

Editorial

Seminar on Orthomolecular Medicine Ben Gurion University Medical School May 21, 1987

This may be the first Orthomolecular seminar held at any medical school. Why at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel? Perhaps because this young medical school has not become fossilized in its thinking and is willing to commit itself to a searching examination of the principles and practises of Orthomolecular medicine. Also because Edward and Marion Vickar endowed a chair in psychiatry to be called "The Hoffer Vickar Chair of Psychiatry. A Unit of Orthomolecular Research." The offer brought Orthomolecular psychiatry to the attention of Ben Gurion University. A series of friendly discussions including a meeting in Beer Sheva in May, 1986, with the President, the Dean of Medicine and the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, Ben Gurion University and the Vickars, agreed on the principles which would guide the chair. The first holder is Prof. R.H. Belmaker.

On Wednesday, May 20, 1987, the chair will be formally dedicated during the week of the annual meeting of the Board. On the following day we will hold a symposium to be chaired by Prof. Belmaker.

The seminar will include the following participants:

Dr. Linus Pauling, Vitamins and Health.

Dr. G. Vickar, A Clinical Practice with Orthomolecular Therapy.

Prof. R.H. Belmaker, Folic Acid Supplementation in Lithium Therapy.

Dr. J. Hoffer, Metabolism of Vitamin B-3. Dr. A. Hoffer, Treatment of Acute Schizophrenia. Dr. B. Rimland, High Dosage Vitamin B-6 in the Treatment of Autistic Children and Adults.

The seminar is loaded with Vickars (Marion is my sister) and Hoffers, which is not surprising as we all have been involved with Orthomolecular medicine since its inception in 1952.

Several years ago, a Government of Alberta committee examined the claims of Orthomolecular psychiatry. This committee released a series of favorable recommendations including a request to all universities to become involved in partnership with Orthomolecular practitioners to further review and expand these studies. No American university has accepted this challenge. Ben Gurion Medical School is the first.

Any physician interested in attending this seminar is invited to do so. For further information contact Mr. A. Hiuni, Executive Director, Western Canada, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, 1107 - 211 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2A2, or myself.

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