

THE FOURTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON FUNDAMENTAL CANCER  
RESEARCH - M. D. ANDERSON HOSPITAL

Banquet, May 12, 1950

Master of Ceremonies: Judge Dudley K. Woodward, Jr.

Banquet Address: C. P. Rhoads, M.D.

Guest of Honor: E. W. Bertner, M.D.

Judge Woodward

Doctor Clark, Mrs. Clark, very distinguished guests. A man who spends his whole life under the exacting requirements of a scientific accuracy is to be excused on an occasion like this for exaggeration, and on that ground I ask your pardon for Doctor Clark. He did the best he could in view of his proximity to the man he imagines he works for. The whole State of Texas including its University is proud indeed on this occasion. We are in the company of the great when this group meets. This is indeed a marvelous scientific accomplishment, and you may be assured that in this Symposium there are gathered men who stand shoulder high with the greatest in this age of great scientific research and development. So that the State of Texas is proud, and The University of Texas is proud to have a part in this. There is an especial reason why The University of Texas is proud to have a part in this meeting this evening. You will have noticed that the guest of honor of this occasion is Dr. E. W. Bertner of Houston. To The University of Texas and its officials, he stands as the man of great vision and unflagging courage who has seen this development from afar and has let nothing, and I mean absolutely nothing, stand in the way of its accomplishment. I shall not forget that Spring morning an incredibly short time ago when he came to my room in the Rice Hotel in accompany with John Freeman and Bill Bates and



Horace Wilkins and I think Dr. Scherer was also present. I had but lately come on the Board of Regents in an era of considerable turmoil, trying to get some acquaintance with the problems and the opportunities of the University; and that distinguished group came to breakfast with my wife and me and they quite took away our breaths if not our appetites by their presentation of what you have seen today - this Texas Medical Center, all that it means to the Southwest and to the country as center of Research, unending study and care of the afflicted among human kind. It was an experience I can never forget. It is most appropriate that this meeting should have as its guest of honor that great scholar and surgeon and patriot, Bill Bertner. He can't be here tonight to extend the welcome he would like to extend to you, but he would like to have it said to you that he has caused the foundation which he has established to provide for the Bertner Lectureship which each year will call the man who is considered to have made the most distinguished contribution to this field of endeavor, this field very commonly in the minds of the laymen considered as the field of cancer teaching; and he will be brought before this Symposium year after year as the guest speaker and receive the Bertner Award. It is just a minor token of his continued abiding interest in the accomplishments of this group. And now, if we may, we will have a word of greeting from him through transcription. Dr. Bertner.

Doctor Bertner

*Voice on transcription record + tape*

Ladies and Gentlemen. I am most deeply touched that my friends in the Anderson Hospital should name me as guest of honor at this the Fourth Symposium in Cancer Research. No one knows better than I the importance of meetings such as this. Aside from my present personal interest in the progress of cancer research, I want to say that it is a deep source of satisfaction to me that this meeting,



which we inaugurated during my time as Acting Director of the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research, should now have grown to its current size and unquestioned value. I am impressed with the caliber and wide variety of speakers assembled at this meeting, and I am confident that all who are here to listen and to learn are finding it an inspiration and a valuable aid in their work. It is a great disappointment to me that I cannot be with you in person but that is a fault of my doctors. You know they have been doing quite a bit of research with me as a guinea pig. I have long since lost count of the numbers of doctors and procedures that have been used on me and still they have not gotten me in condition to attend this important meeting. I have been told that I am a pretty tough subject which is no doubt true. I am looking forward now to next year when I plan to be with you in person. These lectures originally were conceived with the intention of bringing together the persons doing research in the basic sciences and those individuals carrying for patients with malignant disease. It is only through the cooperative effort of these different groups that we can hope to solve the problem of human cancer. The isolated research here may turn up facts of great value in regard to basic growth phenomena, but it will be of little use in solving the age old problem of malignant disease unless it can be interpreted in terms of human function. There is no reason to think that research is any less fundamental because it applies to the higher mammalian organisms as typified by the human patient. What I have said about bringing together the two types of scientists in cancer research also applies to the project that now has my whole attention and highest hopes, The Texas Medical Center. In the Texas Medical Center, we are bringing together in a working team the educators, the clinicians, the nurses and the researchers. In a democratic federation are linked the schools of medicine,



dentistry and nursing; both general and special hospitals; the technicians and public health workers; the statisticians and the public relations people; the administrators; and the laymen who give so much of their valuable time to service of the sick as trustees of our many institutions. We are confident that The Texas Medical Center in years to come will rank with the great Medical Centers of the nation, and we invite you to return often to our midst. Good luck and more power to all of you. Again permit me to express my great disappointment in not being with you. Good night.

Judge Woodward

No one of us will live to hear a message from a man more gallant and courageous than that. Under his leadership, it is not remarkable that we have come to the stature we now enjoy and that the future holds for us so much of promise. I am confident of what lies ahead for the Texas Medical Center and for the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research because of my confidence in the people of Texas. A former president of the University of Texas, a great man and philosopher, said that the only justifiable endowment for a state University was the confidence of the people. This was Harry Yandell Benedict, Texas born, a great philosopher. It has been my thesis since I returned to active connection with the University that higher education in Texas is no longer a mendicant, that it may depend with confidence upon the enlightened and philanthropic citizenry of the State, in private and public life, for its needs as it demonstrates them to exist. I have had by mere coincidence within this week three occasions to reaffirm my belief in that doctrine. On Monday night of this week, I happened to be at Midland, Texas. For the benefit of those of you who do not enjoy citizenship in the State of Texas, I'll explain that Midland is an incomprehensible city 650 to



700 miles Northwest of here, the nerve center of the great oil industry of Southeastern New Mexico and Northwestern Texas. Some people would call it a new city, some people might think it was not a cosmopolitan and informed city; but Monday evening when I was there on business of the University, for the University has business in every square mile of the 254 counties of Texas, I read an editorial which would be a credit to the Manchester Guardian, the New York Times, either of the Houston papers, or even The Dallas News. It is headed "Research Takes Time." It is in faultless English and its logic is even better than that, and the thesis of it is that the problems to be solved direct all intelligent research and that gifts should be unrestricted. Now when that is made the leading editorial of the Midland Reporter Telegram for May 8, 1950, naturally my confidence is restored in the thesis that the people of Texas understand and believe in education which is really education. And today, just as I came to Houston, a telephone message came from the office in Austin regarding the receipt of a will from the first woman graduate of the School of Architecture of the State of Texas, University of Texas in which she left her entire estate to the Board of Regents of The University of Texas not to be used for any restricted purpose but for whatever purposes the Board of Regents of The University of Texas might think best. And on this day of unusual accomplishments in this distinguished company, there was a third evidence of that. It also was in behalf of study and research when a distinguished citizen of this country, state and city known to all of you whether you be of Texas or elsewhere, Jesse H. Jones, created and authorized us to announce tonight the Jesse H. Jones Fellowship in Cancer Education in honor of Dr. E. W. Bertner. And the terms of that grant omitting any legal formalities were these: We will provide the funds required, speaking to my distinguished friend here and



to my equally distinguished friend on the left, you gentlemen use them as they will do the most good. We have no concern with that; that's your business. We provide them; you get the results. Is it any wonder that I believe that education in Texas is endowed with the confidence of the people of Texas and that it is no longer a mendicant. For many more years than any or most of you can remember I am of Texas, born in sinew, and I know where of I speak. These fellowships set up today, in my judgment, are the most significant events of this occasion regardless of whatever else the Symposium may bring about. They bring about a partnership in human undertaking between the Memorial Hospital and Sloan-Kettering Foundation in New York and the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research, a branch of The University of Texas, in the Southwest. Herein equal partnership. My friend on the left has been good enough to express himself to the effect that his institution is greatly honored by the association, and we, of course, are greatly honored. It is contemplated that men and women of the very highest senior qualifications in the field of medical teaching and research shall be found to enjoy these fellowships which carry with them a honorarium of \$5000 a year; and that in the operation of these fellowships the fellow shall enjoy training at the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research for one year and the succeeding year at Memorial Hospital Sloan-Kettering Foundation of which Doctor Rhoads is the Director in New York. All of you must know of the tremendously fine and well-deserved standing of that institution. That our comparatively young operation here, under the direction of Doctor Clark and those who have supported and sustained him, should have attained the stature entitling it to that importance is to my mind significant beyond expression. And the possibilities of that association, I repeat, are



greater by far than any other result which may be contemplated from this Symposium, and I say that regardless of my profound ignorance of what in the world you have been talking about. There are a good many things that make it abundantly worthwhile to put in a good deal of time and effort on The University of Texas. Some of my friends seem to think it a little unusual that I spend a good deal of time on it. It seems a perfectly natural thing to me. I haven't gone to bed a night of my mature life without recognizing that I was in debt to the world, and whatever I am doing now is merely the opportunity of repaying a little of that obligation. But I am not getting anywhere with discharging that obligation because the compensations I run into every day are far more than the value of any effort that I put into it. It would take a long time and much more capacity than I could bring to any undertaking in which I was engaged to outweigh the pleasure and privileges of this occasion and especially the opportunity to meet one of our most distinguished guests. In my book there is only one kind of aristocracy and that is the aristocracy of accomplishment, and tonight we are by that measure in the presence of royalty. It takes not only ability and industry, it takes courage and vision to break the frontiers of tradition and arise at the heights of possible attainment. Tonight, we have with us and those of you who have been here today have been in company with one of the great men of our generation who has not been afraid to break tradition where it stood in the way of fundamental progress. I shall not again make the mistake of trying to get out of Houston the same day I got here, but I had to do that tonight; and if I undertook to account his accomplishments in his chosen field, the Southern Pacific would never hold that train for me. Here is one who has contributed to the professional accomplishments of the American people in his



generation as greatly as any other man whose name comes now to mind. He is the director of that institution, that great institution in New York which has dedicated itself to the leadership in science as fundamental as any which has faced this day and generation. In order that you may have what time there is left to hear him, I now have the honor of presenting to you Doctor Rhoads, the Director of the Memorial Hospital and Sloan-Kettering Foundation.

Doctor Rhoads.