

NEW BROOMS

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The start of a new year finds *The Bulletin*, along with its parent county society participants in the annual, slate-wiping exercises common to the season. As you will notice, if you read the small print, old names are missing, and in their places on the rosters have blossomed the new. Under present day pressures and with the increasing complexities of living that seem to mount steadily with advancing years, it is no discredit to the old officers to say that most have left their positions with a feeling of relief nor is it any discredit to the incoming new to say that most of them assume their roles reluctantly and with no particular feeling of eagerness. However, these are the facts of life, and, sought for or not, we must accept our responsibilities and carry out our obligations to the best of our abilities.

The New Year is always a good vantage point from which to scan the horizons. In particular regard to *The Bulletin*, a backward glance reveals that we have been in existence for eight years now, that twelve times each year a deadline has been met and that ninety-six issues of this journal have gone to and come from press. There have been bad issues and good ones, dull ones and interesting ones, thin ones and thick ones. The direction of our journalistic efforts has varied, reflecting the personalities and concerns of our six editors and their associates. At one time or another, in addition to our medical content, we have featured gossip columns, hobby corners, baby pictures, water skis, personality sketches, prize fighters, detail men, preachers, lawyers, social calendars and candid cameras. There is even an unpublished article of philosophical bent on bird dogs that somehow got misplaced and is still filed away somewhere gathering dust. All in all, *The Bulletin* has had an interesting history, and your present staff has no quarrel with the past, indeed only respect for its predecessors, and an unbounded admiration for the capabilities of our attractive and durable executive secretary, Mrs. Barbara Walden.

As to the coming year, while our hopes are modest and we have no aspirations toward becoming a British *Lancet* or a second *New England Journal of Medicine*, the editors do feel that *The Bulletin* has earned a continuing place in our local medical community, and we offer the following observations.

The President's Message and the Editorial will continue to be monthly features. We cannot speak for our new president, but we can say we hope for editorials that will be lively, stimulating, thought provoking and even controversial on occasion. We feel that one of the criteria of good editorial writing should be its ability to initiate action, and even if that action at times directed toward an editorial scalp, there is some satisfaction in knowing that at least someone took it to heart. The editors have no monopoly on editorial writing, and hereby encourage all of you who are so minded to feel free to assist us with your own contributions or your own outraged reproofs.

No matter how you flip the pages, the prime reason for the existence of *The Bulletin* is a medical one. Its basic component is and should remain the monthly clinical-pathological conference that has served as its backbone. Nevertheless, we do feel that there is room for improvement and expansion along medical lines. A local journal is the ideal recorder of those interesting and unusual cases that abound in every locality, and that for reasons of inertia, never reach print and seldom get reported except verbally in the "I had a case like that once" fashion. In addition, the papers and reviews that are presented at the various staff meetings, section conferences and study groups should find their way onto the pages of our publication.

Finally *The Bulletin* offers an excellent opportunity for those individuals of our medical clan—those frustrated literalists and would be writers, the ax grinders, advice givers, solution seekers and problem solvers—to formalize their thoughts and speak out on paramedical and philosophical lines. If you feel that television causes respiratory distress, that fall-out shelters are psychiatrically unsound, that open bars and mixed drinks are good for the digestion, that the “Twist” may have serious orthopedic consequences, or that horseback riding improves the libido, by all means let us hear from you and in writing.

Now with the straws of our new broom already fraying from the pressures of first usage, we will leave it with you so that we can start worrying about next month’s sweeping chores.

(c) *The Bulletin of the Muscogee County (Georgia) Medical Society*, "Doctor's Lounge", Jan 1962, Vol. IX No.1, p.7