

Medical Missionary Helps Indian People

"My regular fee for removing an appendix is \$14. Delivering a baby, including nine months pre-natal care, runs a patient about \$3, if the birth is normal. A complicated delivery could cost \$6 to \$20."

Sound like a statement out of the 1880s?

"Not at all" according to an attractive young former Torrance resident, Dr. Lorraine Biswanger who practices medicine at the Christian Hospital in Jhansi, India.

Dr. Biswanger, a general surgeon, was back in Torrance on a year furlough after completing five years as chief medical superintendent at the 100-bed facility.

The 70-year-old hospital is sponsored by the Woman's Union Missionary Society, the first such organization to send single women out to do medical-missionary work. A New York based organization, the missionary society contributes approximately 60 per cent of the operating revenue for the hospital. The remainder comes from patients who pay according to their ability.

Dr. Biswanger said that although operating the hospital keeps her staff of 100 ex-

tremely busy, they also operate a fully accredited school of nursing which graduates 12 nurses a year. "Our four year course includes three years of general nursing studies and one year midwifery. In our hospital, nurses handle normal deliveries. If they didn't I couldn't cope with all the patients," she said.

Dr. Biswanger pointed out that as the only doctor in the hospital, it is impossible for her to limit herself to surgery. "Much emphasis is placed on diseases of women and children. We also do a great deal of OB work."

"Malnutrition and anemia are frequent medical problems in Jhansi, with tuberculosis the number one major health problem," Dr. Biswanger said.

"Many rare diseases occur here. I have seen medical conditions never described in any text books. One of our biggest headaches is patients waiting too long before coming to us for treatment. I have removed tumors weighing as much as 25 to 30 pounds. It would be fascinating, if only I had more time for study and research," she said.

"Surgery patients have a high incidence of recovery," Dr. Biswanger pointed out. "Any person surviving childhood has developed an unusually tough constitution," she said.

"In more than 1,000 surgeries I have encountered only one postoperative wound infection. No hospital in America could match a record like that. Our patients are amazingly hardy," she said.

Asked how she chose her life's work, Dr. Biswanger said she had always wanted to be a missionary. As she grew up, she studied missions throughout the world and found the greatest need was for medical missionaries.

"My work is entirely with women. In Jhansi, men are not allowed to work in the area of medicine in which I concentrate. I find great job satisfaction in knowing I fill a need in an area closed to male doctors," she said.

Unusual happenings have become quite usual to Dr. Biswanger. She told about an orphan boy, Gideon, placed in her care at the age of six months. "In early infancy, Gideon had developed a TB in-

fection of the brain and spinal cord, which affected his entire system. He was a grotesque, ugly skeleton, weighing only 5 pounds. Severe deformities resulting from damaged nerve tissues left him with hands and feet curled upward and head permanently turned to the left side. Through tests on nerve tissue indicated permanent damage. Gideon was dying. There was no hope for his recovery," Dr. Biswanger said.

"Occasionally, at Christian Hospital, visiting missionaries tour our facility. While taking such a tour, a missionary from Pakistan noticed the ugly baby in his crib and picked him up in his arms. Declining to complete the tour, she stayed with Gideon for more than 30 minutes."

"Much later, I learned that while holding Gideon in her arms, the missionary prayed he would be miraculously healed," Dr. Biswanger said. "And he was."

"During the next three or four months, all abnormalities and deformities gradually disappeared. Nerve damage disappeared as if it never happened. Gideon started to move his head, arms, and legs."

"He gained weight and soon learned to walk and talk. He was a brighter than average child with a cute personality."

"Gideon stayed with us until he was 18 months old and then we found him a good adoptive family. This year he starts kindergarten. He is a healthy, happy, bright child."

"As a doctor, I could in no way explain Gideon's recovery. It was a miracle. It is thrilling to see God work in supernatural ways," Dr. Biswanger said.

Educated at UCLA and John Hopkins University Medical School, Dr. Biswanger served her internship and residency in general surgery at Harbor General Hospital. It was there she formed lasting friendships with local area physicians who say she is an excellent doctor and a remarkable woman. These men serve as her instructors and benefactors when she is home on furlough.

"So many new techniques come into use while I am out of the country, I use part of my furlough to brush up," Dr. Biswanger said. "Fortunately, hospitals like Riviera

Community and Torrance Memorial are interested in my work and help me to keep up. They cut through the customary 'red tape' to grant me surgical privileges. I was able to work as first assistant during 18 major surgeries."

"The medical staffs were thoughtful, helpful, and showed personal interest in my work," Dr. Biswanger said.

Charles Johnson, Riviera Community Hospital administrator, said that the work Dr. Biswanger is doing in India is important. At a time when four-fifths of the world's population consists of women and children under 16, a doctor specializing in care for women is filling a vital need. "We were happy to assist such a dedicated woman. She is a remarkable person and one of the most unselfish women I've ever met," he said.

Asked about her future plans, Dr. Biswanger pointed out that despite impressive advancement in medical care for city dwellers there is a desperate need to bring medical aid to the villages. "It's much harder to build adequate facilities in rural areas and staffing them is even more difficult."

"It is my hope to establish a mobile unit, equipped for all but major surgery, that can travel to neighboring areas. For patients requiring further hospitalization, we could bring them back to our facility in the mobile unit," she said.

This project is already in the planning stage, but it will be at least next summer before the vehicle can be outfitted.

"I have signed another five-year contract with the Woman's Union Missionary Society to work in Jhansi," Dr. Biswanger said.

"I hope I will be allowed to fulfill it. The Indian government is making such rapid strides in providing medical care for her people that many medical missionaries have been asked to leave," she said.

"Should my work end in India, I would apply for a transfer to a smaller area such as Nepal or Pakistan. Where I work doesn't matter nearly so much as doing the kind of work I love so deeply. Serving humanity and God in one profession is a privilege and offers the greatest satisfaction I could ever hope for."

ANN LANDERS



Wife Needs Reassurance

Dear Ann Landers: My wife is 22, in excellent health and is expecting our first child in about six months. Everything was fine until her mother began to scare her to death with stories about labor. She told my wife that her own labor was so excruciating that she lost her voice for two days because she screamed so much. She also told her she had bitten her lips so hard that the cuts didn't heal for three weeks.

Last night my mother-in-law talked my wife into having a cesarean instead of a natural birth. My own mother says my mother-in-law is crazy and that she should stop filling my wife's head with rubbish. My wife says if she can escape the agonies of labor by having a cesarean, why not? I don't know what to say. —EXPECTANT FATHER.

Dear Ex: A cesarean is a major operation and no obstetrician will perform it unless there is a medical reason. Merely to escape labor is not a medical reason.

Mother-in-law is a generation or two behind the times. Ask your wife's doctor to tell her about the help that will be available during labor. She needs reassurance, not horror stories.

Dear Ann Landers: Two years ago, when I was 12, I wrote you a letter and asked how to be popular. I felt like the ugliest and dumbest person in the whole world. When I received your answer I was really mad at you. Your reply was so cornball that I wanted to write again and ask you to send me a nickel because I felt I had wasted the stamp.

Two weeks later I found your letter stuck in a book. (I thought I had thrown it out.) I read it again. You wrote, "The way to have a friend is to BE one. If you want to be interesting to others you must be INTERESTED in others — and show it." Suddenly I wasn't mad any more. It made sense. I decided to try it.

I forced myself to smile and speak to people I had ignored for years. I discovered a lot of nifty kids all over the place. I thought, "Gee, they have changed." But I came to realize that I was the one who had changed. Pretty soon I wasn't thinking about my ugliness and my dumbness any more. I was thinking about how neat it was to be friendly. After a while I didn't feel ugly or dumb any more.

So now, I am writing to say "thank you" and to ask you to print my letter. If it worked for me it can work for others. When I get a few dollars ahead I am going to send you a nice gift to show my appreciation. You changed my life.—THE NEW ME.

Dear New You: Your letter was a beautiful expression of appreciation and I am grateful. As for a gift—I never discourage giving because I know that giving does as much for the giver as for the receiver. So, if you want to do something nice for me, put a couple of dollars in an envelope and send it to your local Heart Fund.

Confidential to Too Much Me: A diet may solve part of the problem but don't expect miracles. Bone structure is sometimes a factor.

Do you feel ill at ease . . . out of 117 is everybody having a good time but you? Write for Ann Landers' booklet, "The Key to Popularity," enclosing with your request 25 cents in coin and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope. Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the Press-Herald, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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EDWARD P. HARDIN
Refinery Manager

Refinery Manager Appointed

Edward P. Hardin, assistant manager of the Torrance refinery of Mobil Oil Corp. since 1965, today was named manager of the huge facility. Hardin succeeds J. E. Penick, who has been named vice president of manufacturing for Mobil's North American Division.

The new manager joined Mobil in 1947 at its Beaumont, Tex., refinery and subsequently held engineering and supervisory positions in processing operations. In 1962, Hardin was named facilities planning supervisor for the firm's manufacturing department in New York City. He became manager of analysis and controls in July, 1964.

A graduate of Texas A&M, he holds a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering.

Hardin and his family live in Palos Verdes.

Man Held On Assault Charges

A family argument about business affairs ended in an attempted murder Saturday when a Torrance nurseman stabbed his wife with a switchblade knife.

Booked on charges of assault with attempt to commit murder was Akira Okada, 53, of 18715 S. Western Ave., after he admitted stabbing Sue Shimizu Okada. Doctors at Gardens Emergency Hospital said five stitches were required to close the gash in the woman's chest.

A witness told Torrance police that Okada had been drinking and nagging his wife all morning before the stabbing occurred around noon. Okada had scolded his wife for neglecting the plants and ordering too many of the wrong kind of plants, it was reported.

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KENTWOOD PLAYERS

Sandburg Reading Rates Mild Bravo

Experiments in the theater—especially the American theater—are always a gamble.

The Kentwood Players have gambled with their current production, "Carl Sandburg. Yes." The concert reading is based on the life and works of Carl Sandburg and the success of the reading depends largely on the viewer's appreciation for the poet.

He was a prolific writer—perhaps too prolific. And he wrote of an America which has not been since the 30s. Writer-director Monty Ash has put together a script based on Sandburg's poems, biography, songs, and other writings and managed to stage it well.

But the central fault remains Sandburg himself. Ash, in his epilog for the production, describes the poet as "the laureate of industrial America." Perhaps he was—then.

Raymond Kark is featured as Sandburg. Kark is exceptionally good as a performer, having mastered many of the mannerisms of the poet. The resemblance is good and his stage manner is delightful.

Highlight of the production is the able performance of Robert Preston, who serves up several selections from Sandburg's "Songbag."

The chorus readings are well staged—those by Herb Stillman ("I Am the Grass," "Jesus") and Lou Rosen ("Advice to a Son," "Paula's Face") are exceptionally well done—despite the dull and distant sounds of such works as "Machine," "Fog" and "Love."

There is little, in fact, about the performance which can be faulted—except for the sometimes distracting and lagging multi-voice renditions of "Chicago" and "Machine." Carl Sandburg's greatness

Parks Group Sets Meeting

Members of the Lomita Parks Commission have called a special meeting for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, to discuss plans and specifications for the redevelopment of that city's Recreation Center.

Final plans for the project will be presented at the meeting. The special meeting was ordered when the commission failed to muster a quorum for its Oct. 24 session.

Trustees To Meet At South

The Torrance Board of Education will meet at South High School, 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy., Monday at 7:30 p.m., according to Bert M. Lynn, president.

The meeting is the first in a series of four meetings to be held in the community this year. Each year the board holds one meeting at each high school in order to enable the public to attend a board meeting close to home, Lynn said.

Other meetings, which are open to the public, are held at the board rooms in the district central office, 2335 Plaza del Amo, the first and third Monday night each month.

Future meetings to be held throughout the city this year include: Nov. 20—North High School, 3620 W. 182nd St.; Jan. 15—Torrance High School, 2200 W. Carson St.; and Feb. 5—West High School, 20401 Victor St.

Agendas for each meeting are available at all branch libraries in Torrance the Friday preceding each meeting, Lynn stated.

To Pay Bonus

The board of directors of Union Carbide Corp. has declared a quarterly dividend of 50 cents per share on outstanding capital stock, payable Dec. 1 to stockholders of record Nov. 6.

COUNT MARCO

Try! You Can Avoid Arguments

While it takes all kinds to make a marriage, it only takes two within that marriage to make an argument. Some partners think arguments are necessary because, "Making up is such fun." Others say, "A good argument clears the air."

Personally, I feel that arguing is childish, the dreary result of two small minds getting together to reduce each other in size.

Misunderstandings don't necessarily have to end in argument. Too much time is wasted in having to rebuild hurt feelings and shattered egos, rather than in discovering the reason for the disagreement.

The trouble with you modern American wives is your guilt complex. Rightfully you do know deep down that you could be doing better. So when he lets off steam,



SO HE CAN WALK . . . Dr. Lorraine Biswanger, a head polio at age two, Gaffar is the water carrier's general surgeon, adjust the braces of Gaffar, who is at Christian Hospital in Jhansi, India, where Dr. Biswanger spent five years as chief medical superintendent. She has just returned to India after a year's furlough, part of which she spent in Torrance working with area surgeons at Riviera Community and Torrance Memorial hospitals to brush up on new surgical techniques.

Conference Set at ECC

El Camino College, in conjunction with the American Association of Junior Colleges, will host Allied Health Services Educational Conference Nov. 9 in the Campus Theater.

Activities will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. The first general session will be devoted to manpower needs of the allied health services and some of the current developments in junior college programs to meet these needs.

A series of workshops will follow the general session covering dental hygiene and dental assistant programs, x-ray technician programs, and the area of education from medical technical training. The final workshop will cover dietitian technician training.

you immediately feel so guilty that you have to fight back, fearing he might see through all your inadequacies unless you blur his mind with your bickering. Actually, his troubled mind is probably occupied with thoughts of important business, which triggered his outburst in the first place. If you'd only keep your mouth shut, he would be none the wiser about your shortcomings.

Here's one of the finest solutions for reducing arguments next to nothing from a fan:

"Sometimes men don't confide in their wives because they don't want to worry or upset them.

"I have found that if you don't 'fall apart' when something small comes along, but agree with his decisions, in time your husband will take

you more into his confidence. I have also found that if my husband loses patience with me about something, it is usually a sign that he is upset about something else. I don't say anything at the time, but after he is over the crisis, we talk it over and no one is hurt and no angry words have been said which cannot be taken back."

The next time your breast starts "raving," listen to what he's upset about. You'll probably discover to your surprise and relief it doesn't concern you at all. All you have to do is say, "Yes, dear!"

You will have nothing to take back that would have been better left unsaid and he'll spend the next few days trying to make up for his self-admitted rotten disposition by being a better husband to such a fantastically under-riding wife.