

EDITORIAL

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

Dr. HENRY S. RUTH resigned as Editor of *Anesthesiology* on October 31, 1955. Those of us who have been closely associated with Henry Ruth realize that his resignation brings to an end an era in the history of the Journal for which he worked with a dedication transcending the call of duty. He was *Anesthesiology's* first Editor and in that capacity was responsible for the preliminary organization that made publication of the original issue in July, 1940, possible. Establishment of an editorial office in his home, accumulation of suitable manuscripts, arrangements with the Lancaster Press and development of policy for the new project entailed leadership of a high order which he supplied effectively and well. *Anesthesiology* was launched on a financial shoestring and for a number of years its future was precarious. The Editor worked without stint and without compensation, on many occasions in those days paying his own expenses to organizational meetings and giving of his own time as well. The first issue was mailed to 705 subscribers. The most recent issue reached 4,756 members of the Society and 3,121 non-member subscribers. Statistics such as these are a measure of growth of *Anesthesiology*. Statistics fail to demonstrate the position of eminence which it has gained in the dissemination of scientific knowledge to the far reaches of the globe. Subscribers in seventy-six countries are served. To our first Editor we owe a debt of gratitude for this accomplishment.

Within the past year the over-all operation of *Anesthesiology* has been surveyed by a competent consultant in the technical magazine field. We are happy to quote from the summary of his report in order to indicate the stature that *Anesthesiology* has gained under Dr. Ruth's able guidance. It would be difficult to publish a more fitting tribute.

"In conclusion, let me repeat that *Anesthesiology* is a publication in basically good order, in sound financial shape; it is a magazine which, by and large, serves a critically important speciality well. It provides an honest contribution to the sum of Medicine's, and therefore man's knowledge; no publication can do more."

Dr. Ruth has met the trials and tribulations of the past fifteen years with fortitude. To him and his wife, ever his helpmate, we owe much. It is regretted that her recent passing into the Great Beyond makes it impossible for us to say 'thank you' to her directly. We hope she looks upon our continuing effort in benign contemplation realizing that hers has been a life worth while. To Henry Ruth we offer sincerest sympathy knowing that mere words fail to compensate for his loss but hoping they will help to assuage the pangs of his sorrow. Our best

wishes go to him for a productive future merging with his past achievements. We of the Editorial Board are happy that his active interest in *Anesthesiology* will continue and we are grateful that we will be able to turn to him as Editor Emeritus for help, advice and counsel whenever it may be needed.

Dr. E. A. Rovenstine, another of the original members of the Editorial Board of *Anesthesiology*, has requested that he be relieved of further responsibility to the Journal. His resignation has been accepted with regret. He has been a tower of strength throughout the years and his frank but constructive criticism will be sorely missed. His vote to publish or reject individual manuscripts has been supported by fair and sound opinion that has been valued and respected by his colleagues. To him we wish to express our appreciation for his unremitting effort dedicated to the success of *Anesthesiology*.

Change is inevitable. Although tried and true colleagues will be missed, we are happy to welcome Dr. Stevens J. Martin of Hartford, Connecticut, and Dr. James E. Eckenhoff of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as new members of the Editorial Board. The Board of Directors in our Society was discerning and chose well. It is hoped that the new incumbents will find the work not too onerous and that it will be rewarding in terms of a Journal destined to bigger and better things.