



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD
OF
MEDICAL EXAMINERS
NEW ORLEANS

December 17, 1974

CHARLES E. J. H. M. D.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

IN THE MATTER OF
DR. THOMAS C. ROACH, M.D.
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

A hearing was held by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners on the 17th day of October and the 5th day of December on charges brought against Dr. Thomas C. Roach, M.D., in order to determine whether or not just cause existed for suspension of his license to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana as provided for in Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:1285 (4) (5).

The hearing was held subsequent to notice to Dr. Roach of the charges as well as the proposed time and place of the hearing. Dr. Roach was in attendance on both days and represented himself. The entire Board was present at the hearing.

After hearing the witnesses and observing their demeanor on the witness stand and reviewing the evidence, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners issues the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and decision.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.

Based on Dr. Roach's admission in his testimony, the Board finds that he was a habitual user of Demerol and Dilaudid up to and including December of 1973.

2.

The evidence relative to the prescriptions issued by Dr. Roach for Demerol, Dilaudid, and other habit-forming drugs from December 1973, to the date of this hearing; Dr. Roach's testimony relative thereto; and his physical appearance and demeanor at the hearing creates the reasonable inference that Dr. Roach is still a habitual user of habit-forming drugs and the Board therefore finds that such habitual use is, in fact, continuing.

December 17, 1974

3.

The evidence establishes that Dr. Roach obtained the habit-forming drugs in question by misrepresentation, deception, and subterfuge and that no reasonable medical justification exists for the prescription of such drugs.

4.

Dr. Roach's appearance and demeanor during his two appearances before the Board has convinced the Board that he is not presently fit to continue to handle the duties and responsibilities of his profession and therefore should not be entrusted with the responsibility of patient care.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that:

a. Dr. Roach is a habitual user of habit-forming drugs and therefore just cause exists for the suspension of his license in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:1285 (4) "Habitual use of morphine, opium, cocaine, or other drugs having a similar effect."

b. Dr. Roach acquired the drugs in question in violation of Louisiana Revised Statutes 40:971 and wrote the prescriptions therefor without reasonable medical justification. Therefore just cause exists for suspension of his license in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:1285 (5) "prescribing habit-forming drugs in other than a legal and legitimate manner."

c. Dr. Roach is presently unfit to carry out the responsibilities of his profession and, although the charges originally brought against Dr. Roach for consideration at the hearing did not include a charge of incompetency, the Board takes notice of his apparent condition and concludes that just cause exists for suspension of his license in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:1285 (11) "incompetence."

DECISION

Considering the foregoing, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners hereby suspends the medical license of Dr. Thomas C. Roach, M.D. evidenced by certificate number 1833, for a period

December 17, 1974

of three years, commencing from the date hereof, or until such time as Dr. Roach satisfies the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners that he is competent to resume the practice of medicine.

In conjunction with this decision, the Board strongly recommends to Dr. Roach that he immediately enter into an appropriate medical institution in order to seek active medical assistance for his present disability.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, this 17th day of December, 1974.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:



Charles B. Odom, M.D., President