

mation of the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc., an affiliate of the American Board of Surgery, Inc. This Board, with the benevolent guidance of members of the Surgical Board, has functioned since 1938. An effort to achieve objectives, as outlined by the Advisory Council for Medical Specialties, has been made. As a further effort, the latest project is represented in this venture, the launching of a new journal, "Anesthesiology." The keynote is progress. The watchword is education.

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As knowledge accumulates in any field of endeavor the related literature increases in volume. The medical sciences are no exception. The enormous amount of medical literature coming from the presses today is an indication of the recent rapid advances in medical practices. It is inconceivable that the medical and related professions would accumulate knowledge without immediately disseminating it. There is no convenient method for so doing other than the recognized medium of exchange, contemporary medical literature. Although it is a fact that the number of medical periodicals published annually have reached a staggering figure, it is equally true that medical discoveries and learned discussions are available in greater abundance.

There is considerable agitation from many sources to curtail the output of medical literature and many of the arguments used as a basis for demanding such action are sound. The proper procedure for exercising control over the increasing stream of publications is a more complex proposition. It would seem logical to assume that much could be accomplished by the more careful selection of the material to be published. If articles are judged solely upon their merits and only those published which contain original work, comprehensive merited reviews or report valuable experiences, the bulk of medical literature would be decreased as rapidly as it has grown. Articles published because the author has gained a reputation from other work or by virtue of position, and those published because they happen to have been presented before some medical society frequently need strict editing. There should be an insistence upon brevity in the process of editing. If all but the essential facts in articles were omitted many of them would have nothing left and practically all of them would be much shorter.

The American Society of Anesthetists, Inc. are convinced that in their special branch of medicine there is a definite need and place for ANESTHESIOLOGY. However, they realize the responsibility that is theirs; namely, to avoid further burdening the medical literature with articles that do not merit publication.