

ARTICLE FOR A.M.E. CHRISTIAN RECORDER

"MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DR. L.H. BERRY, RETIRES FROM COUNTY HOSPITAL-- , WRITES BOOK".

Dr. L. H. Berry, Medical Director, elected a General Officer of the A.M.E. Church at the last General Conference, has announced his retirement from the attending staff of the Cook County Hospital in Chicago. It was the end of a long period of voluntary service to poor people for 28 years on a part-time basis. Dr. Berry's services at the County institution began in 1946 with the appointment of attending gastroscopist, referring to the technique of looking into the stomach through flexible "telescopes". Dr. Berry has been a pioneer in this field, beginning in 1936 when he had the good fortune to work with the inventor of the first such scope or instrument, Dr. Rudolf Schindler, German refugee who had just arrived at the University of Chicago in 1935. This was only three years after Dr. Schindler's invention of the first practical gastroscope.

At the time of Dr. Berry's County Hospital's retirement on July 31, 1974, he had attained the rank of Senior Attending Physician and Chief of the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Service. He had looked into 10,000 stomachs and trained more than 350 postgraduate doctors from many parts of the world. He had written many research articles; contributed to four medical books and invented one scope, carrying his name and used for the purpose of seeing and removing tissues from the stomach ~~for diagnosis~~ for microscopic diagnosis. During this period, Dr. Berry also wrote an article in the book title "A Century of Missions in the A.M.E. Church" written by his father the late Rev. L. L. Berry, long time secretary of Missions.

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The end of Dr. Berry's service at the County Hospital once known as the largest in the world with ³³⁰⁰ ~~230~~ beds, may be looked upon as a triumph^h and a disaster. ~~In 1946~~ Dr. Berry "crashed the racially rigid teaching hospital staff in 1946 as the first Black attending staff doctor since Dr. Dan Williams, the pioneer heart surgeon, 50 years before. On leaving 28 years later, the prestigious Cook County Hospital now with 85% Black patients has acquired no other Black attending physician in the Department of Medicine (Internal), although a few appointments in other departments have Black doctors. This travesty, Dr. Berry feels, is due mainly to relative insensitivity to the needs of Black professional opportunity at this institution through the years.

The triumph associated with the end of Dr. Berry's work at the Cook County Hospital is the publication on June 30, 1974 of his 650 page, technical book with 128 color photographs of ulcers, cancers and all other diseases in the digestive canal as seen through fiberoptic endoscopes. The title of the book published by Charles C. Thomas, one of the best known medical book publishers is "Gastrointestinal Pan Endoscopy", by L. H. Berry and International Contributors. Dr. Berry wrote all or most of 15 chapters, designed and edited the book while 20 chapters were written by contributors from 10 countries and four continents. Included are Sir Francis Avery Jones of London who wrote the Introduction, several contributors from Japan, Germany, France and of course the United States, etc.

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Dr. Berry is especially proud that seven of his guest contributors were his former students at the Cook County Hospital and the Cook County Graduate School and with considerable humility, he expresses his gratitude in being able to acquire the participation of so many specialists of superior quality. Among them is a brilliant Black young gastroenterologist who is a Commander in the Navy and Assistant Chief of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Berry plans now to be able to give more time to writing health articles of interest and value to the A.M.E. Church community through the cooperation of the Christian Recorder and other lay periodicals. It is hoped that our readers will look forward to reading these articles which will occur from time to time in a Health Column.