

problems which could be dealt with by doctors who could prevent many cases from reaching the stage where divorce proceedings are necessary.

The problem of dealing with personal relationship difficulties which result in marriage breakdown was fully developed by Mr Wallis, who pointed out that the therapeutic task was not to try to eliminate differences between partners, but to face them in an atmosphere of acceptance, to help to free them from the tyranny of the normal, from guilt and from shame, and to give them direction which would help them to become more fully and more freely themselves.

In his address the Lord Bishop of Guildford gave us an entertaining and thought-provoking discourse on the value of enlightened religious thinking and education—coupled with the parents' responsibility towards the development of full maturity in the young man or woman. He advised us to teach young people the difference between the world that can be measured and the world than cannot, and he emphasized this with his analogy of Venus the planet and Venus the hellenic world's epitome of grace.

It was interesting to hear Professor Stengel's contribution on various aspects of mental health which affect people in the 20–40 age group, and his remarks on the high incidence of suicide attempts in this age group added weight to the dramatic statement he made when he described the age of discretion 20–40, as the age of neurosis. Professor Stengel reminded us that although physical and biological maturity are normally reached by the age of 18, mental, social, and matrimonial maturity may not be fully developed at that stage.

On your behalf, I would like to thank our six speakers for their magnificent contributions, both in their papers and in the discussion periods, and I am sure you will agree that we have never before listened to such a splendid symposium.

## VOTE OF THANKS

**Dr George Swift, T.D., M.A., B.M., B.CH. (*Faculty Provost*)**

Mr Chairman, we are most grateful to you for coming along to preside over this meeting in such a superb fashion. This has been an excellent symposium, and due credit for this must go to you.

I would like to thank his Worship the Mayor of Bournemouth

and the Corporation for the use of this Conference Room and for the Reception which was held last night and I am also specially pleased to see that Alderman Mrs Wallis, who is Chairman of the Health Committee, is with us. We are also grateful to the Borough Librarian who provided a most interesting exhibition of books and maps. One of the important functions of our College over the last few years has been to organize and arrange a series of symposia, and this one has been possible entirely through the help and finance that have been given by the Pharmaceutical Division of Geigy (U.K.) Limited. The amount of work that is carried out over a period of two years to build up a symposium and see it through until the final report on the proceedings is published is quite extraordinary. Messrs. Geigy assist in publishing the final report which appears as a supplement to our *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*. I would like to ask the representatives of this Company who are present to pass on our thanks to the Company for their excellent support. As Provost of the faculty I am aware of the vast amount of work which has been carried out by Dr J. Loakes, our faculty assistant secretary, and the symposium secretary, Dr M. Johnson, and I know you would wish me to thank them on your behalf. May I also express our thanks to the speakers who made this meeting such a successful one.

This is one of the best symposia I have ever attended. One reason for this may be that no disease was mentioned on the programme and nothing was said of drugs. Yet this symposium fulfilled the original aim of the Royal College of General Practitioners, which was to help us to be whole doctors who should treat the whole person.