

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

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Medicine Should Be A Calling

As the great Dr. Osler used to say, medicine should never be just a business. It should be a calling, much like the ministry. A young man should feel called to be a physician; he should be the sort of man who likes people and likes to be useful and helpful in the world. A man said to me recently, "Oh, that's baloney! A man goes into medicine just as he goes into any other business, to earn a good living." As Osler said sadly, there are of course men in the medical profession who feel that way, and those physicians who are idealistic, like and old-fashioned general practitioner, worry about their behavior.

Fortunately, there still are many physicians who are idealistic about their work and who, every day of their lives, give as much service free to the poor as they give to their patients who can pay. Many spend their mornings working in clinics or in the free wards of hospitals, or in a research laboratory. Many of the leaders in medicine give much of their time to teaching in a university and to traveling about the country, helping their brother physicians to keep up to date. Even in a big clinic a third of the work done by the doctors is never paid for. People come financially exhausted by illness, but they are never turned away. Most of them would like to pay but many, with a chronic or largely incurable or a fatal illness, never get to working again.

Used Social Funds
In one big clinic there are a number of social service women who often have to lend or give patients enough money with which to get home. I remember a little woman who lived in California. She had a crippling illness and decided she must go East and see me about it. With her relief check she bought a bus ticket that took her as far as a town in Nebraska. The kind people on the bus passed the hat and gave her meals and lodging, and when she got to Grand Island they bought her a ticket so that she could go on to Minnesota. Naturally, the social service workers then had to find some

way of getting her back home. Fortunately, not many persons were as improvident as she, or the social service funds would soon have been exhausted.

During most of my early days in San Francisco I gave at least half, and sometimes two thirds, of my day to work in clinics and research laboratories. Starting early, I would quickly make my house and hospital calls. At nine I was in a clinic or a laboratory where I might work until one. Then, after a quick lunch, I would go to the library where I would read and study until three. From three until perhaps seven I would earn a living for my wife and four children.

In the evenings often I would read the German medical literature until ten or eleven, with a teacher of languages sitting beside me to help when the construction of a half-page-long sentence was a bit too obscure for me. Why did I work this way? Because to me medicine has been the greatest interest in my life, just as it was to my father. Often when he was well over 70, he would tell me that to him the study of medicine and the keeping up with the medical progress was most fun. During my life-time I have known many physicians who, when they went to Europe, spent most of their time in the great clinics and hospitals learning how English and French and German and Italian physicians worked.

Took Vows of Poverty
Many of my friends working in research laboratories early in life took vows of poverty, much as a monk does in a Holy Order. If these friends of mine had gone into practice, they could have made perhaps \$20,000 a year, but as a teacher in a university, they got less than \$6,000. As I said once before in this column, my revered professor of physiology, Dr. Walter B. Cannon of Harvard, was once offered three times the salary he was getting to go to another institution; but he decided to stay where he was because he thought that at Harvard he would have better opportunities for getting good graduate students.

Today, deans of medical schools are often distressed when they feel that in order to fill their classrooms they will have to accept a type of man who is neither able nor wise nor idealistic enough to become the best type of physician. The country needs more physicians, and so each dean must take the best men he can get.

Still, too little is being done to help financially the unusually gifted and fine and idealistic type of student who, if he could get a medical education, would become a research worker, or a good teacher, or a fine able consultant. I have just spent several weeks trying to get a few thousand dollars to help such an able young man to finish his medical training. He has already shown pronounced research ability and has published several papers. So far, I have been unable to find any organized group that will help him with a loan of the money he needs. Recently my son, who is a distinguished professor of physics, was unable to find anyone who would help him most brilliant student to live while he got his Ph.D. in physics. We have money for the care of idiots but often none for the education of the engineers, physicists, chemists and physicians our country so greatly needs.

Dr. Alvarez hopes his readers will understand that it would be impossible for him to answer requests for information or to attempt to diagnose by mail. (Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1956)

STAR GAZER			
By CLAY R. POLLAN			
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars To develop messages for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.			
ARIES MAR. 21-20	1 Good	31 Bring	61 With
Taurus APR. 21-20	2 Don't	32 Day	62 Responder
3 4 5 6	3 Benders	33 Listening	63 Complaining
GEMINI MAY 21-20	4 Of	34 Your	64 Responds
5 6 7 8 9	5 Dishonesty	35 If	65 Open-minded
10 11 12	6 And	36 Inhibit	66 Of
CANCER JUNE 21-20	7 Deceit	37 You	67 Back
8 9 10 11 12	8 News	38 Hold	68 Trying
13 14 15 16 17	9 Moans	39 Desires	69 Out
18 19 20 21 22	10 Your	40 Of	70 And
23 24 25 26 27	11 Pain	41 The	71 Something
28 29 30 31	12 Financial	42 Revision	72 Tolerant
LION JULY 21-20	13 About	43 Love	73 Surprise
14 15 16 17 18	14 Be	44 To	74 Warmly
19 20 21 22 23	15 Waste	45 Step	75 New
24 25 26 27 28	16 Limiting	46 Little	76 Could
29 30 31	17 Conditions	47 Certain	77 Moves
32 33 34 35 36	18 Good	48 For	78 Catch
37 38 39 40 41	19 Don't	49 Hold	79 Experiments
42 43 44 45 46	20 Prepared	50 Outcome	80 You
47 48 49 50 51	21 Dealings	51 Ideas	81 Ideas
52 53 54 55 56	22 With	52 A	82 With
57 58 59 60 61	23 The	53 In	83 And
62 63 64 65 66	24 Don't	54 You	84 Certain
67 68 69 70 71	25 Someone	55 You	85 Today
72 73 74 75 76	26 Worried	56 Grudge	86 Naturally
77 78 79 80 81	28 For	58 Dealings	88 Naturally
82 83 84 85 86	29 One	59 Be	89 You
87 88 89 90 91	30 Watch	60 Disagree	90 Unconscious
92 93 94 95 96	1 Good	61 Bring	91 Neutral

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Indianapolis—Former President Truman confirming that he will go to the Democratic national convention as a free agent: "I want to be in a position to help the Democratic party after the fight is over. I don't want to get mixed up in one."

Bedford, England—Judge Sir Winttingham Stable in granting a stay of execution of damages won in a negligence suit: "It is impossible to exist without incurring varying degrees of risk. The people of this nation cannot spend all their time in bed."

Washington—Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson in denying Democratic charges that Russia is outstripping the United States in missile development: "The simple fact is that the United States is not and should not be competing in an all-out armaments race with the USSR or any other country."

Waukesha, Wis.—Eddie Thelacker, Westfield, Wis., youth injured in wreck of baseball special train, when he was visited by a delegation of Milwaukee Braves players: "Sure glad to meet you fellows. I'm kinda glad this happened."

Hartford, Conn.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in predicting that Adlai E. Stevenson will win the Democratic presidential nomination: "Perhaps I feel he will win because I want him to win."

Eniwetok Island—Brig. Gen. Perry B. Griffith, deputy task force commander for air, on the B52 crew that will drop an H-bomb: "They're just a damn fine crew."

Washington—Presidential disarmament adviser Harold Stassen on world disarmament after conferring with President Eisenhower: "It is the United States position that a bad agreement would be worse than no agreement."

Los Angeles—Sen. Estes Kefauver in charging the administration with making "deals" to settle anti-trust actions: "What the Republicans have done in anti-trust is to sit around the table with wrongdoing businessmen and make deals."

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Editor's note: Aline Mosby is on vacation. In today's guest column Jack Berle, one of Uncle Milton's many brothers who work for him behind the scenes, recalls some anecdotes about the comic.

By JACK BERLE

Written for the United Press
Hollywood — (U.P.)—The man in the gray flannel suit is nothing new to me. This used to be my brother Milton's trademark when he was touring the vaudeville circuits. I've traveled more than 100,000 miles with him and we've had every experience from missing trains to accidents.

Getting back to the flannel suit. It was Milton's steady dress, along with a soft felt hat turned up at the brim. In 1932, when Milton signed to appear in Earl Carroll's Vanities at the Broadway Theater, Carroll wanted him to wear a tux and Milton refused. Carroll finally told Miltie he didn't have to wear special clothes to be funny—and he could get as many laughs in a tux.

Turns Taken
I've traveled with my brother on and off since 1922, as have my other brothers and sister. We all took turns working on stage

and behind scenes. I remember one day in 1926 I was standing in the wings watching the chorus. My sister, Rosalind, was a member.

A stagehand came along, pointed unknowingly to my sister and said, "Boy, what a figure. I'd sure like to take her out." Milton turned to him and said, "I'll see what I can do, she's my sister." The guy got so embarrassed that we never saw him again during our three-day stay there.

Pressure Increases
We've had a lot of fun, but touring now is serious business. It seems there's more pressure and when you're on television, you're playing to more people than ever before. Everything now is speeded up and rush-rush. I've seen the other side of him, too. At the theater a heckler make a disparaging remark and Milton, incensed, leaped from the stage and threw him out the door before any further trouble started.

It's been a lot of fun. And if a guy could choose a brother, he couldn't pick a better one than Milton Berle.

On The Side

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

By E. V. Durling

What's the earth With all its art, verse, music, worth. Compared with love. Found, gained and kept? Shut them in. With their triumphs And their glories and the rest: Love is best!

How do you like the name your parents gave you? Sixty per cent of males and 70 per cent of females don't care for the first name their papa and mama selected for them. In Belgium parents can't give a child any name they please. If, for example, they want to name a boy Edgar they have to get the approval of the registrar of births. That is the law. A very good law it is. I believe it should be possible for children when reaching the age of 16 to legally change their first name if it doesn't appeal to them.

Asking
Queries from Clients: Q. Is evening dress compulsory at dinner at Maxim's Restaurant in Paris? A. Only on Friday evenings. Q. What kind of a figure does a woman need to rate the descriptive term "petite"? A. One like Lily Pons has. She is said by those who should know to have the perfect "petite" figure. Q. Is there such a thing as cat racing? A. Yes, sir. Is conducted in England. The cats each wearing racing colors in the form of ribbons chase an electric mouse on a 220 yard straight-away course. It is said the cats run very true to form and the races have a high percentage of winning favorites.

Asides
Who is this country's oldest active registered nurse? Edith Pearson R.N., actively engaged at St. John's Episcopal hospital in Brooklyn is 79 years old. She entered the St. John's School of Nursing in 1900. . . There is no speed limit on automobile driving in Paris. The blowing of auto horns is prohibited in the French capital except in cases of emergency. The average number of deaths from traffic accidents in Paris is eight a week.

Please Note
As you know if the prince and princess of Monaco are without an heir, possession of the principality reverts to France and Monagasques who are now practically taxless will have to pay taxes. Not only that, the young men of Monaco now exempt from Army service will be drafted for the French army. Some business men of Monaco, still worried as to whether or not the prince and princess will be childless, have inquired at Lloyd's of London regarding insurance against such an eventuality. Lloyd's man said such insurance was a possibility but would require that Prince Rainier agree to a medical examination by the company's physicians.

Sidelights
Am asked where in the Bible

is it suggested that women wear their hair long? From one Corinthians 11:14-15: "If a woman have long hair it is a glory to her." . . . Note reference to a man who at age 58 became a father for the first time at the age of 64.

So They Say
Wives born under Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) require firm handling by a courageous, patient man of strong character. Otherwise the Aquarian females will dominate the domestic scene and twist their spouses around their little fingers. When the husband of an Aquarian is henpecked he really is henpecked. On the other hand, Aquarian females are inclined to fall madly in love with a husband who will not stand for being dominated and takes steps to make them live up to the "obey" promise they made at the altar. Or so say the stargazers.

Prices
The brand of Scotch whiskey I favor costs \$6.46 a fifth in New York City. That same brand of whiskey in the same size can be bought at the duty free Shannon Airport in Ireland for \$2. A difference of \$4.46! That gives you an idea what taxes and duty can do to prices.

TOURNQUET ADVICE
Minneapolis — (U.P.) — First aiders apply tourniquets to stop bleeding too often and harmful effects often result. The State Medical Association said that almost all external bleeding can be controlled by firm, direct pressure over the wound with a cloth pad. The tourniquet should be used only for severe, life-threatening hemorrhage that cannot be stopped by other means.

Officer Arrests Same Man for Second Time

Buckhannon, W. Va. — (U.P.)—Conservation officer R. O. Withers found out the other day that it is a small world, after all.

Withers heard shooting in the woods near his home during the off season. He entered the area and discovered a man had a gun in one hand and a squirrel sticking out of a pocket.

Withers arrested the hunter immediately and later found that the man had been arrested for a hunting violation several years

before in a nearby county. You guessed it — Withers had been the arresting officer that time, too.

Books on all phases of home decorating, from selecting color schemes to arrangement of furniture, are available at the Medford Public Library.

Teachers in 35 of the states participate in state-controlled pension plans.

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