

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS *

EDWARD B. TUOHY, M.D.

Washington, D. C.

The progress which has been made during the past year has been in a measure due to the combined efforts of many individuals and committees of this organization active during the past years. There can be little doubt that the acquisition of an executive secretary has made it possible for me to carry on the proposals and recommendations made by this Society through the medium of the Board of Directors and a revamped Constitution and By-Laws.

It was in 1945 that I was asked to serve as chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee by Doctor Ralph M. Waters. I am quite certain that most of you are fully aware of the repeated changes which have been made in our basic structure, and this revision in the Constitution and By-Laws has been necessary to accommodate the rapidly advancing growth of this specialty. In most instances the fundamental changes which have been incorporated in our new Constitution and By-Laws, and which this Society has accepted by a definite majority, have been true necessities. I wish to commend all the members of the previous committees who have dealt with the revision of the Constitution, and in particular the legal talent contributed by our executive secretary. Also, I wish to express my appreciation of the effort and industry put into this revision by Mr. Clarence Munns who has served this Society in an advisory capacity this year. The basic framework upon which our new Constitution is built is in essence a miniature of that which is employed by the American Medical Association. It has been the aim and desire of the officers of this Society for the current year, and I am sure I can speak for those active in previous years, to adapt our rules and regulations to meet the demands of the rapidly growing specialty.

With any marked change in such a fundamental structure as the Constitution and By-Laws, it is inevitable that repercussions occur, and to a certain extent a number of misgivings on the part of some members of the Society that indicate a certain amount of dissatisfaction. However, if one takes a moment to pause to reflect on the over-all principles involved by such modification in the Constitution and By-Laws, it should be apparent that the present "ground rules" will serve to give the

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American Society of Anesthesiology a greater latitude in individual representation and structural legislation. In order to effect this reorganization it has required a continuity of effort and purpose. The previous officers of this Society, Drs. Lundy and Ruth, initiated the movement ultimately to effect a change in the Constitution and set up the foundation to make it possible for the Society to have a permanent executive secretary. What has been achieved this year, therefore, could not have been possible without an excellent integration of effort and foresight which had its genesis several years ago. Most of the members of this Society are aware of the fact that it requires at least a year and probably two years to produce results in an active committee.

One of the major changes which has taken place during the past year has been the transfer of the headquarters office of this Society to Chicago. Having the office centrally located has been of definite advantage to the executive secretary, and I think it has been more convenient for a greater number of the members of the Society. The activities of our executive secretary have been closely followed by the News Letter and all members of this Society have been informed of the various activities originating from the central office. A very sincere effort has been made by the Committee on Economics and the Committee on Public Relations to carry out certain policies which will express the viewpoints of this organization to other branches of the medical profession, including hospital organizations. Obviously a great deal more will have to be done by these two very important committees and I am sure that the policies of the Society will be accepted and recognized in the due course of time. It is quite obvious that any policies with respect to economic principles must be carefully thought out and diplomatically and judiciously presented.

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of the officers who have served this year, and to the Board of Directors and to all members of the Society who have actively served on a committee for their support and industrious efforts. I sincerely hope that all members will diligently work to organize the various component societies as rapidly as possible so that it will be possible for Doctor McCuskey and his immediate associates to establish a House of Delegates. It has not been possible to go through this transition period, namely of discarding the previous Constitution and By-Laws and accepting the new, without being confronted with certain difficulties. Of necessity, there had to be a starting point in order to start operating under the new regime, and until such a time as a complete House of Delegates could be assembled, the Executive Board of the Society had to assume some of the functions and duties of the House of Delegates.

Let me urge everyone to continue their support and endorse the new Constitution and By-Laws, and conscientiously endeavor to accomplish the definite objectives set forth by the new President and other officers and individual committees.