

file

July 9, 1965

R. E. Clarke, M.D.
2916 Gilbert Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Clarke:

I am sorry I could not get this to you before. I hope that you will be able to use it. Also enclosed is a brief sketch of my own curriculum vitae. I hope the sketch is satisfactory and that they are not working you too hard in getting ready for August. Will see you then.

My sincerest regards and best wishes,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

LHB/ld
Encl:

STATEMENT FOR CINCINNATI SOUVENIR PROGRAM

As the incoming president of the National Medical Association, it is my great pleasure to extend to the officers and members of the Cincinnati Medical Association, their very fine Women's Auxiliary, and particularly the chairman and members of the various local Hosts Committees, the deep gratitude of the officers and visiting members of your parent body - The National Medical Association.

We recognize that our Component Society and host for the Seventieth Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly has much to offer and inspire its visitors in the great city of Cincinnati. Here, among the rugged hills in a river basin of the old Ohio, a broad facet of our American culture developed and grew. Men and women of African descent set their sight on Cincinnati and its environs as free soil in their ^{Northward} flight to freedom. They were the stevedores for the commerce by river boat, as bondsmen and free men. Not all was song and drama. Migrant families continued their trek from the south, while Europeans fleeing religious and political persecution and famine came from the east. They met here. They survived the floods, the epidemics of cholera, bloody ethnic feuds, and racial ^{apathetic}ness. They blended their cultures, their sweat, and their toil.

Out of this a medical culture grew. The first to come were herbalists. One of the best known was an Afro-American with a shop at 8th and Plum streets in the early 19th Century. The integrated aspect of his practice has never been approached in later years. There never was a time since when Cincinnati was without Afro-American doctors. They ^ehold political office, and built a "hospital" or two and served their patient's well.

In modern times, medicine has reached its zenith here. You boast of Sabin of polio fame, a great system of hospitals, and an extraordinary medical school. Fate chose B.F. Cann and R.E. Clarke to bridge the racial gap in modern times. They pioneered as physician and surgeon in the General Hospital and the medical school clinic faculty. This was achieved in the 1930s, a record in advance of many cities. We see evidences of progress along the trails they blazed, and vistas of more meaningful human relations in medicine for the future. We congratulate Cincinnati's men of medicine and pray for your continued progress in the finest tradition of the profession.