

# Association Affairs

## American College of Gastroenterology

One of the societies elected at the 131st AAAS annual meeting (30 December 1964) as an affiliate was the American College of Gastroenterology, which is an association of physicians from all parts of the world who have a common interest in diseases of the stomach and in other allied medical fields. The College is also affiliated with the World Organization of Gastroenterology (O.M.G.E.).

The major interest of the American College of Gastroenterology is to advance clinical gastroenterology. In addition, it also promotes and stimulates research and teaching in gastrointestinal diseases and in allied fields. Its annual 3-day convention is held regularly in the latter part of October in various parts of the country. At these sessions individual papers are presented, in addition to panels and symposia. The College also sponsors an annual course in postgraduate gastroenterology, devoted to teaching and reviewing, for 3 days after the convention.

The official publication, *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*, is published monthly and contains mostly papers of a clinical nature. From time to time the College, together with a pharmaceutical concern, sponsors awards for the best unpublished papers on the subject by an intern, resident, or fellow and for the best published papers which appeared in the official publication.

The officers of the College for 1964-65 are: president, Milton J. Matzner (State University of New York Downstate Medical Center); president-elect, Maxwell R. Berry (Emory Medical College); 1st vice president, John M. McMahon (University of Alabama College of Medicine); 2nd vice president, Libby Pulisfer (University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry); 3rd vice president, Murrel H. Kaplan (Louisiana State Univer-

sity School of Medicine); 4th vice president, Julian A. Sterling (Temple University School of Medicine); secretary-general, Lynn A. Ferguson (Ferguson-Droste-Ferguson Clinic and Hospital); secretary, Harry Barowsky (New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospitals); treasurer, William C. Jacobson (New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital); and AAAS council representative, Robert R. Bartunek (Western Reserve University).

DANIEL WEISS

*American College of Gastroenterology,  
New York, New York*

## Academy of Religion and Mental Health

The Academy of Religion and Mental Health was elected as an affiliate at the AAAS annual meeting in Montreal. The Academy, established in 1954, is a private, nonprofit, educational, and research organization. Its membership includes nearly 4000 professional leaders from all religious faiths and from disciplines concerned with health and behavior. While most Academy members are located in North America, membership reaches to 35 foreign countries.

The Academy purposes are: (i) to further and deepen the exchange of knowledge and insight among clergymen and professional representatives of the medical, psychological, and behavioral sciences; (ii) to stimulate and guide research and study in the relationships between religious values and health; (iii) to provide opportunities for active cooperation among religious leaders, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and behavioral scientists at the level of continuing professional education and service to human need; and (iv) to contribute to man's knowledge of himself and of his fellowmen.

In seeking to realize these purposes, the Academy's program includes the following activities:

1) Establishment of branches of concerned professional leaders in more than 60 communities in the United States.

2) Publication of the *Journal of Religion and Health* (this quarterly journal reaches more than 4000 professional readers).

3) Plans and directs workshops in pastoral counseling for chaplains in U.S. Army posts around the world.

4) Publishes books, studies, research reports, and bibliographies of interest to scholars in related fields.

5) Assists in the preparation of curricula on mental health for theological seminaries in cooperation with the National Institute of Mental Health.

6) Conducts symposia, national conferences, and regional educational programs to focus attention on religion's role in attaining and preserving health. (Special grants are awarded by foundations, state and local agencies, and professional groups for this work.)

7) Creates a growing world-wide awareness of the relation of religious values to health through its members and contacts in the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

8) Offers counsel and encouragement to individuals and local agencies on program and policy.

9) Serves as a consultant to private, public, and governmental agencies on program and policy.

10) Fosters a spirit of working cooperation among the various religious and scientific groups from which its membership is drawn.

In addition to these activities, the Academy proposes to launch a national program for the education of clergymen in problems of mental retardation, mental illness, and mental health. It plans to hold a conference at which psychological tests will be developed for those persons entering the ministry.

At the present time the Academy hopes to develop further a program which it is carrying out in Philadelphia—600 clergymen are attending monthly seminars in eight hospitals where instruction is given on how to deal with emotional problems. The Academy also obtains funds for scholarships and grants-in-aid for professional training at the graduate level for future teachers and leaders in the fields of the Academy's concerns.

The Academy, while occasionally receiving grants for specific projects,