WITHIN the past few years American medicine has made tremendous strides in prestige and influence. The Academy has contributed its part to this advance. But, progress has not been gained by accident. Behind the scenes in organized medicine are many conscientious and tireless workers who, by their enthusiasm and consecrated effort, are accomplishing the tasks with which they are confronted. Committee members are often unsung heroes in the solution of problems pertaining to the furtherance of more adequate medical care for children. The individual Academy member occasionally forgets how much so many of us owe to so few in the practical application of our ideals.

For example, those of you who attended the Annual Meeting at Toronto last fall heard the panel discussion on Pediatric Education; and saw the exhibit, describing some of the aims and objectives of our Committee on Medical Education. Under the inspired leadership of the Chairman, Dr. Lee F. Hill, this group is making progress in attempting to answer some of the questions posed by the Academy Survey of 1946-48. During the current year, continuation of regional conferences throughout the United States and Canada, with emphasis upon the problems of undergraduate education, has resulted in an intelligent exchange of ideas and an opportunity for discussion unparalleled in the history of North American medical schools. The inevitable result of these discussions will be an improvement of standards for medical education. Interpretation and evaluation of new ideas, inclusion of practical and progressive concepts for the betterment of medical school curricula, requires a great deal of time and effort. Each of us has a personal responsibility to assist the Committee in this undertaking. Medical care will eventually be supervised by those medical students with whose interests we are presently concerned.

At the various regional conferences, to which have been invited medical educators, practitioners, state chairmen, and others vitally interested in Academy objectives, there have been free discussions of curriculum content, departmental organization and similar pertinent topics. Dr. Grover F. Powers, former Professor of Pediatrics at Yale, has attended many of the conferences in the role of commentator and observer. His broad experience and mature judgment will be invaluable later when attempts are made to co-ordinate the work of the Committee on Medical Education. You will be privileged to hear his report at the annual luncheon meeting in Chicago this fall. The services of Dr. Powers, and of various members of the Committee, are available for consultation with
departments of pediatrics at the various medical schools. The group is also investigating more extensive utilization of audio-visual aids in pediatric education. You will have an opportunity, at the annual meeting of the Academy in Chicago, to hear a panel discussion on this subject, which will be conducted at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Again, we have an example of accomplishment by one of our National Committees. The Study of Child Health Services and of Pediatric Education revealed certain needs. A program was devised as a means of solving those needs. Closer co-operation is already noted between practitioners and teachers. The initiative and vision of the Chairman, as well as the earnest, devoted efforts of the entire Committee on Medical Education, have aroused the respect and appreciation of the entire Academy membership. This is the type of work which is gaining for the Academy increasing recognition for leadership in the fields pertaining to child health.

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