



INTRAOCULAR LENS IMPLANTATION STARTED AT MEDICAL CENTER

The Department of Ophthalmology has announced that intraocular lens implantation is now being performed at the Medical Center. The following description of this rather new kind of operation should be of interest to the public:

The human eye works very much like a camera. Opacification of the lens of the eye is a common disease afflicting elderly people (senile cataract) and causing cloudy vision. The only treatment for this condition is surgical removal of the opaque lens, after which vision is restored with corrective lenses. Postoperative vision without correction is always subnormal (except in high myopes) because the eye becomes like a camera that has one of its lenses missing. Normalization of vision after cataract surgery can be achieved by the use of spectacles or contact lenses or by implantation of artificial acrylic lenses inside the eye at the time of surgery (or sometimes years later — see illustration). The eyeglasses used are usually very thick and cumbersome, especially if only one eye is operated. Unlike eyeglasses, contact lenses provide better vision and allow the simultaneous use of both eyes after unilateral surgery. However, contact lenses cannot be used until a few months after surgery, and many patients find them difficult to handle.

With the advent of intraocular lens implantation (now widely practiced in the United States and Europe), immediate postoperative visual rehabilitation of patients has become possible. The artificial lens is placed at the same anatomical site previously occupied by the opaque lens, thus restoring vision to the pre-cataract level (illustration). Eyeglasses may still be needed after lens implantation, but these are usually not thick and the patient may require a pair just for reading or for driving. The implanted lens can never correct distance and near vision at the same time. (The Ophthalmologist usually pre-calculates the desired power of the lens required to make the eye normal — or short-sighted, depending on the needs and vocation of the

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H.E. the Minister of Tourism in conversation with President Kerr

CAMPAIGN TO ESTABLISH KAHLIL GIBRAN CHAIR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Kahlil Gibran Day at AUB last month was a memorable event with its varied program of an evening of selected readings from his works, with President Malcolm H. Kerr's statement that the University claims its share in the celebration by announcing its desire to establish a chair in Gibran's name, with the centenary tribute by Francis Warner, poet and playwright who came specially from Oxford for the occasion, and with three exhibitions.

H.E. the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Ibrahim Halawi, who opened the proceedings referred to Gibran as the national conscience in us, rejecting all sectarian bigotry and rebelling against warring among brethren.

The Minister noted:

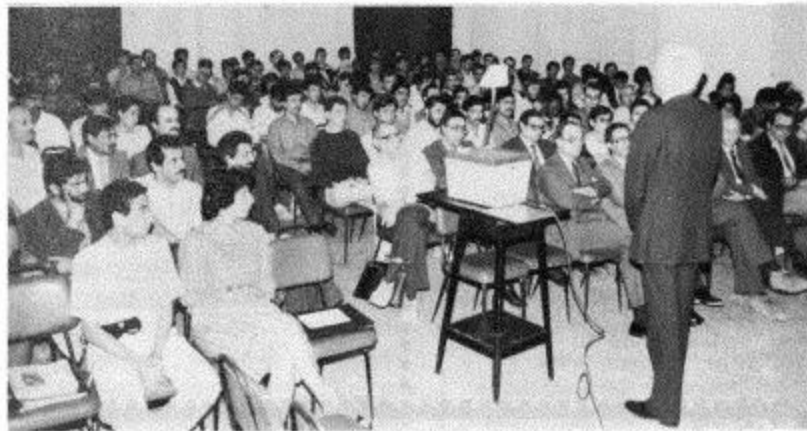
"Gibran, eminent among our

great men and geniuses, did not confine himself to a narrow local environment, notwithstanding all the beauty of Bsharri and Wadi Qadisha. In his work, he did not stop at regional boundaries. As thinker, poet, rebel and social reformer he was driven by his yearning for the homeland he was passionately attached to in his looking into the condition of man in every land he loved.

In his word of welcome, President Kerr said Gibran is the exemplar of the Lebanese accomplishment in America, a shining example of the dramatic capacity for creativity of human beings in tough circumstances: the lonely villager from Bsharri surviving in an unheated garret in

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DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIST LECTURES ON NUCLEAR POTENTIAL AND ENERGY CRISIS



Dr. Hodgson gives his lecture

Dr. Peter Hodgson, of the University of Oxford, was guest of the Department of Physics between April 5 and April 15. Dr. Hodgson is one of several distinguished British scholars whose visits to AUB are arranged, and partly supported, by the British Council.

Dr. Hodgson is head of the Theoretical Physics Group of the

Nuclear Physics Laboratory at the University of Oxford and a Senior Research Fellow, as well as Vice-President, of Corpus Christi College. He holds Ph.D. and D. Sc. degrees from the University of London and is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics. He is the author of six books and about 150 papers.

During his visit Professor

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OPD LOBBY TRANSFORMED INTO OPERATING THEATER FOR EMBASSY BOMB CASUALTIES

A large number of AUB students signed a message in condemnation of the bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy building last month which killed and injured scores of Lebanese and Americans. The signatories asked President Malcolm H. Kerr to convey their sympathy and sorrow to the bereaved families of the victims and to the U.S. Ambassador and Government.

In covering the news of this attack, the various media devoted much space and time, mentioning frequently that casualties were transported to AUB's Medical Center for urgent treatment. Moments after the explosion occurred, the Medical Center was ready to receive casualties and immediately implemented its disaster plan. The OPD main lobby was transformed into an operating theatre, with a back up team of 18 surgeons, 40 physicians and other Center staff asked to stand by. Observers noted that the Center's emergency staff proved to be well trained for such emergencies, considering the experience they had during the war. Profuse thanks from the Community have been received by the University and the Medical Center for their services.

ON CAMPUS

Meanwhile, President Kerr released the following memorandum to faculty, staff and students on the question of security on campus:

I wish to reassure you about the security situation on campus. Many rumors have been circulating about the supposed threats to our safety and I am convinced that these rumors have no basis.

The simple truth is that AUB is open for normal business and has received no specific threats of a serious nature. However, as a precaution, the Lebanese Army is maintaining a strict and benevolent control of security on campus for the time being. This is for the good of all of us. I urge everyone to cooperate with the Army and accept the temporary inconveniences, but also to go about their normal business and not to yield to anxiety.



Selected readings by, left, Francis Warner, Nadia Malarkey, Suheil Bushrui, Salma al Kuzbari, John Munro.

KAHLIL GIBRAN DAY

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New York City, leaving a dazzling poetic achievement for his fellow emigrants to think about, and to emulate in other domains such as business and medicine.

President Kerr went on to say that it is also fitting that the University, the exemplar of the Americans in Lebanon, should seek especially to preserve and celebrate Gibran's achievement.

AUB does so in part, he said, by its participation in the program of the Gibran Centennial, directed by Professor Suheil Bushrui, and by the privilege of having such a luminary as Mr. Francis Warner to speak about Gibran. Dr. Kerr warmly welcomed Mr. Warner, and thanked him for his visit.

Announcing AUB's desire to establish the Kahlil Gibran chair in English Literature, President Kerr said by this means, the University proclaims loudly from the mountaintops its devotion to several important values: to Lebanon and its creativity, to America and its receptivity, to the study of the world's literature in the midst of the general preoccupation with technology.

In concluding, President Kerr said:

"We therefore take especial pride in announcing a public campaign to establish this Chair, and we hope that many of our Lebanese and American family and friends will decide to contribute to it."

Mr. Warner, who was introduced by Acting Dean Landry T. Slade noted in his centenary tribute that Gibran had no formal schooling during the first twelve years of his life; just the timeless countryside of Bsharri and the Cedars, of family and rural community life.

Mr. Warner went on to say that Gibran was neglected by the academic professors, but has now sold many millions of copies of his works. He refuted some critical views, saying it can no longer be said that Gibran's readership is limited to the illadjusted, sentimental, late-romantics and seekers after the exotic.

Love is Gibran's message; unity its outcome, Mr. Warner pointed out, adding: "He unites the language and some of the teachings of the Bible with Islamic Sufi aphorisms and

allegories. He takes English Romanticism, not least from Blake and Keats, and transmutes it into Arabic Romanticism."

Mr. Warner addressed his thanks to His Excellency President Amin Gemayel for having been the moving spirit and dynamic force behind Gibran commemorative activities in Lebanon and abroad.

Mr. Warner said further:

"It is not in the Arab world alone that Gibran's greatness, and Lebanon's phoenix-like recovery as the crucible of the world is recognized. I have just arrived from Oxford, and we, too, are mounting a documentary exhibition of Gibran's work, with photographs of his country, his background, his achievement, in the golden centre of Oxford, the Old Library of the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Radcliffe Square. We are also producing a dramatic programme of readings from his works at the University Theatre. Indeed, whenever Arabic or English is spoken, his name will be remembered by all who care for the peace of the world and the life of the spirit."

Mr. Warner said in concluding: "Especially I should like to thank you, President Malcolm Kerr, for making me so welcome as soon as I arrived; Acting Dean Landry and Mrs. Slade for their splendid party for me; and members of your English department, not least Professor Suheil Bushrui who is a regular visiting professor in my own University of Oxford."

Selected readings in Arabic and English from the poems, prose, letters, parables and sayings of Gibran followed and were given by Francis Warner, John Munro, Nadia Malarkey, Salma al-Kuzbari and Suheil Bushrui.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICE HONOR MRS ANNETTE HAJJAR

The committee and staff of the Social Work Service at the Medical Center organized last Tuesday a large gathering at the Coffee Shop in honour of Mrs. Annette Hajjar who for the past 25 years has unfailingly given much of her time and energy to the Women's Auxiliary. For the past eight years Mrs. Hajjar has been in charge of the Coffee Shop, where she is seen daily running this service which regularly provides substantial donations to needy patients. The Coffee Shop, run mainly by lady volunteers, supplies excellent food and service to Hospital staff and visitors. During the long and difficult war years, Mrs. Hajjar

continued to look after the Shop and to find the necessary supplies for it in order to keep it going.

Dr. Joseph A. Simaan, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Amal Kurban, Chief of Clinical Staff, members of Women's Auxiliary, chairmen of the different clinical services, departmental heads and administrative staff were present at this gathering.

In his word of welcome the chairman of the Social Work Service Committee, Dr. Amin Barakat, spoke in high praise of Mrs. Hajjar's devotion and valuable service.



Silver tray presented to Mrs. Hajjar by the Social Work Service Committee.

ARAB JOURNAL OF PLANT PROTECTION

The Arab Society for Plant Protection announced the publication last month of the first issue of its official journal, **Arab Journal of Plant Protection**. Another issue will be published next September. Dr. Abdur-Rahman Saghir, Professor of Weed Science at AUB's Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. The editorial board includes five editors from Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. Dr. Adib Saad, Professor of Plant Pathology and Dr. Khaled Makkouk, Professor of Plant Virology, both at FAFS, are respectively Lebanese representative on the board and Secretary Treasurer of the Society.

The Journal publishes scientific articles in Arabic with abstracts in English, submitted by Arab researchers in the fields of Entomology, Plant Pathology

and Weed Science; non-Arab researchers can send their articles in English with abstracts prepared in Arabic. The Journal is of interest to Arab researchers in plant protection, as well as libraries, faculties and government ministries of agriculture, and agricultural institutions in the Arab World.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN NURSING

The professional welfare committee of the Nurses Chapter of the Alumni Association is holding a panel discussion on Career Opportunities in Nursing, at the Medical Center's PGME Auditorium, Tuesday, 10 May, 10:00 - 12:00 noon. This event is in commemoration of Florence Nightingale International Nurses Day.

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