

THE DENIS BROWNE GOLD MEDAL 1971

Awarded to C. Everett Koop

A few years ago the Trustees of the Great Ormond Street Museum expressed the wish to award a gold medal in memory of Denis Browne, to be presented at the B.A.P.S. Annual Congress.

The Executive felt that the Trustees should choose the person to whom the medal should be awarded and that they should particularly bear in mind original contributions to paediatric surgery.

In 1968 the medal was awarded to Robert Gross, in 1969 to Max Grob and in 1970 to David Waterston. The reverse side of the medal bears the inscription so frequently emphasized by David Waterston «The Aim of Paediatric Surgery is to set a Standard, not to Seek a Monopoly».

For 1971 the medal has been awarded to C. Everett Koop of Philadelphia.

C. Everett Koop M.D. was born in Flatbush, Brooklyn in 1917. Educated at Dartmouth College; he entered



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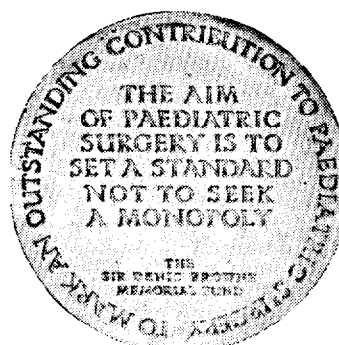
Cornell Medical College in 1938. His original intention was to specialize in cancer research but as surgical resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, he became interested in surgery under the influence of his chief of surgery Dr. Ravdin. In 1941 he was named Harrison

Fellow in Surgery and Surgical Research at Pennsylvania University. On the urging of Dr. Ravdin he became interested in paediatric surgery and joined the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In 1946 he went to the Children's Hospital in Boston for seven months as a Fellow, and returned to Philadelphia with the determination to dedicate himself to paediatric surgery although at the time literature was sparse.

Dr. Koop may be said to be a pioneer and at the same time a missionary for the improvement of paediatric surgery. As is the case of so many pioneers his pronouncements antagonized many people but his tenacity resulted in their acceptance.

His strong religious beliefs (he is an elder of the Presbyterian church) probably account for his highly developed missionary spirit which leads to his dictum that all physicians "have an obligation to teach". He has put his into practice by training many foreign born residents on condition that they returned to practice in their own lands.

Dr. Koop in addition to his numerous other activities is editor of the «Journal of Paediatric Surgery». His approach to his profession may be fairly summed up in another of his dicta "young doctors should pursue excellence, seek advancement, achieve competence and avoid any taint of mediocrity. Success in the professional world seems to authenticate the individual's Christian message".



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