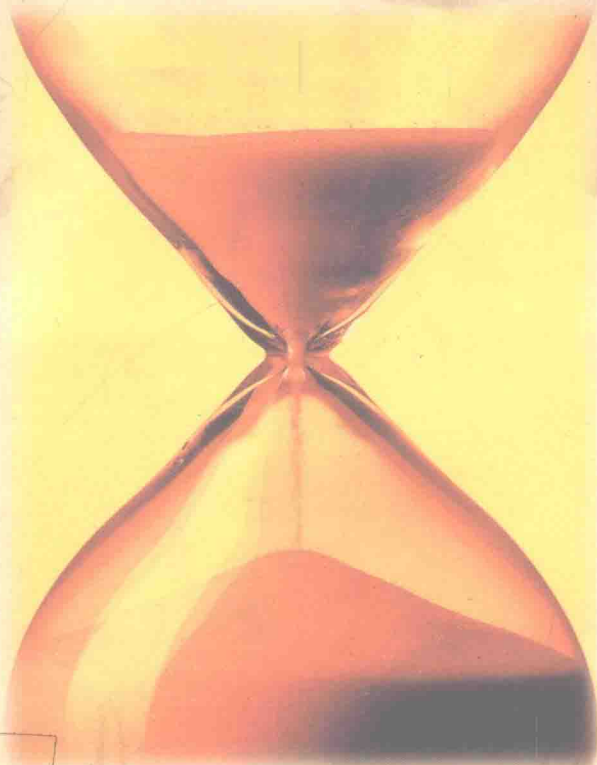


HONG KONG IN TRANSITION



MEDICAL MYTH
OR SURGICAL TRIUMPH?

— C H LEONG —

**HONG KONG IN TRANSITION
— MEDICAL MYTH OR
SURGICAL TRIUMPH?**

Ming Pao Publications Limited

15/F, Block A,
Ming Pao Industrial Centre,
18 Ka Yip Street,
Chaiwan, Hong Kong
Tel: 2595 3111
Fax: 2898 2646

© Ming Pao Publications limited, 1996

All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the Publisher.

First published 1996

Printed in Hong Kong

ISBN 962 - 357 - 895 - 4

Contents

Preface	9
---------	---

Chapter One

Prescriptions for our Ailing Medical and Health System

(1.1) Strike a Balance between Public and Private Hospital Services for Public Good	14
(1.2) Rational Charging Policy versus Socialised Medical System	17
(1.3) Government's Failure to address Health Care Financing has put the Sick and Poor in Dismay	20
(1.4) Spare a Thought for Revamp of Health System and Financing Policy	23
(1.5) Suggestions and Criticisms towards Health Budget fallen on deaf ears	27
(1.6) Policy Address lacked vision for Transition of Livelihood Issues	30
(1.7) Lacking plans to address Health Needs of our New Migrants	33
(1.8) Expectations for the New Boss in Health Driving Seat	37

Chapter Two

Defending Professional Standards, Defending Autonomy

(2.1)	Medical Professionalism leaves no room for Sectorization nor Self Heroism in Life Saving	42
(2.2)	"International Connections" Saga pour cold water over Hong Kong's confidence towards Basic Law	45
(2.3)	International Linkage Vital for Medical Improvement	49
(2.4)	Professional Autonomy Hanging by a Hair	52
(2.5)	Professional Watchdog Bodies must not hide behind Closed Doors	57
(2.6)	Medical Council needs cure for its Public Confidence Ailment	60
(2.7)	Genuine Professional Bodies to guard against Political Pressure	63
(2.8)	A "Hong Kong System" for maintaining High Medical Standard	66
(2.9)	Government Procrastination hampers overhaul of Medical Registration Ordinance	69
(2.10)	Beefing up the Watchdog Body of the Medical Profession	72
(2.11)	Peer Assessment and Legal Principles to Nail Medical Culprits	75
(2.12)	Drug Labelling alone cannot halt Cowboy Practice	78
(2.13)	Exercising Legal Muscle to weed out Drug Peddling Doctors	82

(2.14) Long Term Prescriptions needed for Doctors Manpower Planning	85
(2.15) Methods in Tax Evasion Investigation Arouse Concern	88

Chapter Three

Hospital Authority — White Elephant or Medical Mecca?

(3.1) Responsible Public Figures must justify their "Falsification of Patient Load" Allegation	92
(3.2) Government's Political Hat Trick to shrug off Health Funding Responsibility	95
(3.3) Wishy Washy Responses of Officials towards Auditor's claim doing Injustice to Hospital Authority Staff	98
(3.4) Auditor's Unfair and Demoralising Diagnosis on Hospital Authority	101
(3.5) Open System and Caring Attitude crucial for gaining Confidence towards Public Hospitals	105
(3.6) Change for the Sake of Change cannot help improve Accountability of Hospital Authority	108
(3.7) Politicians must Act Sensibly in pushing for an Open Hospital Authority	111
(3.8) Hospital Authority — Victim of its own Success	114
(3.9) Anomalies in UK Health Reform — a lesson to learn for HK Health Hierarchy	117

- (3.10) What does the Hospital Authority "Manpower Saga" expose? 120

Chapter Four

Healthy Faces, Healthy Ages

- (4.1) Meagre Budget, Meagre Determination in achieving Oral Health for All 126
- (4.2) Time to bite the bullet on a Credible Dental Policy 129
- (4.3) Inadequate Dental Service Provision from Cradle to Grave 132
- (4.4) Conjoint Efforts to assure Dignified Golden Age for Elderlies 135
- (4.5) Government confuse Public in Retirement Protection Mess 138
- (4.6) Take Care of the Health of Our Next Generation 141
- (4.7) A Healthy, Wealthy Year of the Pig for All Employees 144
- (4.8) "High-Tech White Elephant" for Incinerating Medical Waste 147
- (4.9) Develop and Regulate Traditional Chinese Medicine for Betterment of Public Health 150
- (4.10) Traditional Chinese Medicine — Culture or Health Care? 154
- (4.11) Milestone in Monitoring Reproduction Technology 161
- (4.12) Playing God to create human happiness or misery? No More Delay in Control of Reproductive Technology 164
- (4.13) Amending Organ Donation Law to No Effect 168

(4.14) Patient Safety leaves no room for Mistake in Medical Gases Supply	171
(4.15) A lack of Political Will to undertake Health Screening Services	174
(4.16) Government out of puff in working towards a Tobacco Free Territory	177

Chapter Five

Challenge of Courage and Care for our Society

(5.1) Government Hypocritic in Sabotage Improvements to Sex Discrimination Bill	182
(5.2) Procrastination in fighting for Equal Opportunities	185
(5.3) More AIDS Education needed for our Policy Makers	189
(5.4) AIDS victims living in the Ugly Shadow of Discrimination	192
(5.5) Education without Law Enforcement Futile in battling Discrimination against HIV carriers	195
(5.6) People with AIDS no less Deserving of Hospice Care	198
(5.7) Time is not on our side in the AIDS Battle	201
(5.8) Braving the Plague of AIDS in Workplace	204
(5.9) New Faces; New Phase? — An Arduous 10-year AIDS Battle	213

Chapter Six

In Transition for a Better Hong Kong

(6.1)	John Major offered Beautiful Commitments or Horse Trading to Hong Kong?	220
(6.2)	British Prime Minister's visit likely to fail Hong Kong expectations test	223
(6.3)	Executive Council must be more Accountable!	228
(6.4)	Preparatory Committee must meet Aspirations of Hong Kong People	230
(6.5)	A Shameful Sell-Out Agreement on Court of Final Appeal	233
(6.6)	Government Watchdog is bound by Inborn Limitations	236
(6.7)	Political Cease-Fire between Britain and China to put Hong Kong public's minds at peace	240
(6.8)	Governor Patten's British Passport Proposal just Empty Words	246
(6.9)	Ease Hong Kong people's minds on "Right of Abode" issue	249
(6.10)	Moderation needed to settle worry over Permanent Residency	252
(6.11)	Hong Kong in Transition	256
(6.12)	"Swan Song" Policy Address putting a valedictory note to 150-year Colonial Governance	267

**HONG KONG IN TRANSITION
— MEDICAL MYTH OR
SURGICAL TRIUMPH?**

Ming Pao Publications Limited

15/F, Block A,
Ming Pao Industrial Centre,
18 Ka Yip Street,
Chaiwan, Hong Kong
Tel: 2595 3111
Fax: 2898 2646

© **Ming Pao Publications limited, 1996**

All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the Publisher.

First published 1996

Printed in Hong Kong

ISBN 962 - 357 - 895 - 4

Contents

Preface	9
---------	---

Chapter One

Prescriptions for our Ailing Medical and Health System

(1.1) Strike a Balance between Public and Private Hospital Services for Public Good	14
(1.2) Rational Charging Policy versus Socialised Medical System	17
(1.3) Government's Failure to address Health Care Financing has put the Sick and Poor in Dismay	20
(1.4) Spare a Thought for Revamp of Health System and Financing Policy	23
(1.5) Suggestions and Criticisms towards Health Budget fallen on deaf ears	27
(1.6) Policy Address lacked vision for Transition of Livelihood Issues	30
(1.7) Lacking plans to address Health Needs of our New Migrants	33
(1.8) Expectations for the New Boss in Health Driving Seat	37

Chapter Two

Defending Professional Standards, Defending Autonomy

(2.1)	Medical Professionalism leaves no room for Sectorization nor Self Heroism in Life Saving	42
(2.2)	"International Connections" Saga pour cold water over Hong Kong's confidence towards Basic Law	45
(2.3)	International Linkage Vital for Medical Improvement	49
(2.4)	Professional Autonomy Hanging by a Hair	52
(2.5)	Professional Watchdog Bodies must not hide behind Closed Doors	57
(2.6)	Medical Council needs cure for its Public Confidence Ailment	60
(2.7)	Genuine Professional Bodies to guard against Political Pressure	63
(2.8)	A "Hong Kong System" for maintaining High Medical Standard	66
(2.9)	Government Procrastination hampers overhaul of Medical Registration Ordinance	69
(2.10)	Beefing up the Watchdog Body of the Medical Profession	72
(2.11)	Peer Assessment and Legal Principles to Nail Medical Culprits	75
(2.12)	Drug Labelling alone cannot halt Cowboy Practice	78
(2.13)	Exercising Legal Muscle to weed out Drug Peddling Doctors	82

(2.14) Long Term Prescriptions needed for Doctors Manpower Planning	85
(2.15) Methods in Tax Evasion Investigation Arouse Concern	88

Chapter Three

Hospital Authority — White Elephant or Medical Mecca?

(3.1) Responsible Public Figures must justify their "Falsification of Patient Load" Allegation	92
(3.2) Government's Political Hat Trick to shrug off Health Funding Responsibility	95
(3.3) Wishy Washy Responses of Officials towards Auditor's claim doing Injustice to Hospital Authority Staff	98
(3.4) Auditor's Unfair and Demoralising Diagnosis on Hospital Authority	101
(3.5) Open System and Caring Attitude crucial for gaining Confidence towards Public Hospitals	105
(3.6) Change for the Sake of Change cannot help improve Accountability of Hospital Authority	108
(3.7) Politicians must Act Sensibly in pushing for an Open Hospital Authority	111
(3.8) Hospital Authority — Victim of its own Success	114
(3.9) Anomalies in UK Health Reform — a lesson to learn for HK Health Hierarchy	117

- (3.10) What does the Hospital Authority "Manpower Saga" expose? 120

Chapter Four

Healthy Faces, Healthy Ages

- (4.1) Meagre Budget, Meagre Determination in achieving Oral Health for All 126
- (4.2) Time to bite the bullet on a Credible Dental Policy 129
- (4.3) Inadequate Dental Service Provision from Cradle to Grave 132
- (4.4) Conjoint Efforts to assure Dignified Golden Age for Elderlies 135
- (4.5) Government confuse Public in Retirement Protection Mess 138
- (4.6) Take Care of the Health of Our Next Generation 141
- (4.7) A Healthy, Wealthy Year of the Pig for All Employees 144
- (4.8) "High-Tech White Elephant" for Incinerating Medical Waste 147
- (4.9) Develop and Regulate Traditional Chinese Medicine for Betterment of Public Health 150
- (4.10) Traditional Chinese Medicine — Culture or Health Care? 154
- (4.11) Milestone in Monitoring Reproduction Technology 161
- (4.12) Playing God to create human happiness or misery? No More Delay in Control of Reproductive Technology 164
- (4.13) Amending Organ Donation Law to No Effect 168

(4.14) Patient Safety leaves no room for Mistake in Medical Gases Supply	171
(4.15) A lack of Political Will to undertake Health Screening Services	174
(4.16) Government out of puff in working towards a Tobacco Free Territory	177

Chapter Five

Challenge of Courage and Care for our Society

(5.1) Government Hypocritic in Sabotage Improvements to Sex Discrimination Bill	182
(5.2) Procrastination in fighting for Equal Opportunities	185
(5.3) More AIDS Education needed for our Policy Makers	189
(5.4) AIDS victims living in the Ugly Shadow of Discrimination	192
(5.5) Education without Law Enforcement Futile in battling Discrimination against HIV carriers	195
(5.6) People with AIDS no less Deserving of Hospice Care	198
(5.7) Time is not on our side in the AIDS Battle	201
(5.8) Braving the Plague of AIDS in Workplace	204
(5.9) New Faces; New Phase? — An Arduous 10-year AIDS Battle	213

Chapter Six

In Transition for a Better Hong Kong

(6.1)	John Major offered Beautiful Commitments or Horse Trading to Hong Kong?	220
(6.2)	British Prime Minister's visit likely to fail Hong Kong expectations test	223
(6.3)	Executive Council must be more Accountable!	228
(6.4)	Preparatory Committee must meet Aspirations of Hong Kong People	230
(6.5)	A Shameful Sell-Out Agreement on Court of Final Appeal	233
(6.6)	Government Watchdog is bound by Inborn Limitations	236
(6.7)	Political Cease-Fire between Britain and China to put Hong Kong public's minds at peace	240
(6.8)	Governor Patten's British Passport Proposal just Empty Words	246
(6.9)	Ease Hong Kong people's minds on "Right of Abode" issue	249
(6.10)	Moderation needed to settle worry over Permanent Residency	252
(6.11)	Hong Kong in Transition	256
(6.12)	"Swan Song" Policy Address putting a valedictory note to 150-year Colonial Governance	267