

THE ART AND THE SCIENCE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

WELCOME

Dr Annis Gillie, *O.B.E.*, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P. (*president, The College of General Practitioners*) took the chair and declared the symposium open and introduced Dr Denis Wheeler, Managing Director of the Wellcome Foundation, our host.

Dr Denis E. Wheeler, B.Sc., Ph.D. (*managing director, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd.*). The Foundation has taken a very great interest indeed in the work of your College and it has been our privilege to have acted as hosts to these annual symposia for the past eight years now. In this sense, therefore, I feel we have helped you a little in your promotion of postgraduate education.

It seems to me most appropriate that your chairman this morning should be your new president, Dr Gillie, whose Report is now universally known as the Gillie Report and has been so well received that today it is generally regarded as the starting off point for so much that is new and exciting in the current studies of that supremely important field of medicine that we call general practice. The time has undoubtedly come when medical science must direct its attention more than it has in the past to the care of patients outside the hospital, but, in seeking to promote more efficient and effective technical competence, we must, I think, all of us, be supremely careful not to lose the personal and the human touch. Perhaps on a Sunday morning it is not altogether unreasonable to draw a comparison between general practice and the Church; and to suggest that not entirely dissimilar qualities are needed for each if the well-being of the community is to be adequately served.

There must, I feel, inevitably be many changes in general practice in the future. Today's incurable disorders will be