

NEW DOCTORS FOR COLUMBUS

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One of the attractions of Columbus, which grows steadily in spite of it, is that it retains enough of a stubborn and maturely conservative attitude to make it resistant to change. Progress, when it does occur, comes about slowly (often with tantalizing, deliberate vacillation), but perhaps this is as it should be to insure sensible growth. There are many of booster mentality to which this is evidence of a stick-in-the-mud attitude and community backwardness. But these sophomoric minds are ever dazzled by the phony sophistication and pseudo culture of large metropolitan areas, which equate progress with tall buildings, congestion, and large population figures. The true sophisticate seeks tranquility, absence from pressure, time for contemplation, and quality instead of quantity.

Medically, Columbus has been fortunate in that its doctors are a well-trained, capable, and congenial group, and that there is practically none of the division and bitter factionalism often seen in towns of similar or larger size. The President's Message this month, however, points up the fact that as a medical community, Columbus has fallen behind other comparable population center areas of Georgia in attracting new medical talent. This should be a cause for some alarm to the doctors here, although we do not suggest it in the sense of a let's get busy, chamber of commerce promotion drive.

This inability to attract young doctors is a little difficult to understand as, in our opinion, Columbus has as much, or more, to offer in the way of pleasant surroundings, climate, friendliness of its citizens, and ease of living than the Macon or Savannah areas. It should be apparent that most, if not all of the reasons for this failure lie within the medical community.

Absence of strife, general prosperity, devotion to the dollar, and preoccupation with fitting recreation into busy practices has created a complacent attitude among physicians locally. Complacency has led to sluggishness, disinterest, and unwillingness to become involved in those medical activities necessary for a balanced medical community. Study groups and journal clubs have withered and died and apathy is particularly evident in regard to the profession's duty toward teaching, investigation, project study, and research. At both hospitals, and especially at the Medical Center, when there is a house staff training program, less than one quarter of the active physicians devote time to teaching, or trouble themselves to participate in the conferences, clinics, and specially arranged symposia. These are the medical activities needed to give a proper balance to good medical practice. These are the activities that create a progressive and stimulating medical atmosphere and that encourage and attract more young and capable physicians to locate in a community.