

EDITORIALS

Blueprint for the Future

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, under excellent leadership, has assumed a positive stand against third-party intervention in the relationship between physician and patient and has taken steps to maintain the highest possible ethical standards for the specialty. These efforts have broadened the influence of this young specialty and have demonstrated the firmness of the clear-cut foundation established by the conscientious labors of our past leaders. A positive but flexible position must now be maintained.

The Society holds an enviable position of leadership among specialty groups. This position affords a great opportunity for service to the profession and to the public by stimulating and guiding the thinking of other organized groups equally interested in providing the best care possible for the patient.

HELP FROM OUR LEADERS

Our officers and our committee chairmen, together with their committeemen, have accomplished much by their united efforts. The past presidents have made great progress in overcoming a multitude of problems. The experience of these men, who have given freely of their time at personal sacrifice, should not be overlooked, and their knowledge and judgment must be utilized in the future. Many will continue to serve on various committees.

In addition, a Past-President's Committee has been formed to serve as a guiding influence. All of our past presidents continue to be actively interested in the Society, to attend annual sessions regularly, and to be well informed about the organization's far-reaching activities. Even though they have the freedom of the floor of the House of Delegates, the formation of the new committee made up of these leaders will provide us with invaluable guidance in the evaluation of all programs, and their ideas and counsel will make a vital contribution to our endeavors.

COMMITTEES AND COMMUNICATIONS

New names have been introduced for committee chairmanships to allow for new views. The organization has much talent which should be utilized. Geographical representation has been sacrificed in those situations where it is more desirable to have meetings of committees than to carry on all work by correspondence.

Because of the inevitable problems of rapid growth and the increased pressure of third-parties in the practice of medicine, more fre-

quent meetings of the Board of Directors are advisable. Through your Directors, every effort will be made to keep the membership informed. The method of conveying all pertinent information will be worked out on the basis of individual problems. Publication of our *Flash* and *Report* news letters at regular intervals will not be as important as having a Director or the Executive Secretary rush the desired information to members whenever and wherever it is needed. If the members are to be assisted or supported, they must inform the Society of their problems. In addition, the Society must receive the facts before it can cooperate in dealing with the problems. Anticipating an increase in the work load of the Chicago office, the Board of Directors at their June (1957) meeting voted to employ Mr. John W. Andes, Jr., as an assistant executive secretary. This added service initially will entail no increase in annual dues.

LEGAL COMMITTEE NAMED

A Legal Committee has been appointed for the next year for the purpose of evaluating claims against anesthesiologists. In this way, immediate assistance can be given to the physician. It is also hoped that a smoothly functioning committee will be equally useful to insurers by eliminating the adjustment of claims without the knowledge of the insured. This should prevent the withdrawal of liability companies from certain areas and also prevent adverse modification of contracts. Educational and organizational steps have been planned to encourage members to report their legal difficulties to the Chicago office. The public relations counselor and the legal counsel of the Society have proved to be invaluable. Our public relations program has been a successful venture in new directions. The effectiveness of both public relations and legal programs will continue to be far-reaching.

Your Board of Directors and your officers will attempt to serve you well and promptly for the benefit of the Society as a whole, but they will need your cooperation to make the coming year a successful one. They will continue, with positive thinking, to meet their responsibilities thus assuring that steady progress will be made.

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American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.