

On Life In the Sudan

By BAYYINAH SHARRIEFF

Upon visiting the hospital in Khartoum, the capital of the Republic of the Sudan, one from a western society, such as America, would find quite a difference in hospital procedures.

Being in a warm climate the hospital in the Sudan has balconies by which one passes from room to room, and ward to ward instead of the long halls, as is the case in hospitals in the colder climates. These balconies are around every floor and building in the hospital. There are not many heavy thick doors in the hospitals. Wooden blinds and shutters are used as doors. One does not have to pay for hospital benefits in the Sudan. An ill person has merely to go to the hospital for aid, and they are then directed to that section of the hospital for the specific illness which is present.

THE HOSPITAL grounds reminded me of a small university campus, for it is comprized of many buildings which are within a high wall fence. Guards are posted on the gates, but are more for emergency use rather than a preventive or guard duty.

There are no specific visiting hours to these hospitals. Whatever time one can visit the sick, they are welcomed. There are no limits to the number of visitors the patient can have, nor limit to the age of the visitor, unless the patient has an illness which may endanger the lives of the visitors.

In America the hospitals rules and restrictions on visitors often offend or hinder the would be visitor as you all know. The atmosphere is more relaxed in the Muslim Sudanese hospital than in the American hospital in general.

The patient is more relaxed and comfortable in the Sudan for some members of his family are allowed to stay (live) with him in his room, regardless to who the patient is or how much money he has. When one stops to think of this factor one can see many benefits to this system: The patient feels comfort in knowing that a loving member of his family is with him. He always has someone to talk to him about peoples and subjects which are familiar to him. He always has someone to come to his aid and call immediately, for this is like having a private nurse's aid. This does not do away with nurses or nurses' aids. They are still employed by the hospital, and make their visits and perform their duties.

AMERICA knows that the love, care and attention which a patient receives helps the improve-

ment and progress of the patient.

The doctor in the Sudan is paid a specific salary by the government. He is therefore a government employee. The doctor's greed for money is thus absent and therefore does not affect the degree of aid or care that the doctor administers to his patients. This is unlike American doctors in general who are more interested in the monetary benefits to caring for the sick. Every Sudanese doctor in the Sudan must give a certain number of hours a week to the government hospitals. They are provided with housing facilities by the government for themselves and their families and are the highest paid professionals in the Sudan.

Medical aid and assistance is a governmental benefit in the Sudan. One does not have to pay for medicine. The hospital issues the medicine (fills the prescriptions) to those who need it — free of charge. When the prescription needs a refill they must return to the hospital for the medicine. There is no such thing as insurance or hospitalization in the Sudan. There is no need, for the Sudanese know that Allah is God, and on God do they rely. Allah see's all, hears all, and know's all, and nothing happens to us without it being His Will. If it is time for one to die, it is time. In the Muslim Sudanese society, one knows this and there is no need for having insurance.

INSURANCE has become a large "racket" in America. And, one finds that one pays all one's life for life after death. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad teaches us to rely on Allah, and turn to Him for help with our ills. In the society which we live (America) which is contrary to good and filled with many infections resulting in illnesses from the product of grafting the filthy white man, one is exposed to many diseases.

If we follow what he teaches us, "How To Eat To Live," and refuse indulging in drugs, and beverages which are harmful to our bodies, and keep our minds on the channels of good (Islam), we eliminate the chances of our needing these policies of protection (insurance) which often handicap us (financially) for the rest of our lives.

It is one of the desires of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Muslims to have our own Muslim hospital.

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