

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE EVALUATION OF THE MEDICAL CARE OF CHILDREN

THE MONTH of February, 1962, witnessed the beginning of the activation of a new project of great interest to all pediatricians in the United States—for it was during this month that Dr. Alex J. Steigman, former Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, assumed the position as Study Director of this project sponsored by the Joint Committee on Pediatric Research, Education, and Practice.

At the present time the societies represented on this Joint Committee are The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pediatric Section of the American Medical Association, the American Board of Pediatrics, the American Pediatric Society, and the Society for Pediatric Research. It is envisioned that in addition to full participation of the membership, the co-operation of a number of organizations, medical and lay, private and governmental, will be enlisted.

The Office of the Director of this study, Dr. Steigman, and his staff, will be in the Central Office of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Evanston, Illinois, where such facilities as bookkeeping, printing, and mailing services will be made available on a cost basis. Although the Academy will act as the administrative and executive agent for this study, the Joint Committee will be the policy-making body. Some financial support was granted the Joint Committee by the Executive Board of the Academy at its last regular meeting; additional support will be sought from other sources, including the other sponsoring societies; and a possible grant from the National Institutes of Health is now pending.

Present plans call for this study to be undertaken over a 3-year period and to include (1) the status of practice, research, and teaching in child health, and (2) the most effective use of medical and paramedical manpower in child care in the community and in research and teaching in universities and institutes.

To accomplish these aims the program must include (1) a study of child care by private and public facilities, (2) a study of the medical facilities, personnel, and support for research in child health, (3) a study of the present predoctoral and postdoctoral education and training, and (4) an estimate of the needs in each of the areas of practice, research, and teaching to meet with future expansion of the child population.

For these goals to become realities it must be obvious to all that not only is the co-operation of all of the sponsoring societies vitally essential but every individual sincerely interested in the improvement of child health in the United States must lend every possible support to this project.

The Study Director has already received a number of letters from Fellows of the Academy expressing their ideas and concerns, and invitations to see their particular arrangements for child care.

The Joint Committee is to be congratulated upon its selection of Dr. Alex Steigman as its Director, for not only is he well acquainted with the practice, research, and teaching aspects of pediatrics, but he has served the Academy—and the welfare of children—most ably as a former Chairman of its Committee on the Control of Infectious Diseases and also as a member of

both the Committee on Scientific Program and the Committee on Medical Education.

I am sure that I speak for all the Fellows of the Academy in wishing Dr. Steigman and the Joint Committee godspeed in this important venture and in pledging

our co-operation in this important step forward.



*Girard College
Philadelphia 12, Pa.*

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Carl C. Fischer

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