

Medicine and Medical Studies

By Benjamin Wagener, on Thursday February 27th 2014.

Some time ago I told to a friend medic that I first wanted to become a great Medical Professor but that already in Mathematics and in Physics making advanced studies were quite a problem but I cannot even imagine what it would have been in Medicine. She told me “Oh, that’s memory” then I answered “Rightly, I would have questioned myself during height years why they ask me things that have nothing to do with Medicine”.

And this is a serious question to ask actually. Medicine is in fact mainly concern by the question of healing but what appears in the normal medical curriculum is that this concern is not so central in medical studies. It can even be said that clearly the question of healing appears as a concern only when a person is already working as a medical doctor and that it then need a second phase to learn how to heal truly. The question of making diagnoses with respect to some “grid” of symptoms, the question of making orders and prescriptions with respect to such or such diagnose is both secondary with respect to the importance that the doctor may give to the help and healing that he/she may provide and also dangerous if there is not a serious concern and a clear view about their purpose which means about the true purpose of Medicine.

This is indeed a key point about medical studies. We can really expect that if medical studies were re-centered on the main purpose of Medicine the global skills and competencies of the medics would improved a lot and it would be a great benefit for Medicine itself.

There are too many aspects of medical studies and Medicine that go against Medicine itself. First we could speak about the attractiveness of money. This is something that encompasses all Medicine, the possibility to do a lot of money on the pain and diseases of persons. As such we do not have any choice in our needs of medicines but that is not a reason to make it a major way of profits. As such it could be thought as being not such a problem, but it is a main problem actually because money becomes for many a main reason of interests in Medicine and by this way the goals of Medicine are lost and the ability to provide a good Medicine suffers from a lack of interest. Second we could speak about the very special recognition that diplomas in Medicine may provide. This recognition is based upon the possible responsibilities and skills of doctors. We could point out that new doctors even if they spend a lot of years learning are for many of them lacking serious skills. Doctors amongst themselves tend to defend each other by the pretention that their training and formation is deep and serious but in the fact they are not at all and new doctors may be just considered as true novices. This is especially true with respect to the purpose of this text

where it can appear clear that the real formation of doctors with regards to true Medicine is lacking or at least clearly insufficient.

From this point of view we could also speak about medical ethics. To my knowledge there is in general no serious course of medical ethics in medical studies. Medical ethics may be considered as something that exists and that has its importance but there is nothing truly involved in. Whereas it is quite obvious that a serious reflection about medical ethics, serious courses about the subject, about what is Medicine truly and about what it is to be a medic could greatly benefit to the formation of medical doctors and of course to the patients.

That's why somehow I would say that there is not much Medicine in medical studies. Students have to memorize a lot of things but there is no consideration of the underlying Medicine on its own and there is no serious consideration of ethics. Moreover even if there are a lot of things to memorize, we nobody could really say that students understand what they memorize because they are lacking a lot of information that could make it truly understandable, like a good knowledge of physics and chemistry.

If it is not so clear I would like to make a serious warning if not to make things improved. A serious concern about what is Medicine, about the profession of Doctor and about Ethics should normally be in the normal curriculum of any such studies otherwise the formations of Doctors is clearly insufficient and it becomes itself a serious problem of public health with respect to the consequences for the patients and for the public. The role of a medical Doctor is an important role, but it should be because his/her medically important role that he/she may have the actual recognition corresponding to a Doctor, not the reverse... I do not know if it is really useful but it seems to be, this current situation of an insufficient formation is a big health problem especially when this formation is lacking the main aspects of Medicine.

This problem is indeed a problem of public health and we can hope that some changes will be made because the medical profession is now looking to such a corrupted sector on a very large scale that Medicine by itself could worsen a lot in the future if nothing is done.