

Medical Ethic(s)

By Benjamin Wagener on November 12th, 2013.

Something like Ethics should normally be very well understood by any Medical Doctor. Ethics in Medicine is something of fundamental importance and this is almost all what we can hope from a Medic, that is to have a strong recognition and understanding of the ethics that made them officially Meds for the sake of any patient. The point here is that Medical Ethics is nowadays something quite problematic. Without putting the fault on pharmacology alone, it is quite clear that from the research laboratory till the medicaments in the hands of Doctors there is a real misunderstanding and a great waste either for research or for pharmacology. There is also a great waste for them and from an economic point of view.

It is indeed quite obvious that many laboratories are not really looking to a way to cure but more for a way to make money and Medics, that know more or less, do not really realize that their lack of ethics is especially a great lack for Medicine and for public health seen broadly. This is quite a little bit different from just a corruption even if there is clearly some.

This is just a few pages about it but the question here is of real fundamental importance. Understanding the Swear on Hypocrates takes a lot of time and requires indeed a true maturity. But for some extent the Hypocrates swore is all for medicine. But this should normally be a fundamental question in Medicine on which serious documentations and serious reports should be made. This question should be fundamental as well for students in Medicine. Indeed the fact of learning a lot of details about various kind of knowledge about Human Beings is not at all sufficient to do a real medic. From Med. Schools to the professional medics a huge gap of ethics is lacking. And we can see indeed that many students of Medicine choose this because it seems to be a good job... But Medicine is much more than that even if ethics, true ethics, is quite absent even in the curriculum of students in Medicine.

We can nevertheless hope that the very strong restriction that can warrant a student to become Doctors, that is the Hypocrates Swore, be much more present in the mind of Medics than what it is nowadays. Studying Medicine is not only to learn by heart a few thousands pages and to be able to cure some persons. A Medic should normally have a very strong sense about the work he does and for what...

What we can observe is that a real ethics can be understood by some Doctors some years ago from being officially Doctors but others will not. Whereas young Doctors or Med. Students are very often occupied by other stuff of their age.

The question is deep and is indeed a real problem. It is really obvious coming also from the pharmaceutical industry that the researches are quite corrupted, they want medicaments that may help some persons but also in a way to gather the maximum amount of money.

This is something I would like to call the Health-Money scales. This may take a huge amount of work in some laboratories to equilibrate such scales even if obviously the health of any patient should come first and that could be anyhow the biggest deal for all of us.

The beginning of Medicine was routed by a lot of charlatans and sorcerer apprentices in the last centuries, this is indeed still quite the same situation. But there is so much money involved that we could call it, very reasonably, something like the »human being market«.

I would argue that this is not really their fault but indeed it seems that the corruption we can observe about everywhere in our societies maybe due to some misunderstanding. It seems in fact that it is not understood that having good practice either on the financial parts of Medecine to the each day labor of Doctors would be the best for all of us. This is something misunderstood at various scales of economy and finance but in Medicine it has its own specificity.

This is something to take very seriously, like this it could be considered as a major problem of public health and it has its roots also in medical schools. Medicine studies are considered as hard and long, this is something very reasonable, but ethics should be a very important part of those. It is indeed not so clear why some do medical studies. In the first years of medical school we can observe very clearly those that have a real empathy for others and take their studies seriously or others that do medical studies because of what can be granted with a M.D.. The first ones will become good medics as it is indeed a natural way for them, the others could need many decades to understand what is the real nature of Medicine.

Be at the service of others health is something that can be quite complicated. Human body and mind represent extremely complicated systems and doing good diagnosis with moreover wishing to really heal a person require very clever decisions and understanding. But the reality about it for nowadays is that simple robots or softwears could do the job of many medics whereas such kind of medicine is not such.

In such a field, peoples should be aware of the huge responsibility that is involved in. The consequences of this are really plural and somehow badly deep. For, human beeings are not a market, especially in medicine, even if we can obviously see in finance and in economy that various reactions and acts are made in order to make peoples addict or dependant to the global market.

About that I would like to rise a serious warning. Our children and youngsters are, de facto, considered as major targets and also like a fuel of our economy. As such we can see quite everywhere that they are the main victims. It can goes so fast to destroy a young person, they are simply but surely the innocent persons with their innocent parents targeted. Parents by example are, not for all but for many, not really aware of their own duties and responsibilities mainly for the reason that being parent is also something new and unique for which many are not really trained. But the health of our youngsters is the health of our future societies, it is our future.

This warning can very well be enlarged and I address here a serious warning to our politicians. The health of our citizens today is the health of tomorrow. I think it should be useless to say that from our health depend a lot of things that commonly take place on the public scene and quite obviously this is something not clearly understood.

This warning is huge and to be taken very seriously, the kind of corruption I talk about is really hurting our societies. A healthy society would very simply and naturally work much better at any level. The responsibility of Doctors is very obvious in fact. We can not, of course, ask any Doctor to do no mistake and to be perfect but we can ask first for this responsibility to be clear and recognised. This would be a first step with respect also to the pharmaceutical industry.

This notion of corruption is something I see like a real disease as in fact it hurts us directly and indirectly.

Moreover, the »taboo« about such practice goes as far that many Medics in their work have some psychological symptoms. First, many could be paranoid, neurotic and a very little bit but to some extent psychopatic. Paranoid symptoms can be considered according to the fact that patient may not be considered as fully moral or simply may not be considered as fully human with what it represents. The neurotic symptom comes directly from their situation it represents the way Mr. or Miss Doctor consider themselves as very important and perhaps more important than the patients and consider their job as something very important and high. But they should be fully at the service of peoples and the patients is normally more important. The psychopatic symptom is also trully present. It comes with the two preceeding ones and appear very often as soon as the interest of patients is secondary, as soon as the patients or their desease appear secondary.

We can nevertheless see that many Doctors take their profession at heart. Hopefully the medical sector is not so dark. But this question of ethics should be considered more seriously especially in Medical Schools. I truly considered this as truly important for the future of Medicine. This more preciselly also with respect to the pharmaceutical industry that may understand that it would be better for them and for us.