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INTRODUCTION OF DR. RUSSELL L. DICKS

Frank J. Sladen, M.D.

The officers of the Henry Ford Hospital Medical Society would want me, I am sure, to acknowledge the presence of so many of the ministry and to bid them a very special welcome.

We will hear discussed some of the intangibles of medical care. I refer to what has to do with the spirit of the patient, of the doctor, of the institution, factors conducive to success, to recovery as well as factors that militate against it.

The emotional reactions to coming into the hospital—to going through a diagnostic study—to receiving the report—to facing an operation—to looking ahead to prolonged illness and care—to accepting a physical handicap, a stiff joint or loss of a limb—and to facing death, these are sufficient to provoke crises in patient.

These are the areas our speaker has pursued in study and research, and about which he has increased our knowledge and understanding. He has demonstrated what can be done by a chaplain to help make successful the experience of patients in a hospital, when that chaplain is specially trained for the purpose and succeeds in working closely with the staff, is in their confidence and accepted as one of the team.

It is now a proven fact that the combined efforts of medicine and religion, when soundly and intelligently pursued in the light of established scientific truths, are accomplishing new results. They are making easier and more effective difficult experiences of patients, and opening doors to new accomplishments by the greater emphasis on the better care of the spirit of the patient and of his environment.

Dr. Dicks is the pioneer in this field, the first full-time chaplain of a general hospital. That was in the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Here, too, he did the first teaching of clinical pastoral training in a general hospital. Here, too, in 1932, he met Dr. Richard Cabot, professor of medicine in the Harvard Medical School. I am told Dr. Cabot became especially interested in this young man when he saw that he made a record of everything he did and heard and said, even his own prayers with the patients. Dr. Dicks, the chaplain, and Dr. Cabot, the professor of medicine, published the first professional book on ministry to the sick, now considered a classic.

He has served as chaplain in four hospitals in the last twenty years—the Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, the Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago, the Wesley Memorial Hospital of Chicago, and currently the Duke University Hospital of Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Dicks is a teacher with the spirit of research. He is the author of nine books and numerous articles and pamphlets and is the Editor of the magazine *Religion and Health*, aimed to bridge the gap between religion and medicine. At present, besides his chaplaincy, he is professor of Pastoral Care in the faculty at Duke University. No one is better qualified to talk to us on the subject "The Certified Chaplain and the Modern Hospital."