

DR. H. S. GEAR

NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY-GENERAL, WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The appointment of Dr. Harry Gear to be Secretary-General of the World Medical Association, with its headquarters in New York, brings yet another South African into greater prominence in the international sphere. It is a source of great satisfaction to his many colleagues that Dr. Gear should be the man singled out of the hundreds of thousands of doctors in the world for this high honour and important post.

Dr. Harry Gear is the eldest of three brothers who are all rendering distinguished service in medicine. His career commenced with distinction as a student when, after obtaining an Honours B.Sc. degree, he was awarded the Association's Medal as the 'Most distinguished graduate' in the M.B., Ch.B. class of his year (1928).

He married Joyce, the daughter of Sir William Leishman, whose name is notable in medical science, and their three sons all show signs of ability in the careers of service which they have chosen. It may not be generally known that, after post-graduate study in public health and tropical medicine in London, Dr. Gear spent some years in China as head of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Lister Institute for Medical Research in Shanghai. He then returned to South Africa where he joined the Public Health Department and rose to the position of Deputy Chief Health Officer in the Cape. During this time he served on the Federal Council and took a keen interest in the affairs of the Medical Association of South Africa. During the war years Dr. Gear served with distinction in Africa and

the Middle East, attaining the rank of Lieut.-Colonel and being mentioned in dispatches.

Dr. Gear represented the Union Government at the founding of the World Health Organization in 1946, and was its representative at four World Health Assemblies. In 1951 he was seconded from the Department of Health to become Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization in Geneva. His work took him to many countries as consultant on health matters, and he occupied this position until 1958.

In the following year he served as a member of the Governor-General's Commission of Enquiry into the medical services of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and also travelled in North America and Western Europe as a Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation. Last year he succeeded General Orenstein as Director of the Pneumococcosis Bureau of the CSIR.

With the growing prominence of African Affairs, the Council of the World Medical Association has chosen well in appointing this quiet, unassuming, internationally-minded man as its Secretary-General. His wide knowledge of medical affairs in the world, and especially his knowledge of Africa, will be of great value to the Organization.

Dr. Harry Gear will leave his mark on the World Medical Association and all that it stands for, and the Association will be the better for it.



Dr. Gear