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## THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By JAMES J. WALSH, M.D., PH.D.

*The Record*, the official organ of the Catholic diocese of Louisville, Kentucky, comments on the fact that the president-elect of the American Medical Association for this year, who according to custom will take office at the next meeting, is "one of the most distinguished citizens of Louisville, one of the best loved Catholics in all this diocese, one whom the people in this community, professional no less than lay, have esteemed as a leader for a quarter of a century—Dr. Irvin Abell."

The editor continues in enthusiastic praise: "He may have various other titles but this is enough. We believe he was Colonel or something of the kind in the World War, but that is small matter. We think he has been honored with various degrees by universities, but we forget them all; we think of him only as Dr. Abell. To us in Louisville who know him, who love him, who are familiar with the innumerable charities he has bestowed, who are vicariously acquainted with his reputation as a surgeon throughout the United States, Dr. Abell is a friend, a leader and a guide. . . . To speak of Dr. Abell is to speak of all that is best and most modern, most thoroughly Catholic in the science of medicine and surgeon in this community. . . . The medical profession of the United

States could not have selected a man of greater gifts or higher standards."

The fervid words of praise of the editor of *The Record* are eminently well deserved. Under the circumstances it would seem that some exaggeration of commendation would almost inevitably creep in to the estimate of a brother burgher, especially in Louisville, so sensitive to the reputation of its citizens. There is no exaggeration in the present instance. A singularly gifted member of the medical profession has been very worthily honored by his professional brethren. All good wishes to him for a successful presidency of the Association.

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STORK LAX, DEATH BUSY. The nation's 1936 natural rate of increase—the excess of the birth rate over the death rate—sank to a record low, five per thousand.—[*Medical Economics*, March, 1937.]

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Sir James Barrie, the well-known author of *Peter Pan*, *The Little Minister*, and other popular novels, was the son of a poor Scottish weaver. He was one of ten children and started to write at an early age to help support the family.