

Physicians Who Are Not Permitted To Save Lives

by an experienced American physician

March 27—The unnecessary difficulty doctors now face in preventing suffering and saving lives has several sources, no one of which alone explains the totality of the problem. Everyone is aware of the routine denial of diagnostic procedures and treatment by insurance companies, as well as the non-continuity of care caused by changing contracts.

Also common is that medication coverage is often limited to medications outside those prescribed, while pricing practices are used to control the availability of drugs and devices. It is glaringly obvious that the immoral valuation of money before life can explain all of these situations. However, there is also a deeper side to this story.

Sworn to the Hippocratic Oath, each individual physician is personally responsible to follow the principle of life and alleviation of suffering above all else—a moral principle placing the patient above all other considerations. It is the individual physician who diagnoses and treats in the name of this principle. While science is one tool toward this goal, today this has been turned on its head.

The physician has now become the servant of a particular definition of science, one which is uninterested in the process of life. This is a new “life-detached” cold science, mathematically expressed by probabilities, statistics—superseding the commitment to life by imposition of adherence to guidelines based on statistical probabilities. Math before reason, math instead of cognition, chance before causation—this is population-control medicine, rather than life-pro-

cess principled medicine. Denying causation, the physician sees his actions as not producing the patient outcome, but as submissive to Chance as expressed by a patient/physician detached numerical probability.

It is impossible to ignore the rising death-rates across the board reported by the CDC recently. Is this the result of all of the above? Was this imposed on medicine deliberately, and to what purpose? Such a question raises the issue of causal intent, rather than attributing this circumstance merely to Chance. Was the submission of physicians to mathematical cold science the result of conformity to popular opinion? Is a statistical probability a type of numerical popular opinion which denies man’s cognition and his morally principled actions, and sees the physician and patient as mere beasts or billiard balls, rather than intertwined in creatively improving the process of life?



The Hippocratic Oath morally commits each physician to place the patient above all other considerations. Today, probabilities and statistical guidelines have replaced that Oath, while death-rates rise. Here, Hippocrates is depicted refusing bribery by Artaxerxes, in the 1792 painting by Anne-Louis Girodet de Roussy Trioson.