EDITORIALS

RESEARCH IN THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

In the various contractual relationships proposed and followed by hospitals and pathologists no attention has been given to the support of laboratory research. Many private general hospitals do not have tax funds, university support or private endowment available for this worthy purpose. In the past many such institutions, particularly the smaller ones, have not been particularly interested in clinical and laboratory investigation; but times and conditions have changed. It is realized now that creditable research can be done in any hospital. Young pathologists and other specialists, thoroughly trained in scientific pursuits, will not be denied research opportunities and facilities. At least such deprivation will not enhance their happiness and satisfaction. The alternative would be for such men to go to teaching institutions or larger hospitals where facilities for investigation exist. The shortage of pathologists in private hospitals would consequently become more acute.

Since pathologists have scrutinized hospital finances it has become obvious to them that hospital laboratories have large incomes. From this income the hospital can be properly “reimbursed” for capital investment and maintenance and the pathologist can be well compensated. In addition it would seem reasonable that an allotment of gross laboratory income, even though only a small one, should be made for the creation of an educational and research fund. Such a stipulation in the contract between the hospital and the pathologist would provide the basis for a vigorous program of medical research. Hospital administrators and patients would be unlikely to oppose such a practice and the hospital staff would enthusiastically support such a worthy project. All would quickly point with pride to its accomplishments—even its existence.

Neither pathologists nor hospital boards can fail to see that such free enterprise in medical research would accomplish several important things at one time; not the least of these would be to dispel the notion rapidly gaining popularity that all medical research must be tax-supported.

This method would provide a much needed and greatly desired outlet for the scientific yearnings of the better trained doctor who, by the excellence of his teaching, has been made to realize the importance of original contributions and observations to his professional standing and to his scientific peace of mind.

Detroit

The Bone Marrow in Lupus Erythematosus

In a recent editorial, Kracke (Am. J. Clin. Path., 20: 93–94, 1950) referred to advances resulting from aspiration of bone marrow. This method furnishes tissue for biopsy and hence is of obvious interest to the pathologist. In discussing trends in clinical pathology, Brines (Am. J. Clin. Path., 19: 1155, 1949) mentioned a belief that the teaching and practice of clinical pathology is being gradually turned over to departments of internal medicine. In this country, the trend is