

## MEMORANDUM ON THE MADISON FOUNDATION

This Foundation to promote Dr. Gerson's work, was started in Spring 1947 by a number of grateful patients. The president of this organization, Mr. Sam Markel of Richmond, Va, contributed a considerable sum in gratitude for his successful treatment. The location of the Foundation was 11 E. 74<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City. A Dr. Miley, who had not been a patient of Dr. Gerson, became the medical director. His task was to seek a better understanding with other colleagues and smooth down opposition to Dr. Gerson's work. A part of this house was originally intended to serve as a clinic for Dr. Gerson's cancer patients, but this was not possible because of a local regulation.

Several collections were arranged among Dr. Gerson's patients during the period 1947-1950, and considerable sums were donated for his work.

Dr. Miley, who had a small practice nearby, arranged with Mr. Markel to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment for himself and his family, rent free.

Dr. Gerson paid \$200 per month for the waiting and consultation rooms. He also paid his secretary. He accepted no payment from the Foundation.

In the basement a laboratory was fitted out where x-rays and routine examinations of patients were made. Other tests which Dr. Gerson wished to have made were rejected by Dr. Miley. The income of the laboratory was several hundred dollars per week, the only income of the Foundation, aside from patient's contributions.

This Foundation was started shortly after the demonstration before the US Senate. After a few months Dr. Miley chose a number of doctors for the committee to judge the progress of the patients' treatment, in order to present the results to the Medical Association. None of the physicians Dr. Gerson proposed was accepted. This committee was to deliver a scientific assessment of Dr. Gerson's patients, of whom 90% came to him in terminal condition. This group of eight doctors met once a month in a special meeting room and every time they each received \$25 from the Foundation. [This was a normal doctor's fee at that time.] Dr. Gerson was never informed about or invited to these meetings. Repeatedly patients and friends had warned him that he was surrounded by spies. Several physicians gave up this activity when they felt the growing tension.

Dr. Gerson became very impatient and angry when the "medical director" suggested he should demand a yearly salary of \$20,000 from the President, Mr. Markel, so that Dr. Miley, too, could demand this sum.

Dr. Gerson's private secretary was increasingly influenced by Dr. Miley. She was invited out and received presents, etc. She gave patients who wished to consult Dr. Gerson the information that he was completely booked for three to four weeks and tried to send them to Dr. Miley's office nearby, claiming he was Dr. Gerson's assistant – naturally without Dr. Gerson's knowledge. His secretary had access to the case histories and writings of the Foundation as well as those of Dr. Gerson. The former were complete, but Dr. Gerson's were not. Dr. Gerson had a number of especially interesting cases in his office. When he wanted to work on them and to take them home, and asked for them, she was very embarrassed and said she would look for them. Instead she

phoned the Foundation's secretary, who told Dr. Gerson on the phone that he could not have the records, because "they were scientific material that belonged to the Foundation."

Dr. Gerson contacted the President, Mr. Markel, in Richmond and demanded that the material be immediately returned. Dr. Gerson dismissed his secretary forthwith although after three years she had been thoroughly trained and was well liked by the patients.

The next day she was hired by Dr. Miley as secretary of the Foundation. Dr. Gerson handed in his resignation.

Since only a short time remained to them, the medical director, Dr. Miley, and his assistants worked feverishly on a new set of Dr. Gerson's patients. Questions about their case histories were quickly sent to patients with the help of the new secretary (Dr. Gerson's), but without his knowledge. Several patients phoned Dr. Gerson and asked him whether they should give information. Thus Dr. Gerson gradually learned of these activities.

About six months earlier 30 had been ready for publication. The publication was rejected by various medical periodicals. With the help of a friend, Dr. K., six of these cases appeared, with x-rays, some months later in **Experimental Medicine and Surgery**, 1949, Vol. VII, no. 4, under the title: "Effects of a Combined Dietary Regime on Patients with Malignant Tumors". Mr. Markel ordered 3,000 copies, which the Foundation paid for. These articles were to be sent to hospitals, universities and cancer institutes. None of them was distributed. Dr. Miley arranged for the work of the so-called review committee to be sent instead. This work, which was to give the committee's final analysis, was written by doctors who were neither objective nor disinterested and was meant to be the scientific document of the Foundation.

This work was at once accepted by the Medical Association. Neither the AMA nor other medical organizations tried to re-examine these cases of which 90% were terminal, having come to Dr. Gerson after all orthodox methods had been tried in vain.

During the following years, from time the Foundation was disbanded, five investigations were made by special medical committees to control Dr. Gerson's work and reputation. But no information could be obtained about these investigations, by physicians or patients.

At the beginning of this persecution, orange juice was pressed for Dr. Gerson at midday. After about 2 weeks he complained that he did not feel well shortly afterwards. He gave it up.

The malpractice insurance company had withdrawn his policy although he never made use of it. Certainly he was sometimes charged with false treatment, but the charges never came to court.

- Margaret Hope Gerson, ending of her incomplete biography of Max Gerson, **A Life Without Fear**