

Doctor ordered to repay loan ^{27 Jul 79} 14829

A FAMILY doctor influenced one of his patients, a depressed 68-year-old widow, into parting with £8,000 so that he could buy a garage business, a judge said yesterday.

Dr Jeremy Bean—a flamboyant East Kent GP who now attends his surgery dressed as a woman—had contested a High Court action for the return of the money.

He went into the witness box, wearing a ladies jacket, peach blouse, yellow skirt and high-heeled shoes with his dark hair styled like a woman's, and argued that the money was a gift. He denied that Mrs Ivy Growden had paid him the money while

under his influence in a doctor-patient relationship.

Mr Justice Hobhouse ruled that the money was a loan made on the basis that she would be allowed to live rent free in a flat above the garage.

Mrs Growden's intention to obtain the flat "was induced by the influence of Dr Bean, and she at no time escaped from this influence," said the judge.

Dr Bean was not wholly frank in giving his evidence, he said.

Mrs Growden committed suicide in the flat over the garage in Oscar Road, Broadstairs, Kent, on February 14, 1977, a year after she had moved in as an unsecured tenant.

Her son Philip, of Den-

mark Road, Hornsey, North London, as executor of her estate, sued Dr Bean for the return of the money.

The judge ordered Dr Bean, aged 42, of Seaview Road, Broadstairs, to pay £5,394, plus interest and costs.

The amount claimed was reduced because of payments made to Mrs Growden by Dr Bean and by a counterclaim that for several months after Mrs Growden's death the flat could not be let because it was full of her furniture.

Mrs Growden must have regarded the £8,000 as a loan because she kept a notebook which showed when Dr Bean paid off various sums, said the judge. She also told a friend and her solicitor it was a loan.