

An Interview with Professor Gibson, Dean of Medical Faculty

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Annual regurgitation of the same old stuff?—Dean Gibson addressing freshmen.

The Problem Itself

Professor Gibson sees the situation as not completely a medical problem, but actually a financial one. At present, jobs are generally lacking. Of the possibly 200,000 unemployed, some may have to be doctors, but registered doctors are at least better off than many others as they have a much more marketable skill. They should be better able to stand up to the problem than the unskilled.

Is there any way out of the Problem?

Professor Gibson feels that the Medical & Health Department is anxious to employ as many of our graduates as they can. But their budget is limited. To increase the budget for medical care, the Government would need to cut down those for other purposes, like social welfare and education, including University education and student grants, which may be just as needy. So he

sees nothing that can be done in this except at the expense of other needs, which no one wishes to sacrifice either.

Suggestion for the coming Doctors

Professor Gibson stresses that the registered doctors can go into private practice in areas of Hong Kong where doctors are needed. Though it may be tough, one does not necessarily do worse in the long run; it may prove to be better eventually to have your own practice than to work for someone else, Government included.

Regarding the probable Brain-drain of Doctors

Professor Gibson thinks that it would be very regrettable if the doctors trained here cannot serve here. But, the University Faculty is not a production centre to supply the Medical & Health Department only. Trained doctors should be free individuals, capable of working anywhere, here in private practice etc., overseas or in China.

“There is much sympathy in the medical profession for young doctors now facing an unexpected and daunting situation. To those outside the medical profession, the doctors’ problems seem less serious than those being faced by many of their fellow citizens at this time. To those looking for jobs paid by public finance the support of the public is important and it is well known that every doctor who graduates has already received much support from the public purse and the assumption made that he is capable of looking after himself.

This seems rather a dreary message to those who are naturally worried but I believe our graduates are quite capable of facing facts and finding solutions when pressed on !”

