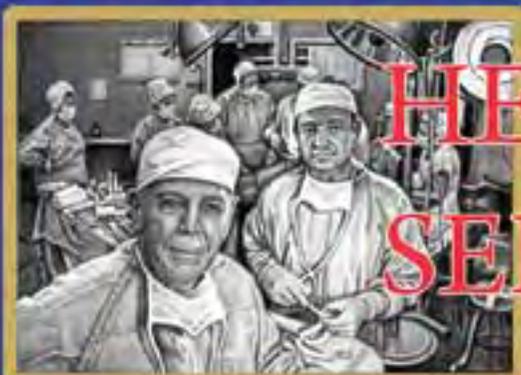


HEAVEN'S



HEALTH SERVICE

A Revolution In Healthcare



Vernon Sparks M.D.

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Heaven's Health Service

A Reformation in Healthcare

Revised Edition

by

Vernon C. Sparks, M.D.

on a worldwide basis the task is indeed staggering. For a number of years now there have been open and frank discussions of a “health crisis.”

THESE problems are so immense that all possible solutions are being evaluated. New types of health workers are being trained. As mentioned, concentrated programs of research are being carried on in attempts to discover the causes of the various diseases. In addition, methods for caring for patients at home are being developed to help keep down expenses. New methods of distributing healthcare are being devised. New emphasis is being placed on preventive medicine with the goal of preventing the first inroads of disease. There is even an attempt to associate religion more closely with medical care as an important emotional and psychological aid in the patient’s fight against disease.

ALONG with a worldwide deficit in healthcare workers, facilities and funds, several other very frustrating problems exist. One of these is the tendency of health personnel to congregate where living and working are the most convenient and comfortable rather than where their services are most needed. Another problem is that in many places the health profession is viewed the same way as other professions. It is considered to be part of the free enterprise system. Thus its fees and salaries usually are determined by the “law of supply and demand.” Indeed, some aspects of healthcare are considered in many areas as big business. Another distressing problem is that of lack of interest on the part of many people regarding discoveries in the field of prevention. Related to this problem is the seeming inability of many persons to make permanent needed changes in their habits of living.

AS THEY study these multifaceted problems related to the disease and suffering pervading our present world, many people wonder if indeed there are answers. They recognize that conventional approaches are not working. They realize there must be a serious re-evaluation of the old methods and a strengthening of their useful parts; however, many believe that any real hope for successfully conquering world health problems lies in newer methods and approaches. They see a tremendous need for a reformation in healthcare. Let us

study deeper into the problems of disease and suffering and discover what form this reformation in healthcare must take if it is to meet with success.

The Source of the Solutions

IT IS ONLY logical to conclude that if the true cause or causes of disease can be discovered and removed, then success must be ours. In order to solve the problem of illness better than have our predecessors, we must know more than they have known. We must know who man is and where he came from. We must know what man was like before he became affected by disease. We must know more than we do about disease. We must discern what it is and where it came or comes from. If we can do these things then the solutions to our problems may not be as difficult or as far removed as they have appeared.

THOSE who believe in evolution as the origin of the human race seem to be having great difficulties in developing a truly effective healthcare system. In contrast, those who accept by faith the Bible's account of man's creation by an all-loving, all-powerful, Divine Being should find the problem much less difficult. Why? Because an effective healthcare system will be much easier to develop and implement if it follows the outline given for it by mankind's Creator.

BEFORE advancing further, let us state firmly that all who are sincerely concerned about the problems related to disease and pain cannot be halfhearted in their desire for real answers and permanent solutions. Symptomatic, palliative healthcare is not their ideal, and is ethically permissible only until a true solution is found. Once a true solution is discovered all healthcare workers should apply the new, effective treatment. Those who do not implement the most effective methods available do not have the best interests of their patients at heart and should be considered guilty of malpractice.

A Devil to Fight

MAN, HOWEVER, is not solely responsible for his disobedience to natural law. To know the cause of disease one must know of Satan. The devil, who was the instigator of disobedience to natural law and who is continuously active in propagating the resultant problems. Anyone working toward obedience to all natural law has the devil to fight, and any designed program to truly overcome disease must include means to overcome him.

It is Satan's determined work to destroy the image of God in man. *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, March 2, 1897 (*Story of Our Health Message*, 289).

Satan is the originator of disease; and the physician is warring against his work and power. *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, 443–444.

The Problem of Sin

MAN WAS created a living soul made up of physical, mental and moral natures or powers. See *Education*, 210. Our mental powers are our ability to reason and to make decisions. Our moral powers are our inherent need for and ability to form social relationships with other intelligent beings including God Himself. What affects one aspect of man affects all of man. To effectively combat disease, one must understand well the wholistic relationship within man. The importance of this truth is well illustrated by the fact that ninety percent of disease has its foundation in the mind or mental powers and that many are suffering more from problems related to social and spiritual needs than they are of problems related to physical needs.

Sickness of the mind [mental powers] prevails everywhere. Nine-tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here. *Ibid.*, 444.

Many are suffering from maladies of the soul [moral pow-

The principles of health reform and the use of nature's true remedies are always to be utilized, while modern rational therapeutics are to be resorted to only as necessary. The newer truth is not to replace the older truth nor the complex concept the simpler one, but they are to be added on as needed.

OBEDIENCE to nature's laws (Health Reform), the wise use of nature's remedies, and the use as needed of modern therapeutics all have an "essential" part to play in Heaven's Health Service and should usually be resorted to in that order. First and most important is the role of Health Reform in building up and maintaining optimal health. If disease does get hold, these same principles, in conjunction with nature's true remedies, will be effective in the majority of cases in ridding the body of disease and thus preparing the way for nature's restorative power. However, this side of eternity, there will always be those who need the aid of many of modern medicine's rational therapeutics.

MOST WILL recognize the need for, and the benefit of, modern diagnostics, vaccinations and surgery. Disobedience to the laws of health can also create a need for modern medications.

Ill health in a variety of forms, if effect could be traced to the cause, would reveal the sure result of flesh eating. The dis-use of meats, with healthful dishes nicely prepared to take the place of flesh meats, would place a large number of the sick and suffering ones in a fair way of recovering their health, without the use of drugs. But if the physician encourages a meat-eating diet to his invalid patients, then he will make a necessity for the use of drugs. *Medical Ministry*, 222.

AS WE ARE all aware, the majority of modern therapeutic agents can have certain undesirable and sometimes dangerous side-effects. Thus their use should be controlled by a well-trained physician, and they should be used only when the dangers of the potential side-effects of the therapeutic agent are outweighed by the potential and impending adverse effects of the disease. The principle of choosing the lesser of two evils should be followed.

gious practitioners. These dual tasks were given by God to the priests of the health-progressive nation of Israel. This union of profession was also exemplified by Christ, the greatest medical missionary ever known.

I know that an intimate relationship should ever exist between the medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. They are bound together in sacred union as one work, and are never to be divorced. *Counsels on Health*, 528.

THIS UNION entails more than cooperation between ministers and health workers, For anyone to be able to do the Lord's type of work for suffering humanity, he, individually, must be able to treat the soul as well as the body.

In one hand they are to carry the gospel for the relief of sin-burdened souls; and in the other hand they are to carry remedies for the relief of physical suffering. Thus they will be true medical missionaries for God. *Medical Ministry*, 328.

THE HEALTH professionals and the spiritual professionals are to carry on this unified work. They are to be considered medical missionary evangelists.

In this school many workers are to be qualified with the ability of physicians, to labor not in professional lines as physicians, but as medical missionary evangelists. *Ibid.*, 58.

The nurses who are trained in our institutions are to be fitted up to go out as medical missionary evangelists, uniting the ministry of the work with that of physical healing. *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, 171.

Let our ministers, who have gained an experience in preaching the word, learn to give simple treatments, and then labor intelligently as medical missionary evangelists. *Ibid.*, 172.

THIS UNIFIED work is enjoined upon the physician.

The Redeemer expects our physicians to make the saving of souls their first work. *Medical Ministry*, 37.

separate from church organization. *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, 164.

COUNSEL to a physician in perplexity follows:

You are not to set up in business for yourself. This is not the Lord's plan. You are not to unite with unbelievers in medical work. Neither is this the Lord's plan. *Medical Ministry*, 45.

My brother, the Lord needs your help in His work. Will you not be His helping hand? It would be a serious mistake for you to accept a worldly position, where it would not be possible for you to do the medical missionary work that God desires you to do. Do not make this mistake. *Ibid.*, 47–48.

THERE is also counsel for teachers of medical missionaries:

Temptations will come to you to think that in order to carry forward the medical missionary work you must stand aloof from church organization or church discipline. To stand thus would place you on an unsound footing. The work done for those who come to you for instruction is not complete unless they are educated to work in connection with the church. *Counsels on Health*, 523.

COUNSEL in regard to salary follows:

Let not the idea prevail for a moment that man's power to command high wages is a measure of his value in the sight of God as a worker. *Selected Messages*, book 2, 193.

Some would follow a worldly fashion in the drawing of their salaries; but the Lord does not view matters as these men view them. He views our duties and responsibilities in the light of Christ's self-denying example. *Ibid.*, 198.

The charges made by other practicing physicians are not to be his criterion. The diseased bodies over which he works are God's property. *Medical Ministry*, 121.

We are not to let the wage question stand in the way of our responding to the call of duty, wherever our service may be re-

The Effectiveness of Heaven's Plan

MANY ARE aware that Heaven's Health Service will be one hundred percent effective in the earth made new, but they question how effective it can be in this present life. It is true that God will never remove all disease and pain until sin is permanently eradicated. God's health program, however, can be very successful even in this present life. A report has been made of a study in California involving fifty thousand people. Results showed that Seventh-day Adventist men between the ages of thirty-five and forty years had a six and two-tenths-year life expectancy advantage over non-Adventist males of the same age. This remarkable benefit was accomplished in spite of the fact that only about fifty percent of the Adventists were attempting to live up to the health reform message. (Nelson and VanDolson, *op. cit.*, 17–18).

Ye said also, Behold what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of Hosts: and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord. Malachi 1:13.

If the sick and suffering will do only as well as they know in regard to living out the principles of health reform perseveringly, then they will in nine cases out of ten recover from their ailments. *Medical Ministry*, 224.

THIS STATEMENT is very remarkable and exciting. Thus true health reform—conformity to nature's laws—is a very highly effective therapeutic agent. It should also be just as effective in preventing disease as it is in aiding recovery. We are told that ninety percent of those whose lives are in peril from disease will be benefited by the knowledge of a sin-pardoning Saviour.

He [the God-fearing physician] should not listen to the suggestion that it is dangerous to speak of their eternal interests to those whose lives are in peril, lest it should make them worse; for in nine cases out of ten the knowledge of a sin-pardoning Saviour would make them better both in mind and body. Jesus can limit the power of Satan. He is the physician in whom the sin-sick soul may trust to heal the maladies of the body as well

If the church would manifest a greater interest in the reforms [on health] which God Himself has brought to them to fit them for His coming, their influence would be tenfold what it now is. *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, 171.

Relations Between Prevention and Acute Care

THERE is much discussion as to how emphasis should be distributed among the various approaches to disease. The conventional approach to disease—detection of its cause and its removal if possible—has many advocates. Many feel, however, that the main hope for success lies in the endeavor to prevent the disease in the first place. Joseph Malines has authored a poem which expresses very clearly the feelings of this latter group.

“The Fence or the Ambulance?”

Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed.
 Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant:
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
 A duke and many a peasant;
So the people said something would have to be done,
 But their projects did not at all tally:
Some said, “Put a fence around the edge of the cliff”;
 Some, “An ambulance down in the valley.”

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
 For it spread to the neighboring city;
A fence may be useful or not, it is true,
 But each heart became brimful of pity
For those who had slipped o’er that dangerous cliff,
 And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave pounds or gave pence, not to put up a fence,
 But an ambulance in the valley.

“For the cliff is all right if you’re careful,” they said,