

peer review—the daily mutual consultation and approbation of each other's medical practice.

Compelling forces bearing upon the practice of anesthesiology today include the manpower problems, our guiding policies vis-a-vis peer review, and changing trends in the entire field of medical education. These forces may be compared with those of a smoldering volcano—impossible to tell in which direction it will erupt next, so that little direct prophylaxis can be applied. As failure is not necessarily fatal, so success is not final. Success can only be measured by how well we cope with problems

as they arise without diminishing our devotion and dedication to patient care.

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References

1. Jenkins MT: Anesthesiology: Some of its problems and responsibilities. JAMA 211:282-285, 1970
2. Larson CP: Continuing education requirements for the ASA. ASA Newsletter 35:June 2-4, 1971

Poem

Lights without shadows line the ceiling—
the doors to inner earth suck shut behind my stretcher.
I know as I think "run," the paralyzing nightmare impotence
of the attempt.
Layers of loneliness and fear separate my body from the blankets.
I'm cold.
I've lost the sun.

Then voices: "Why the trembling dear—
don't worry, you will just drop off to sleep."
Oh god that dreamless sleep, a drop into a void of gray,
a wedge of death.
How will my wounded body find its soul
without a memory of what that death has been.
I want to run.
I can't.
I'm cold.
I've lost the sun.

—SUSANNE J. LAMDMAN, M.D.