

# The Linacre Quarterly

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Volume 9 | Number 3

Article 4

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July 1941

## Your Patients and You

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### Recommended Citation

Nix, James T. (1941) "Your Patients and You," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 9: No. 3, Article 4.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol9/iss3/4>

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### Your Patients and You

The Family Doctor, day by day, year after year, becomes as another relative. In close communion, he enjoys confidences, shares pleasures, divides grief. Between his life and his patient's, accurately and closely, a beautiful tapestry is interwoven on a background of black and white—sorrows and joys. Superimposed on this background, and blended into the scheme, are all shades and variations of color and light. Threads of gold and silver, of red and blue, of orange and green, of purple and rose form a pattern as beautiful as it is intricate, as varied and complete as the human emotions it portrays, as sacred as life itself. This is a pattern of life—your patients' and yours.

The doctor's visit is usually the most important event of the day for patients in a hospital. His presence should give new courage to the sick, inspire them

with confidence, and leave them improved. In every visit, the doctor should leave behind a part of the best in himself, revealed in faithful service, kindly care, cheerful thoughts, and comforting words.

In his daily visits, as he goes from room to room, the doctor must conceal many emotions. He will enter a room where an only child is dying, and will know only too well the signs of the impending end. \* \* \* Pity will surge through him, but he must suppress it, for he must lend courage to the stricken child's parents. When he leaves them, their frantic pleadings may sound in his ears. He must force himself to forget. The patient in the next room is well on the road to recovery, and he, unaware of the tragedy of his neighbor, expects a cheerful greeting from a smiling, well-pleased physician.—From "A Surgeon Reflects" by James T. Nix, M.D.