

TIME OF CHANGE

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As *The Bulletin* goes to press, The Medical Center Board of Commissioners has asked City Commission to call a \$1 million Bond Issue to help finance the construction of the hospital addition, a model of which is pictured on our cover. This bond issue has been made necessary as bids have exceeded the budgeted construction funds. Every member of the Muscogee County Medical Society is acutely aware of the urgent need for additional hospital beds in this county, and to remove from the proposed project a sufficient part of the cost to make construction possible with available funds would seriously jeopardize the project and it would not provide the beneficial services and needs of the community.

It seems opportune, in addition, that the new medical year centers on the date of July 1. New staff assignments are made, service heads change, old interns and residents leave, new residents and interns come in. *The Bulletin* annually devotes this issue to welcome the new men who come in. This year, at the request of several society members and to serve as an aid for reference to our new readers as well as our old, several pages are being devoted to a roster of the medical personnel of the county area.

The pictured model of the new Medical Center on the *Bulletin's* cover is a projection of the future. Few of the incoming young doctors will be here in Columbus to see this projection become a working reality. For them the coming year will have more than its usual confusions and frustrations because of the inevitable disruptions of construction and change. There will be confusion too because of the revisions of schedules, changes of policy and change in the personnel of leadership. It will not be an easy year for the new interns and residents, nor for the old who remain, nor for the old and new in charge who assume new and expanded responsibilities. Yet the basic facts of medicine remain the same to all of us who have chosen this demanding calling as our own—interest in humanity, aid to the sick and injured, compassion for the troubled, and adherence to the traditions set forth in the Hippocratic principles.

To be worthy of its name, The Medical Center of Columbus must take stock and improve its standards to meet the challenge of its new growth. And it will require a little extra effort on the part of all who are concerned.