

Bethune exchange: doctors visit Peking

One of the first exchanges to take place between modern China and North America was the visit in 1961 of the Peking Opera, states the *McGill Reporter*. While in Montreal this group, on instructions from Mao Tse-Tung, gave a special performance at the Royal Victoria Hospital, the site of Norman Bethune's training in thoracic surgery. In response to this gesture in the following year Dean Stevenson and Dr. R.V. Christie went to China to establish an exchange lectureship with Montreal's McGill University.

Under this scheme, which was established in 1962, teachers from that medical faculty visited China and Chinese teachers came to McGill in the subsequent years. In 1966, however, the exchange was interrupted by the cultural revolution which closed down most Chinese universities for long periods while the whole philosophy of education was re-examined. The exchange was resumed again last year and Dr. Maurice McGregor, Vice-Principal (Health Care) and Director of the Division of Cardiology at the Royal Victoria Hospital, and his wife Dr. Margaret Becklake, a chest physician and epidemiologist have recently returned from a month as the guests of Peking Medical College.

Their schedule was busy, involving lectures to students and to medical colleagues, clinical conferences at the bedside and discussions with medical administrators and teachers on the subjects of health-care delivery and medical education. There was also an opportunity to see and learn much outside the field of medicine. During their visit they spent time on a farming commune, visited with a block committee in Peking and a nursery school in Canton, and were able to meet and talk with many colleagues and non-medical people.

Medical students, they found, were bright and responsive and, so far as they could tell, very comparable in their level of knowledge to their McGill counterparts.

They encountered friendliness and openness everywhere. Information exchange was very much a bilateral process. "We have quite as much to learn from them as to teach," said Dr. McGregor, who predicts that the in-

creased communication with China will be extremely profitable in the future to both countries.

On January 10 and 11 four Chinese surgeons took part in the McGill Symposium on Replantation of Limbs and Digits, and described the work achieved in China on the re-implantation of severed limbs. The next Chinese professors under the Bethune exchange are expected to join McGill's medical faculty in the spring or possibly in the fall of this year.

Aid contributions increased

Enlarged Canadian contributions to three United Nations agencies were announced recently. UN Ambassador Saul Rae told the General Assembly that in 1974 Canada would provide \$21.7 million (an increase of \$1.9 million over 1973's figure) for the Development Program, plus an extra \$500,000 for projects to help the least developed countries.

Canadian International Development Agency President Paul Gérin-Lajoie, appearing recently before the Commons miscellaneous estimates committee, said that "to answer a call for help" Canada's annual contribution to the UN Relief and Works Agency, which aids Middle East refugees, rose by \$500,000 in 1973 to \$2,050,000, including \$900,000 in food. Mr. Rae also told a UN committee that Canada's contribution to the UN High Commission for Refugees would increase from \$450,000 in 1973-74 to \$550,000 in 1974-75.

Olympic coins sold in a week

The first issue of Olympic coins, expected to raise \$250 million for the Olympic Games in Montreal, was sold out in a matter of days at chartered banks and other financial institutions across Canada.

Austin Page, managing director of the Olympic Coin Program, said that the demand had been twice that expected for the first issue of nine million coins, one million of which have already been struck.

Limited numbers of the first four coins — two worth \$5 each and two worth \$10 each — went on sale at face value. The first series consists of nine

million coins in \$10- and \$5-denominations with a face value of \$68 million.

None of the coins is expected to be used in general circulation.

Postmaster General André Ouellet, charged with the administration of the program under legislation passed in Parliament last July, said: "This is by far the biggest single international marketing operation ever envisaged by Canada. We have an opportunity to produce something for which there is world-wide demand. And the beauty of the entire idea lies in the fact that not only will it allow us to stage the Games without calling on the public purse, but can also provide a means of enhancing Canada's prestige in the international community."

Mr. Ouellet said that "such a bold and imaginative plan" would be closely watched by other nations.

"If we succeed — and I have every confidence that we will — then the precedent set by this country will have opened the door for the world's smaller and less affluent nations, allowing them to aspire for the first time to host the Olympic Games," said Mr. Ouellet.

At least one Montreal coin dealer thinks that the Olympic coins would be an excellent buy.

"The real value is going to come in those proof sets," he said. "The ones from Munich, if you can get them, are now selling for eight times the face value. But you can't get them. It could be the same thing here."

Human rights body cites co-operation

Intervention by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission has resulted in the removal from sale by a Winnipeg department store of an item containing a description considered racist and offensive.

The commission acted on a complaint that a needlepoint kit produced in Saskatchewan and sold in Manitoba contained a colour chart listing "nigger brown" as one of the colours available.

When contacted, the department store immediately indicated that this was contrary to its policy and that the offending article would no longer be offered for sale.

The commission commended the department store for its co-operation and congratulated the woman complainant for her vigilance.