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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF HOSPITAL IN- TERNSHIPS AND RESIDENCE

At a recent meeting of the Greater New York Hospital Association, the forthcoming report of a three-year survey of internships and residencies in the hospitals of New York City was discussed by Dr. F. L. Babbott, chairman of the New York Committee for the Study of Hospital Internships and Residencies, and by Dr. J. A. Curran, executive secretary. The New York Committee was sponsored by the five medical colleges of New York City and the New York Academy of Medicine. In its work, the committee has had the cooperation of ninety-seven voluntary and municipal hospitals in the municipal area. The study has been financed through grants made by the Commonwealth Fund, and the report will be published by the fund.

Dr. Curran pointed out that New York City occupies a leading position in the country in the education of doctors. At the time of the survey, 103 medical colleges in all parts of the United States, in Canada and in several foreign countries furnished over 2,000 graduates for advanced training in the internships, residencies and other house-staff services in the 182 hospitals of all types in New York City. Seventy-seven of these hospitals have been approved by the American Medical Association and were offering house-staff training to 1,968 individuals.

The report stresses the length and the arduous nature of the modern medical course. In New York City, besides the usual four years in medical college, at least two additional years of internship are considered necessary before a doctor may safely assume independent responsibility for the care of the sick.

The close association between medical colleges and hospitals was shown by the fact that 1,353 out of the 1,968 house-staff members were in hospitals having

some degree of medical college affiliation. Hospitals were divided into three groups—"teaching," "affiliated" and "non-teaching"—according to the degree of their participation in the undergraduate programs of the several medical colleges in the city. Over ninety-five per cent. of the internships in the so-called non-teaching hospitals were rotating (attempting to cover all services in the hospital), while most of the straight internships (on one service only) and mixed internships (on two or three services only) were provided by the teaching and affiliated hospitals. It is, therefore, important to consider the educational standing of the complete rotating internship.

The committee attempted to evaluate each step of the medical-educational process. A comparison of the preparation of the graduates of American and foreign medical schools showed in most instances the superior quality of the education received in the American institutions, as applied to intern requirements in this country. The survey demonstrated the need for better organized education of the interns, for in approximately half of the hospitals systematic introduction to their duties and continued instruction and supervision could be much better organized.

In addition to the internships, it was shown that there were 577 residencies and fellowships in 53 of the 77 hospitals of the city approved by the American Medical Association. Through these opportunities, interns have obtained advanced training in special fields. In the majority of instances, it was concluded that the residencies have greatly enhanced the quality of care given the patients and have been of valuable assistance in the teaching of students and interns.

The committee has undertaken a program of annual revisitation of hospitals cooperating in plans for improved house-staff education. Material gathered is said to have been invaluable in the guidance of undergraduates seeking internship placement. These revisits have revealed increasing interest in better education of the interns, and in better provision for their housing, recreation and health care. A serious obstacle has been insufficient funds for these needs.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNI- VERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY

THE one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Linnean Society of London was opened on May 25 in the rooms of the Royal Institution, when the Linnean Medal was presented to Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, and the president, John Ramsbottom, keeper of botany in the British Museum (Natural History), delivered his presidential address.

According to an account of the meeting given in the *London Times*, among those present were many foreign