

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

UPON ASSUMING this office one year ago I stated that the founders and officers of the Academy who had served before me had set the purpose of the voyage of the Good Ship American Academy of Pediatrics; the Executive Board of the Academy continually reviews our problems and charts our course, the Executive Director and Central Office staff arrange the cargo, but you, the stockholders, must work the cargo if our voyage is to be successful.

Our 1963-64 voyage is completed. I have brought the good ship back to the home port and she is again ready to sail under Captain Harry Towsley.

I am happy to tell you that you have worked the cargo well in every port of call. Our committees have been dedicated and active as their reports show. This next year the committee reports will be published in a special booklet as heretofore. I urge every one of you to read these reports so you may better understand what you are getting from your membership.

The Executive Board has not wavered one bit from the original purpose of our voyage, though I am sure there are some among us who would have them do so. The Board, your Officers, and even the Academy itself cannot be all things to all people, but we have tried hard to please as many as possible. I can assure you that every effort is made to comply with the wishes of the majority and to carry out the original precepts that made us the largest and most influential organization interested in children in all the world.

Naturally, I have observed much in the past year and have formed some ideas which I would like to share with you. The very fact that we are growing at a rate of over 500 new members each year, with our membership today 8,627, means that Pediatrics is a dynamic, interesting, desired, and growing specialty. It, of necessity, de-

mands hard work and long hours, but who among us expected exact hours, few responsibilities, and short work day when we were accepted in medical school? It is true that the economics of Pediatrics is not so great as some of the other specialties, but this was also known before you decided upon your residency. I believe that Pediatric fees have kept commensurate with other medical fees, for I know of no one whose fees are not higher now than ever before in their practice. One thing which makes me believe that Pediatrics is economically sound is the offers made in the A.M.A. want ads, and our own difficulty in interesting young pediatricians in administrative pediatrics.

We have recently established a Council on Pediatric Practice which we think and hope will come up with some studies and answers of interest to all. On this Council we have appointed a former Chairman of the Committee on Medical Care Plans; the presiding Chairman of the State Chairmen's Organization for this year; a former Chairman of an ad hoc committee on pediatric practice; a former State Chairman for Section I of New York; a member of the Committee on Fetus and Newborn; a member of the Committee on Hospital Care; a member of the Committee on School Health; a past president of the Academy; and two members of the Executive Board. They will hold their first meeting on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Another subject that has concerned me has been the trend in pediatric departments of our medical schools to place more and more emphasis on research. This has caused doubts and jealousies among the practitioners and the term "ivory tower" given to the academicians. For the practicing pediatrician and the pediatric academician to have differences is normal, but to separate, deprecate, and not to co-oper-

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ate is juvenile. One cannot do without the other, and we must each understand the other side. I am happy to report that I believe research is not to be cut back nor neglected, but many departments are now making efforts to upgrade their clinical teaching, and this is good.

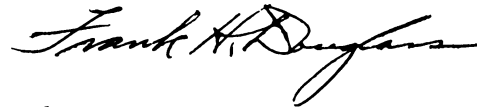
The Committee on International Child Health has been very active, and they have in operation now an exchange program at the professional level. With us at this meeting is Dr. Lazaro Benavides of Mexico, who has just completed a series of clinics, conferences, and lectures at several of our medical schools from Texas to New York. It is hoped these exchange professorships can soon be expanded to other of the Latin American countries. They have a great deal to offer us and they are anxious for all the educational help we can give them.

A new plan has been arranged whereby District Committees will meet on alternate years. Districts I, III, VII, and VIII will meet in 1964-65; and Districts II, IV, V,

VI, and X will meet in 1965-66. We hope in this way to improve the liaison, rapport, and understanding between the individual members and the Executive Board.

I wish to pay tribute to the Executive Board for their study and judgment of every item brought before them. I have never worked with a finer, more dedicated group of men. To the Central Office staff—Drs. Christopherson, Frazier, and Harrison, Mr. Becker, Jerry Anderson, and all the girls who have so willingly helped make this year a great year for me. I cannot find words to tell you what an asset we have in “Chris”—He is Mr. Academy.

And to all of you who have given me the highest honor of my life, my thanks. Every minute of this year in this office has been a joy.



October, 1964

GRULEE AWARD PRESENTATION

GEORGE M. WHEATLEY, the recipient of the Clifford G. Grulee Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics for 1964, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1909. After graduation from the University of Virginia, George Wheatley attended Harvard University School of Medicine and received the M.D. degree in 1933.

Following an internship, there was a residency at Harriet Lane and a Fellowship in Pediatrics at New York Postgraduate Hospital. Dr. Wheatley then served as the Pediatrician in charge of school health services for New York City until 1940 when he decided to return to studies and attended Columbia University where he earned a Master of Public Health in 1942. He was also certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in 1942.

From 1942 to 1947 Dr. Wheatley was on the staff of the Children's Bureau following which he joined the Health Division of

the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company where he has served since 1947.

In 1949 Dr. Wheatley was certified by the American Board of Preventative Medicine. He is a Senior Surgeon in the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve and is Vice-President for Health of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

George Wheatley has served on many committees and has held many appointments on the national level and in New York. He is a member and on the Board of Directors of the American Public Health Association. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Safety Council and the National Health Council. He is a consultant to the World Health Organization and is a member of the American Pediatric Society.

Dr. Wheatley served as President of the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1960-61, and was a District Chairman for Dis-

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Pediatrics 1964;34:885

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