

Reflections - A New Section for the Journal

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Most of us were raised on the “case-centred” approach to illness; our instructor would speak of a “nice case of mitral stenosis” in room 417. However, we always realized that we were dealing with people, and as we became their “most responsible physicians,” the effects of the illnesses on the patients and their families became more apparent. Many medical schools are now teaching “patient-centred care,” so students are aware at an earlier stage of the human aspects of their chosen profession. Having said this, clinicians and students are often so preoccupied with workloads and keeping up with commitments that the human aspects are often insufficiently appreciated.

As neurologists and neurosurgeons, we are witness to and participants in the most poignant of human dramas and ethical dilemmas. As humans ourselves, we have our own stories to tell. We interact with colleagues, other professionals, patients and relatives and as teachers and students. However, these stories and

experiences are seldom given expression in print or lectures. J. Max Findlay has suggested that the Journal have a section devoted to our observations on modern-day practice, teaching, and the human aspects of medicine; furthermore, he has provided us with our first essay, “Withdrawal of Care,” for this new section. We invite essays, poems or stories for our new Reflections section, from students, residents and “veteran” clinicians. Please stay tuned and send us your reflections in 1500 words or less.



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