Moderator's Message ... The Profession of Medicine

Marvin Bordelon
Moderator's Message…

The Profession of Medicine

Those two words “profession” and “medicine” have maintained a remarkable purity of meaning despite long and varied usage. Despite attempts of all kinds of groupings to use the appellation “profession” (witness: “the priestly profession”), doctors of medicine still seem to enjoy some sort of prior right to the title “professional men.”

What does this mean?

Webster’s *International Dictionary* defines profession first in the sense of religious consecration; then secondly, as a public act of belief, faith or opinion and as an avowed statement of expression of intention or purpose. In the third definition, Webster describes profession in terms of Christian or religious conviction and purpose openly avowed; and in yet another meaning defines the term as “a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive preparation including instructions in skills and methods as well as in the scientific, historical, or scholarly principles underlying such skills and methods, maintained by force of organization or concerted opinion high standards of achievement and conduct, and committing its members to continued study and to a kind of work which has for its prime purpose the rendering of a public service.”

In another place, Webster describes medicine in terms of healing. What a challenge for doctors! Basically, I am personally in deep admiration for the way doctors generally have met the demands of their calling. If they fail to reach perfection, I would suggest that the default lies in the area of social organization. No discipline today can reach its objectives in isolation, but rather in closest and effective consort with others. It seems to me that medicine, and men of medicine, must appreciate sufficiently the need of private industry, of church, of government and the populace as aids in achieving its most noble purpose.

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President's Page

The year 1967 has brought seven major changes in the internal workings of the National Federation.

First: The National headquarters was moved from the Catholic Hospital Association building in St. Louis, Missouri to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I wish to publicly thank Reverend John J. Flanagan, S.J.; Miss Jean Read, and other staff members of The Catholic Hospital Association for their many kind services and favors rendered us these many years.

Second: An Executive Secretary, Mr. Robert Herzog, was employed in December after the Executive Board so voted in Houston, Texas. Mr. Herzog began his work with us January 1, 1967 and is diligently making our desired changes.

Third: The Federation headquarters has gone to “process data” for billing, mailing the *Linacre Quarterly*, and any mail which must go to the members of the Federation. We have approximately 11,000 names on IBM cards.

Fourth: The Federation headquarters has offered to relieve Guild treasurers of billing problems and will send invoices to all members of Guilds by the data processing method. This should be more orderly and business-like as there would not be the billing confusion each year as Guilds change officers. Many times it is 2 or 3 months before the incoming treasurer and the old treasurer get together to have all the records and accounts reconciled. The treasurer, himself, is busy taking care of his practice and this added work must be handled when opportunity presents itself. How much simpler it will be for local Guilds to have the National Federation handle billing directly from Milwaukee. Checks would go directly to national headquarters; national dues and the *Linacre Quarterly* subscription fee will be deducted from the remittance and deposited in Milwaukee and the local dues refunded to the Guild treasurer. There is no charge for this service. Some Guilds have taken advantage of this offer and turned all billing over to the national office.

Fifth: After careful analysis of the profit and loss account of printing the *Linacre Quarterly* the results startled the officers to see that due to increase in cost of printing, paper, postage, etc. we were 50% low in charging $2.00 for 4 issues of the journal. To meet this deficit, we were forced to raise the yearly subscription to $4.00. I am sure that all subscribers agree with us that this is a necessity for business survival.

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