

I Wonder ...

Karl H. Doege, Medical Editor; Mr. J.G. Crownhart, Managing Editor;
Miss Dorothy Cirdland, Assistant Editor

Editor's note: The following editorial was published in WMJ, Volume 39, p. 200, March 1940.

Despite the fact it is often said "a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country and in his own house," our State has had many great authors whose writings deserve the recognition they received from the people of Wisconsin. One such is Ray Standard Baker who used the pen name, David Grayson, to write his "Adventures in Understanding."

In these days when the physician on the firing line sometimes feels a sense of inadequacy in combating with effectiveness the constant bombardment by those who are willing to make medicine the plaything of politics rather than the handmaiden of science and the servant of the people, it is particularly apropos that we recall what David Grayson had to say about just this situation; namely—

I wonder if ever you change human beings with arguments alone: either by peppering them with little sharp facts or by blowing them up with great guns of truth. You scare 'em, but do you change 'em? I wonder if ever you make any real difference in human beings without understanding them and loving them. For when you argue with a man (how much more with a woman), you are somehow trying to pull him down and make him less (and yourself more); but when you try to understand him, when you like him, how eager is he then to know the truth you have; and you add to him in some strange way, you make him more than he was before; and at the same time, and that is the sheer magic of it, you yourself become more.

Who understands his people and their problems better than the family physician who lives with them because he loves them? *He* can give them the understanding they seek and need in this day of statistical attacks that too frequently conceal rather than reveal the real truth.

advancing the art & science of medicine in the midwest

WMJ

WMJ (ISSN 1098-1861) is published through a collaboration between The Medical College of Wisconsin and The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. The mission of *WMJ* is to provide an opportunity to publish original research, case reports, review articles, and essays about current medical and public health issues.

© 2015 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and The Medical College of Wisconsin, Inc.

Visit www.wmjonline.org to learn more.