

FIRST SESSION

The Sixth and Seventh Ages of Man

WELCOME

Dr S. Cole, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.G.P. (*Provost of the South-east England Faculty*)

MAY I welcome you all to what promises to be a most interesting and stimulating symposium.

It is most fitting and a great honour for us that the chairman for the first session is Lord Amulree, president of the British Geriatric Society and honorary fellow of our College. He has done more than anyone else to make the study of geriatrics a speciality in its own right, and in so doing has made an enormous contribution to the care and understanding of the aged and infirm.

OPENING REMARKS

The Right Honourable Lord Amulree, M.A., M.D., M.B., B.Chir., F.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.G.P. (*Chairman*)

I am very gratified at the way interest in the problems of the elderly continues to increase, because it is one of the great difficulties that the National Health Service has to face today. The psychiatric aspect of the problem is particularly attractive because the number of elderly folk who become mentally confused and whose minds deteriorate seems also to be increasing. Establishment of geriatric departments is something of great importance; with a properly staffed, efficiently run department there should be practically no waiting list at all, and therefore this should be of great assistance to general practitioners.

High blood pressure and low blood pressure in the elderly

Dr L. Wollner, M.B., M.R.C.P. (*consultant physician*)

It is well known that high blood pressure can be harmful, but what is the significance of high and low blood pressure in the elderly, and when is treatment indicated?

Factors which determine the systemic arterial pressure

The mean systemic arterial pressure is determined by the cardiac output and the peripheral resistance. The cardiac output is dependent on the force and the rate of