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was recently found in the pages of *Medical World News*, an influential trade weekly edited by a former editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Morris Fishbein. And another critic, John Freymann of Worcester, Massachusetts, also writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, pointed out that an important consequence of the AMA's loss of influence is that measures affecting doctors no longer originate "from planning by the medical profession." "No longer a positive force," Freymann said, "the AMA, and with it the entire medical profession has . . . been in the negative position of supporting or opposing programs conceived by the laity and carried forward on the fitful winds of public demand."

Other critics have felt that the medicare campaign (and, they fear, the coming battle) have been degrading in a more immediate sense—that in order to collect the funds needed to support its political campaigns the AMA has compromised the formerly high standards governing the advertising of drugs in its journals. Rumblings that even the scientific sessions of the AMA were not attracting the first-rate exhibits and programs that they once had were heard frequently in New York. For those who feel that the AMA has already "gone political" in an irretrievably damaging way, the reportedly close voting for president-elect during the convention provided no comfort. In the end the delegates elected an AMA regular, Charles Hudson, of Cleveland, a professor at Western Reserve and at the Cleveland Clinic. But among Hudson's competitors were two politicians—former Representative Walter Judd (R–Minn.), a defeated congressman, and Representative Durward Hall (R–Mo.), a third-term congressman with relatively little influence. Both these men are physicians (Hall is a member of the AMA House of Delegates), but the sentiment for them was largely based on the notion that "we need someone to look after us in Washington." Election of either one would have jeopardized the AMA's claims to be taken seriously as a professional organization; that the contest required three ballots is some indication of how the AMA these days is viewing itself.

Which came first, the rise of alternative centers of power in medicine or the erosion of the influence of the AMA, is difficult to say. Earlier in the association's history—chiefly in the period before World War I—the AMA was crucial in the reform and standardization of medical education, and was even found advocating such progressive schemes as social insurance. In that period, it seems to have been dominated largely by academic specialists. Later, the academicians seem to have withdrawn from leadership, leaving the AMA to become, increasingly, an organization of practicing physicians whose ties to academic medicine were limited to their own years in medical school. It has been the practicing doctors, almost exclusively, who have worked themselves through local and state medical societies to positions of influence in the AMA.

The relative indifference of academic physicians to local medical affairs—hence their lack of power in the AMA—is reflected in the composition of the most recent House of Delegates. Of 233 delegates, the general practitioners (51) were the largest single group, followed by general surgeons (42), internists (35), and obstetricians and gynecologists (25). After these groups, which constituted over half the delegates, the next largest groups were in administrative medicine and urology, with 8 members each. Beyond that, other specialties were hardly represented; a few were literally not represented at all.

The difficulty with this highly skewed array is not so much that it fails to reflect the manpower levels of various specialties (GP's, after all, still represent the largest number of U.S. physicians; and the only two groups conspicuously underrepresented are psychiatrists and pediatricians) but that the domination of GP's occurs at a time when it no longer reflects trends affecting medicine as a whole. The AMA delegates, who set the organization's basic tone, appear to be trailing behind in two important ways. First, many people believe that the entrepreneurial tradition of independent practice which characterizes the AMA delegates is isolating them from the mainstream of actual medical practice, which is increasingly scientific rather than personal, corporate or group rather than solo, and increasingly based around medical schools and hospitals. Second, the delegates, as the annals of the convention indicate, are if anything even farther removed than their leaders from currents affecting the social and political climate in which medicine will be practiced: they are more opposed to medicare, less disposed to interfere with existing patterns of segregation, more opposed to federally constructed heart and cancer stations, and so forth. As for what is to be done with the AMA, no one seems to have any ideas. Internal reform is made improbable by the very localistic structure that has produced many of the AMA's problems—those who would have to be reformed are the same people who would have to do the reforming—and by the aggressive, sometimes almost frenzied, self-satisfaction that has been the AMA's trademark. Reform from the outside is unlikely because those who might take on the job have been apathetic, and the groups that have risen seem willing or ready to challenge the AMA on only a narrow fraction of the issues with which doctors must deal. At this point, the chances that the AMA will be modernized appear slim. But it is safe to say that if the AMA does not change some of its ways, we will all be the worse for it—the doctors, because they will find themselves the servants of programs they neither like nor understand, the public because, for better or worse, these are the only doctors we have.—ELINOR LANGER

Announcements

A **laser research** program, sponsored by a grant from the Boeing Company, has been established at Tulane University's department of electrical engineering. Research will be conducted in a special laser laboratory equipped with lasers from Boeing and with Tulane microwave equipment. The project aims to evaluate the use of lasers to provide on-the-pad communication with rockets and to penetrate the ionized sheath of gases created during rocket lift-offs. The program will be coordinated by Walter Nunn, professor of electrical engineering at Tulane, and Curtis Toliver and Joseph Lopez, engineering supervisors in Boeing's communications technology unit.

The **Yerkes Regional Primate Center** this month was moved from Orange Park, Florida, to the campus of Emory University. The collection of primates will be housed at the center's new quarters on the Atlanta campus and at the 117-acre field station near Lawrenceville, Georgia, about 25 miles from Atlanta. The center was established in Florida by Yale University in 1930, and given to Emory in 1956.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

The Life Insurance Medical Research Fund invites applications for **medical research grants and fellowships** to be available 1 July 1966. Grants to institutions will aid basic research, with preference given to the cardiovascular area. Deadline for receipt of applications: *15 September*. (Scientific Director, Life Insurance Medical Research Fund, 1030 East Lancaster Ave., Rosemont, Pennsylvania 19010)

The Fund offers a maximum of 6 years of full fellowship aid to medical students willing to work toward both the M.D. and Ph.D. in preparation for careers in teaching and research. A medical school may nominate one person for a fellowship. Deadline for receipt of applications from the deans' offices: *1 October*. Further information is available from medical school deans.

The James Picker Foundation offers grants and fellowships for advanced study in **radiological research and nuclear medicine.** The program is administered by the Division of Radiological Sciences, National Academy of Sciences. Requests for additional information and for applications should be sent to the division's Committee on Radiology, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington 20418. Deadline for receipt of applications: *1 October*. The awards will be made in the following categories:

Advanced *fellowships in academic radiology*: to M.D.'s who have completed their 3-year residency in radiology and wish to prepare for teaching careers in a medical school radiology department. The fellowships are for 2 years and are renewable; preference will be given to persons under 34 years old. Stipends are $12,000 to $15,000, plus dependents' allowances.

Research fellowships: for M.D.'s with some training in radiology or nuclear medicine and Ph.D.'s in radiological sciences or related fields; the age limit is 30. Grants are for a year, renewable for up to 3; appointments may begin between 1 March 1966 and 1 January 1967. The institution at which the fellow works will supply necessary facilities and equipment. Stipends are $6000 to $7500, plus dependents' allowances.

Grants for *scholars in radiological research*: for institutions to help support the work of specified individuals who have recently completed their postdoctoral work. Scholar candidates

must have completed the requirements for specialty board certification or the equivalent, and be nominated by a department head, with indication of the candidate's acceptance as a staff member on a trial basis. The grants are $6000 annually for 2 years, renewable for a third, to pay the scholar's salary or research expenses, or both; the institution may supplement this amount. Candidates must submit outlines of their proposed research program.

Research grants: to institutions for specific research which aims to improve methods in diagnosis or treatment of disease. The grants will be for the amount of an approved budget, from $1000 to $10,000 a year for 2 years, renewable to 4 years. The work must be carried out by an established investigator. Applications should include the proposed project, and the institution should indicate the availability of necessary facilities.

Meeting Notes

An international conference on **liquid crystals** will take place at Kent State University, Ohio, 16–20 August. About 100 U.S. and foreign scientists will meet to discuss recent developments in the field. (G. Brown, Liquid Crystals Institute, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio)

An international symposium on **microchemical techniques** will take place 22–27 August at Pennsylvania State University, University Park. It will cover new methods, techniques, and applications in microchemistry and the program will include plenary lectures, seminars, presentation of original papers, technical films, and a commercial exhibit. The meeting is being organized by the American Microchemical Society and sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, commission on microchemical techniques, division of analytical chemistry. (H. J. Francis, Jr., Pennsatt Chemical Corp., 900 First Avenue, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania)

The call for papers has been issued for the 18th annual conference on **engineering in medicine and biology**, 10–12 November in Philadelphia. Emphasis will be on mathematical and diagnostic models for electrocardiography, processing of biological data in real time, control theory probabilistic models for neural events, artificial membranes,

hemodynamics, ultrasonic techniques, biomechanics, sensory aids, and heat-transfer phenomena. Presentation of papers should take no more than 15 minutes. Deadline for receipt of abstracts: *15 August*. (P. D. Edmonds, Moore School of Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104)

Courses

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology will conduct a course on the **pathology of laboratory animals**, 20–24 September at AFIP, Washington. The course is designed primarily to fit the needs of veterinary officers in charge of animal colonies in military laboratories; it will provide training in recognizing and interpreting lesions in experimental animals, and in the procurement and maintenance of animal colonies. The course is open to military and a limited number of civilian veterinary, medical, and dental personnel. Deadline for receipt of applications: *1 August*. (Director, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, ATTN: Department of Pathology, Washington, D.C. 20305)

Scientists in the News

The following scientists have been named to join the astronauts training at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas. They will be trained as specialized scientific crew members for the Apollo program.

Owen K. Garriott, associate professor of physics at Stanford.

Edward G. Gibson, senior research scientist at Applied Research Laboratories, Aeronutronic Division, Philco Corporation, Newport Beach, California.

Duane E. Graveline, flight surgeon at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center.

Joseph P. Kerwin, staff flight surgeon for Air Wing Four, Cecil Field Naval Air Station, Florida.

Frank Curtis Michel, assistant professor of space sciences, Rice University.

Harrison H. Schmitt, astrogeologist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Charles P. Huttrer, formerly in charge of the European office of NIH, has become biomedical attaché to the U.S. Mission, Geneva, Switzerland.