. I dare say many of you who are now in general practice assisted, during your student days, in the research

then under way here. And I am sure that all of you, inspired by the example of your teachers here, have continued your interest in research, although I know the demands of the general practice of medicine make it difficult to devote much time to scientific investigations per se. Even if you cannot actively engage in research, I know that you keep abreast of research findings and their application to medical practice through the postgraduate seminars your Association conducts, and doubtless through other means, too.

Because of my interest in medical and health research, and in my role as chairman of the House Subcommittee that hears testimony of health and medical scientists in connection with appropriations for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, I do a little "homework" myself, reading over the testimony and the reports that sketch for me the progress of research and its probable application to practice in the control and prevention of disease and the alleviation of human suffering.

From this "homework," I gather that our medical researchers now think that we can look forward perhaps -- and I know that they stress the perhaps -- to such advances as the following:

1. Solution to the present question of whether some or many human cancers are caused by viruses, with all that implies for possible

prevention or treatment.

2. Better, or perhaps complete, understanding of that artery disease you medical people call atherosclerosis. From such understanding would come methods physicians could advise for prevention of this major cause of death.

3. Better drugs or other means for treating high blood pressure, resulting from an understanding of its cause, and with this understanding, even development of a rational method for its prevention.

4. More and better vaccines for control or prevention of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and the common cold.

5. New knowledge in the field of mental and emotional disease and the environmental factors leading to deviant behavior of both children and adults.

Perhaps from advances in this last area will come the most striking changes in your practice of medicine. I have been told that physicians in the future -- and I hope it will not be a too distant future -- will be applying the new knowledge in the field of mental health to both individual patients and to community groups. Through such an approach we -- you as physicians and I as legislator -- may be able to contrive a more intelligent social environment, so that each of our younger and our older citizens can better make his total contribution to his community and his nation. I know that you here

today look forward especially to such future advances, as I do, and I can assure you that as our scientists show us, through their research, the way to improve the health of individuals and of communities, I, as a legislator, stand ready to work with you physicians to implement the improvements.

Now let me talk a few minutes about some of my hopes in a broader area -- the area of international medical research. I believe these hopes of mine may be of especial interest to you because this institution of which you are alumni serves not only our Nation but has for many years served in international areas also. In fact, some of you here today may have returned for this occasion from your homes and practices outside the United States. And I am sure all of you, while students, internes and residents, established friendships with men and women who, students or internes then, are now your colleagues in medicine in other lands.

I have just returned from Geneva where I had the pleasure of joining other workers for health -- dedicated health workers from all over the world -- at the World Health Assembly. A major concern of the Assembly this year was the advancement of medical research. In my opinion, no subject could be more important, or more timely, for deliberation by the Assembly.

It seemed significant to me, too, that this World Health Assembly was meeting at the same time and in the same place as another group of world leaders were assembled. This other group met for the

purpose of discussing ways to ease international tensions and to make a beginning, at least, toward a solid and lasting world peace. Yet it may be that the seeds of such a peace lie in the hands of delegates to the World Health Assembly and the medical scientists of the nations they represent.

After all, the fruits to be reaped, as medical research advances around the world, are vastly better health for vaster numbers of the world's population. They are improved nutrition and housing. They are happier and friendlier people. And they are the unities of a healthier and stronger peace.

On my way to and from Geneva I visited with medical and health workers in London, Dublin, Rome, Madrid. Everywhere I went, I found these men and women of medical and health science in agreement with me on the importance of expanding medical research. They feel, as I do, that expanding research and disease control around the world is one -- perhaps the one -- truly global effort in which all nations can and will join as real partners.

As I visited various health workers, and talked with others at Geneva, I gained fresh, first-hand knowledge of some of the health problems of the world, some of the potentials, some of the programs and their cost. These matters may be familiar to you. Yet, perhaps, busy with your patients and your local community health problems, you have not been aware of world-wide needs, as well as of our own -- needs for research, for more trained medical manpower, for

health facilities and better education and information dissemination.

Overall, the world health situation shows that man has progressed far in his fight for health; the world is healthier than it has ever been before. There have been sizable declines in the death rates from disease all over the globe, not just in highly developed areas. The world's population has, therefore, been increasing. Yet the increase has not, as some may believe, come about because of great increases in the birth rates. Primarily, the population increase is a result of decreasing death rates in many countries.

This means that medical research advances have been great and have been applied in enough force to effect declines in deaths from disease in many areas. In the last half-century, it has been said, the progress of science has been more rapid than in the previous 2,000 years. The lowering of mortality from disease proves the statement.

Moreover, directly against disease itself we see progress on many fronts. There have been real advances against cholera, a tremendous world problem. Perhaps the most notable victory, although it is like the winning of a battle and not a whole war, has been against malaria. Then there have been gains against typhus, a deadly disease enemy in many parts of the world.

Again from the overall viewpoint, the life span of man on earth has been extended and there has been some decline in the death rate of infants. Progress has been made against venereal disease

around the world, and some advance, though little and far from what could or should be accomplished, against tuberculosis.

All this is to the credit side of the ledger. The other side shows that, while we have come far, we have farther still to go. The familiar illustration of the iceberg is apt. What has been achieved is but the top part, which we see, of the iceberg. Nine-tenths of it is underneath. Just so, the greatest part of the world's health problems is still unsolved.

I found, too, that in countries abroad where the communicable diseases have been reduced, as they have here in our country, chronic illnesses have emerged as today's great cripplers and killers.

I was impressed again by the fact that in the past medical contributions to knowledge have come from all quarters of the globe and that today, as in the past, participation in medical research is widespread around the world. You know, even better than I, that the roots of any great medical discovery lie in scientific findings made over the years by many researchers. I have been told, and I am sure you know this, too, that careful observations at the bedside and in the clinic -- observations such as you men and women in general practice may make -- have often pointed the way to important advances in control of disease.

The history of institutions, too, shows that they are erected upon and stem from methods and organizational structures developed in

no one country, but in many. I have been told that Freedmen's Hospital offers an excellent training in hospital administration. I am sure that those of you who have taken this training, and followed careers in hospital administration, know full well how much any of our modern hospitals and research and teaching institutions have drawn from others around the world for methods and organizational details.

Coming back closer to home and close, I know, to all your hearts, is the matter of the relation of Freedmen's Hospital to Howard University and the possibility of transfer of its jurisdiction to the University. I know that many major changes in physical structure, expansion of bed-capacity of the Hospital, and changes in program, are being deferred until this matter is settled. I share your hopes and those of the Hospital's administrators, that the matter may be settled soon, and in a way that will be to the best advantage of all concerned.

As you know, I have, during ~~every one of my many~~ years of service in the Congress, devoted myself to the advancement of health and of medical research. I think you know that I can be counted on to espouse any measures which, in my considered judgement, will contribute best to such advancement.

This hospital has a proud record of achievement in service to the sick and suffering, in teaching, and in research. I am sure that each of you, and all who are following in your footsteps, will add to the brilliance of that proud record and that Freedmen's Hospital will

continue to be known as a National and International center for training, for service and for the advancement of the world's store of health and medical knowledge.

May I say that I include that in my hopes for the future. It is one in which I am sure you share. And because you are physicians -- standing "above the common herd" as "the flower of our civilization," as Robert Louis Stevenson so beautifully and truly wrote -- I am sure you share also my larger hopes that in our lifetime we may have:

-- Means to conquer such dreadful diseases as cancer, heart and blood vessel disorders, mental and emotional sickness.

-- Such extension and expansion of medical and health research and practice that health, happiness, and peace shall spread throughout the world.