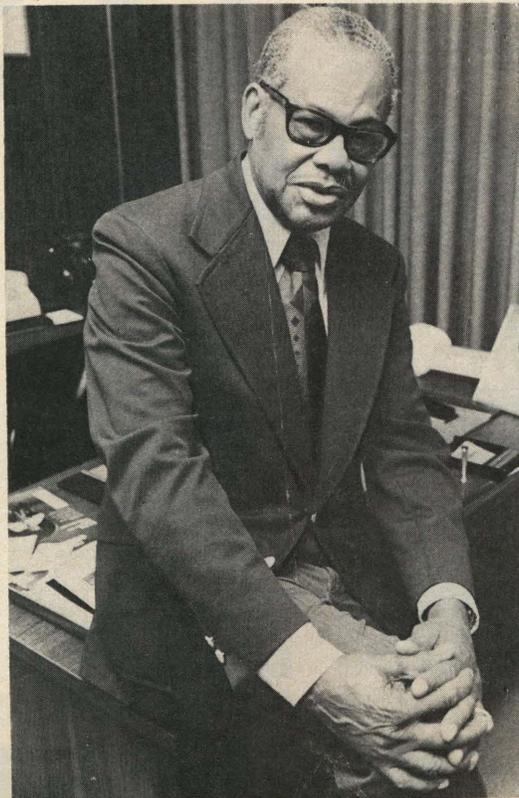


JUNE 1975

# DR. BERRY: World-renown Expert on Endoscopy

Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, one of the nation's foremost experts in gastroenterology, is the author of a definitive textbook on this medical specialty which involves diagnosing varied diseases of digestive tract.



## Chicago internist authors text on diagnosing digestive diseases

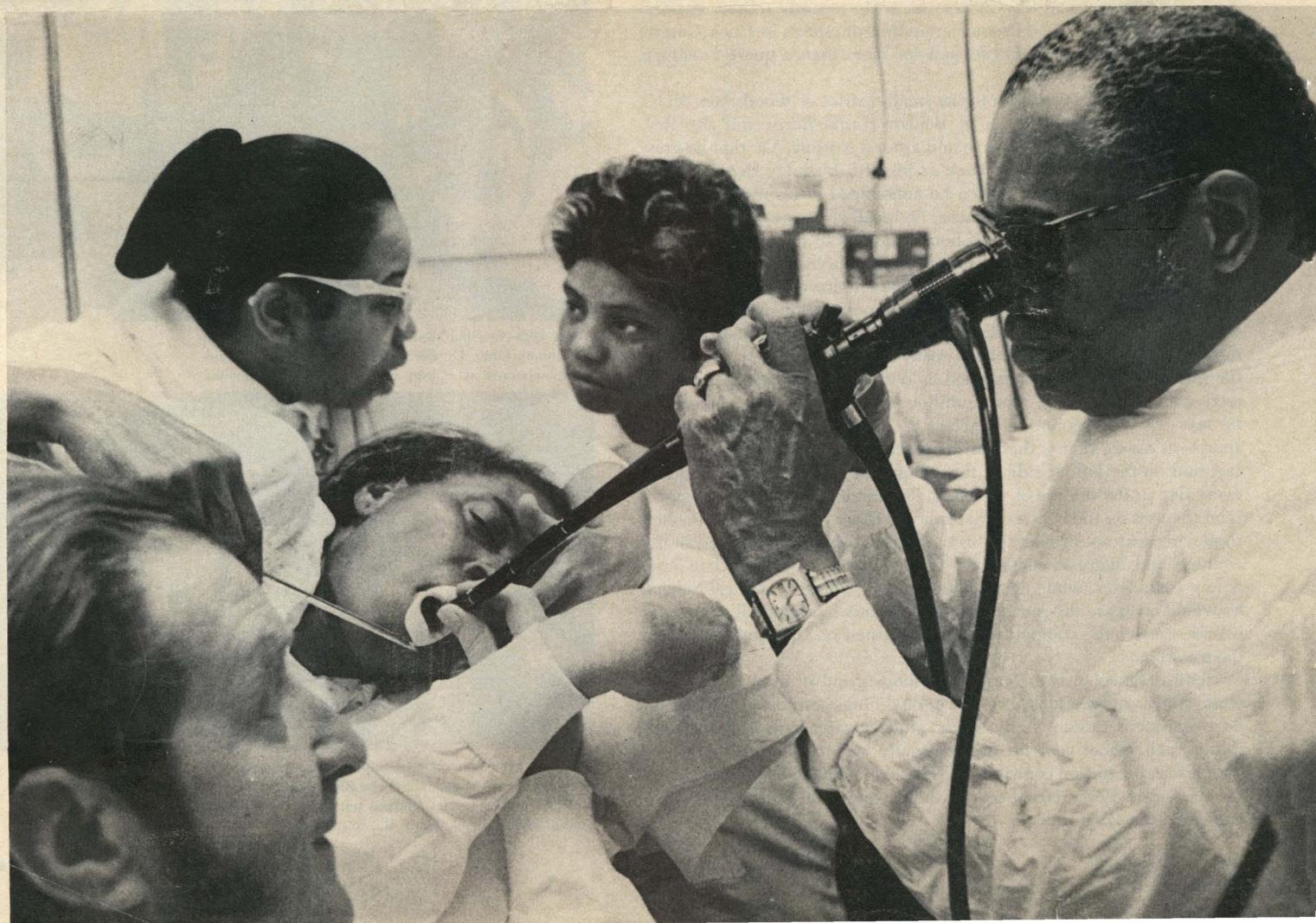
**A** FAMILIAR plot for TV soap operas is one in which a patient's life hangs in the balance as doctors frantically search X-rays for evidence of injury or disease. The X-rays fail to show what is wrong, and the doctors turn to thick medical texts, then to a highly skilled specialist.

In the real world, the medical text to which the doctors would turn might be one compiled by Dr. Leonidas H. Berry of Chicago, and the specialist who would be consulted might be Dr. Berry himself or one of the several hundred physicians he has trained.

Dr. Berry is an internationally recognized authority on internal medicine and digestive diseases and is a world expert on endoscopy, the examination, with a special instrument, of various parts of the digestive canal. His recently published book, *Gastrointestinal Pan-Endoscopy*, is an accumulation of 30 years of experience as a specialist and teacher. The 630-page, 39-chapter work is unique in that it contains articles by endoscopists from nine countries on four continents and includes more than 120 color photographs of parts of the digestive system in both normal and diseased states. Dr. Berry took some of the photographs himself. Critics laud the book as a "colossal work" in its field and as the definitive text from which both the medical student and the experienced physician can benefit. The book required three and one-half years of work.

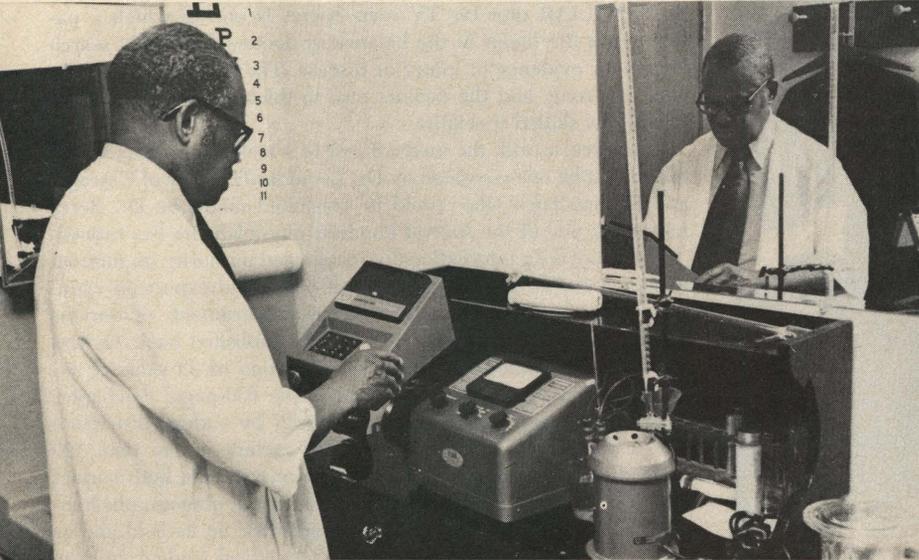
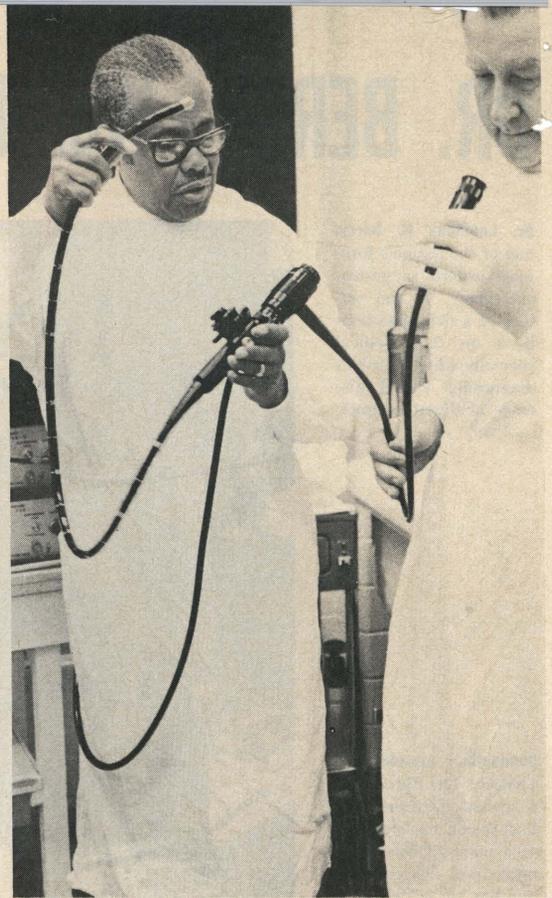
Though he is now 72, Dr. Berry maintains a reduced private practice and recently took on a new part-time job—that of special

**Conducting examination,** (below) Dr. Berry uses a special instrument to look inside the stomach of a patient. This technique has reduced the number of exploratory operations in the digestive area because doctors can see most abnormalities without use of exploratory surgery.





At Cook County Hospital (left) where he served for more than a quarter-century, Dr. Berry prepares for an endoscopy examination. He recently retired as chief of the hospital's endoscopy clinic.



An endoscope, used to look inside the stomach and intestines, is examined (above, right) by Dr. Berry and Dr. Jonas Adomavicius, an endoscopist at Cook County Hospital. The instrument, which can also photograph areas and remove pieces of tissue for microscopic exam, costs \$6,000. Above, left, he checks instruments in his laboratory.

#### DR. BERRY *Continued*

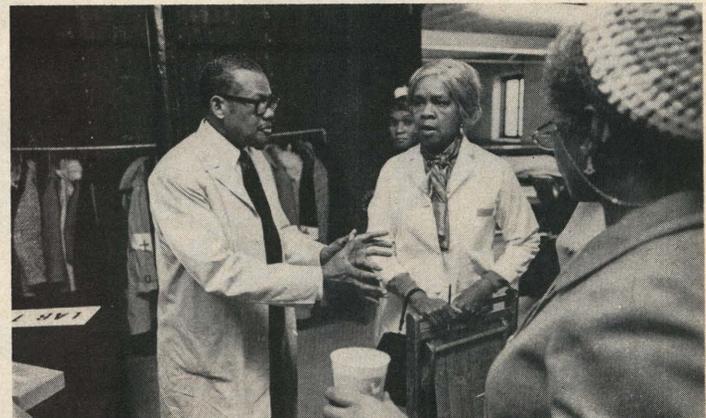
deputy for professional-community affairs with the Cook County Hospitals' Governing Commission, which supervises the operation of public hospital facilities in the Chicago area. He recently retired as Chief of Endoscopy Service and senior attending physician at Cook County Hospital, where he was on the staff for more than a quarter-century.

LEONIDAS Berry was born in the small district of Woodsdale, N. C., the eldest of six children of Beulah Harris Berry and the Rev. Llewellyn L. Berry. But it was in and around Norfolk, Va. that he grew up. It may have been as far back as his fifth birthday that Leonidas determined his career goal when he announced to his mother that he wanted to be a "Dr. Jones" because, he recalled, it was Dr. Jones who rode his two-horse buggy to his house one day to remove his splinter. All through his youth, Leonidas never lost sight of his ideal, even though he enjoyed singing and was good enough at it to have solos in the church choir and later the university choir, even though he enjoyed sports and even though he was a good debator and, as such, maybe had the makings of a forceful politician. So it really was no surprise to the rest of the family when Leonidas enrolled in Wilberforce University as a pre-med student. "I was the most ambitious freshman you ever heard of," he says. At Wilberforce, he reached the height of his involvement in sports—as much, that is that can be reached by anyone well under six feet and on the lighter side of the 140-pound mark. "I played football every day in the middle of the week," he reminisces with a half-smile, "and then sat on the bench on Saturdays." However, the glory attached to playing was not primary in his mind. He was more interested in the courage and aggressiveness that he felt athletics developed in him. A few years later, while at the University of Chicago Medical School, he would compare the school terms to quarters in a football game. and would transfer the competitiveness he learned on the football field to the classroom.

Medical school was a four-year, tedious grind of study, after class work, study, summer jobs at resorts or on dining cars, study, hustling for next semester's tuition, study, study, study. Somewhere near the middle of each school year his father usually had to come to his rescue with a sizeable tuition contribution. That was a financially rough period for the entire Berry clan because there were four Berry children in college at the same time.



At the 1965 National Medical Association convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Berry, then NMA president, discusses charges of racism in the medical profession.



Combining his roles as community worker and physician in 1970, Dr. Berry organized the Flying Black Medics, a group of 38 Chicago medical personnel who flew to predominantly-black Cairo, Ill., to provide health care.

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Dr. Berry's international interests involved him in a 1965 lecture tour of Africa where he met Pres. Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya (left). Below, Berry demonstrates use of a GastroCamera that will take pictures of the patient's stomach. Surrounding him are students from Thailand, Mexico, Pakistan and from the United States.



### DR. BERRY *Continued*

In school, and later as a professional, Berry faced various kinds of discriminatory barriers. He was not discouraged, though, because he believed that "You can turn some of these things into assets." When he learned that medical school clinical clerkships—a three-month observation period that students spent inside a hospital—were not available for black students, Berry found a small, private, black-run hospital where he lived, worked and observed for his last two years of school, thereby getting more clinical experience than required.

Dr. Berry did his internship at Freedmen's Hospital in Washington, D.C., then returned to Chicago because of an opportunity that was available through an affiliation between Provident Hospital and his alma mater to be trained in internal medicine and gastroenterology. It was pre-arranged that after his training he would go to the all-black Provident Hospital and teach other black medical students. He used this three-year training period to get another degree—this one an M.S. in pathology. He was out to prove a point. Throughout his studies, Dr. Berry had heard several theories about the peculiar susceptibility of blacks to certain diseases simply because they are black. Dr. Berry didn't and wouldn't buy it. So, during his training period he researched, then wrote a master's thesis on "Tuberculosis and Race." He did find a higher incidence of tuberculosis among blacks, but it was due to the adverse economic and social conditions most blacks lived under, not because of their race.

In 1934, Dr. Berry was the first black certified gastroenterologist and endoscopist in the country. He had completed his training and was on the staff of Provident Hospital when he came into contact with the doctor who invented an instrument to look into stomachs. Dr. Rudolf Schindler introduced him to the gastro-scope. In upcoming years Dr. Berry, in turn, developed the Berry Gastrobiopsy scope (used to suction off a piece of tissue from inside the body), married and had a daughter, was the first black to present a paper before a convention of the predominantly-white American Medical Assn., developed his Gastroscopy Clinic at Provident Hospital and continued to instruct the hundreds of endoscopists he would train in his teaching career.

In 1950, Dr. Berry became president of the Cook County Physicians Association, and began work on The Berry Plan. What started out as a civic-minded desire to do something about drug addiction, resulted in the establishment of three state-funded

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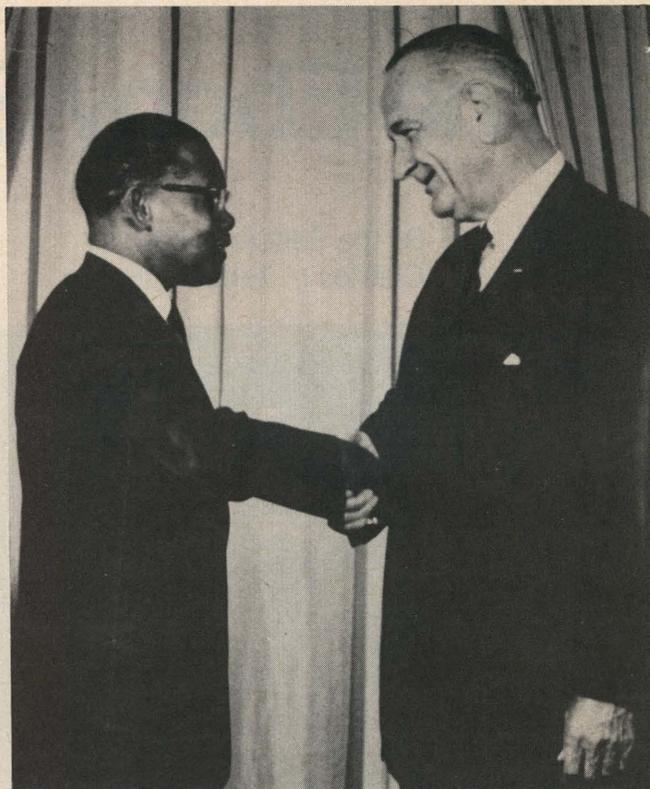
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A frequent visitor to Washington, D. C., Dr. Berry has often been a guest at the White House. At top, he meets with Pres. Lyndon Johnson. Above, Dr. Berry and other medical experts in various fields attend a 1967 meeting of the National Advisory Council on Regional Medical Programs in Bethesda, Md.



Before taking off for Cairo, Ill., Dr. Berry (lower r.) salutes Chicago Black Medics while other members of The Flying Black Medics look on. A recipient of the University of Chicago Alumni Assn. Citation for Public Service, Dr. Berry has consistently worked to provide better medical services for the poor.

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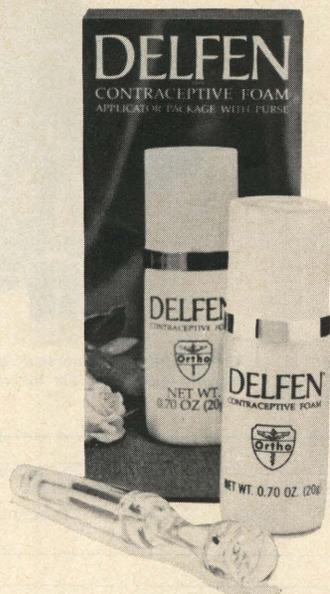
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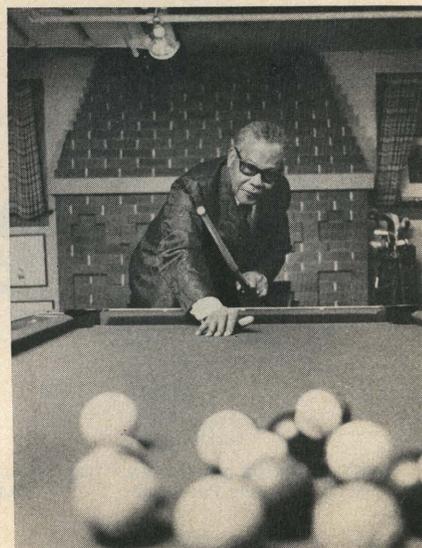
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At home, Dr. Berry and his wife, Emma, enjoy a late dinner. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Dr. Berry's daughter, Mrs. Judith Griffin, is a child psychologist in New York and his stepson, Alvin Harrison, is an official at the Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D. C. At right, Berry relaxes playing a game of billiards.



## DR. BERRY *Continued*

medical counseling clinics which operated for eight years. The clinics were so unusual then in their method of treating the total patient (involving psychological as well as physical aid), that they were discussed at the following World Health Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.

In 1965, Dr. Berry became president of the predominantly-black National Medical Association. During his year-long directorship he was involved in White House health conferences and toured Asia and Africa for the U. S. State Department, lecturing and demonstrating the use of the endoscope.

In 1970, Dr. Berry was the force behind yet another blitz. News of almost nonexistent health care provisions in Cairo, Ill., and an investigatory trip to verify it prompted Dr. Berry to organize "The Flying Black Medics," a group of 38 medical personnel—doctors, dentists, nurses, dieticians and social workers—who volunteered to go to Cairo (on planes chartered at the doctors' expense) and spent a day in the basement of an AME church giving free exams and health care to Cairo citizens. For his involvement in community health programs Berry received the Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Chicago and the Man of the Year Award from the Forty Club. Also an important figure in the field of research (an area so vital to medicine), Dr. Berry recently concluded a cancer research project in which he was seeking newer techniques for early diagnosis of cancer.

Dr. Berry sees the future of gastroenterology as including preventive exams. He envisions that one day soon people will walk into a doctor's office for their regular endoscopy exam, just as they now do for their yearly checkup. While the mere thought of such an exam would probably make many people squirm in discomfort, Dr. Berry says the procedure is getting more and more simple, with very little discomfort to the patient. He ought to know. He has looked into more than 10,000 stomachs in his career.