

# How Famous Physician Sees—

# Deprivation And Disease

*Dr. Leonidas H. Berry is recognized throughout the world as a brilliant specialist in gastroenterology and gastroscopy. He has written 24 articles based on his specialized research; presented 66 special lectures and 20 scientific exhibits before medical bodies throughout the nation. He was president of the Cook County Physicians' Association, 1951; president, Association of Former Interns and Residents of Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D.C., 1952, and vice-president, National Medical Association, 1959. He holds memberships in many scientific organizations and societies.*



**WORLD-RECOGNIZED** internal medicine and digestive diseases specialist, Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, of Chicago, agrees with other medical authorities that a comprehensive medical program especially designed to help the poor one-third of this nation should be a "must" when and if the proposed War on Poverty is allocated sufficient operating funds by the Congress. Photo was taken of Dr. Berry addressing the 1962 convention of the National Medical Association, which he served as vice president in 1959.

Agreeing with most medical experts that any sincere assault on poverty would have to include a comprehensive program of medical care for the poor, a famous Chicago physician charged the medical profession with a misplaced emphasis on race in dealing with diseases among the impoverished.

Dr. Leonidas H. Berry, internationally-noted internal medicine and digestive diseases specialist, told Muhammad Speaks why he is unhappy with past studies and reports which attacked effects rather than causes.

"Too often studies and attacks have been made on diseases such as tuberculosis, venereal disorders and infant lead poisoning with disproportionate emphasis on the importance of race," he asserted, "while doing very little in terms of attack

there is "voluminous evidence that poverty, poor cultural environment and low educational opportunities are far better explanations for many physical and mental ills than any factors of group inheritance."

Winner in June of the fifth annual William Alonzo Warfield Award, presented at the meeting of the Association of Former Interns and Residents of Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, D.C., Dr. Berry said

thievery "may be symptoms of emotional illness" spawned by poverty, overcrowding and the racial caste system.

He contended that authorities all too often wage war "on young narcotics users with the concept that such individuals are criminals," rather than fighting the socio-economic conditions in big city slums.

Commenting on the association of poverty, the Negro