

EDITORIAL

ADDRESS OF RETIRING PRESIDENT

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, INC.

DECEMBER 12, 1946

JOHN S. LUNDY, M.D.

Rochester, Minnesota

There is one thing that I should like to do first, and that is to publicly thank E. R. Squibb & Sons for what they have done to help this Society to become what it is. Since 1935, I believe, they have furnished without charge a space that has been used as the headquarters for this organization. No charge has been made. There has been no request even for a free ad in the Journal. So far as I know, they have never been publicly and officially thanked, and that is what I wish to do at this moment.

The period for which you elect a president in this organization is for one year and the time seems to fly very rapidly while attempting to carry out the things that one might wish to do as president. I at last have found that to be the case, and I am hoping that in the future the business of the Society can be expedited and that the incoming officers will be able to lay their plans in such a way that they can start off directly as they will tomorrow morning—I believe for the first time—to begin to function in December instead of the following February.

In the year of 1946, since it was the centenary year for the celebration of the first public demonstration of ether by Morton in Boston, I had a great many invitations to attend meetings. I think you would be interested to know that there were celebrations in Australia, in Portugal, in England, several in the United States and I have just returned from one in Mexico City. I can say that The American Society of Anesthesiologists was well represented geographically, if not in other ways, by having one representative from the Pacific Coast, two from the Eastern Coast, two from the Mid-West, several from the South and they did have a very good meeting.

I think you would be interested to know that the enthusiasm for anesthesiology in Mexico City is just as keen as it is in any of the cities of this country. It would appear to me from the observations I have made that that enthusiasm is also apparent throughout the country, and perhaps throughout the world. I believe a meeting is contemplated next May in Paris, and, as you know, there will be a meeting in Atlantic

City on June 9 for the American Medical Association on their hundredth anniversary. The year 1947 is the one hundredth anniversary of the introduction of chloroform as an anesthetic agent.

The question of the economics of anesthesia has seemed to me to be of prime importance and I have been convinced of that by our Survey Committee of which Doctor Ruth is chairman and Doctor Whitacre is a member as well as Doctor Haugen. They were first appointed by Doctor Waters and then I re-appointed them, and they have worked very hard to produce for you something that would help in the policy that should be followed with respect to the economics of the specialty.

The thing that you have done tonight in approving the new Constitution and By-Laws has made it possible to raise sufficient money to hire a lay executive secretary. Previously we did not have the money to make it a permanent job and it was the greatest disappointment of my term that I could not introduce to you your new lay executive secretary tonight. It will be possible now, however, to hire one in 1947.

The Constitution and By-Laws have been changed and amended from time to time with the growth of the Society. Developments occurred so rapidly recently that the changes in the Constitution and By-Laws adopted in December 1946 may not survive very long but should serve a very useful purpose in bringing about the transition of the Society from a local one to a national one, from a small national society to a large one, and from a large average national organization to one that, if it takes advantage of its ideals as they have been expressed in the various conversations associated with the organization of the Society, can become a model one—certainly in structure by re-organizing of its Constitution and By-Laws. These instruments can be prepared in such a way as to give sufficient flexibility so that frequent changes are not necessary.

Changes in the various committees were attempted. I was especially concerned with trying to integrate the activities of the Committee on Standardization with similar agencies in other societies. These facilities are arranged for and I hope to see them function in the future.

The various categories of membership I hope to see filled up so as to enlarge the total membership. The increase of dues, plus increased membership, will make possible the accomplishment of many of the objectives that this Society was created to attain.

I would like to express my gratitude to all my associate officers, to the Board of Directors, to the members of the various Committees and to the office personnel at the headquarters for having cooperated with me one hundred per cent in every way.

I know I have exceeded my time. I may have made a lot of trouble for you and I may have made it very expensive for you during my tenure of office but I hope that you will think that it was worthwhile. Thank you.